

MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 8, Issue 10

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: October 27, 1999 7:30 p.m.

Program – Guest Speaker: Author and Lecturer KEVIN RANDLE will discuss his latest book
"The Alien Abduction Enigma" as well as "The Randle Report: UFOs in the '90s."

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 a member of AZ MUFON over the years, I have enjoyed the positions that I have retained, especially the role as a field investigator. After achieving passing the exam and reading the manual I did just that. As time went on, Tom Taylor and several others asked if I would be interested in becoming Assistant State Director. I accepted, and I believe, did a good job assisting Tom in that capacity. After practicing this role I became the State Director, a role which I have been very proud to serve. However, over a period of time, I found it difficult to utilize enough time and resources to effectively help AZ MUFON operate properly in its full capacity.

The board we established some time ago and I both have agreed that it is better for AZ MUFON if I step down as State Director. I have no regrets or misgivings about this

decision. I will remain a field investigator and give my input to help out where I can. Please give the new Director the same support that you have given me over the years. We need a cohesive support system. Thanks again.

Alan R. Morey
Former State Director

UFO Video Sale Set for October Meeting!

We have over 31 UFO Videos for sale this month at the October meeting. These videos will go on sale between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity!

RAFFLE PROCEEDS TO GO TO TOM TAYLOR

As many of you know, tough times have fallen on our Former State Director Tom Taylor. Medical expenses associated with his illness have severely crippled his finances. Therefore, I am asking all of our members who attend the October meeting to buy a raffle ticket or two to help Tom out.

This month's proceeds from the raffle will go directly to Tom and his expenses. Tom has donated over 50 APRO UFO bulletins for the raffle winner. This is a rare publication and vital to any UFO researcher. You will also receive the two tape set of "The KGB UFO Files," along with the FATE publication of "Mysteries Of The Deep." Thank you Tom for all your hard work and dedication to MUFON all of these years. And by the way Tom, GET BETTER SOON!

Jim Kelly



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 480/644-0498 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: 790 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).

AFTER MIDNIGHT Thursday's at midnight on Channel 22.

ROSWELL Wednesday's, 8:00 p.m., WB Channel 6 (cable) or Channel 61 (antenna).

New listing! TED LOMAN'S UFO AZ Wednesday's, 1:00 p.m. Channel 98 (Cox cable) and Channel 22 (US West cable).

Calendar

Pima County Chapter: Meetings held at **Wilmot Library**, 530 N. Wilmot, Tucson. 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, October 27, 1999; usual place and time. **For October's meeting, admission will be \$8.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members.** Regular admission prices are \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members.

Experiencer's Meeting: For information, call Dr. Ruth Hover at 837-0446.

UFO Related Internet Web Sites

www.drsky.com is the site of Steven Kalcs, aka "Dr. Sky." Members will be thrilled with this most informative collection of info on the night sky, satellites, experimental military craft and much, much more!

www.caus.org, featuring Peter Gersten and the organization, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. Caus has many articles and events which will focus on current UFO cases and issues worldwide...a must for serious UFO studies!



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 480/644-0498. Suggestions/articles can also be e-mailed to tiaction@aol.com. 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 Hany at 602/837-0094 or send the order via mail to: Ruth and Hany Hover, 16714 E. Gunsight, #155, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. For additional information, please contact the Hovers at 480-837-0446.

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.

JIM KELLY STEPS DOWN AS MARICOPA COUNTY SECTION DIRECTOR; BOB SYLVESTER TO TAKE OVER

I am leaving my post immediately to bring on a new, dynamic personality to the Arizona Chapter of MUFON. Bob Sylvester has assumed the Maricopa County Section Director position.

Bob is an aerospace engineer and has been a UFO enthusiast for many years. Bob also has superior organizational skills that will help our Chapter both create and maintain a high level of performance. I think that all of you will enjoy working with him.

