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Can this device detect alien encounter activity?
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Director's Message

By James Carrion

MUFOn shooting new TV show with Discovery Channel; Stephenville radar report released

Exciting times

It's an exciting time to be investigating and researching UFOs. Public and media interest is at an all time high and UFO reports are on the rise. MUFON is at the forefront of all of this activity and strives to provide leadership and a rational voice in the field.

I just returned from a nine-day trip to Maine and North Carolina shooting a new MUFON-centric TV series for the Discovery Channel called *UFOs Over the Earth*. The show highlights MUFON investigators and portrays the due diligence MUFON pays to UFO investigations. Working in the field with local MUFON investigators in North Carolina on this shoot gave me a new appreciation for how dedicated MUFON investigators are and I am happy that their hard work will be showcased on TV. If you have a compelling case you are investigating

and think it is a good candidate for the series, please email me at jcarrion@mufon.com.

Stephenville, Texas MUFON Radar Report Released

MUFON Director of Research Robert Powell coauthored, along with consultant Glen Shulze, a detailed 76-page analysis of the January 8, 2008, Stephenville, Texas, sighting's RADAR data obtained through the freedom of information act (FOIA). The full report is available on MUFON's website at www.mufon.com/symposia.htm. It confirms that unidentified objects flying without transpon-



James Carrion

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

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The Ambient Monitoring Project: Data Collected in Abductee's Homes being Analyzed

By Tom Deuley

Editor's Note: The data-gathering phase of this study has been completed. The data is now being analyzed by Dr. Steven Crunk, Mathematics Department, San Jose State University. When the analysis is complete, the Journal will publish a report.

The Ambient Monitoring Program (AMP) is a scientific research project that MUFON fully supported as a member of the UFO Research Coalition (URC). The other members of the coalition are the Center for UFO Studies and the Fund for UFO Research.

AMP originally stood for Abduction Monitoring Project, but after the early days of dealing with equipment and parts suppliers, we changed the name and noticed that we got better service and more serious attention when we used the word Ambient instead of Abduction. Actually, the term Ambient Monitoring is probably more precise, so it was adopted as the project name.

The intention of the project was to place a data collecting sensor system in the homes of repeat abduction experiencers. We did this with great success and learned many valuable lessons along the way. The experiment allowed us to collect very large amounts of data measurements that may or may not correspond to the abduction phenomena.

For five years the UFO Research Coalition actively operated the project with basically two years devoted to instrument development and three years devoted to data collection.

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.

From the beginning, we attempted to build a unit that was designed to get around some of these potential problems. For example, the device that we developed, when in use, was “on” all of the time. Even if the subject elected to turn it off, not all functions were turned off and some data

continued to be collected. In particular, it continued to record the time by the second, so that we could see when it was turned off or if it lost power. We could also detect if someone—or something, if you wish—attempted to or did manage to get into the interior of the device. If that had occurred, that particular case would come under very special scrutiny and would have been handled with special provisions and special precautions. This was never necessary.

In all of the cases we never saw any signs that would suggest that anyone or anything had attempted to so much as touch the sensor unit. On occasions when it was touched out of necessity by the subject or someone who lived in the same house as the subject, we found an explanation in the subject's journal, or we sent a message to our installing researcher to return to the subject to find out what the problem was, and there was never anything out of the ordinary. On one occasion it was the subject's cats walking on the unit that caused very unusual signals, and on another occasion the subject had spilt a glass of iced tea that required the monitoring unit to be moved to clean up the mess, after which the monitor had been returned to its original position.

History

The AMP project was the 28th proposal that had come before the CFM Coalition. The basic idea had been around for a long time, but was now in writing.

The CFM was made up of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR), and the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the same three organizations which later combined to form the URC. (CFM stands for the first letter of each organization.)

After an initial loss of funding, the proposal was held for about one year while the coalition was realigning and while we looked for sponsors and donors for this and other projects. All the while the initial project idea—which was somewhat simpler than what I describe in this article—was being perfected into a larger and more formal scientific proposal.

The proposal was given to the Fund for UFO Research, a member of both the old and new coalitions, with the intention that they in turn offer the idea to some prospective donors who might be interested in this project.

Over time the Fund's efforts led to sufficient funding for the work. Meanwhile, the CFM Coalition had become the UFO Research Coalition (URC).

With a good prospect for a sponsor, the URC continued to fine-tune the proposal. After several rounds of changes and negotiation with the prospective funding organization, the proposal for the Ambient Monitoring Project was accepted.

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AMP Project

Continued from page 3

From the initial presentation of the idea to the sponsor, to the beginning of the first work was nearly three years. Finding a project and someone willing to support the work is not as easy as it may seem.

Design of the sensor unit

The project got underway when I quit my engineering job in May of 1998. I picked up the full responsibility of getting the AMP project underway and carrying it through to completion.

Because of the long lead times necessary to design and build the custom electronics, the first order of business was to find someone capable of the work. We had developed specifications for the shape of the sensor unit and the number and kind of sensors we wanted in it, so soon after the start up, a contract was given to a small research lab for developing the electronics to our specifications and for building the first prototype. To our surprise it was only weeks until we were shown the size and shape of the electronics package that had been developed, and a recommended container. We approved both and told the contractor to proceed with the building of the first trial unit, shown in Figure 1. The same lab eventually built four prototypes for us, and later supplied the electronics for all of the final units, which I designed and built. The lab remained a consultant throughout the run of the experiment.

The electronics package consisted of a custom electronics board for the ambient sensors, a special power supply and a separate power supply to keep the batteries charged. The electronics board had a sensor which measured the amount of light in the room, and a sensor for sound level, which only measured the instantaneous volume and did not record any voice.

The device included an array of electromagnetic sensors and a basic weather station inside (that peeked out through the back of the unit) which measured temperature, humidity and barometric pressure.

Once the sensor unit was properly placed in the home of a subject it took a measurement of data every second, 24 hours per day, and recorded this internally. The data was then downloaded daily for storage on my local computer. I could also monitor the data real time.

The electronics board fed its measurements to a purchased item known as a data logger, a device that is specifically designed to collect electronic signal data. Some data loggers simply graph, in real time, the information put into them by sensors. Some data loggers store the sensor information in its memory for later extraction and use. Our particular data logger was of the second type. It could be accessed through telephone lines and a modem, so that we could call it up and download the data on a periodic basis. We



Figure 1. The URC AMP Project's first prototype, shown open. Batteries, power supply, and data logger are under the electronics board.

could also call in and watch the data accumulate in a real time mode and make adjustments to parameters and reading times.

An auxiliary memory module built into the package allowed us to collect more information than the data logger alone could hold. Power was supplied from the subject's household power but was backed up by a battery system in the sensor unit. It could operate in the passive battery mode for over 24 hours in case of a power failure.

After a couple of months and several meetings with lab personnel, the first prototype unit was delivered. The first unit was built into a women's make up travel case which had been hollowed out and had a small window in the back for reading the light, plus a small box mounted on the back for bringing in power and the data line.

A photo of the first unit is shown above in Figure 1. This unit weighed nearly 23 pounds. Most of the weight was a gel cell lead acid battery that supplied the backup power.

Testing and redesign

This first unit was tested for several months in terms of calibration methods, sensitivities, ruggedness, and EMI/EMC (Electromagnetic Interference and Electromagnetic Compatibility) considerations. A great deal was learned from this testing but only a few changes were required when we built the second prototype.

This first prototype unit was used for the first live test with real subjects, in order to iron out the "in briefing" process, data collection methodology, "out briefing" process and for testing the various documents used in the study. The documentation package for one case consisted of 30 pages.



Figure 2. Prototype 2.

The first test case ran for three months with the electronics unit never failing and holding up through one power failure. As a result of the first test, several changes were made in the documentation.

This first unit did have some minor problems. It did not dissipate heat well enough and caused the temperature to read higher than it actually was, due to a lack of ventilation. The second problem was with the case, in that it was too heavy, and very expensive. The case alone cost \$300. Lighter, less expensive cases, of a similar sort, were not found to be substantial enough for the weight it had to carry. While the first box was being used in the live testing, ideas for a better ventilated design were considered.

A second design, using an identical electronics package, was agreed upon and was built into a medium size boom box. This design was used to gain the openness necessary to have sufficient air flow to keep the electronics cool. In this respect it worked very well.

This boom box model was used for two more prototype tests with subjects in their homes. This design also had problems, primarily with internal breakage during shipping, beginning with the first shipment. The combination of the weight of the batteries and the weakness created by hollowing out the boom box left the unit too weak to handle the jolting of being shipped.

The makeup case design just did not seem to be something that would be out in a room all of the time, while the boom box did fit in some rooms. A compromise design was needed for these and other reasons.

During the four or so months of live testing with the second prototype, I completed a final design which was adopted by the URC Board. The idea was to build the sensors into a fine finished wooden box of substantial strength, yet with sufficient ventilation to prevent heat buildup. Like the makeup case, having custom boxes made was going to be very expensive. I shopped everywhere and had found several possibilities. The one wooden box I had found that seemed to fit the needs best cost a little over \$80, while there were

lesser candidates for comparably less money. Coincidentally I found the same \$80 box at Sam's Club for only \$40.00. One was immediately purchased and was determined to fulfill all the requirements, so I bought more boxes which were configured and used for the actual test units. This final design was engineered from the beginning to meet the needs of appearance, heat dissipation and strength for shipping.

This model, of which I built six, was used to complete 13 full data collections of 4 months or more. Data collection ended in June of 2003.

This wooden-box model was shipped in standard airline approved shipping containers which had proven far more rugged than the best cardboard box. In 16 round trip shipments we did not have any breakage.

