

From the RVC:

Those of you who didn't attend the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering over Memorial Day weekend (which, I'm sad to say, was nearly all of you) really missed something. RG Chair MaDiana Diaz and her team put together an excellent weekend of games, speakers, and general socializing, including a fantastic FREE single- malt Scotch tasting (donated, I understand, by GCM's Clarence Parker), that many considered the highlight of the weekend. I had a great time, along with about 100 others, and the only thing that I found disappointing was the lack of participation. Now some of you have complained that I seem to do little, as your Regional Vice Chairman, except promote Gatherings, and I cannot deny that there is some truth in that assertion. However, the fact is that in more than 30 years of membership, I have found that Gatherings are really what Mensa does best, and if you aren't taking advantage of the three annual RGs in our region, not to mention the Annual Gathering, you are missing out on the best part of your membership. Every year, in Houston, Austin, and Dallas, dozens of your fellow Mensans spend hundreds of hours putting together exciting, enjoyable Gatherings for the benefit of hundreds of people they have never met, and all you have to do is show up! Doug Williams, assistant LocSec of New Mexico Mensa, came to the GCM RG, and if he could come all the way from Albuquerque to Houston, you can certainly make it from wherever you live to at least one of our three RGs. You have two more chances this year, the next one being Lone Star Mensa's RG in Austin over Labor Day weekend, and then the North Texas Mensa RG over Thanksgiving weekend in Dallas. Look for registration forms on the LSM and NTM websites, or check the listings in the back of the Mensa Bulletin for contact information.

Now, with that for a warm-up, I'm off to Michigan in a couple of weeks for this year's Annual Gathering. If you've never been to an AG, you cannot begin to imagine what it's like to be surrounded for 4 or 5 days by 2,000 or more of your fellow Ms. By the time most of you read this, the 2010 AG will be well underway, but you can start planning now for next year's AG in Portland, OR, or for 2012 in Reno, NV, or if your budget doesn't include trips to faraway places for Mensa events, mark your calendar now to attend the 2013 AG in Fort Worth, right here in Region 6.

All that notwithstanding, I do understand that many of you have interests other than Gatherings, and I will be happy to share my views on any Mensa topics that appeal to you. If there is something specific you would like to see addressed in this column, just let me know. You can e-mail me at rvc6@us.mensa.org, or if you don't do e-mail, write to me at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

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