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In this issue

Government Under-ground Secrecy	3
A Hard Look at UFOs	5
Mars Phoenix Lander	8
New Admin. for Professional Standards	12
Book reviews	
<i>UFO Secrecy and...</i>	13
<i>Lupo</i>	15

Regular Features

Director's Message	2
Letters to Editor	9
Volunteers of the Month	
Steve McGee	10
Norm Gagnon	11
Calendar	12
Stan Friedman:	
SETI Surprise	16
Filer's Files	18
CMS Rankings	21
Night Sky	24



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year !

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Director's Message

By James Carrion

Important Milestones in 2008

As 2008 draws to a close, let's reflect on the important milestones that MUFON has achieved this year. The year started out with a bang with the Stephenville, Texas, sightings that brought international attention to both UFOs as well as MUFON. That attention led to a three-hour miniseries agreement with the Discovery Channel – *UFOs Over Earth* – that highlights how MUFON conducts UFO investigations. The number of reported sightings to MUFON jumped from an average of 300 – 400 a month to 400 – 600 a month.

The History Channel's *UFO Hunters* started their second season with many of the episodes featuring MUFON investigators and personnel. MUFON also was granted the registered trademark for "UFO Hunters" beating out both the History Channel as well as the SciFi Channel.

MUFON's History and Abduction

Experience team also continued to make progress and I expect to be announcing some major new initiatives and accomplishments for both teams going into the New Year.

MUFON has also made a number of important changes to the Case Management System (CMS)

under the leadership of Jan Harzan and with the hard work of Tomas Karlsson. In addition, the new Google mapping feature implemented by Douglas Bell has added a much needed management and pleasant visual element to our sightings database. There are many more improvements planned.



James Carrion

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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Government Underground Secrecy

Searching for the Truth

By Dennis Balthasar

Secrecy by our government is not anything new, and in the case of developing new technology for our military, I agree with the need for secrecy, since we don't want our adversaries knowing what is being developed. It's my personal feeling that UFO information is well known by our government and military, however for more than 60 years they have both been emphatic that they either know nothing about it, or it doesn't exist. Those of us that have done this research of course believe differently. To put it simply, we're being lied to. Such secrecy is not only limited to information the government has or knows about UFOs, but on many other fronts as well.

While doing research, I always return to two questions: Who has given a few the authority to keep certain secrets from the public? And secondly, what has happened to the first three words in the preamble to our Constitution — “We the people”? Secrecy, lies and cover-ups have perpetuated themselves to the point that the general public no longer has any confidence in our elected officials, as shown recently in the public's low approval ratings of those officials.

In my opinion, young people in this country need to start asking questions and demanding answers of our leaders. Accepting secrecy and cover-ups is no longer acceptable. Although secrecy can be justified in some cases, it can get out of hand and become extremely dangerous if abused.

Much of this secrecy is cloaked from the public and most of our elected officials with catch phrases such as: “National Security,” “Research and Development,” “Special Projects” and others, some of which are probably “Black Projects.” The financial budgets for some of these programs are staggering figures, and in the case of the Central Intelligence Agency, by law, the National Security Act of 1947 made it illegal to ever disclose how much money is spent by the CIA. Guess who is paying for all of this? You and I are.

Activities at Area 51 (also known as Groom Lake), have properly been determined to be classified.

Several of the secret military bases, such as Area 51 have highly visible signs posted stating, “the use of deadly force is authorized,” which is a good indication that something very secretive is taking place there either above or below ground. Since the 1990s, each President has issued a yearly Presidential Determination, “exempting the base from complying with environmental laws.” The reason given is that, “activities at Area 51 (also known as Groom Lake) have properly been determined to be classified, and its disclosure would be harmful to National Security.”



Warning sign at Area 51.

While doing research for my “Underground Bases and Tunnels” lecture, I discovered another federal agency that is heavily involved in secrecy, which very few Americans, including very few Congressmen are probably aware of.

FEMA's underground locations are referred to as “Continuity of Government” facilities.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is not only available to help in times of disaster, but has a much more complex role in protecting our leaders in case of a national emergency, and in obtaining information on you and me. Many of FEMA's underground locations are referred to as “Continuity of Government” facilities. One of those underground locations is Mount Weather, 46 miles from Washington, D.C. near Bluemont, Virginia. This is the operational hub of approximately 100 other Federal Relocation Centers. In the event of a nuclear war, declaration of martial law, or other national emergency, the President, his cabinet and the rest of the Executive branch would be relocated here. Officially Mount Weather and its budget do not exist, and FEMA refuses to answer questions about the facility. As far back as 1975, a Senate subcommittee learned that the facility has information on at least 100,000 Americans, and their computers can access millions of pieces of additional information on the personal lives of other American citizens. Mount Weather was prepared for use at the time of the 1961 Cuban missile crisis, the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, and was on standby during the 1967 and 1968 urban riots.

Just across the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line is the Raven Rock Underground Command Center, sometimes referred to as Site-R. This site has 700,000 square feet of

Continued on page 4

Underground Secrecy

Continued from page 3

interior space underneath the surface. The facility contains six levels of underground offices, massive steel doors, a subterranean water reservoir, and up on the surface there are banks of antennas and satellite dishes. It went online in 1954, and in the event it is needed, representatives of all military departments and the Joint Chiefs of Staff would be located here.

"There was a television studio with a backdrop of the United States capital on the wall where lawmakers could have addressed their constituents, had any of those constituents survived"

A third site in the "Continuity of Government" facilities known as the Greenbrier Resort, 250 miles southwest of Washington, had to be deactivated in 1992, when the *Washington Post* published an article about this underground bunker, exposing it to the public. Again, in the event of a nuclear war, about 1000 people including all 535 members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, along with their top aides would have been evacuated to this facility. It contained 18 dormitories with bunk beds, a 12 bed medical clinic, a self-contained power plant, a water purification plant, and a crematorium. There was a television studio with a backdrop of the United States capital on the wall where lawmakers could have addressed their constituents, had any of those constituents survived above ground to watch television. In 1995 the Greenbrier facility was opened to public tours, and I have not yet located a new facility for our lawmakers, but I'm sure there is one.

Many of the facilities constructed in the 1950s were primarily for the protection of our leaders in the event of a nuclear war. Today many of the secret military facilities—not only in the United States, but in other countries as well—have been required to go underground because of the many foreign satellites circling the earth that are so technically advanced that they can read a newspaper from 200 miles above the earth. Very little can remain secretive on the surface anymore. Military facilities are no longer limited exclusively to underground locations either, as the Navy has been evolving underwater locations with huge manned bases offshore for several years, about which not as much information has been forthcoming.

Musko Naval Base

During WWII, Sweden had an elaborate Naval facility built into the side of a mountain, with water access. Known as the Musko Naval Base, it had not only dry docks for ships and submarines, but an entire base built into the side and

under the mountain, containing repair factories, a hospital with a thousand beds, dining rooms and barracks.

My civil engineering background was aroused when I started researching underground facilities, and I quickly learned that the equipment and personnel required to build some of these elaborate underground complexes is readily available. Several types of tunnel boring equipment (sometimes referred to as TBMs) have been



Musko Naval Base

manufactured by companies like Bechtel, the Robbins Company, and Dawn Engineering, as well as several foreign equipment manufacturers. They vary greatly in size and can be of the "gouging" type, flame cutters and nuclear, the latter being developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico with a United States Patent Office date of September 26, 1972.

Many other facilities are known to exist, and you have the assurance of our government that with the use of our tax dollars, our government and military leaders are at least protected even if we are not, and in most cases their purpose, cost and location will be denied, or attempted to remain in secrecy.



A Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)

Dennis G. Balthaser

www.truthseekeratroswell.com ; truthseeker@dfn.com

Dennis Balthasar moved to Roswell, NM in 1996, to pursue his 25-year interest in ufology and particularly the Roswell Incident. He is an independent researcher, investigator and lecturer and serves on the advisory board of the Great Pyramid of Giza Research Association.

About this article, the author states: This is all public information I've obtained for my research of Underground Bases and Tunnels lecture. Some from sources on the internet, some from Dr. Sauder's book "Underground Bases and Tunnels," some from Presidential Determinations under Clinton and Bush, some from my 15 years of researching Area 51 where I was (at the gates) a few years ago, etc. The lecture on this topic contains 47 pages of information and a 50-slide PowerPoint presentation.

A Hard Look at UFOs

Proposing an explanation for why hard physical evidence of UFOs with an extraterrestrial origin is so hard to find

By Robert L. Mason

The modern era of UFOs is now over sixty years old. If we step back as far as we can and view the entire subject with the best possible perspective, one disconcerting fact is rather apparent. *We have no hard physical evidence for an extraterrestrial origin.* We have some physical trace evidence, but nothing so extraordinary that no other explanation can be offered. We have a vast amount of anecdotal evidence, and some of it is impressive. Jessie Marcel Jr. M.D. springs to mind. He is, by all accounts, a credible person, and he claims to have handled alien-looking materials that his father brought home from the Roswell crash site (2). Then there is Jim Penniston, an Air Force Sergeant with top-secret clearance, who says he touched what appeared to be an alien UFO in the Rendlesham Forest incident (4). But despite being credible, these reports are still anecdotal in nature.

