

## MUFON's Star Impact Project – Exciting Stuff!

### Words From the State Director



MUFON's Star Impact Project (SIP) is now underway and there are already cases in other states being investigated. Exciting stuff!

As a refresher (or for those who haven't heard), SIP is MUFON's trial collaboration with Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS), a group run by entrepreneur Robert Bigelow, possibly best known as the founder of the National Institute of Discovery Sciences (NIDS) that investigated the Utah ranch as recorded in the "Hunt for the Skinwalker" book. Basically, BAASS will provide MUFON with funding to deliver quality sighting research to them for further scientific study. MUFON and NIDS have historically had amicable relations and this should be a good fit. The BAASS website is bigelowaerospace.com.

Unfortunately, I don't anticipate on hearing much in the way of details on this endeavor, though, until the formal overview at this year's MUFON Symposium. The event will again be in Denver, August 6-9, and the speaker list this year is excellent. Please consider making the trip (find out more at [mufon.com](http://mufon.com)).

Our upcoming Michigan MUFON meeting will be May 3 at Walli's East in Flint.

Chief Investigator Gary Golem will conduct our morning Field Investigator Training.

Our afternoon presentation will be ghost investigator of 37 years (and newly appointed MI-MUFON field investigator!), Tom Maat, demonstrating tools of the trade shared by ghost

*continued...*

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## **40th Annual International UFO Symposium**

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and UFO hunters alike. He will also present on reported phenomena that blurs the boundaries between these two fields.

As always, with regards to our meetings, if you see someone you don't know, please take a minute to introduce yourself. Especially if you know that it's that person's first meeting. Coming to a UFO meeting can understandably be a big step outside the comfort zone for many and a friendly face and welcoming attitude much appreciated. Thanks so much.

Speaking of presentations, my April 16<sup>th</sup> presentation at Glacier Hills Retirement Community in Ann Arbor went well with about 30 residents in attendance, including a gentleman who was a prominent employee of the Ann Arbor Press at the time of the 1966 Hillsdale sightings.

At the request of several libraries, I've posted a page at the [mimufon.org](http://mimufon.org) website which outlines the UFO presentations that I give and my applicable background in delivering them. I generally feel awkward when I promote myself so directly (and this is no exception), but the presentations have been drawing favorable attention to our organization and cause. So, if you are agreeable, please ask your local library if they'd like a UFO presentation and, if so, point them my way. Thank you.

Also, on a personal note, I am currently finishing up a book about my personal UFO close encounters. I actually began writing this in 2003 and got a healthy start on it before setting it aside when I became State Director. After discussing my experiences with Craig Lang in March when he presented for our group, I revisited my old material and was surprised at how far I'd gotten with it. Then I found myself editing some clumsy grammar in what I'd written... then fleshing out some details, here and there...then adding more stuff...and then I came to the realization that I guess I'm somewhat actively writing it again. I didn't expect that would happen but, if and when I finish it, I may explore possible publishing avenues.

Don't forget, Michigan MUFON Newsletter subscribers, if you would prefer to download a printable electronic MIMUFON Newsletter to your computer in full color, rather than receive a printed black and white copy in the mail, please let our Newsletter Editor David Twichell know and provide him with an email address where he can send you a link to download your newsletter off the internet in PDF format. To contact David by email, write to [news@mimufon.org](mailto:news@mimufon.org).

See you Sunday, May 3 at Walli's for our morning Field Investigator Training by Gary Golem and afternoon presentation by Tom Maat.



## Monthly Statistical MUFON Report - for March 2009:

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In March 2009 there were 559 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS worldwide. Of these, 439 were in the United States, of which 21 were in Michigan. Most impressively there were 30 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 40 Entities observed worldwide.

To review the CMS data yourself go to [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com) and click on "UFO Case Files" to 1.) Easily look at the Last 20 Sightings, or 2.) Do a customized search of the CMS database by date and/or location, or 3.) Logon to CMS for even more detailed UFO sighting information about your State and the World.



