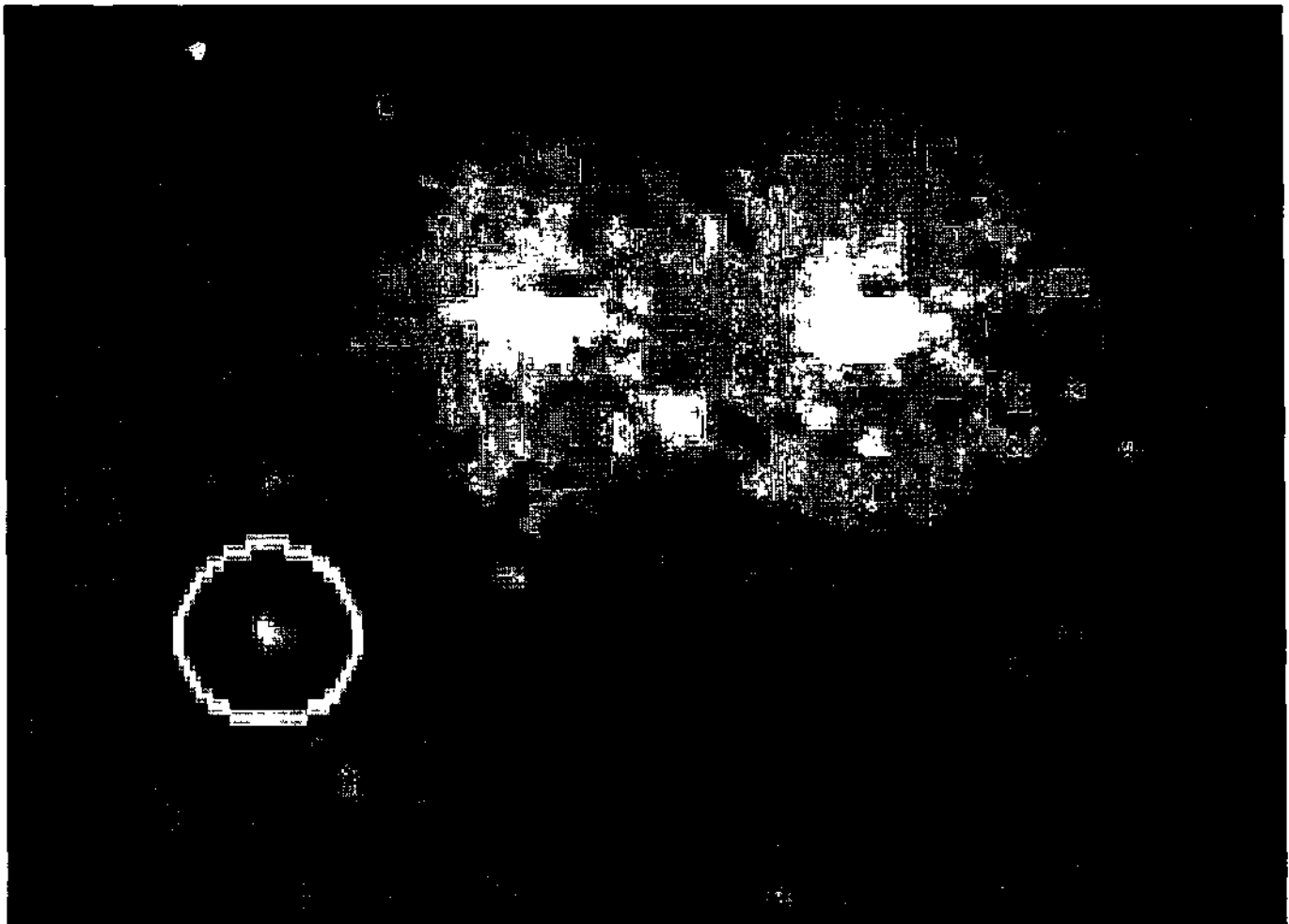


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*Segment from videotape of Israel "unknown".*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

June 2000

Number 386

The cover: Segment from video of Israeli "unknown."

## In this issue

Israeli videos analysed by Jeff Sainio.....	3
Ufology Profile: Jenny Randles by Dwight Connelly....	10
Southern Missouri phenomena by Scarpellini & Hart...	12
Speaker sharing by Kathie Grimes.....	14
Filer's Files by George A. Filer.....	16
MUFON Forum .....	18
MUFON 2000 Symposium speaker agenda.....	19
Perspective on <i>May Journal</i> by Richard Hall.....	20
Readers' classified ads.....	21
The Night Sky by Walter N. Webb.....	22
Calendar.....	22
Director's Message by Walter Andrus.....	24

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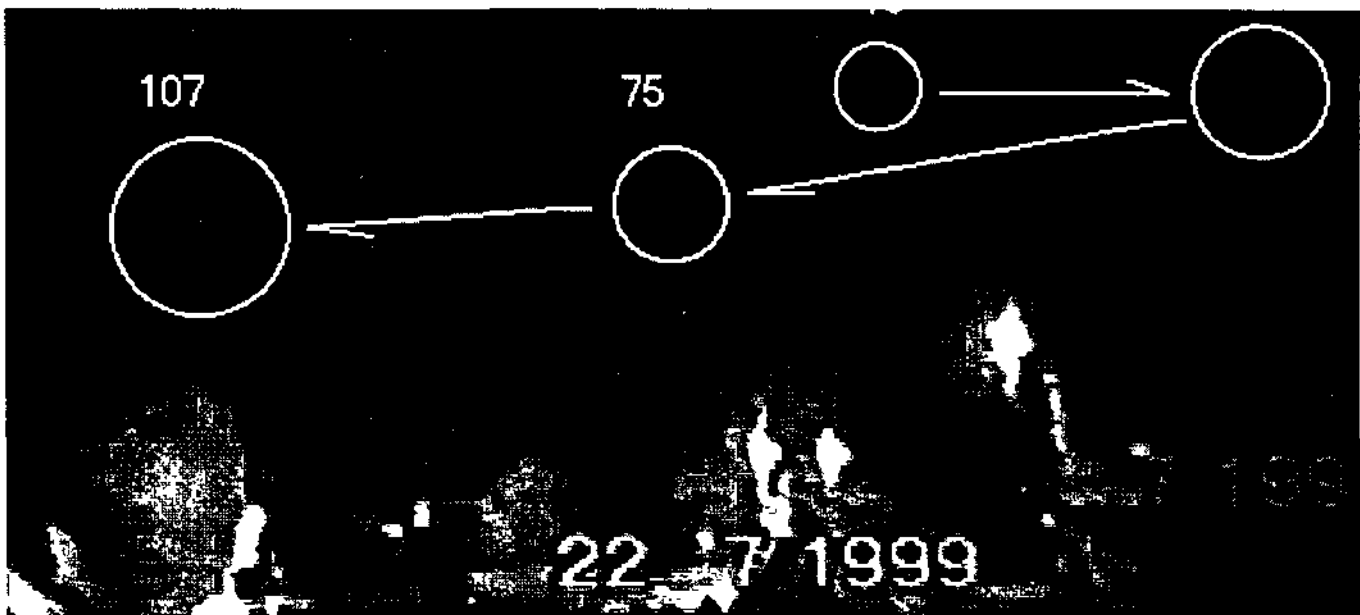


Figure 1

## Photo analysis

# Videos of Israeli objects indicate unknowns

By Jeff Sainio

### MUFON Photo Analyst

**Summary:** Two videos of similar (perhaps the same) objects over coastal Israel, appear to show characteristics that are commonly associated with UFOs: erratic motion, an amazing range of speeds, and right-angle turns.

The most unusual characteristic is what appears to be erratic motion; although the object size is unknown, conservative estimates of the object size result in object accelerations that are not feasible with known technology, and would probably destroy any known aircraft.

Like most videos, the cameras are zoomed, leaving out terrestrial objects that would be used as reference points to determine UFO motion. Fortunately, the cameras were able to see background stars, making the measurement of UFO motion possible.

### The July 22 sighting

On the evening of July 22, 1999, over the Israeli "Special" (nuclear?) Air Force Base at Palmachim-Yavne (S. of Tel Aviv), an object was reported to fly from the north to the coastal area where it stopped and hovered above the base. No noise was



Jeff Sainio

reported in the six hours the object hovered. More than 100 witnesses reportedly saw the object; several are seen on the video submitted. Planes were reported circling the object at a distance, although none appear on video.

The video was about 12 minutes long; the tape has gaps, and with no onscreen time the actual duration covered is unknown. Generally, the video shows the camera zooming into the object, giving extreme magnification. The camera is capable of digital zoom, which mostly provides magnification and artifacts, but no true detail.

When normal hand-holding jiggle causes the object to be lost, the camera is fully dezoomed, the object re-located, and zooming re-attempted. This allows intermittent views of the object position in the sky (compared with streetlight positions), alternated with views of the object shape. The composite image Fig. 1 shows the object position at the noted time in seconds from the beginning of the video. Note the non-linear path of the object. Also note that the object moves a considerable angular distance in about a minute. (A witness face is obscured for privacy.)

In close zooms, the object shows a wide variety of shapes. The composite Fig. 2 shows some of those seen. None of these images are "one-frame-wonders;" all shapes shown are visible in numerous frames, and are therefore not merely due to random tape noise or other intermittent artifacts. Equally important is to recognize



what is NOT "seen" (video artifacts as opposed to real images). The horizontal and vertical lines are camera artifacts of digital zoom and interlace, and should not be taken as actual structure of the object. Relative brightnesses of light are valid data, taking overexposure into account.

The actual colors of small objects are not properly recorded onto videotape, due to video bandwidth limitations. A bright overexposed object appears white, regardless of actual color. A large blob should not be taken as a true size, since this usually indicates imperfect focus of the camera.

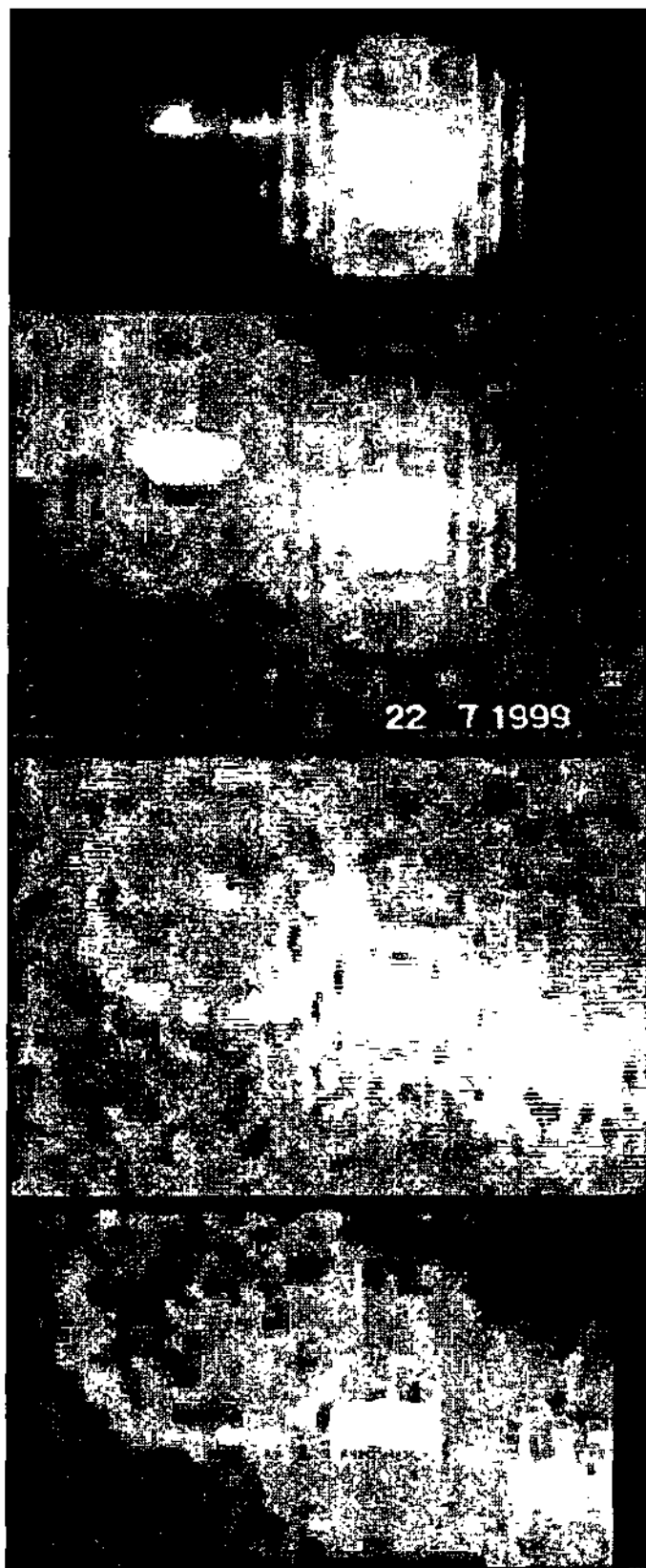
A bright area around a white light, fading with distance from center, is probably glare. As the glare is often not overexposed and is over a large area, its color is indicative of the actual object's color, even if overexposed.

