



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

MAY MEETING:

NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND REASON will hear

Nicholas Lamar Soutter on

“Update on War in Ukraine, Possible Coup in Russia, SCOTUS Assault on Civil Rights, and Covid Lingerin”

=>May 11th, 2022 7:00PM<=

=>Attend online!<=

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

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 Lingerin”**

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." The novel won a Kirkus Star from Kirkus Reviews. Nick produces copious commentary on politics, science and humanism on his YouTube channel "In Time."



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**

April 13th, 2022, On Line!

This will be an interesting meeting, don't miss it!

June 8th, 2022 NMSR Meeting: TBD

Got an idea for a speaker, or topic? Send them along to Dave Thomas for consideration.

April 13th, 2022 NMSR Meeting: Susan Gerbic on **“Science Activism does not stop during a world-wide pandemic, or How I spent my lockdown” (April 13th)”**



Susan lives in Salinas, California, and is a fellow of the Center for Inquiry. She recently received the Balles award for her work in the “grief vampire” world. Susan was very gracious to fill in for our scheduled speaker, who had to cancel shortly before the meeting time.



She encouraged all to check out her group's website, abouttimeproject.wordpress.com.

Numerous topics are addressed by this group, including Guerilla Skeptics, Grief Vampires, Facilitated Communication, Pandemic Survival Strategies, and more. Gerbic mentioned related articles at *Skeptical Inquirer*, such as her article (with Mark Edward) on *“There is NO WAY the Psychic could have known!”*

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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:

Dave Thomas, President

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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: T = X, W = Z.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Let "x" be the unknown base.

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, May 11th 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: MAY 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.

" M N U H E P K M Z U V K G R U A J E C U X
 E S M N U K G Q N M M E C L Y U L X
 L P M E X E C E P A H N E G H U , U R U X L M
 M N U U T V U X A U E S M N U G K
 A L S U M B . " - K P M N D L Z U K
 Q G X A D P K Q , E X Q E X W L F U A
 R U K A P A H L K N L K M (2 0 0 7)

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

APRIL CYPHER SOLUTION

"IF IT WEREN'T FOR ELECTRICITY WE'D ALL BE WATCHING TELEVISION BY CANDLELIGHT." - HUMORIST GEORGE GOBEL, ON THOMAS A. EDISON'S INVENTION OF THE INCANDESCENT LAMP

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

*Secret Word: "SHREWD CAUTION"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

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

May Bonus: "Baser Instincts"

Submitted by Dave Thomas

The May Bonus:

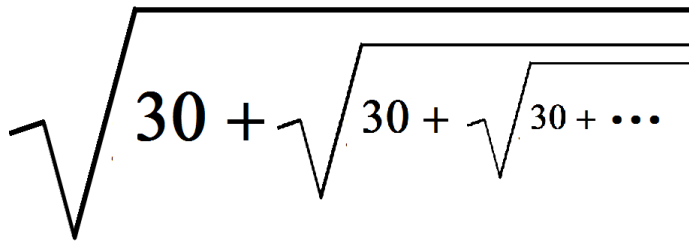
In what base is the following equation valid?

64 + 37 + 29 = 108

April Bonus Solution: “Celebrate Your Roots”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

What is the solution to the following? Is there more than one?



Answer: 6, the only solution.

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

April NMSR Meeting, Susan Gerbic, Continued:

This was a humorous look at the many overlooked ways psychics use to gather information about their customers on the sly, from Facebook or other online resources. The article is online at <https://skepticalinquirer.org/exclusive/there-is-no-way-the-psychoic-could-have-known/>. There are LOTS of ways, including guessing, or vaguely hopeful (“I feel you have a novel inside you!”)

**There is NO WAY
the psychic could have
known details about me!**



Actual Facebook Photos

Susan discussed another project, “*Abysmal Failure: A Skeptical Psychic Medium Attempts to Read Susan Gerbic.*” The psychic she contacted didn’t want to do a live Facebook reading, but agreed to do a reading over the

phone, while Sue streamed her end live on Facebook. When Susan told the psychic, “Ray,” that she wanted to speak to her departed grandfather, Frank Gerbic, the psychic went on at great length about Sue being Frank’s favorite, and how they ate popcorn together, which never happened – Frank died in 1930, before Susan was even born.

When the pandemic occurred in 2020, Susan and others were impressed that many psychics were caught unaware. Famed psychics like Thomas John, Theresa Caputo and Sue Nicholson booked shows for 2020 and 2021, then had to cancel them. Why didn’t they know how much COVID would affect the world? Sue’s article <https://skepticalinquirer.org/exclusive/they-oddly-did-not-see-this-coming/> describes many such psychic fails.



Thomas John: Celebrity Medium

May 7 at 9:50 AM · 🌐

Don't forget folks... the 2020 Afterlife Conference was cancelled due to the Corona Virus, but we're now going to bring it to you as an ONLINE EVENT on the same days as the original conference!

Same stellar speakers, and same high quality presentations. AND it's our ten-year anniversary!

Watch it live, in real time, or later at your convenience.

You'll find all the details here: <https://afterlifeconference.com/virtual-afterlife-conferen.../>



JUN 21

Cancelled Theresa Caputo Live The Experience

Public · Hosted by Theresa Caputo

Susan went on to describe various projects nabbing psychics like Thomas John in the act of receiving informatin surreptitiously. She also showed several projects undertaken by her Wikipedia group, Guerilla Skeptics in the Web.

A vigorous question-and-answer session followed. It's all on the video at NMSR.org! And don't forget to check out [abouttimeproject.wordpress.com!](http://abouttimeproject.wordpress.com)

NMSR thanks Susan Gerbic for a stirring discussion.

As usual, **videos of this and past meetings are available at <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.**

Spring Skeptiverse Haiku!
by Keith Thomas

Is it difficult To tell a bigfoot footprint From a hobbit track?	Skepticity Helps separate fantasy From reality.
Nuke nomenclature: Between fission and fusion, Frequent confusion!	Will our astronauts Someday bring enchiladas To Enceladus?
Nevermind those geese – Today's pilots must look out For the common loon!	The war that has raged Across Ukraine/Has upstaged COVID fear and pain.

Congratulations to our NMSR Science Fair Winners!

New Mexicans for Science and Reason (NMSR) \$100 Award for an Outstanding Junior Division Project in Junior Animal Science & Plant Science:



“Olfactory Testing on Ants”, Anderson Stoker, Albuquerque Institute of Math & Science. He trained ants to detect specific scents, and demonstrated it.

New Mexicans for Science and Reason (NMSR) \$100 Award for an Outstanding Junior Division Project in Junior Engineering & Energy and Transportation: “Totally RAD!”, June Loukinas, Hermosa Middle School (Bloomfield). She made her own working Wilson Cloud Chamber.



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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Weds 11th 7PM
Online/Zoom

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