

MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 8, Issue 8

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: August 25, 1999 7:30 p.m.

Program - Guest Speaker: Ted Loman - "Non-Carbon Based Light Forms Being Present Since 1947"

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>

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

As of this writing, we have received three sighting reports in the time span of just a few days. I don't have all of the details compiled yet, but there are similarities in these reports. In all three situations, the "V" shape came up to describe the overall configuration. In two of the reports, helicopters were seen in the area of these objects. I will be able to give more information at the meeting. Again, it seems as if an influx of "V" shaped UFOs have been the common description among witnesses.

For those of you who get this newsletter, I encourage you to assist or to attend our Chris-Town UFO awareness display. We need your support to be an effective organization. Thanks to the hard work of Jim Kelly, Tom Taylor, Ruth

Hover, and others, we should have a successful event. A lot of paperwork has to be completed before such a display can be presented.

Work is still being done on the July 4th sighting and additional information will be forthcoming.

Effective July 16, 2000, Walt Andros will be retiring from his position of International Director. He will be missed by me and others as he has done a great job in his position. John F. Schuessler will take over his position.

The headquarters will be moved to Denver, Colorado by September 1, 2000, which was approved by the MUFON board of directors.

Alan Morey
State Director

August Book Sale and Raffle

The August raffle prizes include a rarely seen video entitled "UFOs Are Real." This video includes footage of objects seen over Area 51 plus film that claims to be actual wreckage from the Roswell crash.

Our book prize is a hardbound edition of "Alien Agenda" by Jim Marrs. This book is one of the most comprehensive accounts of the UFO field and should be in every MUFON member library. Both items will be raffled off together for only \$1.00 per ticket.



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. Helga Morrow will discuss "Aliens, Here and Now," as well as "Montuk" at the Wilmot Library, August 21. Call George Parks at (520) 742-6651 for more information.

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 520/797-2157.

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

Maricopa County Chapter: Wednesday, August 25, 1999; usual place and time. Admission \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members.

Experiencer's Meeting: On hiatus until September 27, 1999. For information, call Dr. Ruth Hover at 837-0446.

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 480-837-0446.

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 MUFON.** Thank you for your support!

PINAL COUNTY/ CASA GRANDE SEPTEMBER MEETING

(No meeting is scheduled in Casa Grande for August - Summer Break)

Have you seen a UFO? Do you have a friend or family member who has seen a UFO? Would you share your account of the event at a MUFON meeting?

The topic for the September 18, 1999 meeting in Casa Grande will be speakers sharing their PERSONAL UFO SIGHTINGS.

One speaker, Carroll Armstrong, will relate an encounter by her great-grandparents in 1903, and personal sightings in 1956, 1968, and 1997.

We want to hear your description of your encounter. We would also like to start a scrapbook of sightings.

If you wish to have your UFO sighting listed in the book, bring a written description. Drawings accompanying the description are welcome. Please submit date, time of day, and where the sighting took place in your report.

The UFO phenomenon is so widespread that it has become part of our culture. Everyone has had some exposure to it, or knows someone who has. The ordinary citizen is far ahead of the official Government position when it comes to understanding and acceptance. We can't rely on the mass media to keep us informed. In many ways they are part of the problem. One writer, discouraged and perplexed by the problem, stated his belief that UFO stands for U Figure it Out. That's what we intend to do, at least to some degree. Anyone who has a story to tell or photos to share, please come forward. If enough people start talking and doing, the establishment will feel comfortable in admitting what everyone had known all along.

Have questions? Please call:

Tucson

Ken Kerber 520/797-2157

Casa Grande

Carroll Armstrong 520/421-2626

Sheree Evans 520/723-8381

Al Gray (E-Mail dragon@casagrande.com)

Or call after 6:00 p.m. 602/918-3460)

PIMA COUNTY CHAPTER NEWS

Helga Morrow will discuss "Aliens, Here and Now," as well as "Montuk," at the August 21 meeting.