Case installation and data collection

We began each new study case by finding a prominent well-known researcher who could identify a willing subject. So we went looking for researchers, and not subjects per se. We arranged with the researcher to have an extra telephone line put into the subject's home, if that was necessary. The researcher also arranged for a psychological evaluation of the subject. This was done for both the subject's protection and our protection. Lastly, we sent a predated journal for the subject to use for each day the sensor unit would be in their home. The researcher would also run a set of tests in the home to help establish normal background readings and usual noise levels. Finally, the researcher made a drawing of the room where the unit was located showing exactly where the unit was placed. Often photos were taken of the units in place.

Since the unit was extremely sensitive, the researcher put marks on the surface where the unit was sitting so that if it ever had to be moved it could be put back exactly in the same spot.

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Picture 3. Final design of the sensor unit.

AMP Project

Continued from page 5

The electronic data was automatically collected each day from each unit, by a collections computer in my office in San Antonio, Texas. The computer was programmed such that at a specific time each day it called out through the modem to each one of the units that were in the field. Each collection took approximately one hour. The long distance bill was quite high.

Each day's data from each unit consisted of about 1500 or more 8 1/2 X 11 pages. All of the pages looked pretty much the same without close inspection. See Figure 4 for a sample of the data.

The units generated a little over 6 megabits of data per day per unit. If we had printed it out it would have been three reams of paper for each file each day, over a case and one half of paper every two days. Needless to say, I didn't print out the data, nor did I need to. Electronic storage made much more sense.

After each collection I converted the data into a graphic file and then I reviewed the graph for the entire day for each case looking for technical problems with the data and gross anomalies that may show unusual activity. After the review, both files—the data file and graphic file—were backed up to a read/write CD. A CD holds about 55 days worth of data.

See Figure 6 for a typical graphical presentation of the data. The data graphical program was capable of showing 24 hours' worth of data, however, if necessary only one minute could be looked at or if need be, only two seconds at a time to see exactly when a sudden event occurred.

During the entire study, the subjects in their homes kept a daily journal of their abduction experiences, if any should occur. Figure 5 shows a sample of the top of the journal page. The bottom of the page was fully lined for writing about the experience.

Each day the subject marked No, Yes or Maybe at the top of the page. If No, nothing more was required. A Maybe or a Yes required some additional comment. Extra pages were supplied at the end of the journal for continuing a long entry, if necessary.

```
55,21,2354,40.37,292.7,337.1,.114,15.5,1.012,20.08,1.748,72.8,75.2,36.16,30.55
55,21,2354,40.37,292.7,337.4,.114,15.5,1.003,20.08,1.748,72.8,75.1,36.03,30.55
55,21,2354,39.7,293.4,338.1,.047,15.5,1.048,20.08,1.748,72.8,75,35.79,30.55
55,21,2354,40.37,293.4,338.1,.08,15.5,1.036,20.08,1.748,72.8,75.1,35.86,30.55
55,21,2354,40.03,294.7,337.8,.08,15.5,1.003,20.08,1.748,72.8,75.1,36.13,30.55
55,21,2354,40.37,295.4,337.8,.147,15.5,1.036,20.08,1.748,72.8,75,36,30.55
55,21,2354,39.7,294.7,337.1,.08,15.5,1.023,20.08,1.748,72.9,75.1,36,30.55
55,21,2354,39.7,294.4,340.8,.08,15.5,1.036,20.08,1.748,72.8,75.1,35.79,30.55
55,21,2354,39.7,295.4,340.1,.047,15.5,1.027,20.08,1.748,72.8,75.1,35.86,30.55
55,21,2354,39.7,295.4,339.4,.013,15.5,1.03,20.08,1.748,72.8,75,36.06,30.56
```

Figure 4. Sample of data. 1500 pages per day

Today's Date 8 June 2001 Friday

Do you think an experience occurred within the past twenty-four hours?

No ____ Yes ____ Maybe ____

Please write about your thoughts and feelings today. You can write about experiences you may have had or anything else you think is important. If you need additional pages use the first available blank page after the dated pages, referencing its page number, filling in the date.

Figure 5. A sample page from the journal that we provided to the subjects.

At the end of the case the remote researcher removed the unit, debriefed the subject and obtained the journal. The researcher would then send me the sensor unit and would send the journal to Dr. Mark Rodeghier at CUFOS. In turn, I created a permanent set of read only CDs and sent all of the electronic data to Dr. Rodeghier.

When all of the data had been collected for all of the cases, the data and the journals were to be compared by other third party researchers and a final report for the project written. The data is being analyzed now by Dr. Steve Crunk, of the Department of Mathematics at San Jose State University.

The final results from the report will be published, and if significant will likely be the subject of a paper to be delivered at some future MUFON Symposium.

Questions and answers

To answer some of the anticipated questions about the project:

Q1). Could the aliens, if there are aliens involved, detect the box?

We were careful to engineer the box in such a way that it would be completely passive. It does not make any noise, electronic or otherwise, and it does not send out any form of signal except during data collection or when real time monitoring is occurring. It would, however, be detectable with most any unsophisticated "bug" detector. This would be particularly true during the time

the box was sending us data. But that only occurred one hour per day and when no one was home. Also an electronic clock which runs in the unit at all times has an extremely low signal that could be detected by a more sophisticated detector.

Q2). If the box is detectable, can it be fooled?

Yes, but we don't know how it could be "frozen" without us knowing it. It would probably quit working altogether if it was "frozen." Also the data collection involved a very specific number of data bits and if it was completely turned off for some period of time the clock would be wrong, with a gap in the time, and the number of data points would be short. If this occurred, this would be exciting, as it would tell us more than we know now and would call for a new approach. If they could turn off the unit and leave the clock running, we would then have a clock signal but all of the data would be gone—again a very telling situation that would be important.

Q3). Can the unit be turned off if the subject feels the need for complete privacy?

Yes. There is a switch on the back of the unit that allows for privacy, but the subject was told that if it was turned off

too often or for long periods of time they would be voiding the experiment and we would probably stop the test.

A word about our scientific approach—a good scientific test is conducted in a double blind fashion. In this study, that would mean that one subject would be tested with a real test unit, and one would be tested with a false test unit. In this abduction study, this would require a false test unit in the home of a close neighbor with a very similar family and work relationship profile. We concluded that this would make it nearly impossible to conduct the study.

We instead opted for a separation of duties. As the data collector, I was to never know the name or address of the subjects. I was to only know the name of the researcher for a given case. All of my correspondence was through a third party. Likewise the subject never knew my identity. Neither did I ever have access to the subject's journal, so it would have been impossible for me to make changes to the data to match something the subject had reported. Lastly, as mentioned above, after all of the data had been collected, a third researcher who had nothing to do with the collection of either the Journal or the data would compare the data and the Journal and write the case report.

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Figure 6. 24 hours of data in a single presentation.

History Team Researchs Roy Craig Archives

Reviews over 1200 pages at Texas A&M University

By Robert Powell

The MUFON History Team's first archival research project involved the Roy Craig files located at the Cushing Library at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Roy Craig was the right hand man for Edward Condon in the development of the Condon Report. This report was commissioned by the Air Force and concluded with a recommendation in 1969 that the Air Force make no further efforts in understanding the nature of UFOs. MUFON would like to thank Hal Hall, the curator at Cushing Library, and the rest of the Cushing Library staff, for their help and support in the study of Roy Craig's archived documents. The staff was very helpful in explaining library archival retrieval procedures to us as well.

Robert Powell, MUFON's Director of Research, and Dr. Michael Swords, a UFO historian, made the trip to Texas A&M. Robert and Mike are two members of the MUFON History Team that was formed in November of 2007. Mike was chosen to go because he has studied the Condon Report in detail and has written several articles regarding it. One of Mike's articles regarding problems inherent with the Condon Report was among the documents that Roy Craig had kept! Robert lives within a hundred miles of the archives, so it was very convenient for him to participate.

Robert and Mike researched what was available in the library's archives using the internet prior to making the trip. This prepared them for the amount of time that would be needed to thoroughly research the files. They also called the library to ensure that they knew the library's procedures and what could and could not be brought into the archives. They brought with them a laptop computer, a scanner, and a Canon EOS digital camera. These accessories are important items to have when doing research at a university

archival library, unless you want to pay 25 cents for every page copied. Mike traveled by plane from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Austin, Texas. From there, he and Robert made the two-hour drive to Texas A&M. Once there, they spent the entirety of the next two days re-searching the Roy Craig files.

So what did they find? The number of archived documents was quite large and consisted of eight file-size boxes filled with folders. Two full days were spent going through every file in all eight boxes. 1200 pages of material were photographed. (That would have cost \$300 if the library had done the copying for them!) They won't know exactly the value of what they have until they go through all of the copied material, which will take a while. Some of what was copied included:

1. A lot of information on the Ubatuba magnesium sample from the Brazilian UFO sighting, including the detailed chemical analysis of the sample.
2. Craig's field investigation notes of some of the sightings detailed in the Condon Report.
3. Craig's first draft for the Condon Report which will be reviewed for any discrepancies against the final report.
4. A chronology of the Condon project events.
5. Several case reports.
6. Correspondence with Ray Fowler, the Lorenzens, Hartmann, and Edward Condon.
7. Bob Low materials.
8. Information on the Canadian government and UFOs.
9. Reel to reel audio tapes of interviews related to the Edwards AFB UFO, sighting at Moses Lake, Washington, sighting at Milledgeville, Georgia, and



Roy Craig

several other tapes. These will need to be converted by the library to DVD format.

Although this will not be known until all of the documents have been reviewed, it is believed that the materials from the collection could illuminate Condon Project behaviors vis-a-vis field investigations, add bits of information previously unavailable to some cases, and add to the chronology of project events and evolution.

The information from the Roy Craig files was digitally photographed and an electronic copy will be made which will be available in the Pandora Project files. A lengthier report will be completed once all of the documents are evaluated.