I will now assume the treasury duties that Tom Taylor used to have. This will afford Tom the time and opportunity to concentrate on improving his health. I will also be responsible for the content and facilitation of the monthly newsletter, as well as the monthly MUFON Book Store, which I am very proud of, and I thank all of those who have donated items to make it the big success that it is.

Jim Kelly

October Sky Watch Planned

On October 30th, Mufon members and their friends are invited to take part in a sky watch. Please bring your telescopes and binoculars. A fun evening is planned with Astronomy buffs Bill Goodman and Terry Wameke. They will be on hand to show us the marvels of the Autumn sky and answer our questions about the best methods of viewing the night sky. Please bring Star finder charts if you have them and comfortable chairs or blankets. Flashlights would also be handy.

We will be meeting at the McDonald's on 51st. Ave, just north of I-10 on the west side of the street, at 5:30 pm. If you don't own a telescope, come along anyway, as those who have such equipment will be glad to share. The final destination will be the Sun Valley Parkway, on the west side of the White Tank Mountains.

Please purchase your gas, food and cold drinks prior to meeting at McDonald's. We wish to leave promptly, as to avoid setting up in the dark. We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks for your support!

For information or directions, please call Bill at 602-272-6696 (days) or 602-269-8018 after 7pm.

Conspiracy Writer Jim Keith Dies

Courtesy of UFOCity.com

James Keith, author of ten books on conspiracy and cover-up, died suddenly last Tuesday. Jim, who had recently become a contributing writer to UFOcity.com was fifty years old.

Keith first became interested in the fields political conspiracy and UFOs in the early 1950s, and published his first fanzine in 1965. He had appeared as a guest on HBO, NBC, MSNBC, and CNN, and on most national radio forums, including the Art Bell Show. His books included *The Gemstone File*, *Secret and Suppressed*, *Black Helicopters Over America*, *The Octopus*, and *Mind Control*, *World Control*. His last book was *Mass Control: Engineering Human Consciousness*.

The circumstances surrounding his death are somewhat odd, and given Keith's research specialty, no matter how legitimate the particulars which led to his passing prove to be, we expect there will be plenty of darker speculation among conspiracists on whether or not Jim was murdered. In this case, it is not out of the question.

From what we now understand, primarily from Jim's long-time friend Ken Thomas, editor of *Steam Shovel Press* (see UFOcity.com's links page), the night before his death, Keith had done a lecture in Reno NV and had missed his footing as he stepped off of a three foot stage which resulted in his breaking his knee. Thinking that he had merely sprained it, he went home instead of to the hospital. The next morning he realized it was more than a sprain and went to a nearby medical facility for treatment. Surgery was delayed however due to a problem with his kidney functions.

Ken Thomas, who spoke with Jim on Tuesday afternoon, reported that Keith was in good spirits but worried about the thought of being put under. Jim is quoted as saying to Ken that "I have this feeling that if they put me under I'm not coming back." Jim Keith went in for his surgery that night and around 8:10 PM a blood clot released from his leg and we understand went to his lung which is the official cause of death.

I never met Jim, but I did respect his work. In a field where a tremendous amount of speculation is put forward as fact, Jim Keith

did his best to document his allegations and not mystify his conclusions. We maintained a fairly lively e-correspondence and his contributions to this site were most welcome - we will miss him.

Ken Thomas has tentative plans to go to Reno and investigate the circumstances surrounding Jim's death while the trail is still fresh. He has requested that anyone who has any information which may bear on Jim Keith's death contact Ken

at kennthomas@umsi.edu. He will let us know what he uncovers.

James leaves behind two daughters, Aerika (13) and Verity (15). Ken Thomas will be handling all affairs for his daughters so please direct all relevant emails to him at kennthomas@umsi.edu. Several of Jim's friends have expressed an interest in putting together a memorial volume of essays with proceeds going to his daughters; we will let you know when it is available.