On September 11, Jilean Sherwood will discuss her latest findings on the crop circle phenomenon. Jilean has just returned from England for the latest circle formations that have occurred there.

Meetings are held at the Wilmot Library. Please call George Parks at 520-742-6651 for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENT

From

BORDERS BOOKS•MUSIC•CAFÉ

Author Reveals Purpose of 'Cosmic Intrusion' at Presentation and Signing of *Alien Intervention*

Mesa, AZ (Aug. 5) - Author Paul Christopher will discuss what he says is the "spiritual mission of UFOs" at his presentation and signing of *Alien Intervention*, a 200-page book that addresses what Christopher calls "the bizarre interrelationships with the realm of the Occult, the rapidly advancing New Age Movement, and the stir now being created by a coming of New World Order." His talk begins at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 3, at Borders Books & Music of Mesa, 1361 S. Alma School Road, 480/833-2244. Admission is free.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Christopher began his personal UFO phenomenon investigation and research in 1972. Himself a witness to "unusual nocturnal lights" at Wanaque Reservoir, a hot spot for reported UFO activity in 1966 and 1967, Christopher diligently kept abreast of every UFO-related incident. It wasn't until he had 25 years of extensive UFO research under his belt that he felt satisfied enough with his findings to pull it all together and write *Alien Intervention*.

Christopher now resides in Glendale, Arizona with his son, Trenton.

(For more information, contact Lynda R. Exley, Community Relations 480/833-4181)

Current UFO Cases and Sightings: Local and Worldwide

By Jim Kelly

Two Bright Amber Colored Lights Seen Over Phoenix

Courtesy of the
National UFO Reporting Center

June 9, 1999 -- At approximately 8:50 PM, I was looking south-south west from my front yard in North Scottsdale and saw what appeared at first to be distant commercial aircraft landing lights climbing out of Phoenix Sky Harbor.

As I continued to watch I noticed that the lights did not move and they also were a distinctly different color than landing lights. I got my binoculars and the lights can only be described as a two separate very bright but deep amber in color with one light slightly lower than the other. There appeared to be no connecting structure between the lights and no other lights associated with the object(s). I initially estimated the distance at about 10 miles (incorrectly). The sky was clear with many stars visible. Visibility in the Phoenix area is nearly unlimited and lighted objects could easily be seen at night 100 miles on the low horizon.

My wife, and daughter also watched the lights as they remained perfectly motionless. Suddenly, one light dimmed and turned off, then perhaps two seconds later the other turned off. Then a moment later both lights came on again in exactly the same location.

My daughter and I decided to get in the car and investigate at this point. We drove in the direction of the lights all the way into Phoenix, approximately 25 miles south while observing the objects on and off. The separation between the lights widened as we got closer. During the drive the lights turned on and off at least two times. Finally, upon rounding the big bend going southbound at the top of the Squaw Peak highway the lights were clearly visible and obviously much closer. My best estimate of their physical location was approximately 3/4-1 mile west of the South mountain antenna farm, and at an altitude of perhaps 3-4000 feet above ground level.

At this point the lights were approximately two and a half finger widths apart at arms length and still at the same inclination angle but higher above the horizon. They appeared to be literally glued in place...no movement whatsoever. All of this was occurring in Phoenix Sky Harbor's very busy Class B controlled airspace!! Certainly the tower operators could have had a clear view of these objects to the southwest as they were only about 3 miles away. At this time the objects were at an approximate 35 degree angle above the horizon. I am an aerospace engineer and private pilot. I roughly estimate the distance between the lights to be 500 feet gauging from the rate of change of spacing and elevation above ground over the distance.

Upon reaching the turnoff to Sky Harbor airport the lights turned off and did not return. At home the lights were perhaps 5-10 degrees above the horizon. Our home north of Phoenix is actually 1000 feet higher in field elevation than central Phoenix, plus we had a clear and unobstructed view initially.

The following morning I listened on the radio for any reports of the objects, but unbelievably there were no reports! People see so much in the air that even if something is unusual it is simply shrugged off. I would like to know if anyone else has seen these objects. They were visible for over an hour. I know these were not an aircraft lighting system, and they were too stationary to be an aircraft or airship.

