



# 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

### SEPTEMBER MEETING: NEW MEXICANS FOR SCIENCE AND REASON will hear

**Dr. Trish Henning**

on

**“The Very Large Array, from the  
Past to the Next Generation”**

**=>SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**7:00PM<=**

**=>Attend online on Zoom!<=**

Astronomy Observatory. Dr. Henning will discuss how the Very Large Array has been making remarkable discoveries about the Universe for over 40 years, and also describe the powerful Very Long Baseline Array, a continent-wide radio telescope headquartered in New Mexico. Finally, she will present a future facility called the next generation VLA, which will improve our view of the radio Universe ten-fold, deep into the 21st century.

7:00 PM September 18th, 2024, on Zoom

### NMSR October 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

**David Weinberg, MD, on**

**“Curing All Diseases... Again!**

**Trampling Scientific Boundaries for  
Fun and Profit”**

### FUTURE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED!

**NMSR September 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Dr.  
Trish Henning, on “The Very Large  
Array, from the Past to the Next  
Generation”**



New Mexico is home to one of the planet's most important astronomical observatories, the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array telescope, led by the U.S. National Science Foundation National Radio



This talk compares a snake oil entrepreneur from the 19th century to the direct-to-consumer stem cell industry of present day. I identify common themes in the scientific, social, and regulatory environment.

7:00 PM October 9th, 2024, on Zoom

**New Haiku! Page 4**

**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**1201 Avenida de Chamiso Pl., Socorro, NM 87801  
[nmsrdave@swcp.com](mailto:nmsrdave@swcp.com)**John Covan, Vice-President**[jmcovan@juno.com](mailto:jmcovan@juno.com)**Debbie Thomas, Treasurer**3205 Alcazar NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110  
[abqdebbie@comcast.net](mailto:abqdebbie@comcast.net)**Mark Fraser CNM Sponsor**[ippon@earthlink.net](mailto:ippon@earthlink.net)**Kim Johnson, Industrial Physicist**[kimber@comcast.net](mailto:kimber@comcast.net)**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 = V.****Bonus Puzzle Clue:** Consider tabulation.**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 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM on Zoom!**

**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: 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.

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

**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

**JULY 2024 CYPHER SOLUTION**

"LIKE FICTIONAL VAMPIRES, THEY FEAR SUNLIGHT; THEY DON'T WANT IT TO ILLUMINATE THEIR METHODS." - SUSAN GERBIC, ON PSYCHICS LIKE TYLER HENRY, THE HOLLYWOOD MEDIUM

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

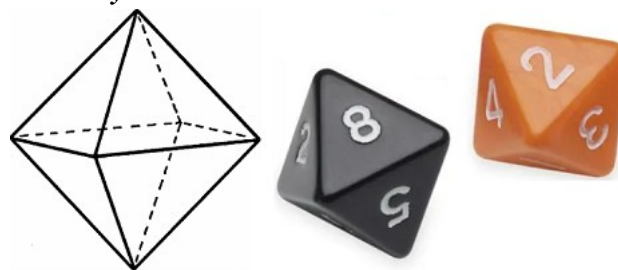
\*Secret Word: "VAPID MONSTER"

**SOCORRO STUMPER****Need more Secret Word Cryptograms?**

New puzzles every week at

[www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm](http://www.nmsr.org/SocorroStumper.htm)**September Bonus: "Octahedral Dice"**

Submitted by Dave Thomas



**The September Bonus:** What is the expected value for rolling a pair of fair, 8-sided dice?

**August Bonus Solution: “The Rendezvous”**

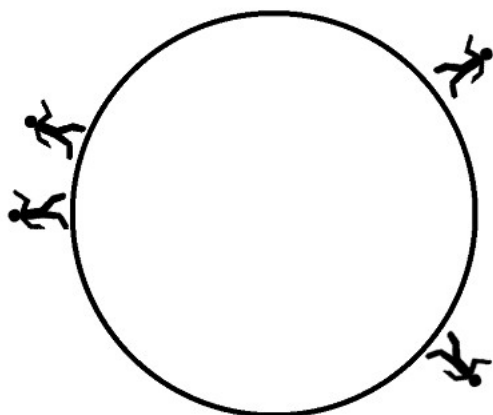
*Submitted by K. Sengupta*

Four friends Alfred, Brian, Charles and Derek decided to run around a perfectly circular field which is 1250 metres in circumference.

The respective time taken by Alfred, Brian, Charles and Derek in covering one lap are 10 minutes exactly, 13 minutes 20 seconds, 15 minutes exactly, and 16 minutes 40 seconds.

Alfred and Brian ran in a clockwise direction, while Charles and Derek ran in a counter clockwise direction. Each of the four friends started at the same instant. Alfred, Brian and Charles started from the same point, but Derek started from a point which is 750 metres ahead of Charles in his running direction.