Jim Keith books are available from Arcturus Books, online at UFOcity.com, or directly from Illuminet Press (web address: www.illuminetpress.com)

Jim Keith
1949 - 1999

Current UFO Cases and Sightings: Local and Worldwide

Scott Heckman's UFO Sightings
CAUS thanks Scott Heckman
(zachec@theriver.com) for this report:

ARIZONA UFOs

I have just returned from my camp in the Dragoon Mountains, in southeastern AZ. I was asked to watch the turquoise mine by the owners. I never turn down this opportunity when I am approached for this task, as it gives me a reason to not be home in town (Bisbee) but to be in a special habitat that I find mysterious and at the same time restful as well as alluring.

On Saturday, the 21st, at 8:20 PM I experienced a fly over by the craft that I have been "acquainted" with for the last sixteen years. Their customary flight enters Arizona airspace from the New Mexico-Arizona border of Hidalgo-Cochise counties (Hidalgo County is in New Mexico).

The craft of indistinguishable shape passed over the top of the house and mine site at approximately 6,000 ft. altitude traveling about 80 to 125 mph. The first thing that brought my attention to the object was that it was flashing a single silvery, blue-white light every three seconds. The light lasts for about a 30th of a second. This is how it approached from the Southwest, about 120 degrees. Although the craft was directly over the top of my location I couldn't make out a shape or silhouette. Just the light.

I watched it pass over the top of me. As it did so I thought at it "I see you guys. You are

welcome to stop by for a chat or coffee or whatever. Bye for now, and farewell."

The craft continued on to Black Diamond Peak in the central portion of the Dragoons where I lost sight of the craft. Before I lost visual contact two bright blue-white lights illuminated the rear portion of the craft and other bright white lights began flashing as it made it's final approach to Black Diamond Peak just before it disappeared.

The whole incident lasted for about four and a half minutes.

The next night of the 22nd, Sunday night the craft came at 9:20 PM, and flew above the mountain just to north of my location. Again the singular bright blue-white light was flashing as it peaked above the mountain top, traveling again the customary direction of Black Diamond Peak.

I again "thought at it" welcoming the visitors harmlessly. No response. This time I was equipped with a nine cell flashlight. I signaled the craft by cutting a square on the clouds in front of the craft, then a circle, a triangle, and then another square. The craft then silently and abruptly turned due north accelerating, then correcting it's course, laid in a new course for Black Diamond Peak, dimming its lights so that the craft was barely perceptible. (this was a dramatic alteration of "normal flight" behavior.) Upon making it's final approach to Black Diamond again the two bright lights appeared at the rear of the craft. (The lights are set some distance apart, indicating the anterior of the craft at this great distance is no small dimension, but quite large.) And bright blue-white lights began flashing on the bottom and the front of the craft which continued as I lost sight as it sank into the mountain stronghold and disappeared.

On the 23rd, I was ready with my video camera, the generator was running for more electricity for lights and camera. I had a 12 power binoculars, and 500,000 candlepower spotting light. I was ready for them tonight.

The approach this evening was just like the night before just north of my location, yet over the top of the peak where the mines are located about a quarter of a mile distant.

The same silvery, blue-white light flashing from the bottom of the craft. The cloud cover

was about 8,500 ft with a nearly full moon, which was intermittently obscured by the low cloud cover.

Again the craft silently approached at 9:00 PM heading for Black Diamond Peak at about 6,500 foot altitude.

I didn't signal the craft as I didn't want to warn them as to my intentions or location in the house. I simply fired up the video camera. I had to use the lens in the "wide angle" mode to locate the craft in the eyepiece. I then keyed the lens to telephoto out to 36x. When I performed this function, the craft immediately began to flash red lights! Really dramatically and at the same instant accelerated and ascended quickly into the clouds and disappeared from view. This was really all happening too quickly for me to attempt to try any further to capture this on tape. IT WAS GONE!

I did follow it, as it did appear again near Black Diamond Peak and again I watched it signal as it made it's final approach to the peak located just south of Middlemarch Road in the central portion of the Dagoon Mountains, just west of Pearce, AZ. and east of Tombstone.