The History Team plans on making additional trips to unearth archived documents. All of this will be useful in documenting the history of the UFO phenomenon.

August 21, 1955—Shots were fired!

The Kelly-Hopkinsville case

By Joseph R. Calamia

Little Green Men and Flying Saucers were part of my generation as much as hula-hoops and back-yard bomb shelters. I was born in 1947, just three months before the famous Roswell incident. During my adolescence in the 1950s, I watched excitedly as UFO flaps flooded the country and newspaper headlines. They were exciting times.

Some of the most interesting UFO cases in our history happened in the 1950s. One of those cases was the famous Kelly-Hopkinsville incident that occurred on August 21, 1955. This case was somewhat different because “shots were fired!”

The events of the case are well documented; however, a short synopsis is in order.

On the evening of August 21, 1955, Billy Ray Taylor was visiting his friend, Elmer (Lucky) Sutton at the Sutton family farmhouse in Kelly, Kentucky, which is just a few miles from Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Billy Ray Taylor went to the farm’s well to draw a pail of water in the early evening hours. As he started back to the house, he saw a bright disk-like object fly over and land in a wooded area about one-quarter mile from the Sutton home. He ran back and told the family what he had seen. Naturally, no one believed his story, so Mr. Sutton went back outside with him in hopes of seeing the object Billy had described.

Both men saw nothing and they began walking back to the farmhouse. As they started up the path, they suddenly noticed what appeared to be a glowing humanoid creature coming out of the woods. The creature appeared to be floating across the ground. They described the creature as about 4 feet tall, large glowing eyes, very long arms with claw-like appendages (rather than hands), and large bat-like ears protruding from the head.

The two men ran into the family home and told the family what they had seen. Soon thereafter, the creature (or creatures) began to surround the Sutton Home and peer into windows and screen doors. Mr. Elmer Sutton picked up his 12 gauge shotgun, while Billy Ray Taylor picked up a .22 rifle. Mr. Sutton’s brother, known as JC, also picked up a 20 gauge shotgun and the shooting began!

Mr. Sutton and Billy Ray fired on the creatures at close range. The creatures when hit, seemed to do a back-flip and then quickly ran or floated off into the woods.

This hide-and-seek shooting event continued for about 3 hours until the Sutton family escaped from the house and into

their two vehicles. The family drove to Hopkinsville where they immediately contacted the Chief of Police.

Police units accompanied by military investigators from nearby Ft. Campbell examined the area but found nothing. The investigators subsequently left, and after their departure, the creatures started coming to the house again. More shots were fired and finally, around 5:45 AM the visitations ended.

This case has never been disproven and remains of interest even today. A new book is currently on the market entitled *Alien Legacy* by Geraldine Sutton-Stith, the daughter of the late Elmer Sutton. *Alien Legacy* is written in a somewhat novel-like fashion but is easy reading and gives the reader an insight into the legacy left to Ms. Sutton-Stith by her father.

In the course of my investigation, I read the book and subsequently contacted Ms. Sutton-Stith for interview purposes. The results of that interview follow:

Q. My understanding is that Billy Ray Taylor met your father at a carnival where they worked. How long (if you know) did your father know Billy Ray Taylor?

A. Ms. Sutton indicated that her father, Elmer, left home at approximately age 14 due to harsh living conditions and shortly thereafter, joined the carnival to work. She believed the two had known each other for some time. Billy was apparently familiar with the Kelly-Hopkinsville area and the two traveled from Evansville, Indiana, to Kelly for a weekend trip on the weekend of the event.

Q. What happened to Billy Ray Taylor after the incident? Did your father and Billy go back to work, and whatever happened to Billy? Do you know if he is still alive?

A. “Billy Ray just disappeared sometime after the two returned to work. My father, Elmer, worked a while longer at the carnival, but returned alone to the Kelly-Hopkinsville area. People have tried to find Billy but no one ever has. . .he may have died [by now].”

Q. How old were you, Ms. Stith, when this occurred?

A. “I was not yet born. I was born in 1961, and really did not hear about this incident from my dad until I was about 8 or 9 years old. However, I can recall the look on my father’s face when he spoke of the incident. Although my grandmother also saw the beings, she never talked to me about the incident.”

Q. To your knowledge, had there been any prior UFO sightings in the area before this happened?

A. “Yes, I was told that there were numerous sightings prior

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Kelly-Hopkinsville

Continued from page 9

to the event, and [after] even up until 2002, I believe, was the latest reported activity.”

Q. What ever happened to Chief Russell Greenwell? Did the incident affect his career or personal life?

A. “I don’t know if it affected his personal life, or career, but he stuck by the Sutton family because... I think, of his own UFO experience in 1952.”

Q. In your book, you mention three possible corroborating witnesses that saw the falling object as it traveled toward Kelly. You listed them as a “state police officer,” a “military investigator” out of Ft. Campbell, and ...a nearby “farmer.” These people allegedly saw the object(s) but...never reported it. Do you know them by name, and if so...how did you come to know they had actually witnessed the “falling object?”

A. My book research brought out this information. This particular information was located in the late Isabel Davis’ initial investigation.

Q. In your book, you mention that your father, Elmer Sutton, and his friend, Billy Ray Taylor, left the family farm the following morning. Billy allegedly went hunting with a friend, while your father and other family members traveled to Evansville to take or pick up some old furniture. I’m sure investigators (like myself), can’t help but wonder why...these men would leave their wives and children behind to face the onslaught of police, military investigators and the public the following day after such a traumatic incident. Could you explain?

A. “My father, like all people of this area and at that time, was a serious hard-working individual. They basically went about their lives to get the job done. I’m sure it was hard on them, but they were the type that no matter what happened a day or two before, they would continue to go about their lives trying to make a living. I think people accepted things better in those days.”

Q. Has there ever been any indication that your Father and Billy Ray were taken to Ft. Campbell on the following day for a special interview or de-briefing procedures?

A. “No, I don’t believe so. If, that had occurred, my father would have told me.”

“However, on two separate occasions, I was approached by elderly gentlemen who told me that they had been stationed at Ft. Campbell at this time. Both of these unknown men told me that Ft. Campbell was in the process of experimenting with substances that could be manipulated into any form they (the military) wanted to use. I don’t especially believe these claims because if, the military was experimenting with something that ad-

vanced, imagine how they could manipulate forms today!”

Q. When your Father and Billy Ray described the creatures, they stated they had large glowing eyes, long arms with claw-like hands, and were “silvery-grey” in color. There appears to be no mention of the large “bat-like” ears mentioned in your book that appeared to have been drawn by various members of the Sutton family. Did your father actually mention or describe these large bat-like ears to the investigators, or was this possibly overlooked at the time of the initial interviews?”

A. “Dad always stated that the creatures had the big ears.”

Q. To your knowledge, was there ...any evidence such as the “glowing patch” or trace landings, or anything tangible ever found after the event?

A. “There was a large circular spot [on the ground] about 28 feet in circumference that was located by my dad where nothing ever grew. It was a perfectly round spot but no grass, no flowers... nothing grew. It stayed like that for many many years. However, I think ...finally things once again started growing in that area.”

Q. How do think this event affected your Father?

A. “Awful...he was terrified of only two things in his life. One was tornados, and the other... the return of the aliens. He was very angry at the public in general for not believing him, and stated many times that had he known what the reactions would have been, he would never have gone to the police station that night for help. As he got older, he stopped talking about the incident and would refuse all and any interviews. I recall sometime shortly before his death that he received a call from someone in Germany wanting to interview him. He flatly refused.

No matter whether you believe or do not believe about this case, one thing is true. Mr. Sutton and his family were truly affected by the alleged events. In fact, the Sutton family soon moved away from the farm. Elmer Sutton was never quite the same, and his main regret about this entire event, according to his daughter, was that he reported it.

Perhaps, we are all like the blind men who felt of the elephant so that they could go back and describe the beast to their village. Each man only felt one part of the elephant and each perceived it wrongly.

Mr. Sutton was only describing one aspect—his personal experience—and could only hope that his perception was accurate. The study of UFOs is like the elephant. It has many parts, but when combined properly they make up the entire animal. No matter how unusual something may seem, it is but a part to something larger. I hope one of these days we will be able to piece the puzzle together properly.

Joseph R. Calamia is a MUFON Field Investigator living in El Paso, Texas.

WorldWide Telescope Brings Space Exploration to Earth

REDMOND, Wash. — May 12, 2008 — The final frontier got a bit closer today as Microsoft Corp. officially launched the public beta of its WorldWide Telescope, which is now available at <http://www.worldwidetelescope.org>. WorldWide Telescope is a rich Web application that brings together imagery from the best ground- and space-based observatories across the world to allow people to easily explore the night sky through their computers. WorldWide Telescope has been eagerly anticipated by the astronomical and educational communities as a compelling astronomical resource for students and lifelong learners, and as a way to make science fun for children.

“The WorldWide Telescope is a powerful tool for science and education that makes it possible for everyone to explore the universe,” said Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft. “By combining terabytes of incredible imagery and data with easy-to-use software for viewing and moving through all that information, the WorldWide Telescope opens the door to new ways to see and experience the wonders of space. Our hope is that it will inspire young people to explore astronomy and science, and help researchers in their quest to better understand the universe.”

The application itself is a blend of software and Web 2.0 services created with the Microsoft high-performance Visual Experience Engine, which allows seamless panning and zooming around the heavens with rich image environments. WorldWide Telescope stitches together terabytes of high-resolution images of celestial bodies and displays them in a way that relates to their actual position in the sky. People can freely browse through the solar system, galaxy and beyond, or take advantage of a growing number of guided tours of the sky hosted by astronomers and educators at major observatories and planetariums.