Most camcorders will detect near infrared, in the range of 700-1000nM (nanometers wavelength). For reference, the human eye sees violet near 400nM, up to red near 700nM.

Silicon photodetectors, the usual heart of a camcorder video signal, typically have peak response around 700nM, near infrared. A camcorder infrared response can be tested by looking at a TV remote control through the camera while pushing buttons on the remote. Infrared response will be seen as white flashes in the camera that can't be seen by eye.

Infrared in a video can be distinguished in three ways: It will be seen through the camera, but not by the naked eye (if excited witnesses take care to note!); it appears white; and being a longer wavelength, will focus differently. "Near infrared"

**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

should be distinguished from "thermal infrared," which is a far longer wavelength not detectable by ordinary camcorders, but often used in night-vision equipment. For a typical achromatic lens, infrared underfocuses; it is bent less, so the lens-image distance must be greater than for visible light. The result can be a ring-shape, distinct from properly-focused visible-light images in the same scene.

Note the object typically shows two or three lights, sometimes with one or two dimmer lights. The bright/dim distinction changes; in one segment, an equilateral-triangle arrangement slowly turns counter-clockwise and flattens, with the lower-left light dimming until the object resembles a pair of lights with a dimmer light between. It should be noted that the characteristic flash of airplane anti-collision strobe lights are never seen in the video.

#### Misfocused point of light

Note in the 5th image down in Fig. 2, the appearance of a "headphones" shape. The "headstrap" bridging the "earphones" is not a segment of a circle, indicating merely a misfocussed point of light. The aspect ratio (height/width ratio) is about 1.5/1, clearly different than a circle. During the headstrap's visibility, occasional twinkles are seen within it; it appears to be a real object, not an artifact.

The 6th-8th images in Fig. 2 show a ring of light. Particularly in the 8th frame, the "earphones" are in fairly good focus, but the ring is quite evident. This would be consistent with a strong infrared source, producing an under-focussed ring image, while visible wavelengths are in proper focus.

The images in Fig. 3, the result of digital zoom, are useful with the repeated caveat that the vertical pattern is from digital zoom, not a real attribute of the object. The uppermost frame shows the right light extremely overexposed, showing an orange result in the non-overexposed glare. This orange result should be interpreted with caution—even the best cameras produce poor color at night.

Note in your local nightly weather forecast, live camera shots of city interstate intersections may be shown for gauging traffic or weather. The picture will appear quite red, although any driver knows the scene is yellowish-white. This is due to the sodium-yellow lights' wavelength registering on the red channel of the camera.

The true color could be yellower than what is seen on the video. The important aspect of this image is that the object has an extremely bright yellow/orange light, with two much weaker white lights. This combination is inconsistent with typical aircraft lighting; extremely bright lights are typically landing lights, which are white.

The last three images in Fig. 3 show closeups of a three-light arrangement, with the lower two lights in fairly sharp focus (although much glare) but the upper light in very bad focus. The difference between glare and focus is obvious; the lower circles have a clear source in the bright centers, but the upper ring has little or no distinguishing center.

This verifies the upper ring is the result of poor focus of that wavelength, not glare. As the other points are in fairly good focus, the misfocus is apparently due to a wavelength difference between the lower lights and the upper. Infrared light appears to be the only candidate which would cause this result—ultraviolet light penetrates glass poorly and registers on silicon photo-receptors poorly.

At several points in closeups in the video, persistent points of light (as opposed to random spots of video noise) appear in the same, or at least in predictably different, positions on the screen. This is consistent with a background star (example in cover illustration, circled) appearing in the video, appearing to bounce around due to the unsteadiness of the videographer's hand. (I could not find a weather report verifying clear skies that night. Another source of light, such as a plane running light, gives little change in the conclusions so based.)

Such a reference star is very useful in that it can be used to determine the true angular motion of the object, as long as the object is far enough away that positional movement of the camera generates no significant parallax error.

#### True angular motion

Given the numerous witnesses referring to a distant object, and the degree of zoom making any significant lateral movement of the camera difficult while maintaining aim, the possibility of parallax seems doubtful for giving a significant apparent shift between the star and the object. The results shown below, therefore, appear to be true angular motion of the object rather than the result of artifacts.

Shown graphically in Fig. 4 is the X-difference (solid line with square markers, in units of screen pixels on a 640-by-480 display) and Y-difference (thick line) between the object and the star over a 145-frame time period (almost five seconds). As a size reference, the object is about 40 pixels wide center-to-center of its outermost lights.

The X-difference between the star and the camera aim is shown as a dotted line with triangle markers. The star is often not clearly visible, being smeared out by camera motion to obscurity or simply off-screen. Such points are unmarked on the graph. Note the object made five reversals in direction in these five seconds; an astonishing performance. The maximum lat-

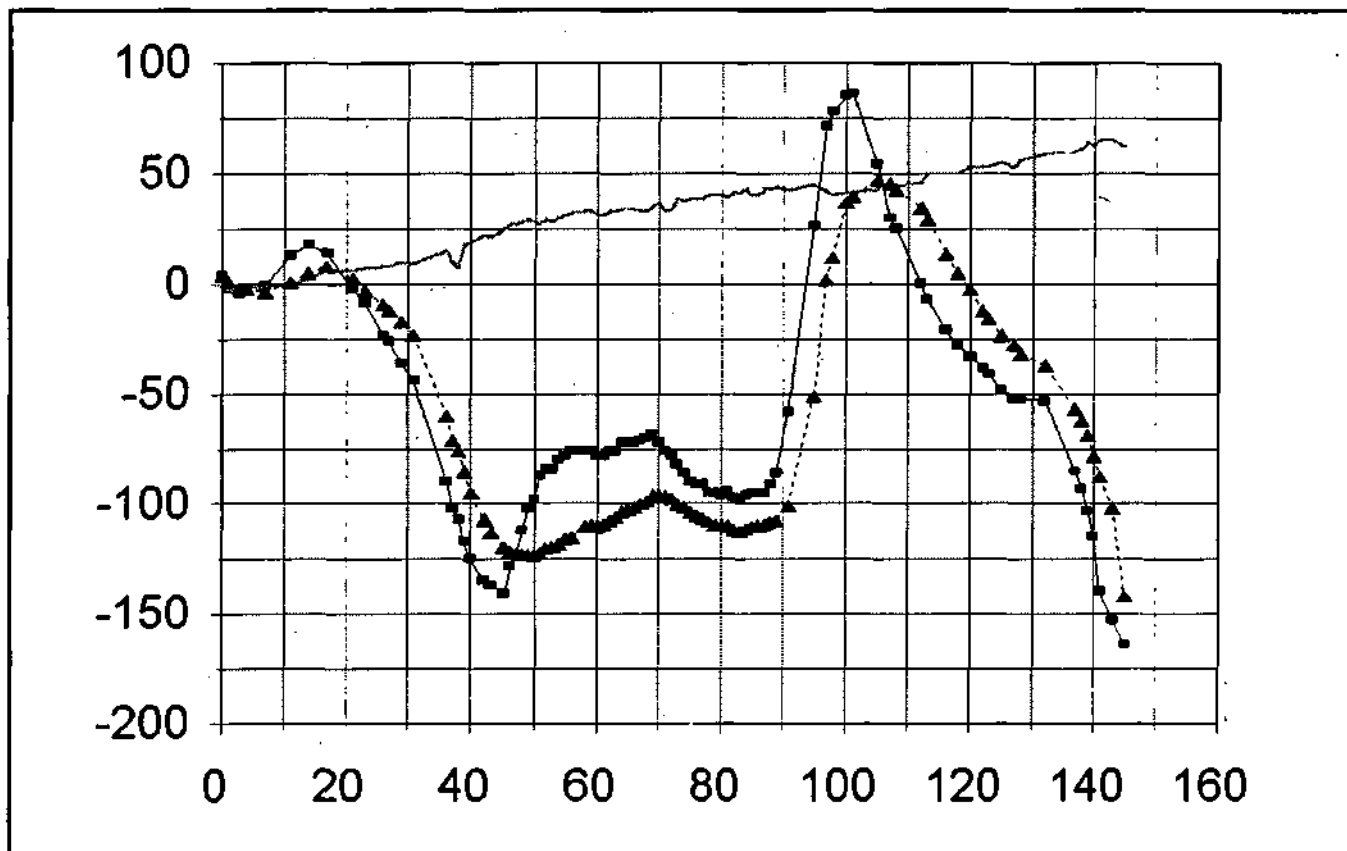


Figure 4

eral motion is about six times the apparent width of the object.

Assuming (as a probably conservative guess; see below) that the object is 10 feet across, the object went 60 feet back and forth in about 1 second. The maximum acceleration is about 18G. This is consistent historically with witness reports in which erratic UFO flight is reported, and quite uncharacteristic with known aircraft performance. The reference star does not appear to be a lens flare from any of the numerous streetlights in the area (or of the object itself). Several lens flares ARE obvious during low-zoom conditions.

#### A valid reference point

If a lens flare, it would have the shape (perhaps reflected and/or inverted) of the source light; instead the star is small and pointlike. But assuming the object to be motionless, and that the apparent motion is totally camera motion, the "star" motion should correlate to the camera motion. This is since a lens flare is merely a reflection off some stray surface inside the lens, and moving the "mirror" (lens/camera) will also move the reflection accordingly. But no such correlation is found. All indications are that the star is a distant pointlike object, and a valid reference point.

The graph in Fig. 5 shows another segment of the video where a star appeared useful as a reference point,

with the same symbology as the previous graph. Similarly, about 8 reversals are seen in about a seven-second period. The object width is about 60 pixels, so the object moved laterally about six times its own width back and forth. Near the end of the segment, extreme motion of the camera smeared out the star image beyond recognizability, so this portion of the graph is blank.

#### Camera motion can be useful

Extreme motion of the camera can be useful. The image in Fig. 6 shows a streak generated, presumably when the camera was bumped; the previous frames are also disturbed as if bumped. The streak shows a time-exposure of the object during the 1/50 second exposure of a single field. The brightness of the streak is representative of the brightness times the duration the light spent at a particular point on the image.

Since the motion of the camera isn't known, the time duration during the streak is not known. However, since there are two lights, IF the lights are of constant brightness, one would expect the brightnesses of the two streaks to correspond: a bright region of one light's streak would correspond to a bright region of the other.