The following evening I watched the same type of craft again pass a bit further to the north of my location. (about three miles north) (altering it's course slightly to not be within my proximity?)

This is the same craft that I have been watching for nearly sixteen years! Other land owners are also knowledgeable of this and we frequently exchange verbal accounts when we happen to meet in town or out.

MONTERREY MEXICO SIGHTING

Courtesy of the
National UFO Reporting Center

On Sunday, September 12 at 7:00 PM, a big V-shaped unknown object appeared on the sky over Monterrey, N.L., a large, industrial Mexican city located on the northern side of the country, not far from the border with Laredo, Texas.

The UFO was very big in size and was static in the sky at low altitude. It had an inverted V-shape with a certain device or sphere floating on the upper side. The sphere seemed to be emitting white light of some kind. However, the object changed shape continuously from

boomerang to triangle to a splitting body in a movement like rotating on its axis.

At that moment, a large number of people who were in the parking lots of the two main supermarkets in the Garza Garcia area became aware of the strange presence and the big excitement began. Everybody was looking and pointing to the sky which attracted the attention of the cars passing by and in seconds the streets were filled with more people trying to find out what was going on and looking to the sky in excitement.

At 7:15 PM, the first call was received at the local TV channel 12 by witness Sandra Gonzalez who reported the event and requested the TV people to go outside and tape the UFO. "Please film it, it's something extraordinary. We are seeing a UFO, it's like a saucer. All the people in the San Pedro Auditorium are in the parking lot watching it. In the street the cars are stopping and the people are getting out to make better observations. Please, you've got to film it." claimed Sandra by phone.

By this time, Arq. Hector Benavides, host of TeleDiario news service by channel 12, was informed of the situation and ordered to cover the event. At 7:30 PM the news spread like wildfire and several newspapers also went to the streets to cover the event.

On a "live" broadcast of TeleDiario Monday 13, Martha Zamarripa, co-host, declared: "I saw the UFO between 7:30 and 7:45 PM in Colonia del Valle. It was amazing to see that in all the avenues the cars were stopping and the people were looking and pointing up above. It was almost impossible to be unaware that something unusual was present in the sky."

An important testimony came also on Monday's edition of Telediarario by channel 12. Mr. Joel Sampayo, TV journalist who does "live" suburban reports aboard channel 12 helicopter on a daily schedule, declared that a commercial airplane was also present on the sighting scene. A Boeing 737 was descending at about 10,000 feet in a pre-landing operation when they received a request from the Aereopuerto Internacional Mariano Escobedo Air Traffic Control Tower. They were instructed to be alert about something they may encounter along the landing route that may risk the maneuver. The airplane crew inquired what could be the problem and Control Tower replied that they received numerous calls reporting the presence of a big object static in the sky and they wanted to take some precautions to avoid

any possible risk. Unfortunately, and as usual, the air traffic controllers declined to make any comments about this event in a subsequent interview by a channel 12 crew. According to Joel Sampayo's source, the airplane pilot once alerted, made visual contact with the UFO at his left side and at the same altitude, that is about 3 kilometers from the ground to finally losing sight of it. Another airplane was also approaching the scene and was alerted by the traffic controllers but the crew could not see the UFO.

By Monday morning, the strange-shaped UFO appeared in the main newspapers in different color photos taken by the reporters and the general opinion among the media was that it was an unexplained event.

At 7:00 PM, the Monday edition of TeleDiario channel 12 began with a report of Sunday's amazing UFO sighting including footage and eyewitness interviews.

Hector Benavides and Marha Zamarripa, hosts of the newscast, invited the people to send their videos of the sighting to be presented during the show. The response of the people was instantaneous and five videos arrived, each one showing very clear a big triangular to V-shaped object stationary in the sky and rotating in a strange behavior. Hector Benavides questioned the origin of this unknown and received a call from a scientist who suggested it may be the American-Russian space station (Mir) but that explanation was quickly discarded since the space station flies at about 360 kilometers altitude making it impossible to be seen in plain sight. Also the balloon theory was immediately discarded since the UFO remained static for almost one hour at the same point.