Bright Object Seen South of Phoenix

June 4, 1999 - (Approximately 35 miles south of Phoenix) Viewed a very bright object on I-10 while traveling south to Tucson. BRILLIANT -WHITE LIGHT VIEWED FOR 15-20 SECONDS about 30-40 degrees of the desert floor. The thing was smaller than that of the sun! The bright light just vanished. I did not see a contrail of streaking away, or any other thing that looked like it could be a plane!

Traveling south on I-10, approximately 35 miles south of Phoenix, I saw a very intense, bright object in the eastern sky. The light was very bright, and seemed to be somewhat oval in shape. It seemed to have a metallic finish, almost a chrome. It seemed to have a roundness about it. I watched it as I was driving out my drivers side window. The sky was clear, no clouds, on this sunny morning. In relationship to

the ground...the sun was higher in the sky. As I watched it for about 15-20 seconds, turned away to see where I was on the road, turned back to view the bright light, and it had vanished! I did not see any other airplanes, contrails, landing gear, wings, or anything that looked like an airplane. Upon returning to Phoenix after my business in Tucson, I called the FAA and they referred me to Peter Davenport...hence...this report!

June 28, 1999 - At approximately 22:18 hours, a family of three were returning from a private gathering when they spotted a large, Diamond shaped object with green, glowing lights situated in each point of the structure pass over them at an estimated elevation of 1800 to 2000 feet.

The object approached from the northwest; flew over the vehicle the witness's were traveling in, then actually changed position going north to south. As the family attempted to follow the object, it flew towards the direction of the McDowell Mountains, where it disappeared over the top of the mountain range. The object was first sighted at 54th street and Shea in North Scottsdale. Anyone else that witnessed this event should contact Jim Kelly or Alan Morey.

Intelligence received by our investigators in Southern Arizona indicates that the F-117A Stealth Nighthawk might be the culprit of numerous "triangle" sightings. A man claiming to work at Davis Monthan Air Force Base informed one of our investigators that the planes land frequently for maintenance purposes. The informant wishes to remain anonymous.

Vista, California Sighting

July 4, 1999

(As submitted to the NACOMM Sightings Report)

Experience: "At around 9:30 pm Pacific time, in the southwest quadrant of the sky, at about a 70° angle from the horizon, 3 apparent stars formed the shape of an obtuse triangle with the obtuse end facing South. This south most point suddenly began to move North at a steady pace, without any acceleration from an idle position. I followed it North until it was blocked from my view. Also, it gradually grew dimmer as it moved North. Any information as to the source of this event would be greatly appreciated."

[NACOMM Note: This sighting appears to be backed up by others from across the U.S.:

Fort Bidwell, California

July 14, 1999

We were camping in Northern Washoe, watching the stars and pointing out satellites. I turned to look at the Big Dipper when I saw an incredibly bright pure white light - when I told our buddies to look, it faded away, then suddenly it flashed on again, it did this a couple times, while traveling slowly by the dipper's edge. Then we saw another object off to the right of

the original, completely still, that gave off an blinding bright flash, three times. It was so unbelievably bright, we just stood there completely dumbfounded! The original object, now faded, then gave one last flash, which appeared to be triangular in shape. They both then just seemed to fade away. After about 10 minutes later, we saw one of the objects moving from North to South, giving two flashes then disappearing again. In comparison to several satellites we watched that night, these were bigger and much brighter. They moved slowly, and seemed to have stopped. The flashes were incomparable to anything I have ever seen.

Lake Milacs, Minnesota

July 3, 1999

William McNeff reports a witness had three separate UFO sightings over the 4th of July weekend. While working the late shift on July 3, 1999, near Barnacle Bill's the witness and several friends saw a point source of light, whitish-orange in color. It looked like a satellite was moving slowly toward the north, when it changed direction toward the west. It underwent two accelerations, then began to move around the sky making loops past the Big Dipper.

