

MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 8, Issue 6

The Truth is Out There . . .

MUFON'S Mission is the Systematic Collection and Analysis of UFO Data
With the Ultimate Goal of Learning the Origin and Nature of the UFO Phenomenon.

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Meeting Date: June 23, 1999

Program: Guest Speaker: PETER GERSTEN - THE UFO LAWYER

Location: 5635 E. McDowell Road-National Guard Armory
(east of 52nd St. on McDowell, then north on Bushmaster Blvd. into Armory)

Visit the MUFON-AZ Website at: <http://www.welcome.to/mufon-az>

MUFON to Host UFO Awareness Display at Chris-Town Mall

MUFON will again be hosting its UFO awareness display at Chris-Town Mall on August 20, 21 and 22nd. To participate, you must be a MUFON member. The awareness display is an annual event that educates and promotes the mission of MUFON. It is also a great recruitment tool for prospective new members. There will be a sign-up sheet located at the raffle table for the next two meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Maricopa County Section Director Jim Kelly will be making a special announcement at the June meeting. You don't want to miss it!

June Book Sale and Raffle

We have two great prizes this month in the raffle. Stanton Friedman's controversial book "Top Secret/Magic," plus one of the best science fiction films ever to hit the silver screen, "Independence Day." Both items will be raffled off together for only \$1.00 per ticket. Be sure to purchase plenty of tickets to increase your chances of winning these two prizes!

UFO MAGAZINE SALE- PART TWO!

Our eccentric but brilliant Maricopa County Section Director has located another fantastic selection of UFO magazines from England and America to whet your reading appetites. We have

over 70 magazines to sell, so get to the meeting a little early and take advantage of these great additions to your UFO library! (\$2.00 per copy, or \$3.00 for two copies)

EXPERIENCER'S MEETING ON HIATUS FOR SUMMER

Dr. Ruth Hover would like to remind everyone that the Experiencer's Meeting, which usually meets once a month, will be on hiatus until September 20th, 1999.

There will also be a sign-up list at the book sale table for Field Investigator training which will take place next fall.

We encourage anyone who wishes to be a Field investigator to please sign up. Call Dr. Ruth Hover at 480-837-0446 for more information.



MEDIA WATCH

In the interest of keeping the UFO topic before the public, the following is a list of programs on the subject recently aired via television, radio and newspaper in recent weeks. We will attempt to list programs ahead of time whenever possible; however, we are not always notified of programs until it is too late to publish them in the Newsletter in time for members to view, hear, or read them. In the case of TV and radio programs you may have missed, ask at MUFON-AZ meetings to see if anyone has taped them and would be willing to share.

If you find UFO-related television or radio programs we have not listed, please call Teri Acton at 480/844-8097 and leave a message containing the title, day, time, whether TV or radio, and the channel where the program can be found.

Always be sure to check current TV listings as times and channels sometimes change!

Bufo Calvin lists TV programs of UFO & related subjects, which we try to pass along in this newsletter when we receive them in time. If you would like to receive them from Bufo Calvin directly via e-mail, e-mail him at BufoCalvin@aol.com and ask him to send you the list via e-mail.

WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAMS:

DREAMLAND KFYI Radio 910 AM, Sunday evenings, 8:00 p.m. - Art Bell hosts this interesting radio program. The program is aired on the following stations in other cities in Arizona: Globe: 1240 AM; Safford: 1230 AM; Tucson: 1400 AM; Kingman: 1230 AM; Yuma: 560 AM; and Flagstaff: 600 AM. Art also hosts "Coast to Coast" weeknights at 11:00 p.m. and often features UFO related guests and/or topics. A Dreamland repeat is also broadcast at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday's.

SPACECRAFT NEWS with Franklin Carter, Monday's at 10:00 a.m. on KFNX radio (1100 AM).

UFO LIVE with Dr. Duncan Bowen, Tuesday's at 11:00 p.m. on KFNX radio (1100 AM).

FRACTAL DIMENSIONS with Dr. Simeon Hein, Thursday's at 5:00 p.m. on KFNX radio (1100 AM).