If the materials that are rumored to have been collected by the military from various crash retrievals actually do exist, and if they were made available for free and open scientific investigation, and if that investigation concluded that there was no possible explanation for them other than they were the product of an extraterrestrial civilization, then we would have hard physical evidence. Just one piece of such evidence would be worth more than all the anecdotal evidence in existence. But that has not happened, and the result is tantamount to the same thing—*no hard physical evidence.*

So, does that mean we are not being monitored in some manner by an alien civilization? *Not necessarily.* What it could mean is the monitoring process is beyond our technical comprehension. Given current estimates of 13.7 billion years for the age of the Universe and 4.6 billion years for the age of the solar

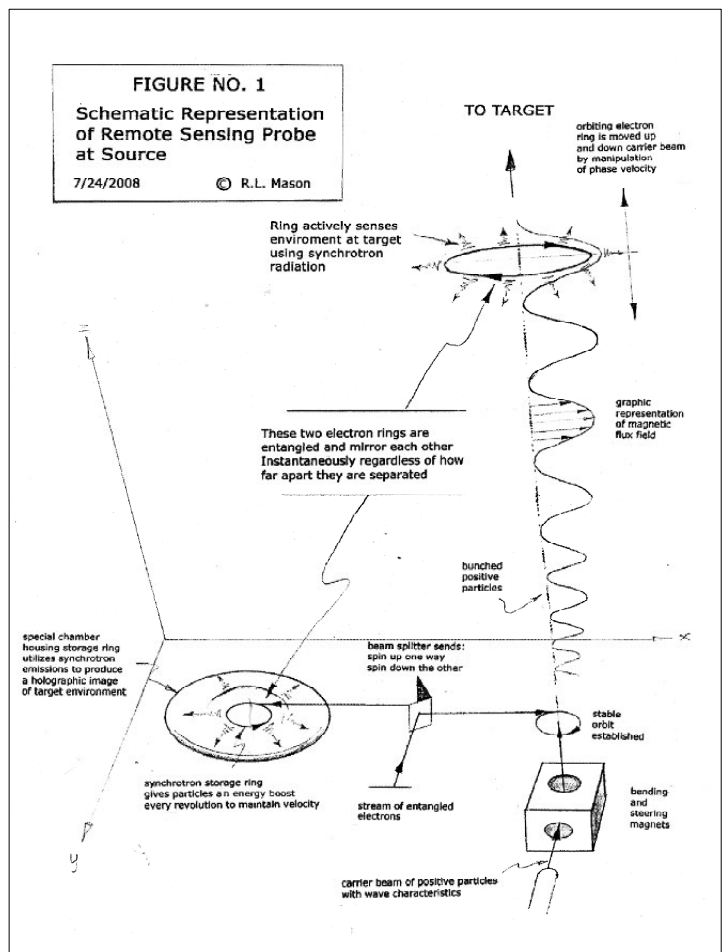
system it is obvious that there has been plenty of time for other civilizations to precede us and, consequently, be greatly advanced technically when compared to us. Can we make any guesses at all about how such an advanced civilization might operate? We can try. One trap we may be falling into is thinking of alien spacecraft as highly advanced

versions of what we are capable of building; whereas they may be something entirely different altogether.

What can we imagine that could, among other things:

- make right angle turns at extremely high velocities?
- appear luminous or lighted in low light and solid in daylight?

Continued on page 6



A Hard Look at UFOs

Continued from page 5

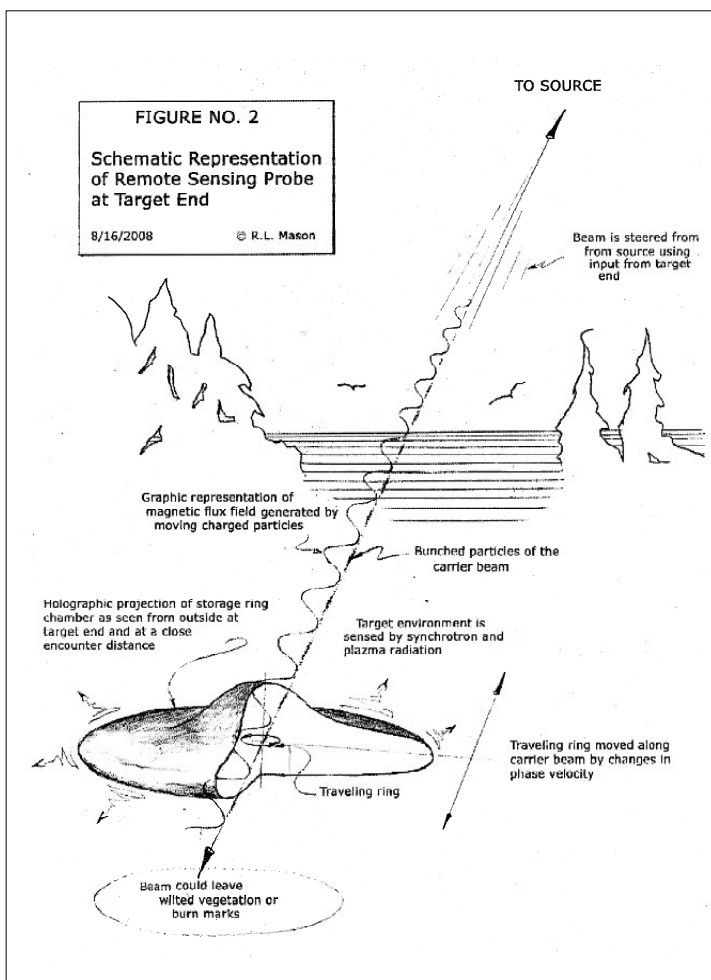
- have a radar signature?
- be usually described as completely silent?
- kill the engine of an automobile?, and
- leave physical traces such as burns on vegetation, etc.?

In my recent book *The UFO Experience Reconsidered: Science and Speculation* (3), I argue that a charged particle beam aimed into our atmosphere from somewhere off the planet could, in fact, have all of these characteristics. In addition, if used in conjunction with an advanced capability in the quantum mechanical phenomenon known as “entanglement,” it might enable remote sensing from considerable distances.

Exactly how this would work is anybody’s guess. My best guess is illustrated in Figures 1 & 2, and is based on a superficial knowledge of particle accelerators. I have extrapolated on today’s knowledge to a high degree and it may be beyond our current ability to judge the efficacy of such a system or something akin to it, but I can think of “no logical or scientific reason” (1) why it would be impossible. A device like this could generate an apparent object in our atmosphere—a virtual spaceship, if you will. There would be very little substance to a craft of this nature. It would mainly consist of a stream of high-energy particles. Its low mass would allow extreme maneuvers. It could leave physical trace evidence and kill the engine of automobiles by inducing a current opposite to that of normal operation. Interaction with atmospheric gasses could cause a visible plasma display that could also appear on radar. It would be completely silent, and it would leave *no hard physical evidence*.

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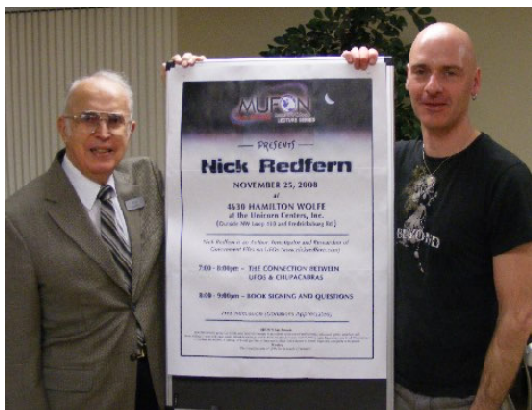
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© Robert L. Mason
November 30, 2008

Robert L. Mason is a retired professional engineer formerly registered with the State of California. He is also an author and the author of the recent book *The UFO Experience Reconsidered: Science and Speculation*.



Walt Andrus, former MUFON International Director, and Nick Redfern. Andrus and John Schwab have done a great job of rebuilding the San Antonio chapter, according to Ken Cherry, State Director Texas MUFON.

MUFON San Antonio hosts Nick Redfern

MUFON San Antonio—in addition to having former MUFON International Director Walter Andrus Jr. as an active member—is one of the oldest consistently meeting MUFON groups in the MUFON International Network.

Recently, MUFON San Antonio began its “Lecture Series” as a method to bring awareness to the group and organization. Its first guest speaker, in November, was Nick Redfern, author, investigator and researcher. Nick did a wonderful job discussing UFOs and Chupacabras. In addition, Mr. Redfern brought as a special guest Mr. Ken Gerhard, cryptozoologist and author.

Submitted by John Schwab, Assistant Section Director

Current Georgia CMS Investigations and Reports

Please note that some of these reports are raw in nature and investigations are ongoing.

24 Nov 08, 8:35PM – An adult male resident of Kingsland (Georgia coast), along with a companion, observed what appeared to be a fireball-type of meteor coming down from the NE to SW. It appeared to be breaking up and finally ‘burned-out’ at a nearby treeline. Within a few minutes the witnesses observed a glowing object that seemed to be dimmer than the fireball, but of the same shape. This second observation seemed to be leaving the ground from the same vicinity and flying UPWARD at a high rate of speed to vanish after traveling about 40 degrees. The witness said he had identified the first object as a fireball meteor from observing them during many past star gazing ventures, but was surprised by the second event.

Note: The ‘fireball’ phenomenon received its first recent focus in the late 1940’s when a more-frequent-than-ordinary

series of these events occurred in the SW USA. These drew the attention of the scientific community, as well as several observations by scientists themselves. Since that time, there have been numerous reports where such large meteors do not act in a natural way, i.e., *only* burning and breaking up in descent. Nowadays, most of us have seen many such clips of fireballs on the various Internet sources and TV news or else during our Skywatches. What has been described herein is certainly bizarre if it is NOT some mistaken observation. Coastal ASD Dave Marchant is investigating.

