



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

**NOVEMBER MEETING:
NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND
REASON will hear
Karl Reineke
on “Astro-photography:
Equipment, Methods & Results”
=>NOVEMBER 15th, 2023
7:00PM<=
=>Attend online on Zoom!<=**

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

November 15th, 2023 NMSR Meeting: Karl Reineke on “Astro-photography: Equipment, Methods & Results”



Our November meeting will feature retired scientist and amateur astro-photographer Karl Reineke. Karl will discuss photographic and telescopic equipment, processing strategies, tips and

tricks, and more. He will present some dazzling photographs, and might even be able to do a live image acquisition (clouds permitting). Join us at 7:00 PM on Wednesday November 15^h, 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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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, W = V.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Assign variables to unknown sides.

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 **September 13th 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: NOVEMBER 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.

" X S K L Y N J A B M V J U N S O A N O
L S M O V K Z N C L K O F M A A C J C O Y J I
L S J A C O ? X J E E , D N T M H V C T K
Z M Z E J N R R F N C I A S J E R K O Y
I J K Y M L . L S K L ' A B F
X N I E Y W M J X . " - A T J K V J I N R
L S J S N C A J B M V J U N S O A N 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

SEPTEMBER CYPHER SOLUTION

"NOTHING IS MORE IRREDEEMABLY IRRELEVANT THAN BAD SCIENCE." - NOBEL LAUREATE AND CHEMIST JOHN CHARLES POLANYI

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

*Secret Word: "ABSURD IMPOTENCY"

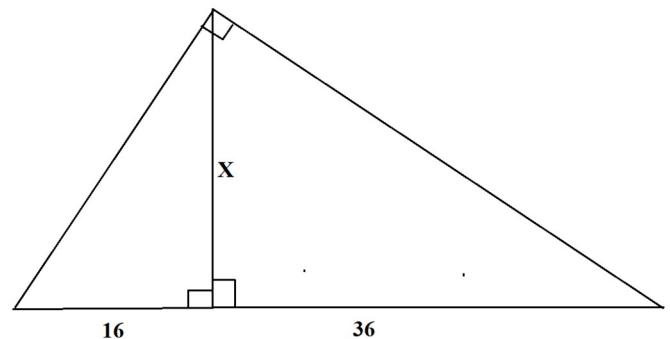
SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

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

November Bonus: "X the Unknown"

Submitted by Dave Thomas



The November Bonus: Solve for x.

September Bonus Solution: “Drop Mystery”

Submitted by *K. Sengupta*

Adam and Beau both have a whole number of chocolate drops, fruit drops and lemon drops, and the product of the number of each boy's of chocolate drops, fruit drops and lemon drops is 336. It is known that:

- (A) Each boy has fewer chocolate drops than fruit drops.
- (B) For each boy, the product of the number of chocolate drops and fruit drops equals the total number of candies he has.
- (C) Adam has more fruit drops than lemon drops.

The September Bonus: What is the number of chocolate drops, fruit drops and lemon drops possessed by each of Adam and Beau?

ANSWER: Adam has 2 chocolate drops, 14 fruit drops, and 12 lemon drops. Beau has 4 chocolate drops, 6 fruit drops, and 14 lemon drops. Given the wording of the puzzle, it is possible for Beau to also have 2 chocolate, 14 fruit, and 12 lemon drops, the same numbers as Adam.

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

September 20th, 2023 NMSR Meeting: Dr. Frank T. Etscorn III, Inventor of the Nicotine Patch

Our September meeting featured Dr. Frank T. Etscorn III, the inventor of the Nicotine Patch. It was a fascinating romp through the back alleys of the psychiatric profession. Etscorn graduated from Western Kentucky University. He said “I’m not a psychiatrist by the way, I’m a rat running experimental psychologist.” Frank talked about the fentanyl crisis, which is claiming 110,000 Americans annually. As bad as that is, he said, tobacco, which is calmly accepted as a fact of life, claims four times that number, around 480,000 per year.



Frank launched into a history of tobacco and nicotine. It’s been used for 6,000 years, first appearing in South America. It was employed for religious purposes only, and was packaged as cigars, as snuff, as enemas, and even as paste (a forerunner of the nicotine patch). The first European user of tobacco was a crewman with Columbus named Rodrigo de Jerez. While Columbus threw out the tobacco given to him by indigenous communities, de Jerez took some back to Europe. People were alarmed by the “Satanic” smoke plumes he was producing, however, and the Inquisition jailed de Jerez for seven years. By the time he got out, tobacco was all

the rage; Frank said de Jerez had really gotten burned.