This effect is not seen; corresponding parts of the two streaks are obviously of different brightness. The differing brightnesses could be explained by several phenomenon, all resulting in an anomalous conclusion:

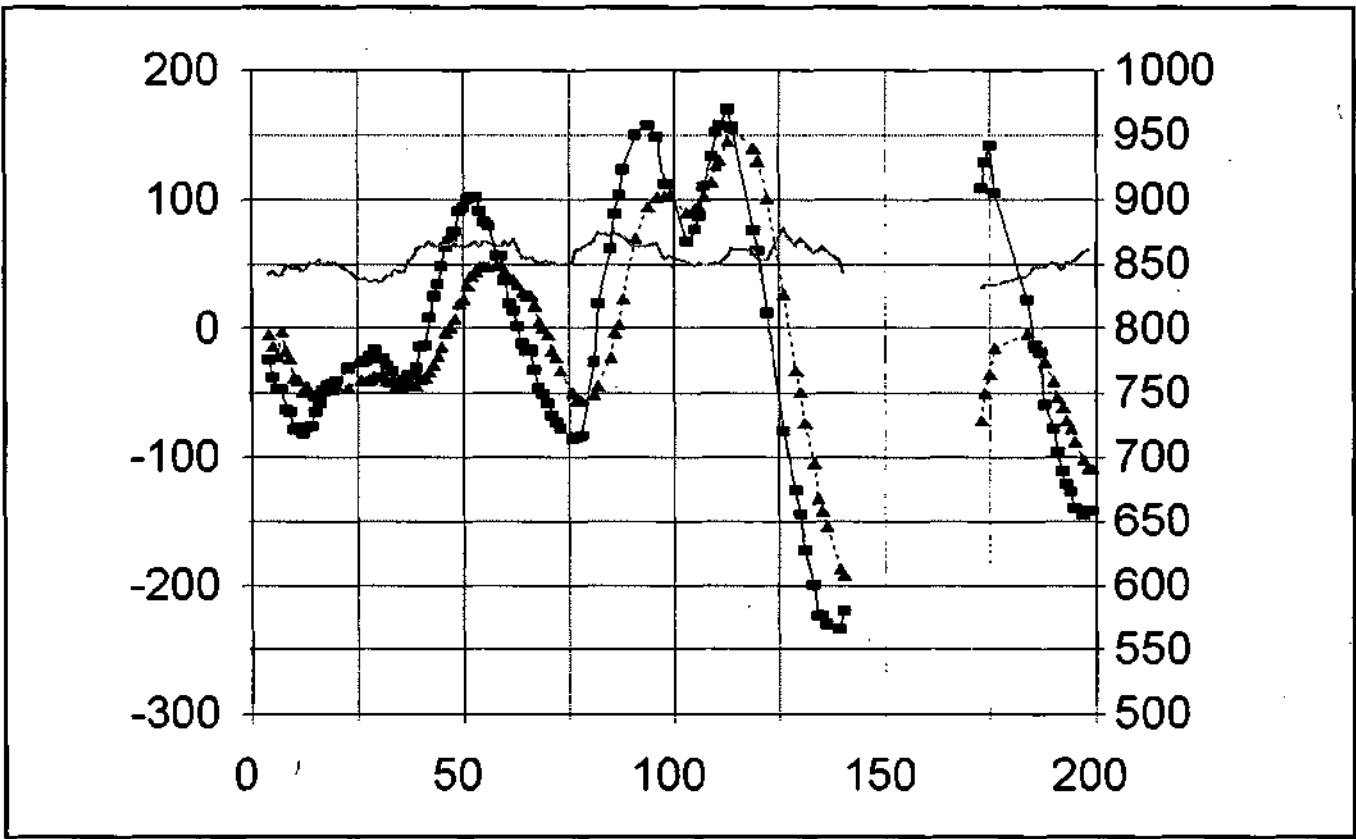


Figure 5

1. The lights are rapidly changing brightness. Standard tungsten aircraft lights are incapable of doing this.

2. Atmospheric turbulence (twinkling) is causing the brightness changes. This implies a considerable amount of air between the object and camera; the amount depends on distance and the air stability. A hot night will have more thermal action than a cold still night. (A large amount of heat roiling off the object, such as looking directly into a jet exhaust, will also cause turbulence.) Assuming no object heat, I would guess at least several kilometers of air between the object and camera to generate this amount of twinkling. Conservatively assuming one kilometer distance, and 100X digital zoom (which is a guess, but typical) and a pair of lights 1/3 of the frame-width, the light spacing is  $1000 \text{ meters} / 100X \text{ zoom} * 1/3$ , or about 3 meters apart. Often, three or more lights at similar spacings are seen, so the object size is at least twice this size.

In both graphs, the camera motion clearly lags the object motion by about 1/3 second. This is what would be expected of a videographer trying to "track" an erratically moving object.

The 1/3 second delay is what would be expected from studies of computer mouse and trackball human response testing, and also is on the slow end of a TV

cameraman's performance in tracking the football during unexpected events (intercepts, fumbles, fake handoffs, etc.) during NFL play. So the camera motion is quite typical of what would be expected from normal human hand-eye coordination.



Figure 6

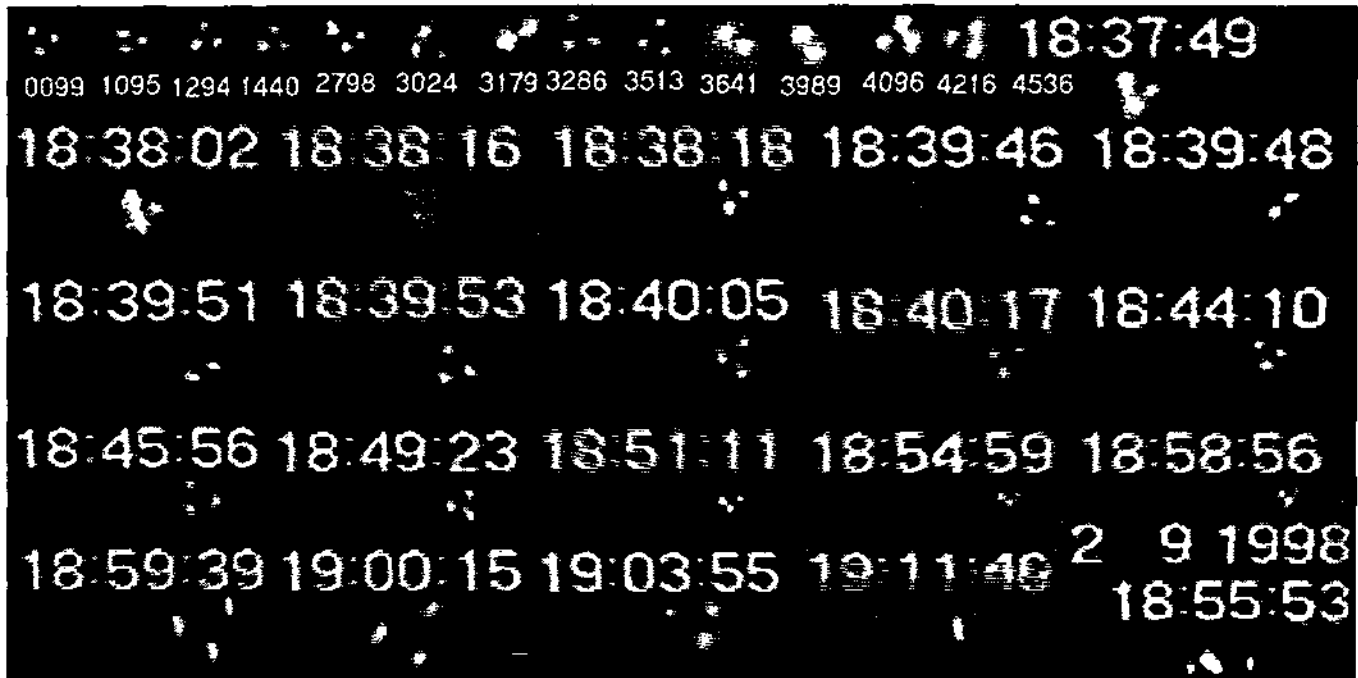


Figure 7

not simply a lens flare; a lens flare's position would react instantly to camera motion, not with a delay.

#### Summary of the object's characteristics:

1. No standard aircraft anticollision strobes are ever seen.

2. The object path is atypical for a plane. A helicopter could make such a path, although hovering silently for six hours is a gas-guzzling challenge.

3. The arrangement of lights changes continuously, often assuming a non-horizontal arrangement. Airplanes, unless viewed from substantially below, appear as inherently horizontal objects.

4. A "headstrap" structure is seen which appears to be real, and does not match any lighted airplane or helicopter structure I am familiar with.

5. At one point, the object's brightest light, by far, is approximately orange (perhaps yellow or red). An extremely bright light of this color is not standard on any airplane I am familiar with.

6. At another point, the object appears to have a light source that emits infrared (approximately 900nm) with little or no corresponding visible light.

7. The object position, compared to reference stars, is erratic. Although the object size is unknown, even conservative size estimates yield astonishing acceleration results. The first six characteristics might be achieved with a determined faker with an incredible helicopter and a complex array of visible and infrared lights, but the last characteristic is implausible for any known aircraft.

#### The September 2 sighting

On the evening of Sept. 2, 1998, a 14-minute videotape was recorded showing a similar strange triangle of lights, described as red/yellow/blue, "patrolling the skies of Rishon Leziyon" (sometimes translated as Le Zion or Letzion) on coastal Israel.

The camcorder is obviously handheld, with the usual shakiness of a handhold with zoom. The zoom varies, showing perhaps 16X zoom alternated with occasional shots of a crowd of onlookers. Not surprisingly, due to the limited ability of videotape to capture the color of small objects, no color other than a slight pink was detected.

The triangular array slowly turns clockwise, with lights occasionally extinguishing, and being replaced with lights on the opposite side. Figure 7 shows a collection of images of the object, with timing information.

The on-screen time is shown where available; if not, the frame number is given. Apparent size changes are presumably due to zoom changes. The last image is that of an airplane—the center bright light is an anticollision strobe light.

The object appears to make about 15 complete revolutions. The turning is accomplished in slow turning, then bursts, both of which slow during the video.

After 150 seconds, the time is real time as shown by the camcorder on-screen time display. Prior to 150 seconds, the time is estimated, assuming the camcorder ran continuously. This is not true; there are breaks of

unknown duration in the video, so timing prior to 150 seconds should be regarded as speculative. Note also that the time covered is longer than the video length; this is due to breaks in the recording.

Several frames show smearing of the light images due to camera motion. No interesting highspeed brightness changes were apparent in such frames.

#### Background stars useful

In several portions of the video, background stars appear to be visible. These are very useful in that true object motion is apparent using the star as a reference point. (Where two stars are visible, they are motionless relative to each other, corroborating the conclusion that these points are indeed stars.) These portions are:

at 30 seconds, over 42 frames (8 points measured, although many more visible), object moves leftward and downward at a 45 degree angle, at a speed of 2.5 times its own length per second.

at 97 seconds, over 32 frames (but only 3 frames showed a star), object moves right and upward at a 70 degree angle at a speed of 7X its own length per second.

at 124 seconds, over 21 frames (but only 3 frames showed a star), object moves rightward and downward at a 25 degree angle, at a speed of 9X its own length per second.

at 164 seconds, at 18:38:35, over 86 frames (9 measured), object left and down at a 40 degree angle at a speed of 2X its own length per second.

At 18:40:04, over 225 frames (18 measured with 2 stars), object right and down at a 17 degree angle at a speed of 6X its own length per second.

At 18:45:45, over 31 frames (only 3 measured), object right and upward at a 28 degree angle at a speed of 11 X its own length per second.

At 18:49:24, over 67 frames (7 measured), object right and upward at a 14 degree angle at a speed of 13X its own length per second.

At 18:52:36, over 333 frames, (9 points measured using 2 stars) rightward and upward at a 44 degree angle, at about 1.4 times its own length per second. At 18:59:44, over 211 frames, (7 measured) leftward and upward at a 48 degree angle, at a speed of about 0.8X its own length per second.

