



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

JANUARY MEETING: NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND REASON will hear

**Mark Boslough, John Hoopes, Dave
Thomas and more, on
Graham Hancock's
"Ancient Apocalypse"**

=>January 11th, 2023 7:00PM<=

=>Attend online!<=

=>RESUME LIVE MEETINGS?<=

Vote at roundorflat.com/covid19

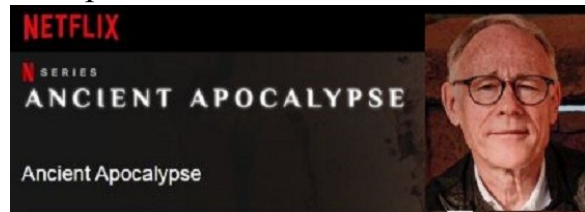
FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

**January 11th, 2023 NMSR Meeting:
Mark Boslough, John Hoopes, Dave
Thomas and more, on
Graham Hancock's
"Ancient Apocalypse"**



University of Kansas anthropologist John W. Hoopes will join physicists Mark Boslough and Dave Thomas to discuss Graham Hancock's recent NetFlix pseudo-documentary "Ancient Apocalypse." Have archaeologists really been covering up evidence of highly-developed white civilizations existing in ancient times? KU's

John Hoopes has been vigorously countering the claims in #AncientApocalypse for over a month on Twitter, as has our own Mark Boslough. They have a LOT to say about this abysmal production.



Join us at 7PM on January 11th, 2023 on
Zoom!

**Sunday, January 8th, 3:00-5:00PM:
Celebration of Kendrick Frazier, 1942-
2022**

All are invited to a Celebration of Ken Frazier's life, **Sunday, January 8th, St. Chad's Episcopal Church, 7171 Tennyson St NE, Albuquerque, 3-5 pm**. There will be a catered reception thereafter at the church.

**December 14th, 2022 NMSR Meeting:
Celebrating the life of
Kendrick Frazier, 1942 - 2022**

Friends and family of the late Ken Frazier gathered to share photographs and memories on Zoom. Available on the web, see www.nmsr.org/nmsr-hot.htm. Featuring comments by Ruth Frazier, Ben Radford, Leonard Tramiel, Mark Boslough, Genie Scott, Kim Johnson, Ted Cloak, Richard Saunders and more.



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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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: U = J, Y = G.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Play around with multiples of 264.

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 **October 12th at 7PM!** Meetings, Live or Zoom? Vote!



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: DECEMBER 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.

```
" F ' V   U C M G   K P N O O Z   B K J C E   J I
G W P   E P V J T K N G F T   T N C T C M .   F
O J J S           N K J C D E           F D           J C K
V P P G F D Y M ,   N D E   F   G W F D S   X P
K P N O O Z   O J J S   O F S P   N V P K F T N . "
-   M P D N G J K   S Z K M G P D   M F D P V N
```

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

OCTOBER CYPHER SOLUTION

"I DON'T THINK THAT THE HISTORICAL RECORD ESTABLISHES THAT THE FOUNDERS BELIEVED THAT RACE NEUTRALITY OR RACE BLINDNESS WAS REQUIRED." - KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

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

*Secret Word: "BY JUSTICE ONWARD"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

New puzzles every week at

www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm

December Bonus: "Takin' a Slow Train"



Submitted by **K. Sengupta**

The cities of Ramonsdale and Stamosville are connected by a railway line whose length

in miles is divisible by 264.

A train started from Ramonsdale towards Stamosville and, 6 hours after departing, developed an engine snag which forced it to continue at 5/7 velocity and under an hour late.

If the engine snag had occurred 98 miles later, it would have arrived 24 minutes sooner at its destination.

The December Bonus: How far apart are Ramonsdale and Stamosville? What was the initial speed of the train, and how many minutes late was the train?

October Bonus Solution: “Uphill Both Ways”

Submitted by Dave Thomas

Jake was late for band practice, because he underestimated the time it would take to ride his bicycle uphill. The uphill trip from Jake’s home to the practice house takes 12 minutes longer than the downhill trip back home. Jake’s uphill speed is 6 mph, and his downhill speed is 10 mph.

The October Bonus: (A) How far is Jake’s home from the practice house? (B) How many minutes would it take Jake to get to practice if the road was flat the whole way?

Answer: The distance is 3.0 miles. On a flat road, it would take between 22.5 min (algebraic mean) and 24 minutes (harmonic mean).

Congrats to: Mike Arms (NM), K, Sengupta (Calcutta, India), Paul Braterman (UK), Rocky S. Stone (NM), Earl Dombroski (NM), Harold H. Gaines (KS), Keith Gilbert (NM), and Gene Aronson (NM).