MYSTERIES AROUND US KTAR Radio (620 AM), 10:00 p.m. Sunday, hosted by

Frank Baranowski, a well-known hypno-therapist specializing in regression.

WEEKLY TV PROGRAMS:

X FILES Sunday's at 8:00 p.m., Channel 10; Weeknights at 9:00 p.m., Channel 30, FX (cable).

SIGHTINGS Wednesday's, 8:00 p.m., SciFi Channel (cable).

AFTER MIDNIGHT Thursday's at midnight on Channel 22

Calendar

Pima County Chapter: Meetings held at **Wilmot Library**, 530 N. Wilmot, Tucson. Contact George Parks for more information 520/742-6651.

Pinal County Chapter: Meetings held every second Saturday of each month at **Meghans Restaurant**, located at 1202 E. Florence (opposite of K-Mart corner) at 1:00 p.m. Contact Ken Kerber for more information 520/836-1185.

Yuma County Chapter: Meetings are quarterly. Call Richard King for more information 520/747-7787.

Maricopa County Chapter: Wednesday, June 23, 1999; usual place and time. Admission \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members.

Experiencer's Meeting: On hiatus until September 20, 1999. For information, call Dr. Ruth Hover at 837-0446.

July 2-4, 1999: 30th annual MUFON International UFO Symposium, Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertise in the MUFON-AZ Newsletter!! Ads up to three lines long are \$5.00; business card sized ads are \$10.00 (we can reproduce your business card as the ad). Call Ruth Hover for prices on larger ads. Submit your ad and payment by the first of the month to have it appear in that month's newsletter issue.

ARIZONA SIGHTINGS LIST



Don't forget to get your updated copy of "Arizona Sightings 1899-1998" - a wonderful compilation by our own Dimitri "Jim" Ossipov. For many years, Dimitri has worked on this comprehensive list, and it's a great addition to everyone's UFO library. The Sightings List can be purchased at the monthly meeting, or you can call Tom Taylor at 967-6265 to order your copy today!



ARTICLE SUBMISSION

If you have any articles or letters you would like to submit for your newsletter, please call Teri Acton at 480/844-8097. Suggestions/articles can also be e-mailed to teri.acton@asu.edu. Your ideas and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated!

MUFON MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Orders are being taken for your MUFON Membership Badges. These are the 1-3" x 3" blue badges with 3 lines and white print listing your name on the first line, "Arizona MUFON" on the second line, and a title or phrase such as "The Truth is Out There" on the third line. The cost is \$4.50 each, unless we have enough orders to get a price break, and then they'll be less. See the sign-up sheet in the front lobby at the meeting. You can also fax your order to Ruth and Harry at 602/837-0094 or send the order via mail to: Ruth and Harry Hover, 16714 E. Gunsight, #155, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. For additional information, please contact the Hovers at 602/837-0446.

Raffle Update MUFON Book Sale Breaks Record!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the May MUFON book sale. Sales totaled \$211.00 in just 60 minutes! Due to your overwhelming support we have decided to keep the MUFON book store open as long as you support it. Not only does the money MUFON makes in these sales help keep us strong and competitive in obtaining guests like Peter Gersten, the book sales also educate all of us in the UFO field. New books will be added each month for your interest and pleasure. Thanks to all of you for your continued support!

Jim Kelly
Maricopa County Section Director

MUFON Arizona Newsletter Now Offers Family Subscription Rate

Due to popular demand, your MUFON-AZ Newsletter now offers a special Family membership subscription rate of just \$25.00 per year!

Individual membership subscription rates are \$15.00 per year.

If you are interested in subscribing, please send your payment to Tom Taylor, 1433 W. Huntington, Tempe, AZ 85282. Please make your check payable to Tom. Thank you for your support!

SETI@HOME Offers Free Screen Saver

Seti@home is offering a free screen saver that connects to the internet either by you setting it to do so automatically or by connecting when you want it to. It also allows your computer to receive and review signals coming to the dish in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The data is then transferred from there to Berkeley, where it is then broken down so it can be sent to home computers.

