



NMSR Reports

The Newsletter of the
New Mexicans for Science and Reason

NMSR Reports, David E. Thomas, Editor, 1201 N. Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro, NM 87801 © 2021

AUGUST MEETING:
NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND REASON will hear
JIM GOVER on
“What should the NM Congressional delegation emphasize this year?”
=>August 11th, 2021 7:00PM<=
=>Attend online!<=

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

August 11th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: James Gover, on “What should the NM Congressional delegation emphasize this year?”

Jim Gover explains: "The Brookings video conference this week on technology hubs included several interesting observations. Kansas City, Atlanta and Jackson, MS, already have programs teaching minorities the essentials of artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, etc. as well as help them be successful entrepreneurs. I was IMPRESSED - the South may rise again by empowering its African American community.

Money for technology hubs has been authorized - I believe to DOC; I am betting that Kansas City, Jackson, Atlanta and Ann Arbor (the featured Congressional speaker was from MI) will get technology hubs; her knowledge of the role of technology in economic development was most impressive.) Interestingly, the idea for technology hubs came from Brookings and it appears that Brookings is still directing the traffic.

So far, I have not identified any action that

suggests KY or NM has anything in the mix. KY is on the wrong side of the political divide and would have to overcome that even though Lexington was identified as a top candidate by Brookings in its original publication on this topic. My guess is that action on behalf of KY would have to be taken by Senator McConnell.

NM is on the right side of the political divide and has two large minority groups that this legislation was supposed to be helping, but appears to lack the leadership to get in the competition. (Our state legislature is dominated by micro issues it can understand.) Maybe our political capital has all been spent on funding for National Labs. Neither the state of NM's strategic planning effort nor Bernalillo County's strategic planning effort has yet mentioned the two words: artificial intelligence or acknowledged the CRITICAL role of advanced technology in today's economic growth and the roles universities play in technology education and innovation. I am not sure where NM's leadership should come from, but candidates might include a coalition of university leaders, SNL, LANL, State Department of Economic Development, etc."

Because of the ongoing Corona virus crisis, this meeting will be held online, and members can attend from their homes or offices. It will be hosted on Zoom. A Zoom Link will be sent out to all members and potential attendees before the meeting. To get added to the attendee list, simply email nmsrdave@swcp.com.

Tune in to Zoom at 7:00 PM August 11th, 2021, On Line!

September 8th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: TBD



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 a secure, undisclosed location. NMSR Reports is its official newsletter.

NMSR officers:

Dave Thomas, President

1201 Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro, NM 87801
nmsrdave@swcp.com

John Covan, Vice-President

jmcovan@juno.com

Debbie Thomas, Treasurer

3205 Alcazar NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110
abqdebbie@comcast.net

Eddy Jacobs, Resident Neutron Generator

eddyjacobs88@gmail.com

Mark Fraser CNM Sponsor

ippon@earthlink.net

John Geohegan, Past President

johngohegan@gmail.com

Kim Johnson, Industrial Physicist

kimber@comcast.net

Marilyn Savitt-Kring, Science Mom

Membership: \$25/year (hardcopy newsletter), or \$15/year (downloadable PDF), make your check **payable to NMSR**, send to treasurer (Debbie Thomas).

NMSR Advisors:

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

Cyber-Cypher Clue: $Y = X, V = F$

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Assume conservation of linear and angular momentum, and energy, hold throughout the G-change. Got any conjectures?

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 **ONLINE, August 11th at 7PM, on Zoom!**

PUZZLE TIME!

[Please send solutions to Dave Thomas at: nmsrdave@swcp.com, or at 1201 N Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro NM 87801.]

Cyber-Cypher: AUGUST 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.

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" K L   O W F G F   P H S O W K H C   O W P O   O W F
H P O K D H P R   V D G F L O   L F G E K X F   D G
Q R Z   X P H   J D   O D   X W P H C F   O W F
X D N G L F   D V   O W F   Z D D H ' L   D G Q K O
D G   O W F   F P G O W ' L   D G Q K O   P G D N H J
O W F   L N H ? "   -   G F M .   R D N K F
C D W Z F G O   ( G - O F Y . )
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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

JULY CYPHER SOLUTION

"UNCONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION CHANGES IN NUMEROUS STATES DISENFRANCHISED MY CONSTITUENTS IN NEW MEXICO." - DISTRICT TWO REPRESENTATIVE YVETTE HERRELL, R-NM

Esteemed July Code Crackers: Mike Arms*, David Kinder*, and Austin Moede*!

