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McDonnell Douglas studied  
UFOs in the 1960s

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## Director's Message

By James Carrion

### 2009 is 40th Anniversary Year for MUFON

The UFO Phenomenon has so many layers that when you think one has peeled away, three more layers seem to replace it. Part of this illusion relates to the multiple aspects of the phenomena that overlap, blend and masquerade as each other. Which UFOs represent our own exotic aircraft and which ones represent otherworldly technology? Since the Air Force isn't going to fess up to what they are experimenting with, we can only speculate. One thing is for certain, the military industrial complex would love to replicate the described flight characteristics of UFOs. What aerospace company would not like to be the first to discover the secrets of antigravity and hold those patents? You can imagine that if such a discovery was made, it would soon be classified.

Dr. Bob Wood, one of MUFON's Board of Directors, has an amazing

story to tell in this issue of the *Journal* about how he proposed and participated in one such UFO research project while working at a major aerospace company. Bob's passion for the subject of UFOs is as strong today as it was 40 years ago and MUFON is fortunate to have him on our staff.



James Carrion

### New Field Investigator Exam

Sharon and David MacDonald have created a new version of the MUFON Field Investigator exam which will replace the old exam immediately. The new exam matches the content of the revised version 5.0 *Field Investigator*

*Continued on page 22*

**MUFON'S MISSION IS THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF  
UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH  
INVESTIGATION, RESEARCH, & EDUCATION.**

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# McDonnell Douglas studied UFOs in 1960s

## Project called BITBR for “Boys in the Back Room”

By Dr. Robert M. Wood<sup>1</sup>  
MUFON Board of Directors

It began in 1966 when my boss, Raymon W. Hallet, was asked to present a paper on behalf of McDonnell Douglas on the occasion of the retirement of Air Force General Bernard Schriever, the “inventor” of the ICBM, or Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. The Air Force was sponsoring a conference with aerospace contractors to predict the future of technology ten years hence, and each contractor had a different scope. Ours was to predict how we would “get to orbit and back.” Thus, Ray asked me, his Assistant Director at the time, whether I had any ideas about what he should talk about. For some reason unknown to me, I said, “Ray, why don’t you tell them how the alleged UFOs do it?” (UFOs had been recently in the news.) He said, “That’s a great idea—why don’t you work on that?”

So, I began to “work on it” by reading my first book on flying saucers, Don Menzel’s recent book<sup>2</sup>, *The World of Flying Saucers*. Halfway through I concluded that the only way his explanations were making any sense was if he basically ignored or distorted the testimony of the witnesses.

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I said, “Ray, Why don’t you tell them how the alleged UFOs do it?”

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So I read more books, and pretty soon I had read 50 books on the topic, devouring everything current in my spare time.

In the meantime, I answered my boss’ question by doing a little analysis of how a charged toroid containing superconducting electrons would be able to stay afloat in the earth’s magnetic and electrostatic fields. I don’t have a copy of Hallet’s final presentation to the Air Force, but some results are shown in reference 10 (Wood, 1993) of this article. He subsequently accepted a key management position at our Douglas Nuclear facility in the state of Washington. My new boss, Joe Waisman, who replaced Hallet, was a no-nonsense hardware guy with a materials background, whose management style was to give me significant responsibility in managing the new research and advanced technology organization we were in charge of, and I had been promoted to Deputy Director.

### Management Approval

My job required me to have regular interactions with senior management about the proper ways to invest our

money to get new business. One time, they asked me about the UFO topic during a presentation during our routine management review. I decided to tell them what I was really thinking, and it went something like this:

“Well, you’re probably not going to believe what I’m about to tell you, but the facts are that the

UFOs are indeed alien craft, and they have figured out some sort of gravity control device as evidenced by their right-angled and high-g turns. So, the ONLY question in my mind is whether *we* are going to figure out how they work *before* or *after* Lockheed!” (They were a big competitor then.) When they asked what I recommended, I said I thought we should put a couple of guys thinking about this full time on an R&D project. This was a very small percentage of the money we were spending for new business, and they sensed the possibility of big pay dirt too.

To put this in context, the executives I was speaking to were men who had already taken huge risks to set up a new Division of the Corporation, were involved in the pending merger (buy-out) by the McDonnell Corporation, and were aware of the benefit of a proprietary gravity control device if we could figure it out.

So, we opened up an account with an insipid title (Advanced Concepts) and internally called it the BITBR project, which actually stood for the “Boys In The Back Room” since two of the employees were able to occupy a room that already had a tumbler lock on the door; it was located in the back of our area under a stairwell.

I had already become involved in work outside the paradigms of normal science. My exposure to anomaly research was augmented by reading one of our own engineers’s syntheses. Ted Gordon, an excellent engineering manager of the Saturn SIVB project (lunar mission 3<sup>rd</sup> stage) had written a book called *Ideas in Conflict*,<sup>3</sup> wherein he exposed me to a wide variety of anomalistic studies, including psychic evidence. This perspective caused me to be more accepting of the ridiculous claims of others, including one



Bob Wood, circa 1968

Continued on page 4



Stan Friedman, circa 1969



Chan Thomas, circa 1967



Joe Brown, circa 2003

## McDonnell Douglas Project

*Continued from page 3*

exceptionally innovative Chan Thomas, whom I hired because he was a psychic who claimed to be in contact with some ETs sometimes, and who also had espoused the claims of “cataclysmic geology.”<sup>4</sup>

With this background, we started a project to try to approach developing a gravity control device, principle or evidence. Fortunately, I had a lot of things working for me. The company was in a growth mode. I had just been successful getting a higher score on our Independent Research and Development evaluations by the Government, resulting in more money. I had counsel from Dr. Darell B. Harmon—who was already knowledgeable and interested in the UFO topic—that to be successful we would need to have a combined theoretical and experimental approach.

We felt that someone should be reading the literature full time, and we much later hired Stan Friedman to do this and look for clues in the UFO reports of the observables. We felt that we should have an examination of physics theories outside the norm, so Dr. Joseph M. Brown came on board, with a theory that the universe consisted of tiny particles which he called “brutinos.”<sup>5</sup>

Later in the project, we were given leads to individual witnesses, so we hired a retired detective, Paul Wilson, to interview these witnesses, usually accompanied by another staff member. Also, we needed to have a laboratory to do occasional experiments, and it turned out that our department consisted of a full spectrum of all the engineering disciplines and had plenty of options for occasional small experiments.

Only Brown, Thomas and Wilson were full time (and later, Friedman); most of the other personnel were loaned from other departments to do specific tasks for the project.

We usually met once a week to evaluate how we were doing and where we were going.

During the project, I was asked to present a paper to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Vandenberg Air Force base about R&D aimed at getting new business, and I asked them if, instead, I could talk about “*The Giant Discoveries of Future Science.*”<sup>6</sup> They liked the idea, and so I presented for the first time my thoughts on the anomalies that UFOs seem to represent, together with some evidence for psychic powers (now called consciousness) and some interesting work by my father that suggested that the planets cause the 11-year solar cycle. This paper (which had been approved by my management) was a big hit, and a year later I became the Distinguished Lecturer for the AIAA, visiting a number of sections to present it.

### The Personnel

Everyone who was full time understood that when this project was completed or canceled, they would be out of a job. They all took it on anyway. I was approved to spend about 10% of my time managing the project.

1. **Joe Brown** focused on the theoretical work, looking at various theories that would permit faster than light travel but always having his own theory at the front of his mind. I used him to ask conventional scientists in our department to verify our math and physics. He was probably the person I trusted the most about the sensitivity and management of the project.
2. **Chan Thomas** left when the project was terminated. He had such outlandish claims that even some in our own group had difficulty accepting him. For example, he claimed that he trained some youngsters to guess 42

playing cards right out of 47 in an ESP test; and he made an appointment with a UFO captain from Andromeda to meet him one night near Joshua Tree (captain didn't show)<sup>7</sup>. Once, when I let Chan talk to an actual customer, he embarrassed us terribly when the guy called up and asked me why I hadn't fired him long ago. His value to me was his tremendously innovative mind. He was a total "out of the box" thinker.

3. **Paul Wilson**, the retired detective, was originally hired to bring a forensic view to the project and perform any interviews required. He interviewed a number of people about their sightings, but we really had only one interview of an abduction witness, and it was a good one. Later, we asked Paul to assemble an array of excellent state of the art equipment for use in one of the company vans, and go to the top of a mountain for a week to observe and record UFOs.<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, we selected a mountaintop that had been active with reports earlier, but not while he was there.
4. **Stan Friedman** was already familiar with the UFO literature. His task was to identify specific clues that would help us decide which technologies should be pursued. For example, did the frequent presence of large magnetic fields suggest that we needed to think about superconducting experiments? Stan spent a lot of time talking on the phone with colleagues and sources as part of his work. As I recall, Stan joined in June 1969 towards the end of the project, not the beginning. He was a bit unique in that I particularly asked that he never reveal that we hired him to work on UFOs at McDonnell Douglas. He honored that commitment until a release about 1993 when we agreed it seemed like nobody cared anymore and I was retiring.
5. **Darell Harmon** was a part-time consultant to the project. Technically sound with a PhD in physics, he made excellent suggestions to help keep us from going down blind alleys.
6. **Leon Steinert** was a mathematician who brought excellent rigor to Brown's conceptual thinking. He concentrated on the theoretical soundness, and became quite familiar with theoretical physics issues of the day.
7. We also had an experimentalist, **Harvey Bjornlie**, who was very good at what he did and was quite open-minded. The excellence of the experimental work (which unfortunately yielded null results) was essentially due to him.
8. In addition, I went out of my way to stay in touch with the current literature and the movers and shakers in the UFO field at the time. I joined APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) and met **Jim and Coral Lorenzen**. I joined MUFON's predecessor Midwest UFO Network, publisher of *Skylook*, and subscribed to

the *Flying Saucer Review* as well as *Fate Magazine*, most of which fortunately arrived in brown paper wrappers.