To receive this free screen saver, just access the following web address:
<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu>.

With more people looking, the better our chances are to find a signal from an intelligent life form out there!

Dr. Roger K. Leir has Heart Attack

By Gregory J. Avery, JD
MUFON State Director - Louisiana

5/28/99: Dr. Roger K. Leir, the podiatrist who has helped pioneer the removal of alien implants, or otherwise objects of unknown origin, has had a heart attack this week. Angiography studies have indicated that his arteries are open and therefore not the cause of the heart attack. Stress has been implicated as the culprit for this unfortunate life-threatening emergency.

Dr. Leir is in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Los Robles Hospital in Thousand Oaks, California. Most of you know that Dr. Leir has had an avalanche of criticism and defamatory comments leveled against him over the Internet over the past few months.

Dr. Leir is the author of *Aliens and the Scalpel* and has lectured on Alien implants, their removal, and their scientific analysis thereof. Dr. Leir was also a prominent figure in the NBC Special on this topic of Ufology along with Whitley Strieber in February, 1999, which achieved unprecedented ratings for a show on this topic during Prime Time television.

I am the MUFON State Director for Louisiana. I am also a Trial Attorney and I represent Dr. Leir in connection with the defamatory comments that have been made against him and incorporated in Web Sites and circulated via e-mail and web lists over the Internet. I have been investigating the facts instead of the allegations and innuendoes. I am alarmed at the stark contrast of what has been the subject of Internet abandonment of the truth in favor of easy circulation via e-mail of anything said that is designed to assault the Ufological and Non-Ufological professional career of an individual.

What causes me the most concern as a MUFON State Director is the stark contrast in conduct when Ufologists study a UFO sighting, crop circle, or similar event. We study so carefully the alleged facts of a sighting. We have so many forms to fill out to carefully scrutinize every aspect of

human observation and recollection and when all the data is in the most serious classification of the sighted object once all known sources are excluded, is that the sighted object is unknown. Yet, the opposite seems to be the autonomic function when a respected Ufologist and author of things on this subject is involved. People who would be so cautious about passing judgement on scarce information are prepared to leap to absolute conclusions without any investigation of facts. If it was read on the Internet, it's true.

This mentality is deserving of some study by the social psychologists, but in the meantime, good people, who are sticking their necks and reputations out in a field of study where the severing of the hands (or computers) of their peers and colleagues who attest to pursue the same truths in Ufology, but abandon all standards of analysis in favor of Tabloid Intemetism.

What is the true UFO enigma, its function and agenda, is the most serious topic, event, fear, and hope of our global society. We who study and converse on the issues and concerns of this most crucial subject cannot fall prey to Internet Cannibalism. We must be respectful of our peers who offer opinions and views, whether in harmony with our own or not, and be cautious and studious before making comments and judgements of a personal or defamatory nature and think twice before spreading, over the Internet, questionable matters directed against an individual verses the topic itself.

What I ask now of everyone is prayer. Prayer directed to the healing of Dr. Leir. If enough individuals think prayerful thoughts, we know that the physical reality of Dr. Leir's heart condition will change, just like Art Bell's audience has caused rain around the country. If we focus and direct our mind consciousness for the well being of Dr. Leir, be WILL get WELL!

Please give him your caring thoughts and prayers over these next few days. Thank you and may we all be graced by this event and our response to it.

Gregory J. Avery, JD
MUFON State Director - Louisiana

Art Bell's Son Files Suit Over Assault

A federal lawsuit claims a school district failed to take action to prevent the sexual crime of a substitute teacher

By Carri Greer
Las Vegas Review-Journal

The son of radio talk show host Art Bell has filed a federal lawsuit against the Nye County School District and a former substitute teacher who is serving a life prison sentence for sexually assaulting him.

Arthur Bell IV identified himself in an amended complaint filed Friday in Las Vegas. The original complaint, filed in November, listed the plaintiffs in the case as John and Jane Doe and described them as the "natural parents of Peter Doe, a minor."