A user can feel free at any time to pause the tour, explore on his own (with multiple information sources for objects at his fingertips), and rejoin the tour where he left off. For example, one could join Harvard Astronomer Alyssa Goodman on a journey showing how dust in the Milky Way Galaxy condenses into stars and planets. Or take a tour with University of Chicago Cosmologist Mike Gladders two billion years into the past to see a gravitational lens bending the light from galaxies allowing you to see billions more years into the past.

“WorldWide Telescope brings to life a dream that many of us in Microsoft Research have pursued for years, and we are proud to release this as a free service to anyone who wants to explore the universe,” said Curtis Wong, manager of

Microsoft’s Next Media Research Group. “Where is Saturn in the sky, in relation to the moon? Does the Milky Way really have a supermassive black hole in the center of the galaxy? With the universe at your fingertips, you can discover the answers for yourself.”

The service goes well beyond the simple browsing of images. Users can choose which telescope they want to look through, including the Hubble Space Telescope, the Chandra X-Ray Observatory Center, the Spitzer Space Telescope or others. They can view the locations of planets in the night sky — in the past, present or future. They can view the universe through different wavelengths of light to reveal hidden structures in other parts of the galaxy. Taken as a whole, the application provides a top-to-bottom view of the science of astronomy.

“Users can see the X-ray view of the sky, zoom into bright radiation clouds, and then cross-fade into the visible light view and discover the cloud remnants of a supernova explosion from a thousand years ago,” said Roy Gould, a researcher at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. “I believe this new creation from Microsoft will have a profound impact on the way we view the universe.”

Microsoft Research has formed close ties with members of the academic, education and scientific communities to make WorldWide Telescope a reality. NASA, along with other organizations, coordinated with Microsoft Research to provide the imagery, provide feedback on the application from a scientific point of view, and help turn WorldWide Telescope into a rich learning application.

Microsoft’s mission to make the universe accessible to everyone was begun years ago by renowned Microsoft Senior Researcher Jim Gray. WorldWide Telescope is built on top of Gray’s pioneering development of large-scale, high-performance online databases including SkyServer and his contributions to the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, a project to map a large part of the Northern sky outside of the galaxy. Microsoft Research is releasing WorldWide Telescope as a service free of charge to the astronomy and education communities as a tribute to Gray with the hope that it will inspire and empower kids of all ages to explore and understand the universe in an unprecedented way.

WWT offers access to various temporal and multi-spectral studies astronomic data and literature to anyone with an Internet connection. Additionally, the data should be accessible so that the gap between cutting-edge research,

A free service from Microsoft lets students and lifelong learners tour the night sky using high-resolution images from the world’s best land- and space-based telescopes

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Letters to the Editor . . .

Dan Aykroyd Responds

Editor:

Thank you for printing the transcript of my interview with Alex Friedman on Plum TV. As a rule I do not generally refer to myself as a 'ufologist.' Interest in the subject does not necessarily qualify an individual with credentials to claim that label. As Stanton Friedman points out in his article from the same issue, there is no exam or test to establish such accreditation. *The MUFON Investigator's Handbook* and test documents are probably a good place to start.

With support and respect,

Dan Aykroyd

Founding consultant HOB, and Representative for MUFON in the Hollywood Creative Community

Author Name Clarified

In your interview with Dan, page 3, the editor referenced not being able to find a book by Stan Fullam.

Actually the name is misspelled. You can find the book at the publisher's website http://www.derksenprinters.com/store/lightreading_catalogue.shtml and a description of the book at <http://www.tracieaustin.com/viewbook.asp?ID=30%20&authorID=83>

[The correct title and author spelling is:] *Challenges of Change*, by Stanley A. Fulham.

Sincerely,

William Simmons

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

WorldWide Telescope

Continued from page 11

education, and public knowledge is minimized and is presented in a form that facilitates integrative research. The WorldWide Telescope (WWT) is a step toward the "democratization" of the conduct of science. The Internet will become, as astronomers put it, "the world's best telescope"—a supercomputer at your desktop.

The mission of the WWT is twofold:

- To aggregate scientific data from major telescopes, observatories and institutions and make temporal and multi-spectral studies available through a single cohesive Internet-based portal.

- To re-awaken the interest for science in the younger generations through astronomy and new technologies through the virtual observatory of the WWT. This also provides a wonderful base for teaching astronomy, scientific discovery, and computational science.

For more information about the WorldWide Telescope, go to: <http://www.worldwidetelescope.org/>

Press release from Microsoft Corporation.

Submitted by: Steve Reichmuth

Chief Investigator, CMS Coordinator

MUFON Northern California

Membership questions? Change of address?

Call MUFON headquarters 970-232-3110

Now accepting VI SA & MasterCard for merchandise and membership.

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MUFON Members Message Board

mufonmembers.proboards55.com

Password: Hynek1947

(case sensitive)

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.

Donations Needed for Silent Auction at Symposium

Do you have any UFO memorabilia that you would be willing to donate for the Silent Auction fundraiser at the Symposium in California on July 24-27?

If so, please mail your items to:

Ruben Uriarte
2563 Copa Del Oro Dr.
Union City, California 94587

Frequently Asked Questions about MUFON

From www.mufon.com

Monthly Statistical MUFON Report for June 2008

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In June 2008 there were 369 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS from the following countries:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Reports</u>
United States	329
United Kingdom	13
New Zealand	3
Australia	3
Canada	3
India	2
Spain	2
Norway	2
Japan	2
Sweden	1
Russian Federation	1
Serbia and Montenegro	1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1
Portugal	1
Bulgaria	1
Iceland	1
Puerto Rico	1
Germany	1
Belgium	1
TOTAL:	369

How does MUFON conduct an investigation?

We receive UFO reports via contacts with local authorities and news media as well as at MUFON headquarters where an email team is on hand to respond. When alerted, the state or provincial director assigns one or more field investigators in the vicinity. On-site investigations usually entail personal interviews with the witnesses; completion of appropriate sighting forms, written accounts and drawings to depict the scene; and assessment of the immediate environment. Collateral contacts with neighbors, police, air traffic control staff and others often shed light on a possible misperception or uncover more witnesses.

Investigators prepare a case report for review by their state/provincial director and MUFON's Director of Investigations. Any materials needing technical analysis (e.g., photos or soil samples) are sent to experts in those fields. Ultimately, all essential factors are entered into a computerized database for comparative analysis. We thus gain insights into the nature of aerial phenomena.

Are investigators trained?

Indeed they are. The cornerstone of our training is the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*, a comprehensive guide for new trainees and veteran field investigators alike. A new revision will be released soon. Its 300+ pages are divided into sections that cover every aspect of witness reports, from identifying misperceptions to handling sensitive physical evidence and claims of abduction. State and provincial chapters offer formal training sessions in conjunction with membership meetings. A buddy system whereby newcomers join experienced investigators on case assignments works well.

Student UFO enthusiasts ages 12–17 may also receive investigative training, though active participation in ongoing cases is reserved for adults. To achieve Field Investigator status, trainees must pass a 100-question, open-book exam that is based on the Manual as well as observations of aircraft and the night sky. The exam is fair but difficult - as it should be.

Calendar . . .

July 24–27. MUFON 39th Annual International UFO Symposium: *UFOs—A Worldwide Phenomenon*. San Jose, CA. See center pages of this *Journal* for detailed information.

July 25–27. Glastonbury Symposium—Investigating Signs of our Times. Glastonbury, England. www.glastonburysymposium.co.uk/speakers.html

August 8–9. The Shag Harbour UFO Festival. Don Ledger, Stanton Friedman, Carl Feindt, Paul Kimball, Mike MacDonald, Chris Styles. Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia. <http://shagharbourufo.com/>

August 8–10. 2008 SGRA ParaCon. Nicholas Roesler, Jon Nowinski, Diane Bajorinas, Stacey Jones. Milford, CT. SGRA@sgra-media.org

August 29–31. Alamo conference—A Desert UFO Experience. Charles James Hall, Jim Sparks, Paolo Harris, Ike Bishop. Alamo, Nevada, near Area 51. www.freewebs.com/alamo-ufoconference/ (208) 484-1574. ibishop@hotmail.com

September 18–21. 2008 Culture of Contact Arts & Speaker Festival: *Mythology is Reality*. New York City area TBA. <http://cultureofcontact.squarespace.com/culture-of-contact-main-page/>

September 27–28. 10th Annual Bay Area Expo. Santa Clara, CA. www.thebayareaexpo.com/

November 9–11. 6th Annual Crash Retrieval Conference: The Truth. Las Vegas, NV. www.ufoconference.com. (720) 887-8171.

Patty Donahue, FI MUFON Forum Administrator

By David J. Watson
MUFON Deputy Director of Investigations

I first met Patty Donahue in 2005. I make it a practice to check the MUFON CMS several times daily to stay on top of new reports which have been filed. One evening, I found a new report from a woman in Michigan. The report contained exceptional detail. I got the feeling that this was her first report, and that she seemed to be struggling to understand what should be included. So, I sent her a simple email to let her know that her report was fine, and that someone from the Michigan Chapter of MUFON would be in contact. That was the beginning of a friendship which endures to this day. As more reports were filed, there were more emails. During that time, I saw an evolution from the novice MUFON FI Trainee to a consummately confident MUFON Michigan Certified Field Investigator.

Patty is happily married to Tomas Donahue and is the proud mother of three (Jeremy, 29, Jenifer, 16, and Jessica, 14). They share their home with Zoe (a black lab) and Bonnie (a border collie). In her spare time, she enjoys crafting (making floral arrangements), bowling, horse-back riding, boating, traveling and just spending lots of time with friends, family, and especially her kids.

