



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

NO JULY MEETING:
NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE
AND REASON WILL BE
ON VACATION
for JULY 2017
Next Meeting August 9th
with Hillard Kaplan
==>CNM MAIN CAMPUS,
Student Resource Center<==
==>Room 204<==
Bring a friend!



a man and his son fishing
with bow and arrow

Psychic Fails to See Into Future



You might feel sorry for Arizona psychic Blair Robertson. It's bad enough that he was in a car accident. If his employers see the headline above, though, he may even get fired!

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

No NMSR Meeting in July!

NMSR is on vacation in July, and there won't be a meeting on the 2nd Wednesday.

August 9th, 2017 NMSR Meeting:

Dr. Hillard Kaplan will discuss a recent publication, "*Coronary atherosclerosis in indigenous South American Tsimane: a cross-sectional cohort study.*" How does lifestyle affect our hearts? This will be interesting!

7 PM Wednesday August 9th, CNM Main Campus, Student Resource Center, room 204 (@ Richard Barr Boardroom).

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.

NMSR officers:

Dave Thomas, President

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Marilyn Savitt-Kring, Science Mom

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: $T = V$.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Find $aS-S$, where $S = \sum(a^i)$ from $i=0$ to 8. Factor and solve for S .

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, AUGUST 9th, 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: JULY 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.

" I C X O F O P Y U C D X L Z M J

G M X X D T J W C C L Z D Y O K M Y Y

O B O F U M E M K ' F B C E F G M

W C L L J N K M L I M C I X M . " -

B C E N M E I E M Y O L M K F

E O P G J E L N . K O V C K

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

JUNE CYPHER SOLUTION

"JUST FOUND OUT THAT OBAMA HAD MY 'WIRES TAPPED' IN TRUMP TOWER." - A QUIP FROM PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, MADE ON MARCH FOURTH OF THIS YEAR

Esteemed June Code Crackers: Mike Arms*, Gene Aronson*, and Terry Lauritsen*.

*Secret Word: "LIMP SCARY QUOTE"

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

SOCORRO STUMPER

New puzzles every week at

www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm

July Bonus: “Tubular Bells”

Submitted by Dave Thomas



A windchime maker plans to cut a ten-foot length of conduit pipe into eight sections, such that the ratio of each piece to its longer neighbor is $4/5 = 0.8$.

The July Bonus: What are the lengths of the longest and shortest pieces?

June Bonus: “Gold for \$100, Alex”

By Philip Kaplan, “Posers”

The June Bonus: Which is worth more, a carton full of \$5 gold pieces or an identical carton half full of \$10 gold pieces?

ANSWER: (A) The carton full of \$5 gold pieces is worth more. The denominations of the gold pieces make no difference. The important fact is that the carton containing the \$5 gold pieces is full of gold, the other only half full.

Congrats: Earl Dombroski (NM), Rocky S. Stone (NM), Brian Pasko (NM), Terry Lauritsen (NM), Paul Braterman (UK)!

JUNE 14th, 2017 NMSR Meeting: Ben Radford on “Was the Orlando Gay Club Shooting Homophobia?”

Ben Radford, managing editor at the Skeptical Inquirer, is one of our more prolific speakers. He took on a rather different topic this



time. Here's Ben's overview of his talk:

On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen opened fire in Pulse, a crowded Orlando nightclub popular with the LGBT community. It ended forty-nine lives, injured over fifty more, and left emotional scars on countless others in Florida, across the country, and around the world.

Understanding the motivations behind the



worst mass shooting in modern American history is important because in order to correctly address social problems you must first correctly understand them. Though widely considered an attack motivated by animosity toward the gay community, Mateen repeatedly stated that he was responding on behalf of the Islamic State to U.S. military bombing of Syria and Iraq.

The talk examines the competing explanations and analyzes the genesis of the homophobic motivation attributed to the attack.

NMSR thanks Ben Radford for a thought-provoking presentation.

Trepang UFO Photos Revealed to be Hoax

The Trepang UFO Case is now Case Closed, thanks to Wim van Utrecht's sharp eye. Details at Tim Printy's marvelous SUNLite newsletter/magazine for July/August 2017, on the last page!

http://www.astronomyufo.com/UFO/SUNlite9_4.pdf

Printy writes “In mid-June, Wim van Utrecht circulated the news that he determined the Trepang UFO photographs were a hoax. His statement read:

‘I think I may have solved the riddle of those spectacular UFO photos that were supposedly taken from a USS navy submarine during a joint military/scientific mission NE of Iceland in March 1971. (See, for instance, <http://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/arctic-ufo-photographs-uss-trepang-ssn-674-march-1971/>)



They are, indeed, "photoshopped"... The hoaxer made a glaring error which, if I'm not mistaken, went unnoticed till now: he used two identical cloud parts in one of the shots. I'm attaching a hastily crafted Word document that makes this clear. '..."

Here's one of the UFO shots behind all the fuss; allegedly taken from a navy submarine near Iceland in March of 1971.



The Mysterious "Trepang UFO" Photograph

These are the two different sections of the photo above that Wim van Utrecht found to be identical:



Finally, this image shows the two blocks of clouds, in context. They are the same, proving that the original image was simply a clever hoax.



Thanks, Wim van Utrecht & Tim Printy!

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, and all our Puzzlers!

<p>NMSR Reports Vol. 23, No. 7, July 2017 David E. Thomas, Editor (505) 410-0753 801 Fitch Ave, Socorro NM 87801</p>	<p>IN THIS ISSUE: Future Meetings Announced New Puzzles! June Meeting: Orlando Shooting & Homophobia "Trepang UFO" Hoax Revealed!</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>NO MEETING IN JULY!</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>	