"Its own length" refers to the maximum distance between lights, the size of a possible dark supporting structure is obviously unknown. "Frames" are the 1/30 second NTSC frames studied, although the original PAL video is recorded at 25FPS. In all cases, the object motion was a straight line over all measured intervals, within measurement error limits.

Note that faster speeds correspond to fewer data points. As would be expected in the case of high object speed, only a small number of samples could be

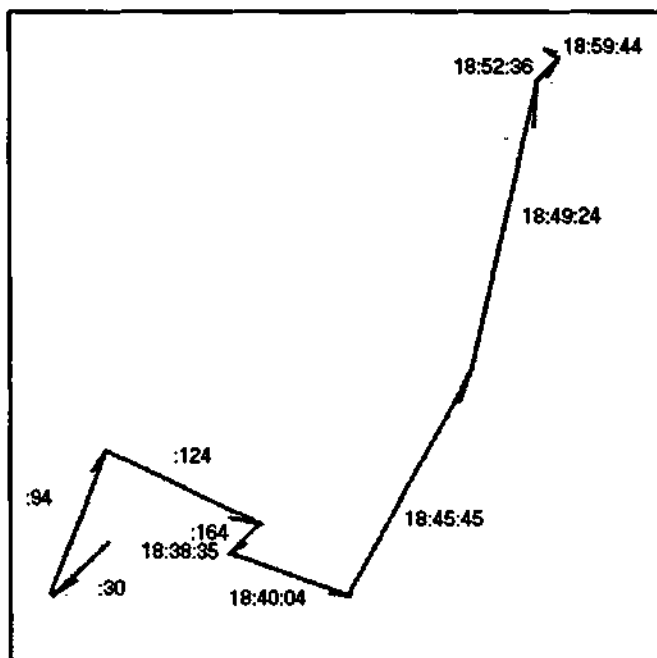


Figure 8

obtained before the star left the field of view. Also, fast motion smears out and obscures a dim object, making a star harder to find.

The variety of directions and speeds may be better understood by looking at the series of lines in Fig. 8. The direction of each arrow shows the direction of the object, and the length of the lines represents the object speed. Note, **THE LENGTH OF THE LINE DOES NOT REPRESENT THE ACTUAL PATH OF THE OBJECT**, but rather its speed at the stated times.

In summary, the description of "patrolling" is corroborated; between 30 and 97 seconds, the object turned almost completely around, turned right, down slow, right, up fast, then slowed and turned left.

Note the number of near-right-angle turns. **OTHER TURNS (WITH NO STAR AS REFERENCE) MAY HAVE OCCURRED.** Remember this motion is apparent motion; the object could be moving toward or away from the camera and this motion would not be visible.

The object is obviously not an airplane, or some device on an airplane: ignoring the lack of standard lighting, the path, and the 16:1 range of apparent speed is impossible.

A turnable set of lights on a helicopter could make this video, but I doubt that numerous witnesses would fail to recognize helicopter noise. A helicopter would have particular difficulty making a 1-minute 180-degree turn silently.

I know of no known cause for this phenomenon.

## Ufology Profile

# British author Randles emphasizes research

By Dwight Connelly

Jenny Randles, one of England's most prolific writers, has more than 40 books in print, about half dealing with UFOs. "The others," she explains, "are concerned with crop circles, ESP, public figures, and anything strange and interesting." She works full-time as a writer, but says she could not make a living writing only about UFOs. "There's a limited market in Britain, and my books have been appearing in America for only the past six or seven years."

Ufology is "very parochial," according to Randles. "Until Tim Good's book was published in 1987, British authors never got published in America. I now try to always include American cases in my books, and every book I've written in the past few years has been published in America.

"I have to write a lot of books to survive as a writer," she explains, "even though I am single, live frugally, and have no family to support." She says she has never had a five-figure advance for any of her books, and her recent book, *Something in the Air* (titled *Danger in the Air* in the U.S. printing) was sold for \$2,000. Although she considers herself a ufologist first and a writer second, she says she must write a mass market book about every 18 months in order to generate enough income.

"I try to compensate for this by also writing a book for ufologists which contributes something to the field. I can do a mass market book—which is what publishers seem to want—in three to four months. A research-oriented book can easily take a year to do."

Randles does not shy away from revisiting cases and providing a new slant. One such case is the 1980 Rendlesham Forest case, which she first wrote about in 1983-84. "It was too early to write about it then," she acknowledges. "The case has changed beyond all recognition. I've been able to do a lot of investigation in the time since I first wrote about it, and I think I can now be pretty definitive. It's one of the few times I've written about a single case, because in Britain there is not much demand for this."

Of the many books she has written, she says her favorite is *The Pennine UFO Mystery*, which has not been published in the U.S., and which sold only about 15,000 copies in Britain, going out of print about 14 years ago. This is a story about a so-called "window area" in Britain where UFOs seem to appear with great frequency, and is an account of one of Britain's top abduction cases (also one of Eddie Bullard's top 50 abduction cases). It was one of the first abduction ac-

counts that Randles investigated.

"I've recently written another book about abductions," she notes, "which is a comparison of cases in 50 countries. This one took a couple of years to research, but I really wanted to do it. It has a lot of statistics, which

I used to do in my earlier books, but publishers don't like statistics."

Like many researchers, Randles has never had a close encounter experience. "I think what hooked me on the subject, though, was seeing strange lights over our hotel while on holiday with my grandparents," she says. "I was 11 years old, and discouraged from talking about it, since my grandparents were deeply religious Methodists. That just

made me more determined to find out more."

Randles went to college to study astronomy and physics, but found herself having endless arguments with her professors, who could not understand her fascination with UFOs. "The way science was practiced was not the way I wanted to do things," she says. "That experience did not endear me to science."

She did teach geology at the middle school level until changes in her lifestyle pushed her in another direction more than twenty years ago. From 1975 to 1977 she served as research coordinator on the council of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and as a publications editor, so she began writing "for anyone who asked, and I never took money for anything I wrote."

She says her first book was "just one of those flukes. In 1976 I was organizing a conference in Birmingham very much like the MUFON Symposium, setting up a book stall. There was this book about cases in Australia, and it was so bad I was incensed. The book jacket said the same author was going to write a book about British sightings. I was upset because there were no books about British sightings, but I didn't want this author to write it. I sent a letter to the book's publisher, saying, 'You can't be serious considering publishing this book. Don't you realize the harm it will do to the credibility of the subject?' It's just one of



Jenny Randles

those things you do when you're young, but amazingly the publisher wrote back that he was not happy with that author either, and would I write the book? It took me three years to write with my MUFORA colleague Peter Warrington, but we did it. It was titled *UFOs: A British Viewpoint*, and was mostly a labor of love. I think I got a \$400 advance."

Randles still does not have an agent, and she intends to keep it that way. "I'm afraid an agent would be constantly wanting me to write certain types of books just for the money," she explains. "I want to control what I write. I still think of myself as a ufologist who happens to write books."

The ufologist-turned-writer has been working on a book which she feels will probably generate quite a bit of criticism. "It's about solved cases," she explains. "It was written with two British colleagues, and its title is *The UFOs That Were Never There*. It's not a debunking book, but I suppose some people will view it as such. It can be a good guide for investigators, since the cases are carefully chosen to make points. Solved cases can provide valuable lessons. I doubt that it will get printed in the U.S., and it was very difficult to find a publisher in Britain. It probably won't make any money."

One of her most interesting experiences involved doing a program about UFOs for the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). Some 300 hours of taped interviews were boiled down to make a 30-minute program. As part of the process, Randles located the air crew involved in the Bentwaters-Lakenheath case. "This was one of the 60 cases in the Condon Report," says Randles, and it was also studied by James McDonald and Philip Klass.

"All of these made fundamental errors," she explains, "not through any fault of their own—they didn't have access to the crew. I was able to interview three of the four crew members, who still had their log books. We took them back to Lakenheath, and the U.S. Air Force allowed us to wander the base for three days, recreating the sighting. All of the researchers had alleged that the planes were single seaters, but actually they were two-seaters, so there were four aircrew involved, not two."

In 1977 Randles was involved in attempting to set up a partnership called the UFO Investigators Network (UFOIN) between BUFORA and the *Flying Saucer Review* (FSR) magazine when Charles Bowen was editor of FSR.

BUFORA would continue as before, but cease publishing its magazine, giving it more money for research. FSR would include a pull-out section for group members, help fund investigations in return for first publication rights, and form a team of very experienced in-

vestigators to work as part of BUFORA. Although BUFORA decided not to participate, UFOIN was formed and continued until 1981 when it merged with BUFORA and ceased working with FSR.

Within the past year, however, Randles, who is no longer on the BUFORA council or affiliated with FSR, joined with Dr. David Clarke, and Andy Roberts to give UFOIN a rebirth as "a loose-knit" community. This time UFOIN will use the Internet instead of FSR, and keep the size of the group small.

Like most ufologists, Randles is interested not only in cases, but in the possibility of government cover-up. "The cover-up, such as it is, is there for a reason," she suggests. "We cannot presume that all of the reasons are bad reasons. We tend to think we have the right to know things that we may not have the right to know. There are times when you do have to trust the people you've elected to do the right thing. I think a lot of the reasons for the cover-up are connected to what the government doesn't know, not what it knows."

"Some years ago I was invited to address Parliament on UFOs. I didn't know if I was informing them, or if they were checking me out. The sense I got in talking informally with members of Parliament, including two former prime ministers, is that they know something quite fantastic is going on, but it is completely out of their control, and they are baffled by it.

"I suspect," she adds, "that there is also a cold war going on between governments for the technology involved, and they don't want this discussed openly by scientists. There may be a government effort to use ufologists as stooges, feeding us bogus documents and other misinformation to get us to make wild statements, thus turning the scientists off to the whole phenomenon, and keeping research firmly under government military control. And MIB exist as enforcers of the cover-up. Of that I have no doubt."

Randles says she has enjoyed being a full-time ufologist and writer. "I'm certainly not sorry I got involved with UFOs," she says. "I feel very lucky that I can work at this on a day-to-day basis and people will actually pay me to write about it. It's been positive, but it's also been frustrating as the evidence pulls you first one way, then the other.

"One criticism I get is that I sit on the fence. I don't deny that. I clearly have not made up my mind about many aspects of the UFO subject because I don't believe that we objectively have enough evidence to draw conclusions."

She adds that she feels it is okay to pursue the subject in many different directions. "One of the reasons I enjoy coming to America is because of the different perspective that Americans have. In Britain you are bombarded daily with skepticism and debunking."

## Southern Missouri crop circle area includes other strange phenomena

By JoAnne D. Scarpellini,  
MUFON Field Investigator  
& Gary P. Hart,  
MUFON Field Investigator

April, 2000—The Southern Missouri location that is the site of the small crop circle that yielded magnetic particles (*MUFON UFO Journal*, January 2000) is also the site of ongoing phenomena of other types.

This area has had aerial light phenomena in recent months, and records of similar phenomena going back 50 to 60 years. Small orange lights, sometimes seen singly, sometimes in multiple displays, have been seen by a large number of witnesses over a fairly large area.

These lights appear suddenly, are moving, and are visible for 5 to 15 seconds, sometimes a little longer. Larger lights, also orange, are seen appearing suddenly, but these larger lights sometimes remain stationary in the sky for as long as 5 to 10 minutes before moving off or extinguishing. The orange lights seem to exhibit some unusual optical properties, but this will need more observation, verification, and confirmation before any elaboration can be made.

Seen by a number of witnesses are white lights, usually aerial, but occasionally at or near ground level. The size of these lights varies from basketball size to being described as the size of a bus. On two occasions these white lights have been tentatively connected to some slight damage to a tree (the same tree in both instances).