23 Nov 08, 1:32AM – An adult male resident of Leesburg (south Georgia, above Albany) was out looking at the sky and observed what he described as a “bar” (of light) approximately pinkie width flying between the constellations of Orion and Taurus, moving silently and quickly SW to W, duration about 5 seconds. He indicated the apparent size as that of an aspirin, and having a misty/shrouded-like appearance. Witness provided a very good sketch. Tom Sheets, SD, investigator.

20 Nov 08-Evening – Two adult males residents of the Brunswick area were camping on the Altamaha River (SE Georgia, flows generally SE into the Atlantic Ocean near Darien, Georgia, which is above Brunswick). In the early evening they observed a series of tiny star-like lights passing in different directions and then vanishing (satellites moving into the earth’s shadow?). About 9:00PM, across the river, they observed a disc or cigar shaped object that was “too distant to tell for sure”, but appeared to be glowing orange to red. Stated it was traveling horizontally just above the distant trees and would dip down, then come back up, vanishing after about 6 minutes. FI Brion Trainor of Brunswick is investigating.

30 Oct 08, 8:20PM – An adult female resident of Swainsboro (east central Georgia) was taking her children out on All Hallows Eve using their golf cart. Mother and niece were also along. While on a residential street adjacent the golf course, witness observed a silent object just as it flew eastward and high over nearby treetops and quickly vanished. Witness struggled to describe the event due to the object’s strange shape, but stated it was shaped like a ‘Pringle Potato Chip’ edge-on, or the brim of a cowboy hat. White lights were observed that seemed to “trickle like water” (flash sequentially). SSD/FI Joe McElveen is investigating.

31 Oct 08, 8:30PM – An adult male resident of Cataula (north of Columbus, west central Georgia) stated that he was on an errand to a nearby store. From the lot, he observed what he first thought might have been an aerial flare in the SW sky, perhaps from nearby Fort Benning. Upon looking more closely, he found that it was in the completely wrong direction to be connected to the base. He continued to watch as he drove home, and said it was up about 45 degrees off of the horizon just stationary. Upon getting closer to home, it dropped down in altitude and began moving among the distant trees, until it vanished. At home, he continued to watch the area and there was no reappearance. Witness provided a sketch and area diagram. This writer spoke with him in a long, extensive phone conversation; the witness seemed to be well spoken, and firmly established in his community. Investigation continues.

Submitted by Tom Sheets, SD MUFONGA

Mars Phoenix Lander Finishes Work on Red Planet

Source: NASA - Washington, DC, USA
Nov. 10, 2008

WASHINGTON—NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander has ceased communications after operating for more than five months. As anticipated, seasonal decline in sunshine at the robot's arctic landing site is not providing enough sunlight for the solar arrays to collect the power necessary to charge batteries that operate the lander's instruments.

Mission engineers last received a signal from the lander on Nov. 2. Phoenix, in addition to shorter daylight, has encountered a dustier sky, more clouds and colder temperatures as the northern Mars summer approaches autumn. The mission exceeded its planned operational life of three months to conduct and return science data.

The project team will be listening carefully during the next few weeks to hear if Phoenix revives and phones home. However, engineers now believe that is unlikely because of the worsening weather conditions on Mars. While the spacecraft's work has ended, the analysis of data from the instruments is in its earliest stages.

"Phoenix has given us some surprises, and I'm confident we will be pulling more gems from this trove of data for years to come," said Phoenix Principal Investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Launched Aug. 4, 2007, Phoenix landed May 25, 2008, farther north than any previous spacecraft to land on the Martian surface. The lander dug, scooped, baked, sniffed and tasted the Red Planet's soil. Among early results, it verified the presence of water-ice in the Martian subsurface, which NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter first detected remotely in 2002. Phoenix's cameras also returned more than 25,000 pictures from sweeping vistas to near the atomic level using the first atomic force microscope ever used outside Earth.

"Phoenix not only met the tremendous challenge of landing safely, it accomplished scientific investigations on 149 of its 152 Martian days as a result of dedicated work by a talented team," said Phoenix Project Manager Barry Goldstein at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

Phoenix's preliminary science accomplishments advance

the goal of studying whether the Martian arctic environment has ever been favorable for microbes. Additional findings include documenting a mildly alkaline soil environment unlike any found by earlier Mars missions; finding small concentrations of salts that could be nutrients for life; discovering perchlorate salt, which has implications for ice and soil properties; and finding calcium carbonate, a marker of effects of liquid water.

Phoenix findings also support the goal of learning the history of water on Mars. These findings include excavating soil above the ice table, revealing at least two distinct types of ice deposits; observing snow descending from clouds; providing a mission-long weather record, with data on temperature, pressure, humidity and wind; observations of haze, clouds, frost and whirlwinds; and coordinating with NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter to perform simultaneous ground and orbital observations of Martian weather.

"Phoenix provided an important step to spur the hope that we can show Mars was once habitable and possibly supported life," said Doug McCuiston, director of the Mars Exploration Program at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "Phoenix was supported by orbiting NASA spacecraft providing communications relay while producing their own fascinating science. With the upcoming launch of the Mars Science Laboratory, the Mars Program never sleeps."

The University of Arizona leads the Phoenix mission with project management at JPL and development partnership at Lockheed Martin Corporation in Denver. International contributions came from the Canadian Space Agency; the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland; the universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus in Denmark; the Max Planck Institute in Germany; the Finnish Meteorological Institute; and Imperial College of London.

For additional information about Phoenix mission findings, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix>.

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. Use "Volunteer Nomination" in Subject line.

HELP WANTED !

Need volunteers with the following skills willing to work on the CMS II Project. Database knowledge of MySQL. Solid Perl experience both for shell and CGI scripting, preferably on UNIX platform. Good skills in modern Web programming using javascript, HTML, and CSS. In addition, experience in using AJAX and JSON is desired.

Please contact Jan Harzan at
janharzan@hotmail.com

if you are both willing and able to work as part of the CMS II development team.

Letters to the Editor . . .

Good Job

I have recently watched three of your “UFOs over Earth” programs [on the Discovery Channel]. I believe there is greater intelligent life within our universe. It is far too arrogant to think we are the only intelligent life in existence. As I have noticed communication between species of ape and human as well as simple commands of pets by owners, intelligent communication is a broad term.

Your programs are a great service to the general public. It is a true credit to you and your organization to debunk the fantasies propagated by the team who produce “UFO Hunters.” Keep up the good work and hopefully one day soon there will be that one conclusive case that proves the existence of visitors from another world and you will be there to witness it.

Rick Gauthier
rpgflyemj@swbell.net

Delivery by UFO investigated

Good morning all;

Earlier this morning [Thanksgiving], I happened to look outside and watched as a massive black triangular UFO passed over my home. It had white lights at its corners and a large red light in the center of the bottom surface. I took a picture of it as it passed overhead. A few seconds later, I noticed something ejected or falling from the object which landed in my front yard. I put my jacket on and went outside to check it out. What I discovered was a large frozen turkey laying near my driveway. I brought it into the house. I examined the photograph I took and there seemed to be a white square area on the rear of the craft and a smaller white something next to it. Using an image enhancing tool (a large magnifying glass) I could see the large white area clearly. It had writing on it which said, “Jerome Turkey Farms, Barron, Wisconsin.” The smaller thing (about the size of a bumper sticker) said, “I Brake For Turkeys.”

The UFO disappeared into the distance, and the turkey is about to disappear into my oven. My investigation into this early morning sighting has been concluded.

Happy Holidays to all, and accept my wishes for health, happiness and prosperity for all. Now, where did that can of cranberry sauce go?

Dave Watson

*Best Wishes for a
Happy Holiday Season !*

In Memory of . . .

Judy Orsatti

Former MUFON Board member Judy Orsatti passed away on November 17th in Colorado, following a motorcycle accident on November 15th.

Judy served on the Board of Directors from 2004-2006 and was Director of Media Relations, a functional director, from 2003-2004. She helped Colorado MUFON and was on their board from 2002-2003.

Judy was instrumental in getting MUFON a lot of media attention and discounted radio and print advertising, which she oftentimes paid for herself, for the first two years that the symposium was held here in Denver, working closely with CO MUFON's media person, Barry Roth. Judy was also a lifetime international MUFON member (benefactor) as well as lifetime CO MUFON member.

Judy Orsatti was international MUFON's Director of Media Relations prior to being on MUFON's Board of Directors, prior to having a 10-hour long surgery to remove three aneurisms in her head in August of 2006. She never fully recovered from the surgery suffering with short-term memory issues and problems with medications. She finally just recently got her memory and life back, was feeling great and ready to get back to her car brokering business and probably MUFON as well as she was looking forward to the symposium in August.

Judy is the daughter of Dwight and Jayne Covington of Wheat Ridge, CO. Judy is survived by her husband, Robert Orsatti, of Wheat Ridge, CO, daughter Sheana Green and two grandchildren of Santa Barbara, CA, and two brothers.

For over 20 years Judy was an Independent Automotive Consultant and worked most recently with her business partner, Rachel Webb, at Centennial Sales and Leasing in Englewood, CO.

Judy had an extraordinary way of touching the soul of everyone she met. She was a true, strong, elegant woman with a heart of gold and she chose to share it with the world. Judy, your passion for life will be remembered and missed every day by all you have touched.

Donations in her name can be made to the Fraternal Order of Police at www.fopdonate.com.