How much do people need nicotine once the habit is acquired? A lot, Frank said. George Washington at Valley Forge said “If you can’t send money, send tobacco.” Napoleon tried a cigar once, coughed violently, and went back to his 20 pounds of snuff a month. (20 pounds? Maybe that’s why he had hemorrhoids!) Sigmund Freud smoked 20 cigars a day. After 33 operations, including removal of his jaw, Freud died, smoking to the end. “John Wayne had a lung removed, and what was he doing as soon as he recovered? He started smoking again!”

Frank mentioned Buerger's disease, in which smoking-caused inflammation and thrombosis of arteries and veins causes loss of fingers and limbs. “At Vanderbilt University in the surgical recovery room, there was a man in a bed with no fingers, his legs cut off to his hips, and he asked the doctor ‘could you please cut a flap in here where I can stick my cigarette in and smoke it?’ I always ask my kids how much of your stuff could I cut off before you quit smoking.” In World War II, if you were a tobacco producer, you got a draft deferment, it was that important.

Frank said when he was a kid visiting Tobacco Warehouse in Kentucky, an Old Timer gave him a plug of sweet tobacco, which he (being omnivorous) swallowed whole. He thought he was “going to throw my shoes up; it was at that point that I learned that nicotine is a very powerful stimulant of the vomiting center of the medulla in the brain.”



Later, as an experimental psychologist, Etscorn was interested in taste aversion, and used rats in his lab to test aversion to various substances. Remembering the incident with the tobacco plug, he found that nicotine was one of the most potent vomit stimulators known. He ordered a big jug of nicotine, and, as he was carrying it through the lab, tripped on a power cable and fell. Nicotine poured out over his arm, and for the next eight hours, Etscorn vomited profusely. He lost 15 pounds because of the episode. As he was laying there in a fetal position in his office, he thought “Man, this would be a great way to get nicotine in somebody without them smoking.” That got him thinking about green tobacco sickness, where non-smokers harvesting tobacco in hot, humid climes get very sick, but smokers don’t. However, these workers don’t smoke as much as usual, as they are getting their nicotine directly from harvesting. That was how Etscorn got the

basic idea for the nicotine patch.

During development of the process, Frank experimented on willing subjects, like his brother. He said the experiments he performed on himself are no longer legal.



Why do people smoke, if it makes you sick? The reason is that nicotine tolerance develops unusually quickly. If you can suffer through three cigarettes, that can get you over the aversion hump, and land you straight into addiction.

Frank described the lengthy patent process, and how other groups fought furiously over rights to the idea. He got *very* good at making depositions, he said. He went on to talk about many fascinating topics, such as helping NASA with taste aversion issues in space flights.

NMSR thanks Frank Etscorn for a humorous and intriguing discussion. **Videos of this and past meetings are available at <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.**

Skeptiverse Haiku for Fall! by Keith Thomas

Skeptiverse Haiku, Readers should know,/Does not take Gifts from Harlan Crow!	¿Chupacaburto O Chupacaburrito – Qué le diría?
Congressman Santos, May we inquire/How often Are your pants on fire?	At fire walk events, It is easy to observe Our carbon footprints.
Homeopathic Animal care should be a Pet peeve for skeptics!	Evolutionists Fight specious explanations Of speciation.
Old Peruvian Burial sculptures inspire Crazy E.T. claims!	I've deep doubts about Vital humors, but no doubts That humor's vital.
Bellicose bullshit Has recently fertilized Some seditious plots.	Pseudo-sci babble, I've surmised, sounds best when it's Nitroquantumized.
Hawaiian Café. While you wait in line for spam, Online spam finds you.	Wastewater research: It's easy to contribute To the data stream!

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. 29, No. 11 November 2023 David E. Thomas, Editor (505) 410-0753 1201 Avenida de Chamiso Pl. Socorro NM 87801</p> <p><i>IN THIS ISSUE:</i> Future Meetings Announced New Puzzles! New Haiku! September Meeting: Frank Etscorn on the Nicotine Patch</p>
	<p>November Meeting: Karl Reineke on Astro-photography 7 PM</p>