9. One time when **Jim McDonald** was coming to town to give a lecture, I revealed to him the existence of our project. He got very excited to think that some serious and apparently competent people were working on this problem, and his intensity rubbed a bit off on to me when he told me that I ought to testify to the Congressional Hearings<sup>9</sup> that were taking place at the time. I decided not to (although I did get a written invitation) after I heard my management say, "It is very rare that something good happens from giving Congressional testimony." It was my own decision to not testify. However, Jim McDonald did convince me to offer a briefing to the Condon Committee after it started.<sup>10</sup> This occurred on October 13, 1967.

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The executives were aware of the benefit of a proprietary gravity control device if we could figure it out.

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10. **Allen Hynek** also came to town from time to time. Joe Brown and I went to Pasadena to hear his lecture and we also met with him privately. Later, I invited him to come to my home. However, I don't believe I ever exposed the total scope of our project to him like I did to Jim McDonald. I subconsciously thought Allen might have been part of the cover-up, and he clearly hadn't come to the obvious conclusion that there were ET craft here, and someone ought to be figuring out how they work.

### Theoretical Work

The majority of the theory was oriented towards that of Joe Brown. His latest publication, *The Grand Unified Theory of Physics* in 2004 (reference 5) is a refinement of the ideas we were exploring then. In hindsight, it would have been much more helpful for us to be looking at today's Sarfatti or Puthoff theories about traveling faster than light. We did not seriously contemplate time travel either. Attempts made to have Professor Feynman (an old acquaintance from my Cornell days) of Cal Tech examine the Brown theories in depth were rebuffed by him. This same reference provides a current summary of Joe's recollection of our BITBR project as he recalls it, starting on page 118.

Continued on page 6

# McDonnell Douglas Project

*Continued from page 5*

I was working on an idea to unify some theoretical ideas by the examination of relationships between the fundamental constants, and Joe was of great assistance in this venture. It is possible to write the few most accurately determined physical constants in the same mks units (meters, kilograms and seconds) and with known error bars, and search for all combinations of their powers that will yield exact relationships within the known probable errors. The accuracies of the values of mass of electrons, protons, charge on an electron, speed of light (usually accepted as a definition), and Planck's constant were so good, however, that no useful identities emerge. If powers of pi and 2 are thrown in, some relationships might emerge, but it's been a long time since

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After entering the craft, the next thing she remembered was that she was on a road in Texas, far away from her Las Vegas home.

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I've looked at the numbers. The values of the constants keep getting better. Maybe it's time to dust this idea off again. To his credit, Brown's book (Brown 2004) does relate the fine structure constant to  $(\sqrt{3\pi/8}-1)^2$  to an accuracy of 14 ppm if corrected for a certain velocity ratio. This was a refinement of an early joint publication by Brown, Harmon and Wood.<sup>11</sup> This work is based on the inherent assumption that if a simple numerical relationship could be found to express the value of Planck's constant (for example) as a simple combination of the mass and charge of an electron and the speed of light, it might provide significant intuition to the underlying grand unifying theory. This work was active in 1969.

## Laboratory Experiments

Besides the field observations, I remember two specific lab experiments. Since the observed UFO phenomena so often indicated large magnetic fields, an obvious question is whether the speed of light could be influenced by a large magnetic field. Allegedly the speed of light is equal to  $1/\sqrt{\epsilon\mu}$  (square root of (permittivity x permeability)). Therefore, it might be possible that the magnetic permeability might affect the measured speed of light. So, we looked at the speed of a coherent light beam when surrounded by the largest magnetic field we could get without using superconductors. Null

result, and I think we got to 30,000 gauss or so. This experiment was complete in July 1969.<sup>12</sup>

In a second attempt to use magnetic fields, as I recall we created a suspended platform about a meter or so in size and measured whether there was any change in forces by spinning bar magnets in a number of different orientations with respect to gravity. Again the result was null. This work was completed in June 1970, at the conclusion of the project.<sup>13</sup>

## Witness Interviews

Paul Wilson and Joe Brown conducted the first a interview in August 1968 with a female abductee, who had been a cocktail waitress at a Las Vegas casino in 1958 and who lived in a trailer not far away from the bus stop. She was walking home after work at night and had to traverse a few hundred yards of desert. She encountered a man on the way. He encouraged her to walk with him farther out into the desert, and as she stood there, in front of them a small light ball at the bottom of a hollow puffed out a smoke-like ring, which seemed to absorb the surrounding volume, and then the ball grew larger. It did this several times, and soon she was standing in front of a craft. She said that as she crawled up the ladder into the craft, it was very cold. When inside, she walked around a spiral ramp, and saw something like liquid mercury in a pipe.

The next thing she remembered was that she was on a road in Texas, with no one believing her story. The remarkable thing about this case in my mind is that she claimed she grew an inch or so after this encounter. However, this case turned sour when she tried to prove that McDonnell Douglas was involved in this interview. Fortunately, we had paid her in cash so there was no trail; it was no small feat to get legitimate cash in an aerospace company like ours. I forget how we got access to this witness, but I think it was through a known psychic (Sybil Leek) who had been perhaps counseling her on the abduction experience.

This same witness had been interviewed a couple of years before by the Charles and Ann Druffel. I have transcripts of both interviews, as well as one by the LA MUFON Subcommittee done in 1975. This case has never been written up, and we dropped it not only because of the visibility issue but because—even if everything she had said was exactly true, it did NOT help us in design or theory of making a craft, any more than a ride by Columbus in a Prius would tell the scientists of 1492 how to make one.

Paul did several other interviews in the summer of 1968—many by phone—regarding anomalous observations. In effect, he was doing UFO report investigations but without any established procedures such as those now published in our *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*.

## Field Observations

Both Allen Hynek and Jim McDonald were excited about the possibility of our developing a mobile van to be used for going out to the sites for UFO reporting. We brainstormed a bit about what it should contain. As I recall we didn't have a lot of money, but we tried to get the use of a company van equipped mostly from available laboratory equipment. It turned out that we actually had to lease our own van and order quite a bit of equipment. We had a spectrometer so that we could get a spectrum in real time if we had a stationary light, a still camera, a movie camera with audio recording (this was well before inexpensive video cameras), and a sensitive magnetometer. We outfitted the van, then sent Paul Wilson with other personnel up to the top of Red Mountain where there had allegedly been numerous UFO reports (and

Friedman requested literature on magneto-aerodynamics, but 90% of the references were classified.

ball lightning?) and had them camp out for a week. (August 1969)

He came back with no significant report, but when we analyzed the movie film there was an anomaly in a few frames. After much puzzlement and speculation about what kind of a UFO could have made these marks, we found out it was the film maker's logo! Very embarrassing, except only our group knew how stupid we felt.

There was an unfortunate footnote to this trip, and that was that Paul Wilson, who had passed all of our routine physicals upon employment, suddenly died of a heart attack playing the piano after he had retired. Unfortunately, he had told his wife of his assignment to go to the mountaintop for a week and she claimed that the extra stress of unloading the equipment caused the heart attack (which occurred months after his termination from McDonnell Douglas and years after the trip to the mountain). She sued the company, and rather than defend the lawsuit, which we would have easily won, they decided to settle out of court for \$25K perhaps partly in order to avoid having to reveal why we were sending an employee to the top of a mountain for a week. Actually, our cover story was to study "ball lightning," a still legitimate unexplained mystery phenomenon.

In 1968 there was a contactee conference out at Giant Rock, a traditional local gathering sponsored by George Van Tassel. Several of us on the project couldn't resist going out to see what real contactees looked like. We had the opportu-

nity to shake hands with Dan Fry<sup>14</sup> and other famous contactees.

## UFO Literature Examination

All of the employees involved knew that Bob Wood thought that the UFOs were ET craft, and most of them knew that our goal was to find out how their travel system worked. We had adopted Jim McDonald's philosophy that the extraterrestrial hypothesis was the least unlikely, as he often stated publicly. When the final Condon Committee report<sup>15</sup> was published, we all took a crack at commenting on it, and the files contain a several page review by Joe Brown, still very applicable today.<sup>16</sup>

However, in retrospect, had this been a full time activity for all of us, we could have:

1. Made a list of all the reported phenomena required to be explained in a travel/propulsion hypothesis
2. Contemplated seriously the possibility that the Government cover-up was present and effective. I think Jim McDonald smelled this out just before he tried to commit suicide the first time.<sup>17</sup>
3. Worried more about how physically traveling at many times the speed of light it was possible to avoid running into interstellar debris
4. Considered the time travel possibilities and literature more completely
5. Embraced the consciousness phenomena and literature more respectfully
6. Begun to follow the abduction literature in detail.

Well, that's all hindsight, but what we did do was to look around for someone who was familiar with the UFO literature so that we could begin to identify those characteristics normally associated with UFO reports. I don't remember whether we had a long or a short list, but suddenly Stan Friedman was on our payroll reading the UFO literature for us voraciously. For example, he put in a request for literature on magnetoaerodynamics, and found that 90% of the references were classified. He was also the one who had found out about electromagnetic propulsion experiments for submarines. His careful assessment of the cases he reported on was very refreshing.