Contributed by Lin Simpson



Judy Orsatti

Volunteer of the Month . . .

Steve McGee, FI Field Investigator, North Carolina

By Jim DeManche
Deputy Director of Investigations

Since February of 2007, when Steve McGee joined MUFON and quickly became a Field Investigator, he has completed an amazing (22) investigations! Early on, Steve would systematically check the CMS database for local investigations. Because of his own initiative and resourcefulness, Steve discovered and brought to light the now famous "Fayetteville Incident." This was the first case documented on the Discovery Channel's "UFOs Over Earth" series in October. As the originally assigned Field Investigator, Steve's efforts and skill uncovered a very complex and involved 'Close Encounter' case.

You can read about Steve's investigation in the February and June 2008 issues of the *MUFON UFO Journal*.

At the direction of James Carrion, MUFON International Director, Norm Gagnon was assigned to assist Steve with this investigation. Norm is also a Field Investigator and STAR TEAM member from Virginia. Later, Steve had to leave the investigation for a brief time, and was replaced by Richard Lang, Chief Investigator for North Carolina & Virginia.

Steve was born on March 27th 1963, and is a native of North Carolina. He currently lives in the city of Clayton, approximately 15 miles north of Raleigh. He has one younger brother.

Steve graduated from East Forsythe High School in 1981. He received two years' Vocational training as an 'Extrusion Technician' after high school. Steve began working for a local pharmaceutical company in 1997. At the present time he is a Production Supervisor.

Steve is a very quiet and peaceful man. He speaks with a sincerity that is rare and refreshing. Every Sunday he and his wife Paula along with their two daughters, Kristina (14) and Katie (10), attend church in their community, where Steve teaches Sunday school.

When he's not out doing MUFON field investigations, Steve enjoys golfing, fishing, and spending quality time with his wife and children.

MUFON holds a very special interest for Steve, as expressed best in his own words:

"In high school I read J. Allen Hynek's book *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*, and really have remained fascinated by the subject ever since. I think the more re-

search and data we gain from the UFO phenomena; it becomes apparent that we are dealing with something far more reaching than just nuts and bolts visitors from Outer Space. These objects can materialize and dematerialize at will, perform impossible right angle turns and maneuvers, the likes of which would turn any human being into subatomic particles. These objects are often seen morphing into several objects or reconstituting back again into one larger one. The best cases do not follow any known 'Laws of Physics' we can rationalize.

"I am open minded to any and all theories regarding UFOs, but I believe as do many others, that we are dealing with an interdimensional phenomena regarding these objects and their occupants. I am very proud to be a Field Investigator, and I have completed some (22) cases so far.

"MUFON folks are always well represented on television when they appear on either the History Channel or Discovery Channel. I believe that all future revelations concerning UFOs will have a MUFON influence. That is a big responsibility for all of us in MUFON." — Steve McGee



Steve McGee

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Volunteer of the Month . . .

Norm Gagnon, FI Field Investigator & STAR team member

By Jim DeManche
Deputy Director of Investigations

Norm Gagnon was born on March 30, 1960, in Jackman, Maine. He currently lives in Springfield, Virginia, which is in the D.C. Metropolitan area. He and his wife Isabelle (a native of Venezuela) have one daughter, Isabella.

With over 20 years of extensive security experience, Norm has held positions as a Security and Accident Investigator for top Defense Contractors in the D.C. area. He has also served as a Private Investigator in the State of Virginia. Currently Norm is working as a Project Manager for an 'Exhibit and Display' company in Virginia.

His motivation to do investigations also reaches into the world of the Paranormal. For more than 10 years Norm has conducted Paranormal Investigations in and around Virginia. He is the founder of S.E.A.R.C.H. – "Supernatural Entity Anomaly Research & Cryptid Hunters." Norm shared that, "My expeditions have taken me coast to coast and beyond the US borders. From Canadian Quebec to Nova Scotia, and as far south as Central America. I've also traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to the Republic of Ireland." He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society.

Norm joined MUFON in March of 2004, and soon became a Field Investigator. As a young boy he was greatly interested in ufology. He has collected newspaper and magazine clippings on UFOs from his youth on into adulthood.

When MUFON created the S.T.A.R. TEAM (Strike Team for Area Research), Norm was one of four original Field Investigators appointed.

Shortly after Steve McGee, Field Investigator from North Carolina, discovered the "Fayetteville Incident" case, Norm was deployed to assist him at the command of James Carrion, MUFON International Director. He was the first

S.T.A.R. member to be activated, and was the on site forensic investigator of the "Fayetteville Incident" case.

Norm was instrumental in collecting soil samples, plant samples, and photographic images, and also created spectacular computer imagery of the reported UFO vehicles and Entities in this case. You can see his work in the February and June 2008 issues of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Along with Steve McGee, Norm also appeared in the first episode of the Discovery Channel's "UFOs over Earth," which told the story of the investigation of this case. Unfortunately, the majority of his efforts were not presented in the aired program.

When not involved in MUFON or related investigations of various sorts, Norm enjoys hobbies, pursuits, and his Christian faith. His interests are graphic illustration and design, photography, cryptozoology, forensic science, archaeology and of course exploring the unknown! He is very aware of how IFOs, aliens and hairy anthropoids are fabricated, and how CGI effects and camera tricks are created. He has a keen eye for detecting a hoax.

Norm offered the following comments:

"Aerial phenomena have been witnessed by Earth's inhabitants since the beginning of our planet's history. These celestial events have also been recorded on stone petroglyphs and ancient literature. I do believe in the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects, but theories abound as to what they are, and why they are here. As a Field Investigator my approach is to observe, report, collect, preserve, and evaluate all evidence impartially. I also believe that a Field Investigator must not forget the Human Factor. We must provide comfort and help to those who have experienced these preternatural incidents, especially in 'Close Encounters' and 'Abduction' cases." – Norm Gagnon



Norm Gagnon

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Tom Sheets appointed to new position

MUFON Administrator for Professional Standards

Tom Sheets, the State Director for Georgia MUFON, has accepted the new position of MUFON Administrator for Professional Standards. Tom is a retired Georgia Criminal Investigator and Chief of Police.

During the 2008 MUFON Symposium in San Jose, International Director James Carrion and Director of Investigations Chuck Reeve implemented planning to appoint a MUFON Administrator for Professional Standards. Because MUFON is oriented toward field investigation, it was decided to seek out an Administrator with past experience in such matters from the law enforcement community.

The MUFON Administrator for Professional Standards will be responsible to the International Director for the investigation of any complaints involving MUFON personnel whether originating from within or without MUFON International or its various chapters and divisions. This agenda will also include inquiries regarding any violations or suspected violations of MUFON policy as adopted and published in the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*, the *MUFON International State and Provincial Director's Handbook*, and other policies and procedures as established by the International Director.

As needed, the Administrator for Professional Standards will conduct special investigations into matters which could potentially negatively impact MUFON or its chapters and personnel. Final reports regarding all investigated matters will be submitted to the International Director.

Tom Sheets is a native of City of College Park, Georgia, the home of Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the late 1960s, and while in the 1st Marine Division, was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in Vietnam in 1968. Tom joined the College Park Police Department after his military service and was assigned to the Patrol Division. He served for fourteen years as a homicide and major crimes detective, firearms instructor, explosives specialist, and Internal Affairs investigator. The last six years in CID he was the unit commander and co-founder of a joint Atlanta-area State/Federal intelligence unit that focused on issues of both domestic and foreign terrorism. Tom served the last nine years of his career as Chief of Police, retiring in 1996. His various advanced criminology and tactical training was received through the Georgia Police Academy, FBI, BATF, Secret Service, U.S. Army, and the University System of Georgia, Texas and Florida.

Two of his memorable career highlights included service on the Homicide Task Force investigating the Atlanta Child Murders in the early 1980s and later during 1993-95, hosting and participating in pre-1996 Olympic Games tactical training exercises with the U.S. Army's premier anti-terrorism unit.

After a lifetime of UFO studies, Tom joined MUFON in 1996, serving as Georgia's Chief Investigator in 1997, then State Director from 1998 through 2004 and from 2006 through the present.

We thank Tom for his years of dedication and his willingness to accept this position of responsibility. MUFON asks all volunteers to work closely with Tom whenever asked with a spirit of cooperation and support.



Tom Sheets

Calendar. . .

January 24, 2009. Pennsylvania Mutual UFO Network presents UFO Conference. John Ventre, Bill Birnes, David Jacobs. Bucks County, PA. Call John Ventre, 724-836-1266, or www.pamufon.com.

January 25, 2009. MUFONGA Atlanta Area UFO Study Group Meeting. Chamblee Library, Atlanta GA. Special guest speaker, Kathleen Marden, co-author of *Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience*.

February 22-28, 2009. 2009 International UFO Congress. 7 days and 8 nights of events. 30 speakers from around the world. Laughlin, NV. www.ufocongress.com

April 17-19, 2009. X-Conference 2009. Gaithersburg, MD. 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.

Book Reviews . . .

UFO Secrecy and the Fall of J. Robert Oppenheimer

By Donald R. Burleson, Ph.D. Illustrated by Mollie L. Burleson. (2008) Black Mesa Press, Roswell, NM.
| ISBN 978-0964958067. Paperback, 95 pages. \$9.95 on Amazon.com.

Reviewed by Robert B. LeLievre, Ph.D.