In an order entered May 14, U.S. District Judge Johnnie Rawlinson said she would dismiss the lawsuit if the plaintiffs did not file an amended document under their true names within 30 days.

The crime against Bell's son may have played a role in his decision in October to end his "Coast to Coast" program, which is broadcast from his home in Pahrump and has an estimated 15 million listeners on 462 stations nationwide. Bell's show deals with paranormal events, UFOs and other "X-Files"-like topics. It is described as originating from the "Kingdom of Nye."

"You may recall about a year ago...I told you that there was an event, a threatening, terrible event that occurred to my family, which I could not tell you about," Bell told his listeners on Oct. 13. "Because of that event, and a succession of other events, what you're listening to right now is my final broadcast on the air. This is it, folks. I'm going off the air and will not return."

But Bell did return to the airwaves on October 28, although he remained mum about the reason for his departure.

"That event occurred and became an absolute crisis on the night that I signed off, actually prior to it -- something that I thought would take my complete, full-time attention, and for a period of time of course it did...and so it was a very sad thing for me," Bell said.

Bell told listeners earlier this week that the reason for his October departure would soon become public.

His son's lawsuit names former teacher Brian Lepley as a defendant, as well as the school district, Superintendent Geraldine Harge and Pahrump Valley High School Principal Jerry Hill.

Lepley, 34, was sentenced in May 1998 to life in prison for engaging in sexual acts with Bell's then 16-year-old son, who is now an adult, and with an 18-year-old man. Prosecutors claimed Lepley, who is infected with the AIDS virus, supplied his victims with marijuana and alcohol on several occasions.

The substitute teacher was charged in 1997 with 16 drug and sex-related counts, including sexual assault and attempted transmission of the AIDS virus. At the time of the trial, neither of Lepley's victims had the virus.

Lepley was convicted in April 1998 of most of the charges he faced. He admitted engaging in the sexual contact but adamantly denied he did anything criminal other than occasionally supplying underage boys with alcohol or marijuana.

The AIDS charge stemmed from what Lepley described as a four-month relationship with the 18-year-old, who was never Lepley's student. The young man claimed Lepley did not inform him about his medical condition and did not use a condom; Lepley denied those allegations.

Lepley pleaded guilty in November 1998 to additional charges that stemmed from allegations that he had fondled a 14-year-old boy. Nye County District Attorney Bob Beckett estimated Lepley will be eligible for parole after spending about 15 years in prison.

According to the lawsuit filed by Bell's son, the boy was a student at Pahrump Valley High School from August 1996 to May 1997. During that time, according to the complaint, Lepley was a substitute teacher in several of the boy's classes.

The lawsuit claims the teenager "was sexually harassed by Lepley, who used his position of authority to intimidate and coerce" the boy.

"In engaging in this conduct, Lepley was acting pursuant to NCSD's customs and practices, which for many years have permitted and condoned sexual relations between teachers and students," the document alleges.

At least three other teachers have been accused of sexual misconduct with students at Pahrump Valley High School in recent years. One former

teacher, Joseph Peterson, was sentenced in August 1996 to life in prison for raping a female student in his classroom.

Arthur Bell IV's lawsuit claims Harge and Hill, as Lepley's supervisors, "were responsible for the policies which allowed Lepley to use his position with the NCSD to sexually harass" him.

Reno attorney Paul Anderson, who represents the school district, has denied that allegation. Anderson could not be reached for comment on the amended complaint.

The lawsuit further alleges that Harge and Hill "have known about sexual relations between teachers and students for years and yet have failed to take any action to prevent teachers from sexually harassing students by investigating claims of sexual harassment or misconduct, disciplining the teachers, or seeking to educate and protect potential victims -- the school's students."

According to the lawsuit, the school district's policies failed to protect -- through education and the availability of a confidential complaint process -- students from sexual harassment by their teachers.

"Despite having actual notice of Lepley's inappropriate sexual conduct toward students, none of the defendants took the necessary investigatory or disciplinary actions against Lepley," the lawsuit alleges.

According to the document, Bell's son has suffered physical injuries, as well as severe mental and emotional distress.