The object emitted four strobe lights "out the back." It was moving at such a high speed that it could have gone from horizon to horizon in two seconds." It made 90 degree turns and hovered at times from 11:30 PM until dawn. On July 4, a glowing orange sphere was in and out of sight all night. The witness and his neighbor estimated that it came to within 100 feet, but was partly obscured by a row of trees that were 65 feet away. This close approach only lasted for a second at about 3:45 AM.

The witnesses ran around the trees to try to catch sight of the object, but it disappeared. The object was estimated to be 5 feet in diameter with sharp edges. At times it moved up into the clouds and illuminated them.]

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Crosses Atlantic - Sparks UFO Reports

By David Clarke
UFOCity.com

June 14 -- A MINIATURE robot aircraft survived a 2,000 kilometer trans-Atlantic test flight guided only by remote control to a missile range on a remote Scottish island. The US-Navy funded UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) landed safely at the British Army's testing range on the island of Benbecula following a record-breaking flight. Three other tiny drones - just ten foot long with a ten foot wingspan - crashed and disappeared over the choppy north Atlantic seas during the secret operation last November. And the strange-looking aircraft - called the Aerosonde - triggered a string of UFO sightings to the Scottish Coastguard stations as it was guided in to land at the remote military base in the Outer Hebrides.

A British Army spokesman said: "It's a very small robot aircraft and its amazing that it managed to fly that distance and land safely." The UAV used a satellite guidance system to navigate and was programmed to avoid the worst of the North Atlantic weather. Once it came within range of Benbecula it circled until a US pilot on the ground was able to guide it slowly in to land at the missile testing range.

A spokesman for Stornoway Coastguard on the Isle of Lewis said: "All the coastguard stations in this area were warned by the Army to keep a look out for these drones coming in from the North Atlantic, especially in case they triggered UFO sightings. "There were a number of people ringing in reporting having seen UFOs at the time, one of them even said it had flown over Stornoway."

Defense chiefs are now hailing the UAV as the strategic weapon of the future after the successful test flight of the Aerosonde, which is designed for "long range environmental monitoring."

Already the Royal Australian Air Force has invested 30 million dollars into the development of a long-range UAV called Global Hawk to carry out surveillance of neighboring countries in southeast Asia. The Global Hawk, developed by Teledyne Ryan, is capable of 20 hour endurance flights of more than 5,000 km before having to return to base. And British Army experience who are developing their own sophisticated unmanned aircraft say the remotely piloted drones could be widely used on future battlefields.

UAVs are known to have played a large role in the recent NATO campaign in Kosovo and Serbia. Major Roy Denton of the British Army Hebrides said: "We are involved in the

development and testing of a number of unmanned aerial vehicles. "It's cheaper and safer than putting a serviceman into a dangerous battlefield."

Credit: "World Of The Strange Weekly Newsletter"

UFO Cult Disappears in Colombia

Courtesy of Reuters (Wired Magazine)

5:00 p.m. 8.Jul.99.PDT - At least 100 members of a religious cult were missing in northern Colombia after they went to rendezvous with a UFO they believed would save them from "the end of the world," relatives said on Thursday.

"My daughter told me she had to leave because a cataclysm was going to occur, and that she had to go to a high place to meet extraterrestrials who would save them from the end of the world," said Andrea de Echenique, whose daughter, Maria Bernarda, is among the missing.

The followers of the so-called Stella Maris Church, which describes itself as a gnostic organization, headed out to the Sierra Nevada mountains in two groups on Friday and over the weekend.

A police spokesman in the Caribbean resort of Cartagena, where most of the cult members lived, said they had received reports that the group had disappeared.

Up until now, there had been no known reports of doomsday cults operating in Colombia. But in 1978, South America was the scene of the worst mass suicide ever when more than 900 American followers of the People's Temple killed themselves in Jonestown, Guyana.

Cartagena police said, however, that no search operation had been mounted since there was no indication that the Stella Maris cult was planning mass suicide, or that any of the members had been forced to go along against their will.

