



# NMSR Reports

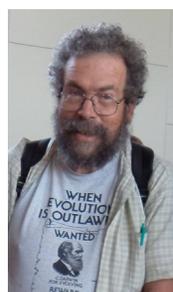
The Newsletter of the  
New Mexicans for Science and Reason

NMSR Reports, David E. Thomas, Editor, 1201 N. Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro, NM 87801 © 2020

**JUNE MEETING:**  
**NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE**  
**AND REASON will hear**  
**A Panel Discussion**  
**on COVID-19**  
**featuring Coffee Brown, M.D.**  
**Austin Moede, M.D.**  
**and Dave Thomas**  
**7:00 PM June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**This will be a**  
**==>Virtual Meeting<==**  
**=>Attend at your office or home!<==**

a vaccine? How long will the lockdowns last, and how long should they?

Our panelists include Coffee Brown, M.D. and Austin Moede, M.D. Dave Thomas will contribute some thoughts on COVID19 conspiracy theories and vaccination fears. This will be an interesting meeting, be sure to tune in!



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 on the day of the meeting. To get added to the attendee list, simply email [nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com).

If all goes well, members will be able to interact, "raise their hands", ask questions, and so forth. And, if you missed the meeting, you'll still be able to watch the video later. Tune in at **7:00 PM June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, On Line!**

## FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

### June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 NMSR Meeting: "Panel Discussion on COVID-19"

Our June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 NMSR meeting will be a panel discussion on COVID19. Are the states doing enough? Will the federal government decide to take action? What do we know about the efficacy of contact tracing and testing? Does a positive test result deserve a second test? What can we learn from the 1918 Flu Pandemic? Does hydroxychloroquine prevent people from dying of the coronavirus? What are the prospects of



### Late summer 2020 NMSR Meeting: Keith Matzen of Sandia National Laboratories, on "High Energy Density Science with Pulsed Power -- From Fundamental Science to National Security Applications"



Location and Date **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 CNM's Student Resource Center, room 204 (@ Richard Barr Boardroom). 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**

jgeoh@swcp.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: W = K, Y = V.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Look for small details!

**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!**

Zoom Meeting info will be emailed out, ask [nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com) for a copy.

**PUZZLE TIME!**

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

**Cyber-Cypher: JUNE 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.

" O P J T P J F P J Q I I Q L Y J T O P J  
X R C B B Q R K O P J T P J J F ' T  
O P Q R G O , B R Q X P L M P O P J  
T P J J F O P G H W T O P J T P J F P J Q I  
G T P L T C L S J Q G O R Q , X P L C J  
O P J X R C B I J H R D H M J T P L K  
B R Q O P J T G K J G M O G T O P J  
I J T O Q R Z J Q R B C L S J Q O Z . " -  
G S Q G P G K C L H M R C H

**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

**MAY CYPHER SOLUTION**

"SAYING FIVEG MAKES YOU SICK, IS SORT OF LIKE SAYING AN IPHONE FLASHLIGHT CAN GIVE YOU A SUNBURN." - TREVER NOAH OF THE DAILY SHOW (should have been TREVOR - ed.)

Esteemed May Code Crackers: Mike Arms\*, Austin Moede\*, and Terry Lauritsen\*!

\*Secret Word: "VIRAL MYTH CONFUSE"

**SOCORRO STUMPER**

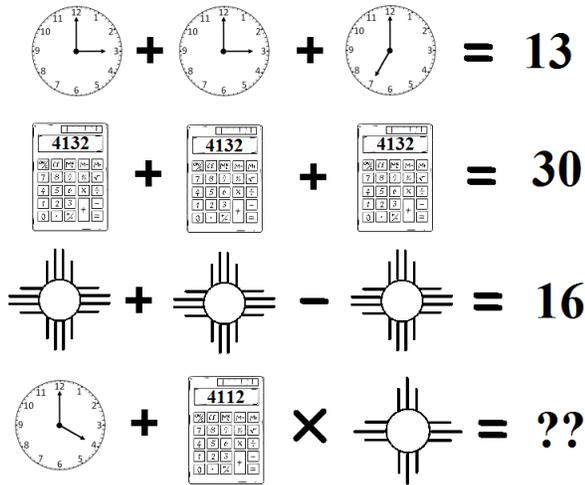
**Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?**

New puzzles every week at [www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm)



**June Bonus: “Picture-Perfect Puzzle”**

*Submitted by Dave Thomas*



**The June Bonus:** What is the Answer ??

**May Bonus: “Corona EMT Blues”**

*Submitted by Dave Thomas*



An emergency medical technician has to transport three individuals from a public testing site to a waiting area at the hospital. One of the three, Steve, has never been exposed to the coronavirus Covid19, and is Susceptible to getting the disease. A second person, Cathy, is Contagious with Covid19. The third person, Rachel, has contracted and Recovered from Covid19, but may still be contagious.