When Patty was a child, she said, "my family and I would sit on the front porch many evenings, not only enjoying the star-filled sky, but also watching in amazement, thunderstorms and other weather that would form, as well as satellites. I watched the TV with great interest, when man first stepped on the moon and would always state that I wanted to be the first "girl" in space. I was always fascinated with space, the planets and stars, and grew up an avid sky-watcher. I was never exposed to any discussion of UFOs, not even in news reports back then. However, ever since I can remember, I have always been intuitive. I would sense and know things and so I grew up, listening and following that intuition."

Patty graduated from Grand Ledge High School and attended Lansing Community College. As a teenager, she held several jobs while attending school. Later she worked for an area printing company, and has the distinction of being the first woman at that company to attain an Envelope Die-Cutter Journeyman Title and Certificate. She also owned a gift shop. And now she feels fortunate to be able to stay home raising her children.

In 2005 Patty witnessed a most unusual event, along with six others. In 2006, she experienced multiple close encounters and other bizarre, high-strangeness events. She

was able to capture and document these events on photo and/or video. Another MUFON Field Investigator was at her home during one event. Imagine their surprise when a massive triangular craft, at least half the size of a football field or larger, decided to make an appearance (approx. 100ft off the ground), and put on a heck of a light show. This was the largest yet of all the crafts she had personally encountered.

After her 2005 sighting, Patty joined MUFON and quickly became a Certified Field Investigator. Patty's interest in UFOs covers the entire spectrum of the phenomenon and she has an exceptional understanding of the many aspects related to UFOs. Along the way, her contacts with people like James Carrion and George Filer and members of the MUFON Michigan staff and investigators (just to mention a few) convinced her that her decision to join MUFON was a smart decision. Patty believes that the key to the eventual solution of the UFO enigma rests with MUFON (which is something I also believe).

Shortly after International Director James Carrion added the MUFON Forums to MUFON's Public Outreach program, he offered Patty a position as Forums Moderator, and soon thereafter she was named MUFON Forums Administrator. The continuing success of the MUFON Forums is testimony to the hard work and dedication of Patty and her Forums staff (including Ron Donoval and Steve Reichmuth).

Through Patty Donahue's tireless efforts, many people now have a "safe haven" to discuss their experiences, and for others to discuss their views, theories and opinions on the topics of UFO sightings, the abduction phenomenon and the many related fields of study and research. I personally don't know anyone who could match the job that Patty has done with the MUFON Forums. It's a demanding, seven-day-a-week task which she accomplishes with professionalism, a deep sense of purpose and surprising ease, confidence and compassion.

Patty told me once that she is very proud to be a part of MUFON, both as a Field Investigator and the Forums



Patty Donahue

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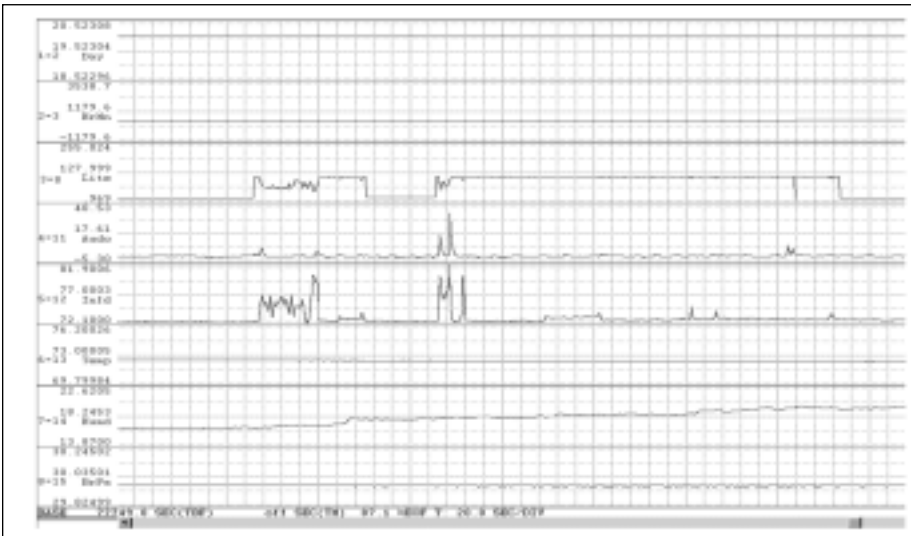


Figure 6. Report showing 15 minutes of data.

AMP Project

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Thomas P. Deuley, (Tom), BSEE, Auburn University 1972, has an AA Degree in Advertising Art, and is a retired Naval Officer with a background in Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Power, and Communications Security; Co-founder and National Board member of The Fund for UFO Research; Registered Agent, Corporate Secretary and Board member for the Mutual UFO Network; MUFON

Representative to the UFO Research Coalition.

During the 1-year period of its existence (1994–95), Deuley was the Administrator of the CFM Coalition (CUFOS, FUFOR, MUFON).

Deuley and Dennis Stacy instituted the first MUFON web site. In 1984 he wrote the "Radiation" section of the MUFON Field Investigators guide. He spoke on NSA and UFOs at the Washington DC MUFON Symposium.

Volunteer Patty Donahue

Continued from page 14

Administrator and, like all of the many hardworking MUFON volunteers, she is dedicated to MUFON's mission statement and goals. She has the highest respect for James Carrion, the MUFON International Director, and the rest of the MUFON Staff who continue to maintain The Mutual UFO Network at the forefront of UFO research worldwide.

Patty continues to study and research the UFO Phenomena, not only in a scientific manner, but also with the understanding of what it is to be a "contactee," and in doing so, she hopes to one day find the truth of who or what "they" are...or aren't.

Although she didn't become the "first girl in space," she did join MUFON, and we're all richer because of that. Patty told me once, "This is where I am supposed to be. It just feels right." I agree.

Meet Patty ("Starchild") and join in the discussions at: <http://mufonmembers.proboards55.com/>

Team volunteers sought to create "Identified Flying Object Board"

Jan Harzan have begun work on the Identified Object website.

Volunteers are stilleded to help create an "IFO Board" to help educate the public on commonly seen IFOs that may look strange and appear to be Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), but upon closer examination are really nothing but *Identified* Flying Objects (IFOs). This board would be posted prominently on the MUFON website and also be linked to CMS. Before a witness submits his or her sighting report, they are asked to review the "IFO Board" to see if what they are reporting matches any known IFO.

The plan would be to have a paragraph describing what each IFO is and how it would appear to an observer under various conditions (daytime, nighttime, dusk, low cloud cover, etc.), accompanied by photos and videos to show examples of each.

If you are interested in heading up this important project or being on the project team, please contact MUFON headquarters at HQ@Mufon.com.

Some Examples of IFOs:

Natural Phenomena

Sun, Moon, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, stars, Sun dogs, Moon dogs, Aura Borealis, Clouds, Birds, Dust reflected, Water reflected, Lens flare

Man-made IFOs

General aviation aircraft, Commercial aircraft, Military aircraft, Helicopters, Remote Control Airplanes, Remote control Helicopters, Remote control UFOs (yes they exist), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Party balloons, Weather balloons, Hot air balloons, Blimps, Kites, Car lights at night, Airplane lights, Searchlights, Flares

Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

Dateline TV "Documentary" reviewed

For whatever reason, most likely awareness of great public interest, TV stations have carried a lot of UFO-related material over the last several months. Unfortunately, some of it has been terrible. A particularly egregious example was the NBC *Dateline* program of May 18, 2008. The approach was fairly straightforward. Select ten interesting sightings, describe them briefly, and bring in an investigator to defend the legitimacy of a case. Then bring in a debunker to say there was obviously a prosaic explanation. The cases were presented as though the two sides should be given equal weight, pro vs. con. There was, as anybody who has reviewed the debunker literature knows, a complete lack of symmetry in the two sides. The debunkers did their research by proclamation. The pro people did their research by investigation. Why anybody in his right mind would think the negative side represented investigative journalism, which *Dateline* is supposed to be all about, I have no idea. Would they ask the janitor who mops the surgical operating room at the hospital his opinion about brain surgery and present it as of equal value with that of the brain surgeon?

In contrast with the *Dateline* fiasco was another showing, May 31, on the Canadian Space channel, of Paul Kimball's "Best Evidence." No debunkers were present, only serious people who knew something solid about the ten cases that were explored. In full disclosure, I must note that I made a number of supporting comments in the show and that Paul is my nephew and has even created other TV UFO documentaries broadcast in Canada such as "Stanton T. Friedman is Real" and "Do You Believe in Majic?" Paul

had selected the ten cases based on voting by people suggesting their own lists of 10 best cases. Certainly one of the best UFO shows I have seen.

I had discussed TV UFO documentaries in my chapter on the press and UFOs in *Flying Saucers and Science* (published in May). I pointed out that a major problem is that production companies bring in individuals more or less one at a time. You, as an expert, don't get to hear the opponents being interviewed, so that there is no way to counteract the false testimony. The producers are usually ignorant about the subject. The show that gets broadcast is supposedly balanced...ignorance vs. knowledge and there is no way for the listener to make a judgment.

A good example is the Kaikoura, New Zealand, case of Dec. 30, 1978, involving the crew of an aircraft carrying a TV news crew along with radar observing the plane and the UFO. The news crew was flying the same route as flown by another crew days earlier when another sighting occurred. The new crew filmed and observed the bright UFO. There had been many "solutions" put forth including one of my all time favorites—Mating Mutton Birds—and a planet that was not visible from that area at that time. The case got worldwide coverage including from Walter Cronkite. Dr. Bruce Maccabee actually went to New Zealand, spoke to the witnesses and the control tower radar operator and did a detailed investigation. He also published an article in the *Journal of Optical Science*, a rarity indeed, and was allowed to respond to a responder who hadn't agreed with him. Such an exchange about a UFO case in a refereed scientific journal is essentially without

precedent. Bruce discusses the case in detail at his website and notes that one explanation put forth was a Japanese squid boat. These use very high power lights to attract squid. On *Dateline* he gave a brief overview of the truly Unidentified Flying Object.