A white light about the size of a basketball was observed hovering in a small area over a small stand of pine trees (Shortleaf pine, *Pinus echinata*) on the top of a hill by the property owner and his wife. The light made random movements at treetop level over the trees for an extended period of time and was still visible when the witnesses fell asleep. Nearby cattle were not disturbed at all.

The following day the area of the pine trees was examined by the property owner, who found a number of small branches had been snapped off and fallen to the ground or were caught in underbrush slightly above the ground. The branches, both fresh growing branches as well as some dead ones, were snapped off cleanly, exhibiting none of the usual "green twig" break seen in growing branches. The broken twigs were all under 1/2 inch diameter and no more than one foot long. No other trees were affected in any way. The entire hill

has heavy growth of oak, hickory, cedar, etc., but very few pines.

There was no apparent damage to the twig, other than breaking off with no visible changes (either naked eye or by examination with a microscope) in bark, needles or seed cones. The ground under the tree was not disturbed in any way, and no magnetic particles or other foreign material of any kind was found. The area was also surveyed with a professional meter to check for the presence of any possible residual radioactive material; none was found. The phenomenon was confined to the area surrounding one tree and was no larger than about 30 feet in diameter.

About one month after this event the same thing recurred, this time being observed by the caretaker of the property. The area was again examined with the same results.

The general area (for some miles around) has had reported aerial light phenomena, occasional "craft" sightings, and some cattle mutilations in fairly remote areas. These reports extend back over a period of nearly a year, the most active time seeming to be late winter and early spring.

These researchers continue to maintain contact with witnesses in the area, and make frequent visits to update and keep current any findings, and we will monitor the growth of vegetation in and around the circle formed late last summer that was the source of anomalous magnetic particles. The areas of other circles will also be observed.

The displays of aerial lights have continued and increased somewhat in the past two months. But continuing reports from a fairly large area have only lights—nothing perceived as "craft."

## Unusual effects play havoc with cameras, tapes, batteries

By JoAnne D. Scarpellini & Gary P. Hart

A recent trip to a Southern Missouri area with ongoing anomalous activity produced some unusual events.

In anticipation of witnessing some unexplained aerial phenomena, a video camera was set up on a tripod and a digital still camera was ready, lying on the car seat. Batteries in both cameras were almost new and fully charged, while there were two spare fully charged video camera batteries in the camera case, which was on the ground outside the car. In the trunk of the car was the digital still camera case with two spare fully charged batteries.

The car was parked facing the direction lights have been seen with some regularity. The property owner parked his pickup truck with the rear facing the view-

ing direction and was sitting on a lawn chair in the truck bed. His video camera was on the floor of the truck bed within reach. There were several other people present, all watching for anything unusual.

I had just closed the passenger door of my car and was walking around to the driver's side. The interior lights were still on. The observers began shouting "there they are, there they are," referring to lights in the sky. I reached for the driver's door handle with the intention of grabbing the digital still camera off the seat.

When my hand was about a foot from the door handle all four locks snapped into the lock position, the interior lights went out as if switched off (Note: these lights do not "switch off"; when the timer turns them off they grow dimmer and dimmer to extinction), and the CD player which is in the glove compartment ejected the CD carrier so violently it hit the compartment door.

The car was not running, and nothing was switched on but the interior lights. This car is new and had been in my possession only three days when this happened. It was then, and is now, functioning perfectly. It has had no problems, electrical or otherwise.

Temporarily ignoring the car, I ran for the video camera to turn it on. I found the tape jammed and damaged (it was a brand new tape just out of a sealed package) and the battery capable only of turning the camera on, reading out "low battery" and shutting down. Later I found the camera had been damaged in some way and required repair before it was usable.

The digital still camera's battery was discharged, as were the two in the bag outside the car. The two spare batteries in the case in the trunk of the car were usable, but about one-half discharged. The property owner picked up his camera from the truck floor only to find its battery was discharged as well, although the tape and camera were undamaged. There were no photographic attempts that evening!

The car and truck batteries were unaffected, and everything started and ran normally.

These events occurred within 30 seconds of the appearance of the anomalous lights. The lights were visible intermittently for about one hour and were observed by everyone present.

Within the past year another camera was damaged beyond repair, tape damaged, and the magnetic coding on roll film rendered useless, making it impossible to machine print the film. As a result of these events we are assembling a camera that will, hopefully, withstand a variety of outside influences.

Editor's Note: Ted Phillips also experienced some of these same problems while attempting to film mysterious lights—also in Missouri.

## Camcorder also fails in Argentina sighting

San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina—Television journalist Noemi Molina reports witnessing a huge unidentified flying object over this city at about 9 p.m. on April 23 near the cathedral, but says she was unable to tape it with her camcorder. "When I tried to activate the camcorder, the battery was drained, and there was nothing I could do."

She described the object as "like a giant ship which gave off multicolored lights and made an intense noise. It was moving slowly over the lake toward Chile. Thank God my sister also so it. It has been almost impossible to sleep. It was fantastic. I'm still nervous."

Other unnamed individuals reportedly also saw the object. The *El Cordillerano* newspaper contacted the local airport personnel, who said they had no information regarding the sighting.

## Paperboy reports close sighting in Nova Scotia cemetery

Eugene H. Frison, MUFON Nova Scotia Provincial Director, reports that further investigation of a black triangular object observed by a local paperboy has revealed some additional facts.

The witness decided to take a shortcut through a cemetery to get a paper to a customer who wanted his paper very early. Upon entering the cemetery, he immediately felt something was not right—the wind was different and seemed to have a whining sound mixed in with it.

After walking a considerable distance along the road into the cemetery, he felt a cold wind and noise come up behind him and, out of the corner of his eye, he watched a solid object pass about three feet away from his right elbow. He could feel the cold rush on his face as it passed. His scalp became hot as it went by.

Once it had moved in front of him, he could discern its triangle shape and that it was cruising very fast just above the ground. He estimated the object was about nine feet tall and five feet along the base.

It veered off sharply on a 45-degree angle after negotiating a near 90-degree change of direction in the cemetery road.

The witness reported tiny raised blisters that burned and stung so much if picked that it brought tears to his eyes and troubled his face and chest area. These began shortly after the sighting and lasted a couple of days.

Speaker sharing:

## The expectations and the reality

By Kathie Grimes

Assistant State Director, Kentucky MUFON

Speaker sharing is a good idea. It does offer more than one MUFON state or local group the opportunity to bring in a speaker at a fraction of the cost. It does bring new faces into the lectures. It can raise funds. It can increase membership in state and local groups. It can make involvement in ufology a lot more interesting and rewarding. It can do everything that was outlined in the first article I wrote in the November issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. But...

I now want to share with you the details I could not foresee before we had our first speaker. I hope that sharing our experience will help other groups venture into this endeavor with some confidence, and with greater initial success.

Kelly Cahill, from Australia, was our first speaker. Most of us first heard of her significant encounter when she told about it at the 1999 MUFON International Symposium at Arlington, VA. It has since been described in detail in the April issue of the *Journal*. We were impressed with her and the case, so we wanted to bring her back to this country so those who did not get to attend the Symposium last summer could hear her. She was a good speaker who held the audience.

### A mad dash

The first mistake we made was bringing her here when we did, which was the end of December, 1999, extending into the first part of January. There was not enough time to promote her, so turnout was not what we expected. We could not get the confirmation of her flight, so could not schedule dates and times for her to speak until it was within weeks of her arrival, and then there was a mad dash to get it all done.

She flew into Memphis and was Tennessee's first speaker, as they kicked off her tour. They had promoted her on the radio and within the group, and I believe newspapers were also contacted. Their turnout was around 20 people at the lecture, which was held at Ryan's steak house.

Their only regret was the location, which they felt was too noisy and took away from her lecture. However, their spirits were high afterwards, and they are looking forward to hosting another speaker. Marcia Prince was the major coordinator of the event there, and I felt she did a great job. She could see where it would bring in more people in the future.

Scott Voight, my director, and I drove to Memphis

and brought an ill Kelly Cahill back to my home outside of Bowling Green, KY. She had contracted some sort of an illness, and I spent the next two days filling her full of vitamins and anything else I could think of to help her feel better.

Well, it seemed to work. By lecture time in Bowling Green she was ready to go. Do not always count on your speaker being healthy after a very long plane ride.

In Bowling Green, which is a small city and a small group, there was a paying turnout of 7 people. Kelly could not stop laughing. She could not figure out why we would bother for seven people. She was upset that I did not have a carousel projector, as she was accustomed to a remote control projector, and demanded one for the next two lectures in Kentucky.

Note here: with 7 paying people, I could not afford to rent a projector and used what I could find, but obviously it is a good idea to find out what equipment the speaker needs beforehand. We split the proceeds of each lecture with Kelly, so the extra \$75.00 we eventually spent for equipment came partially out of her pocket. Some speakers have a set fee, and will not work on the basis of splitting the profits.

I held the lecture in the Barnes and Noble bookseller's meeting room. They are nice enough to allow me use of the room when I need it free of charge. They may do this in your city as well, or some other business may offer you a location.

Also I would like to note that I had her in Bowling Green because the man who shoots our video lives in town and, knowing that it would not be a video in high demand, agreed to shoot it if we did it in Bowling Green. Video tapes are available. If you contact me for details, I will get back to you.

If you do have video done of your speakers, most video people will want to have a spare set of the slide show to shoot in their studio for a professional look in the finished product. I spent New Year's Eve day running the slide show for the video tape. It took about six hours to get it right. I had Kelly's only set of slides and promised not to let them out of my sight. Please note: someone has to be the host or hostess for the speaker and take care of things like this.

After Bowling Green, Kelly went to my director's home and stayed in the guest room there until the next lecture scheduled in Louisville. She spent her time going over her lecture and making use of the office and extensive library that Scott has built up for our members.

### Wonderful, but costly

Our group in Louisville, expecting a large turnout, rented the Performing Arts Center. It was a wonderful setting, but the cost was \$300. The turnout for that

lecture was almost 40 paying customers. There were a lot of questions from the audience, and Kelly did a great job with the answers and of course the book signing afterwards.

Almost half of the people that came were from Indiana, which is right across the bridge. Had this event been held in a location that did not cost anything, there would have been a greater profit from this venture. As it turned out, the profit from the 40 present at Louisville was not much more than for the smaller groups, due to the cost of the facility.

#### **A free location**

From Louisville her next stop was Elizabethtown, KY, where her audience was about 15 paying members. This was also a small group, but the location was free, as was the equipment she needed for her lecture.

From there she went to Canada on holiday, then flew to California, where she talked to a couple of established groups that numbered over a hundred each. California has brought in a number of speakers over the years, and they have built up a following.

Speaker sharing can work. I think California paid her \$100 per lecture, rather than doing the profit-sharing, plus one night's motel per event. They were responsible for the remaining part of the air fare.

Please keep in mind there was a \$500 cost up front for us to pay for the plane fare to get her to our area, and the full air fare cost \$2000 round trip from Australia.

In the original negotiations, Ohio was to pay a third of the \$500 air fare, along with Tennessee and Kentucky, but they decided not to go ahead about three days after I committed to bringing her here, although they did send \$100 to help out. Since Kelly had to pay \$100 more by having to change her plane ticket to fly out of Louisville instead of Ohio, I promptly signed Ohio's \$100 check over to Kelly to cover this. Then I had to raise the third of the air fare Ohio was to cover. The lesson? Make sure everyone is committed before making final arrangements.

#### **Breaking even**

Overall, I think we managed to just about break even, not counting some of our personal expenses. We sold about 65 tickets at an average cost of \$15, bringing in \$975, plus \$167 from Tennessee as their share of the air fare. This left about \$290 for Kelly after expenses, plus she raffled off a NASA Sky Lab piece and sold some books.

We also sold a few shirts and things, which helped put gas in our cars. Had we paid for motels for Kelly, as I think California did, instead of having her in our homes, we would have gone in the hole. Tennessee lost money, but only had her at one location, and they paid for two nights of lodging. They expected this,

and it did not bother them too much since this was their first time.

