

Irwin, PA

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Local non-profit group, PASU, investigates phenomenon and insists there's an increase of unusual sightings here

Jnt., N. Irwin: Close encounters of the unexplained kind

By The Standard Observer

Could the tiny borough of North Irwin hold a special attraction for visitors from other planets?

Are some interplanetary arbiters eyeing Jeannette for the ultimate in hostile takeovers?

Probably not.

But the head of a statewide clearinghouse that investigates strange phenomena says his group can't explain an increase in sightings of unidentified flying objects in those two communities.

"We've seen some very interesting reports in that area.

There's been quite a number of UFO sightings in the Irwin/Jeanette area since August," said Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU).

The nonprofit Greensburg-based group is an all-volunteer, scientific research unit that conducts openminded, confidential investigations of strange and unusual occurrences.

"We don't know why this unusual amount of activity is occurring," Gordon said.

PASU is currently investigating the sighting Monday of a

large, circular object over North

toward Paintertown, Gordon said.

PASU is currently investigating Monday's sighting of a large, circular object hovering over N. Irwin.

Residents of Jeannette recently reported seeing a UFO cast beams of intense light over a two-block area of the city.

Three witnesses observed the solid, disc-shaped object, with one red and one green light, hovering over the borough at about 10 p.m.

The object emitted two powerful beams of light and then moved off in a zig-zag pattern

Emergency helicopters and a company that specializes in nighttime advertising by air were not operating in that area, Monday, he said.

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two-block area of the city.

But western Pennsylvania isn't the only area of the country that's seen an increase in UFO sightings.

The local reports seem to coincide with a "big wave" of sightings that have been coming in from several states over the past seven months, Gordon said. The majority of the sightings have been of very large objects at low altitudes emitting beams of light.

"There has been a highly unusual amount of good, low-level sightings," he said.

PASU is also investigating reports this week of UFO sightings

in Bucks, Fayette, Cambria and Somerset counties.

A Bucks County woman said she was awakened Sunday at about 2:30 a.m. by two brilliant lights hovering near her home. She described the object that then began moving toward her as very large, rectangular-shaped and gray in color.

It had two green lights and one red light and elevator-type doors, Gordon said.

PASU operates a 24-hour UFO hotline at 412-638-7768. Those who witness strange phenomena can also write the organization's

headquarters at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

STAN GORDON via COUD—1 PASU