Stanton Friedman

James Oberg, who was a NASA Houston employee on various space programs, was allowed on *Dateline* to make the totally false claim that what was observed from the plane as being at the same altitude as they were, (20,000 feet!!) was actually a Japanese squid fishing boat using a high powered light to attract squid. In actuality the squid boat in that general area at the time as observed by a satellite was *only* 134 miles away from the location. As a general rule, of course, brightly lit squid boats (or unlit ones) cannot "fly" at 20,000 feet. But of course the listeners to the program had no way of knowing that. Bruce as a scientist had considered this explanation and was forced to rule it out. The basic debunking rule that there has to be a prosaic explanation and that no UFOs can have anything but prosaic explanations was strictly enforced by James Oberg.

Another case that was butchered by the debunkers is the Trent Photo case from McMinnville, Oregon, on May 8, 1950. This was in Kimball's program as well. I will give *Dateline* credit for digging out a very old TV interview with Mr. and Mrs. Trent.

Mrs. Trent had first spotted the UFO near their farm, called out to her husband, who went into the house for a camera, came out, and took two daylight pictures showing the disc-shaped UFO over a power line. He moved some between the two photos as the object was moving as well. Dr. Bruce Maccabee had access to the original negatives and did a lot of detailed analysis concluding that the object was not a small model near the camera, but a large object some distance away. In *Best Evidence*, the following quote is taken from Dr. William K. Hartmann's analysis of these photos as reported in the University of Colorado study "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects."

"This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological, and physical, appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter, and evidently artificial, flew within sight of two witnesses." Sounds pretty definitive to me.

Dateline naturally didn't use the quote. Instead they allowed debunker Robert Schaeffer to provide a straightforward prosaic explanation namely that the case was a hoax and a model was merely hung from a string thrown over the power line. He was bound and determined to call the Trents hoaxers and liars though there is no indication that he had any contact with them or people who knew them. Bruce, of course, had spoken with the Trents and people in town, at the newspaper, etc. Furthermore, neither he nor anybody else has been able to find the mythical string. Schaeffer provided no data at all, only a proclamation. Since the Trents are now dead and the law provides there cannot be libel of a dead person, he was safe. Years ago he had claimed that the shadows in one of the pictures proved that the picture was not taken at the time of day claimed by the Trents, so therefore, they must have been lying.

This claim was also shown to be nonsense.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that at one time Oberg and Robert Schaeffer, with the late Philip Klass, made up the UFO subcommittee of the self anointed Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal now renamed the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry. The full time paid "Scientific" Investigator for CSI is Dr. Joseph Nickel, who has a long history of misrepresentation about UFOs and other unusual phenomena. His three degrees are in English and he has been an active magician, and certainly, therefore, an expert at deception and misrepresentation. Science is definitely not his long suit. For example, he conjured up a 6-foot-tall owl to explain away the so called Flatwoods West Virginia monster seen on Sept. 12, 1952. Not only did none of the witnesses provide any data on which a reasonable person could conclude that the owl explanation made any sense, but Nickel, though he visited Flatwoods, didn't go to the actual location at which the monster was seen, nor did he talk to the actual witnesses who were still alive. On the other hand, Frank Feschino Jr. has spoken with local witnesses, and he managed to get interviews with a military man who was heavily involved in an investigation and with the local journalist who was Johnny on the spot at the time. Anybody reading Frank's investigation in his book *Shoot Them Down* would recognize that Nickel, as would be expected, did his research by proclamation.

Nickel also has come up with two ludicrous explanations for Roswell. The first was that the PR man for the base made up the story to get attention. He didn't even know Walter Haut's name. Of course he provided no evidence and the notion is ludicrous on its face for the most elite Military group in the world. A few years later he explained Roswell away on *Coast to Coast Radio* as just a story built on false data by

people who didn't look at the original stories. He then proceeded to quote from the July 9, 1947, story which had the rancher with his reprogrammed story and totally ignored the original July 8 reports. Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is made up.

Dateline misrepresented the facts about the Phoenix lights observed at about 8:30PM by thousands of people on March 13, 1997, failing to distinguish between the huge boomerang shaped low flying silent object which took minutes to pass overhead (it blotted out the sky) and the bright light flares seen at 10PM and many miles away from the area. They kept showing the bright light flares, which certainly didn't blot out the stars over a wide area while falling. Dr. Michael Shermer came up with the group of high flying airplanes to explain the case. Leave it to Shermer. He is a skilled presenter with a good sense of humor who knows nothing about UFOs and refuses to do any investigation...as opposed to proclamation.

The point of this rant is that once again a major network TV show has blown it on the subject of UFOs. Following in the footsteps of Peter Jennings Mockumentary of Feb. 24, 2005, we have more research by proclamation. Maybe I can get the next group of debunkers to read my book first, but that would probably be too much to expect.

Stanton Friedman
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www.stantonfriedman.com



Filer's Files

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Colorado - Man Shows "Proof" of Alien Visitors

DENVER—Stan Romanek and Jeff Peckman on the *Larry King Live* TV show claiming they have video of an alien. A man who is pushing to create a task force to deal with space aliens said he has proof they exist and showed the video to the media Friday morning. Denver resident Jeff Peckman believes the video is "irrefutable evidence" of alien visitation. The grainy, black and white video he showed was shot by Stan Romanek in Nebraska in July 2003. Romanek said in a film clip that he thought there might have been a peeping tom peering through his window, spying on his two teenage daughters, so he grabbed a video camera and started recording. The bald, whitish "being" with an elliptical head and big black eyes is seen in the video peering just over a windowsill, blinking, looking around and then going down, out of view. The creature raised its head several times but no other parts of its body is seen.

"It does have somewhat of an ET appearance as I recall, but the skin was much more smooth, not these deep old wrinkles. (It was) very gentle looking, benevolent, kind of had a soft appearance to it," said Peckman, describing the [being seen on the] video.

News crews were told to turn their cameras away so no video of the "being" can be shown in public until the film can be analyzed. The video clip will be included in an upcoming documentary but first has to be looked at by experts to confirm that it was not doctored.

Jerry Hufmann, a professional video producer and an instructor at Colorado Film School, said he believes that the alien video had not been altered in any way. Alejandro Rojas, education director of the Mutual UFO Network, said the creature did not look like a puppet and Romanek does not have the ability or motivation to fabricate a hoax. Peckman said extraterrestrials have visited

earth frequently and the close encounters have been covered up by the U.S. government. "According to one report, there are as many as 57 species, that have been documented by our own government, that have visited our planet," Peckman said.

Trying to create a Extraterrestrial Affairs Commission. Peckman is spearheading a Denver ballot initiative to create an 18-member Extraterrestrial Affairs Commission that would form a strategy "dealing with issues related to the presence of extraterrestrial beings on Earth" and how humans and aliens can peacefully coexist. The 54-year-old needs 4,000 signatures to get the proposal on the ballot. The commission would cost \$75,000 to form and maintain, Peckman said. "We believe that the end result of all this information will ultimately lead to a higher quality of life, a cleaner planet, the availability of technology that will help us in multiple areas," Peckman said. In the case of extraterrestrial contact, the United States government would be the governing authority, superseding local authorities, so it's not known what the city commission would accomplish. However, Peckman believes that the U.S. government is not doing enough. Peckman sponsored a 2003 initiative that would require the city to implement stress-reduction techniques. That idea didn't garner enough support from voters. Thanks to MUFON CMS

MUFON Editor's Note: See Jeff Peckman's interview by David Letterman on June 10 at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOyotMNcsK0>. To see the appearance of Stan Romanek and Jeff Peckman on *Larry King Live*, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYn4hdz91pA&feature=related>

California—Strange Clouds and Bright Lights

HUNTINGTON BEACH—My girlfriend and I recently saw a UFO about 1:00 AM, on June 19, 2008, in the Orange County area. We went outside my

girlfriend's house in Fountain Valley when I noticed a helicopter, and to my right, I noticed a bright white light, with a tint of blue. My girlfriend was drawn to it more than me and then she asked me if it was a plane. I quickly turned and saw that it looked like a "fireball" but not of the color or a fireball. I started to say, "No honey, I don't think it's...." then it disappeared.

Thanks to MUFON CMS.

DANA POINT—On June 21, 2008, at 1:15 AM my co-worker pointed out a light in the sky over the ocean seeming to be halfway



George Filer

between Dana Point and Catalina. It was a disk shaped craft that moved side to side in an inverted arc very fast. It was moving as though it was swinging on a pendulum. When the bottom swung up towards us it was very bright and very large. It had round blue lights along the outside of the circle and a red one in the middle. It moved back and forth for about a minute and disappeared behind a building. I have never seen a craft move like that and it was not of a shape I recognize. The lights were not blinking and they were very clear when the bottom turned towards us. When viewing from the side it was just blurry light swinging back and forth. I have never reported anything like this before because I have never seen anything that I could not explain with logic. Please let me know if anyone else saw it or if there is a logical explanation for what I saw.

Comments: No, there is no logical explanation for what the witness saw assuming his observations are accurate. We have received two other reports from the

Continued on page 19

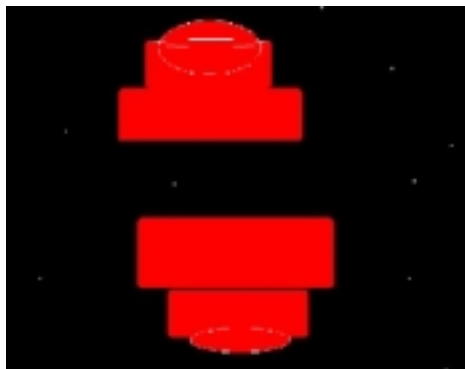
Filer's Files

Continued from page 18

Dana Point area in 2008. One sighting occurred on May 4 and the other on May 26. Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

Louisiana Solid Red Lights

My wife, and my oldest daughter and I were driving east on June 27, 2008, coming from shopping and we noticed two strange solid red lights traveling north that I thought



was a helicopter, but it was moving too slowly. It was silent and hovering slowly above the tree line about a mile away. We thought that it was not like anything we had seen before, because the lights were solid and stacked one on top of another with a space in between and the object seemed to be very large, maybe the size of a Greyhound bus. We turned north onto another road and then east again, moving closer to the object as the object descended downward and we lost site of through the trees. But this isn't the first time we've seen UFOs in this area, but it was the first time my oldest daughter saw one. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Michigan - Photo

CEMENT CITY—I didn't see the possible UFO until reviewing the hundreds of digital photographs taken over the course of one hour in a southern Jackson County Cemetery.