The lawsuit accuses the defendants of discriminating against the teenager on the basis of his sex. It also accuses the defendants of negligently hiring, supervising, and retaining Lepley.

According to the document, Lepley had a sexual offense history that could have been discovered with a reasonable investigation.

"Defendants knew or reasonably should have known of Lepley's sexual proclivities and predisposition to molest children," the lawsuit claims.

According to the lawsuit, Harge directed in 1995 that Lepley would no longer be permitted to substitute at area middle schools because of complaints.

"Through their inaction, defendants negligently retained Lepley as a teacher and employee of the NCSD after having been made aware of his abuse of students," the lawsuit alleges.

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The complaint also accuses the defendants of assault and battery. Bell's son is seeking unspecified damages.

Anderson has said Lepley is not entitled to legal representation from the school district in this case, because his criminal conduct "was outside the course and scope of his employment." The attorney said the sexual contact did not occur on school property or during school hours.

Neither Las Vegas attorney John Hawley, who represents Bell's son, nor Bell have responded to repeated requests for comment on the lawsuit during the past several months.

"I can tell you that he's not going to want to comment about that," Los Angeles attorney Davidson Pattitz, who is representing Bell in another civil case, said Friday. "It's something that he needs to deal with in his own way."

Current UFO Cases and Sightings: Local and Worldwide

By Jim Kelly

No local sightings reported.

Ontario, Canada

UFO Sighting Reports

Courtesy of Michel M. Deschamps,
MUFON's Provincial Section Director
for Sudbury, Ontario and
UFO Researcher/Historian

5/27/99, Blind River, Ontario

A woman from Algoma Mills (7 miles from Blind River) had a close encounter while driving towards Blind River, where she was going to pick up her daughter at the local Tim Horton's. The time was approximately 11:20 p.m. When she got within a mile of Blind River, she saw an object lifting off from behind some trees at an RV trailer lot, near the shores of Lake Huron. She described it as cigar-shaped and red and white in colour. When she saw it lift above the treeline, she pulled right over so that she could get out and watch. But when the object started coming over the highway, she decided to stay in the car. The object was "as long as one treeline to the other" (wider than the highway). She sat there and watched it as it came right over her car, which, at that point, began to vibrate.

That's when she hit the gas, she said, because "she just wanted to get out of there." At that moment, the object took off in a split second. It went right over the hospital and flew away in a northerly direction. A woman who had reported other encounters before went to check the sit and found no physical trace of any kind.

Two nights prior, on Monday, March 22, in the early hours of the morning, she said she woke up and heard a loud hum in her house. She went running to her daughter's room, woke her up, and both were in a panic state. She said she kind of knew what it was, but didn't want to go outside to look. Then the hum went away.

4/15/99, Ironbridge, Ontario

Two women going for a walk at about 10:00 p.m. (Ironbridge is 12 miles west of Blind River) reported they saw a bright light in the bush and they didn't want to stay any longer. They got scared because it was "too...too bright for a normal light." They just took off out of there.

4/17/99, Garson, Ontario

A former Falconbridge worker and his wife (from Dowling, Ontario) were driving back from Garson when they spotted an object in the sky, moving in a north-northeasterly direction. The time was approximately 9:00 p.m. and the sky was a bit cloudy. At first, the woman thought it was the moon. But at the time, the moon was in the southern sky and had a thin crescent shape. The object was described as a last-quarter moon with the tips squared off, and yellow in colour. It was seen for about 12-30 seconds before it moved away from them.

4/13/99, Val Caron, Ontario

On the evening of April 13th, a Sudbury resident who works for a maintenance company and a fellow worker saw a strange sight while on their way to Hanmer. The time was approximately 9:45 p.m. when they approached the

top of the hill in Val Caron from which there is an excellent view of the valley. At that moment, they saw a blue, ball-shaped light with a flaming tail on it, moving across the sky. At first, they thought it was a meteor, but the fire tail suddenly went out and the object flashed brightly three times before disappearing. The witness said that the

"object was going too fast to be a plane, and yet too slow to be a meteor or shooting star." He also said that it left a trail of smoke behind, which meant that it was in the atmosphere. He said, "It was very close to the ground, maybe a couple of hundred feet up. Three cars in front of us saw it also and slammed on their breaks." They reported their sighting to the airport and a local radio station, but the people there hadn't seen or heard anything about it.

