



NMSR Reports

The Newsletter of the
New Mexicans for Science and Reason

NMSR Reports, David E. Thomas, Editor, 801 Fitch Ave., Socorro, NM 87801 © 2019

MARCH MEETING:
**NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE
 AND REASON will hear**
Dr. Creve Maples
“Search for Atlantis?”
7:00 PM Mar. 13th, 2019
==>CNM MAIN CAMPUS,
Student Resource Center<==
==>Room 204<==
Bring a friend!

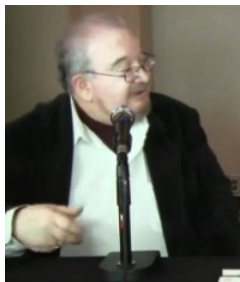
FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

MARCH 13th, 2019 NMSR Meeting: Creve Maples, Ph.D. on "Search for Atlantis?"

New Mexicans for Science and Reason is pleased to host Dr. Creve Maples at its next meeting, 7 PM, March 13th, 2019, at the CNM Main Campus, STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER (SRC), room 204, right next to the Richard Barr Boardroom. Free and open to the public!

Dr. Maples will talk about the results of his scientific analysis of the data associated with the Atlantis story.

Dr. Creve Maples has undergraduate degrees from MIT and a Ph.D. in Nuclear Science from the University of California, Berkeley. After completing NSF post Doctoral fellowship, he moved into the field of computing and, as head of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory's Advanced Computer Architecture Lab,



carried out pioneering work in the fields of multi-processor computers, real-time computing and interactive multi-dimensional data visualization. He has worked in both the academic and commercial sectors and was recruited from the private sector by Sandia National Laboratory where he founded the Synthetic Environment Laboratory. His work in virtual reality (VR) and human-computer interfaces received national attention and ultimately led to the formation of a public corporation. Dr. Maples has published over 100 journal papers, given hundreds of keynote talks and invited presentations worldwide, has received six national awards for his work and holds a number of patents. In the business arena, Dr. Maples has founded or acquired, and successfully developed, over a dozen different companies. He has been widely interviewed in magazines, newspapers and on TV including the Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Wired Magazine, PBS TV, ABC, Gartner Group, etc., and has demonstrated new information processing technology to President Clinton and the Secretaries of Energy and Transportation, and to a wide variety of military, government, academic and commercial clients.



Join us at 7:00 PM March 13th, 2019, CNM MAIN CAMPUS, Student Resource Center, Room 204.

Coming later this year:

**Ben Radford on Organ Theft Urban
 Legends (May 8th)**

Anay Hightower on Fire Science

Dr. Stewart Thompson on Fluoridation

**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:

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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, UNM
- **Alan Hale**
Southwest Institute for Space Research
- **Randy Thornhill**
Professor of Biology, UNM

Cyber-Cypher Clue: W = X, Y = V.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Clue? CLUE? We got no stinkin' clue!

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 **WEDS., MARCH 13th, 2019,** 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: MARCH 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 H W O H I X F P C O H I P N G
T E N E C P B C Z H C M M X E H
B F P X C V H P X E C X D C G U H B C Z H
F G C Y H I J G C I I N T L F H M Z . "
- Z C G F P E O E J P F D F P X G F H M P
U N E I

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

FEBRUARY CYPHER SOLUTION

"WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY EXQUISITELY DEPENDENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, IN WHICH HARDLY ANYONE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY." - CARL SAGAN

Esteemed February Code Crackers: George Egert*, Mike Arms*, Terry Lauritsen*, and Austin Moede*.

*Secret Word: "HOWLING QUACKERY"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

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



March Bonus: “Running the Bases”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

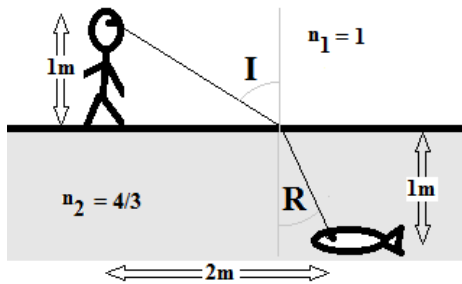
The March Bonus: In what base is the equation $2383 + 2473 + 2601 + 2680 = 11357$ valid?

And what is the sum, in Base 10?

February Bonus : “Fishy Encounter”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

A boy whose eyes are one meter above the surface of a river spots a fish. The fish is one meter below the surface. The horizontal distance between the boy and the fish is two meters. The index of refraction of air is $n_1 = 1$, and that of water is $n_2 = 4/3$.



The February Bonus: What are the angles of incidence (I) and refraction (R)?

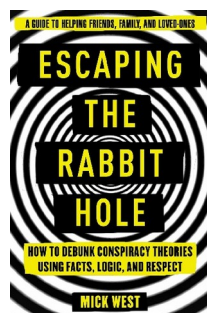
Answer: $I = 51.794128$, $R = 36.110550$ degrees

Congrats: Earl Dombroski (NM), Gene Aronson (NM), Allen Robnett (NM), John Geohegan (NM), Keith Gilbert (NM)!