I shot with a Sony Cybershot DSC-H5, which is sensitive to the near-IR, and have been doing so for the past few months with a Lansing-area ghost hunting group (with some success). I visited a local cemetery for the first time to do some "ghost fishing," i.e. go into a cemetery and shoot hundreds



of digital photos in rapid succession to see if I capture anything anomalous.

On June 26, 2008, I shot for an hour starting at 8 PM. The only strange thing I photographed in the 500+ photos was possibly a UFO and not a ghostly apparition, mist or bright orb...the typical graveyard paranormal fare. When I initially looked at the image, I thought that perhaps I photographed the hat of a ghost materializing...but the closer I looked at it and the more detail that Photoshop pulled out of the source image, the more it appeared to possibly be a UFO. I've attached a cropped photo with magnified detail...a full, unaltered, un-processed image can be sent if you so desire. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

South Dakota Photo

RUSHMORE—We had taken our grandchildren to Mt. Rushmore for vacation and were going to the monument from Custer State Park, which is a very winding and narrow road. We made the curve and saw the huge monument and took pictures about 2-3 miles from the parking area. Being that



far from the mountain while taking these pictures, we were unable to see the "objects" and of course didn't know if they made noise or not.

The first picture was taken and nothing shows up. The second picture, however, shows some unusual egg shaped objects and other darker, blacker objects. Maybe ET

just wanted a view of our "National Treasure." Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Texas A Huge Triangular UFO Hovering

SPRING BRANCH—I was getting off work on Friday the 13th of June, as I was getting in my truck I saw a huge triangle object behind the building. Being curious I walked out a ways so that I could see behind the building. It was hovering pretty low and had one light on the bottom as if it was looking at something. I reached for my phone to take a picture and it flew off away from me pretty quick. Thanks to UFOINFO for this report. <http://www.ufoinfo.com/>

Australia - Bright UFO Above Creek

REDBANK CREEK ESK 4312—On June 10, 2008 11:15 PM, object was approx: 1 to 2 meters in diameter surrounded by bright white lights and hovered above the creek at approx 2 meters. It moved at a slow pace and because of the brightness of the light and the angle being observed it was not possible to see a clear shape. It was totally silent as it moved and I observed the object for fifteen minutes. I and others have had a few sightings in the Brisbane area. Thanks to Brian Vike, HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.com>

Canada - Stacks Of Sightings and Major Cattle Mute Incident

KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA—Brian Vike writes from Canada, "Holy cow, it appears the flood gates have opened and sighting reports are pouring in much faster than I can keep up." I received a telephone call from a person here in British Columbia. I was told of a massive cattle mutilation event that took place some years back. The farmer who owned the farm was bought out by the Canadian government lot stock and barrel as they say. Also the owner of the farm, and all farm hands were given "strict" instructions that they were not in anyway shape or form to talk about the cattle mutilation incident. So I am waiting on more information so I can start looking into the matter.

If anyone has heard of a cattle mutilation over the years, please contact Brian Vike - Director of HBCC UFO Research (hbccufo@telus.net) or you can contact Barb Campbell at: barb@uadresearch.com.

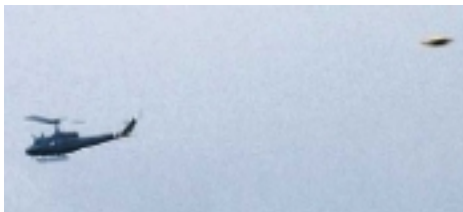
Filer's Files

Continued from page 19

UK Police Chase UFO

CARDIFF—Seems the U.K. is having an upswing in reported UFO sightings. With the major UFO event that just took place where a police helicopter was involved in a UFO incident. Of course I would certainly like to hear from anyone observing UFO sightings in the U.K. Also anyone knowing anything about this recent major sightings. You can write to me through the HBCC UFO Research website or directly to me at hbccufo@telus.net I have provided this link to a newspaper article *Police Chase UFO Over Cardiff*

MANCHESTER—A Royal Navy aircraft engineer allegedly spotted a disc shaped UFO hovering over the major highway M-5 between Manchester and London. Michael Madden, 25, said he watched in disbelief as the disc-shaped object floated above his head before it “zoomed off at incredible speed.” He said the unidentified flying object flew for up to three minutes above junction 21 of the M5, near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. Mr Madden was on his way back from



Manchester with colleague Michael Casson, 22, at 9.50 PM on Sunday June 29 when he saw the suspected “extra-terrestrial” craft. Thanks to the <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/2226748/UFOs-spotted>

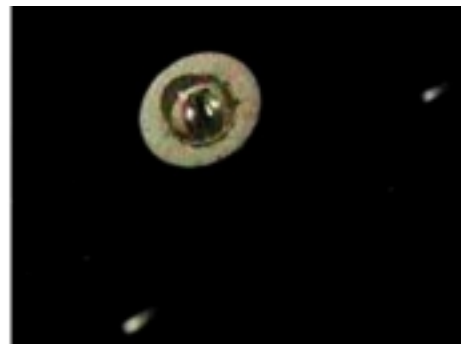
COALVILLE, LEICESTER-SHIRE—I was driving from the A42/M42 towards Bardon Hill quarry on June 11, 2008, at 3 PM, and in the sky ahead was a silvery disk. It was stationary then moved rapidly to the left then further to the right then ascended up and out of sight. I would put this object at 10000 feet. There was a passenger plane at cruising altitude above and a helicopter about half a mile away. I'm sure they would have seen it. If anyone saw it please email me.

WHITCHURCH, BRISTOL—I saw a black disc shaped stationary object very high in the sky on June 14, 2008 approx: 11:40 PM. I would say it was at least 30,000 ft. It was nearly overhead but in a south easterly direction from my viewpoint. I only managed to see it when the sun was obscured behind a cloud and the black disc was then visible. It stayed where it was as if hovering. The sun was reflecting off it and it was very sparkly. Once the sun emerged again it was just too bright to see even with sunglasses. I tried to locate it again but was unsuccessful. I would be interested if anyone else in the area saw it too. Thanks to Brian Vike, HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.com>

WEMBLEY—This metal globe shaped something was flying from west towards east June 22, 2008 6:20 PM, above just under the clouds. There were the usual commercial planes in the sky as well (flying from south towards north). As its colour was dark grey (metal) and the sun was shining on it, I could see the object even in a really far distance while it was before the white clouds or blue sky (through my sunglasses, without them the sky was too bright). My girlfriend was there with me and she said “it was definitely not an airplane but UFOs are not existing.” The speed was enough fast to disappear within 35-40 sec. behind the clouds at the edge of the horizon. You can't see any airplanes that far without binoculars. The exact flying direction was above Preston Road. Thanks to Brian Vike, HBCC.

BRADFORD, WEST YORK-SHIRE—I was sat at my computer which is sort of next to the window on June 25, 2006, at 7:18 PM, I just happened to be looking out and I noticed a really large circular object in the sky. I cannot fully describe this object, other than it was round shaped and looked to be black or a really dark grey in colour and it was quite far in the distance. It didn't have any specific features which I could point out. It wasn't moving, it just looked as if it was sitting in the sky and it was present for approximately 15 to 20 seconds. Before I even got my phone to record the object, it had disappeared. I am 100% certain that this was not a bird, plane, helicopter, balloon or even a spec of dirt on the window. Thanks to Brian Vike, HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.com>

HAMPSHIRE—Remarkable new evidence of UFOs in the skies over



Hampshire can be revealed today by the *UK Daily Echo News*. Readers captured these bizarre images of what appear to be flying saucers zooming through our skies.