4/13/99, Sudbury, Ontario

At around 5:50 a.m., a Sudbury resident was driving her husband to work when she saw a fluorescent green object in the western sky which moved with great speed (about 1 - 2 seconds). At first, she thought it could have been a comet; it was round-shaped at the head with a short vapour trail. It was half the size of the moon and was traveling west to north, in the area of the sky above Memorial Hospital. She said "it happened so quickly, but was so impressive."

5/20/99, Dowling, Ontario

A Dowling resident reported that at around 6:10 p.m., his wife was looking through the kitchen window to the north and saw a disk-shaped object, silver in colour, with the sun reflecting off its surface. It looked to be a little over halfway up in the sky, moving from west to east. It then went behind a cloud and disappeared. She kept looking, hoping to see it again, but she never did. Then, at around 6:30 p.m., her husband noticed something in the same part of the sky but further away. He described it as a round object, very dull in colour, again moving from west to east. The size looked to be about
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that of an old 5-cent piece (smaller than a dime) at arm's length. It also disappeared behind the clouds. He waited and watched for it, but never saw it again. The weather was clear, the sun was still out, and the clouds were thin. He could clearly see it with the naked eye. "It was no plane, no helicopter, no bird and no weather balloon," he said. But he's not sure what it was.

British Commercial Jet Crew Reports Huge UFO

Courtesy of the
United Kingdom UFO Network

The British media on April 27-28 reported that a jet crew flying for charter airline Debonair saw a huge UFO over the North Sea, about 58 miles off the coast of Denmark, on February 3, 1999. According to multiple media sources, the 96-seat BAe 146 passenger jet was flying from Linköping, Sweden to Humberside, England, when the crew noticed an "incandescent" light below the plane. The pilot later said the cockpit was immersed in incandescent light.

A report in the Daily Express newspaper quoted a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spokeswoman as saying: "The captain reported seeing an unnatural bright light below his aircraft while flying at 28,000 feet. The area below him was illuminated for about 10 seconds by incandescent light and it was certainly not a light from another plane...Air traffic control were informed and they confirmed that there were no other planes in the vicinity."

A spokesman for Debonair said chief executive Franco Mancassola had been informed that a "great red light in the sky" had been spotted near one of the company's planes.

Then, according to the Daily Mirror newspaper, "a long cylindrical silver-colored object the size of a battleship flew alongside. The British plane's shocked captain saw what seemed to be rows of square portholes on the UFO before it vanished at enormous speed."

The sighting was reported to the CAA and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). According to the Mirror, the object was tracked by an RAF radar and was also seen from three other planes.

According to the Daily Express, a CAA source says the object was tracked by a military radar station in Yorkshire after it entered UK air space.

However, according to another UK newspaper, the Daily Mail, "Both the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defence confirmed they were aware of the alleged sighting but denied they were investigating it." The CAA said it was a matter for the MoD. In turn, the MoD said, "Our people are looking at it but we are not investigating."

A spokesman for the 6,000 member British Pilots Association said: "We get reports of this nature from our members but they are few and far between...In the past 10 years or so I would say there have been around six cases of UFOs being sighted."

"Many pilots are reluctant to make such claims because it tends to lay them open to ridicule. So when they do go as far as making a report, we do expect it to be given credence," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, according to researcher Clas Svahn of UFO-Sweden, "It is clear that the report (has) been heavily exaggerated in English and Swedish media. The object was not, as stated in the Daily Mirror, 'large as a battleship'. It was no object at all but a light shining on the sea below the aircraft."

Svahn bases his supposition on information from the British CAA as well as other reports from Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) personnel who also witnessed the event from a distance. Svahn cites the opinion of Professor Bertil Lindblad, an authority on bolides (fireball meteors), who believes the reported phenomena are consistent with a large bolide that may have passed beneath the Debonair jet. Prof. Lindblad says a bolide can leave a trail of ionized air which registers on radar.