An interesting testimony was also presented on TeleDiario that accurately describes the whole sighting. It was given by Mr. Antonio Arriaga, a main witness who also videotaped the UFO. He declared: "I could clearly see the shape of the object. It was like a sphere over a semicircle in the lower section; it looked like an earring. But later it rotated to one side and looked like a letter "J" and when it rotated backwards it looked like a "J" reversed and then it returned to its original semicircle shape. It remained static in the sky for almost one hour and then it began moving south to the Sierra Madre area. All this time the object looked luminous changing from metallic to bluish and when the sun went behind the mountain the object looked solid

black. At no time did I become nervous; I really feel this was an exciting and different experience."

The dynamics of these UFO events certainly has made a significant change in the attitude of the media and the people. Monterrey's September 12th UFO sighting was a major experience for the community and the results were very encouraging. There was no alarm, no panic...just excitement, emotion and perhaps a wish to encounter a new form of life (?) I wonder...could this attitude be the answer to what the UFO mystery is all about...? We'll see...

Santiago Yturria

*** OVNI Investigaciones - Mexico**

Iowa, Texas & California Triangles

Courtesy of www.UFOcenter.com

*CAUS thanks George A. Filer
(Majorstar@aol.com) Filer's Files #36 --
1999; for these reports:*

IOWA PILOT SEES FLYING TRIANGLE SEEDING CLOUDS

Dubuque, Iowa -- An air freight pilot flying a twin engine Beech Baron BE-58 aircraft reports that on August 23, 1999, he spotted a thumbnail sized triangular object. The craft was maneuvering at approximately 5000 feet above my altitude of 5500 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL). The Flying Triangle was depositing material into small cumulus clouds north of Dubuque. During a moon rise in the eastern sky at 11:20 PM, an object caught my attention moving at an unusually high rate of speed. As I looked upward and focused in on the object, I made out a dark blue or almost black triangular craft flying grid patterns in a north to south and east to west pattern. I estimate his altitude was 5000 feet higher than my cruising altitude or 10,000 feet MSL. As I watched more intensely, I noticed the craft was leaving behind its travel path a gray misty contrail, that seemed to be slowly falling into small puffy clouds between myself and the craft. When the Flying Triangle made a change of direction, it was done very abruptly. Ninety degree turns were made with no gradual change of direction, they were instantaneous. I estimated its rate of travel to be in the 500 to 800 knot range. Nearly 10 times that of my rate of speed. The craft had no lights, the only way I could see it was by the reflection of the moon light since it was a near full moon last night. After losing the craft behind a bank of clouds I no longer saw it. After flying for an additional 12 minutes, I witnessed particles descending or falling past my aircraft.

They almost looked like snow flakes, but the air temperature was near 50 degrees Fahrenheit, according to my outside air temperature probe. The particles appeared to reflect a gold light when tumbling in the moon light. I traveled through the particles for 20 minutes at 5500 feet with visibility dropping from 10 to 3 statute miles forward visibility. During this time period my lungs began to feel inflamed and irritable. I also felt a burning sensation and tried to keep my breathing rate at a low rate during this time. My symptoms disappeared once I left the particles. I never saw the craft during the rest of my four hour trip. It was very strange. This is the only report I am making as of today as I fear for my job security by reporting this sighting.

