

UFO sited in area by Belleville policeman

by Michael Burke

Were we visited by a mysterious spacecraft last Thursday night?

Glen Kazmar, a Belleville police officer, thinks so. He says he and his ride-along companion, Jeff Furseth of Belleville, spent approximately half an hour late that night observing a tight cluster of flashing or blinking lights that remained motionless in the sky southwest of Belleville.

That was actually the second sighting of the object for Kazmar, he said—the first came about 8 or 8:30 p.m. Thursday evening in the same part of the sky: "I kind of disregarded it at the time," he says, "because I knew it's a plane route. Later, I thought, 'It's not moving.'"

The second sighting began about 2:50 a.m. Friday morning—a "clear night"—Kazmar recalls. This time, he and Furseth, a neighbor of Kazmar's, drove west on Hwy. 69 and then up Quarry Road, to the highest area vantage point they could find.

From there, the two men watched what Kazmar describes as a "close-knit cluster of red, blue and white lights" for about 15 minutes before Kazmar went to phone in the sighting to the Dane County Sheriff Department dispatcher, to find out whether anyone else had reported the object.

He returned after a few minutes and continued watching the object for a while before it slowly moved off in the opposite direction from them.

Where and how far away did the craft seem to be? "That's the hardest thing, the location," Kazmar responds. He estimated, by using two maps, that it was somewhere in the Monticello vicinity the entire time.

"We lined it up with a telephone pole, and it didn't move whatsoever," he says. It was still in the same place after his phone call, he adds.

"It's very hard to determine height," Kazmar continues. "It was very high."

No sound was perceptible from their location, Kazmar says, although he shut

off his squad car to be able to hear it if there was any.

After calling in the report, Kazmar says Chicago's O'Hare Airport may have picked up the object on radar. "(Madison's) airport was closed," he explains. "Chicago said they were tracking a slow-moving object but could not do any voice contact."

However, because the Dane County dispatcher did not copy down the coordinates given by O'Hare, Kazmar can't be certain it was the same object, although he thinks it very likely.

Eventually, a Dane County sheriff deputy from Verona who saw the same sight came up the hill and joined Kazmar and Furseth. A Green County sheriff deputy did the same. He was the only one of the four to label the object anything other than a spacecraft of some kind—he thinks it was a nova, or exploding star, Kazmar says. (Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary defines a nova as "A star that suddenly brightens and then dims after a period of a few months or years." That definition makes it seem unlikely that the object can be called a nova.)

Furseth and Kazmar both reacted the same way, Kazmar says, they were "awe-struck."

Furseth says he thought the most likely explanation, as he was watching, was that it was a weather balloon. But the National Weather Service, which he called the next day, said a weather balloon would not have lights.

Is Kazmar, in general, a believer in UFOs? "I keep an open mind on stuff like that," he answers. "There's been so many sightings," Furseth expressed the same thought.

Since the incident, is Kazmar more prone to scanning the night sky? "I went out the next night," he says with a laugh, but there was no repeat performance.

Kazmar says he would be interested to hear from anyone else who might have spotted the same object last Thursday night.