



NMSR Reports

The Newsletter of the
New Mexicans for Science and Reason

NMSR Reports, David E. Thomas, Editor, 801 Fitch Ave., Socorro, NM 87801 © 2017

APRIL MEETING:

**NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE
AND REASON WILL DISCUSS
MARCH FOR SCIENCE
NEW MEXICO**

**==>CNM MAIN CAMPUS,
Student Resource Center<==**

==>Room 204<==

Bring a friend!

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

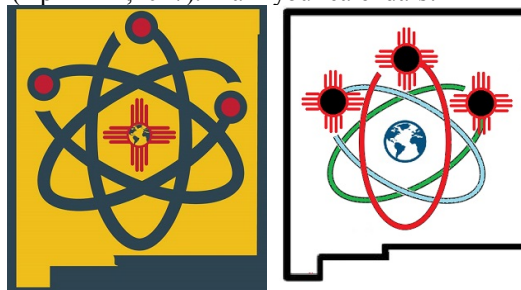
April 12th, 2017 NMSR Meeting: March for Science, New Mexico!

The national March for Science is scheduled for April 22nd, 2017 (Earth Day), in Washington, D.C. Rush Holt, head of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), has voiced his support for the planned protest march, saying that people were "standing up for science".

The organizers of the March For Science have declared that they champion publicly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity. "We unite as a diverse, nonpartisan group to call for science that upholds the common good, and for political leaders and policymakers to enact evidence-based policies in the public interest."

In addition to the Washington D.C. event, science marches are scheduled all over the country, and all over the world. Here in New Mexico, marches have been organized by groups in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Socorro and Las Cruces. At NMSR's April 12th meeting, representatives

from some (we hope all) of these groups will describe what their cities are planning for Earth Day, to follow ten days later (April 22nd, 2017). Mark your calendars!



www.facebook.com/marchforscienceSFNM/
www.facebook.com/marchforscienceABQ/
www.facebook.com/sciencemarchsocorrormn
www.facebook.com/MarchforScienceLC/

**7 PM Wednesday April 12th, CNM
Main Campus, Student Resource Center,
room 204 (@ Richard Barr Boardroom).**

May 10th, 2017 NMSR Meeting:



**Alan Zelicoff on
"Discovery and
analysis of a long-
hidden Soviet
biological weapons
accident: Lessons for
modern day**

bioterrorism and preparedness"

It's been a few years since Al Zelicoff talked to NMSR (past topics included bird flu, weapons terates, and polygraphs). We are looking forward to this one!

New Mexicans for Science & Reason (NMSR)

NMSR is a non-profit group with the goals of promoting science, the scientific method, rational thinking, and critical examination of dubious or extraordinary claims. NMSR meets at 7 PM on the second Wednesday of each month, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at CNM's Student Resource Center, room 204 (@ Richard Barr Boardroom). NMSR Reports is its official newsletter.

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Harry Murphy, Physicist, Medical Quackery

Membership: \$20/year, includes newsletter, make your check payable to NMSR, send to treasurer (Shelton). Newsletter available in hard-copy and downloadable PDF.

NMSR Advisors:

- **Mark Boslough,**
Physicist (Impacts, Climate Change, Global Warming). Sandia National Labs.
- **Kendrick Frazier**
Editor, Skeptical Inquirer
- **John Geissman**
Professor of Paleomagnetism, UNM
- **Alan Hale**
Southwest Institute for Space Research
- **Randy Thornhill**
Professor of Biology, UNM

Cyber-Cypher Clue: Y = Z.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: It's all about Good Vibes.

WANTED: READER ARTICLES & COMMENTARY

Got something to share with NMSR members? Send it in! ATTN: Dave Thomas, Editor, NMSR Reports.

REMEMBER, our next NMSR meeting is at 7 PM on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12th, 2017,** at Student Resource Center, room 204 **at CNM!**

PUZZLE TIME!

[Please send solutions to Dave Thomas at: nmsrdave@swcp.com, or at 801 Fitch Ave., Socorro NM 87801.]

Cyber-Cypher: APRIL PUZZLE

(Submitted by Dave Thomas)

The following letters are a simple substitution cypher. If R stands for L, R will stand for L everywhere. Your Cyber-Cypher Clue: Clue? Oh, well - if you must, see p. 2.

" L X F D U D I Q G X D H P L H
 P D L I D H P H P D C D C L Q J X V C
 G W T J X D , L X F F G D H P
 H P D T X G H , C P L M M K D
 M J R D X D F E X H G L
 W G G M J C P T L X , Z P J O P
 K E J M H P J C P G E C D E B G X
 H P D C L X F . " - S D C E C G W
 X L Y L I D H P

SUPER SECRET WORD!

However you prefer to do the cypher itself (above or below), simply duplicate those actions on the alphabetized row of cypher letters below. You'll build an answer key, and you'll also reveal - the Super Secret Word!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

MARCH CYPHER SOLUTION

"THE PARTY TOLD YOU TO REJECT ALL EVIDENCE OF YOUR EYES AND EARS. IT WAS THEIR FINAL, MOST ESSENTIAL COMMAND." -- FROM "NINETEEN EIGHTY FOUR" BY GEORGE ORWELL

Esteemed March Code Crackers: Mike Arms*, Terry Lauritsen*, and Austin Moede*. *Secret Word: "GROUP DENY FACTS"

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

SOCORRO STUMPER

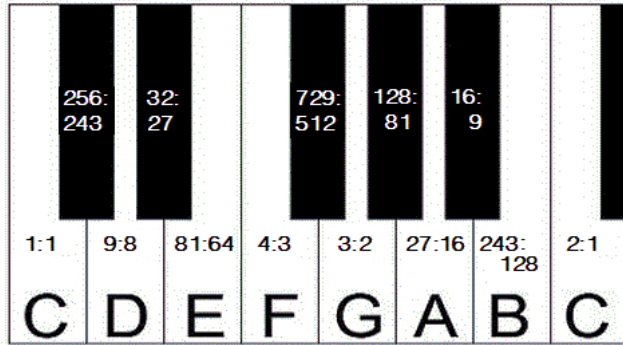
New puzzles every week at

www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm

April Bonus: “I Hit a Sour Note!”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

Consider the Pythagorean Scale, for which the frequency ratios to the lower C note are shown below. In the Well-Tempered Scale, on the other hand, the ratio of each note to the one preceding it is a constant $2^{1/12}$.