TEXAS FLYING TRIANGLE LAKE WHITNEY

On August 21, 1999, the two married witnesses were delivering newspapers throughout Rural Bosque County at 3:00 AM. They observed an unusual set of lights hovering too low to be a star. They stopped and saw the object move up and even lower. During the next hour, they noticed that no matter what direction they turned, the object was always right in front of them. Further south, they saw two sets of lights. They stopped at the highest point in Bosque County heading towards Clifton. The northern most light shot straight up and disappeared. The second object moved closer and took on the shape of a triangle and its three lights flashed multi-colors. After about 15 minutes, the witness reports we made our way further south when my wife said, "It looks like a giant triangle!" I immediately stopped the truck and saw that between the 3 sets of lights it appeared to be a huge Flying Triangle. As we watched the lights suddenly got bright enough to light up the deer like daylight. I got on the CB radio to ask if any of the local truck drivers were observing this? But the radio and my truck just went dead! Suddenly, just as quickly, it was dark and my truck started back up. We went back to work and observed this object zip from one side of us to the other and then back again! We observed this till about 6:00 AM when as we made our way across the Whitney Dam the triangle suddenly it shot up and to the side and was gone!

Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director of NUFORC.

CALIFORNIA FLYING TRIANGLE TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

Steve Moreno reports, "My 13 year old neighbor, Ben, spotted a 300 feet long triangular ship flying slowly over our house at about 300 feet altitude on September 2, 1999." It traveled in complete silence with a 75 feet of glowing blue flame exiting out of its entire 100 feet rear base. It was estimated to be 75 feet thick. After traversing across the sky for a

minute in a NW to SE trajectory it suddenly just disappeared. Within ten minutes afterwards Ben, and his Mom, claim they heard a storm of activity coming from Travis Air Force Base. Since Ben has lived within a mile of the base all his life, he normally doesn't take notice of something overhead. He knows a C5 Galaxy Transport when he see one. He was able to summon his Mom who observed the craft before it disappeared. I was amazed at the thoroughness and detail of his report with pertinent measurements. He plays football so he knows his distances. Similar reports were noted from Napa and Novato.

Thanks to Steve Moreno, Director,

Psi Applications

Russian Junk or Major UFO Event?

By Robert Scott Martin Staff Writer
Sep 03 1999 13:46:34 ET

Although a rash of UFO sightings reported recently would seem to be evidence of a major wave of unexplained paranormal activity, at least one researcher has warned investigators to check their facts before jumping to conclusions.

Early in the night of September 1, dozens of people from Canada to Arizona saw glowing trails in the sky that occasionally appeared to break apart and fly in different directions. Several of the objects reportedly behaved as though "maneuvering," even doubling back in at least one case.

The phone lines of both the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) and Art Bell's Coast to Coast talk-radio program were jammed with sightings, prompting Bell to classify the incident as "a major UFO event."

Some witnesses also reported signs of heightened military in the area. One Bell caller saw F-15 fighters scrambling in the Portland, OR, area "in pursuit of something." A Portland journalist corroborated this news in a call to NUFORC.

Shortly after the wave of sightings began at around 9:00 p.m. PDT (midnight EDT), reports started trickling in that sections of Arizona and Nevada had been thrown into darkness by power failures. Bell, who broadcasts out of the town of Pahrump, NV, was caught in the blackout and told his listeners that he would finish his show on emergency backup power.

The flood of reports buried NUFORC Director Peter Davenport in information,

leaving him too busy to comment days after. By Friday, he expressed hopes that he would be able to post a statement on the event at some point.

Still, at least one UFO researcher, Jerry Rolwes, was already making calls. Rolwes, the director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)'s Washington State section, quickly ascertained that the Air Force had received no word of sightings in eastern Washington. This freed him up to do the investigative groundwork that Davenport was still too swamped to handle.

NORAD Air Force Public Affairs told Rolwes that the sightings were of Russian rocket debris crashing to earth.

"The bottom line is this," he said in a report to various UFO media organizations. "It was a spectacular event, but anything but a major UFO event. Major Nouis reported that it was a Russian rocket body item, NORAD "catalog number 25671."

According to Rolwes, Nouis said the object was part of the motor of a SL 12 rocket launched February 28 and forecast to come back down sometime around September 1-3. Its high reentry speed -- estimated at about 17,000 miles per hour (27,000 km per hour) -- was likely the cause of the explosive highway "crash" reported on the border between Utah and Nevada.

