



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

JUNE MEETING:
NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE
AND REASON will have a
“Summer Social”
=>June 9th, 2021 7:00PM<=
=>Attend online!<=

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

June 9th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: a Summer Social!

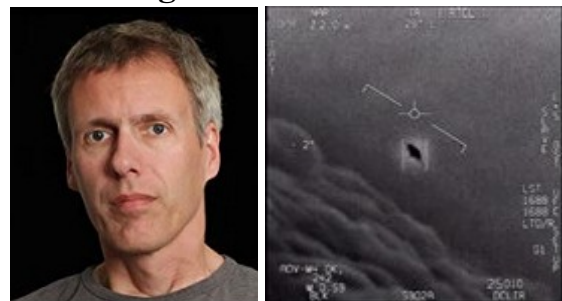


Our June meeting will be a Summer Social, on Zoom. Bring your tales of survival of the pandemic, how you stayed sane, and more. We will also discuss resumption of in-person meetings, probably in August.

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 June 9th, 2021, On Line!**

July 14th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: Mick West on enigmatic UAP/UFO Videos!



Our February 19th speaker, Mick West of metabunk.org, is returning via Zoom on July 14th, to discuss the recent flap of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs), and the new official reports from the government. He has been analyzing the the “Flying Pyramid”, the “FLIR”, the “GOFAST”, and the “GIMBAL” videos, from cockpit instrumentation displays from United States Navy fighter jets based aboard aircraft carriers USS Nimitz and USS Theodore Roosevelt in 2004, 2014 and 2015. Mick has discussed these videos on CNN. This will be a good 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.

NMSR officers:

Dave Thomas, President

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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: X = Q, Y = V

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Just run the numbers!

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, June 9th at 7PM, on Zoom!**

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.

" U T N M C G R J M T R Z T G L I
C O O Q N V V R J N X I C F R U G D N C J V
N J V I Q R J S U T C U C F F E N L E F N
T C Y N C V N C U C U U T N U C K F N
C V G L I ' Q N O N Y N F L E R J S
E L F R Z R N V C J O V L F I U R L J V . "
- D N F C J R N V U C J V K I Q G , O - J D

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

"IT IS THE POLICY OF MY ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS GUIDED BY THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE AND DATA." - PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

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

*Secret Word: "TRUMP ABOLISHED"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

New puzzles every week at www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm



June Bonus: “The Fauci Ouchie”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

A director of a small firm (less than 50 employees) made the following announcement: “Several staff have asked me how we’re doing on the vaccine front. We’re at 87.2% fully vaccinated.”



The June Bonus: How many staff members are fully vaccinated? And how many are not fully vaccinated?

May Bonus: “Pirate Treasure”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

You have been captured by Pirates while sailing the Carribean, and have been brought before their gruff Captain. With a sinister snarl, he barks “I’ve a chest here that holds 120 pounds of pure gold coins. Some of these coins be decloons [10 Troy ounces each], and the rest be triploons [three Troy ounces each]. Now, mate, if ye can tell me exactly how many decloons and triploons are in my chest, ye walks away a free man. Get it wrong, and ye’ll be walkin’ the Plank!” After another pirate suggested that the riddle was perhaps overly challenging, the Captain snorted, and then offered a hint: “Awright, matey - the number of decloons times the number of triploons couldn’t be larger!”

The May Bonus: For your *life* - how many decloons and how many triploons are in the chest?

Answer: 88 and 290. (88 decloons * 10 Troy ounces per decloon) + (290 triploons * 3 Troy ounces per triploon) = 1750 Troy ounces = 120 pounds, at 14.5833 Troy ounces per pound. 12 oz/pound solutions were accepted as well.

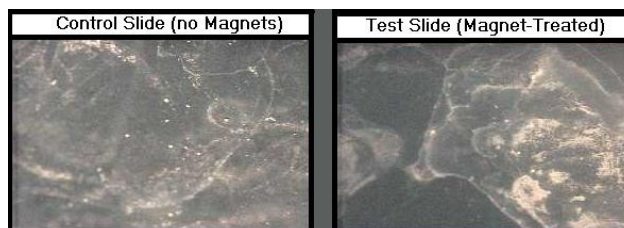
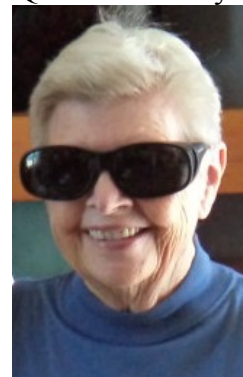
Congrats: Earl Dombroski (NM), Mike Arms (NM), Paul Braterman (UK), Gene Aronson (NM), Keith Gilbert (NM), Allen Robnett (NM)!

June 9th, 2021 NMSR Meeting: Dave Thomas and guests on “They’re Ba-ack! Magnetic Water Conditioning and Other Pseudoscience Zombies”.

The May meeting of NMSR started with a re-airing of a Larry Barker investigation from

2005, on so-called “magnetic water conditioners.” Recent issues of the NM Marketplace flyer have featured full-page advertisements pitching these magnetic devices, paid for by local GMX dealer Larry Brown.

These ineffective devices were studied by NMSR in a project with KRQE TV’s Larry Barker. This collaboration involved NMSR’s former treasurer, Nancy Shelton, who went incognito and wore a hidden camera to capture Brown’s actual sales pitch. Barker’s blistering takedown of Brown and GMX ran on KRQE on July 27th, 2005, and mentioned several of the NMSR experiments that were performed by Kim Johnson and Dave Thomas to evaluate and disprove a claimed magnetic effect on water conditioning. This affair should have been the end of GMX as a business, but Brown’s magnet spiel is still making the rounds, like a zombie that won’t die.



The magnet did not prevent scale buildup in NMSR’s weeks-long experiment

There are other cases of cheats and fakers being caught dead to rights, only to survive the scandals, and emerge more popular than ever. Dave shared a video of Peter Popoff being definitively debunked by James Randi, who intercepted secret radio transmissions from Popoff’s wife. She was pumping the preacher with insider facts about audience members, making him appear to have supernatural knowledge. Popoff did declare bankruptcy after his secret was revealed, but he has bounced back, and is now hawking “Miracle Water”, magically blessed water that supposedly brings its purchasers success and fortune.



Peter Popoff's new scam, "Miracle Spring Water." Insiders say it's just bottled water from WalMart.

Uri Geller embarrassed himself greatly on the Johnny Carson show, because skeptic James Randi counseled Johnny to supply all their own props. But Geller is still pushing his telepathic spoon-bending claims. He recently did his spoon shtick while getting his COVID vaccine; any publicity is good publicity these days.



Several other topics were brought up, and the conversation was animated. The meeting is available on YouTube, visit nmsr.org for links.

Videos of past meetings are available at <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.

June Skeptiverse Haiku!
by Keith Thomas

Looks like our nation's Cognitive infrastructure Could use some repairs!	Lizard alien Theorists just keep sprouting Strange new reptile tales.
New T-rex model Shows gait best works/When tail bobs At point-six-six hertz.	Are you confident Your vax carried the correct Vaccine microchips?
Could we redirect Our dowsing rods to detect Falsified ballots?	Nevermind krakens - These days, we have to battle Those kraken lawsuits!

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 and all of our Puzzlers!

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New Puzzles!
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Magnetic Scams,
Popoff, Geller, More!
June Haiku!

Summer
Social!
Weds 14th 7PM
Online/Zoom