Classic UFO Cases

Each month, a different "Classic UFO Case" is being featured in the MUFON Arizona Newsletter

Formation of Discs Below Airliner Newport News, Virginia July 14, 1952

About a week before the famous Washington, D.C., radar-visual UFO sightings, a Pan American Airways DC-4 airliner was flying southward along the East Coast at 8,000 feet. It was a clear night with unlimited visibility. About 8:10 p.m., Capt. William B. Nash and Second Officer William Fortenberry suddenly saw six bright red objects rapidly approaching the plane, but at a lower altitude. "Their shape was clearly outlined and evidently circular," Nash reported. "The edges were well-defined, not phosphorescent or fuzzy in the least."

The upper surfaces of the discs were glowing red-orange. Within seconds the pilots saw that the objects were in echelon formation, "a stepped-up line tilted slightly to our right, with the leader at the lowest point and each following craft slightly higher." Abruptly, the lead disc seemed to slow and the next two discs in line wavered slightly, almost overrunning the leader. The discs were about a mile below the plane, at about 2,000 feet altitude, and about 100 feet in diameter.

When they reached a point almost directly beneath the plane and slightly to the right, the discs dimmed slightly, abruptly tilted on edge in unison, and reversed course. Capt. Nash reported that "...they flipped on edge, the sides to the left of us going up and the glowing surfaces facing right. Though the bottom surfaces did not become clearly visible, we had the impression that they were unlighted. The exposed edges, also unlighted, appeared to be about 15 feet thick, and the top surface, at least, seemed flat. In shape and proportion, they were much like coins."

When the maneuver was completed the objects brightened again, and "...without any arc or swerve at all, they all flipped back together to the flat altitude and (still in-line) darted
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off in a direction that formed a sharp angle with their first course." Immediately, two more objects just like them darted out from beneath and behind the plane and sped after the departing formation.

They radioed a report of the sighting to be forwarded to the Air Force. Early the following morning, Nash and Fortenberry were thoroughly interrogated by the Air Force special investigators. At that time, Nash said, "The investigators also advised us that they already had seven other reports (which) described a formation of red discs traveling at high speed and making immediate direction changes without turn radius..."

A careful computation of the times and distances involved indicated that the UFOs were traveling at about 12,000 m.p.h.

Two days later in the same vicinity, aeronautical engineer Paul R. Hill had a similar sighting from the ground of four amber-colored maneuvering objects joining up in formation. "Their ability to make tight circling turns was amazing," he stated.

Solar Flares Pose Millennial Threat

Courtesy of Reuters

A burst of solar flare activity around the millennium could wreak more havoc on satellite systems and power grids than the Year 2000 computer problem, a senior British Y2K planner said Thursday.

A surge of solar flares or solar storms that can shut down power grids and burn out satellites was expected to peak in late 1999 and early 2000, a conference for Y2K planners was told.

"Solar flares could do damage far beyond anything the Year 2000 could do, and it could hit us on that weekend," said Michael Lewis, the deputy chief executive of Britain's Association of Payments and Clearing Systems.

The last peak in the 11-year cycle of solar flares was in March 1989, when surge of atmospheric magnetic activity shut down the Hydro-Quebec power grid in Canada, leaving 6 million people without power for days.

Lewis, who is helping coordinate the British banking system's Y2K response, said the dangers of solar flare activity happening in tandem with the Y2K computer problem could not be ignored.

"It's not a 'my wife has been abducted by aliens' story. It's a serious problem. It comes in cycles and it happens to coincide with the millennium this time," Lewis told Reuters.

"it's something that people tend to forget. It can knock out communications satellites."

A sneak preview of how solar flare activity could paralyze communications came in May last year when the Galaxy 4 satellite was knocked out. Some have attributed the failure to solar flare activity, although that claim has been widely debated.

In any case, the incident illustrated the impact that just one satellite failure could have. For three days, chaos ensued. Forty million pagers stopped working, television and data broadcasts were disrupted, and many credit card transactions were blocked. The satellite's operator, PanAmSat, had to ask users to repoint their antennas to other satellites.