## Covert Applications

The only contact with the Government about the Project came towards the end in the spring of 1970, when there was interest expressed by one of the intelligence agencies. This resulted in a draft proposal to "mimic, imitate, or duplicate the observables associated with UFOs." We called this potential opportunity Project Skylite, and prepared a good deal of technical information in anticipation of contract work.<sup>18</sup> It never materialized with McDonnell Douglas to my knowledge.

*Continued on page 8*

# McDonnell Douglas Project

Continued from page 7

## Conclusion of the Project

As time went on, we had an obligation to report to management what we were learning for the money we were spending, which turned in total at the end to be about \$500,000, almost the same amount that the Condon Committee spent of the Air Force's money, but it was spread out over as many as four years. The negative experimental results on magnetism changing light speed or apparent weight were not a plus, and the theoretical work had not yielded any "AHA!" either. The abduction case was not technically useful and was a management problem, the instrumented van yielded no anomalies, and all we could say for sure was that we knew how fast we were spending the money but had no clue about how close we might be getting to any breakthrough.

Furthermore, a few good managers reporting to me were starting to mumble about the project because they could have used the money for their own department's work, and our advanced technology department of several hundred engineers was very successful and competitive in winning contract research and development. So, the consensus was that we should cancel the BITBR project, and we did, giving everyone some time to find other outlets for their talents.

In June of 1969 the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) project of the Air Force, which we had won a year or so earlier, was cancelled. Our job was to build a space station for the Air Force, with most of the work classified. When we were notified that the project was cancelled, hundreds of people (maybe up to about 2000) were laid off right away.

In addition, about a year after the MOL cancellation, I was personally assigned to help learn about radar so that we could select and manage a radar contractor for the upcoming Hardsite competition for ballistic missile defense. Shortly afterwards, my career experience took me outside of the R & D management and put me in a sharply focused customer-oriented contract period learning all there was to learn about the radar discrimination of ballistic missile reentry warheads and their presumed lighter weight decoys. Thus ended any of my company time spent evaluating UFOs.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> During the time of this project, the author was an employee of McDonnell Douglas. This company and its new owner (Boeing) have never expressed subsequent interest in this work.
- <sup>2</sup> Menzel, D.H. and Boyd, L.G. 1963. *The World of Flying Saucers*. Doubleday and Co., Inc. Garden City, NY.
- <sup>3</sup> Gordon, T. J. 1966. *Ideas in Conflict*. St. Martin's Press, New York, NY.
- <sup>4</sup> Thomas, C. 1965. *The Adam and Eve Story*. Emerson House, Los Angeles CA.
- <sup>5</sup> Brown, J. M. 2004. *The Grand Unified Theory of Physics*. Basic Research Press, 120 East Main Street, Starkville, MS.

- <sup>6</sup> Wood, R.M. 1968. *The Giant Discoveries of Future Science*, Douglas Paper I-782, August 1968, presented March 19, 1968. Subsequently also published as "Giant Discoveries of Future Science," *Virginia Journal of Science* 21, No. 4. 1970.
- <sup>7</sup> Handwritten notes by Chan Thomas. Two pages dated October 1, 1968.
- <sup>8</sup> Hildreth, *Final Report on the Program to Observe Ball Lighting Phenomena*. Four pages dated September 1969.
- <sup>9</sup> U.S. House of Representatives. 1968. *Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects*. US Govt. Printing Office, Washington DC.
- <sup>10</sup> Wood, R. 1993. "A Little Physics... a Little Friction: a Close Encounter with the Condon Committee." *International UFO Reporter* 18, No. 4, July/August 1993.
- <sup>11</sup> Brown, J.M., Harmon, D.B. and Wood, R.M. 1970. *A Note on the Fine Structure Constant*. McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Paper MDAC WD 1372, Huntington Beach, CA.
- <sup>12</sup> Bjornlie, H. "Light/Magnetic Field Interaction Experiment," eleven pages dated July 18, 1969.
- <sup>13</sup> Bjornlie, H. "RPM Experiment." 21 pages dated June 17, 1970.
- <sup>14</sup> Fry, D., 1966. *The White Sands Incident*. Best Books, Inc., Louisville, KY.
- <sup>15</sup> Condon, E. U. 1969. *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*. Bantam Books, New York, NY.
- <sup>16</sup> Brown, J. "Review of the Condon Report." Five pages dated Feb. 4, 1969.
- <sup>17</sup> Druffel, A. 2003. *Firestorm*. Wild Flower Press, Columbus, NC. Page 492.
- <sup>18</sup> Wilson, P. "Charts Defining Parameters of Design." Six pages dated June 2, 1970.

*Dr. Robert M. Wood earned a Bachelor's in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. in physics from Cornell with a minor in aeronautical engineering at the Graduate School of Engineering there. His first professional job was plotting the data for the jet vane deflection of V-2s being fired at White Sands Missile Range in 1946, and his last position was developing new business for the International Space Station Project at McDonnell Douglas, where he was employed for 43 years, mostly in senior research and development management positions at the cutting edge of technology. His entire career has been in aerospace.*

*Since retirement, he has applied his talents to forensic document authentication, and has been the executive producer of a television documentary about the evidence for the recovery and retrieval of downed UFOs. His study of anomalies has included a recent paper that strongly suggests that it was a comet, not a cow, that caused the Chicago and upstate fires of October 1871, killing more people than the incident on 9/11. Bob enjoys making complex things seem simpler—either written and spoken—and he has diverse academic and intellectual interests. He lives happily with his new wife in Newport Beach, California, belongs to two service clubs, the local MUFON organization and MUFON International, Toastmasters and is active in a United Methodist Church nearby.*

# More Extraterrestrials Living Among Us?

## *The Mysterious Woman with Blue Blood*

By Warren Aston

As follow-up to my article “Are Extraterrestrials Already Among Us? A Review of Historical Accounts,” published in the May, June and July 2007 issues of the *MUFON UFO Journal*, I have been referred to an account by veteran French Ufologist Jean Sider, entitled “The Woman with Blue Blood.”

Briefly, it is as follows: In September 1932, a young woman suffered head injuries one evening when her car struck a tree near a small village near Amiens in France. Two passing motorists took the unconscious woman in their own vehicle to a private hospital, whose director, Dr Victor Pauchet, attempted to treat her. She was registered under the name of “Smith,” of English nationality. Discovering that her blood was a bluish color and not of any human blood type, a saline transfusion was given and the still unconscious woman placed in a room with barred windows, guarded by a nurse.

### **The woman vanishes inexplicably**

Unaccountably, the night nurse was unable to remain awake, hours later discovering that the patient had vanished, leaving the bed neatly made and all doors still locked from the inside. The gendarmes came immediately and found that the crashed car had also disappeared. Dr Pauchet was shaken by

The chemist announced  
he had to leave the  
village, and that night  
a strange lighted object  
was seen over his home.

the experience which had no logical explanation. (1) A further police investigation was made in 1977, presumably on behalf of GEPAN, the French government UFO investigative body established that same year.

This strange event was first published in a 1973 book dealing with “phantoms” and haunted houses (2) and more recently in a 2005 UFO book by Sider. He also alludes to a more recent case where a man in a South African hospital was found to have an unknown blood group and also vanished in strange circumstances. (3)

Remote-viewing pioneer Ingo Swann also encountered apparent extraterrestrials in his covert operations, including some seemingly working with the US military. This is detailed in Swann’s 1998 book *Penetration*. (4)

### **A chemist disappears when UFO is seen over his home**

Finally, I add another story from my own childhood. A show called “True Tales of the Uninvited” or something similar, was broadcast on radio in the late 1950s or early 60s. One episode featured the story of a small village in England where a chemist moved into the village; becoming greatly admired and respected for his remarkable abilities concerning medicines and cures. After some years he announced that he had to leave and a strange lighted object was seen that night flying over his home. Of course, he was never seen again. From memory this event happened in the 1920s or thereabouts.

Perhaps a reader may recognize this story or the radio show, which have so far eluded all my efforts to track them down! I would also welcome hearing of any other accounts I may have missed.

### **Notes**

1. Jean Sider, “The Woman with Blue Blood,” was published in the venerable French journal of ufology “Lumières dans la nuit”: LDLN n°376, mars 2005, and in *Le Monde de l’Inconnu* n°313, mars-mai 2005.  
You can find the original article, “La Femme Au Sang Bleu,” at: <http://icietmaintenant.fr/SMF/index.php?topic=4110.0>. It has also been incorporated also in one of the last books of Jean Sider (pp. 254-261): *Ovnis, Créateurs de l’Humanité*. JMG Editions - Paris 2005. ISBN : 2-915164-44-4  
An English translation online could not be found.
2. Daniel Reju, *Fantomes et maisons hant* (France: Belfond, 1973): 195-197.
3. Jean Sider, *Ovnis et createurs de l’humanite* (Paris: JMG, 2005): chapter 6.
4. Ingo Swann, *Penetration: the Question of Extraterrestrial and Human Telepathy* (Rapid City, SD: Ingo Swann Books, 1998). An informative review of this book can be found on [www.courtneybrown.com](http://www.courtneybrown.com) under “reviews.”

*Warren Aston is a researcher and writer who divides his time between Australia and the U.S. He has been a UFO researcher for more than 30 years and is a former speaker at the annual MUFON Symposium and other conferences in the U.S., the U.K. and Australia. [astonwarren@hotmail.com](mailto:astonwarren@hotmail.com)*

# Misidentification of Common Celestial and Man-Made Objects as Unidentified Flying Objects

By Tom Arnold

Few would argue that the primary purpose of MUFON is to investigate and document those cases where legitimate UFO sightings have occurred. This work is critical if the true nature of the phenomena is to be discovered. Therefore the more reports we can identify as natural or manmade, the better our data will become. To that end, this article provides a simple guide to astronomical and artificial objects to assist in the elimination of these objects as being true UFOs.