The catalog of projected space junk reentries is open to public access. The U.S. Space Command makes a truncated version of the list, the "Satellite Boxscore," available on the internet.

As for the reports of heightened military activity, the Oregon Air National Guard told Rolwes that the 142nd tactical fighter wing based in Portland did in fact launch six F-15 jets shortly before 9:00 p.m. PDT.

However, the military contact characterized the flight as part of a standard two-week night training run announced in advance to the local press, not a pursuit of unidentified objects.

Rolwes -- a retired air force lieutenant colonel in his own right -- criticized both Bell and Davenport for not "checking out the facts" before evaluating the event.

"It just didn't take that much to make these telephone calls to the active and Air National Guard USAF organizations," he said. "I have done this to attempt to prove a point. Before everyone starts making assumptions about USAF organizations, just pick up the phone and call these folks."

For its part, NUFORC did not immediately release any official statement on the event, "major" or otherwise.

Rolwes did not have an explanation for the reports of power failures that knocked the electricity out for Bell and others in the region on the night of the sightings, but was again critical of the apparent lack of effort to contact the power companies directly.

With notorious sightings reported against the backdrop of the 1965 "Great Blackout" of the Eastern United States and Canada, blackouts are a traditional component of UFO mythology. Still, Arizona Public Service, cited by industry sources as having "some outages" on September 1, had no record of any unusual failures of power in northern Arizona that night.

In Nevada, neither Sierra Pacific nor Nevada Power, which completed their merger in late July and which control all electrical transmission in the state, were aware of any noteworthy blackouts.

"We've had no real problems, no bad weather" in the northern portion of the state, said Sierra Pacific spokeswoman Faye Andersen.

"There's been no trouble," said Sonya Headen, Nevada Power public information officer. "The only time this summer we experienced any kind of power outages was July 13" when flooding left about 2,000 customers temporarily without electricity.

According to Headen, no other power companies serve Nevada "until competition comes in March 2000. We're the only ones."

Meanwhile, whether the lights in the sky were UFO activity or just junk heading back to Earth, Rolwes and the eyewitness reports agreed that the event was truly spectacular.

"Low in the sky a meteor was slowly arcing eastward," said Toby Hemenway of Oakland, OR. "It was big and slow, leaving a streak several times broader than any of the night's others. And it just kept going, leaving a tail a degree or two long. As I watched, stunned that it was still visible, I could see a second smaller body in the tail moving at the same speed. Then it arced lower and turned flame yellow, increasing in size, almost seeming to spit off sparks. I could easily discern a spherical mass; it was enormous! It traversed the entire sky, taking 20 or 30 seconds as I danced excitedly on the deck, watching."

"When it neared the eastern horizon, the yellow ball split in two, both bodies moving in parallel. Somehow I kept expecting one piece to drop away, but Newton doesn't work that way, I realized, and they kept moving together, followed by the original fragment in the tail. Finally the whole incredible show disappeared slowly into the light of Roseburg on the horizon, and I knew I'd seen something I'd remember all my life."

The preceding article was courtesy of space.com

Professor Predicts First Contact With Aliens Some Time Next Century

It's time to prepare for impact on society, Toronto academic warns

Louise Surette
The Ottawa Citizen

TORONTO -- Making contact with intelligent life in outer space will likely occur sometime during the next century, says a Toronto-based scholar in an article featured in a recently published American book of essays surrounding the next millennium.

Few events in the sweep of human history will be as significant and as far-reaching as contact with intelligent life in outer space, and now is the time for us to begin to prepare for the social and physiological impact, says Allen Tough, a retired education professor from the University of Toronto and an expert in future studies.

Scientists and the public have, in recent years, come to realize there is the distinct possibility that life on other planets exists, says Mr. Tough, and the effect of contact on human civilization will be profound.

"We must keep in mind that some of the intelligent life in our galaxy may be deeply alien to us. Their thinking patterns, knowledge, emotions, bodies, perception and communication may be even stranger than our strangest science-fiction images," he writes.