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# How the Mainstream Press Avoids UFO Stories

by Tim R. Swartz

On November 26, 2002, North American Aerospace Defense Command began receiving reports of a contrail of unknown origin in the air over the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. Fighter jets were scrambled from several bases to intercept the unknown that was heading northwest toward the U.S., but reportedly, nothing was spotted. Commercial airline pilots later reported the contrail over Florida and later over Indiana.

This fascinating report received scant attention in the U.S. press, which is unusual considering the zeal for "national security" that has been rampant since 9/11. The thought is disturbing that an unknown aircraft could fly with impunity over the United States and receive only a few paragraphs in local papers. What could possibly explain this odd lack of curiosity by the national media?

Actually, the failure of the press to respond to this story is no surprise considering that the mainstream press has developed the attitude that UFO reports are strictly for the tabloids. This position has become so pervasive that when some editors and journalists have attempted serious, well researched, UFO investigations, they found themselves isolated by their peers.

The popular misconception is that UFOs are seen only by the uneducated, the mentally ill, or hoaxers seeking personal gain. Because of this, many think that any reporter interested in handling such a story must also be so inclined. Heaven help a journalist who has had a personal UFO experience and attempts to report on it. He may face severe questions concerning his credibility as a journalist.

There had been some hope within the UFO community that the subject of UFOs would be given fair treatment when ABC ran the special Peter Jennings Reporting: UFOs - Seeing Is Believing on February 24 2005. However, the program had little to do with objectively reporting on the UFO phenomenon and instead dealt more with debunking the extraterrestrial hypothesis, treating the subject as if this was the only explanation for UFOs. For those who have been active over the years in UFO research, the ABC show was just more of the same when it comes to the media's mind-set towards the phenomena.

According to the current attitude with the news media, there has never been anything mysterious about UFO sightings; they can all be easily explained away with glib, uninformed blanket statements. However, this has not always been the case. In the late 1940's the mainstream press regularly covered UFO reports. At that time UFOs were a relatively unknown phenomenon and had not been tainted by the "lunatic fringe" that would surface in the 1950's and 60's. By then, most media outlets had become discouraged by the lack of progress in explaining UFOs and little, if any, verifiable evidence.

By the time the seventies had rolled around, UFO stories were permanently consigned to the back pages next to the horoscope column. Except for local, small town papers, the news media rarely reports UFO sightings. When they do, the subject is presented as a "feature story," not to be taken seriously. In large metropolitan newspapers, the occasional UFO report that does get printed is usually restricted to the paper's entertainment section.

There has been one recent exception to this trend and that was the November 7, 2006 sighting of a UFO over O'Hare Airport in Chicago. Although it was not until January 1, 2007 that the Chicago Tribune decided to run a report about the O'Hare incident, when the story did finally hit the Tribune's pages, the story was intelligently written with none of the condescending attitude or editorializing that usually accompanies UFO reports.

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### **A Few Brave Souls**

Some journalists have taken on the challenge of serious UFO investigations. Unfortunately, many have suffered setbacks in their careers as a result of their research. Others have been ignored or permanently ostracized. One such journalist, who was not afraid of the stigma of reporting on UFOs, was White House correspondent Sarah McClendon who covered the White House beat for over 50 years. As an independent freelance reporter, McClendon provided a strong and assertive role model for journalists by asking controversial and provocative questions.

In 1998, McClendon reported in her newspaper column, newsletter and radio commentary about the call from Ufologists and enthusiasts for government disclosure on UFOs and the establishment of a global scientific conference on the subject. McClendon said, "The lid on UFOs is gradually coming off. There is a national drive to get one million signatures on a petition calling for an open Congressional hearing for government employee witnesses."

A March 30, 1998 press release from McClendon stated that, "Unidentified Flying Objects, a term given for many years to unexplained sightings of craft in the skies over every state in the Union, are actual visitors from other worlds, believe a community of scientists and technicians employed by government.

"The real danger to the U.S. and perhaps this whole planet is the government has placed such a heavy blanket of secrecy upon this issue. So much secrecy, those in government who have knowledge showing UFOs are identifiable feel the subject cannot be discussed by those in the know without serious repercussions. Others are afraid their friends and co workers will think they are crazy if they even so much as insinuate that UFOs are identifiable as manned craft from outside the earth. This particularly applies to newspaper editors and publishers, reporters and analysts. Thus the U.S. is denying itself the chance to learn more about UFOs or to encourage research despite the fact the United States stands to gain from such discussions."