## The Atmosphere

Everyone knows that stars *twinkle*. This picturesque effect is actually distortion caused by the turbulence and thickness of the atmosphere coupled with its moisture content. The amount of twinkle is directly proportional to the amount of distortion, *the bane of all astronomers*.

If you look closely at the night sky, you will clearly see that the closer to the horizon you look the more the stars appear to twinkle. That is because as you scan the sky from directly over your head down toward the horizon, you will be looking through an ever-increasing amount of atmosphere. To astronomers this is referred to as increasing Air Mass. The highest Air Mass is on the horizon and the lowest is directly over your head, a point known as your Zenith. Therefore, celestial objects will twinkle least at your Zenith and most near the horizon.

This same distortion caused by the atmosphere can be seen on any hot day driving down a long hot road. The road in the distance will appear wavy and distorted as the heat rises from it into the atmosphere, making objects along the road appear to wobble slightly. Moreover, in the early evening when cars have their lights on and the road is still hot, distant vehicle lights can appear to change color slightly.

Acting like a lens, the atmosphere can make distant objects look larger. It can also make distant objects look smaller as well. In some specific conditions, you can even see objects below the horizon. Clearly the atmosphere can produce some very unusual effects that can easily create circumstances where objects can be mis-identified.

How does this apply to a UFO sighting? If someone were to report an object at considerable distance that appeared to be changing colors or even rotating, it would be prudent to first suspect that a star or planet was seen. The atmospheric distortion can easily cause a distant object to appear to change color and even rotate as we have shown. An object near the horizon where the Air Mass is highest coupled with turbulence and moisture should be our first consideration. Astronomers deal with this problem all the

time. It forces them to wait until their object of interest rises high enough in the sky to rise above this distortion near the horizon.

## The Planets

### Venus

The moon is the brightest object in the night sky, and the planet Venus is the next brightest object. Like the moon, Venus is bright enough that it can even be seen in the daytime at certain times during the year. This makes it an object that could easily be reported as a UFO, especially if it is seen during the daytime.

If someone were to report a daytime sighting of an object that looked like a distant disk which then disappeared, Venus would be my first suspect. This is because seeing a daytime celestial object requires looking in the right place at the right time. If an observer is lucky enough to see a planet during daytime, they may not be able to find it again if they look away. You must be looking right at the object to be able to see it. Moreover, the atmosphere plays a huge role here just as we discussed previously. That means that everything must be right to be able to see a planet in the daytime.

At night Venus can be so bright as to cast a shadow on the ground. Again, coupled with a turbulent atmosphere, seeing a bright object such as Venus might generate many different types of UFO reports. Together with autokinesis (spontaneous or voluntary movement of the body), your brain creates "movement" in a stationary object set on a black background, like Venus at night. Therefore we have a perfect prescription for a UFO report.

### Mercury

Mercury is seen so seldom that most people don't recognize it when it does appear. Because it is so close to the sun, it will never be very far from it in the sky. This places an observation in either the east in the early morning sky just before sunrise or in the west in the evening sky just before sunset.

The planet will always appear as a red object near the horizon. Because it is near the horizon, we are once again faced with the problems of atmospheric distortion. As a red object possibly changing colors in the distance, Mercury could be easily mistaken for a UFO.

### Jupiter and Saturn

After Venus, the next brightest objects in the sky are Jupiter, then Saturn. Either of these could be mistaken as a UFO under the right conditions. Jupiter is bright enough to be seen in the daytime like Venus. Therefore seeing Jupiter has the same potential to generate UFO reports.

## Mars

Like Venus, Mars has been provided as the explanation for many UFO reports, probably due to its red appearance. The brightness of the planet varies greatly over the years, and during close approach can be very bright indeed.

## Planetary Conjunctions

For the sake of completeness, we should also discuss another potential celestial event that might be mistaken as a UFO or UFOs: a planetary conjunction. A conjunction occurs when two or more planets appear to come close together in the sky as seen from Earth. Normally this would be a grouping formed by Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn or any combination of two.

If someone is unfamiliar with the sky and not aware of the location in the sky where such a conjunction could appear, they could easily mistake it for UFOs in formation. Although the planets won't appear to move across the sky, they do provide an unusual sight in the night sky.

## Stars

### Sirius

Sirius is the brightest star in the sky. On a clear cold night it can cast a shadow as can Venus. Under the right conditions, it can appear to be a brilliant disk seen in the distance. This is true for many of the brighter stars under the right conditions. Since stars range in color from white to blue to red, and other shades in between, stars can be misidentified as various types of UFOs, especially when atmospheric distortion is also a factor. That is why it is important to know as much about the sky as possible in order to identify natural celestial objects that could be mistaken as UFOs.

## Meteors/Bolides and Comets

*Meteors* and *bolides* are debris that burn up as they fall into the atmosphere. Bolides are the larger, more brilliant meteors which burn or blow up in a more spectacular manner. Meteors and bolides are both composed of chunks of rock and dust left in the Earth's orbit by passing comets. Several times during the year we experience meteor showers as the Earth passes through comet debris. At these times we can potentially witness large numbers of these objects streaking across the sky.

On any given night we can see sporadic meteors and bolides which are not associated with any yearly shower. Any of these events have the potential to be bright and spectacular lasting only a few seconds. They have the potential to create sound effects that are most unusual in addition to their awesome visual effects. The sound is usually a hiss as the material burns up. A sonic boom is also possible as the material falls through the atmosphere at supersonic speeds.

The sighting of a bright meteor or brighter bolide can certainly be reported as a UFO. But for all their brilliance and



*Tom Arnold, in his observatory.*

sound effects, they move in straight lines and last only a few seconds.

*Comets* are quite a bit different from meteors and bolides. These objects are the very material left over from the creation of the solar system and appear as fuzzy objects in the night sky, sometimes with visible tails that can stretch a great distance across the cosmic dome. Although a comet moves at great speed through the solar system, its movement across the sky can't be detected visually as you observe the comet over a period of minutes. The motion of a comet through space can only be recognized as it is observed from night to night. The potential for a misclassification of a comet as a UFO is probably small. However we need to be aware of all possibilities.

## Satellites and Spacecraft

Probably one of the more frequent types of potentially misidentified UFO sightings are satellites and spacecraft—earthly, not alien! Satellites and spacecraft manifest a continuous motion across the sky in a single direction. They normally appear as star-like objects that can display some unusual characteristics. Clearly larger objects like the International Space Station will appear larger than a single point of moving light.

Here are some of the more common effects that can be seen relative to satellites and spacecraft.

1. An object suddenly brightens in a brilliant burst of light. This is a "flare" caused by the sun reflecting off a solar panel on the object itself as it orbits the Earth.
2. A blinking light moving across the sky. Many older satellites tumble in their orbit after their gyros fail, and as they do, they catch a quick reflection from the sun. This is referred to as a "glint."

*Continued on page 12*

## Misidentification of Objects in Sky

*Continued from page 11*

3. A moving star-like object suddenly disappears. This happens when the satellite enters the Earth's shadow. One second it is clearly visible and the next it is gone.
4. Multiple objects are seen moving together at constant speed and direction. This is often seen when the Space Shuttle is approaching the International Space Station. You will clearly see two large bright objects moving together. Another good example of this would be the Space Shuttle and the Hubble Space Telescope. There will be one more final mission the Hubble this fall. So be on the lookout for sightings that might be mistaken for these two US spacecraft.

The key observation with any satellite or spacecraft is that the motion will always be steady and in a single direction.

### Conclusion

It has often been said that eyewitness testimony in a court of law can get a person executed. This is quite true. Many ask, "... if you can be convicted of a crime on personal testimony, then why can't that suffice for proving the existence of a UFO?" The reason is that science requires a far more exacting standard than the law. Scientific proof requires repeatable experiments, testable material, and peer-reviewed observations.

The vast majority of our data is personal testimony. We can only hope that this will *lead* to the type of evidence necessary to meet the exacting requirements of science. Therefore we must be able to present the best and most scientifically documented data possible in order to one day discover the nature of the enigmatic UFO phenomena.

I believe that many within this organization would agree that to finally be able to prove the origin of UFOs may quite possibly be the most important discovery in the history of mankind. To that end, data collection, analysis and a great deal of perseverance are the keys that will one day provide the answers we all seek.

*Tom Arnold is a MUFON Field Investigator and Astronomer. He has served as director of several planetariums and currently lives in Oklahoma City.*

*Contact him at [tarnoldastroguy@yahoo.com](mailto:tarnoldastroguy@yahoo.com).*



*State Directors Richard Moss (MN), Lorna Hunter (SD) Kurt Pflieger (ND) host first Tri-State meeting in Minnesota.*

## First Tri-State MUFON Meeting Held

State Directors Richard Moss (MN), Kurt Pflieger (ND) and Lorna Hunter (SD) joined together to present their first Tri-State MUFON informational meeting on September 27, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

The meeting was attended by an enthusiastic group of 25, the youngest being merely 10 years old. Several of the attendees related personal accounts of their experiences with UFOs and Bigfoot, and one read from a family member's diary account of a harrowing experience with a glowing craft.

Richard Moss presented the first in a series of six presentations entitled "UFO: The Secret that keeps itself," which covered the history of UFOs from cave drawings through Kenneth Arnold. He also informed the group about MUFON—its brief history, what we do and why we do it—and the importance of membership. All three State Directors fielded questions from the audience—the usual concerning UFOs, but also questions about crop circles, decapitated goats, and strange birds with enormous wingspans all of which have been reported in the area recently.

