



NMSR Reports

The Newsletter of the
New Mexicans for Science and Reason

NMSR Reports, David E. Thomas, Editor, 801 Fitch Ave., Socorro, NM 87801 © 2018

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE
AND REASON will hear

Larry Crumpler

with "News from Mars"

7:00 PM Sept. 11th, 2018

==> **CNM MAIN CAMPUS,**
Student Resource Center <==

==> **Room 204** <==

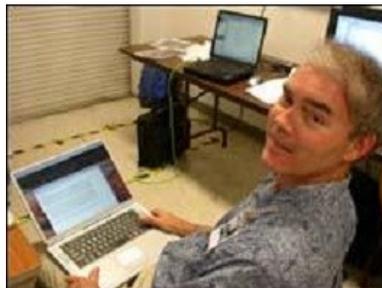
Bring a friend!

FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

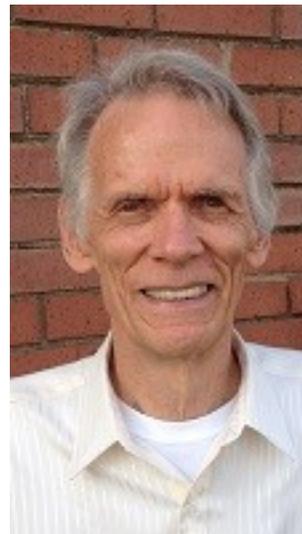
September 12th, 2018 NMSR Meeting: Larry Crumpler, with News from Mars

Our Sept. 12th speaker will be scientist Larry Crumpler of the NM Museum of Natural History and Science. Larry will talk about the accomplishments of the rovers he helped to deploy, and also what's ahead for humans regarding the Red Planet.

Join us at
7:00 PM September
12th, 2018, CNM
MAIN CAMPUS,
Student Resource
Center, Room 204.



October 10th, 2018 NMSR Meeting: Allen Robnett, on "Astronomy: A Humanist Perspective"



It is impossible to digest the Universe in an hour and a half, so we will just savor the flavor. We will concentrate on how clumps of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen, calcium, etc managed, after becoming aware of themselves, to become intimately aware of the nature of objects that are unimaginably far away. And all of this was done using nothing but tiny photons, streaming for thousands, millions, and

even billions of years, only to be annihilated by contact with our eyes or instruments.

Still More on the Socorro Saucer!

Members of Socorro's Landoll family have come forward with some fascinating recollections! Story, Page 3.



Robert (Bob) E.
Landoll, Jr.
NMIMT 1964



Ron, Dorothy and David Landoll
Aug. 1968, Calgary, Alberta, CA

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:

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**,
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: X = W, W = D.

Bonus Puzzle Clue: Express all velocities as fractions of the level speed, look at the sum and difference of the times going to and coming from work.

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., SEPTEMBER 12th, 2018**, 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: SEPTEMBER 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.

" D V D Z N B H W M P U P U Y P M O F P
C I U P E N V I H H O F P E P
A I M O D Z H P E , D ' W Y P I
Y N O I C D E O . " - - P C M D Z N
V P M U D , X D C C P M N V O F P 1 9 3 8
C N Y P H A M D J P D C A F K E D Z E

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

AUGUST CYPHER SOLUTION

"THE NUMBER OF INTEGRAL MOLECULES IN ANY GASES IS ALWAYS THE SAME FOR EQUAL VOLUMES, OR ALWAYS PROPORTIONAL TO THE VOLUMES." - AMEDEO AVOGADRO

Esteemed August Code Crackers: Austin Moede*, George Egert*, Mike Arms*, and Terry Lauritsen*.
*Secret Word: "BANGUP CHEMISTRY"

SOCORRO STUMPER

Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?

New puzzles every week at

www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm

September Bonus: "Uphill is Downhill (On the Return Trip)"

Submitted by Dave Thomas

A bicycling commuter can go 6 mph uphill, 8 mph on level road, and 12 mph downhill. It takes him 17 and a half minutes to get to work in the morning, and 12 and a half minutes to return home in the afternoon.

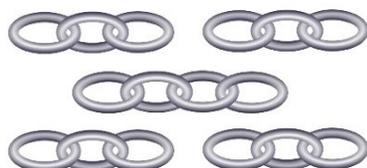


The September Bonus: (A)

How far is it to work? (B) On the way to work, how many more miles are spent going uphill than are spent going downhill? (C) What are the minimum and maximum values of level riding possible?

