

They're back...

Year after Summit sighting, Glenwood Springs sees UFOs

by Mark Craddock
Sentinel Editor

They're back.

Those mysterious pulsating lights that county residents and sheriff's personnel spotted over the Gore Range last spring have apparently returned.

But, this time, it is Glenwood Springs officials who have "seen the light" and are scratching their heads, searching for a logical explanation.

Residents first spotted two bright lights, pulsating and alternating in color from red to green to white, in the northwest sky last Monday night, according to Glenwood Springs Police Chief Bob Halbert.

After the initial report, three or four Glenwood Springs officers trained binoculars and spotting scopes on the lights.

"They were visible for about a half an hour before they disappeared over the horizon," Halbert said. "We can't make a determination as to what they are, but they don't appear to be stars.

"They were the brightest objects in the sky, brighter than the North Star."

Two days later the lights reappeared, he said, spotted again by several locals and officers on patrol.

Police last week contacted the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) near Colorado Springs, which speculated that the lights might have been images of satellites reflected off clouds.

But locals balked at that explanation, saying there were no clouds in the sky those nights.

Halbert said he contacted NORAD officials again Monday, who told him they had no solid information on what could have caused the celestial apparitions, nor do they have the facilities to figure it out.

The Glenwood Springs sightings bear a striking resemblance to the late-April, 1986, sightings of between one and three objects in northern Summit County.

About 8:30 p.m. on April 21, 1986, rancher Mike Young of the Ute Peak Ranch was walking to his woodshop when he looked westward over the pristine peaks of the Gore Range to see two bright, pulsating specks of light.

Don Rider, a nearby resident of the ranch, located some eight miles north of Silverthorne, also saw one of the objects.

He said the light hovered above the horizon, disappeared for a time behind the mountain range and reappeared a little farther south.

Sheriff's deputies and a state trooper responded to the scene and, about 10:30 p.m., Sheriff Delbert Ewoldt came out to observe the sights.

He said he saw three objects in a triangular-shaped pattern.

All witnesses said the objects changed color rapidly from red to green to white.

"I've never observed anything

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like that in all the nights I've worked," Ewoldt said at the time. "It was certainly strange, there's no question about that."

A year later, Ewoldt is still at a loss to explain what he saw that night, but remains adamant that the lights were not normal and skeptical of the government's weak explanations.

"When this happened just a year ago, I certainly took a little heat over it. A lot of people did," he said. "But I can tell you I was on scene and it was not like anything I have ever seen.

"They can talk about reflections off clouds and all the other things the government says. But I know I've spent a lot of years working the road and that was not like anything I've ever seen.

"They think they can tell you what it is from sitting behind a desk."