Attendees left armed with business cards, magnets, brochures, literature, and membership applications for themselves and to share with friends. The next bi-monthly Tri-State meeting was planned for Nov. 22, 2008. This meeting was a success!



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## Letter to the Editor . . .

### Re: The Ambient Monitoring Project

I would like to correct an inaccurate statement in paragraph five\* of the article "The Ambient Monitoring Project," which was published in the July 2008 issue of the *Journal*.

There has indeed been documentation for outside forces interfering with attempts to physically monitor abductees. Since 1995, I have had the article "Videotaping Those Elusive Aliens" published on my Web site at <http://www.alienjigsaw.com/Articles/VideotapingThoseElusiveAliens.html>

This article details a videotaping experiment that Oregon MUFON SSD John Kirby and I carried out for 61 days in 1995. This article, which has been published on my Web site for 13 years, details the methodology and results of our videotaping experiment.

Conclusions [from the experiment]:

"...the phenomenon we interpret as an 'alien abduction' can somehow nullify the signal from a camera to a VCR, which was set up for the specific purpose of documenting the phenomenon."

"At the same time, this phenomenon does not affect other electronic equipment such as a digital clock that is located in the same room."

"When I remembered a detailed experience that involved seeing alien beings, or what I thought were alien beings, the

camera/VCR malfunctioned."

"When [my husband] and I had no memories, but experienced physical aftereffects such as soreness or a drugged feeling, the camera/VCR malfunctioned."

"When I had an ordinary dream or no memory of an abduction, the camera/VCR did not malfunction."

"At the very least, this indicates there was some force or energy that entered into our home and was able to affect the electronic equipment that could have recorded its image."

One only has to Google "aliens" and "videotaping" to locate this article.

Katharina Wilson

\*Paragraph five of "The Ambient Monitoring Project:"

"In the past—and it may still be heard today—it has been alleged that attempts at physically monitoring abductees have failed in one way or another. Often the failures have been attributed to some outside force which causes the device to either quit working or to work so badly that no new information was ever collected. During the course of this project, we attempted to track down some of these alleged situations, but never found any more than anecdotal information about such interference, and no documentation for such. We did find one report from researcher David Jacobs about an attempt to use a video camera to monitor an abductee, but the subject reported that just before the abduction was about to occur, he got an overwhelming desire to turn the camera off. Here again there was no evidence of an external physical influence." Tom Deuley, *MUFON Journal*, July 2008.

## Calendar . . .

**October 16-18.** Culture of Contact UFO Festival. *Mythology is Reality*. Stephen Basset, William Birnes, Richard Dolan, Budd Hopkins, Giorgio Tsoukalis, many more. Jersey City, NJ. 718-786-0094. <http://cultureofcontact.squarespace.com/>

**October 25.** Pennsylvania MUFON Conference. John Ventre, Stan Gordon, Rick Fischer near Kecksbug PA. [www.pamufon.com](http://www.pamufon.com) (412) 251 2734.

**November 1.** Mysteries of Space & Sky V. Dr. David Jacobs, Keith Chester, Don Berliner, Anna Jamerson, Rob/Sue Swiatek, & Dr. S. Peter Resta. Near Annapolis, MD. Contact Dr. Resta at [spr100@aol.com](mailto:spr100@aol.com)

**November 7-9.** 6th Annual Crash Retrieval Conference: The Truth. Las Vegas, NV. [www.ufoconference.com](http://www.ufoconference.com). (720) 887-8171.

**April 17-19, 2009.** X-Conference 2009. Gaithersburg, MD. [www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2009/X-Conference2009.htm](http://www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2009/X-Conference2009.htm)

**August 6-9, 2009.** MUFON 2009 International Symposium. Denver, CO. MUFON's 40th Anniversary. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

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# Monthly Statistical MUFON Report for September 2008

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In September 2008 there were 559 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS from the following countries:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Reports</u>
UNITED STATES	469
CANADA	21
UNITED KINGDOM	19
AUSTRALIA	8
MEXICO	5
PUERTO RICO	4
FINLAND	4
GERMANY	3
SWEDEN	3
COLOMBIA	2
INDIA	2
NEW ZEALAND	2
PAKISTAN	1
IRELAND	1
BRAZIL	1
PHILIPPINES	1
TONGA	1
SINGAPORE	1
ÅLAND ISLANDS	1
ECUADOR	1
NIGERIA	1
TURKEY	1

SPAIN	1
HONDURAS	1
GUATEMALA	1
ARGENTINA	1
NETHERLANDS	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>557</b>

Within the United States the distribution by State was as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Reports</u>
California	64
Pennsylvania	34
Texas	32
Colorado	23
New York	22
Florida	22
Indiana	20
Arizona	19
Illinois	17
Michigan	17
Ohio	17
Kentucky	14
Nevada	12
Missouri	11
Oklahoma	10
Massachusetts	10
New Jersey	10
Louisiana	10

Oregon	9
Wisconsin	8
South Carolina	7
Virginia	6
Washington	6
New Mexico	6
Montana	6
Georgia	6
Maryland	5
North Carolina	5
Tennessee	5
Nebraska	5
New Hampshire	4
Minnesota	3
Maine	3
Utah	3
Alabama	2
Alaska	2
Iowa	2
West Virginia	2
Mississippi	2
Connecticut	2
Idaho	1
Vermont	1
Rhode Island	1
Kansas	1
North Dakota	1

There were 20 Landings, Hoverings or Takeoffs reported and 37 Entities observed.

## Volunteers wanted

MUFON is creating a Field Investigator Training team to design and develop a FI Training Program based on the new Field Investigator Manual (FIM) and related material. One must be a Certified Mufon Field Investigator and a MUFON member in good standing to be considered as a member of the team.

If you are interested in being part of this working group please contact Chuck Reeve, Director of Investigations, at:

[wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org)  
Tel: 530.582.8339

## MUFON Members Message Board

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## Leave a Legacy to MUFON

### Allow your work to live on . . .

Please remember MUFON in your will. In addition to monetary bequests, you can also donate your UFO case files, books, periodicals, etc. Don't let your valuable research end up at a flea market or estate sale.

Please contact MUFON HQ at 970-232-3110 for more information.

# Alien Experiences: 25 Cases of Close Encounter Never Before Revealed

*New abduction cases generate still more questions*

*Alien Experiences: 25 Cases of Close Encounter Never Before Revealed*, by Barbara Lamb and Nadine Lalich (Laguna Woods, CA: Trafford Publishing, 2008). Foreword by Leo Sprinkle. 206 pages, illustrated. Available in hard copy or k download from [www.AlienExperiences.com](http://www.AlienExperiences.com).

Reviewed by Warren P. Aston  
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Over the last four decades Ufology has been increasingly immersed in the “abduction” phenomenon with the stereotypical large-headed “Grey” alien firmly at the forefront. Veteran abduction researcher psychotherapist Barbara Lamb and Nadine Lalich have teamed up to publish a series of new cases that promise to push the boundaries of abduction research still further.

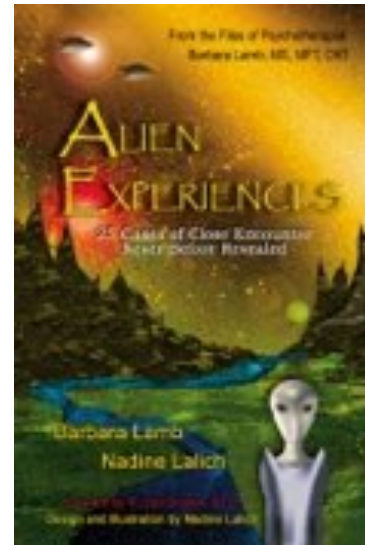
In fact, the book’s centerpiece is the series of consciously-remembered events by Lalich herself, a level-headed, perceptive woman whose reluctant encounters with the unknown run the gamut of day-time experiences to more typical abductions at night and precognitive dreams. Lalich is relatively new to the UFO field and it shows. Crisp word pictures and her transparent openness to what is happening to her seem refreshingly uncontaminated by conventions and standard terminology.

Paired with other cases culled from Lamb’s extensive regression base, *Alien Experiences* makes a perfect book for both the experienced researcher looking for answers and for anyone new to the subject wanting a clear overview of an enigma that refuses to go away. That includes skeptics who would have us believe that alien abductions are a cultural construct with no physical reality at all. Interestingly, Lalich seems open to a variety of explanations for her own experiences, but is equally insistent that *something* is happening. The consistency of the various elements in her stories with

those reported by other experiencers is striking.

Running almost unnoticed throughout the accounts is a thread suggesting some kind of covert military involvement behind many of the cases, although this too is subject to seemingly endless possibilities. Are some abductions simply hi-tech staged events by military operatives to manipulate and to instill fear, or are some real “alien” events that are monitored by the military and perhaps assisted by them? How much is sophisticated mind-control? Are the military/human figures simply an alien creation to assert control over the subject? Or, are human elements involved in joint alien genetic experimentation over generations? Is this pure science or is the intention the creation of hybrids to regenerate a dying species or programmable biological entities? Is some of it extraterrestrials covertly monitoring *other* alien group’s activities? Or, is it all of the above and perhaps more?

Much more solid research is needed. In particular, we need to integrate “abduction” data from other countries and non-Western cultures, something the late John Mack was beginning to do. This needs to expand to include earlier time periods. The answers we all seek to this aspect of Ufology may eventually prove to be not straightforward but complex; perhaps ultimately quite unexpected. *Alien Experiences* does not provide those answers. Indeed, it generates more questions and puzzles. It is, however, a valuable step along the way as we move further toward a greater awareness of the beautiful complexity all around us and the beautiful complexity all around us and the answers to earth’s greatest mystery.