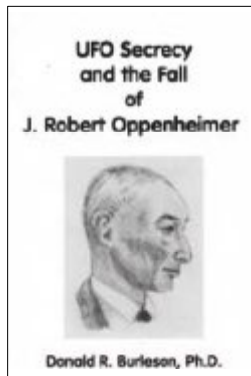
In the nine years between 1945 and 1954, J. Robert Oppenheimer went from hero to pariah. Set aside any ideas you may have about the legitimacy of the Manhattan Project. Set aside any reservations you may have about the morality of the decision to drop two atomic bombs on a seemingly already defeated Japan. Set aside any preconceptions you might have about J. Robert Oppenheimer. This short, concise book offers up an interesting, albeit controversial, hypothesis about the government's role not only in bringing about the destruction of a man, his reputation, and his immense contributions to the nation and national security, but also in the widely known but contentious history of UFO crashes and retrievals.

How is it that a brilliant theoretical physicist—who successfully managed thousands of scientists, engineers, military personnel and their families, who worked against the clock to develop and produce the world's first atomic bomb, who held Q-clearance for top-secret nuclear work—could fall from grace in less than a decade?

The official story

The official story focuses on his interests in and leanings toward leftist ideology and concern for social justice in 1930s Berkeley, California, his marriage to a former member of the American Communist Party, her previous marriage to an active communist, his brother's political interests and renounced membership in the Communist Party, his failure to report a contact by another UC Berkeley faculty member on behalf of a third party seeking to find a way to share scientific information with Russian scientists, an offer Oppen-

heimer flatly rejected but did not immediately report. All of these were known through legal means and by illegal FBI surveillance and wiretaps before Oppenheimer actually took charge at Los Alamos. The official story also has as a subplot Oppenheimer's supposed opposition to the development of the hydrogen bomb.



The story behind the story

But there is another story, the one told in this book. Dr. Burleson offers other reasons, some of which are on the record, while others are more speculative, but not farfetched. It is widely known that Oppenheimer was arrogant to a fault and, at times, gave no thought to pointing out another's flawed thinking, ignorance, or incompetence. He also had no truck with narrow-mindedness in his colleagues. These qualities led him to appoint Hans Bethe to head the theoretical physics division at Los Alamos (effectively isolating and frustrating Edward Teller, the "father" of the hydrogen bomb), to mock and humiliate Lewis Strauss in front of a Congressional committee, and to fire Edward Condon. Strauss was later offered the chairmanship of the Atomic Energy Commission by President Eisenhower, but his acceptance was contingent on one condition—that Oppenheimer not have any role to play in the U.S. nuclear weapons program. Condon later chaired the suspect University of Colorado commission, which concluded—despite real

Continued on page 14



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Book Review: Oppenheimer

Continued from page 13

and reasonable evidence for UFOs—that they were not a legitimate topic for serious scientific study. Two of these three men, along with others whom we will meet later in this review, played significant roles in the process that led to Oppenheimer's loss of security clearance that was required as a member of the AEC's General Advisory Committee, and his failure to win it back during a sham quasi-legal proceeding.

What is not widely known, and open to debate, is Oppenheimer's involvement in at least two UFO crash retrievals in New Mexico—Roswell in 1947 and Aztec in 1948. This is Dr. Burleson's key argument for Oppenheimer's fall. And, he makes a compelling if indirect case for it. Giving credit to the many researchers who have investigated the Roswell incident and the few who have investigated the Aztec incident, Dr. Burleson focuses on President Truman's dilemma upon hearing of the crashes. Who, beyond the military, needed to be involved? A scientific team seemed the most likely choice.

Assumptions

Here one has to accept several assumptions and suppositions:

- that Majestic-12 did in fact exist;
- that Oppenheimer, along with Vannevar Bush and John von Neumann, was at Roswell, a claim mentioned in passing;
- that four members of Majic-12—Drs. Vannevar Bush, Lloyd Berkner, Detlev Bronk, and Jerome Hunsaker—accompanied Oppenheimer to Aztec;
- that Gordon Gray, also a member of MJ-12, was selected to chair the AEC's Personnel Security Board for more than the obvious reasons related to his work in covert operations for the NSC and the CIA (it should be noted that Gray's papers on the Oppenheimer hearing, housed in the Eisenhower Library, are permanently withheld from private research and public scrutiny ostensibly for reasons of national security);
- that Strauss had personal and possibly nefarious reasons for deepening William Borden's antipathy toward Oppenheimer, which led to the latter's scurrilous letter to the FBI (Borden was executive director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in Congress);

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– that Teller's animosity toward Oppenheimer influenced National Security Advisor Sidney Sours (also a member of MJ-12) to recommend that President Eisenhower not reappoint Oppenheimer to the AEC's General Advisory Committee.

Even with the above qualifying assumptions and suppositions, Dr. Burleson provides a cogent and plausible summary of the events between 1947 and 1954. He presents in some detail the correspondence and discussions among Wilbert Smith, the Senior Radio Engineer for Canada's Department of Transportation, Dr. Robert Sarbacher, scientific advisor to the Research and Development Commission in the U. S. Department of Defense, and William Steinman, author of *UFO Crash at Aztec*, which first offered the tantalizing possibility of Oppenheimer's involvement in the retrievals of two crashed UFOs and several alien bodies.

Proceedings slanted, even malicious

Burleson also makes a strong case for the proceedings against Oppenheimer being at best trumpery, at worst a kangaroo court. The government's representatives had access to all documents, public, private, and top-secret; there was a clearance officer present who could rule that documents might be unclassified or had to remain classified, with such discussions held without Oppenheimer's counsel present. Clearly Oppenheimer and his attorneys were at a distinct, and quite likely planned, disadvantage. There were a number of witnesses, some for Oppenheimer (e.g., Vannevar Bush, John von Neumann) and some against him (e.g., Edward Teller, William Borden).

But in the end, by letter, the Personnel Security Board recommended by a two to one margin, to AEC General Manager Kenneth Nichols, that Oppenheimer's clearance not

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Book Review: Oppenheimer

continued from page 14

be reinstated. Nichols' report to the AEC board was slanted at best, malicious at worst. The board voted, four to one, against Oppenheimer. As Dr. Burleson states, "J. Robert Oppenheimer was out of the loop. His government service was a thing of the past." (p.75)

Oppenheimer said little in public after the decision. Once he said that the hearing was a "train wreck" (p. 83), and he told a reporter that, "there was a story behind the story" (p. 83). And, it is the story behind the story that Dr. Burleson argues is the real reason for the fall from grace.

Not perfect, but worth the read

No book is without difficulties or faults, this one included. Dr. Burleson's emotional colloquialisms might belie his passion for the subject, but they detract in some ways. The sequencing of chapters 1 and 2 might have been reversed, allowing the argument proffered to build and to have a stronger impact on the reader. The reliance on secondary sources—documents that can be lost or altered, books that can have a slant, eyewitness testimony and commentary about decades-old events—is problematic. But then, there are always such issues when one is looking back in time and on controversial events and claims. This book is no more or no less subject to these problems. Basing most, if not all, of the argument on the much-debated existence of Majestic-12 is perhaps the book's biggest problem. Yet, all in all, the hypothesis is fascinating if not wholly supported; the argument is compelling though incomplete; and the illustrations are evocative. The book is well worth the read, so much so that I plan to add it to the reading list for my UFO Encounters and Alien Abductions distance-learning seminar at the University of Great Falls, Montana.

Robert B. LeLieuvre, Ph.D.
Roswell, NM
November 2008

Lupo—Conversations with an E.T.

LUPO, Conversations with an E.T., written by Louise Rose Aveni, 2007, in paperback, ISBN 978-1-934246-28-3, \$14.95 U.S., is the first installment of a trilogy with *HYBRID* and *KRYSTAL* to follow.

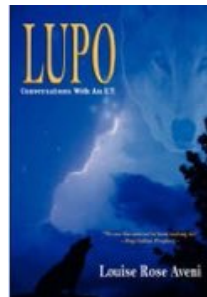
Reviewed by Diane Johnson

"We are the ones we've been waiting for" – Hopi Indian Prophecy. In printing this quote on the front cover of her book, author Louise Aveni hints as to why she wrote this book and her feelings on the subject.

Ms. Aveni states in her "About the Author" page that *Lupo—Conversations with an E.T.* is a tapestry of fact and artistic creativity, compiled from a blend of personalities and actual events. Now I'm intrigued! The cover art is just that, art.

Lupo—Conversations with an E.T., is the story of Stephan. We first meet Stephan when he was a mere toddler of 3. He is an orphan living on a farm in Italy with loving foster parents. We first follow him through his life into his mid-30s when he first embarks on his life's mission. We then follow him from Italy to his adoptive family in America and watch him grow and learn, hide his "specialness" sometimes, and at other times confront it fearlessly.

Pick up this book—meet Stephan, you'll enjoy his exploits and wonder, just who did Ms. Aveni model this character after? And, like myself you will anxiously wait for the next installment in this trilogy.



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Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

Misrepresentations about Barney and Betty Hill

I am sure that everybody who has been following the U.S. election campaign is well aware that much of what has shown up on the internet simply wasn't true. Clearly some was intentionally posted to deceive. It has also been true that much that has been written about UFOs has been false. A fine example of ignorance or intentional deception appeared in a "skeptical" piece by Brian Dunning which appeared as "Skeptoid No. 124" on October 21, 2008. It was sent to me by a guy who occasionally sends nasty comments after I appear on *Coast to Coast*. The title is "Betty and Barney Hill: The Original UFO Abduction." It can be found on Skeptoid.com.