This next solar flare peak is expected to have a bigger impact on communications satellites than 1989's storms. This is because so many more satellites have been put in place and are used more widely for mobile phones, the Global Positioning System and as a route for the Internet.

Lewis said communications and power failures caused by solar flares could compound a loss of public confidence in communications and computer systems just when it was most needed - around the millenium.

Extraterrestrial Sundial Base to be Built in Arizona

The Associated Press
April 23, 1999

TUCSON - Drawings submitted by children in six states have been incorporated into the design of the first extraterrestrial sundial, which will ride to Mars aboard a NASA spacecraft in 2001.

Sheri Klug of Arizona State University asked children to send in ideas for the sundial, and

about 160 of them responded with drawings and e-mails.

"We asked them, if you had a chance to help design something that was going to be put on another planet, what message would you send? What would you include and why?" said Klug, director of ASU's Mars Education and Outreach Program.

A design team took the students' artwork and suggestions and incorporated them into the final product, which was unveiled Wednesday at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

The base of the aluminum sundial is a square 3 inches high on the sides. Photo etching and engraving will be used to apply drawings and lettering to the base and its four side panels.

The sundial base will be manufactured at Arizona State, Klug said.

One student idea was to include text in many languages to demonstrate the diversity of cultures on Earth. So the word "Mars" will be engraved into the sundial in 24 languages.

The four gold-colored side panels bear artwork alongside a written message to human explorers who seek out the landing site of the robotic spacecraft, the Mars Surveyor 2001, in the future.

"A lot of these kids made little stick-figure drawings of people. We used a few that were submitted, then drew a few of our own that were in the same style," said design team member Tyler Nordgren, an astronomer and artist at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Flagstaff.

A message inscribed on the side panels describes the spacecraft's mission:

"We sent this craft in peace to learn about Mars' past and about our future. To those who visit here, we wish a safe journey and the joy of discovery."

The drawings came from students in Washington, Idaho, California, and three other states. Arizona wasn't represented. Details as to whose were incorporated were not available.

The Mars Surveyor 2001 lander is scheduled for launch in April 2001 and will land in January 2002.

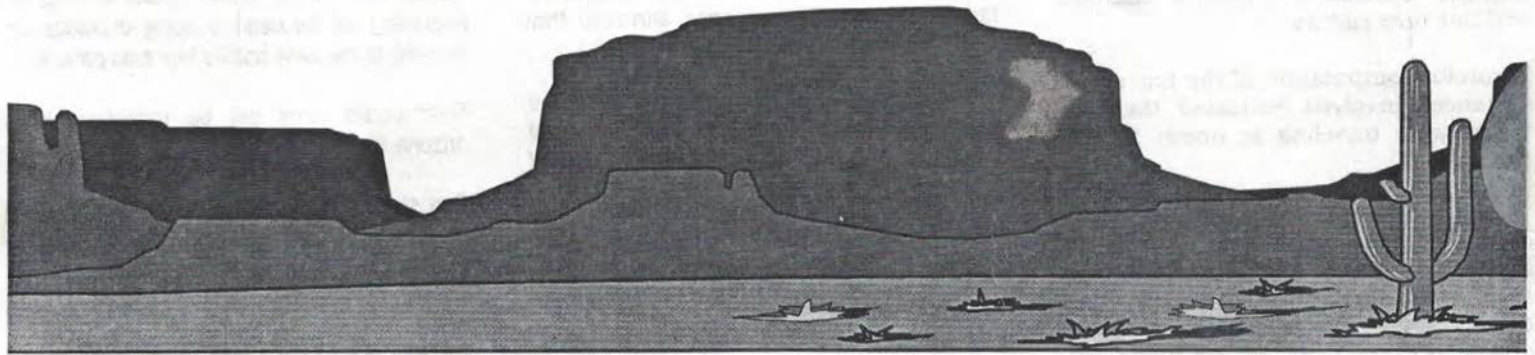
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