



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 © 2022

JUNE MEETING:
**NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND
 REASON will hear**
A Panel, on
“Revisiting Earthquake Lights!”
=>June 8th, 2022 7:00PM<=
=>Attend online!<=

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

June 8th, 2022 NMSR Meeting:
**Revisiting Earthquake Lights – a Panel
 Discussion**



This mysterious phenomena is back in the news! This first came to NMSR’s attention back in January of 2008, when free-lance journalist Alberto Enriquez gave a presentation entitled “Beyond Earthquake Lights: Progress in Seismo-EM.” Alberto said “Seismo-electromagnetics has emerged in recent years as a vibrant new branch of earth science,” and that so-called “earthquake lights” have evolved from fodder for alien visitation to scientifically confirmed observations. A description of this presentation is available on NMSR’s website at www.nmsr.org/eqlights.htm.

A recent video (May 3, 2022) on Anton Petrov’s popular YouTube channel discussed both old and new observations of these mysterious lights. We will watch this video (13 minutes), and then a panel will discuss the implications of these new findings. The panel will tentatively include some or all of the following: journalist Alberto

Enriquez; NMSR member John Derr, geophysicist and earthquake expert, now retired from USGS; Friedemann Freund, Senior Research Scientist with the SETI Institute; and Dave Thomas, NMSR president.



Unexplained Earthquake Light Phenomenon Finally Captured on Camera

Fundraiser

394,393 views May 3, 2022 Good telescope that I've used to learn the basics: <https://am...more>

👍 25K 🗑 Dislike ➦ Share ⬇ Download 🗂 Clip ➕ Save ⓘ Description ...

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. Then, tune in to Zoom at 7:00 PM June 8th, 2022, On Line!

This should be a fascinating discussion, don’t miss it!

No Meeting in July : NMSR will be On Vacation!

Our next meeting after June will be on August 10th, 2022. Will we meet in person? Possibly, if the virus isn’t on the rise. Got an idea for a speaker, or topic? Send them along to Dave Thomas for consideration.

May 11th, 2022 NMSR Meeting: Nicholas Lamar Soutter on “Update on War in Ukraine, Possible Coup in Russia, SCOTUS Assault on Civil Rights, and Covid Lingering”

Two-time NMSR speaker Nicholas Lamar Soutter is an American writer and philosopher. His 2012 novel, *The Water Thief*, is about a future in which "corporations own everything, even the air we breathe." Nick was pleased to be able to talk to NMSR for a third time, and mentioned how much he enjoys these sessions.

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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:

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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**,
Adjunct Professor, University of New Mexico.
- **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: U = X, Z = Y.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Think **outside** the box! Oh, and recall two sides and an angle make for congruent triangles.

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 8th 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: 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.

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

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

"THE COURT DEPRIVES WOMEN OF THE RIGHT TO MAKE AN AUTONOMOUS CHOICE, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR SAFETY." - RUTH BADER GINSBURG, ON GONZALES VERSUS CARHART (2007)

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

*Secret Word: "SYMBOLIC WRATH"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

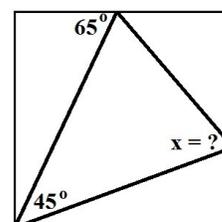
New puzzles every week at www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm

June Bonus: "A Cute Angle"

Submitted by Dave Thomas

The June Bonus:

A triangle is inscribed in a square as shown. What is angle x?



May Bonus Solution: “Baser Instincts”**Submitted by Dave Thomas**

In what base is the following equation valid?

$$64 + 37 + 29 = 108$$

Answer: Base 12.

Congrats to: Keith Gilbert (NM), Earl Dombroski (NM), Rocky S. Stone (NM), Mike Arms (NM), Gene Aronson (NM)

May NMSR Meeting, Nick Soutter, Continued:

Nick’s YouTube Channel, “In Time: News, Politics and Culture” has been streaming for a few years. The channel features interviews with experts in various fields, from the social sciences to the military, on a wide variety of topics. Nick cited the Kyle Rittenhouse case as an example of an “In Time” deep dive; some of the media coverage of this case was unreasonable misrepresentation, although the New York Times covered it well, he said.