**The August Bonus:** Determine the time when all the four friends will meet for the first time.

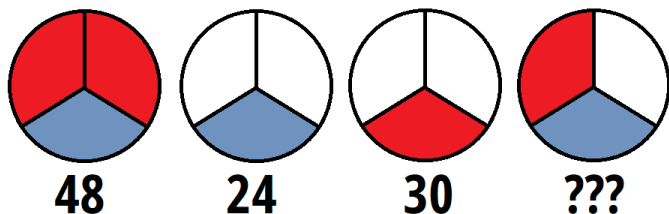


Answer: 4 hours on the nose.

Congrats to: Rocky S. Stone (NM), Mike Arms (NM).

**July Bonus Solution: “Simultaneous Pie Charts”**

*Submitted by Dave Thomas*

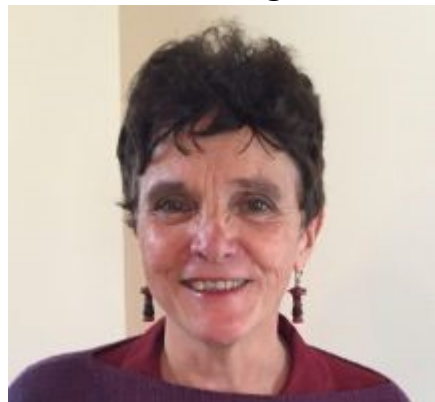


**The July Bonus:** Evaluate the value (???) of the last Pie.

Answer: 36

Congrats to: Paul Braterman (UK), Mike Arms (NM), Rocky S. Stone (NM), K. Sengupta (INDIA)

**July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, NMSR Meeting: Judith Polich, “Plastics and Climate Change”**



Judith Polich is a former lawyer and an environmentalist. She is a wetlands advocate and a member of the New Mexico State Parks Advisory board. She has a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies and Environmental Education and a Law degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Her climate change column, “Cutting Your Carbon Footprint” is published in the Albuquerque Journal. Her latest book, entitled Why Can’t We Be More Like Trees, explores new climate change narratives.

Several of her climate change columns have addressed plastics. You can access her columns on her website, [www.cuttingyourcarbonfootprint.com](http://www.cuttingyourcarbonfootprint.com).

Judith led a freewheeling discussion on plastic recycling and other topics. She has a radio show on NPR, “Living on Earth,” Wednesdays 8:00AM – 9:00AM on KUNM.

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/381444261/pri-living-on-earth>

Bernalillo County recycling info can be found here:

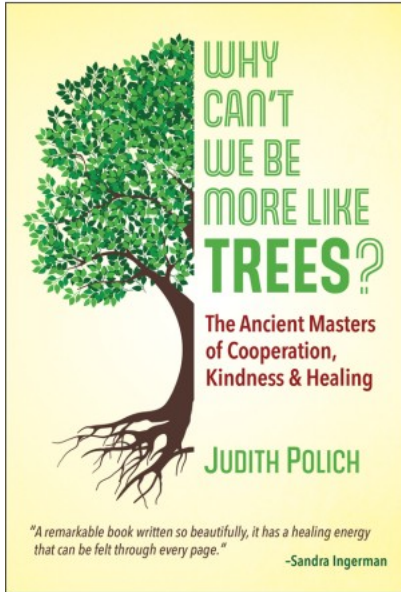
<https://www.bernco.gov/public-works/public-works-services/trash-recycling/>

Tish Morris shared information on Drop-off Container Locations. These can be found at 6204 2nd St. NW, Unit D (1/4 mile south of Osuna east side of street), Albuquerque, NM 87107. “Yes, we are open and accepting material anytime. 24/7.”

Randy Truman found that the city’s Foam recycler accepts no #6 (black). It is just north of Montano, so close to Costco. They have containers available for drop-off even if they are not open. They are usually busy working on processing the foam.

Here is more on Judith’s latest book, Why Can’t We Be More Like Trees? The Ancient Masters

of Cooperation, Kindness, and Healing.



The book, published in November of 2023, covers these topics:

- Reveals how we can learn from the intelligent communities of trees and plants
- Shares breakthrough research on how tree and plant communities function, revealing a holistic, interconnected, communal, and sentient new world
- Examines the attributes we share with trees and plants and how the behaviors of altruism, cooperation, and community are genetically coded in our beings
- Looks at how to learn to see, think, imagine, and live with holistic eco-centric awareness and the benefits that come from

working with our plant allies

NMSR thanks Judith Polich for a stimulating conversation.

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

**Skepticamp Videos Online!**

<https://www.skepticampnm.com/index.php/detailed-schedule/>

### Skeptiverse Haiku for Fall! by Keith Thomas

Headlines tell me, I Kid you not,/Black Swan Event Sinks Bayesian Yacht!	Our statisticians Have the means to calculate Medians and modes.
We hereby condemn Any and all mentions of The Streisand Effect!	Shoe rumor claims you Could eat your crocs! Are they sold With edible socks?
Dino disaster! The Chicxulub impactor Was the key factor.	Math Olympians, How about a team that's named The Houston Eulers?

*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).*

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, Keith Thomas and all of our Puzzlers!*

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
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 Announced!  
 New Puzzles!  
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 and the Environment

Sept. Meeting  
 Trish Hennings  
 VIA  
 Sept. 18th  
 7PM on Zoom