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UFO authority Dave Aaron Kaback sells a home video magazine on video tape from his Yucaipa mobile home.

Yucaipa man keeps eye out for UFOs

Story and photo
 by ERNEST E. FUND
 The Press-Enterprise

YUCAIPA — For two weeks on and off, David Aaron Kaback watched the night skies above Yucaipa. At 3 a.m. on Nov. 11, he spotted a UFO — unidentified flying object.

"I really can't say this was a flying saucer, but it was a strange nocturnal light," said Kaback, who prefers going by his pen name, Dave Aaron or Video Dave.

A self-taught authority on video techniques and equipment, Kaback has written columns for numerous video magazines and equipment shoppers almost since the video industry caught on with the general public in the late 1970s.

Last year, he started Video Dave's Video Tape World, a home video magazine recorded on video tape that touts a section of clippings contributed by subscribers of their own antics or spot news reports.

"I'm known as the man who puts everybody on television," said Kaback.

The video magazine also offers tips on filming and video repair techniques, contests and letters to the editor. A subscription for six monthly issues runs \$48.95.

Kaback moved to Yucaipa several

months ago from Diamond Bar and now produces much of Video Dave's Tape World from his mobile home.

While Kaback may be famous for breaking ground in the video medium, it was in defense of his belief in visitors from outer space that he appeared on the boisterous "Hot Seat" television program hosted by the comically abusive right-wing skeptic Wally George.

Kaback, who will present a general profile of UFOs at 2 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Yucaipa Branch Library, has three basic theories on where UFOs come from: they are visitors from outer space, they are future members of the human race returning in time, or they are from another dimension entirely.

Kaback's Yucaipa sighting is not his first, nor his most dramatic.

In February 1964, Kaback's father called him outside their Hacienda Heights home to witness an object that at first appeared to be a parachutist descending from the night sky in a zigzag motion with flares attached to his body.

As the object neared the ground, said Kaback, it became apparent this was not a parachutist. His father went inside to call the police. When Kaback turned to get a camera to document the event, he was frozen. The UFO hovered briefly and then

shot off toward Whittier, he said.

Kaback described the object as being the size of three buses and pulsating red, blue, white, green and purple light.

The police later wrote off the sighting as a helicopter, said Kaback. "Like most people who have seen a flying saucer or had a close encounter, I was scoffed at."

That was the beginning of Kaback's trek for UFOs. Since becoming involved with video, he claims to have collected the largest private video library of television news reports, interviews and taped accounts of UFO sightings in the world — about 367 hours of tape in all.

Wally George, who accused Kaback of sending him a film of a pie tin spinning across the screen, is not the only skeptic.

Al Seckel, executive director of the Southern California Skeptics, said, "I think there are unidentified flying objects up there . . . but it's a big leap of faith to think they are guided by extra-terrestrials."

What is one person's UFO may be another's gag. Seckel said he is aware of at least one occasional prank where enterprising students from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena hover a simulated saucer in the area of Mt. Wilson, which is frequented by UFO enthusiasts.