

UFOs

Area Club Investigates Phenomena

By Safir Ahmed
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Unidentified flying objects. Psychokinesis. Big Foot. Spontaneous human combustion. Ghost-busting.

As long as a phenomenon is unexplained, it is a topic for investigation and research, say members of the Quad County Mutual UFO Network, a group of determined seekers in Madison, St. Clair, Monroe and Clinton counties.

Despite years of being laughed at by skeptics, the members of the group are unwavering in their search for answers.

"There's something going on and we want to know what it is," said Karen Tellor of Collinsville, the group's president. "We look at UFOs but we also look at all unexplained phenomena."

Last week, the guest speaker at the group's monthly meeting was Grover Krantz. He is called "the world's foremost authority on gigantopithecus," otherwise known as the abominable snowman and generally known to skeptics simply as Big Foot.

Tellor said that Krantz had reconstructed a skull and put together plaster casts of the foot, based on information from "fossils and footprint sightings all over the country".

Tellor said that the group, which has about 65 members in the area, is interested in finding out about any phenomena that seemingly defies explanation. And the group goes after scientific data about these phenomena, Tellor said.

"The only thing people hear about such things is from scandal sheets," Tellor said. "It's not a joke and we want to know more about it."

Gary Jascur, a member from Highland, said that all the research being done about such phenomena was being conducted by the government and was kept secret.

"If there was more information available, then more people would feel comfortable about reporting sightings," Jascur said.

The local group is part of an international network. The U.S. headquarters are in Seguin, Texas. The local chapters feed information about sightings reported in the area into a computer, Jascur said.

One recent sighting was reported in Granite City. A man there said he had seen "a light in the sky" that was moving faster than a normal aircraft



Renold Ferguson/Post-Dispatch

Karen Tellor, president of the Quad County Mutual UFO Network, with a cast said to be of

Big Foot's foot. "There's something going on and we want to know what it is," Tellor said.

and making turns unlike a falling star or meteorite, Jascur said.

A short time later, a woman in St. Charles reported a similar sighting, Jascur said. Tellor said that other sightings had been reported in Alton and Fairview Heights.

Group members take UFO sightings rather seriously.

"There is a very good possibility that these things are extra-terrestrial," Tellor said. "There's too much evidence to support that."

Jascur said, "You figure with as many stars and planets out there, there's got to be life out there."

When a sighting is reported, the group sends a team to the field to

study such things as markings on trees and on the ground and analyze soil samples and feed it into the national computer data base, Tellor said.

The local chapter of the group was started about a year ago, Tellor said. A chapter in St. Louis has been in existence for several years, she said.

Madison To Sides

By Charles Bosworth Jr.
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

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