Other reporters have put their reputations on the line by trying to report on UFOs, only to find their efforts unexpectedly thwarted.

In a recent article entitled: More Proof Of Media UFO Coverup, reporter Greg Boone recounted his UFO experience while employed at the Poughkeepsie Journal newspaper in New York State. On August 25 1985, Boone, along with 10 other newsmen, received word from a photographer that a huge, boomerang-shaped UFO was slowly flying over the area.

The photographer stated that the craft was headed south and it might be visible from the third-floor office windows. The ten journalists rushed to the windows and watched in amazement as a dark shape with amber and red lights and about 100ft above the ground, slowly approached their building.

"This thing got HUGE and believe it or not flew right over top of us by about 40 ft," Boone recalled. "It had to be 200ft wide and was jet black."

Boone and his colleagues were certain that they had the story of the century.

"We had access to AP, Gannett etc. and USA Today which we mainly put out. Nope. Word came down from on high that not one word was to be mentioned. Solid object, hovered, maneuvered, seen by tens of thousands, pictures taken, and no mention anywhere.

"The next day, some 'menacing' chaps showed up in our editorial office. I got in trouble for staring back just as menacingly. That night at the local watering hole where I would sit and do sketches after work another big menacing fellow waltzes in with a stack of papers and pictures eight inches high. Slams them on the bar and bellows a threat: 'So! Somebody in here wanted to talk about UFOs?'

"He made a big mistake. My high school and college chums were at the bar that night and were just as big and menacing. He was ceremoniously ushered out of the bar by about 3,000 pounds of very angry citizens."

### **Press Blackouts**

Even though it has been denied, there is no doubt that the military and other government agencies have been responsible at times for press blackouts concerning UFO sightings. Government orders to silence the press about UFOs are not, however, contained strictly within the United States. In 1996, a top-level BBC executive let slip that there is a D-Notice (black-out) on media reporting of black triangle UFOs. The executive, who has kept his identity hidden, is the former producer of a popular BBC science program. He told one investigator that the black triangle UFO has been "heavily D-Noticed" by the British government. Consequently the BBC will not be reporting on the strange UFO, no matter how many witness reports they receive.

According to the former producer, the reason the government has seen fit to slap a restrictive notice on reporting about the UFO is because the government has quietly informed the BBC that the craft is part of a new secret military project and is protected under the secrecy laws.

In the United States the press has become "self-policing" when it comes to serious, investigative reports on the UFO phenomena. Rarely will the larger media outlets in the major markets allow anything but the silliest UFO stories to reach the public. On the rare occasion that a legitimate UFO related story does make the headlines, more often than not, the reporter will add personal opinions to the piece in an attempt to save face and invoke the "giggle factor."

### **It's All Just One Big Joke**

A good example of this was science writer Lee Dye's July 1, 1998 column on the ABC News web site. Dye's column dealt with the Laurance Rockefeller funded 50 page report that called for reexamination of UFO evidence. The report, issued by an international panel of nine scientists, focused on physical phenomena such as photographs, radar readings and biological effects of UFO incidents and was highly supported by astrophysicist Peter Sturrock of Stanford University.



Dye writes that, "No matter how carefully such a report is worded, it can't help but lend credibility to those who claim we've been visited by ETs. That isn't the point of the report, of course, but by calling for better scientific scrutiny of such claims, Sturrock and the other scientists have exposed themselves to the 'giggle syndrome.' The next time he attends a scientific symposium; he can expect a few snickers when he walks in the room.

"In interviews with reporters after the study was released, Sturrock said life probably abounds throughout the universe, but 'most physicists believe it is quite impossible to travel from one star to another.' Most physicists? What about him? All he's willing to say is let's take another look at the evidence. OK, but no giggling."

