



Number 11

MUFON of Georgia news and research

November 1998

State Director's Message:

Greetings Skywatchers. There are several new developments since our bulletin and meeting of February 1998. I am pleased to say they are a positive extension of the progress began in 1996 and 1997. First of all we now have more members and FIs on-line which is vital if you wish to keep abreast of the very latest developments in our chosen field. I encourage everyone to work toward this goal. If you have been debating this, check with me, as we now have a member who is in computer sales and consultations.

I began a MUFONGA on-line update this past spring. This goes out via e-mail every one to two weeks or so and consists of brief descriptions of cases under investigation, Georgia sighting reports, general information and other activities. Being on-line also gives you access to the weekly international bulletin from our Eastern Director, George Filer (Filer's Files). If you have an e-mail address and do not receive these bulletins, contact me at mufonga@webtv.net. We have also implemented a bi-monthly informal dinner forum which is open to MUFONGA, ISUR, and other legitimate UFO research groups (members and escort only, no groups of non-members). The first dinner meeting and info exchange was held as a 'trial run' at Shoney's on Piedmont Rd. in Atlanta on August 31, 1998. Seventeen members were in attendance and all agreed they would like to do this on a regular basis. We plan to hold these every two months on the same day. The first regularly scheduled meeting is tentatively set for Saturday January 9, 1999 at 5 PM. (2540 Piedmont Rd. Atlanta, about 1/2 block or so north of the intersection of Piedmont and Lindbergh adjacent the Marta Station and Marta Administration building). These informal dinners bring our members together to discuss and exchange UFO information and receive other data from short presentations. I will

send out a confirmation via a MUFONGA Update during the first week of January, those not on-line can give me a call during that time period for final confirmation.

I am also pleased to announce that several of our FITs who have been attending our investigator's classes and doing some OJT have successfully undertaken their first cases; Mary Dee Janssen of Rome, Carl and Helen Thim of Fayetteville, David Brown of Norcross, Jack and Jo Dowless of Calhoun, Olivia Newton of Lilburn, Ralph Howard of Chamblee, and Jim Steen of

Calendar of Events



Nov 16-17.....	6:00 PM.....	Leonids meteor skywatch. Chatsworth, GA See Page 5 for directions.
Nov 29	2:00 PM.....	General Commencement
	2:30 PM.....	Field Investigator Training
	4:00 PM.....	Meeting
		Fayetteville, GA See Page 2 for directions.
Jan 9, 1999.....	5:00 PM.....	Informal dinner, Shoney's Piedmont Rd. Atlanta

Georgia UFO cases are located at:

<http://www.isur.com>

as well as links to many MUFON sites run by individual states. MUFON's page can be found at:

<http://www.mufon.com>

The *Georgia Sky Watch* newsletter is an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information concerning UFOs and related phenomena. Opinions expressed by contributing writers are those of the particular author and do not necessarily reflect the views of MUFON of Georgia, *Georgia Sky Watch*, its editors or publishers.

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Your articles, letters and comments for the *Georgia Sky Watch* newsletter are greatly appreciated.

MUFON of Georgia Meeting
Sunday, November 29, 1998- 2:00 PM
Holiday Inn Express
Fayetteville Town Square
(Across from the Old Courthouse)

Town square is at the intersection of State Hwys 85 and 54.

Coming from North, East or West of Atlanta, proceed to Hartsfield Airport area by either I-75/85 or I-285. Take I-75 south from I-285 right below the airport. The 1st. exit below I-285 is 'State Hwy 85-Riverdale' exit. Take this ramp and continue south through Riverdale to Fayetteville.

Coming from the South of Atlanta, connect with State Hwy 85 which runs N-S from Columbus to Fayetteville, or connect with Hwy 19-41 to Jonesboro, then take 54 Hwy West to Fayetteville.

The Holiday Inn is on the north side of the square and large old style whitewashed building. Ample parking.

Those that wish to eat before the meeting, Shoney's, Morrison's, Pizza Hut, etc. are on 85 Hwy north of the Square.

Columbus who is currently on the trail of an elusive witness in his area.

Some additional positions peculiar to MUFONGA have also been created. Officer Mike Hitt of Roswell is now our state historian and archivist. William Lester of Jonesboro is in our special projects research group, and Roberta Puhalski serves as the senior special projects coordinator.

I wish to thank all of these personnel for their service to MUFONGA. If I've left anyone out, let me know and I will correct it in the next bulletin.

I wish that UFO reports were received evenly spread across the state, but alas they are not. This makes it difficult for everyone to get cases in their particular area. If you are an FI or FIT and willing to travel, please let me know and hopefully we can get you into an investigation at some point. I have a few who are currently waiting in this manner, but it does not always pan out. I will be going into some of the things you can do as an FI or SSD to alleviate this at the November meeting (local publicity of the MUFONGA mission). Reminder: Anyone developing information or a case please advise me so that I can recognize you in my update and get you credited in Filer's Files. Prompt notification also allows us to arrange assistance or support in the investigation of the case for those still in FIT status.