"The leader of the group told them the world was going to end in August and that they had to go to the Sierra Nevada to meet some aliens," said Pedro Perez. Four of his relatives are missing with the other cult members.

Leaders of a gnostic group in Bogota said it did not have any links with the Stella Maris group but had heard reports of its beliefs.

"People had told us that certain practices of the Stella Maris group were fanatical and dogmatic.... Over the last two years they had been talking about a meeting with UFOs," said Wilson Martinez, a gnostic "archbishop" in Bogota.

Martinez said gnostics believe in the spiritual but not the historical existence of Christ and looked to "free their souls with knowledge."

Family members have accused Rogelio Perea, self-styled head of the Stella Maris cult, of swindling his followers out of their homes, property, and money. They also say he forced members to sever ties with their families.

"The two leaders told my daughter Liliana that she was God's chosen one and made her change her name to Stella Maris to brainwash

her. She was convinced she was going to make contact with flying saucers," said Mariela Tovar.

But others close to the Stella Maris group believe its 100 or so members have simply gone on a routine spiritual retreat and accuse relatives and the media of exaggerating the story.

Ex-NASA Worker Says Space Agency Knows About UFO's

By Michael Lindemann
Editor, CNI News

In the world of UFO research, whistle-blowers come and go. Often they appear on the scene suddenly, as if out of nowhere, spouting grand claims and grander resumes. Almost as often, such people turn out to be complete frauds and hucksters. But not always. The late Lt. Col. Philip Corso, for example, was exactly who he said he was - a highly decorated Cold Warrior with close ties to the Eisenhower administration and a demonstrated penchant for championing unpopular positions both inside and outside the military. When Corso said he knew for certain that an alien spacecraft had crashed in New Mexico in 1947, it became necessary to examine his claims seriously - not because he could prove them true (he could not) but because he was a credible witness.

The Corso example points up a vexing truism about whistle-blowers as well as other UFO claimants. More often than not, the value of the claim must be judged mainly by the inherent credibility of the witness, because no irrefutable evidence is offered. But witness credibility does count - in a court of law, it can be the difference between an acquittal and a death sentence.

Now comes another whistle-blower, one Clark C. McClelland, who says that for more than three decades he worked at NASA's launch facilities at Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. During that time, he says, he saw plenty of evidence that NASA officials and employees were exposed to unexplainable and sometimes quite alarming UFO events. If McClelland is telling the truth, he could become one of the most significant UFO witnesses in recent memory.

The July 1 issue of CNI News carried a story told by Clark McClelland regarding a conversation he claims to have had with famed rocketeer Wernher von Braun. McClelland says that von Braun, like Corso, confirmed that a spacecraft of unknown origin crashed near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947. When we ran that story on July 1, we were obliged to note that "our initial efforts to confirm (McClelland's) NASA background have been inconclusive." Needless to say, if

McClelland's background did not check out, his UFO claims would be worthless.

As in the case of Col. Corso, we still can't guarantee that McClelland's UFO stories are true – that would require a talent for mind-reading that we do not possess. But CNI News can now offer assurance that McClelland's NASA background checks out. He is, in our opinion, a credible witness.

Walter Kollosch is retired now but still lives near the Cape where he worked for years as a NASA subcontractor with the Martin Company. Back in the early 1960s, Clark McClelland worked for Martin as well. Clark was a draftsman then, and he worked with Kollosch on the Gemini program. Later Clark moved to the Boeing Company, but he stayed at the Cape, Kollosch recalls.

Kollosch remembers that Clark McClelland was outgoing and well-liked. "Everybody knew him. He even got to know the Mercury astronauts when we were working on Pershing (missile program). When he was with Boeing...he was in with the Apollo astronauts...I don't know of anyone who didn't like him," Kollosch told CNI News.

McClelland says that one reason he has decided to come forward with his UFO information is that he has been somehow black-balled by NASA and has been unable to get work in the aerospace industry since 1992.