The medic can only transport one patient at a time. They can’t leave the susceptible person and the contagious person together in either location, because if the EMT isn’t there to enforce social distancing, the susceptible person could become infected. Likewise, they can’t leave the susceptible person and the recovered person together in either

location, because the recovered patient *might* still be contagious.

**The May Bonus:** How can the medic safely transport the three patients to the waiting area of the hospital, while maintaining social distancing?

**Answer:** Take Steve, return empty. Take Rachel, return with Steve. Take Cathy, return empty. Take Steve. (Cathy and Rachel can be interchanged.)

**Congrats:** Allen Robnett (NM), Paul Brateman (UK), Terry Lauritsen (NM).

**Holly Olivarez on “The connection between Climate Change & COVID-19”**



Holly is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow with a passion for learning how to effectively communicate climate change in ways that prompt scientists and non-scientists alike to find their unique way to contribute towards climate change solutions. As a scientist at CU Boulder, Holly studies the ocean and climate change; specifically, the absorption of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by the ocean. To learn more about the speaker and this event, visit [ClimateChangeTalks.com](http://ClimateChangeTalks.com).

Holly’s main study area is how carbon dioxide is transferred to the oceans. Because CO<sub>2</sub> is a greenhouse gas, its increase can cause global temperatures to rise. The seas contain 30% more CO<sub>2</sub> than they did 200 years ago. This is causing seawater to become more acidic, and this is affecting plankton and other microorganisms. This in turn impacts the entire oceanic food web. The rapid rise of global temperature at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is similar in a way to the rapid rise of COVID19 infections last spring. She showed the “Flatten the Curve” graphs for the coronavirus, and said that measures like social distancing help prevent the number of cases exceeding the ability of hospitals to accommodate them. Similarly, if humanity does nothing to mitigate greenhouse warming, than the average temperature will rise over 2° C, whereas if sufficient measures are undertaken, the temperature rise can be limited to 2°C (i.e. what the environment can accommodate).

Climate Change and Coronavirus are connected in other ways, including: both are global, both demand early action, and both are here, now. A few months ago, everyone was hearing about the virus in the news, but it wasn’t impacting everyone, and so responsive action was slow in coming. We’re at a similar point with climate change: the impacts are not obvious to all, and people are

not taking the actions required. Another connection is that we all want a safe place for us and our families to live, in a world affected by both climate and virus. Even though climate change is not on everyone’s thoughts now, we can use the similar sense of urgency with the coronavirus to stimulate discussion on climate.



Ms. Olivarez showed graphs from a Yale group that indicate that 70% of Americans think global warming is happening, and that it will affect future generations; however, only 40% think that global warming will harm them *personally*. Only 32% of Americans hear about global warming in the media at least once a week, and only 36% discuss the topic occasionally. Amazingly, just 52% think that scientists agree on global warming. Step One, Holly said, is talking about it enough to promote a sense of urgency. Conversation suggestions include weird weather; how flowers and trees bloom earlier than ever; how spring starts earlier; and how there is less snow than there used to be.

Holly’s focus is on discussing climate change in our daily lives, and the connection between climate change and COVID19. She said sources to be shared must be reliable, easy to understand, and easy to share, and that one point is to show your audience that you care, and that it’s important for everyone to care. When you share, you

learn, Holly said. It’s important to keep the conversation on solutions and hope, rather than gloom and doom. She cited Project Drawdown, “the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse Global Warming,” edited by Paul Hawken (<https://drawdown.org/>). This is a list of 100 *existing* solutions to reverse global warming.

Holly also highly recommended Katharine Hayhoe’s “Global Weirding” video series on PBS and YouTube (<http://globalweirdingseries.com>). Kayhoe is very active on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, and has organized of list of 3,000 climate scientists all active on Twitter. Several other sites were recommended, including Skeptical Science, Climate Feedback (rates credibility of articles), NASA global climate change, NOAA, Inside the Greenhouse and more.



NMSR thanks Holly Olivarez for a thought-provoking presentation. A **video of the entire meeting and discussion, are available on the NMSR meetings page, <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.**

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](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com).**

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


**NMSR Reports Vol. 26, No. 6, June 2020**  
David E. Thomas, Editor (505) 410-0753  
1201 Avenida de Chamiso Pl. Socorro NM 87801  
**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
Future Meetings Announced  
New Puzzles!  
May Meeting Summary  
Holly Olivarez on Climate Change and COVID19

**COVID19 PANEL DISCUSSION**  
Weds. June 10th  
ONLINE  
on ZOOM  
7PM