The April Bonus: For the C-scale starting at 256 Hz, what note has the largest difference between well-tempered and Pythagorean scales? How many hertz off is it?

March Bonus: “Isn’t that Special!”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

A few weeks after the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy, a math teacher at a small southwestern college told his students that they were living in a very special year. The professor said “The last time this happened, Billy the Kid was being tracked by Pat Garrett. The time before that, Suleiman II ended his reign as sultan of the Ottoman Empire.”

The March Bonus: When was (or is) the next time this type of “Special Year” occurred (or will occur)?. **ANSWER: 6009.** **Congrats:** Rocky S. Stone (NM), Paul Braterman (UK), Eric Hanczyc (WA), Brian Pasko (NM) .

March 8th, 2017 NMSR Meeting: Dave Thomas, on “What’s New in Creationism?”



The last time I talked about those wacky creationists was in 1993. I started the meeting by describing the tenets of young-earth creationism,

according to Answers in Genesis (AiG). These include the age of the earth (6,000 years), the fixity of species, and Noah’s flood as a global event.

I showed this chart from AiG on world views. Creationists believe that accepting evolution means rejection of God and morality.

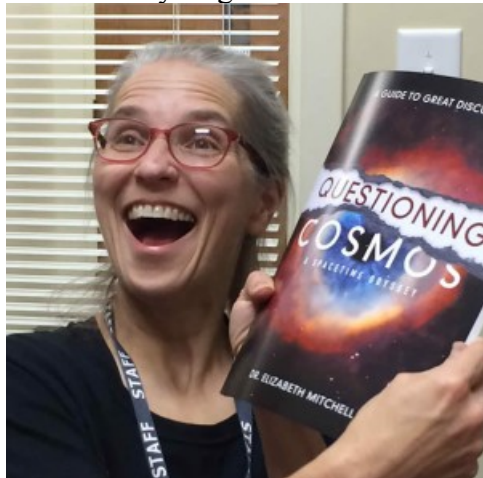


I mentioned the new Ark Park in Kentucky, made by the same folks who brought us the Creation Museum. Below is pictured the triceratops ride from the Creation Museum.



I showed examples of creationists who know the actual details of how God created the world, and who are convinced that God certainly didn’t employ anything remotely similar to evolution during that creation.

For example, one of the top “biologists” at AiG is Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell of Answers in Genesis, who on July 12, 2014 declared “Those who claim God ‘used evolution,’ incidentally, are calling God a liar. God’s Word leaves no room for an evolutionary origin.”



I mentioned the rise of Intelligent Design (ID), and how it has two faces, like the Roman god Janus. On the one hand, ID’s attacks on evolution can be answered scientifically; I gave an example of how evolution actually predicts “gaps” in the fossil record, a supposed stumbling block for evolution. On the other hand, however, ID has no science under the hood; all it can say about the AIDS virus, for example, is that it’s very complicated, and can’t have just “evolved.”

I described the history of creationist assaults on science here in New Mexico, from removal of the word “evolution” from science standards in 1996, to the ill-fated “Evolution Bill” of 1997, to Marshall

Berman’s election to the State Board of Education, to adoption of new standards in 2003, and to a series of legislative bills trying to empower teachers to include evidence “for and against” evolution in classrooms.

The entire presentation is online, at <http://www.nmsr.org/creo-update-march2017.pdf>

Spring Skeptiverse Haiku! by Keith Thomas, April 2017

It’s very likely We will all experience Unlikely events.	What if psychics were Required to register All their predictions
Some say Socrates Consumed an all-natural Hemlock beverage.	Poultry producers Have presumably written Plenty of fowl tweets.
Can we stem the spread Of strange and non-sensical Stem cell procedures?	America is Misunderestimating Misinformation.

DUES - check the date on your mailing label. If it's time for you to renew, or to make a contribution, please send a check to NANCY SHELTON, NMSR Treasurer, 11617 Snowheights NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
Name _____
Address _____
Membership \$20 per annum*
On the Net? Ask for the Paperless NMSR Reports! Send an email to nmsrdave@swcp.com "Dave Thomas"
**For Renewals that are above the \$20 annual amount, the excess will be applied to the NMSR budget. Thanks!*

The NMSR e-mail list is fun! It’s an e-mail list with news announcements of interest to NMSR members, discussions about news of the times, and more. To join, send a request to nmsrdave@swcp.com.

Thanks to: John Covan, Eddy Jacobs, Nancy Shelton, Debbie Thomas, Keith Thomas, and all our Puzzlers!

<p>NMSR Reports Vol. 23, No. 4 April 2017 David E. Thomas, Editor (505) 410-0753 801 Fitch Ave, Socorro NM 87801</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>March for SCIENCE Planning Meeting Wed. April 12 7 PM CNM SRC Room 204</p> </div> <p>IN THIS ISSUE: Future Meetings Announced New Puzzles!</p> <p>March Meeting: CREATIONISM</p> <p>Spring HAIKU</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>
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