October 12th, 2022 NMSR Meeting: Robert Bartholomew on “The Myth of Havana Syndrome”



Robert Bartholomew is an American born medical sociologist, writer, journalist, and human rights advocate who is well-known for his books on social panics and outbreaks of mass hysteria throughout history. He has examined cases ranging from demonically possessed nuns during the

Middle Ages to the Salem witch-hunts of 1692, to contemporary episodes involving twitching schoolgirls in LeRoy, New York to the students at a Massachusetts school who hiccupped for a year.

He joined us from New Zealand to discuss "How Bad Science, Bad Journalism and Bad Government Created the Myth of Havana Syndrome." Robert first heard about Havana Syndrome in August of 2017, and at first thought the claim was true – that diplomats in Cuba had been attacked with a sonic weapon.

Robert dived into research on the phenomenon, and in 2017, published the first mainstream article about the topic, in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. He said the paper has aged well, and explained the enigma in context as follows. In November of 2016, some CIA agents

living in a posh neighborhood in Havana reported hearing some strange sounds, while walking outside at night. One reported that “It’s almost as if somebody was pointing a beam of sound at my home.”

Then, in late December of 2016, one of the agents reported ear pain, a headache, and some hearing loss in one ear, and went to the American embassy clinic for treatment. They mentioned that since they started experiencing symptoms,



they felt like someone was pointing a beam of sound at their house at night. When a couple of other agents reported similar sounds, that led to the development of a folk theory, that the Cubans were using sound waves to harass American embassy staffers. The theory’s plausibility stemmed from the fact that the Cubans likely tormented the Americans in many minor ways (parking too close, disturbing personal items in the home, etc.), and agents were well-briefed on such activities, to the point where it became a solid part of CIA lore.

With no other explanation in the offing, state department doctors endorsed the sonic sound theory, and things degenerated from there. Robert said the moral of the whole affair can be summarized with a single sentence: “When you hear the sound of hoofbeats in the night, first think ‘horses,’ not ‘zebras.’” And the state department doctors went for the most exotic theory right off the bat – going straight past zebras, right to unicorns.



The 21 who reported symptoms first were asked to record the sounds if possible, and eight individuals did so. Interestingly, a JSON study determined the most likely cause of the recorded sounds

was the mating call of an extremely loud cricket. The most interesting part of the recordings, however, is that their presence is totally incompatible with a subsequent, even more outlandish Havana Syndrome explanation, namely that of microwaves. Microwaves are inaudible; and if they were being used, where were the collateral effects on TV, Wifi

and etc.?

The JSON report in 2018 said it was unlikely that the phenomenon was due to microwaves or sonic weapons. The FBI report, since released, agreed with Bartholomew's conclusion that it was due to mass psychogenic illness- if an authority figure tells someone that they are being sickened by disruptive rays, they might just oblige with belief. A mainstream CIA report this year confirmed that. But, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) actually produced a report in 2020 that



said the phenomena were due to pulsed microwave radiation, and an obscure CIA group recently reinforced that conclusion. It turns out both the NAS article and CIA advisory panel were led by one David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford. His statements about microwaves were "clearly

incorrect," Robert said. Skeptics on Relman's panel were kicked off, and believers, outliers, and non-mainstream scientists appeared on both "pulsed microwave" panels.

Bartholomew's book showed the "syndrome" spread like a virus, and could be tracked to a small unit of CIA officers, then to the American embassy, and then to the Canadian embassy, and then going global. Questions that Robert would like to pose to David Relman: "Why did you cite Bartholomew as an expert seven times in your reports, and yet ignore his book, published six months before, that *explained* Havana Syndrome? And why was Simon Wesley (a skeptic) kicked off of your panel?"

A fascinating discussion followed. NMSR thanks Robert Bartholomew for a splendid presentation.

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

Eddy Jacobs, April 19, 1931 - December 23, 2022.

NMSR's own Neutron Generator, Eddy Jacobs, passed away peacefully at his brother's house on Friday, December 23rd, after suffering a series of strokes. Eddy was a longtime member of NMSR, and worked as a scientist for decades. He enjoyed the outdoors, his family, and recreation. He rode his bike to work years before it was even a thing. Eddy will be missed.



Skeptiverse Haiku! by Keith Thomas

When it comes to thoughts, There is no doubt./Garbage in Gives us garbage out.	How can we counter A critical shortage of Critical thinking?
Cosmic cradle gets Snubbed and robbed./When named a High Excitation Blob!	chi-can-er-y noun the duplicitous use of chi energy claims
The late Queen loved her Dogs, I guess./Hip-hip-hooray For corgis and Bess!	Eratosthenes, About two forty B.C., Measured the Earth's girth.

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!

	<p>NMSR Reports Vol. 28, No. 11-12, December 2022 David E. Thomas, Editor (505) 410-0753 1201 Avenida de Chamiso Pl. Socorro NM 87801 <i>IN THIS ISSUE:</i> Future Meetings Announced New Puzzles! October Meeting Havana Syndrome Celebration of Ken Frazier January 8th!</p>
	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>JAN. MEETING "ANCIENT APOCALYPSE" Weds 11th 7PM Online/Zoom</p> </div>