The August Bonus: “Lord of the Rings”

Submitted by Dave Thomas



Samwise wants to make a friendship bracelet for Frodo, but all he has are five separate pieces of gold chain, as shown here.

Gandalf has offered to cast a spell allowing one ring to be opened, and then closed,

after an interval of just ten seconds. However, the wizard insists on the condition that Samwise asks him to use that spell the *absolute minimum* number of times.

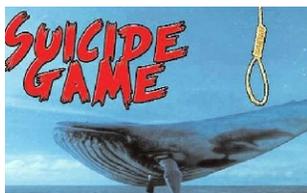
The August Bonus: How many spells must Gandalf invoke to complete the bracelet? (i.e., how many rings must he work on?)

ANSWER: Four. Break the rings in the set of 4, and use each one to connect two of the other clusters.

Congrats: Earl Dombroski, Allen Robnett, George Egert, Keith Gilbert, Austin Moede, Rocky S. Stone, Terry Lauritsen, and Mike Arms!

August 8th, 2018 NMSR Meeting:

Skeptical Inquirer managing editor **Benjamin Radford** discussed “The Blue Whale Game: Moral Panic or Public Threat?”



Ben discussed the “Moral Panic,” where a significant number of people think evil plots are menacing to society, and that moral indignation is required. The “Blue Whale Game” is a classic example of a moral panic. It is said to be an internet-based dare game, played out in private groups on social media. The series of dares starts mildly (say, viewing a horror film), but gets more intense (self-inflicted damage), and allegedly culminates with the ultimate dare after 50 days – suicide. Although the game is said to have been created in 2013—and the first death attributed to it two years later in 2015— it didn’t make international news until 2017 with the reporting of the death of an Indian teenager. Well-meaning school officials in several locations sent alarming flyers home to students, which served mainly to spread more fear and disinformation. It turns out that all the reports of deaths from this game stem from very dubious sources; these rumors then get reported as news by “reputable” news organizations. The debunking website Snopes traced the story back to a May 2016 article on a Russian news site. RT.com (formerly Russia Today) was the sole source of the “news” that a

Blue Whale ringleader had been sentenced to three years in prison. Ben said “Journalists and police should also be careful not to confuse or attribute some genuine, unrelated suicides to the Blue Whale Game, as many Russian news sources have.” Also, teens resent being told to take out the garbage. Why would they listen to an anonymous stranger asking them to commit suicide?

NMSR thanks Ben Radford for a fascinating presentation.

UFO CORNER



by Dave Thomas

Introducing yet another possible explanation of the mysterious Socorro Incident of 1964

Last month, we considered a novel explanation for the Socorro FO Incident, involving college students playing with dynamite. This month, we consider another explanation, this time from two members of Socorro’s Landoll family.

My name is Ron, and I was born in Socorro 2 months before the sighting. My mother worked at the First State Bank at the time, and knew Polo Pineta and Lonnie Zamora.

She heard first-hand the description shortly after Lonnie saw the UFO. He was SO scared, he went to the Catholic Church to confess and pray before he reported to Polo, who then went to the bank the next day to talk to people he knew there. (Polo said the FBI told him not to talk to anyone. He was mad, and said, "No one will tell me what I can and can't say in my town!", and proceeded to tell those at the bank - including my mom - what happened.)

Lonnie was pursuing a couple of teenagers leaving town, and broke the chase to investigate something he saw. He reported a silvery craft, angular, with spindly legs, and had markings "like what Boeing puts on their planes", and "two in silvery suits who got into the craft and left". This was NOT a balloon-looking craft.

My mother and father went to the site the next day. They saw (along with a bunch of locals) some depressions in the sand, like the pads of a medium-weight craft had set down, and a bush with some scorch marks and possibly some kind of oily substance (mom didn't touch it).

In the summer of 1965, my mother saw a picture of the LEM (Lunar Excursion Module) in the Midland, TX (where we were living at the time) newspaper, and her first reaction was, "That's Lonnie's spacecraft!" She read the article, and discovered it was a picture of an Apollo LEM on display. I hope this helps.