It is truly a splendid textbook example of propaganda and misrepresentation. Dunning does get the date right, Sept. 19, 1961, but very little else. "Near the resort of Indian Head they stopped their car in the middle of Rte. 3 to observe a strange light moving through in the night sky. The next thing they knew, they were about 35 miles further along on their trip and several hours had elapsed," Dunning writes. Talk about omissions. There was more than one stop. The large object (hardly a light) was within a few hundred feet. Barney observed it through binoculars from outside the car. He observed a double row of windows through which he could see about 10 individuals, red lights on fins on the outside, etc. This description was conscious recall and was described to NICAP Investigator Walter Webb during a six hour interview on October 21, 1961. No hypnosis was involved.

"Then Betty began having nightmares two weeks later. In her nightmares she described being taken aboard an alien spacecraft and having medical experiments performed. As a result of these nightmares, Betty and Barney decided to undergo hypnosis." This is absurd. Barney had developed hypertension, bleeding ul-

cers, was unable to sleep. He was in therapy. The original thought—that these symptoms were related to his having moved to New Hampshire, leaving his sons—was dispelled by the therapist. At one session he noted that he and Betty had been searching for the location where they had seen the UFO. Then he was referred to Psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Simon, an early expert in treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder using medical hypnotic regression with amnesia induced after each session.

Dunning states, "Innumerable books and movies were made about the Betty and Barney Hill abduction... you almost never hear a critical treatment of their story." He mentions none of the books by name. I know of three (Ref. 1, 2, 3) and one movie, NBC's 1975 *The UFO Incident* starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons. There have been loads of very critical treatments, for example, by Carl Sagan in the bestselling *Cosmos* (Ref.4) and in an article in *Parade* magazine (Ref.5).

Dunning goes on, "Much of the Hill story is said to be based on these separate hypnosis sessions. In fact that turns out not to be case at all. It is important to note that that it as more than two years after the incident that the Hills underwent hypnosis. During those two years Betty was writing and rewriting her accounts of her dreams. All of the significant details you may have heard about the Hills' medical experiments came from her two years of writing." This is a total lie. There was no writing and rewriting as can be seen by reading what she wrote, for example, in "Captured!" and the comparative analysis between the dreams and the hypnosis material.

She did dream of a star-map, but it was on a roller like maps at school and was not 3D. Dunning has the gall to claim "Betty probably told the story to Barney over and over again until his ears fell off

over a period of two years before they ever had any hypnosis." I have no idea what the source is for this nonsense. Nor for this ridiculous comment "When they first saw the light, Betty said she thought it was a spacecraft. Barney always said he thought it was an airplane."

Without hypnosis they described seeing it close-up near their car with a double row of windows and barely moving and without any noise. This is an airplane?

Dunning then notes that Betty's written description of the beings in her nightmare was different from Barney's under hypnosis, but when reliving the moments together their descriptions of events matched. "After Betty Hill heard these sessions suddenly her hypnosis accounts began to describe the same kind of character." The simple fact of the matter is that Betty and Barney were each hypnotized separately and amnesia was induced after each separate session so they could not talk with each other about what came out under hypnosis. Betty could not have heard any of these sessions until Dr. Simon finally played the tapes for them.

Dunning then tries to relate the characters described in the hypnosis session to aliens who appeared 12 days prior to Barney's first hypnosis session in February 1964 to an experience on the *Outer Limits* TV program called "The Bellerose Shield." As a matter of fact, they do not match. Dunning admits that "The Hills stated they did not watch it." As with most of Dunning's claims, no basis is given for claiming they did.



Stanton Friedman

It should be noted that nowhere does Dunning bother to note the credentials of the parties involved. Betty was a social worker and a supervisor in the Welfare Department of the State of New Hampshire. Of course he doesn't mention that Barney was on the governor's Civil Rights Commission. Nor does he give Dr. Simon's name or background such as that he ran a 3000 bed hospital for shell shocked war veterans and that he was featured in an army film *Let There be Light* about his successful treatment of these veterans, using hypnosis in the same fashion he used with Betty and Barney to recover missing memories.

Dunning claims that "Betty had commonly spoken of UFOs even before 1961, including one story she often told of her sister's own close encounter in 1957." Again no source is given. The fact is that her sister's daughter, Kathleen Marden, co-author of *Captured!*, has stated this is false. Betty had mentioned it once to Barney and he didn't believe in UFOs and that was the end of that.

Dunning then gives this strange summary, "So here's what we have so far: A woman who clearly had an obsession with UFOs [no evidence whatsoever] saw a light in the sky that her husband described as an airplane [when it was farther away]. She then spent two years writing an elaborate story [totally false] and no doubt telling it and retelling it to her husband [totally false]. Later under hypnosis Barney was asked about the events described in Betty's story, and surprise, surprise he retold the story she already told him a hundred times [totally false] and added a dash from the *Outer Limits*."

Dunning mentions radar sightings included in the Blue Book file and dismisses them, naturally excluding some important data such as the supposed weather balloons having a very low radar profile. He tries to throw out measurements made on Betty's dress by unnamed "crop circle enthusiasts" but ignores the important work done by analytical chemist Phyllis Budinger, employed by a major company for 35 years. He claims that anything found on the dress was the result of its being in the closet for 40 years.

Phyllis actually had a very similar dress (her wedding dress) kept for that long which did not have any of the same stuff on it.

Dunning is equally cavalier in trying to toss out the star map work done by Marjorie Fish. Surprisingly he mentions her by name, then totally misrepresents what she did. He says she read a book. [Of course he doesn't mention that it was John Fuller's *Interrupted Journey* and that she then visited Betty to get more data.] "It's seven or eight random dots connected by lines." More nonsense, there are 15 dots. The lines make sense: nearest star to nearest star.

"She then took beads and string and converted her living room into a 3-dimensional version of the galaxy based on the 1969 Gliese star catalog." The fact of the matter is she built 26 different 3D models of the local galactic neighborhood, going out 55 light years at most, from the sun. The biggest model was a 3-foot cube, hardly living room size, and was used as a teaching tool by Dr. Walter Mitchell, Chairman of the Astronomy Department at the Ohio State University. He and Marjorie and Betty are all in the movie *UFOs Are Real* (Ref. 6). The galaxy is about 100,000 light years across. Most of the work was done before the Gliese catalog was published. Nobody doing what she did before the Gliese was published could have identified the stars because the correct distance data had not been available.

Of course Dunning says "Zeta Reticuli" when there are actually two stars, Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli. (The constellation is Reticulum). He makes no note of the facts that they are the closest to each other pair of sun-like stars in the neighborhood (1/8th of a light year apart), and a billion years older than the sun and 39.3 light years from Earth and that all the pattern stars are sun-like though only 5% of those in the neighborhood are, and that all the sun-like stars in the 3D volume represented by her models are part of the pattern and that they are all in a plane. He claims that anybody could have made a crude drawing using the Gliese data, although it was not published until 8 years after the event!! He makes claims

about Carl Sagan and other astronomers' comments, but neglecting to say they don't stand up to careful review such as provided by Astronomy writer Terence Dickinson (Ref. 7 and 8).

He concludes this mockery of journalism and science: "The Betty and Barney Hill aDunninguction story has every indication of being merely an inventive tale from the mind of a lifelong UFO Fanatic. It is unsupported by any useful evidence and is perfectly consistent with the purely natural explanation."

I have been unable to find any biographical data about Dunning though there is a well known flautist with the same name. His piece (containing many other false claims besides those noted above) stands as a monument to laziness, misrepresentation, bias and ignorance. It is almost pure baloney, an inventive tale from the mind of an anti-UFO fanatic. No, I have no idea why he and other debunkers are so determined to ignore the UFO evidence.

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www.stantonfriedman.com

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Filer's Files

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Illinois - Bright Light Looping and Darting Around

GALENA – On October 18, six of us were at a friend's home and went out on the second-floor deck to look at the stars from 9 to 10 PM, and saw a bright light in the eastern sky that had unusual movements. It was darting back and forth and looping around. This was no airplane or star. All six sober adults at the home saw it over the course of about an hour. We just couldn't believe what we were seeing and didn't know who to report it to. I was just wondering if anyone else reported anything. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

Iowa – Flying Triangle

DES MOINES – On October 7, 2008, at 10 PM, I was driving down Interstate 35 near Merle Hay Road and saw three triangle UFOs. They were red lighted with yellow dots on the corners. They were flying over my car and drifted along the area. The ghost ships all drifted to the east over the Holiday Inn and flew under a cloud. One changed its yellow lights to red on the corners and disappeared. There was no sound and the other two also disappeared. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>



Missouri - Saucer

BRANSON – The object appeared suddenly traveling southwest and parallel with the ground on October 23, 2008 at 2:12 PM. The object reflected the sun

brightly for several seconds and diminished in size and then disappeared. The observer experienced a slowing of time for three weeks afterward.

Comments: The witness was driving westward when he saw the object. It is not clear if the other two witnesses were in the car with him. The object was described as "reflective silver" in color, but was only the size of a grain of rice held at arm's length. Therefore it would be difficult for the witness to determine a definitive shape at that size. The observation of "time slowing" is interesting, but obviously cannot be verified. Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

ST. LOUIS – On the night of October 26, 2008, my three buddies and I were on Hall Street, just north of St. Louis. While watching street races I noticed this object just hovering near Lambert Airport but my friends said, "It was just a helicopter." I watched for 45 minutes until the cops came, and all cars scattered. As we were driving down the road, my buddy said that thing is still there and it's moving towards us. As it got closer it was about a football field high (300 feet). The craft was like a square/triangle and big, about the height of a one level house. The length of about 50 yards. It had three blinking red lights on the side, a blinking red light at the top, and a big spot light in the front. It wasn't an aircraft.

