

It's a bird Or a plane? It's a UFO

Up in the sky ... It's a bird, it's a plane ... well, maybe not ...

Several police agencies in Washington County received calls from people concerned about an unidentified flying object spotted near SW 185th Avenue and the Sunset Highway at about 9 p.m. Friday.

"I was sitting inside Sambo's when this guy came in and told me something strange was going on up in the sky," state police officer Dick Stein told the Times.

Stein and another officer, Steve Hebner, went outside and saw a bright yellowish-orange object about the size of a commercial airliner. Stein said the object was between 4,000 and 7,000 feet in the air two miles north of the restaurant.

The object "looked like it was on fire," Stein said. Burning debris could also be spotted falling from the UFO, the trooper added.

The officers and about 15 people watched the object for about five minutes before "it began to drift to the east and then just vanished ..."

"It was really strange, I was in Vietnam, and I saw all kinds of parachute flares and burning planes — I even flew for a living, and I never saw anything like this," Stein said.

The object had no real shape, made no noise, and maintained altitude for the entire time he watched it. After the object vanished, Stein said he left the scene and headed to Beaverton. Not long after, Hebner radioed that he had spotted another, similar object in the same area.

Stein, a former commercial charter pilot, ruled out weather balloons, marsh gas, inversion reflection and other common explanations for UFOs. He said what he saw sounded like the same description of an object recently spotted by another state trooper near St. Helens. Stein said two objects were spotted by that trooper as well.

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