Overall, despite some small crowds and other problems due to inexperience, our project showed that bringing in speakers can pay for itself, as well as gaining publicity for your group and the UFO phenomenon. I assume that California, which is much more experienced, made a profit, even after paying for motels.

I would suggest you contact the speakers you sponsor and see if they will do radio interviews to promote their arrival. If you have them before the event, take them to the local paper and let them do an interview. The Elizabethtown newspaper did a nice spread on Kelly. Ask the speaker how to best promote him or her. Do not assume that they expect you to have all the answers. It is in their best interest to help you as much as they can.

Look for free rooms to host lectures in. They do exist. Have things in place long before your lecture is going to take place. I would allow months to get it all set up and promoted. Had we had months with Kelly we could have had a much larger turnout. She was used to hundreds at her lectures. Seven people she found laughable, but she had her job to do and did it well.

#### **Ask questions**

I think the best thing to do when you start your speaker sharing program is to ask questions. Do not think for one moment that you have all the answers. The more questions you ask, the more you learn and the more successful your program will be. Start small and work up to the big names.

When bringing in a speaker from another country you have to realize that they have their own customs. They have their own dialogue and they will be experiencing some foods for the first time. Kelly had her first taste of pumpkin pie. She was amazed at our prices on some things. She was accustomed to paying about \$60 for a pair of jeans and could not fathom seeing them for under \$20 at the stores here.

Kelly was a good house guest. She was easy to have around, and I would welcome her into my home again any time. Having the speaker for a house guest adds another interesting dimension to the process, and I recommend it if possible.

We have new names to contact in the future for not only Kentucky MUFON, but Indiana and Tennessee MUFON as well. We all learned from this experience, and we are looking forward to our next exciting guest, who will be Erich von Daniken.

**Editor's Note: Other MUFON state or local groups who have brought in speakers are invited to share their experiences and suggestions.**

## Filer's Files

By **George A. Filer**  
 Director, MUFON Eastern Region

### Georgia disc seen through skylight

MARIETTA—Georgia State Director Tom Sheets advises that the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) in Seattle and MUFON of Georgia began a joint investigation into a close encounter with a brightly lit disc on May 2, 2000. Peter Davenport, the Director at NUFORC, received a call from a credible Marietta GA, citizen regarding a disc that was observed through a skylight during the night.

NUFORC, already assisting on another joint investigation in Georgia, relayed this information to MUFONGA for follow-up investigation. On May 3, MUFONGA Field Investigators (FI's) Olivia Newton and Michael Hitt interviewed the witness, who was found to be very credible with many years devoted to work in the ministry.

She awoke sometime between 3 and 5 a.m. and observed through her skylight a brightly lit disc over her home. The disc was gray metallic with a grouping of steady red and white lights on the bottom, something like "headlights."

As she watched, the craft tipped up to an angle on its side and revealed that the edge had three triangular shaped window-like structures. These were rotating in a clockwise direction. Light was also coming through the windows, but was not as bright as the lights on the bottom of the disc.

The craft was over the trees that surround the clearing of her home. She also detected a faint whirring sound. As she watched, the craft descended down over her home until it almost completely filled the view from her skylight except for a few inches on one edge. The lights were intensely bright, lighting up the area like daylight.

The craft then moved over the house away from the skylight toward the northeast. The bright glare from the lights lessening until it was gone.

No EM effects were noticed, but the witness indicated that she was so focused on the event, that she felt as if she could not move. Her husband did not awaken during the event. Investigators Newton and Hitt estimate the craft size to be about 25 feet in diam-



George A. Filer

eter. The witness has agreed to make a sketch of the craft. Photos were taken of inside and outside the house.

### A related case?

TUCKER—A second case may be related to the above case, as unknown objects were observed several hours earlier by three witnesses only 20 miles away from Marietta in Tucker, GA. One of the witnesses is MUFONGA Investigator David Brown of Norcross.

David reports that he was at the home of his fiancé about 10:15 p.m. He always glances skyward, and he noticed a bright round object lit with multicolored lights, about the size of a dime at arm's length.

Binoculars revealed a nearby second object, but not as profusely lit. The objects moved slowly down behind the trees to the southwest. David felt these were not normal aircraft, helicopters, or any type of celestial bodies.

He is probing further into this event and having the other witnesses prepare sketches independent of his own. Investigations continue. Thanks to Tom Sheets, SD-MUFONGA, ISUR Board Member.

### Flying triangle in Tennessee

PINEY FLATS — Lady Morgan Moonstone writes, "I'd like to report a sighting: On May 9, 2000, at about 9:15 p.m. in the Piney Flats Industrial Park, I observed a triangle-shaped UFO hovering about 50 yards above the trees.

"It had a white light on each corner and an orange light in the middle of it. It made no sound and disappeared before I could pull over to take a picture. It appeared about the size of a bus at my distance from the object.

"Two weeks earlier, I saw an orange ball-shaped light at a very far distance and was able to take a picture of it, but do not have it developed yet. (I will send a copy if it turns out.)

"Additionally, several friends of mine have spotted this triangle-shaped UFO, and all of them have the same description. This particular area seems to be a hot spot."

### Abductees report similar ailments

Robin writes, "I was reading about the New Jersey abductees, and I want you to know that Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is well known with abductees as well as Fibromalgia. I suffer with Fibromalgia, and many abductees do.

"When I was abducted I immediately came down with Epstein Barr virus associated with Mononucleo-

sis. I was 14 years old at the time. I am 41 and still suffering, but with the Fibromalgia. It is painful to just move about at times, and I get most discouraged. If it is related to EM I hope they soon find the answers.

"My body can't take much more. Fibromalgia is not fatal from what I have been told, but it makes you wish you were dead. Dr. Kavorkian was dismissed for helping a woman commit suicide who had Fibromagia. I wonder if that was the correct move by the courts. Sometimes, I wish the pain would stop, but death? I question that."

Note: Abductees report they suffer from several similar ailments that usually involve severe fatigue and pain. I previously reported that Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and possibly Epstein Barr is helped by taking magnesium, according to England's University of Southampton.

Most of the diseases are relatively new and often called yuppie diseases. Admittedly, we have very sketchy evidence to date, but many of the abductee ailments point to weaker immune systems that seemed to first develop about 1950, the time of the first UFO waves. We do know that UFOs develop massive electromagnetic effects that could cause weaknesses in the human immune system.

Ufologists have little resources for research, but studying the relationship between various diseases and UFO encounters would be fascinating. I always recommend that a close encounter be followed by a visit to the doctor and blood tests.

Perhaps its just another coincidence, but magnesium burns with a hot bright light, very similar to the hot bright lights reported on UFOs. We have a group of intelligent people who claim contact with UFOs, and they have measurable medical and physiological effects that may help prove the existence of this phenomenon.

## UFO reported in Argentina

TANDIL — The *El Eco de Tandil* Newspaper of May 5, 2000, states, "Residents claim witnessing UFOs over the area." Once again, several people claim to have seen powerful beams of light whose characteristics do not match those of any machines known to man.

One of these persons is Hugo Macias, 60, who has worked for *La Capital* newspaper in Mar del Plata for the past 37 years. He has delivered newspapers every morning, traveling along a circuit made up of Balcarcel and Tandil, giving him a good knowledge of National Highway 226.

"On Tuesday at 5 a.m., as always," he explained, "I left the newspaper at the National Gendarmerie at Planta Terrena, heading toward Mar del Plata. I trav-

eled some 6000 meters and suddenly heard a very strange noise approaching me from behind, and I felt myself 'contained' within a powerful bright light. I say, 'contained' because the light covered a diameter of 50 meters, and penetrated all sides of my vehicle. It seemed to pierce the rooftop."

He says this lasted "seconds only, but they appeared to be rather long." There were no other vehicles on the road at the time. "During the remainder of the trip," he explains, "I may have passed two other cars. It was a light traffic day."

Macias says he returned to Tandil, discussed the event with a group of friends and with a gentleman who belongs to the Army Command to whom he delivers the paper every day. "When I returned to Mar del Plata, I headed to the Gendarme Station to see if the duty guard had seen anything that night. The guard had left, but another one told me that on five or six separate occasions similar strange things had been seen."

The next day Macias was shown a story appearing in the local evening paper about a similar case thirty minutes later over Tendril. The gentleman from the Army Command also told him that the guards on duty had also witnessed a light in the sky with a very strange shape.

"The Gendarmes don't discuss the matter because things can get complicated. If word of this should reach NASA, there would be disturbances and people looking into the subject.

"On my way from Tandil I talked with Sheriff Lopez of El Dorado (on Route 226), who's knowledgeable about UFOs, and he advised me on why the Gendarmerie avoids getting into the subject because it knows how NASA works: they can send an airplane with six scientists anywhere in the world and carry with them an all terrain vehicle in which they can visit locations in person. Many locals don't like strangers visiting them.

"My experience was lovely, because what began as fear is now the satisfaction of having been contacted by something that researchers in the field would like to have seen and never have," noted Macias. "I am convinced that it was not from this world. The power of that beam of light is not a power produced by any luminous source that we have at this time."

Macias concludes, "I felt nothing at all physically then, but for the past two days I have felt headache, laryngitis, and many other symptoms. I'm just happy for the chance to have lived through a contact experience like this one."

Thanks (c) 2000. Institute of Hispanic Ufology (IHU) for the translation.

## MUFON FORUM

Letters to *Mufon UFO Journal*

### Von Braun at Roswell?

Was the father of modern space science, Dr. Wernher von Braun, part of the recovery operation of an extra-terrestrial spacecraft at Roswell and associated locations in 1947? Did he take part in studies of the technology and beings recovered from such incidents?

With the recent report in George Filer's Files (#11 - 2000), a persistent rumor takes on new meaning. Mr. Filer's contact, Bruce Jessop, informs him that the late Dr. Hans Nieper confirmed von Braun's knowledge of our government's contact with alien life forms.

Clark McClelland, an aerospace engineer who worked for NASA in the late 1950's and 60's, also claims that he personally spoke with von Braun about the Roswell incident. According to McClelland, von Braun confirmed that he and associates went to the crash site.<sup>1</sup>

These are, of course, second and third hand testimonies, as any skeptic will be quick to point out. But is there other evidence of von Braun's possible association with Roswell?

After first hearing about McClelland's story I did some checking. What I uncovered were some early sketches by von Braun of an escape capsule design for rescue from spacecraft.<sup>2</sup> Such ideas were obviously never used in the Apollo program, and were only recently considered in light of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. Where did von Braun get this idea?

It turns out that the original MJ-12 Eisenhower Briefing Document, as well as additional documents being studied by Robert and Ryan Wood, refer to "escape cylinder" and "ejection" from the craft by the recovered occupants. These documents all have questionable authenticity, but an authentic document from the National Archives is far less controversial.

The document, dated 28 October, 1947, by Gen. George F. Schulgen, Chief, Air Intelligence Requirements Division, Office of the Asst. Chief of Air Staff-2, was prepared at the insistence of Gen. Twining that a "detailed study of this matter" should be made.<sup>3</sup> The document title "Intelligence Requirements on Flying Saucer Type Aircraft" includes the following description:

"Items of Arrangements:...

d. High altitude or high speed escapement methods."

It also has Roswell-like references such as:

"Items of Construction:

a. Material whether metal, ferrous, non-ferrous,

or nonmetallic.

b. Composite or sandwich construction utilizing various combinations of metals, plastics, and perhaps balsa wood.

c. Unusual fabrication methods to achieve extreme light weight and structural stability, particularly in connection with great capacity for fuel storage."

Obviously the people at Air Staff-2 had some ideas about the so-called "flying discs" besides just the early reports of 1947! It is not proof, but approaches coincidence beyond reason. And there is more to this story, including the alleged involvement of a prominent German scientist who worked under von Braun at Ft. Bliss, TX, in 1947, who is also mentioned in more than one MJ-12 document. Further research on this subject continues.