Ron Landoll

Mr. Thomas,

I'm Ron's mother and he forwarded me (as you can see) what he had sent you. On the evening of April 24, 1964, my husband was at the college campus - NMIMT where he was a senior majoring in physics. I was at home with our new baby (Ron). He called and asked if I had the radio on - the campus was abuzz with a UFO that had been sighted. I turned on KOMA out of Oklahoma City which is the station we listened to at night and it was abuzz!

The next morning we drove out to the site. There was a police car sitting off to one side. There were perhaps 7 or 8 cars parked over to the other side and folks just standing around looking. There wasn't a lot to see. There was one round indentation in the dust near where we were

standing (I don't know how many total) - about like what our tires were making. There was no indentation into the hard packed ground as some later stories said. I walked up to the little mesquite bush in the middle and it was somewhat blackened. I didn't touch it but it may have been burned a little and might have had a bit of oil on it. We stood around for a bit too and then left to go home.



Ron, Dorothy and David Landoll
Aug. 1968, Calgary, Alberta, CA

Holm Bursum III was president of the First State Bank and Polo Pineda was his right-hand man. At the time of the sighting, Polo was acting sheriff. I'd worked there since Sept. 1961 first in the real estate department under Ruth McKibben and then moved to the bookkeeping department but still took my morning breaks with her, Polo and one of the tellers. On Monday morning we were in the kitchen when Polo came in.

He was as mad as a hornet. Ruth asked him what was going on with the UFO. His first comment was that he'd been told that he wasn't to talk to anyone about what had happened but this was his town and he'd talk to whoever he pleased! He sat down with his coffee and proceeded to tell us.

What he said was this...

Lonnie Zamora was pursuing a vehicle going south near the edge of town when something caught his eye. He drove up on the mesa and looked down to see a round craft with two individuals in silver suits walking around it. After a minute or two they got in and it took off. Describing the craft, he said that it had markings on it similar to what Boeing puts on its planes. Lonnie was so upset/scared that he first headed to the Catholic church for confessional and then contacted Polo.



Robert (Bob) E.
Landoll, Jr.
NMIMT 1964

Shortly after that, I was in the front of the bank and there were two obviously FBI men - black suits and sunglasses (which they took off as they entered). They went up to one of the tellers and asked for Polo. I went back and told Polo they were looking for him.

The following year we were living in Midland, TX, I'm guessing maybe May or June, my husband had brought in the newspaper and it was lying on the couch. I glanced down at it and hollered to my husband that Lonnie's UFO was on the front page of the paper. What I saw fit the exact description that Polo had given us. It was a photo of a LEM with an article. I wish I had kept that newspaper but it simply wasn't anything of consequence at the time.

My mother passed away in 2000. In going through her effects, I found that she had kept the letter I had written her about the UFO during the week after the sighting. The description I gave back at the

time matched exactly what I remember from the day.

In the late '90s, Ron and I were in Roswell and stopped at the UFO museum there. I told the operator about the Socorro sighting and my belief that it was a LEM. Socorro sits very close to White Sands. He said he'd try to look into it and let me know what he found out but I never heard from him. About six months later, there was a statement issued by a government agency that the Socorro UFO was actually the LEM. Now I don't know if it truly was or if the gentleman at the museum had talked to someone and they felt that was a good way to explain it.

If you want to put this on your website, you're welcome to do so. I'd really hope that others that were in Socorro at that time would add what they saw. The story has become so bizarre that I'd really like to see facts.

Dorothy Landoll

NMSR thanks Ron and Dorothy Landoll for a fascinating explanation. Read more at www.nmsr.org/socorro.htm.

Fall Skeptiverse Haiku! – by Keith Thomas

Free Energy scams Seem propelled by false notions Of force and motion.	In astrology, Have the skies been fertilized By Taurus the Bull?
Which Fox News shows are Informing/President Trump On global warming?	Alternative meds Are often supported with Alternative facts.
Some with joint pains are Now praisin' A daily dose Of gin-soaked raisins!	If we paid shamans To curse all those rhino horns, Might horn sales collapse?

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 our Puzzlers!

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SEPT. MEETING
Larry Crumpler
with the Latest
from MARS
Weds. Sept. 12th
7:00 PM

IN THIS ISSUE:
Future Meetings
Announced
New Puzzles!
The
Blue Whale Game
UFO Corner:
The Socorro UFO,
Again!!