*Secret Word: "UNPROVED FALSITY"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

New puzzles every week at

www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm

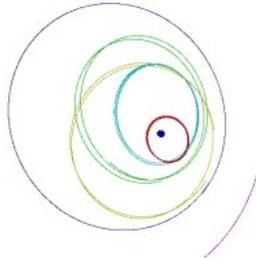
July Bonus: "G-Whiz Legislation"

Submitted by Dave Thomas

An amendment to a huge omnibus spending bill, submitted by Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Texas), was adopted when the bill passed both houses, and was promptly signed into law by President Biden. The bill came to 15,427 pages in length. It seems few noticed the obscure amendment, lurking inside a section on COVID relief for Antarctic penguins. The amendment reads "As a means to mitigate climate change, the value of The Universal Constant, **G**, is hereby mandated to be reduced by 5%, to

$6.340376 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$, at the stroke of midnight on December 21st, 2021.”

Surprisingly, God (he/him/his), who is notorious for being indifferent to prayer, was moved to enact this particular mandate. Aides were rumored to have heard the Lord mumbling to himself “*Hoo boy, this gonna be good.*” And so, at midnight on the Solstice, the value of G was instantaneously reduced by 5%.



The August Bonus: What happened? Did the earth’s orbital radius increase, or decrease? And by how much? [Note: this is a seriously difficult problem, and conjectures about the general solution are welcomed.]

July Bonus: “A Liar in the Family”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

A prominent political family became entangled in a tax fraud scheme. Four members of the family were deposed together, and their dysfunctional, alcoholic lawyer told each one to give only two statements at the deposition: one true, and one false. The family took this advice to heart, and each gave their two statements accordingly. Melania said “I didn’t cheat! It was Eric.” Don Jr. said “Melania cheated. It wasn’t Eric.” Eric said “It wasn’t Don Jr. It wasn’t Ivanka.” And Ivanka said “It wasn’t Eric. The cheater was me!”

The July Bonus: Who is the cheater?

Answer: Don Jr.

Congrats: Mike Arms (NM), Earl Dombroski (NM), Rocky Stone (NM), Keith Gilbert (NM), Gene Aronson (NM), Austin Moede (NM) and Harold H. Gaines (KS)!

JUNE BONUS CORRECTION

John Geohegan writes “I’m surprised that nobody submitted the second solution to your problem ‘The Fauci Ouchie’ (41 fully vaxxed employees out of a total of 47). My guess is that I simply have more experience in solving such problems with the slide-rule, which finds both solutions with one setting of the slide and without using the cursor.” Well done, John! (34 out of 39 was the other solution)

July 14th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: Mick West on “The Great 2021 UFO Flap”

Mick West of metabunk.org, a master of home experimentation, spoke to NMSR on July 14th. He discussed “The Great 2021 UFO/UAP Flap,” referring to how the moniker for “Unidentified Flying Objects” (UFOs) has morphed into “Unidentified Aerial Phenomena” (UAPs).

Mick started his career helping to create the popular video game about skateboarder Tony Hawk. This success has allowed him to spend his time investigating and experimenting on controversial topics such as chemtrails,

9/11 truth conspiracies, and Flat Earth beliefs. His detailed work on the “new” UFO/UAP videos has garnered him appearances on CNN, and op-eds in the Guardian.

Mick said the name change from UFOs is because “UAP” sounds a lot more serious, much like “geoengineering” sounds more serious than “Chemtrails.” Regarding the new official report from the government’s Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), “Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena” (June 2021), Mick said the anticipation was that the



government would be releasing *everything* it knew about UFOs, but that is was a huge “disappointment” to many people. The actual report is less than nine pages long, and on page 3, states directly that there are not enough data to draw firm conclusions. It mentions that a few UAPs show unusual characteristics, but that these could be due to “sensor errors, spoofing, or observer misperception.” The report correctly states that there are probably lots of different explanations. Mentioned specifically are mundane things like birds, balloons, and debris-like plastic bags. Natural atmospheric phenomena were also mentioned (ice, cloud, inversions). Foreign spy platforms with drones or balloons, a legitimate security concern, also appear in the report.