Brian Parks

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1. WWW.Stargate-chronicles.com
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### Timothy Good comments on *Alien Base* review

Thank you for your balanced review of my last book, *Alien Base*. A few clarifications are in order, however.

The title (not Alien Bases, as you have it) is actually mine, though the subtitle is not. My own, preferred subtitle ("Earth's Encounters with Extraterrestrials"), which appeared in the original edition, was changed for the American and British paperback editions.

The book is not about the evidence for extraterrestrial colonization, per se (I leave that to other, more qualified authors), nor is it exclusively about alien bases, even if both themes feature fairly prominently. The title of the last chapter, "Alien Base - Earth" conveys what I had in mind: Earth as an alien base.

I'm sorry you don't find my 14-page index "totally comprehensive." You state that there is no listing of the UFO "repair cases" cited, but in fact these are indexed by country under "alien craft grounded" (p.407). Perhaps I should have directed the reader more clearly via an entry under "repairs."

Finally, I am surprised that you think *Alien Base* "plows little new ground." Other seasoned ufologists have told me that the numerous hitherto unpublished or little-known stories in the book have caused them to reconsider their overview of the alien phenomenon.

Timothy Good

# MUFON 2000 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM SPEAKING PROGRAM

## SATURDAY, JULY 15

### MORNING SESSION

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome to St. Louis ..... Bruce A. Widaman  
Missouri State Director
- Introduction, Master of Ceremonies.....
- 9:10 a.m. Greetings from the Mutual UFO Network ..... Walter H. Andrus Jr.  
International Director, Seguin, Texas
- 9:15 a.m. A Tribute to Walter H. Andrus Jr.:  
MUFON's International Director Extraordinaire  
.....John F. Schuessler, M.S., MUFON Deputy Director,  
Littleton, Colorado
- 10:15 a.m. "For the Sake of My Country" Last known interview with  
Jesse A. Marcel, Sr.  
.....Linda G. Corley, Ph.D., Houma, Louisiana
- 11:20 a.m. LUNCH (Place of your choice)

### AFTERNOON SESSION

- 1:00 p.m. Research at the National ..... Colm A. Kelleher, Ph.D.  
Institute for Discovery Science ..... NIDS  
Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2:00 p.m. Blinded by the Light: An Analysis of  
Missing Time on Video ..... John S. Carpenter, MSW  
Abduction Researcher  
Springfield, Missouri
- 3:00 p.m. BREAK
- 3:30 p.m. Chemtrails and UFOs Over  
My Backyard ..... Gregory J. Avery, J.D.  
Louisiana State Director  
Metairie, Louisiana
- 4:30 p.m. Validating the New  
Majestic Documents ..... Robert M. Wood, Ph.D.  
Consultant in Physics  
Newport Beach, California

- 5:30 p.m. DINNER (place of your choice)

### EVENING SESSION

- 7:30 p.m. Prosaic Explanations: The Failure of UFO  
Skepticism ..... Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D.  
Maryland State Director  
Sabillasville, Maryland

- 8:45 p.m. Roswell and the MJ-12 Documents in the  
New Millenium ..... Stanton T. Friedman, M.S.  
Author and UFO Researcher  
Fredericton, NB Canada

## SUNDAY, JULY 16

### MORNING SESSION

- 9:00 a.m. Thirty-five Years of Landing  
Trace Cases ..... Ted R. Phillips  
Leading Trace Case Authority  
Reed Springs, Missouri
- 10:00 a.m. Inside the Black Vault ..... John Greenewald, Jr.  
Freedom of Information  
Internet Documents  
Northridge, California

- 11:00 a.m. LUNCH (place of your choice)

### AFTERNOON SESSION

- 1:00 p.m. In Pursuit of Pennsylvania's  
Mysterious Encounters ..... Stan Gordon  
UFO Investigator  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
- 2:00 p.m. The Mystery of Aviano ..... Gerald E. "Jerry" Rolwes  
(Lt. Col. USAF Retired)  
Washington State Director  
Spokane, Washington
- 3:00 p.m. BREAK
- 3:30 p.m. April 18, 1962 - The Las Vegas  
Crash ..... Kevin D. Randle, Ph.D.  
Author & Researcher  
Marion, Iowa
- 4:30 p.m. Question and Answer Panel,  
Composed of All Speakers .... Moderator, Walter H. Andrus, Jr.
- 5:30 p.m. Invitation to MUFON 2001 International UFO Symposium  
in Irvine, California ..... Jan Harzan  
Orange County Section Director
- 5:35 p.m. ADJOURNMENT ..... Bruce A. Widaman  
Missouri State Director  
and Symposium Host

## Perspective

### On the May MUFON UFO Journal

Being an accomplished "scan-reader" because of my employment as an abstractor, I found this issue not so easy to digest, and I mean that as a compliment. It required careful reading and provided much food for thought. The MUFON Forum commentaries and sightings were especially worthwhile and to the point.



Richard Hall

Roger Leir's work on supposed alien implants may be some of the most important work of all presently underway, but I have to strongly emphasize the qualifier "may."

Despite talk of "findings" and "scientific data," to the best of my knowledge the data have not been published in any scientific forum for review.

Leir states that major universities and laboratories have conducted numerous independent analyses of the metallic artifacts. Have any independent scientists seen the test results?

I suggest that scientists on the MUFON advisory panel or among the readers start writing letters to the named institutions requesting copies of the test results for examination. Once again, there is no such thing as "secret science." Without full peer review we have only pseudoscience.

Every contribution to the Forum contributes something worthwhile. No matter whose theories about abductions we tend to accept, Ann Druffel's "abduction resistance" techniques make sense on a purely pragmatic level. During my active period working with abductees I told more than one that if the types of things they were reporting were happening to me, I would try everything, no matter how experimental or unconventional, from clumps of garlic around my neck to white noise, in an effort to make it stop.

Dan Wright raises a very good philosophical point, though it seems reasonable to me to continue both FOIA and "gentle persuasion" in the attempt to ferret out information. Although I agree that FOIA alone is exceedingly unlikely to get at the full truth, neither is any other single technique.

FOIA requests have applied some pressure and succeeded in prying loose a large amount of worthwhile information. We do have to be realistic about it, how-

ever, and not put our faith or energy exclusively on that one approach.

The comparison of different interpretations of the Ramey telegram allegedly concerning the Roswell crash is useful and instructive, and demonstrates clearly that the exact meaning still is wide open to interpretation.

The "new" Roswell witness (he may or may not be new to some people) tells a story that dovetails perfectly with other key testimony on record, and sounds totally authentic. Would he be willing to talk privately with Congressional investigators? If so, I suggest he be asked to contact the Fund for UFO Research in Washington, D.C. (Mount Rainier, MD, post office box) which could arrange a meeting.

The sightings involving UFOs that buzzed or harassed cars (four if we count the New Mexico proto-abduction case) suggest renewal of a past pattern which we haven't seen much of lately.

Is some kind of new cycle of activity beginning? In my book *Uninvited Guests* I discussed the confrontational nature of these events. Other than attention-getting, it is difficult to imagine what the purpose of this behavior might be, if indeed there is a purpose behind it. In any case, it is important to continue investigating and documenting such cases.

I was saddened to learn of the death of Mildred Biesele, who was a staunch MUFON supporter and activist. We had many conversations at the symposiums over the years, and I found her to be a sweet, gentle person of high intelligence.

CSICOP credo: Non potest, ergo non est (It can't be, therefore it isn't).

### Additional probable planets located

European astronomers using the European Southern Observatory in La Silla, Chile, reported in May the detection of eight more probable planets orbiting other stars in our galaxy, bringing the total extrasolar planets thus far located to 43.

The first of the newly-discovered planets was found orbiting a sun-like star in the constellation Scutum. This planet has an apparent minimum mass 80% of Saturn, making it one of the smallest planets thus far detected.

Two additional planets only slightly larger than Saturn were found orbiting HD 83443 in the constellation Vela, and HD 108147 in Crux.

Three other planets located are considerably larger. One orbiting HD 52265 in the constellation Monoceros is about the size of Jupiter, one orbiting 82943 in the constellation Hydra is 2.2 times the size of Jupiter, and one orbiting 169830 in Sagittarius is nearly three times the size of Jupiter.

Two others are nearly ten times the size of Jupiter.

## READER'S CLASSIFIEDS

### MUFON MERCHANDISE

Wear official MUFON T-Shirts (royal blue printing on white cotton), sizes: S, M, L & XL. Two styles of baseball caps (royal blue with white logo or dark blue with blue logo on white front). T-shirt price \$12.00 and baseball caps \$8.00. S/H for each is \$3.00 or if both ordered together is only \$3.00. MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155-4099. (Check, money order, traveler's checks or cash in U.S. Dollars).

### THE ANDREASSON LEGACY

Ray Fowler's latest book *The Andreasson Legacy* (UFOs and the Paranormal: The startling conclusion of the Andreasson Affair), hardback (463 pages) personally autographed, is now available from MUFON for \$24.95, P&H included. Send orders with check, postal money order, or cash to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Texas 78155. (For orders in U.S.A. only)

### REACHING FOR REALITY

"*Reaching for Reality: Seven Incredible True Stories of Alien Abduction* is light years beyond any book about the strange and controversial subject of alien abduction you have ever read or heard of." - Whitley Strieber. Illustrated first-hand accounts compiled and annotated by psychotherapist Constance Clear, M.A., M.S.W. \$16.95 plus \$3.00 S&H. Send to P.O. Box 15994, San Antonio, TX 78212.

### JOURNEY BEYOND CONFERENCE

October 20-22, 2000, Ft. Walton Beach, FL. A new conference forum directed by Pat & Buddy Crumbley and Jill & Russ Horseman. Hear Zecharia Sitchin, Stanton Friedman, Dr. William Roll, Nancy Talbott, William Henry, Dr. Brian O'Leary, William Buhlman and Kewaunee Lapsertitis. Check out [www.journeysbeyond.com](http://www.journeysbeyond.com) For free program guide, write conference, 7262 Highpointe Pl. E., Spanish Fort, AL 36527, e-mail [journeysbeyond@hotmail.com](mailto:journeysbeyond@hotmail.com) or call (334) 621-5750.

### SAUCER SMEAR

Oldest UFO publication in the USA and possibly in the entire galaxy! Gossip, humor, cartoons, skepticism, exposes, and occasional uniminded libel. Be the first kid on your block to send \$2.00 for a sample copy. Jim Moseley, P.O. Box 1709, Key West, FL 33041.

### MUFON MUGS AND CLOCKS

Official MUFON gift items for sale. Ceramic mugs with blue logo - \$8.00. Ten inch diameter, battery operated wall clock with logo in black on white face - \$15.00. S/H for each is \$3.50. MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Texas 78155-4099. (Check, money order or cash in U.S. dollars.)

### BOOK TITLE: *Coup of the Aliens - Coup for a new order*

By author: E.G. Takala, UFO mystery solved, saucers manufactured in Nazi Germany. Crews masquerade as E.T.'s during kidnappings and working for International Bankers and conglomerate giants after war.

For credit card orders: 1-800-788-7654 or web sight - [www.usaor.net/dorrance](http://www.usaor.net/dorrance).

### THE EXCYLES

Mia Adam's true story about her contacts with ET's & romance with intelligence agent. Included is the agent's report outlining the agendas of alien confederations on Earth & intelligence agencies network created to deal with them. Send \$16.95 + \$2.95 s/h to: Excelta Publishing, P.O. Box 4530, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338. (Credit Card orders - Toll Free 1-800-247-6553, \$16.95 + \$3.95 s/h)

### CASH-LANDRUM UFO INCIDENT

Three Texans are injured during an encounter with a *UFO and Military Helicopters* by John F. Schuessler, 323 page softcover book now available from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155 for \$19.95 plus \$2 for postage and handling.