Sometimes Nick’s channel reports breaking stories ahead of the major media, as was the case with the leak of the recent SCOTUS decision on *Roe vs. Wade*. One of the show’s recent guests on developments in Ukraine is Commander Lance McMillan, who helped lead the effort in Iraq and the liberation of Kuwait in the first Gulf war. When the invasion of Ukraine was beginning, one of the first indications was unconfirmed footage of a 7-mile-long convoy moving from Crimea into Ukraine. When Nick’s group was able to confirm a 7-mile traffic slowdown in the same location using Google Traffic, they went live with the news that the invasion had begun.

Regarding the impending SCOTUS decision on *Roe v. Wade*, Dave Thomas suggested it might be more effective for officials to lobby against government mandated pregnancies and forced birth, and for a woman’s right to make her own medical decisions, rather than simply express support “for abortion.” Nick agreed that messaging in politics is a vital concern.

Soutter recalled the adage “You campaign in poetry, but you govern in prose” as relevant re messaging as well. The next topic was regarding if there are neo-Nazis in Ukraine. Nick said yes, there

were a very small number (perhaps 11) of loose-cannon “pro-Nazi” Ukrainians, but that this was *nothing* like the threat Putin described. The general culture of Russia was discussed. There is general distrust – every word you utter might end you up in trouble. Nick said that, despite general distrust of politicians, the Ukrainian situation is much worse (for Russia) than the average Russian believes. We know Putin is ruthless, and has killed with his bare hands. But the oligarchs are the ones who must become dissatisfied enough to remove Putin from power. The fact that there are any protests in Russia at all is a strong indication that things are not going well for Putin.



The topic of SCOTUS and the revocation of *Roe v Wade* was up next. Nick said Alito’s ostensible ruling could have overthrown *Roe v Wade* by noting that the right to privacy is not specifically guaranteed in the Constitution. However, the ruling goes much farther, and spells bad news for almost every bit of progressive legislation in the last half century (gay marriage, voting rights, inter-racial marriage, abortion of course, and *more*). Nick thinks this was deliberate. Who leaked the document? Arguments can be made that either a liberal or a conservative did the leaking. If it was a conservative, that would have the effect of “locking in” the ruling against further changes. Nick said he thinks the leaker was a liberal, who was hoping to prevent the rollback of all recent progressive legislation. Dave suggested that it might have been leaked by Ginni Thomas in hopes of taking the spotlight off of her insurrectional activities, and Nick agreed that, if the leaker was a justice or spouse, Ginni Thomas would have been his bet as well.

The fate of Putin and Russia was up next. Putin is ailing from cancer, but is likely postponing

surgery to avoid assassination while he is in surgery or recovery. Why is the Russian Air Force doing poorly in Ukraine, when they were so effective in Syria a few years ago? One reason is that the Ukrainian army has been preparing for an invasion for years, unlike the Syrians. The type of combat in Syria was easier (bomb drops) than in Ukraine (dog fights). Also, because Syria was not Putin’s pet project, his advisors may have been much more candid with Putin than they have been for Ukraine, for which no iota of dissent is tolerated.



John Covan brought up Marshall McLuhan, author of “The Medium is the Massage.” Nick said that Twitter adjusted the length of tweets to minimize clarity and maximize angry responses, as that supports their financial model.

The discussion turned to evolution, success and paranoia. Nick argued that, as people become

successful, they tend to become more arrogant and protective of that success, which could result in what appears as pure paranoia. For example, Nixon achieved success in several areas (China, EPA, etc.), but his extreme paranoia led to his downfall. Presidential ratings were discussed, with general agreement on the observation that Trump is our worst president in terms of morality. Nick said Trump was a master of telling people what they want to hear (“Coal jobs will return!”), even if there’s no chance of such things happening.

A vigorous Q&A session followed. NMSR thanks Nick Soutter for a stirring discussion.

As usual, **videos of this and past meetings are available at <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.
 Thanks to: John Covan, Eddy Jacobs, Debbie Thomas, Keith Thomas and all of our Puzzlers!

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IN THIS ISSUE:
 Future Meetings
 Announced
New Puzzles!
May Meeting - Nick Soutter on Ukraine, Roe/Wade, SCOTUS and more!

JUNE MEETING
EARTHQUAKE LIGHTS!
Weds 8th 7PM
Online/Zoom