The craft was swaying back and forth and you could see the reflection of the metallic looking bottom looked square. I have a video of it. I had three people in my car that were going crazy. The craft made no noise. We jumped on the highway to follow the craft and were driving parallel with the craft. It started to veer off Highway 70 toward Illinois. We got off at the Bellfontaine exit and made a right turn and followed it for about

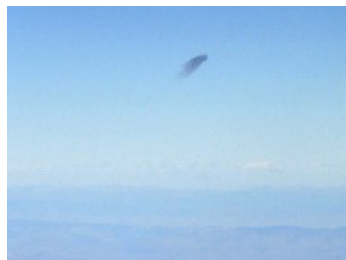
3 miles, then the object disappeared. The object had no propeller, no wings, made no noise, and had a square shape to it. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

Nevada – Black Egg Disk

On October 8, 2008 I was flying to Oakland, CA from Chicago, IL. About halfway into the flight, flying over the mountain states, I saw a black egg flying around the same height as the plane. It had a ghostly black tail (my first thought was that it was a plane on fire!) and was smoothly flying near the plane, as if it was supposed to be there. Curious, I started taking pictures of it, so I could later zoom in and see it clearer. I remember looking around and not seeing anyone else notice



George Filer



it... and I didn't say anything to anyone. I remember thinking "If this is a dangerous object... the pilot would know, right?"

Then I took a video of the Egg as it changed directions to be perpendicular to the plane. Any suspicions of falling asteroids were immediately dismissed...

as they can't change directions... or fly. It seemed like the tail got bigger and bigger as the Egg flew away from us. I tried to convince myself that it was some militaristic plane. I really think that what I saw was unexplainable. Thanks to MUFON CMS

Oregon - Bright Sphere with Debris

On November 23, 2009, my husband and I spotted a bright sphere about 75 degrees up in the sky just to the south of us. It first appeared to be moving to the northwest then south. I went inside to grab my video camera and call the kids out to see it also; it took a few minutes to get it in sight on the video camera. We had the telescope out and my son got it sighted in and it had the same smaller sphere circling it like the last one we saw. I could not see it in the video camera and never got a chance to see it in the telescope this time. I had my oldest daughter take photos. About 25-30 minutes into the sighting it got bright and in the camera you could see debris or spheres coming out the back of it. My son lost sight of the object and couldn't find it again after it "exploded". Thanks to MUFON CMS



Texas - Flying Triangle and Cylinder

ALEDO – My 10-year-old daughter took this picture near Bearcat Stadium on November 11, 2008. She said that she watched this bright object slowly moving around for about 10 minutes or so. Then it slowly faded away. Thanks to MUFON CMS

GRANBURY – My friend and I were walking about 10:45 PM, on October 22, 2008, outside of his home, and near the end of our walk we looked up and viewed a UFO in the sky. We both asked if the other had seen what we thought we'd

seen, agreed, and headed home. The craft itself was in the shape of a disk, it had eight lights on the bottom part of it. The crafts upper part was a gray color, and the bottom part with the lights appeared to be black. (It was late at night so it might be another color, but I was unable to see what it was). The experience wasn't very long; the craft moved to the right from its original position, made a small circle, moved left, and then seemed to disappear. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

Wisconsin - UFO and Jets

The witness is a retired police detective. He took his dog out at 9 PM, on Monday, November 17, 2008 when he noticed 4 or 5 bright yellow-orange lights in the sky arranged in a straight row. He estimates the altitude at 5,000 feet and the lights were silent. He also observed a number of military jets also flying in the area (making lots of noise) but at higher altitude. The same time the following night he observed 3 to 4 more orange lights in the sky for a few seconds before they disappeared. There were military jets in the air on the second night as well. Thanks to MUFON CMS

Argentina – UFO Video

BUENOS AIRES – I observed and recorded a dark object over Almagro Pale, Belgrano Brazil on October 26, 2008, for four minutes. The metallic UFO flew north over Argentina. Its altitude was between 2000 and 3000 meters. As is seen in the video the size of this is a lenticular UFO, it can oscillate between 3



and 5 meters of diameter, not much more than this. What was impressive is that it was seen with binoculars, and the surface was a dark brown. The video can be seen

at: <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=NedkXYluwUY>

Bahrain - Strange Green and Red Lights

WEST RIFFA – On October 29, 2008, I was standing on top of a hill and saw a weird object moving slowly to west with strange green and red lights were flashing towards Saudi Arabia, and then disappeared in nano-second. Around 6:30 pm, it disappeared from the scene and I suddenly realized I witnessed a UFO. I am not saying that exactly it is a UFO, but it might be. The place I witnessed this strange object was deadly silent area where no one reside. I am not sure what happened to me but only I can see at that point was a really weird object flying over my head and moving towards west. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

Canada - Strange Figure Lights

NORTH BAY ANTARIO – On November 15, 2008, I was working the graveyard shift from my home office and looked out my north window at 2:20 AM, and saw this big red light. The light was about the size of a saucer/sandwich plate, therefore too big to be a light from an airplane or helicopter. There was absolutely no sound associated with this light and it did not blink. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

Ladner, B.C. — I was biking on November 15, 2008, when I saw some strange moving lights in the sky between 5:26 PM to 6:09 PM. A group of about six lights were moving smoothly yet erratically in the eastern sky below 30° above the horizon. These lights were an orange street lamp color but I couldn't detect their size or any other definition. Their movement was fascinating as they would group together in pairs and soar through the sky before dispersing or fading out. Then they would reappear in groups of four at times and do the same thing. All the while, other lights moved around them in different directions and speeds.

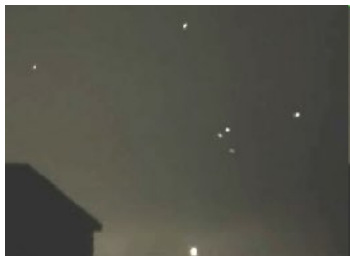
The lights continuously changed speed and direction, and always slowly

Continued on page 20

Filer's Files

Continued from page 19

disappeared after a while only to reappear again in a different spot. Their general motion was in circles parallel to the ground. They were near the Boundary Bay Airport, but I can't imagine these were any kind of aircraft. They could have been model airplanes but it would be odd to fly after sunset. I had my HD camcorder with



me and was able to take a few minutes of video of the lights.

Comments: I concur with the witness that the lights were probably not model airplanes. However, one of the lights could have been a regular aircraft. The identity of the other lights is unknown although there is a possibility that the lights could be birds illuminated by bright ground lights. Given the mostly cloudy weather conditions means that the lights were flying fairly low. Several clips were sent by the witness. A portion of one of these clips is posted. Several airfields are in the area. Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

Mexico - Boeing -737 Crew Report UFO Sighting

MEXICO CITY – Information is filtering through regarding a possible encounter with a UFO that occurred on the October 27, 2008, by the crew of a Boeing 737-200 airplane performing a descent on a flight from Los Cabos, Baja Peninsula. The crew saw a slow moving 'elongated teardrop' shape with a frontal diameter of eight meters. It was bluish in color and slightly glowing. The skies were clear. Some crew members were somewhat frightened by the encounter and described the craft as having 'other-worldly' qualities. A few passengers were

said to have complained of headaches shortly after landing. Mexico is regarded by some as the first nation to publicly acknowledge UFO's as a reality. Thanks to Scott Corries

Peru - Mothership Video

Piura –Professor Josué Gonzáles writes, "The Amazing Extraterrestrial Mothership is back in Northern Peru that has been seen for thousands of years. The Proyecto UFO Piura Extraterrestrial Contact Team sends greetings and this video footage shows some images from November 1, 2008. While we were walking on our way to our usual camping spot in the desert between Piura and Paita - we suddenly noticed two strange light objects in the sunset. When the UFOs got closer to the camera, we captured the larger one. This is an enhanced photo from the video. (Next column)

Note that the images taken in Japan in 1995 are very similar to the Peru video. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofBq5b_BVSI

UK/England

WARSOP, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – My father recently told me of an odd sighting he made. He was taking the dog for a walk around October 24, 2008, at 7 PM, when he saw in the sky a 'ball that flickered like a flame'. He was near the junction of Southgate Road and Meden Avenue, Warsop, looking roughly south, when he said he saw he an object moving in the direction of Edwinstowe. It was only a couple of hundred feet up yet moved silently and left no smoke trail, but conversely it travelled too quickly to be a balloon or any similar object. An hour later when he was back at home, the power was suddenly cut to all the appliances in the house, yet every light remained working. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

HIGHAMS PARK, WALTHAM FOREST, LONDON—I was sitting down with my girlfriend having dinner on October 26, 2008 at 9:45 PM, when I looked outside of the window and saw what looked like something on fire out of the window flying past about half a mile



away. I jumped up with amazement and called my girlfriend to get up off the sofa and look. She was also amazed. At first I thought it was a plane on fire and it was coming down to earth, but there was no flashing lights as such, just this bright orange glow. It was going across the sky quite fast and was heading for the forest nearby.

It eventually disappeared in the forest and I thought that was it, but a few seconds later it emerged again and floated off in a different direction and eventually disappeared. It was amazing I have never seen something like this in my life. I also filmed it with a small digital camera but with a small memory card and a short zoom its only about 40 seconds long, but you can make it out. I am still amazed. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

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 #48, November 26, 2008.

