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MAY 1968

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AMATEUR RADIO

SPECIAL ANTENNA ISSUE

40M Diamond Array
New Gamma Match
Using Matching Stubs
Duo Vee Beam
Basic Antenna Theory
Triangular Loop Beams
IC RTTY Stunt Box
Computer Design of Beams

THE UFO NET

ADVANCED CLASS
STUDY COURSE
PART II





THE UFO NET

This is one of three photos taken by Rex Heflin, an Orange County highway inspector, in August 1965. The UFO approached from the left, hovered over the road, moved right, hovered over the field, moved off and accelerated out of sight. The sighting lasted approximately 20 seconds. Heflin took this photo through the front windshield of his truck. This photograph is by courtesy of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Wayne Green W2NSD/1

Last month, in my editorial, I suggested the organization of an amateur radio network for reporting UFO contacts. This idea has met with widespread enthusiasm, I am happy to report.

There has to be a good reason for a network to exist if it is going to be successful. In this case amateur radio is probably the only medium that can help speed the solution of the UFO mystery. The basic problem is simple: Though there have been hundreds of thousands of sightings of UFO's, these contacts are usually of such a short duration that it is difficult or impossible to take adequate pictures or make any scientific investigations of the phenomena.

Amateur radio, by virtue of its ubiquity, can make it possible for advanced warning to be forwarded of approaching UFO's. This in turn can make it possible for pictures and scientific tests to be prepared, once the probable path of the UFO has been determined.

Amateurs who are interested in participating in this net should have an effective station set up on 80, 40 or 20 meters. I suggest the frequencies of 3900, 7250 and 14,250 kHz. The next step is to alert the local police that you are participating in the UFO network so that they will know to call you if anything is reported to their department. Then you should get in touch with every user of mobile radio in your vicinity and

give them your phone number so they can notify you in case of a sighting. This can cover your local CB group, any amateur radio mobiles, taxis, doctors, vets, sheriff's departments, road crews, trucks, public service, forestry, etc. Give your card to the local newspapers and radio stations. They frequently are informed of UFO contacts first.

Once you have your community as informed as possible about calling you in case of a UFO report it is time to write a release to the paper and radio station telling them all about it so they can give you further publicity. This will be helpful to amateur radio too. We need all of the publicity we can get, as you know.

The UFO network will be rather informal at first. There are at present no fixed net control stations. We are interested in hearing from operators situated around the middle of the country who have very good signals and who have the interest and time available to help establish nets on the three major bands. In time I believe we will have a net that can be alerted anytime of the day or night, possibly with an alerting tone system. During the early phase of the net I suggest that we get together at 0000 GMT and discuss organization and plans.

The plans for the net have been discussed with the University of Colorado UFO inves-

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more will you have to make an endless string of hit-or-miss adjustments and often-times end up settling for less than the best match. For those who want a more theoretical and detailed explanation, I recommend the ARRL Antenna Handbook. Also, strangely enough, many of the older radio

handbooks (pre 1950) give excellent information on this aspect of antennas. I have always found that when it comes to putting up a new antenna, it is always the cost of the feedline that stops me. From now on though, I can feed a new antenna with whatever I can get my hands on. . . . WA5STM

UFO NET

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tigation project of the Air Force and mutual cooperation has been assured. Nicap (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon) is also interested in our project and has promised cooperation. The cover photograph on the April issue and the photograph at the head of this article were both provided by NICAP. Both photographs are considered authentic and have been exhaustively investigated. The net is also tied in with the 24-hour a day reporting system set up by Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, New Hampshire.

Are UFO's Space Ships?

In spite of the thousands upon thousands of eyeball reports on UFO's by dependable observers, there is still a serious question in many minds about their actual existance. Their existence has yet to be fully proven . . . and so has their lack of existence. The mere possibility that the UFO's do really exist and are space ships is, I am sure, motive enough to warrant the use of every means at our command to investigate the question.

The reports in newspapers of UFO sightings frequently follow very definite patterns across the country. It does appear that if communications were established throughout the country, communities along the projected path of these UFO's might be able to spot them and even get set up to take pictures. If this works out it would not be long before teams could start getting ready for more sophisticated examinations of the UFO's as they pass by.

If we set up our network so that we get immediate reports from every possible source in our communities, we will have made a major contribution to our country. And this sensitive detection system would work two ways. It would report anything spotted to the amateur radio network . . . and the network would report to the "eyes" of the community when anything was heading in

that direction, alerting hundreds or even thousands of people to be on the watch.

On the UFO Net

During the establishment of the net it might be of interest to those gathered to review some of the books and magazine articles on UFOs. While some of them are rather obviously far out, others make every attempt to report only carefully checked facts.

It is interesting that many of the governments of the world take the UFO problem quite seriously. I believe that our own government is almost alone today in poo-pooing UFO reports. Those of you who subscribe to Soviet Life or read it in your local library were undoubtedly fascinated by the article in the February issue on UFO reports in Russia and the establishment of a serious program to investigate them. They have mobilized their observatories, weather stations, and all other functions which could help in the quest for answers to the UFO's. Their pilots are taken seriously when they give detailed reports of sightings, unlike the ridicule that American pilots get when they try to give UFO contact reports. Is it likely that the thousands of UFO reports in Russia are just imaginary?

I would like to hear from operators interested in acting as net control for the UFO Net. I will call in whenever I can, but I pretty much work the clock around here at 73 and my air time is sadly scanty. With the backing of 73 I hope that we can get enough operators interested so that we will have a good solid network going. I will be glad to publish reports in 73 of the progress of the net and its accomplishments.

Remember, if the UFO's are not real our network will certainly make this obvious. If they *are real*, then amateur radio may be on the verge of doing the most important piece of PICON in its history. How about you? Are you going to be a part of this? We need every community in the country in this net.

. . . W2NSD