

Belleville cop, others spot UFO

By SHARON D. PITMAN

Capital Times Staff Writer

When Belleville police officer Glen Kazmar first spotted the bright lights clumped in the sky Thursday evening, he didn't tell anyone.

He broke his silence six hours later, however, when he and a companion spotted the red, white and blue flashing lights again.

Kazmar was on routine patrol accompanied by a civilian ride-along when they spotted the lights for the second time about 2:50 a.m. Friday.

"It was very strange. I've been on the force over 10 years and been camping most of my life and I've never seen anything like it," Kazmar said in a telephone interview today.

According to the Belleville police officer, "I can't say I believe (in unidentified flying objects) or don't believe ... but in my work I keep an open mind on anything."

Kazmar said the object he saw just west of the village of Belleville is difficult to describe. "All I can say is it was like a clump of light. I can't compare it to anything."

The lights always stayed in the same pattern as if attached to something and blinked, he said.

Kazmar said that while the lights were positioned on a path often taken by airplanes, "I can swear it was not an airplane."

He also dismisses the notion that it may have been a star. "It was five or 20 times brighter than a normal star," he said.

The police officer also toyed with the theory that what he saw was a weather balloon — that is, until he learned weather balloons don't have lights.

According to Kazmar, he notified a police dispatcher about the sighting and they in turn contacted the Federal Aviation Administration's radar center in Illinois.

Officials at the Chicago center could not be reached for comment today.

"Chicago radar came up with a slow moving object which they were unable to identify or make voice contact with," the police officer said.

Kazmar said he and his companion were not alone in the sighting. A Dane County sheriff's deputy also spotted it, he said, as did officers in Green County.

Kazmar said he watched the object, which seemed to hang in the same spot, for 35 to 40 minutes.