



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 © 2023

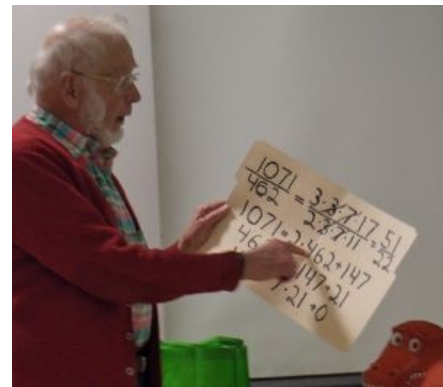
Memorial Gathering

for John Geohegan

=>June 3rd, 2023 11AM - 2PM<=

Hyder Park, 700 Richmond Dr SE

Albuquerque NM 87110



FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

June 3rd, 2023 Memorial Gathering:

Join an informal gathering for a celebration of the life of NMSR founder John Geohegan, who passed away in early March. The gathering has been set for Saturday, June 3rd, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. It will be at Hyder Park, 700 Richmond Dr. SE, Albuquerque NM 87106. All are invited. Some of John's interests will be displayed, stories and conversations will be in order, and a light lunch may be shared. You would be a welcome participant. Please spread the word!



John Geohegan, with visitors Dave Thomas, John Covan and Kim Johnson, in mid-February.

JULY MEETING: NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND REASON will hear

Joe Archbold and Dave Thomas, on
"Looking Under the Hood of
Wave/Particle Duality"

=>July 12th, 2023 7:00PM<=



=>Attend online on Zoom!<=

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

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Mark Fraser CNM Sponsor

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Kim Johnson, Industrial Physicist

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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*,
Adjunct Professor, University of New Mexico.
- *John Geissman*
Professor of Paleomagnetism
- *Alan Hale*
Southwest Institute for Space Research

Cyber-Cypher Clue: W = J, T = Z.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: The pips shown in the figure add to 19, which is not a perfect cube.

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 **July 12th at 7PM!**

Meetings, Live or Zoom? Vote!

www.roundorflat.com/covid19



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.

" C G D V K C B K O G Z J N O J G C L N X
L M R G Z M Q Q S D K H I K Q Q E Z N D U
M L B G Q X M O L N N I D J N Q Q G J L M Y G
M O L I M L M N O K B R N D G
K C C Q M J K L M N O B N X B C G J M K Q
D G Q K L M Y M L E K D G D G K Q M T G H . " -
W N V O S G N V G S K O

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

MARCH CYPHER SOLUTION

"THE COVID PANDEMIC IS OVER. IT'S TIME TO GIVE FREEDOM BACK TO HEALTHCARE WORKERS. CONGRESS SHOULD END THE TYRANNICAL VACCINE MANDATE!" - REP. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE.

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

*Secret Word: "THICKLY DANGEROUS"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

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

June Bonus: "Roll Them Bones"

Submitted by *K. Sengupta*

Alex can see three sides of each of two dice, and he notices that the total number of pips showing is a perfect cube.

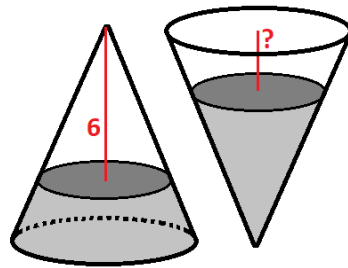


The June Bonus: What are the numbers of pips on each face that Alex can see?

March Bonus Solution: "I'll have a Double Cone"

Submitted by Dave Thomas

In the cone shown here (in two orientations), the shaded portion represents a liquid that has half the volume of the cone.



The March Bonus:

If the height of the dry half at left is 6 zarns, how tall is the dry half at right?

Answer: $6(\sqrt[3]{2} - 1) \approx 1.5595$ zarns.

Congrats to: Paul Braterman (UK), Earl Dombroski (NM), Rocky S. Stone (NM), K. Sengupta (INDIA), Harold H. Gaines (KS).

Skeptiverse Haiku! by Keith Thomas

Old-time religion. Henge stones mark the sacred rays Of a solstice sun.	Are any cryptids Currently investing in Crypto currencies?
A matter of fact, Skeptics truly believe that Facts truly matter!	Who knows how many Flat-earthers now grace the face Of our oblate orb?
Representative Of Misrepresentation: Congressman Santos.	Undebunkably, It was Buncombe that gave birth To bunkum and bunk.

Is there more healing Power in/The tiger's tooth Or the donkey's skin?	For the gardeners And the astrophysicists, Different wormholes!
How many products Are wrapped in ridiculous Detox cleansing claims?	This haiku harbors Significant jenettic Modifications.
Is there a fast way To quickly identify Redundant wording?	Poetic license: Sometimes I just want to add One extra syllable!

May 10th, 2023 NMSR Meeting: Benjamin Radford on "Tracking the Lizard Man"



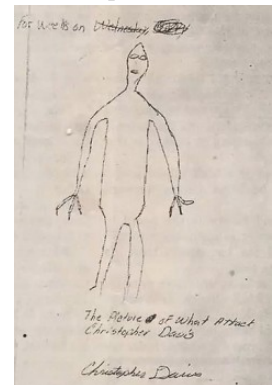
Ben Radford (left), Lizard Man (right).

