



# 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

**MARCH MEETING:  
NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND  
REASON will hear  
Arjak Bhattacharjee  
on  
“Indian Knowledge System  
(IKS)”  
=>APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 7:00PM<=  
=>Attend online on Zoom!<=**

### FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

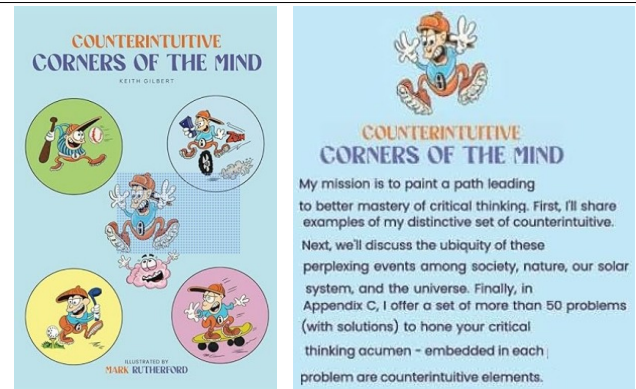
**Coming April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Arjak Bhattacharjee**



A staff member at New Mexico Tech, Arjak will talk about the “Indian Knowledge System (IKS). The Indian Knowledge Systems comprising Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan have evolved out of experience, observation, experimentation, and rigorous analysis. This tradition of validating and putting into practice has impacted our education, arts, administration, law, justice, health, manufacturing, and commerce.”

**Coming May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Keith Gilbert,  
“Counterintuitive Corners of The Mind”**

Our own Keith Gilbert has penned a non-fiction book titled “Counterintuitive Corners of The Mind.” It is a guide on “how to hone critical thinking skills in our wobbly world.” It is available on Amazon and Kindle, [https://www.amazon.com/Counterintuitive-Corners-Mind-Keith-Gilbert/dp/B0CTHWL8RS/ref=sr\\_1\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/Counterintuitive-Corners-Mind-Keith-Gilbert/dp/B0CTHWL8RS/ref=sr_1_1)



**Coming on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024:  
SKEPTICAMP! 🔥🔥🔥**

We’ve reserved CNM’s Workforce Training Center for two days in June, for our first ever Skepticamp! It will include several talks by notable skeptics on a variety of topics. Workshops and a field trip may be included. Do you have a topic that should be considered for a brief presentation? Stay tuned for details!



**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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**John Covan, Vice-President**

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**Debbie Thomas, Treasurer**

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**Kim Johnson, Industrial Physicist**

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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:** W = Z, Y = F.

**Bonus Puzzle Clue:** Consider Casting Out Nines.

**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 **March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM!**

**Meetings, Live or Zoom? Vote!**

[www.roundorflat.com/covid19](http://www.roundorflat.com/covid19)



**PUZZLE TIME!**

[Please send solutions to Dave Thomas at: [nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com), or at 1201 N Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro NM 87801.]

**Cyber-Cypher: APRIL 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.

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

**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

**MARCH 2024 CYPHER SOLUTION**

SSA ALLOWS "DELINQUENT EMPLOYEES TO SIT ON THEIR SOFAS AT HOME INSTEAD OF ACTUALLY GETTING TO WORK AND DOING THEIR JOBS. ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE." - REP. LAUREN BOEBERT

Esteemed March Code Crackers: Mike Arms\* and Austin Moede\*!

\*Secret Word: "OFT QUACKY GREMLIN"

**SOCORRO STUMPER**

**Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?**

New puzzles every week at [www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm)

**April Bonus: "That's Some Sum"**

Submitted by K. Sengupta

Solve:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{MISSSSS} = \text{MARILYN} \\
 + \text{MONROE} \\
 + 1926 \\
 + 1962 \\
 + \text{M}
 \end{array}$$

where:

AM = sod(NORMA)

dr(MARRY) + dr(MILLIONAIRE) = 15

Note: sod(x) denotes the sum of digits of x and, dr(x) denotes the digital root of x.

sod(12345) = 1+2+3+4+5 = 15,

dr(12345) = 15 = 1+5 = 6.

The March Bonus: Solve for AEILMNORS.