"Some intelligent beings in our universe could turn out to be silicon-based entities or supercomputers."

Douglas Vakoch, a psychologist with the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence Institute in Mountainview, California, agrees. The organization, which has affiliates all over the world, is currently monitoring radio signals in anticipation of any signals from life in outer space.

It is Mr. Vakoch's job to research what the possible social impact will be on Earth.

"I think it is important to focus on this now, because it would happen so quickly and in such a

short period of time it is better we prepare for a range of scenarios before the event occurs," he says.

Mr. Vakoch says two of the things that have to be considered when Earth receives a message are whether to respond right away, and what to say in return. One thing SETI has agreed on is that if a message from outer space is discovered, once it is confirmed by scientists from outside of the organization to authenticate the source, the message will be made known to the public right away.

"Any message that is sent isn't being sent to one person or one organization, but to the whole planet, so everyone should be aware of that."

Mr. Vakoch says that, if contact is made, not only would we learn a lot about the aliens, but also about ourselves, and we would begin to develop an Earthly identity.

"Some are afraid we won't feel unique any more, but I think the opposite will happen and we will realize how unique and special we really are," he says.

Ken Norwich, a professor of physiology at the University of Toronto who has done research into the potential sensory systems of life forms from other planets, isn't as optimistic about contact from outer space any time soon.

"There is the possibility that we may never find it, even if it is out there," he says. "Making contact isn't as simple as sending out a signal and getting a message back."

The subject of UFOs and outer space have become a preoccupation of the 20th century, he says, and it is partially fueled by the turn of the millennium.

"If we had lived 500 years ago, we would expect to see dragons or whatever was current, and right now we are obsessed with UFOs," he says.

"There is also certain magical attachment to the turn of the millennium, and we expect something special to happen at that time -- so why not it be someone from outer space?"

This isn't to say that we should stop looking, however, says Mr. Norwich.

"Science fiction writer Jules Verne talked about submarines long before we had them, so why not talk about this?" he asks. "It's like the saying goes: 'If you ain't got a dream, how can that dream come true?'"

Meanwhile, Mr. Tough says it is important to consider what will happen to humans as a civilization in the event of contact with another species.

If the event is negative, it could possibly mean the extinction of humanity. However, he says this is very unlikely.

"What would probably happen is that any hostile society would wipe themselves out before they became highly advanced enough to travel to other planets," he said in an interview from his home in Toronto.

On the positive side, aliens could provide practical information that could help human civilization survive. They could also provide answers to some major questions about life and

the universe -- because the chances are the extraterrestrials would be much older than us, as our planet is relatively young in comparison to many of the stars that are in the universe.

"We might gain new insights, understanding and knowledge about major questions that go far beyond ordinary, practical, day-to-day matters," he writes.

"Topics in a message could include astrophysics, the origin and evolution of the universe, religious questions and the meaning of life."

Unlike the movies, in which space crafts land on Earth, Mr. Tough says he believes contact will probably be made by way of a small probe, possibly the size of a basketball or smaller.

"It could be something that would be lurking around, monitoring our telecommunications in order to get to know us or our language."

Mr. Tough isn't alone in his beliefs. According to a Maclean's magazine poll last year, 42 per cent of Canadians expect an extraterrestrial civilization to be discovered within the next 50 years, and 17 per cent think the aliens will look like humans.

Although she doesn't believe extraterrestrials have a special interest in visiting earth, Canadian astronaut Julie Payette told radio listeners in Quebec in July that it is presumptuous for us to believe we are the only intelligent species in the universe.

There is no lack of alleged UFO sightings in Canada. According to a recent survey by a "Ufology" research group in Manitoba, there were 194 reports of UFO sightings in 1998, the majority of them in British Columbia and Ontario.

Some of the sighting descriptions in the study included a truck driver in Kelowna, B.C., who observed a big, silent, black triangular object moving slowly over the highway, and three people who witnessed a V-shaped object that flew over a house in Bancroft, Ont.

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