

Plane-old UFOs light up switchboards

By Trink Guarino
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DANBURY — Brenda Hrostek was sitting in her back yard on Joe's Hill Road when she saw a line of lights in formation suddenly appear over the tops of the trees behind her house.

One of her dogs began barking madly. The others stood transfixed. Moving slowly but steadily in Hrostek's direction, the lights appeared to hover over her patio. She could hear a low drone.

The object was low enough that she could see a large section in the

underside that looked something like a trap door.

That's when Hrostek got scared.

"It was definitely not a plane or a group of planes. All I could think of was that it was a UFO and they were coming to get me," Hrostek said.

She is one of about 30 people who called The News-Times late Thursday night and yesterday morning to report a UFO sighting. State police in Southbury also reported receiving several phone calls.

Craig Stenner, 17, of Thunder Ridge Road, saw a circle of orange and red lights heading toward New-

town High School. He called his friends, who saw it too.

"At least I know I wasn't having vision problems," Stenner said.

"Whatever it was, it was very large and flying very low," Hrostek said. "I hate to sound like a lunatic or something, but whatever this was, it was very weird."

Whatever Hrostek and Stenner saw, Jim Fontana, a controller at Danbury Airport saw it too.

"Yeah," he said with a laugh. "The creatures that came out of it were three feet high and green with great big eyes, but they spoke pretty good English."

Fontana was on his way home from work at about 10 p.m. Thursday when he sighted six small planes flying in close formation with their landing lights on.

"I couldn't tell what kind of planes they were, but at least one was a Cessna," Fontana said.

The planes had green and red lights on their wing tips, he said.

Fontana and Brian Twomey, also a controller at Danbury Airport, say they have years of experience with the pilots.

"They've been around before," Twomey said. "It's just a bunch of pilots, flying out of several different

airports, who are having some fun."

They are not breaking the law, "but they are certainly attracting attention," Twomey said.

Some of the pilots take off from Stormville Airport in Dutchess County, N.Y., Twomey said. But an airport spokesman said no planes had either taken off from or landed at Stormville late Thursday night.

State police at Brewster had a good laugh over the whole thing, they said.

"We expect to make several arrests later today," the dispatcher joked. "They arrested 22 aliens yesterday in New York City."