## Nominate a Volunteer of the Month

MUFON is blessed with great volunteers—State Directors, Field Investigators and more. Do you know someone in the MUFON organization who deserves to be recognized as the Volunteer of the Month?

Tell us why. Email [Editor@mufon.com](mailto:Editor@mufon.com). Use “Volunteer Nomination” in Subject line.

## Want to review a book for the Journal?

Email a sample of your writing along with a brief description of your pertinent credentials and experience to [Editor@mufon.com](mailto:Editor@mufon.com). Use “Book Reviewer” in Subject line.

# Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

## Sovereignty and the UFO

Letter to Dr. Mary G. Dietz, Editor *Political Theory*, Northwestern University.

Thank you very much for having the courage to publish the paper "Sovereignty and the UFO" by Wendt and Duvall in the August issue (Ref. 1). I also appreciate their courage in speaking out on the very important topic of UFOs. As an industrial nuclear physicist I have, since 1967, lectured on the topic "Flying Saucers ARE Real" at more than 600 colleges and over 100 professional groups in all 50 states and nine Canadian provinces. There is no question that there is enormous campus interest in the subject and, as a matter of fact, great acceptance of factual data. I check all my audiences and find that fewer than 2% have read any of the five major scientific studies which I discuss at the beginning of my lecture. Certainly they are correct to use the word TABOO in academia with respect to the topic of ufology, though there have been 10 PhD theses done concerned with UFOs. (Listed in Ref. 2). Unfortunately, as I discuss in Chapter 10 of my new book *Flying Saucers and Science* (Ref. 3) TABOO also applies to the major news media who assume that, if some flying saucers were alien spacecraft, they would know about it.

However, I must disagree with three claims made in the article. One is that there have not been any scientific studies. The first study I speak about in my lectures is *Project Blue Book Special Report Number 14* (Ref. 4). It has 240 charts, tables, graphs and maps and information on 3,201 sightings. All are categorized as something or other such as balloon, astronomical, aircraft, and most importantly UNKNOWNs, and Insufficient Data. Unknowns are defined as "Those reports of sightings wherein the description of the object and its maneuvers could not be fitted to

the pattern of any known object or phenomenon." The quality of each report was evaluated as well. No sighting could be listed as an UNKNOWN unless all four final report evaluators agreed, though any two could list it as anything else.

Tables 1 and 2 summarize some of the most important results. Note that unsurprisingly the better the quality of the report, the MORE likely the sighting is to be listed as UNKNOWN. In addition, a Chi square statistical analysis was done on the basis of six different observable characteristics such as color, shape, apparent size and speed etc. It was found that the probability that the UNKNOWNs were just missed Knowns was less than 1%. Duration of observation was also greater for the UNKNOWNs than for the Knowns.

Another study of note is "The Symposium on UFOs" (Ref. 5) held by the House of Representative Committee on Science and Astronautics on July 29, 1968. It has 246 pages of testimony from six scientists who appeared in person and six more of us who provided written testimony only. The 71 page paper (Ref. 6) by Dr. James E. McDonald includes information on 41 outstanding cases.

2. The second area in which I must disagree is the notion that the government has not securitized UFOs. To illustrate we have the Robertson Panel established in 1953 by the CIA to do a quick review of Project Blue Book and make recommendations. Their report was classified SECRET for well over a decade. One of their recommendations was that organizations like Disney should be

used to help debunk the subject. *Blue Book Special Report No. 14* was completed in 1955 by the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, yet its name is not in the report. Neither are the authors' names. A clear indication of Securitization is the fact that the report was not distributed.

However, a press release of October 25, 1955, was given very wide distribution. It didn't even give the title of the report. Surely some reporter would have asked about reports 1-13, all of which were classified. Here is a definitive statement in the release by the Secretary of the Air Force, Donald A. Quarles: "On the basis of this study we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflown the United States. I feel certain that even the unknown three percent could have been explained as conventional phenomena or illusions if more complete observational data had been available."



Stanton Friedman

TABLE 1. Categorization of UFO Reports

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Balloon	450	14.0
Astronomical	817	25.5
Aircraft	642	20.1
Miscellaneous	257	8.0
Psychological	48	1.5
Manifestations		
Insufficient Information	298	9.3
UNKNOWN	689	21.5
TOTAL	3201	100.0

Note from Table 1 that the percentage of UNKNOWNNS was 21.5%, not 3%, and that the cases listed as Insufficient Information totaled another 9.3% and were not included in the UNKNOWNNS. In short the government lied. As far as I have been able to learn no journalists noted the misrepresentation. All annual USAF end-of-year Blue Book statements after that were deceptive with such tricks as excluding cases "still under evaluation" from the statistics and automatically listing unexplainable one-witness cases as Insufficient Information no matter the competence of the observer.

The Freedom of Information Act has helped reveal clear evidence of securitization. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover told many people who inquired about the FBI findings on UFOs that they were not involved. Yet optical physicist, Dr. Bruce Maccabee obtained more than 1,500 pages of FBI UFO files (Ref. 7). The CIA claimed their only role was with the Robertson Panel. Citizens Against UFO Secrecy managed to obtain about 800 pages of formerly classified (none above Secret) CIA UFO documents and a list of 79 UFO documents from other agencies. These could not be released. Eighteen were from the National Security Agency. The NSA was ordered by Federal Court Judge Gerhard Gesell to do a full file search. They found a total of 239 UFO documents (160 from the NSA) but Judge Gesell ruled on November 16, 1980, that none could be released because "The public interest in disclosure is far outweighed by the sensitive nature of the materials and the obvious effect on national security their release may well entail." The TOP SECRET + NSA Affidavit to the judge justifying the withholding was 75% blacked out. About 16 years later the NSA released the 160 TOP SECRET UMBRA UFO documents. Unfortunately all the pages were completely whited out except for one or two lines because of supposed Sources and Methods information protected by law. The NSA had in its search also found 23 TOP SECRET UFO documents from the CIA which

supposedly hadn't been found by the CIA in its search. It took me five years to obtain a few of these. Several pages were entirely blacked out except for eight trivial words.

Perhaps the best evidence for intensive government securitization is the statement by USAF General Carroll Bolender dated October 20, 1969. He had been asked to review Project Blue Book in light of the Condon Reports recommendation earlier that year that it be cancelled. He had no previous connection with the project. I verified with him this shocking statement: "Moreover, reports of UFOs which could affect national security were made in accordance with JANAP (Joint Army Navy Air Force Publication) 146 or Air Force Manual 55-11 and are not part of the Blue Book System." Two paragraphs later after noting that if Blue Book were closed, the public would have no official place to which to report UFO sightings: "However, as already noted, reports of UFOs which could affect national security would continue to be handled through the standard Air Force procedures designed for this purpose." Note that obviously flights over military bases where nuclear weapons were stored would be considered a national security problem. Furthermore, it is clear that the major sophisticated systems available for monitoring flights of truly unidentified flying objects are those operated by the US government such as the Aerospace Defense Command radar and various spy satellites operated by such agencies as the National Reconnaissance Office. Blue Book did not have a need to know

for such data. The NRO's very existence was classified for many years. Its annual black budget has been estimated at 10-20 billion dollars. No government agency makes public reports of how many sightings of "uncorrelated targets" they have obtained of objects in the sky and what was done about them. Furthermore, as reported in "Shoot Them Down" (Ref. 8), official orders had been issued in 1952 to military interceptor pilots to shoot down UFOs if they didn't land when instructed to do so. An Air Force general admitted that more than 300 had been scrambled after UFOs. Strangely neither the *Washington Post* nor the *New York Times* carried this information. As noted in Chapter 4 ("The Cosmic Watergate") of Reference 3, much more can be said about the official government cover up or securitization. For example, the official USAF information sheet sent to any who make inquiry is a masterpiece of misrepresentation. It took me five pages as given in *TOP SECRET/MAJIC* (Ref. 2) to demonstrate all the misrepresentation and clever propaganda.

Finally, as the scientist who in 1978 began the intensive civilian investigation of the so called Roswell Incident of July 1947, I must strenuously protest the notion that this was just a conspiracy theory. There is a plethora of first hand testimony from those involved at the time and from contemporary media coverage (well beyond the front page of the *Roswell Daily Record* so often displayed). *Recollections of Roswell*" (Ref. 9) contains the filmed testimony of 26 first hand witnesses,

*Continued on page 20*

TABLE 2. Quality Evaluation

Rating	<u>All Sightings</u>		<u>Unknowns</u>		<u>Insuf. Info.</u>	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Excellent	308	9.6	108	35.1	12	3.9
Good	1070	33.4	282	26.4	33	3.1
Doubtful	1298	40.5	203	15.6	150	11.6
Poor	525	16.4	96	18.3	103	19.6
TOTAL	3201	100.0	689	21.5	298	9.3%



# Filer's Files

By George Filer  
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



## China — Path of the Dragons or Ley Lines

Because of the Olympics this summer, people are opening their eyes to the wonders of China that include Dragon Paths, sometimes called Ley Lines or energy lines, that connect sacred places and seem to be the ancient flight paths of UFOs. Stone Age man throughout the world built stone monoliths, pyramids, and giant mounds along the Dragon Paths or Ley Lines.

The Chinese apparently saw the maneuvering UFOs in ancient times over certain places and called them the Paths of the Dragons or Lung mei. In China, mounds like that at Silbury Hill in England were erected upon the Paths of the Dragons.