"Clark has had some bad luck as far as his employment goes. Clark is very talented. For him to be out of work for so long strikes me as being very suspicious," Kollosch said. But he did not volunteer more detail on McClelland's recent work problems.

Kollosch also knew that McClelland was very serious about UFO's back in the 1960s. They talked about it from time to time, but Kollosch said he wouldn't have wanted to bring it up with others at the launch facility.

There was a lot of secrecy in the space program in those days. The manned space program was, in effect, an integral part of the Cold War. Workers knew they had to toe the line. "In the early '60s, the secrecy aspect was horrendous...Some guys lost their marriage because of it," Kollosch said.

It may have been a problem with security clearance, in fact, that eventually caused McClelland's falling out with NASA.

By 1990, he worked directly for the space agency in the shuttle program. He was then training to become a Spacecraft Operator (ScO), meaning he would have hands-on responsibility for space shuttle maintenance and grounds operations. His trainer was shuttle ScO senior specialist Dennis Bestwick.

"I'm not at liberty to say a lot," about McClelland's dismissal, Bestwick told CNI News. "His work was fine, but something in his security check didn't quite check out. Nothing illegal, but something about the date's

didn't match. You need a secret clearance," he said. It could have been as simple as a clerical error in McClelland's records, Bestwick conceded. But whatever it was, McClelland lost his clearance and was subsequently dismissed from the shuttle program.

Bestwick seemed sorry to see McClelland go. "Clark was well-liked. He had an outgoing personality. He's a little bit eccentric, but he's knowledgeable about a lot of things. He was willing to learn anything we threw at him," Bestwick said.

Asked if he'd heard any stories of UFO contact during his time at NASA, Bestwick said, "That has been rumored for a long time, but I can't clarify that. The astronauts don't say anything...They're very tight-lipped.

"Myself, I'm not saying I do or don't believe in it, but having some science background...there's got to be other creatures out there. And we can't be the smartest creatures in the universe," Bestwick added.

But for McClelland, there was no doubt that UFO events were occurring around the launch facility. Starting in the early 1960s, he kept records and filed reports as head of the Cape Canaveral (later Cape Kennedy) Subcommittee of NICAP, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, then the nation's best known and most influential civilian UFO research organization.

One person who was privy to McClelland's UFO reports from the Cape was Richard Hall, then acting director of NICAP. More recently, Hall was Chairman of the Fund for UFO Research and is also the author of several respected books on UFOs. Hall is known for his dim view of many self-styled UFO researchers, but he gives Clark McClelland a big thumbs-up.

"I've known this guy for a lot of years and I've dealt with him extensively," Hall told CNI News. "And I've never had the slightest clue of anything other than an honest, conscientious, forthright person. So I endorse him strongly. He should be given the fairest audience and listened to carefully. I think he's going to check out. He's not a fantasizer, not an embellisher. He's laid back and conservative and careful, and I respect that highly."

Hall says that McClelland sent a number of impressive case reports to NICAP founder Major Donald Keyhoe and himself. Some of those cases remain secret even today. "I'm still keeping secrets that will probably go to the grave with me – things that people have told me privately – because that's the way I feel about it, unless they give me the green light," Hall explained. But he gave one example of a case that McClelland sent in.

It occurred in 1961. "A rocket was launched and radar was tracking it. And a UFO came in and the radar locked on to the UFO. You can put this under my name now, if you wish," Hall said. "His (McClelland's) subcommittee sent us a report by Pan American Airways, which was then the operating subcontractor at the Cape. And they had a quarter-inch thick technical report on this UFO tracking, radar lock-on...In order to protect them (Pan Am and the witnesses), we were very vague about it." Hall says he made a brief reference to this case in his book, "The UFO Evidence." But the full report has never been published.

Clark McClelland says he has now decided to publish what he knows about NASA's history of encounters with UFOs. Samples of McClelland's information can be found at his new website:

<http://www.stargate-chronicles.com/trinity.html>

At the request of CNI News, McClelland offered the following exclusive report of one significant UFO encounter:

FOUR GUESTS WITH GEMINI

By Clark C. McClelland

On April 9, 1964, the Gemini-Titan I was launched from complex 19 at the Cape Canaveral USAF Missile Test Range in Florida.