Our 1998 Fall General Meeting will be held on SUNDAY November 29, 1998 at the HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS on the Square in FAYETTEVILLE GEORGIA (State Hwy 85). We will begin with an orientation at 2:00 PM and a Field Investigator's Class will commence at 2:30 PM.

At 4:00 PM, the public portion of the meeting will open. Our group historian Mike Hitt will be giving a presentation on the history of UFOs in Georgia. Mike has spent years compiling what is probably the most complete state UFO history in the U.S. He has thousands of newspaper articles and other reports, some dating back as far as the turn of the century, and he will be sharing this information with us. He has documented some really spectacular events that occurred right here in Georgia and he relates some truly unusual cases. Mike is a great speaker and a

veteran law enforcement officer with a dynamic presentation.

Our other presenter for November 29th is William Lester, a professional educator, MUFONGA Section Director, and part of our special projects team. He will lecture on phenomena sometimes associated with UFOs. This will be an enlightening presentation from a member of the academic community. William has done a great deal of research and has a unique insight into the puzzles that UFO investigators encounter all over the U.S. We will close the meeting with a Q & A forum. I encourage everyone to attend if at all possible. The FI's class is a must in your development as an investigator, and the subsequent presentations will give newer members a good foundation on what is going on in Georgia. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Tom Sheets, MUFON State Director for Georgia

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Silver UFO Over Stone Mountain

From Filer's Files No. 1998-44

STONE MOUNTAIN FREEWAY: MUFON Director Walter Sheets reports a female witness was driving east on Hwy 78 at about 12 noon on August 21, 1998. As she approached Bethney Church Road, she saw an unusual object almost overhead. She leaned forward to get a closer look and saw a dull silver gray craft shaped like a pharmaceutical capsule. The UFO was traveling south somewhat faster than a passenger jet. The craft was the same length as a dime held at arms length. She estimated that it was several thousand feet in altitude. She had a good look for about six seconds, and saw a clear outline with no protuberances, wings, markings or other structures on the craft. This witness completed a sketch of the object, and a diagram of the sighting area. She is a retired school teacher with a Master's degree in Education from a large university, and taught the general sciences.

Crop Circles

Part 1 of 2

by Roberta Puhalski

Ms. Puhalski is a Senior Research Coordinator for MUFON of Georgia

In the early days of the phenomenon they called themselves Cereologists. These were the men and women who followed and studied crop circles. These circular forms, initially in corn fields, were first reported in the mid 1970's. If they were present before that time, they were given little if any attention. At first they took the form of simple circles, varying in size. Then they started to appear in groups of two or three. By the late 1970's and the 1980's the numbers had significantly increased. Soon they had graduated from simple circles into patterns that evolved increasingly in complexity. While we still call them crop circles, they are much more than that. They are now formations composed of varying geometric shapes and configurations producing large patterns and pictograms. No longer found solely in corn fields, they have also been reported in other mediums such as barley, wheat, rice paddies, sand, snow and yes, even ice!

The crop circles were first reported in the grain fields of southern England. Over the last eight years they have appeared in the United States, Canada, Australia, as well as a host of other locations worldwide. The enigma of England's crop circle formations was claimed by two Englishmen. Douglas Bower and David Chorley, both gentlemen in their 60's, claim to have hoaxed more than 200 circles. The couple accomplished this with wood planks guided by string. They have even performed this feat before camera and crew. I must admit their show was quite impressive, however, they obviously have not created the thousands of crop circle formations reported worldwide. Unfortunately, they have inspired other copycats using a variety of other techniques. These hoaxsters have made the serious investigators job more difficult, as we now have to take this into consideration. Consequently, we now have to first check for obvious signs of hoaxing before the lengthy sampling procedures. Somehow the hoaxing aspect has actually become part of the phenomenon. A new

scientific discipline was the result. Because of hoaxing, organizations such as the Circles Effect Research Unit headed by physicist Terence Meaden of Wiltshire, England and the BLT Research Team headed by biophysicist William C. Levengood, of Grass Lake Michigan, (USA) emerged. While hoaxers might fool us in the fields, they can't fool us on the microscopic level! A crop circle formation is not authentic until the plant samples are examined under the microscope. Both plant samples in the formation and control samples are collected. These plant samples are then examined under the microscope. They will or will not display abnormalities. You might say these procedures separate the men from the boys; the "genuine crop circle formations" from the hoaxed.