Skeptical Inquirer managing editor Ben Radford was our speaker for the May 10th, 2023 NMSR meeting. Ben's topic was the "Lizard Man," a sighting of a strange creature years ago, back in 1988. It's not one of the pre-eminent cryptozoologic claims like Bigfoot or Nessie, but it

does have a small niche in the field. This monster is also called the Carolina Lizard Man, the Lizard Man of Scape Ore Swamp, and the Lizard Man of Lee County. It's one of a few uniquely American monsters. It is said to be seven feet tall, powerful, aggressive, fast, and to have a penchant for chewing up automobiles.

Lizard Man was first sighted in a butterbean field in a spooky area called Scape Ore Swamp. Ben started researching it in 2008, and has published on the topic in both the Fortean Times and Skeptical Inquirer. Ben also talked with William Shatner about this case, for the show "Weird or What."

For most monsters, there is a unique, "index" sighting that later claims follow. For Bigfoot, it was the 1967 Patterson/Gimlin film. For Chupacabra, it was eyewitness Madelyne Tolentino of Puerto Rico, in 1995. The lake monster "Champ" was first spotted by Sandra Mansi in 1977. The same goes for Lizard Man, which was first described by a teenager named Christopher Davis, of Bishopville, South Carolina, in 1988. Davis, who was 17 at the time, described being attacked by the creature while changing a tire. It was said to have had searing red eyes, three-clawed fingers, and snake-like scales, causing Davis to feel like he was being attacked by the Devil himself. The story was written up in a local newspaper. A few other sightings have been reported, but the bulk of "evidence" is in the form of damaged, mangled cars. Chris and his father found his car had a twisted mirror, and deep scratches on the roof. The sheriff, Liston Truesdale, gave Davis a polygraph examination, which he "passed." These tests don't detect lies; they simply detect if the subject is nervous or not.



There are discrepancies in Davis's report, such as the skin being scaly, but also covered with mud. He also claimed he saw dust being kicked up at a distance of 50 feet, in moonlight. He also claimed to see a green blur in the red light of his tail lights, which Ben pointed out could not possibly be true (even if something was green, it would appear dark brown in red light). Davis passed away years ago, in 2009, apparently believing his story to the end. What Davis drew and described walked on two legs, unlike a lizard. It had no tail, either. The area is poorly lit, so either Davis had incredible vision, or, more likely, he filled in lizard-like details of what he saw. If the creature could run 40 miles per hour, as reported, why wasn't it able to catch up to Davis, who had to wrap up changing a tire before fleeing in his car.

Ben found that the polygraph was administered, not by the police (no crime had been committed), but by the promoters of a show about the Lizard Man – a pure publicity stunt. While new "evidence" of the Lizard Man comes in the

form of photographs of mangled cars, it is important to note that there are no photographs of the damage to Davis's car itself.

While we aren't sure what Chris Davis saw that night, Ben Radford is fairly confident that it was not a bipedal lizard. Was it a hoax? Or perhaps a teenager trying to explain away damage to his car? It might even have been a farmer trying to prevent night thefts, whose eyeglasses reflected the car's tail-lights, producing an illusion of "searing red eyes" in hot pursuit.

NMSR thanks Ben Radford for a fascinating talk. As usual, **videos of this and past meetings are available at** <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.

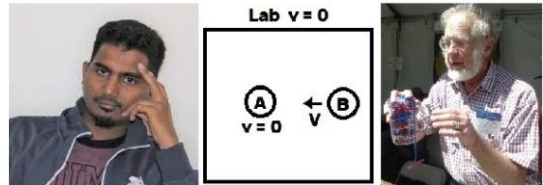
April 12th NMSR Meeting: Prof. Mostafa Hassanalian on "Biomimetics, and Bio-Inspired Aerial and Aquatic Robots"



Our April 12th speaker was Prof. Mostafa Hassanalian, who discussed "Biomimetics, and Bio-Inspired Aerial and Aquatic Robots." Hassanalian is a professor at New Mexico Tech. He described types and usages of drones and robots, and his group's innovative work on aping designs from biology. His students participate in several competitions. What is the difference between Biomimetics and Bioinspiration? The latter involves cases where nature has inspired innovation; birds can fly, so flying machines (airplanes) can be developed by various means. Biomimetics, on the other hand, is an attempt to copy nature directly, by making drones with wings that flap like a bird's, for example. Other biomimetic applications include rolling like pill bugs, floating in the wind like a dandelion seed,

or jumping like grasshoppers. The group's work on making flying machines using the wings of dead birds was featured on the Late Show with Steven Colbert. NMSR thanks Prof. Hassanalian for a riveting lecture.

March 8th NMSR Meeting: "Those Wacky Anti-Relativity Folks: Insights from John Geohegan, hosted by Dave Thomas"



Dave Thomas started this meeting with a review of some of John Geohegan's many contributions to NMSR. He then proceeded to give a detailed account of supposed errors of relativity, with an eye toward debunking the claims of Dr. Hamdoon Khan. Dave explained how the famous Twin Paradox is resolved, showed several confirmations of special relativity, and also the very odd and non-realistic way things would appear had Einstein been wrong, Will Dr. Khan award NMSR the \$20,000 from his challenge? Time will tell.

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

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Memorial
Gathering for
John Geohegan
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3rd, 11-2,
Hyder Park