It was unmanned, yet drew a lot of attention by "other intelligence's". Who or what were they? Your guess is as good as any.

I was a young Designer working for the Titan II Launch Operations Team in Hangar "U". I was assigned to work with a bright engineer called Chuck. We had a problem happening with the first stage of the Titan and called it "POGO". Several previous test flights were flown and the effect showed up at lift off. It acted like a POGO stick (up and down motion) as the vehicle rose into the sky. NASA and the USAF determined the effect to be dangerous for any of the astronauts chosen to fly in the Gemini capsule. The booster would not meet Man Rated restrictions by NASA and the USAF.

Chuck and I were to attach measurements to the booster and determine how or what could be done to stop the POGO effect. Several modifications had been made and this flight would prove if we were approaching the correction of the difficulty. The capsule had a "canned man" – which is sometimes called a "black box" – inside the astronaut compartment to help solve the problem by collecting data.

The rocket lifted off and began to return data which indicated that the modifications Chuck and I had designed had reduced the POGO effect significantly. Everyone was

delighted to receive the preliminary information.

As the Gemini Capsule entered orbit, the RCA world tracking team began to realize that "our" capsule was not alone as viewed through their incoming telemetry, visual theodolite and other high-powered optical data. Our capsule had four "visitors". The RCA team was ordered to run a re-check of the situation to be certain ghost images were not the cause. The Titan II stages were also excluded as causing the images.

NASA, the USAF and Martin-Marietta (then Martin Company? - ed.) who built the Titan II were all puzzled and just about scratching their heads in unison. After much huddling and discussion the intelligent determination was that we had other physical objects up there with our Gemini Capsule. Total silence filled the launch control area. A few whispers were heard, but nothing else.

Then a brash young member of the team said the words that caused faces to turn to horror. I said, "What about UFOs?" It was as if I had taken the Lord's name in vain. The silence deepened as almost everyone present was staring at me. I felt like a child caught with his/her hands in the cookie jar. Cold stares came at me from the NASA Brass and USAF Officers. Actually, the only obvious answer was what I had so blatantly stated - they were UFOs! I slipped back into my assignments and remained a very interested and quiet observer.

Several hours after the objects departed their single orbit rendezvous with the Gemini Capsule, a strange shadowy group of personnel arrived on scene. They were not faces of those who had worked at Cape Canaveral for any length of time. Cape workers like myself knew a stranger when one showed up in our work area. Who they were, no one seemed to know - or if they did know, did not identify them. I made an attempt to I.D. them and ran into a brick wall of silence. One thing was for certain: this group was at the Cape for no other reason than the Gemini Titan mission and its guests.

A week or so later, I was talking to an old friend called Vince. He was a Pan American Security guard at the Cape and got around to all launch complex areas. Vince told me that he transported several men to the Cape Canaveral Skid Strip (aircraft runway) at the time all the Gemini activity had taken place. He heard a younger man call another older person Colonel. Vince had a good pair of eyes when he wore his glasses and told me they had top secret security badges he had only seen once before. The badges appeared to have letters and a number on them. He observed them from across the car roof as they entered his security cruiser and did not observe the badges close up. They wore no uniforms yet

acted as if they were military. They spoke of returning to Washington, DC. Vince also noted that they wore matching lapel pins that may have been similar to those worn by secret service officers during the several visits by President Kennedy and Eisenhower in past years.

To make a long story short, NASA, USAF, Pentagon, White House, NSA, etc., all determined that it had to be eventually explained as normal activity. The hungry dogs of the mass media who ate broken glass and razor blades to sharpen their questions were awaiting the NASA news conference eagerly willing to slash away. The official NASA determination was that the objects were the torn particles or remains of the Titan upper stage that apparently entered orbit with the Gemini Capsule.