How did the report come about? It was slipped into the coronavirus relief bill by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, without any house or senate discussion. It was due to one senator, Marco Rubio, who was lobbied by Chris Mellon, a colleague of popular musician Tom DeLong of the band Blink 182. DeLong has a long-standing interest in UFOs. It’s not a large movement in the government, it’s mainly the work of one guy, Mick said.

The driving force behind the report was a set of Navy videos that were officially “released.” Mick recommended some fascinating articles by Jason Colavito on the “UFO Invisible College,” that describe the background of people like Chris Mellon, who has been pushing for “disclosure” for years. When the government released the “FLIRI”, “GOFAST”, and “GIMBAL” videos, the media went crazy, but missed the fact that these videos have actually been available for years (2007, 2017, 2018).

Mick said interest in the videos was kicked off by a December 16th, 2017 article in the New York Times titled “Glowing Auras and ‘Black Money’: The Pentagon’s Mysterious U.F.O. program.” Suddenly, the “Grey Lady” herself was writing about, and releasing videos, about UFOs. This was a big deal, and gave the rest of the media permission to discuss UFOs as a serious story.

Mick then discussed a similar incident, the 2017 Chilean Navy UFO, in which a mysterious trail was filmed.

Leslie Kean (one of the NY Times story authors) broke this earlier story for the Huffington Post, and explained that experts in the Chilean government’s official Task Force could not explain the video, and had eliminated possible causes like balloons or birds. The story broke on January 5th, 2017. Mick started looking at the issue the next day, and found that it could have been caused by a plane with an “aerodynamic (low-altitude) contrail.” Mick did an experiment to show that ice crystals themselves could appear black (meaning hot) on an infrared video, when filmed at distance. He went on to identify the actual plane filmed by the Chilean pilots. Infrared glare (objects looking larger than they are) was the reason the “blobs” looked larger; four separate engines would fuse into one large blob as seen in the video. Mick said it only took a few days to conclusively debunk the Chilean video; the Chileans should have “asked the internet” for help.

Mick then explained the “new” U.S. Navy videos. He showed the “FLIR1” anomaly was due to camera rotation, not a mysterious UAP. The “GOFAST” video was not a close object speeding fast at low altitudes, but a much larger object far away, moving slowly at higher altitudes. He showed how a stationary balloon appears to be racing along when viewed from a moving platform like a plane (parallax). Finally, the GIMBAL video, which appears to show a “flying saucer” rotating, is the most challenging video to explain. He devised several experiments to show the movement of both object and “aura” was simply due to camera rotations.



Mick also explained the “Pyramid” video, due to “bokeh” (a star, out of focus, appears like a triangle in a camera with a traingular aperture). His conclusion: the UAP

report was a bust, and the videos don’t show anything amazing. After all these decades, we still “need more data.” An animated Q&A followed.

NMSR thanks Mick West for a splendid presentation. **Videos of this and other meetings are available at <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.**

August Skeptiverse Haiku!
by Keith Thomas

Would if I could have That whale/Throw cold water on The lobsterman’s tale.	Astrophysicists Feel confident they can find Their pi in the sky.
Could classic trolls claim That their good name’s been defamed By online bullies?	Carbon dioxide, As your presence increases, Your prestige declines.
Some botanicals, Lab tests show/Come doctored with Pharmaceuticals!	Woke astronomy – Each equinox exhibits Solar equity.

DUES check the date on your mailing label. If it's time for you to renew, or to make a contribution, please make your check **payable to NMSR**, and send it to Debbie Thomas, NMSR Treasurer, 3205 Alcazar NE, Albuquerque., NM 87110
Name _____
Address _____
Membership \$25 per annum (hard copy newsletter), or \$15 per annum (online newsletter).

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, Debbie Thomas, Keith Thomas, John Geohegan, and all of our Puzzlers!

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 David E. Thomas, Editor (505) 410-0753
 1201 Avenida de Chamisso Pl. Socorro NM 87801
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