Bonus Bonus:

Submitted by Gene Aronson:

PROVE: f(n, k) = n^k - n is divisible for all positive integers n and all prime numbers k.

March Bonus Solution: "It's Diophantine"

Submitted by Dave Thomas

28x + 30y + 31z = 330

x + y + z = ???

The March Bonus: Solve for x+y+z.

Bonus Bonus: List all positive integer solutions for (x.y.z).

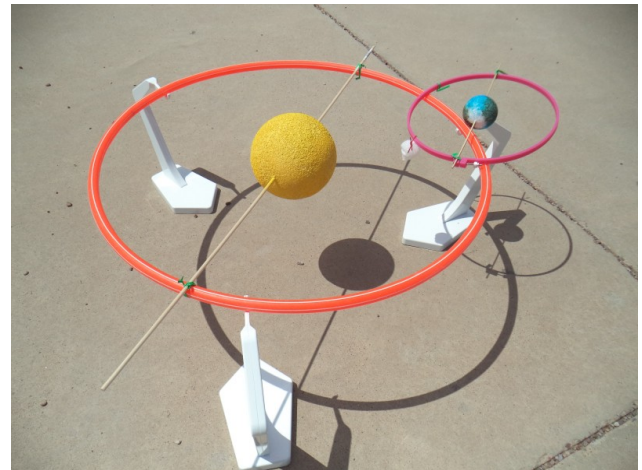
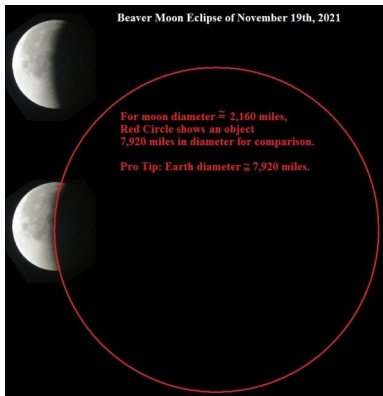
ANSWER: x+y+z = 11. Positive integer solutions are (x,y,z) = (3, 2, 6), (2, 5, 4) & (1, 8, 2).

Congrats to: Earl Dombroski (NM), Rocky S. Stone (NM), K. Sengupta (INDIA), Mike Arms (NM), Gene Aronson (NM), Harold H. Gaines (KS), Kamal Lohia (INDIA).

March 20th, 2024 NMSR Meeting: The Total Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024: Plans, Preparations, Past Eclipses

The April 8th meeting featured several photographs of past eclipses, a discussion on Flat Earth misconceptions regarding eclipses, and a preview of the April 8th Total Eclipse.

Shadow of the earth during the Beaver Moon eclipse of November 19th, 2021 shows relative sizes of Earth and Moon.

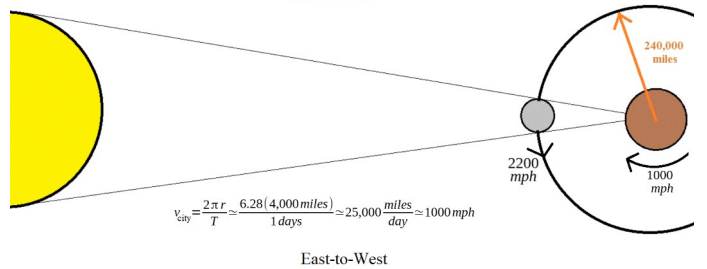


Eclipses are only possible when the moon's orbital plane aligns with Earth's orbital plane, which occurs twice a year. Furthermore, the moon must be either full or new at these times for eclipses to occur.



Flat Earthers say the 2017 eclipse should not have progressed west-to-east as it did. But, as the diagram below shows, the west-to-east speed of the shadow due to moon's orbit around earth (~2200 mph) exceeds the east-to-west speed of the shadow on the earth (~1000 mph) due to earth's daily rotation about its axis.

v\_moon = (2\*pi\*r) / T = (6.28 \* (240,000 miles)) / 29 days = 52,000 miles/day = 2200 mph



v\_earth = (2\*pi\*r) / T = (6.28 \* (4,000 miles)) / 1 day = 25,000 miles/day = 1000 mph



Leaves provided a pinhole view of the October 14th, 2023 Annular Eclipse in Albuquerque.