The UFOs were snapped over Beaulieu and Woolston by pure accident and only noticed days later by the photographers. Hampshire has been in the grip of an X Files-style UFO mystery after black triangles were seen flying over Millbrook and Shirley in recent months. Last week the Echo thought it had explained the phenomenon - a mini-hot air balloon made out of four black bin bags. But the latest sightings are clearly something completely different—and remain a mystery. Thanks to <http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/>

These files assume that extraterrestrial intelligent life not only exists, but my hypothesis is that the over one hundred UFOs reported each week represent technologically advanced spacecraft conducting surveillance of Earth. I personally became interested in UFOs when I chased one over England while flying for the US Air Force. I've been investigating them ever since. The US Air Force under Project Blue Book investigated UFOs for more than twenty years, we continue this research. It is my belief that God has spread intelligent civilizations throughout the universe. George Filer

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 includes excerpts from File #26, June 25, and #27, July 2, 2008. Filer's Files is copyrighted 2008 by George A. Filer, all rights reserved. Send your letters to majorstar@aol.com

Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is June's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **John Ventre** (Pennsylvania), **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), and **Bland Pugh** (Florida) 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.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	100 %	63/63	57/57
2	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	27/27	25/25
3	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	15/15	16/16
4	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 %	140/140	116/116
5	West Virginia	John Ventre	97 %	16/16	17/18
6	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	97 %	42/44	32/32
7	Georgia	Walter Sheets	96 %	35/35	30/32
8	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	96 %	23/24	26/27
9	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	96 %	86/93	95/95
10	Iowa	Jim King	96 %	28/28	27/29
11	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	95 %	91/93	63/68
12	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	95 %	202/206	161/173
13	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	88 %	49/59	51/54
14	Arizona	George C. Parks	86 %	47/64	91/91
15	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	86 %	56/56	39/53
16	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	86 %	361/364	210/288
17	Washington	Marilyn Childs	81 %	40/46	25/33
18	Utah	Elaine Douglass	77 %	15/15	10/18
19	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	75 %	82/82	37/72
20	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	75 %	20/36	34/36
21	Ohio	William Jones	74 %	43/54	36/52
22	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	71 %	19/20	12/25
23	Idaho	Robert Gates	60 %	2/10	14/14
24	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	58 %	6/22	16/18
25	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	58 %	3/9	11/13
26	Massachusetts	Greg S. Berghorn	56 %	17/46	28/37
27	Wisconsin	Timothy G. Whiteagle	51 %	21/30	8/25
28	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	50 %	0/1	2/2
29	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	50 %	13/19	6/19
30	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	47 %	60/68	6/78
31	Nevada	Mark Easter	46 %	10/43	31/44
32	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	45 %	36/57	13/46
33	North Carolina	George E. Lund, III	42 %	21/51	22/51
34	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	39 %	10/26	8/20
35	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	32 %	8/19	4/17
36	New Hampshire	Peter R. Geremia	31 %	5/8	0/5
37	Maryland	Bruce S. Maccabee	27 %	4/28	7/17
38	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	15 %	1/6	1/7
39	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	12 %	2/29	4/22
40	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	11 %	9/38	0/31
41	Hawaii	Puuloa M. Teves	0 %	0/8	0/7
42	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	0 %	0/28	0/29
43	Rhode Island	Richard Lynch	0 %	0/7	0/11
44	North Dakota	Kurt Pfleger	0 %	0/5	0/4
45	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	0 %	0/8	0/7
46	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegal	0 %	0/0	0/0

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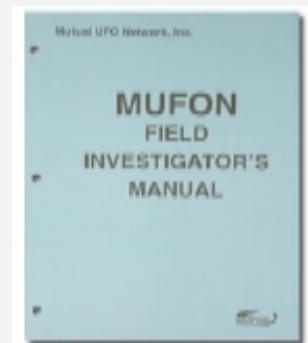
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Director's Message

continued from page 2

ders were seen on RADAR and were separate from the F16s that were in the air at the same time, matching the eyewitness testimony from the ground. MUFON is holding a press conference at 11 AM on July 25th at the 39th Annual Symposium in San Jose to discuss in detail the report findings.

MUFON Research Team

Speaking of the Symposium, I am excited that MUFON's Abduction Experiencer Research Team will have

its first face-to-face meeting at the Symposium. I look forward to hearing about their planning efforts and the fresh approaches they are taking to research this very baffling phenomenon.

Position Announcements

New Field Investigators

Andre Morin of Montreal, Quebec, Canada; **James Coombs** of Folsom, California; **Marc Debbault** of **Sunland, California**; **Bradley Davis** of Waterbury, Connecticut; **Hector Trujillo** of Miami, Florida; **Steve Bass**

of Cumming, Georgia; **Mary Croxford** of Kokomo, Indiana; **Amanda Richter** of Louisville, Kentucky; **Daniel Marcelain** of Macomb, Michigan; **Linda Murphy** of Rochester Hills, Michigan; **William Murphy** of Rochester Hills, Michigan; **Lisa Behr** of Castle Creek, New York; **Connie McNichols** of Johnstown, Ohio; **Tom Arnold** of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; **Doyle Angus** of Vernal, Utah; **Jeremy Greiner** of Hudson, Wisconsin; **Joshua Greiner** of Hudson, Wisconsin.

August Night Sky

Continued from page 24

August is a great time of the year to look at the sky after midnight. It is usually still warm after the heat of the day, and skies can be surprisingly clear. It's just as well then that the year's best meteor shower, called the Perseids, always occurs during this month. The Perseid Meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through the orbit of comet Swift-Tuttle, a comet discovered back in 1862 and returns to the inner solar system every 128 years; its last visit was in 1992. In recent years however their numbers have begun to increase, leading to a spectacular shower in 1994. Rates might exceed 100/hour (but in 1994 some observers counted several hundred to a thousand or more during its one hour peak). There is a wide variety of meteors, the fainter ones being white or yellow, brighter ones, green, orange or red. About one-third leave trails. Occasional fireballs will be seen, often ending in bursts. This is a very good photographic shower.

The best time to view is after midnight in the early hours of the morning of the 12th. Look to the northeast about 66 degrees above the horizon around 2:00 AM. Fortunately the Moon will be below the horizon at this time.

Total Solar Eclipse (August 1st)

The Eclipse will be total and will be visible from a narrow corridor through northern Canada (Nunavut), the northern part of Russia, western Mongolia, and China.

A partial eclipse will be seen from eastern North America and most of Europe and Asia.

Partial Lunar Eclipse (August 16th)

Most of Europe and Africa will see the entire eclipse. All of South America and Australia will be able to see part of the eclipse.

Planetary Conjunction

Conjunction of The Moon, Mercury, Venus, Saturn and Mars.

Conjunctions and Occultations

August 2nd – Venus 2 degrees north of the Moon.

August 2nd – Regulus 1.7 degrees north of the Moon.

August 2nd – Saturn 4 degrees north of the Moon.

August 4th – Mars 4 degrees north of the Moon

August 10th – Antares 0.4 degrees north of the Moon.

August 13th – Jupiter 3 degrees north of the Moon

August 13th – Venus 0.2 degrees south of Saturn.

August 16th – Mercury 0.7 degrees south of Saturn

August 23rd – Mercury 1.3 degrees south of Venus

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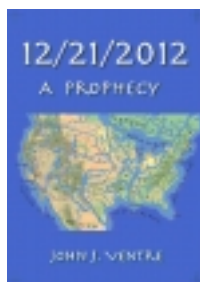
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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

August 2008 Sky

Moon Phases

New Moon August 1st
First Quarter August 8th
Full Moon August 16th
Last Quarter August 23rd
New Moon August 30th

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

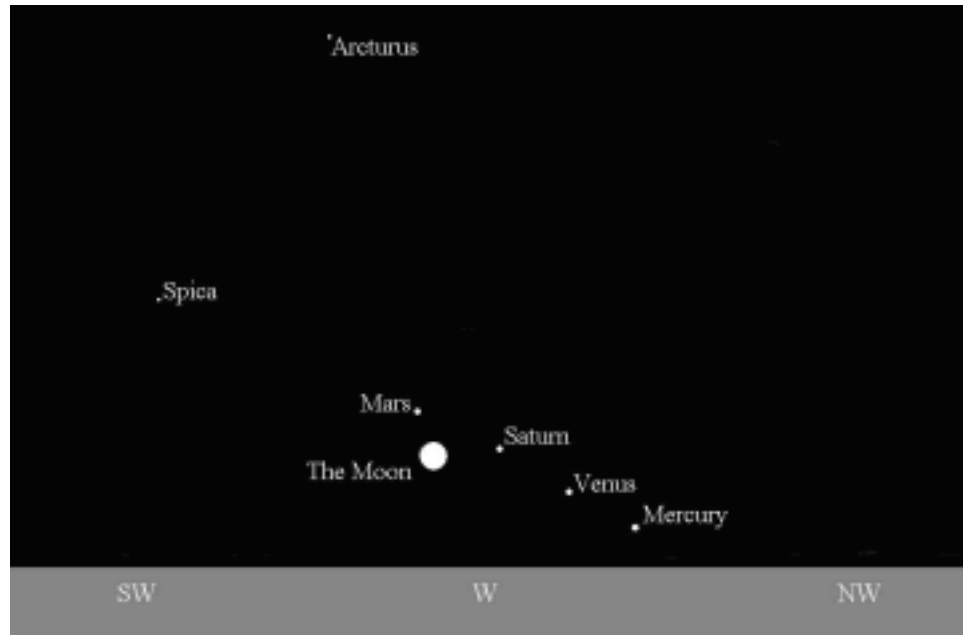
Mercury (magnitude -1.9 to -0.8 to -0.2): Moving from Cancer through Leo into Virgo. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will be lost in the glare of the Sun, but will slowly rise above the western horizon as the month passes..

Venus (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Leo into Virgo. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month low above the western twilight horizon and will slowly rise above the horizon as the month passes.

Mars (magnitude 1.7): Moving from Leo into Virgo. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Mars will be above the western horizon at sunset and follow the Sun below the horizon a few hours later.

Jupiter: (magnitude -2.7 to -2.6). In Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will be above the southeast horizon as the Sun sets and will follow the Sun below the west-northwest horizon a few hours after midnight. For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will be found high above the east-southeast horizon as the Sun sets and will follow the Sun below the west-northwest horizon a few hours before sunrise.

Saturn (magnitude 0.8): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month low over the western twilight horizon and set a few hours later; as the month passes



Looking low above the the western horizon just after sunset on August 3, 2008

Saturn will descend into the brightness of the setting Sun. For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month low over the northwestern twilight horizon and set a few hours later; as the month passes Saturn will descend into the brightness of the setting Sun.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

None

Other Celestial Phenomena

Zodiacal Light will be visible in northern latitudes in the East before the start of morning twilight from August 28th to September 11th. The phenomenon is only visible from very dark locations.

Zodiacal light is sunlight bouncing off dust grains in our solar system. These grains lie mostly in the plane of the solar system.

Look for a pyramid of light in the morning sky somewhat in appearance to the light from a city or town just over the horizon.

Perseids Meteor Shower

Date: July 17th to Aug 24th (peaking on Aug 12th)

Rate: 66/hour

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