

As mentioned before in this space, the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering (RG), over Memorial Day weekend in Houston, is coming up in just a few short weeks. Now, if you don't live in the Houston area, you may be asking yourself, "Well, good for them, but what does that have to do with me?" I'll tell you.

Once upon a time here in Region 6, it used to be common for members of various local groups to get together and attend other groups' RGs. In fact, that's actually one of the major benefits of Mensa membership: the ability to travel around and visit other Mensa groups' activities. Not only will you have a good time and meet some new friends, it gives you a chance to see what other groups are doing that you might want to borrow for your own local group.

Some of my favorite Mensa experiences have come at out-of-town RGs; not just our local ones like Houston and San Antonio, but also the Kansas City Buffalo Stampede and the Confederate Uprising in Huntsville, AL. RGs are a great way to get away for a weekend while still surrounded by congenial people in a safe and relaxing atmosphere.

Borrowing an idea from one of my fellow RVCs, Ken Silver of Minnesota, I have worked up a little table to show you that it's not really that long a trip from most places in the region to the nearest RG. Plan ahead and Southwest Airlines will take you there and back for under \$100 in many cases, or just load up the car and take off down the interstate. The time of your life may be just a few hours away. Some one-way mileage:

<u>Home City</u>	<u>RG – Austin</u>	<u>Dallas</u>	<u>Houston</u>
Albuquerque	705	647	884
Baton Rouge	432	440	268
El Paso	577	636	747
Little Rock	514	319	439
Lubbock	384	348	519
Midland	317	331	476
Oklahoma City	388	207	445
New Orleans	511	520	348
San Antonio	80	274	198
Shreveport	327	187	238
Tulsa	452	256	494

As you can see, except for those at the very far west end of the region, most of you have at least one RG within less than a 1,000-mile round-trip. If you've never been to another group's RG (and especially if you've never been to an RG at all, think about giving one of this year's gatherings a try.

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