Unveiling the Eclipse, Election, and The Trump Bible Code

This popular Bible Code video claims to provide secret codes linking the eclipse to Trump, Biden and the Election.

I A E P A P R T E S T S O W D D I P U E W U H O A E P G R N A M E U  
H L L W E R O E S R W H E O S E A E H L D T H S R N O S G U L N D H  
H H H E S E M I T S V E N M S S E A E H D Z I T D S M A E P N O E  
L H E F L O N M O D I L H A O C A M M G D V A E E N G I A O P U G G  
E L O R H I E S N L N I T N H R D E G C L A E E T D T A S L P U T M  
S H B O D G H M E Y E E T C T H G S R R I I O Y E N T W A C T E E T  
T T L S S E A B D O N O E S E E T U N I T E T O T S E H E T E D I  
A U M I I S T H O S E E A H L E F T A G L A N N I N L N R R D E H S  
O T S A H V E R H T H W E H O E S T L L T A M E D E D H S N E A E Y  
H L E L O I L A D A T U T T W G N W T L L H T H S D E D S E L A S E L  
T T E D O E D E V W P E A T U S U K A T E E U E E H E A A B T W Y E  
T I L I N I S S S G B U J U O P E E V O S R G U S T S Y L T U H F E  
D N D Y X D E E K I V O L E B L D O E O N E D R L E N N C D I P O G  
E G T U S M S N S T F E A L S W I M E T H F R T C E E L E T H U E A  
G I K F T A I B E A A D L T U A L E L H N E N E Y S I S O I S A R L  
N D K C E H O S E D N F R O A H E A O E A W P E R O L S R A R O E E  
V Y M A A Y D T D S E E M M E I B E O T L O U N E B H A N B A A R S  
R D V R H S M E M H E E E E G A D R S E W M A I P S N Y P O S T T O  
A Y R I E R C E D C L S S N L H R O A N X A T W G L Y G H H E P C T  
E H I T R I A D P L C L S E U M Y Y N B A I S A E O U K O R E N A M  
C I E T O H I E C K S L T A E I I N S R T I S F N T R I G S G E E I  
I T O N E Y E P D O S O F R T P T I O R N H U H R R I H C E C E T A  
S R V D I W B E E E A I Y N A T E D C A A X S T E N B N F M L S C  
W I G Y G H U D B O A P S S D U O A B E L N C E O N D L O O E U H N  
L K D K P L E E W R O N T P L A N O S E D R B T T Y F M L B I E O  
U S N E T M N S I M H H N U M A T I N Y A N O N W T L H A M N E

A search for secret codes, not in the Bible, but rather in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, revealed that Cohen will endanger Trump in the upcoming election interference trial. The codes remain even if the text is scrambled!

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](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com).



The Rapture that some expected to accompany the April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 eclipse did not appear to happen.



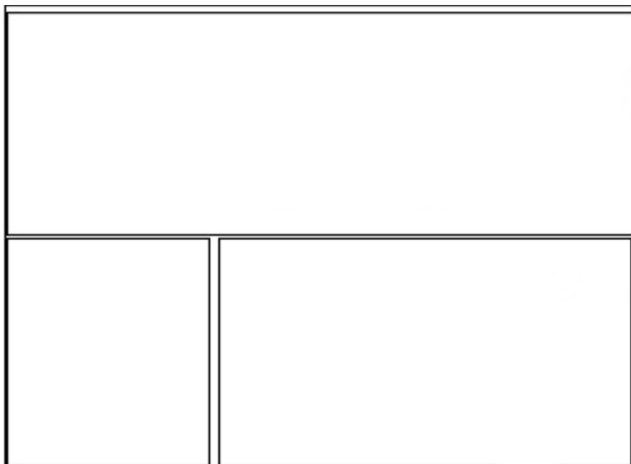
April 8<sup>th</sup> Eclipse, L: Socorro, NM (Dave Thomas), R: Mazatlan, courtesy Leonard Tramiel

Videos of this and past meetings are available at <http://www.nmsr.org/meetings.htm>.

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).

Thanks to: John Covan, Debbie Thomas, and all of our Puzzlers!



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 7PM on Zoom