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Pilot swerves to miss a UFO

A strange, glowing UFO and a light plane narrowly missed a midair collision — as stunned fliers and control tower operators watched.

Gary Rounds, pilot of the private plane, was practicing takeoffs and landings when he and Charles Shackelford saw the UFO heading straight at them.

Gary quickly dived his craft to miss the object — a saucer about 10 feet in diameter emitting a bright, red pulsating light.

"It was really wild," says Charles. "First it was in front of us. The next thing we knew it was right behind us."

Air controller Rich Gutterud says he saw the UFO head right into the path of the airplane. Only Gary's quick evasion action prevented a midair crash, he says.

Amazingly, the object did not show up on radar.

San Francisco Chronicle

Fri., April 23, 1982

Group Will Probe UFOs And Such

A new national scientific society is being formed to create a serious forum for discussion of such controversial phenomena as unidentified flying objects, extra-sensory perception and other forms of parapsychology, a Stanford University physicist announced yesterday.

Peter A. Sturrock, professor of space science and astrophysics at Stanford and president of the new organization, called the Society for Scientific Exploration, described its aims yesterday in the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The group includes strong disbelievers in UFOs and other "anomalous" phenomena. Two of them are philosopher Paul Kurtz of the State University of New York in Buffalo, who heads a "Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal," and University of Washington psychologist Ray Hyman.

But the organization also includes some staunch advocates of the "paranormal" like J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astronomer and an outspoken supporter of UFO research, and Charles Tart of the University of California at Davis, a psychology professor who conducts parapsychological research.

In his announcement of the group's founding Sturrock said: "The society has no intention of endorsing the reality or significance of any particular topic. On the other hand, no subject will be prohibited from discussion or publication simply because it is not now an accepted part of scientific or scholarly knowledge.

"We anticipate that most members will take the point of view that any purported anomalous phenomenon is unlikely to be real, but honest evidence concerning any of them deserves open investigation without prejudice."

The new society will publish a journal, hold annual meetings and subject all claims of "paranormal" phenomena to "the normal processes of open publication, debate and criticism," Sturrock said.

The group's members include physicists, astronomers, anthropologists, physicians, philosophers, psychologists and sociologists, and most of them are "completely uncommitted," Sturrock said.