*Flat pyramid near Xi'an. Was it a UFO landing site? (Photo from [www.unexplainedearth.com](http://www.unexplainedearth.com).)*

There are numerous pyramids and mausoleums around the city of Xi'an in Northern China. The largest pyramid in the region is that of Empress Wu, of the Tang Dynasty. Empress Wu was the first female leader of China and her tomb is exceedingly large, almost a full kilometer (3000 ft) tall.

The UFOs apparently used these lines of energy for navigation or as a source of energy. In China the male energy is called Yang of the White Tiger who rules over sharp rocks, steep mountains and high ridges. The Yin or female energy of

the Blue Dragon rules lower hills and the gently rolling countryside. The ancient Chinese believed that these Dragon Paths covered the entire Earth. Mounds and standing stones were erected to mark the Path of the Dragon. These straight lines seem to follow the UFO flight paths over lakes, mountains, oceans, above stone circles, standing stones, and pyramids or hills.

Over the centuries Chinese engineers built their roads along the Dragon Paths, while the Romans built their own roads on top of the old straight tracks of the Ley Lines they found in Europe and the Middle East. Some 40,000 stone monoliths mark the Ley Lines in Europe. That is one reason that so many of the old Roman roadways link together ancient stone monuments. These old pathways are dated from 10,000 to 4,000 BC.

In China, hundreds of burial mounds, pyramids, and stone monuments were erected to mark the Dragon Paths and men were given the job of mapping out the lines of the Dragon Paths. Even buildings and people's homes were designed to take advantage of the favorable Dragon energy, and to dissipate the bad energies. This practice is referred to as Feng Shui. The influence of these Dragon



*The layout of a typical Feng Shui compass*

Paths was considered so serious that any landscape that was found to be inharmonious with the path of the Dragon was respectfully altered. This sometimes meant that mountain-tops were flattened or sharpened. Most pyramids or hills had the tops flattened so that UFOs could have landed.

Several of these Paths of the Dragon converge in Shensi Province in northern China where hundred pyramids and mounds have been discovered that date back thousands of years.

The inner chambers of pyramids and megaliths are thought to act as accumulators of the Dragon energy and stimulate healing of the mind and body and create spiritual awareness.

In China the Dragon Paths practice of Feng Shui by which the location and orientation of houses and tombs was determined by Feng Shui experts, recognized that certain powerful currents and lines of magnetism or Dragon Paths run invisibly through the landscape and over the whole surface of the earth. The Feng Shui master employed a circular magnetic compass, which was marked off in rings containing data relating to directions and how a building should be erected. The harmony of Dragon energies ensured good fortune.

The compass itself appears to be a copy of the discs flying in the sky. UFOs are known to give off magnetic energy that can be picked up by a compass. A compass points north unless a UFO is nearby and causes deflection of the



*George Filer*  
Several of these Paths of the Dragon converge in Shensi Province in northern China where hundred pyramids and mounds have been discovered that date back thousands of years.

pointer. Getting too close to the propulsion system of a UFO can be harmful to humans. These factors plus the Earth's natural magnetism likely led to the development of Feng Shui compass.

Some of the Dragon Paths run under the water from China to Japan and an underwater city was discovered in 1997 near Okinawa complete with roads and a pyramid. It has been dated by researchers at Ryukyu University to have been a thriving city around 10,000 BC. When you see the flying Red Dragons of China remember most Chinese believe that extraterrestrial civilizations exist and flying dragons once roamed the skies.

### Arizona - UFO and the Hot Air Balloon

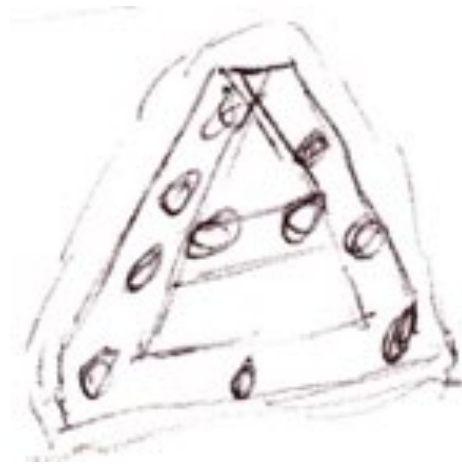
MARICOPA – Dirk Vander Ploeg writes: I received this report from Larry Bunker, a UFO Digest [reader] who states on March 9, 2008, he was on his way to work at 9:01 AM, watching a hot air balloon through his sunroof and decided to snap a few shots with his cell phone. He said, "I was on my way to work... stuck my hand through the sun roof of



the car and fired saved and fired and saved... put the phone camera away and looked at them later to see I had [captured] more than what was visible to my naked eye." I have enlarged the object. It appears to be definitely a solid object and highly contrasted due to the position of the sun.

The image was enhanced with Adobe Photoshop using the variations tool. There appears to have an energy field surrounding the object. This is very characteristic of authentic unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Larry only saw the hot air balloon and was totally amazed to see the unknown object in the photos.

Thanks to Dirk Vander Ploeg at [www.ufodigest.com](http://www.ufodigest.com)



### Florida - Triangle

FORT LAUDERDALE – At around 10.15 pm on September 19, 2008, my neighbor was sitting on a chair outside when a strange object passed over him going south about 1,500 feet west of the Fort Lauderdale airport west of I-95 crossing the landing and takeoff way. It was a triangular shaped object with white lights underneath and no noise was heard from this thing heading for Miami. We never saw any plane [flying] north-south [before], always east-west or west-east.

I include a drawing of it. At 1.30 AM, I called TV Channel 7 News to see if someone had reported something similar but they said no. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

### Illinois - Notched Disc at O'Hare Terminal in Daylight

CHICAGO-O'HARE – While waiting in the lobby at AA Gate K-7 at Chicago O'Hare Airport, my wife noticed a disc-shaped object hovering at an altitude of several hundred feet outside the terminal's large glass windows to the WSW at 7:01 pm, on August 4, 2008. She called my attention to it and several other people rushed to observe the estimated 30–40 foot in diameter object as it wobbled but deliberately moved to our left (NNE) between Concourse K and L toward the main body of Terminal 3. It took about 60 seconds to enter and exit our field of view.

Its distinctive peripheral protrusions, like notches on a gear, were its primary identifying feature to me. It was dull gray (my wife noticed orange/rust) with an undulating movement. It traveled low under the cloud ceiling. We laughed and moved closer to the windows and I told my wife to try for a phone camera shot but she couldn't manage it in time. Another lady asked "what in the world is such a big flying hubcap doing out there." Others looked and turned their heads in disbelief.

Prior to the sighting there was very little aircraft activity in this wing of O'Hare. There was a burst of aircraft activity after the object departed and a large storm moved in at 7:30 pm. An aircraft appeared to be disabled during the 7:00–8:00 pm period. Tornado warnings and high winds followed and passengers took shelter in the tunnels of O'Hare. We finally departed on AA 1058 to Orlando from Gate K-15 at about midnight. I am a 61-year-old geologist with 30 years of international experience, an amateur astronomer, and IUFOC attendee for many years. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

### New Jersey - Shooting Star

UNION BEACH – I was hanging out with my friend last night when I saw this shooting star. I didn't know what it was then all of a sudden it changed direction and blasted off some where else. I noticed the object because it was a bright star kind of thing and it was moving very fast. Then it made a 90 degree turn and was gone. It was moving fast across the sky and then made a quick turn, the fastest turn I ever saw. When I saw it said, Oh my god, then I realized it was a ufo. I lost sight of it because it zoomed off. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

### New Jersey – Lost Time Event

FORT DIX – I was 14 years old in 1967, I was riding with my Mom, little brother and sister in our 1967 Oldsmobile convertible on the way to the Jersey shore in Beach Heaven which was a few hours drive from our Trenton home. In a barren stretch of road in the Pinelands we all saw an enormous object, so large I could not see the ends, I saw just the belly of the

*Continued on page 20*

## Filer's Files

*Continued from page 19*

craft. Mom pulled over to watch a dead silent object float barely above tree level and it did not make a sound. We huddled together. The crickets stopped whistling. One of the craft's lights focused on us and it stopped directly above us. I remember how it lit my mom's skin, an unusual light not like florescent or incandescent or neon but more like today's LEDs except a thousand times more intense. As fast as it came it was gone, with smaller crafts zipping around it, as we continued to the shore an excessive amount of military trucks passed us. We were right outside of Fort Dix military base. What struck me was instead of the soldiers looking at us or at ground level they all looked up. We knew it was about what we saw.

This was before everyone had cellular phones and when we got to the shore house mom called dad who was still in

Trenton. She told him what we had seen and then came our realization of the time gap. Over six hours had passed and we can account for only ninety minutes, that's the normal drive time. My dad instructed us not to say anything to anybody and the secret was kept until 2000.