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Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is November's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **John Ventre** (West Virginia), **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Lorna Hunter** (South Dakota), **Jim King** (Iowa), and **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), and **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico) for being at 100%! The top ten 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 assigning all cases within 72 hours, and following 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.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	18/18	22/22
2	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	29/29	29/29
3	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	3/3	2/2
4	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	18/18	17/17
5	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	20/20	17/17
6	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	29/29	40/40
7	Florida	Bland Pugh	99 %	134/136	136/136
8	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	99 %	107/108	111/112
9	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	98 %	32/32	33/34
10	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	98 %	177/177	146/150
11	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	97 %	270/273	258/271
12	Georgia	Walter Sheets	95 %	32/33	33/35
13	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	94 %	114/116	128/140
14	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	94 %	35/36	23/25
15	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	89 %	93/94	74/92
16	California	Georgianne Cifarelli	89 %	152/157	166/201
17	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	86 %	79/97	88/96
18	Utah	Elaine Douglass	81 %	13/14	12/17
19	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	80 %	19/31	37/37
20	Washington	Marilyn Childs	78 %	35/54	54/59
21	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	76 %	19/33	26/27
22	Idaho	Janet L. Bunke	75 %	6/12	13/13
23	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	73 %	81/117	80/102
24	Massachusetts	Greg S. Berghorn	71 %	30/50	45/54
25	Ohio	William Jones	68 %	55/77	44/68
26	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	67 %	24/28	9/18
27	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	62 %	7/12	8/12
28	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	60 %	5/25	20/20
29	Arizona	George C. Parks	56 %	36/86	62/87
30	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	53 %	3/20	13/14
31	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	50 %	23/55	40/68
32	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	47 %	72/92	14/87
33	Wisconsin	Timothy G. Whiteagle	46 %	21/31	9/36
34	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	46 %	4/7	4/11
35	New Hampshire	Peter R. Geremia	36 %	4/12	4/10
36	North Carolina	George E. Lund, III	35 %	8/42	24/46
37	Maryland	Sheila Smith	22 %	3/31	13/36
38	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	19 %	3/31	9/31
39	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	17 %	7/20	0/25
40	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	16 %	5/20	1/14
41	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	15 %	7/35	4/40
42	Nevada	Mark Easter	13 %	2/46	13/55
43	Maine	John Selman	3 %	1/13	0/15
44	Rhode Island	Richard Lynch	0 %	0/11	0/6
45	North Dakota	Kurt Pfleger	0 %	0/7	0/4
46	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegel	0 %	0/1	0/1

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Director's Message

continued from page 2

We also released an updated version of the *MUFON Field Investigators Manual* and exam that not only incorporates the use of Internet resources, but also takes a process-based approach instead of the antiquated forms-based approach to investigations.

2009 will also be a banner year for MUFON with many new projects to work on, not to mention that it will be our 40th anniversary, culminating in the celebration at the MUFON annual Symposium, August 6 – 9 in Denver.

It is an exciting time to be involved in UFO investigation and research. All of the accomplishments of 2008 and all the future accomplishments of 2009 are due to your dedication to MUFON and its mission. Thank you for being on the MUFON team. It is a privilege and honor for me to serve you and MUFON.

Position Announcements

Bobby Walker has been appointed the new **State Director** for Mississippi. **David Allaire** has been appointed the new **State Director** for Rhode Island.

Gavin A.J. McLeod has been promoted to the position of **Assistant State Director** for British Columbia, Canada.

John Fegel has been appointed to the position of **State Section Director** for Grant County, New Mexico

Tom Sheets has been appointed to the position of **MUFON Professional Standards Administrator**.

Field Investigators

Gwenda Farrell of Phoenix, Arizona; **Steve McGath** of Casa Grande, Arizona; **R. Craig Culver** of Fayetteville, Arkansas; **Lawrence Rimbart** of Denver, Colorado; **Karl Fabian** of Hickory Hills, Illinois; **Margaret Padgett** of Independence, Missouri; **Matt Wilson** of Millville, New Jersey; **Cathy Richards** of Hillard, Ohio; **James Baird** of Anacortes, Washington.

Resignation

George E. Lund, III has resigned his position as State Director of North Carolina after many years of excellent

service to MUFON. Richard Lang has been appointed as the new State Director for North Carolina.

Reminder: Send in Field Investigator Exams

Just a note that all Mufon Field Investigator exams should be sent to:

David MacDonald
262 Wilmer Ave.
Cincinnati, OH. 45226.

The old version 4 exam grading and Field Investigator Certification will expire March 31, 2009.

Chuck Reeve,
Director of Investigations

Correction

In last week's Director's Message, Gene "Doc" Lipson was identified as living in Maryland. It should have read:

Gene "Doc" Lipson, M.D., of Brentwood, California, has been promoted to the position of MUFON Medical Administrator of Investigations.

January Night Sky

Continued from page 24

eastern horizon approximately 3 1/2 hours after sunset, and will stand high above the northern sky at the beginning of morning twilight.

Meteor showers

Quadrantids: The Quadrantids are an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hours at their peak. The shower will peak this year on Jan. 3, but some meteors will be visible from Dec. 28 – Jan.7.

Predicted Rate: 45 to 200 faint meteors per hour. Where to look: east of Polaris (the North Star) and below Ursa Major (the Big Dipper). The first quarter Moon will be below the horizon during peak viewing time around 2 a.m.

Bright Stars and Planets

A Planetary Grouping of Jupiter, Mercury and Venus with the first quarter Moon

Conjunctions and Occultations

Jan. 1: Mercury 1.3 degrees south of Jupiter.

Jan. 15: Saturn 6 degrees north of the Moon.

Jan. 21: Antares 0.2 degrees south of the Moon.

Jan. 26: Mercury 4 degrees north of Mars.

Jan. 30: Venus 3 degrees south of the Moon.

Letters to the Editor...

Socorro Incident

There is no doubt that the Socorro incident [November *Journal*] occurred and it is one of the best documented sightings and close encounters with reputable witnesses and physical traces, however, I would suspect that it was not radiation that fogged the film taken by Patrolman Jordan, but rather just another excuse by military authorities not to return the film.

Peter Tyson
Vero Beach, FL

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and so much more!

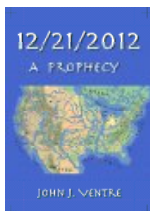
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Web store: www.ufocongressstore.com.



The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

January 2009

Moon Phases:

First Quarter: Jan. 4

Full Moon: Jan. 11

Last Quarter: Jan. 18

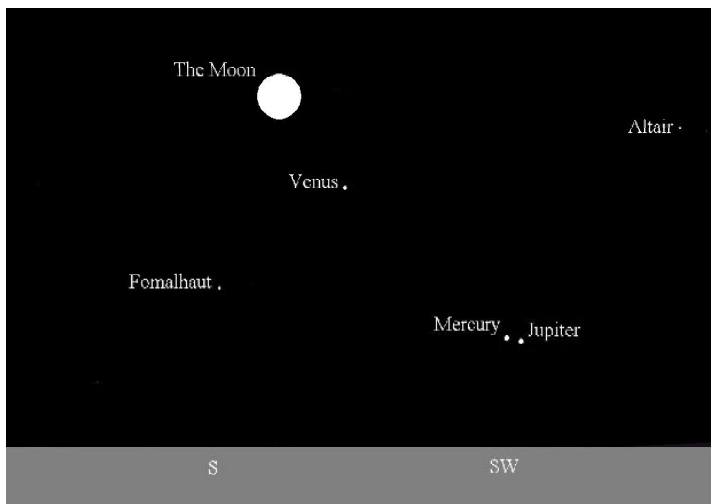
New Moon: Jan. 26

Bright planets (evening sky)

Mercury (magnitude -0.7 to 5.1): Moving from Capricornus into Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month above the southwest sky at sunset and follow the Sun below the horizon about 2 ½ hours later. As the month advances, Mercury will move into the glare of the Sun by the end of the third week. For Southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month above the west-southwest sky at sunset and follow the Sun below the horizon about 1 hour later. As the month advances, Mercury will move into the glare of the Sun before the end of the third week.

Venus (magnitude -4.2 to -4.3): Moving from Aquarius into Pisces. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month high above the south-southwest horizon and follow the Sun about 3 1/2 hours later; as the month advances, Venus will ascend high above the southwest horizon until the 20th at which time it will set about 4 hours after the Sun; after the 20th Venus will slowly descend towards the horizon. For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month high above the western horizon and follow the Sun about 2 1/2 hours later; as the month advances Venus will descend toward the west-southwest horizon until the end of the month at which time it will set about 1 1/2 hours after the Sun.

Jupiter (magnitude -1.9): In Sagittarius into Capricornus. For



After sunset on January 1st, 2009.

northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will stand low over the southwest horizon and will set about 1 hour after the Sun; by the end of the month Jupiter will be lost in the glare of the Sun. For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month low over the west-southwest horizon and will set about 2 hours after the Sun; by the end of the month Jupiter will be lost in the glare of the Sun.

Bright planets (morning sky)

Mars (magnitude 1.3): In Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will be difficult to observe as it will rise above the southeast horizon about 1/2 hour before the Sun. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above the southeast horizon about 1/2 hour before sunrise; as the month passes Mars will rise higher above the south-southeast horizon until it rises about 1 1/2 hours before the Sun.

Saturn (magnitude 0.9 to 0.8): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observ-

ers, Saturn will rise in the east-northeast approximately 6 hours after sunset, and will stand high above the southwest horizon at the beginning of morning twilight. For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will rise above the

Continued on page 22