I would like to include findings from the BLT Research Team, as I am familiar and in contact with Nancy Talbot who is BLT Field Research Coordinator. This BLT (Burke, Levengood, Talbot) Research Team was organized in 1992. Prior to this, Levengood had already been examining wheat and barley plants from crop circles and noticed abnormalities. When John Burke and Nancy Talbot joined Levengood's ongoing investigation their first efforts were directed towards the development of a concise field sampling protocol and the establishment of field teams. I was fortunate enough to come into contact with these lovely individuals in late 1993 because of the Columbia New York Crop Circle formation. My article, "Mystery of the Unexplained Crop Circles" appeared in Timothy Green Beckley's, UFOs Unexplained Universe, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1995. I was made aware of the crop circle shortly after its discovery by Ron Taylor, founder of the Central New York Questers of Syracuse New York. Jim Cormia was New York State Section Director at that time and headed the investigation and sample collection with Ron Taylor and Mark Briggs (CNYQ). Jim Cormia's report and article on the crop circle appeared in the Mutual UFO Network Journal, May 1994 issue, adjacent to my article, "Abductions: STATE OF SIEGE- OR MIND?

The following material was written by Nancy Talbot in her paper entitled "CROP FORMATIONS: A BIOPHYSICAL INVESTIGATION". (Spring 1997)

While the BLT Research Team has had their findings published ("Anatomical anomalies in crop formation plants", Physiologia Plantarum 92:356-363), Nancy understood the need for the findings to be written in layman's terminology. We have her to thank for the gracious overview of this scientific material!

Part 2 of 2 will be published in the next GSW

Establishing a UFO Network

by Tom Sheets

Feel like a teenager with no hot date on a Friday or Saturday night.....phone isn't ringing, no UFO cases to work? You need to look at how much your community knows about the UFO phenomena. Probably a little from the A&E or TLC documentaries on TV, or one of the better news articles, or even a little from (God or Goddess forbid!) the National Enquirer or the Star.

There is something you can do about that. Most areas have small community-oriented newspapers, such as the Fayette Neighbor here in my area. These are mostly staffed by younger 'up and coming' reporters and editors. These folks are gaining valuable experience while trying to work their way up to bigger things or organizations. Many will jump at the chance to do a serious story about the scientific efforts to resolve the UFO enigma (some won't, these might want to do an exploitive poo poo article).

During my time as Chief Investigator for MUFONGA I had the Fayette Neighbor newspaper and several others do articles and interviews concerning the MUFON mission and the UFO phenomena. I found that the Neighbor has a bi-weekly column called 'Club Beat' which describes all of the local civic activities. They now run a continuing free advertisement for MUFONGA giving a brief description of what we do and how to contact me. This periodical goes out to about 40,000 or so citizens in my area.....and all free.

I would suggest to each FI that has such a newspaper in their area to get acquainted with the reporters and determine which might be the most receptive to writing a positive article about you, MUFONGA and the UFO phenomena. This just might lead to a free 'club' type repeating article such as I have described.

If you can do this, please use the information, policies and guidelines described in the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual. I want all of us to be operating on the same frequency in this endeavor. You might also watch out for crotchety close minded senior editors that might do a hatchet job on some smart young reporter's efforts on your behalf. Ask the reporter about their group's opinions and attitudes. A lot of this can be gathered just by reading the paper for a few weeks.

If you need advice or assistance with any of this, please give me a call or send an e-mail. I will be making a concerted effort in 1999 to assist our personnel in South Georgia in setting up a program similar to what I have described herein. The MUFON mission and our cadre have become fairly well known in North and Central Georgia recently and I want to insure that South Georgia is not neglected. MUFON and the South Georgia citizens deserve nothing less.

Skywatch -- Chatsworth, Ga. November 17, 1998

As most of you know, the earth will pass through the comet tail debris field of Comet Tempel-Tuttle on November 17, 1998 producing the Leonid meteor shower. This year (along with 1999) is supposed to be the 'Big One', the 33 year cycle is here! Predictions indicate the strong possibility of a real meteor storm during that night.

The main body is supposed to be centered in the area of Mongolia, but scientists are saying that most anything is possible anywhere on the globe that night. (*Sky & Telescope*, Nov. 98) NASA expects satellites to be crunched and is moving the position of the

Hubble telescope to protect it. MUFONGA's David Brown, a computer consultant, has information that EMP from this event could also damage some computers. For those that are interested, I have located a place on Ft. Mountain in Chatsworth where the viewing should be excellent. Initial discussions between Mike Hitt, Mark Ausmus, Bill Stockstill and myself involved the state park on top of the mountain.

I visited the park, and while its personnel were receptive to amateur astronomers, they indicated that the close proximity of the trees might interfere with our viewing since they seem to be losing their foliage more slowly this year. They suggested a forestry overlook a few miles east of the park, which has a bald knob at the summit.