I was at the news conference and I nearly began to laugh. How could a broken stage overtake the capsule and stop slightly ahead of the capsule to accompany it an entire orbit around the earth? But I held my laugh to save my job. A NASA Public Information Officer held his breath hoping my mouth would stay shut. It did, and I remained on my job to record other astounding events that will be in my book.

(NOTE: See "Interfering with Atlas - UFO Disables ICBM" at McClelland's website for another incident that also happened in 1964.)

Classic UFO Cases

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

The story of Private Gerry Irwin reads like something from Rod Serling: witness if you will, Private First Class Gerry Irwin. Private Irwin has been on leave in Nampa, Idaho and is on his way back to his barracks at Fort Bliss, Texas. The city that he just left is Cedar City, Utah, but in just a few moments he will reach a place six miles down Route 14, a place that's six miles into... *The Twilight Zone*...

Gerry Irwin was a Nike missile technician at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. On February 28, 1959, he was driving back from Nampa, Idaho, where he had been on leave. At Cedar City, Utah, he turned southeast on Route 14. About six mile from the turnoff, he spotted a glowing object that seemed to come to earth in a field just off the road. Thinking he had seen an airplane crash, or at least a forced landing, he stopped to see if he could give assistance. He wrote a note and placed it on the steering wheel of his car: *Have gone to investigate possible plane crash. Please call law enforcement officers.* Then, he wrote STOP in large letters on the side of his car.

About thirty minutes later, a fish and game inspector stopped. He took the note to the Cedar City Sheriff's Office, and Sheriff Otto Pfief

gathered a party of volunteers and returned to the site. When they searched, they found no trace of a plane crash, but they found Private Gerry Irwin unconscious in the field. Ninety minutes had passed since he had first seen the glowing object.

Irwin was taken to the hospital in Cedar City, where a Dr. Broadbent could find nothing physically wrong with him. Irwin was merely asleep, and could not be awakened! Dr. Broadbent could find no explanation for this, so his diagnosis was "hysteria", meaning that his condition could not be attributed to any organic disease.

When Private Irwin eventually awoke, he felt perfectly well, but he was mystified by the glowing object he had seen. He was also confused by the fact that his jacket was missing. The sheriff's search party stated that he was not wearing it when they found him.

Irwin was flown back to Fort Bliss and placed under observation at William Beaumont Army Hospital for several days, after which he was released as fit to return to duty.

The episode was not over yet, though. Some days later, Irwin fainted on base, and a few days after that he fainted while in the city of El Paso. He was taken to Southwest General Hospital where he was found once again to be asleep and unwakeable. About twenty four hours later, he awoke asking, "Were there any survivors?" He behaved as if he had lost all memory of the period between seeing the object on February 28th in Utah, and waking up on March 16th in El Paso.

Once again, he was taken to William Beaumont Army Hospital, where he was placed under observation by psychiatrists. After one month, extensive testing could find nothing wrong with him, so he was released on April 17.

The next day, Irwin was seized by a powerful impulse that made him take a bus from El Paso to Cedar City, arriving on April 19. He then walked back to the field in which the Sheriff's party had found him. He found his jacket on a bush. There was a pencil stuck in one of its buttonholes with a piece of paper wound tightly around it. Irwin burned the paper and then seemed to come out of some kind of trance. He could not recall the path back to the road or why he had come there. He made his way back to Cedar City and turned himself in to Sheriff Otto Pfief, who told him about the first incident.

Once again Irwin returned to Fort Bliss and was given psychological examinations. On July 10, he again entered William Beaumont Army Hospital. He was discharged again, but on August 1 he failed to report for duty, and one month later he was listed as a deserter.

The Gerry Irwin story is full of unanswered questions. It was never investigated properly. Irwin had been on leave in Nampa, Idaho. Had he suffered some traumatic event while on leave that might have triggered a dissociative reaction? Did his family live in Nampa, Idaho? Wherever they lived, have they ever been located and contacted? It's been almost thirty-nine years. Has anyone tried to track down Irwin? The Army doesn't usually let "deserters" just walk away. Did they ever locate him?

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