### THE ANOMALIST 8

A special, all UFO issue, with articles by Jerome Clark, Peter Brookesmith, Colin Bennett, Patrick Huyghe, Karl Pflock & others. Quality paperback, illus., 192pp. \$9.95 + \$2.50 s/h. Checks or MO payable to Dennis Stacy, PO Box 12434, San Antonio, TX 78212. For more info:

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## The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

July 2000

### Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Venus (magnitude -3.9) should be visible to northern observers toward the end of the month at dusk very low in the WNW. At that time it sets only about three-quarters of an hour after the Sun.

On the 31st the dark edge of the crescent moon occults (covers) the brilliant planet in the western U.S. after sunset. It will be a hard-to-see event, requiring an unobstructed WNW horizon. Elsewhere the 2 bodies appear very near each other.

### Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Mercury reaches a point farthest E of the Sun on July 27. It is visible at twilight low in the ENE the last week of the month. Look for the faint orange object below the thin lunar crescent on the 29th.

Jupiter (-2.1) and Saturn (0.2), in Taurus, rise in the ENE close to 2 a.m. in mid-July. The 2 giants are then about 6 degrees apart below the Pleiades star cluster. On July 26 the crescent Moon makes a nice triangle with the 2 planets, being about 2 degrees below Saturn.

### Three Eclipses:

Of a rare 3 eclipses occurring in a single month, 2 are observable in parts of the U.S.


On the morning of July 16, the Earth's shadow hides the full moon. Early stages of the event can be seen in the western states (beginning about 5 a.m. PDT), while totality will be experienced only from western Alaska and Hawaii. From Hawaii the Moon enters the Earth's dark central shadow (umbra) at 1:57 a.m., is totally covered from 3:02 to 4:49, and exits the umbral shadow at 5:54.

Two weeks later, on the 30th, the new moon covers a piece of the Sun in a partial solar eclipse visible from the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Local times of maximum eclipse with obscuration percentages at several cities follow: Juneau, 6:56 p.m., 25%; Seattle, 8:10 p.m., 20%; San Francisco, 8:20 p.m., 7%. Do not look directly at the Sun! Instead, project the solar image through a binocular or telescope eyepiece onto a white surface.


### Moon Phases:

Two new moons this month, both creating partial solar eclipses & both the nearest moons of the year.

New moon--July 1

First quarter--July 8 

Full moon--July 16 

Last quarter--July 24 

New moon--July 30 

### The Stars:

The Summer Triangle high in the E nears the zenith of the sky after evening twilight ends. Meantime, low in the southern sky teapot-shaped Sagittarius the Archer aims his arrow at red Antares, the stellar heart of the scorpion.

In the N the Big Dipper, its bowl in a downward position, stands to the W of Polaris the North Star. Use the 2 Pointer Stars on the end of the dipper's bowl to find the surprisingly faint Polaris. (Extend an imaginary line eastward from the Pointers.)

On the Fourth of July, look in the W during evening twilight and find the star Regulus to the lower left of the 3-day-old lunar crescent.



## CALENDAR

**June 8** - Erich Von Daniken to speak at 7 p.m. at the Administration Service Conference Center at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan, sponsored by Michigan MUFON. For further information and tickets contact Richard McVannel at (231) 582-7097 or e-mail at: rmm@freeway.net.

**June 22-25** - The 21st Rocky Mountain UFO Conference at University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

**July 3-7** - Roswell UFO Festival, Roswell, New Mexico. Speakers at International UFO Research Center, at 7 p.m.: Peter Farley, Mark Beam, Peter Davenport and Linda M. Howe. For further information contact Stacye Wolkwitz by e-mail at alienzone@zianet.com

**July 14-16** - MUFON 2000 International UFO Symposium at Sheraton West Port Inn, St. Louis, Mo. See Director's Message for details and speaking agenda in this issue.

**September 23-24** - 37th Annual National UFO Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas. Hosted by Corpus Christi MUFON. Contact Doris Upchurch at (361) 937-2381.

**October 7-8** - The 12th UFO/ET Congress at the Days Inn in Bordentown, New Jersey. For further information call 609-631-8955.

**October 20-22** - Journey Beyond Conference, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. For free program guide, write conference 7262 Highpointe, Pl. E., Spanish Fort, AL 36527 or call (334) 621-5750.

## Director's Message...

(continued from page 24)

ments and enclose a check or money order made payable as above.

For further information on the Symposium and vendor tables call 1-800-489-4UFO.

Start planning your family vacation now to attend the symposium, and to see the many visitor attractions in St. Louis, including the famous arch, the wonderful St. Louis Zoo, Union Station, restored waterfront, and big malls, not to mention the many other nearby attractions, such as Meramec Caverns, Boone Home, Current River (great canoeing), Six Flags amusement park, and Cahokia Mounds. (As the old song says, "See you in Saint Louee.")

A more detailed symposium agenda with the speakers program is included in this issue of the Journal. The MUFON 2000 International UFO Symposium Proceedings will be available for sale in St. Louis at the symposium for \$25.00, and by mail thereafter for \$25.00 plus \$1.75 for postage and handling.

### Reduced Prices for Symposium Proceedings

If you have been trying to add a majority of the past years' symposium proceedings to your library, here is the opportunity you have been waiting for. Due to the fact that we are moving the MUFON headquarters to the Denver, CO, area, we have elected to sell the most recent proceedings at a five-dollar discount to reduce the cost of shipping the stock to Denver.

Symposium proceedings from the years 1991 through 1994 will now sell for \$15, and those from 1995 through 1999 will be \$20. The shipping and handling charges will remain the same as on the MUFON Publication List: the first book in the U.S. is \$1.75, and each additional book is one dollar. For foreign orders the first book is \$2.75, and each additional book is \$2.00. This special price has been extended to July 1, 2000, due to popular demand. Order now while it is fresh in your mind.

### National UFO Information Week

The week of Saturday, August 12 to Sunday, August 20, 2000 has been designated as National UFO Information Week. Please contact your shopping mall or public library to reserve space for your UFO exhibit and UFO information distribution.

### UFO Sighting Reports

A radical improvement in the lead articles published

in the monthly *Journal* was noted starting with December 1999. This has been due to the fact that our State/Provincial Directors, State Section Directors, and Consultants are writing narrative reports of their UFO investigations and submitting them to the International Director for publication.

I know that there are many other outstanding reports that are only getting exposure in the pages of MUFON State and Chapter publications. This is an invitation to share these reports on an international level with your constituents worldwide.

### Another UFO pioneer passes on

On May 4, 2000, Leonard W. Sturm, MUFON State Section Director for Paseo and Hernando Counties in Florida, suffered a heart attack and passed away at the Regional Medical Center in Hudson, FL, at age 75.

Leonard originally joined MUFON as a State Section Director on June 15, 1970, for the six counties surrounding Decatur, IL.



Leonard W. Sturm

Mr. Sturm graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Engineering in Minneapolis with a degree in electrical engineering. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and retired from the Illinois Power Company in Decatur, IL, as an electrical engineer.

Leonard got interested in spiritual phenomenon and UFOs early in life, but when UFOs flew over Washington, DC, on July 19, 1952, the event especially sparked his interest. This culminated in 48 years of investigating the phenomenon known as ufology.

He was truly a UFO pioneer in the 1950s and 1960s, appearing on radio programs in Illinois discussing UFO propulsion systems and alien encounters, despite possible ridicule for such beliefs and ideas.

He continued his UFO research and sharing this knowledge with the public right up until he passed on, including regular MUFON chapter meetings.

Leonard is survived by his wife, Helen; a daughter, Diane; two sons, Allen and Randy; and five grandchildren.

He and his family visited MUFON headquarters in Quincy, IL, during the early 1970s and later in Seguin, TX. Mr. Sturm was one of MUFON's early members and will be greatly missed.

Obituary prepared by Michael Forte and Walt Andrus.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

### NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK

#### New Officers

Two new Consultants volunteered their expertise this past month. They are **Richard P. Detar**, Ph.D. (Denver, CO) in Philosophy and **Shelley R. Lemley**, Ph.D. (Stow, OH) in Astronomy. **Oscar P. LaFuente**, B.A. (Londonderry, VT) is our latest State Section Director for Bennington and Windham Counties.

#### Field Investigator Exams Passed

As the world's largest and leading UFO organization, one of MUFON's goals is to have North America staffed with competent and trained Field Investigators in every state, province, and county. **Kathleen Marden**, Director of Field Investigator Training, is proud to announce that five members passed the Field Investigators exam this month. They are **Frank T. Allotta** (San Antonio, TX); **Charles V. Boswell** (Brandywine, MD); **Robin M. Harris** (Brooklyn Center, MN); **Michael D. Hitt** (Roswell, GA); and **Kenneth L. Larson** (Los Angeles, CA).

Numerous MUFON UFO chapters conduct Field Investigator classes throughout the country in a formal classroom environment. However, many of our members purchase the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*, study the manual, and take the test like a correspondence course. The test may be secured from the headquarters office in Seguin, TX, and mailed to Mrs. Marden for grading.

#### Missouri UFO Ballot Initiative

**Bruce A. Widaman**, Missouri State Director, has advised that 20,000 of the 80,000 required signatures were obtained by the deadline of May 5, 2000, to put the UFO Awareness referendum on this year's Missouri ballot. This is an amazing number considering that they only had one and half months of time to secure 80,000 signatures.

Bruce and his solicitors are to be commended for their efforts in what appeared to be an impossible feat, taking into account the deadline established by the State of Missouri. The experience gained from this difficult task can be applied to the other fifteen states that accept initial referendums by their voters.

#### St. Louis UFO Symposium

The MUFON 2000 International UFO Symposium will be held **July 14-16, 2000**, at the Sheraton West Port Hotel (Lakeside Chalet), 191 West Port Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146. The theme is "UFOs in the New Millennium." Confirmed speakers are **John S. Carpenter**; **Stanton T. Friedman**; **Ted Phillips**; **John F. Schuessler**; **Gerald E. Rolwes**; **Linda G. Corley**, Ph.D.; **Kevin D. Randle**, Ph.D.; **Stan Gordon**; **Bruce S. Maccabee**, Ph.D.; **Robert M. Wood**, Ph.D.; **Colm A. Kelleher**, Ph.D. (NIDS); **Gregory J. Avery**, J.D.; and **John Greenwald, Jr.** ("The Black Vault").

Room reservations may be made directly with the hotel by calling (314) 878-1500; or faxing (314) 878-2837 or 1-800-822-3535. Special room rates for the symposium are \$89 per night for a single, double, triple or quad. All reservations must be received on or before June 13, 2000. Be sure to advise the hotel that you are attending the MUFON 2000 UFO Symposium to qualify for these special rates. When making reservations, please specify whether you want one king-size bed or two doubles.

Registrations for the symposium are now being accepted. Special incentive advance prices to attend all presentations are \$90 prior to July 1, and \$100 at the door. Individual sessions will be \$25 for each of the five sessions. An advance registration form was enclosed in the April issue of the *Journal* for your convenience. Please note the special incentive price for advanced registration.

Additional events scheduled for Friday, July 14, are the annual State/Provincial Directors' Meeting from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Assistant State Directors and Regional Directors are cordially invited to attend.) and the Press Conference from 1-3 p.m. Complimentary shuttle to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (7 miles) and Metro Link is available.

To register for the symposium, please mail a check or money order payable to "MUFON 2000 UFO Symposium" to P. O. Box 643, St. Charles, MO 63302. Advance registration for the buffet/party on Friday evening 6-9 p.m. is \$20. (None to be sold at the door.)

Approximately 40 vendor tables will be available for the entire symposium at \$25 per table, with a limit of six per vendor. Please contact **Bruce Widaman** at P.O. Box 643, St. Charles, MO 63302 for your require-

(Continued on Page 23)