Thanks also to John Geohegan, who wrote: *“Fishy Encounter has a mixup in the diagram so it looks like the refracted ray, R, goes to the fish instead of the boy. After interchanging R and I in the diagram I find the angle of incidence, I, is 36.13 degrees, and the angle of refraction is 51.83 degrees. If I and R are not interchanged, the diagram implies that a ray originates in the boy’s eye, similar to Superman’s X-ray vision.”*

FEBRUARY 13th, 2019 NMSR Meeting: Mick West

New Mexicans for Science and Reason heard Mick West at its February meeting, 7 PM, February 13th, 2019.



Mick explained that he started out as a video game programmer in the 80’s. His first computer was a Sinclair ZX81, which came with a whopping 1K of memory. He wrote lots of video games, and one of them, Tony Hawke Pro-Skater, became very popular. West helped found a company for the game, and was able to retire with a comfortable income. He wrote articles for Game Development Magazine, and also took up flying. His experiences in airplanes got him interested in weather, and Mick found out about “Chemtrails”, a supposed large-scale atmospheric spraying program responsible for sinister-looking contrails. West started the contrailsience.com website, which has many excellent articles debunking “chemtrails” phenomena. Mick then started the Metabunk.org website, which dissects many topics besides chemtrails, such as 9/11 Truth and Flat Earth. He spends a good portion of his time writing articles there.

Mick did a show with avid conspiracy theory advocate Joe Rogan on the Skinwalker Ranch, with a UFO-related mystery, and this led to a book proposal from Skyhorse Publications, which puts out many conspiracy-related titles.



And that’s how Mick got going with his book, “Escaping the Rabbit Hole.” He likes telling his bio to listeners and readers to help them see him as a real person, and not just a “shill” hired to debunk conspiracies. Mick points out his success from Tony Hawke games disproves the “shill” accusations he sometimes gets.

The book is about how to talk to “your friend,” rather than “a believer” or “a denier” or such. Mick’s approach is all about helping people, not mocking them. The book contains four examples of people who came to change their minds about conspiracy theories, including chemtrails, 9/11 truth, False Flag operations, and the Flat Earth. What helped them see the light?

Mick talked about the “Conspiracy Theory” theory – the idea that the CIA concocted the term to marginalize JFK assassination questioners, UFO buffs, and so on. He pointed out that in popular media, the “conspiracy theorist” usually turns out to be right (the 1997 Mel Gibson film “Conspiracy Theory” is a good

example of that).

West said he prefers the term “debunker” over “skeptic.” Debunkers do something – debunking; but skeptics don’t do “skepticing.” He asked “why do people fall down the rabbit hole?” Mick sees several causes: the need for uniqueness; the need for control, and meaning; the likelihood of attributing intentionality; feeling powerless, on the losing side politically; and all, some, or none, of the the above. One common factor in attracting people to conspiracies is YOUTUBE.COM. The YouTube algorithm amplifies the “Rabbit Hole” effect: someone that just watched an Apollo Moon Landing Hoax video is invited to check out a Flat Earth video (related content), and one conspiracy leads to another, and another. Mick talked about the “Demarcation Line” - what is the border between Sensible and Silly? Different groups draw the line in different places – a creationist might see where a Flat Earther is being silly, for example. Mick recommends talking to people about subjects that are near their demarcation line; don’t waste time trying to change their minds about things they are quite sure are sensible. Three core techniques include: maintaining effective dialog; supplying useful information; and, giving it time. Mick finds that the best route to an effective dialog includes understanding them; validating the real concerns; finding common ground; and, avoiding backfire. Re useful information, West says to provide: mistakes they have made; mistakes others have made; things they have missed; useful context; show (don’t tell!); and, prioritize individually.

Mick discussed Floodlight Debunking versus Spotlight Debunking. In the former, you try to broadens your friend’s knowledge base, and “un-cripple their epistemology.” For Chemtrails, for example, you might explain how clouds forms and other aspects of weather. In Spotlight Debunking, you focus in depth on one specific aspect: something that they have believed for a long time, or something that promoters of the theory insist is true. Mick says to Spotlight it: illuminate it with a Detailed

Debunk. Don’t tell them it is wrong; *show them*. Let *them* figure it out. Get them to think “if this is wrong, what else might be wrong?” Avoid Backfire, and do it politely, with respect.

Mick gave examples of where both floodlight and spotlight debunking helped change people’s minds. Include as much context as possible; explain, with neutral sources, like old books (pre-conspiracy) if possible. A Spotlight Debunk can start a thought process: “Here’s this key thing that I thought was true, but isn’t; what else might be wrong?” A lively Q & A and book-signing session followed.



L-R Mark Fraser, Mick West, Ben Radford, Dave Thomas, Ken Frazier
NMSR thanks Mick West for a stirring presentation.

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, and all our Puzzlers!

IN THIS ISSUE:
Future Meetings
Announced
New Puzzles!
February Meeting -
Mick West

MARCH MEETING
ATLANTIS
Dr. Creve Maples
Weds, Mar.13th
7:00 PM

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