I was living in California and my brother called me home to New Jersey to help care for our dying mother. I asked her if she remembered and she did, every little detail exactly as I did, so did my brother and sister. My mother seemed relieved to retell the story, but she asked me something strange, "Did they hurt you?" We all noticed that we all have the same scoop mark on our legs, and a patch where no hair grows on the other. I had medical problems and the doctor noticed scars in my organs from previous surgeries. Not odd except for the fact that I never had any surgery. The blue light appeared in my life several times over the

years, once on the NJ turnpike with fireballs, once in my Hollywood home with a flickering man and witnessed by my partner, and again camping in remote woods. I figured it to be Saint Elmo's fire until I realized it occurred too many times for me to witness that rare light so often. Today I am frail and sick with complications that cannot be diagnosed. I believe my conditions to be related to that event. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

*Note: These Filer's Files reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.*

*This month's Filer's Files include excerpts from File #33, August 13, 2008 and File #39, September 24, 2008.*

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## Friedman: Sovereignty and UFOs

*Continued from page 17*

many now deceased. These include Major Jesse Marcel, the Intelligence Officer for the most elite military organization in the world in 1947, the 509<sup>th</sup> Composite Bomb Group, based in Roswell. They dropped the atomic bombs on Japan in 1945 and two more in the Pacific in 1946. Another very important witness was retired general Thomas Jefferson DuBose, Chief of Staff in July 1947 to Brigadier General Roger Ramey, head of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force which included the 509th. He testified to taking a phone call from General Ramey's Commander, General Clements McMullen, in Washington, DC, telling him, after the famous press release hit the media, to get the press off their back ["I don't care how you do it] send some of the wreckage to Washington with one of your colonel couriers, today, and never talk about this again, not even with Roger Ramey. That is an order. Do I need to put it in

writing?" "No, sir." There is a good deal more about Roswell in *Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident* (Ref.10) and in an update chapter of Ref. 3.

There is a huge amount of material on which to base other papers and other PhD theses.

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# Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is September's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **Richard E. Moss** (Minnesota), **Lorna Hunter** (South Dakota), **John Ventre** (West Virginia), **Jim King** (Iowa), **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), and **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico) for being at 100%! The top 10 State Directors are highlighted.

The report is based on our two measures of UFO Investigation effectiveness: assigning reports within 72 hours of receipt, and completing all investigations within 90 days of being assigned.

The "Assigned" column is a six-month running average of the number of cases assigned within 72 hours divided by the total number of cases received in that six month period. The "Completed" column is the number of cases completed beginning sixty-two (62) days back and going back six months from there (for a total of eight months back) divided by the total number of cases reported in the same period. The "Weighted Rank" is just the average of the two columns expressed as a percent.

State Directors can improve their scores by being sure to assign all cases within 72 hours, and to follow up with their Field Investigators to ensure all reports are completed within 90 days. To be considered complete, a report must have been investigated and placed in one of the three completed status codes (Unknown, Hoax or IFO) by the State Director.

If you have any questions or need help with your investigations please contact me, Chuck Reeve, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at [wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org).

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	100 %	28/28	28/28
2	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	2/2	2/2
3	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	21/21	20/20
4	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	13/13	29/29
5	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	16/16	21/21
6	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	35/35	49/49
7	Florida	Bland Pugh	99 %	118/119	153/153
8	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	98 %	214/219	389/391
9	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	98 %	25/25	29/30
10	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	98 %	88/90	117/118
11	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	97 %	146/147	98/102
12	Georgia	Walter Sheets	93 %	27/28	32/35
13	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	93 %	124/125	97/111
14	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	89 %	77/78	77/95
15	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	86 %	89/97	58/71
16	Utah	Elaine Douglass	86 %	14/14	13/18
17	California	Georgianne Cifarelli	86 %	143/146	169/223
18	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	80 %	61/86	66/74
19	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	79 %	19/27	37/42
20	Washington	Marilyn Childs	79 %	39/54	52/60
21	Arizona	George C. Parks	77 %	54/81	65/73
22	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	76 %	15/15	12/23
23	Massachusetts	Greg S. Berghorn	73 %	24/48	56/58
24	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	72 %	22/24	16/30
25	Ohio	William Jones	68 %	48/58	37/68
26	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	65 %	6/17	25/26
27	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	60 %	5/11	9/12
28	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	51 %	72/79	10/87
29	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	50 %	33/61	30/63
30	New Hampshire	Peter R. Geremia	43 %	3/7	4/9
31	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	43 %	4/24	26/37
32	North Carolina	George E. Lund, III	42 %	12/36	30/59
33	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	42 %	4/7	2/7
34	Wisconsin	Timothy G. Whiteagle	41 %	20/31	6/33
35	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	30 %	6/12	2/19
36	Nevada	Mark Easter	29 %	3/44	26/49
37	Maryland	Sheila Smith	27 %	3/32	15/33
38	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	27 %	13/26	1/21
39	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	25 %	0/14	6/12
40	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	16 %	11/35	1/43
41	Hawaii	Puuloa M. Teves	7 %	1/7	0/9
42	Maine	John Selman	5 %	1/10	0/19
43	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	0 %	0/29	0/32
44	Rhode Island	Richard Lynch	0 %	0/5	0/8
45	North Dakota	Kurt Pfleger	0 %	0/4	0/5
46	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegal	0 %	0/1	0/0

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## Director's Message

*continued from page 2*

*Manual.* Please contact MUFON HQ at [hq@mufon.com](mailto:hq@mufon.com) for a copy of the new exam. Sharon and David will also assume responsibility for grading the completed Field Investigator exams.

### MUFON's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Symposium

The year 2009 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of MUFON and will also be the occasion of MUFON 40<sup>th</sup> Annual International UFO Symposium. Whereas we had originally announced that the Symposium would be held in Chicago in 2009, the MUFON Board of Directors has decided to hold the Symposium in Denver instead. The Symposium will be held August 6–9, 2009 at the Denver

Tech Center Marriott hotel. You should make your travel plans in advance for this very special occasion. More details on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Symposium will be forthcoming in the *Journal* and on the MUFON web site.

### Position Announcements

**David MacDonald** is the new Field Investigator Exam Coordinator

### Assistant State Directors

**David MacDonald** is the new Assistant State Director for the state of Kentucky.

### Chief Investigators

**Max Mitchell** is the new Chief Investigator for the state of Tennessee.

### State Section Directors

**Floyd Krebs** is the new Section Director for Covington and Northern Kentucky.

### New Field Investigators

**Robert Upson** of Royal Palm Beach, Florida; **John Jenner** of Springfield, Illinois; **Leah Jenner** of Springfield, Illinois; **Terri White** of Palmserston North, New Zealand; **Jorge Santana** of San Antonio, Texas; **Robert Plute** of Port Angeles, Washington; **Gary Christianson** of Sammamish, Washington.

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## November Night Sky

*Continued from page 24*

### Other Celestial Phenomena

**Daylight Saving:** Daylight Saving Time Ends on November 2<sup>nd</sup> under the new standard adopted in most American States and most Canadian provinces.

### Meteor Showers

**South Taurids:** The South Taurids will peak on November 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. This is a minor meteor shower which will be further weakened by the presence of the full Moon.

**North Taurids:** The North Taurids will peak on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The North Taurids are also a minor meteor shower which will also be diminished by the presence of the nearly full Moon.

**Leonids:** Peaking on November 17<sup>th</sup> (Friday).

The Leonids meteor shower is probably the most famous meteor shower of all after the high hourly rates of a few years ago. This shower is the result of the Earth's passage through the dust and debris left by the comet

55P/Tempel-Tuttle. Comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle returns to the inner solar system every 33 years. Each time it passes through our part of the solar system, it leaves a trail of dust along its path. These small grains of dust become the bright and beautiful meteors in our skies. In 2006 the Leonids will certainly not be at meteor storm levels, but there is a reasonably good chance we'll see somewhat higher than average hourly rates, as many as 150 per hour, due to the Earth's passage through a dust stream left during Comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle's 1932 passage through the inner Solar System. Unfortunately the Moon will interfere with observation this year.

### Planets and Bright Stars

Conjunction of the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Antares, Mars and Jupiter

### Conjunctions and Occultations

November 1<sup>st</sup>: Venus 3 degrees north of the Moon.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jupiter 1.9 degrees north of the Moon.

November 21<sup>st</sup>: Saturn 6 degrees north of the Moon.



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# The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

## November 2008 Sky

### Moon Phases

First Quarter November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Full Moon November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Last Quarter November 19<sup>th</sup>  
New Moon November 27<sup>th</sup>

### Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

**Venus** (magnitude -3.9 to -4.0): From Ophiuchus into Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will be found above the southwestern horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 1 ½ hours later. For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will be found above the western horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the west-southwest horizon about 3 ½ hours later.

**Mars** (magnitude 1.5 to 1.4): Moving from Libra into Scorpius. For northern hemisphere observers, the beginning of the month will find Mars low over the west-southwest horizon and will drop below the horizon soon after the Sun. Mars will disappear into the glare of the Sun by midmonth. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will spend the month very low over the west-southwest horizon and will be difficult to observe.

**Jupiter**: (magnitude -2.1 to -2.0). In Ophiuchus. For northern hemisphere observers, the beginning of the month will find Jupiter high above the southern horizon as the Sun sets and will follow the Sun below the southwestern horizon about 4 hours later; by the end of the month Jupiter will set about 3 hours after the Sun. For southern hemisphere observers, the beginning of the month will find Jupiter very high above the west-northwest horizon as the Sun sets and will follow the Sun below the west-southwest horizon about 5 1/2 hours later; by the end of the month Jupiter will be high above the western horizon



*Conjunction of the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Antares, Mars and Jupiter. Looking low above the south-southwest horizon after sunset on November 1-*

and will set below the west-southwest horizon about 3 hours after the Sun.

### Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

**Mercury** (magnitude 0.8 to -1.2): From Virgo into Libra. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month low over the east-southeast horizon and will drop below the horizon by midmonth. For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month above the western horizon setting about 2 hours after the Sun but will sink into the glare of the Sun near the end of the month

**Saturn** (magnitude 1.1): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 2 hours before the Sun. By the end of the month Saturn will be rising about 6 1/2 hours before the Sun and will be standing high above the southern horizon as the Sun rises. For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 1 hour before the Sun and will be standing above the east-

northeast horizon as the Sun rises. By the end of the month Saturn will be rising about 3 hours before the Sun and will be standing above the northeast horizon as the Sun rises.

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