I checked it out and found it to be one of the best locations I've seen on Ft. Mountain so far. It's at the 2000 ft. level, clear of trees, and has a sort of stone amphitheater structure at the peak about 30-35 feet in diameter, with a waist high ledge around it, and stone 'seat-like' steps on the outside of the ledge.....looks like a good place for gladiators to fight or for a pagan sun worship service! There are NO FACILITIES there, but plenty of SECLUDED paths nearby. There is no comparison with the park which is the ideal place.

I will be at the overlook on November 17th. Any members interested in a Skywatch are welcome. I would prefer this not to be a 'public event'. Only MUFONGA, ISUR, other legitimate UFO researchers, public safety, and those we consider friends and supporters of the UFO investigative community (i.e. seriously interested folks that we know) are invited. Due to the rather remote location, day of week, time of year, etc. I expect many members will not be able to make it, but come if you can.

Directions: Proceed into Chatsworth on State Hwy 411. Turn east onto Hwy 52 at its intersection with 411 (follow Ft. Mtn. signs). Go up onto Ft. Mountain (several miles, curvey road). At the top, the park entrance will be on the left, brick and signs etc. Keep going until you reach the Cohutta Lodge on the right (big signs). From Cohutta Lodge sign keep going east on Hwy 52 for 2.3 miles. There will be a medium

sized sign on the RIGHT side of the road that reads "NATIONAL FOREST OVERLOOK AHEAD ON LEFT." A few yards past it is the driveway on the left. Turn in, go a hundred yards or so and park on the side of the driveway where there is a metal garbage receptacle. The trail and stairs to the summit are right there. The summit is approximately 300 feet up. Bring a flashlight, red lens if possible. There is no wind break up there, a parka may also be needed. There were yellow jackets around the bushes next to the metal garbage receptacle, but they will probably be gone by November 17th. I will try to find a small camp toilet chair for our female members, but cannot guarantee it.

This is the same area of HEAVY UFO traffic in the RECENT past, right where witnesses have observed anomalous lights, orbs, discs, boomerangs, and other phenomena. This is also where Mark and I saw our small event in August of this year. Incidentally, I found two additional witnesses to this activity while up there today.

I plan to be on site just as dark falls and probably before.....maybe dusk. It's easy to find even at night. Call or E-mail me with any questions you might have.

Tom Sheets

"Shiny White" UFO Over Alabama

From Filer's Files No.1998-44

Former State Director and Field Investigator John Thompson has been investigating some daylight UFO sightings that could be explained as satellites. He contacted several astronomers who assured him that satellites could not be seen in the daylight. Although a new type of Iridium satellites can be seen under certain conditions, when the sun reflects off their shiny surface none would have been visible for the this sighting outlined below. On September 25, 1998, a 38 year-old University of Alabama graduate called to say he had seen a UFO in Lee County, Alabama

between 1:30 to 1:40 PM EDT. The high flying UFO flew directly over him three miles west of Auburn. The UFO was "shiny white" and of oval or cylinder shaped. Speed--very, very fast! Its altitude was over 14 miles high--possibly 30-70 miles high. Witness said the silvery UFO went from directly overhead, 12 o'clock position, to 2 o'clock position in a couple seconds." Incredibly, the UFO had an apparent size of an 1/8 of an inch. This suggests a real size of approximately 400 feet long at 14 miles and more likely--as the UFO, according to the witness, was flying where the atmosphere turns its darkest at extreme elevation--as much as 2000 feet long, at 70 miles high. No sound or electrical interference (he had his radio on) was noted. There were a few "wispy" clouds, and unlimited visibility at 87 degrees F. A call was placed to the FAA in Columbus, and Auburn Airport but nothing unusual was reported. According to Mr. Burdette, their "central radar" would have picked up any transponder equipped object to "60,000 feet." Since this UFO was above 60,000 feet it would not have registered whether transponder equipped or not! He saw a solid craft of enormous size moving at extraordinary speed moving from east to west. The La Grange, Georgia witness is well-educated and has an excellent reputation. It's obvious with the Iridium satellites we are going to have to be more vigilant with reports of unknowns that move faster than planes and are acutely high. The fact is that the new Iridium highly polished satellites do cause flares for short periods of time. Data indicates no Iridium satellite would have been visible.

Bright Spear-like UFO in Columbus, GA

COLUMBUS Jim Steen a MUFON investigator developed information on an October 24, 1998, sighting. A businessman and his wife were driving NW toward Columbus on Route 520 when suddenly a bright thin spear like light was seen to transit from horizon to horizon at 10:00 PM. It appeared similar to a seven foot fluorescent light tube shooting through the sky at incredible speed.