Clearly, Dye has interjected his own personal opinions on the subject rather than reporting on the story objectively. This is the real underlying problem when it comes to impartial reporting on UFOs. Many journalists feel that the subject is just "too weird" to warrant real investigation. Instead, most take the low road of journalism and turn their stories into humorous pieces that ridicules everyone involved, no matter how impressive their credentials are.

### **Taking Responsibility**

Tom Burch, in his article: *Opinions Disguised as News*, writes, "The UFO phenomenon is newsworthy and deserves professional news coverage. There are many more angles to the UFO subject than the news media seems to recognize. This in itself is weighty evidence to suggest that the news media is fundamentally ignorant of the facts relating to the UFO issue. For example, the media fails to sense that there is more substance to the UFO controversy than just the question of whether or not extraterrestrials are visiting our Earth. While the answer to this question has a most profound significance to us all if the answer is 'yes,' it is not the only question being asked by UFO investigators."

Burch goes on to write that the very persistence of the UFO controversy is newsworthy in itself.

"The UFO debate merits news coverage because both sides of the UFO dispute are articulated by highly credentialed spokespersons from science, industry, and academia. Each side in the dispute has something to say. Each side has inherent strengths and weaknesses in its argument. Both the proponents and opponents in the UFO controversy deserve equal time in a public forum, and the American people deserve access to it. The public does have a right to know."

To be fair, the study of UFO reports is fraught with problems for the media. In order to present a story fairly and accurately, a journalist must have concrete, verifiable evidence. As any responsible UFO researcher will tell you, solid evidence for the physical reality of UFOs has been hard to come by. Despite the thousands, maybe millions, of UFO sightings over the decades, the evidence that has been uncovered so far has been mostly anecdotal. Even when solid evidence has been brought forward, such as the mysterious metal parts said to be from a crashed flying saucer and sent to radio talk show host Art Bell, there are still many unanswered questions that would prevent most journalists from taking on such a controversial story.

Perhaps the time will come when a courageous newspaper editor or national television news director will decide to take the time and effort to conduct a real, objective investigational report on UFOs. Until then, the press will continue to avoid their responsibility by bombarding the public with soft, silly stories about little green men from outer space and the interesting people who always seem to encounter them.

### **Sources:**

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1998 Inner Light Publications/Global Communications

The UFO encyclopedia Edited by John Spencer, 1991 Avon Books New York

More Proof Of Media UFO Coverup By Greg Boone, [www.rense.com/general42/coverup.htm](http://www.rense.com/general42/coverup.htm)

How the TV Networks Treat UFOs by Robert Barrow, 1977 Argosy UFO Special

## **KEEPING IT** **LIGHT**

Special thanks to **Connie O'Very** of **Mi-MUFON** for the "musical aliens"

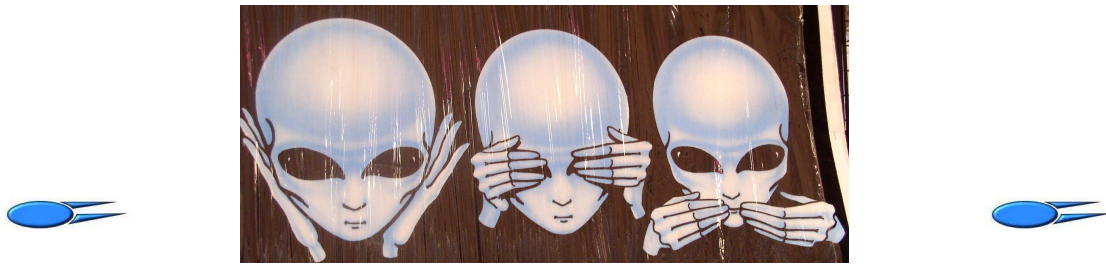


Alright you. Apologize to the nice farmer for ruining all his crops with those stupid circles!

### About the Author:

Tim Swartz is an Emmy-Award winning television producer and videographer. As a photojournalist, Tim Swartz has traveled the world investigating paranormal phenomena and other unusual mysteries. Swartz is also the author of a number of popular books including *The Lost Journals of Nikola Tesla*, and is the writer and editor of the Internet newsletter *Conspiracy Journal*.

Source: <http://uforeview.tripod.com/ufosandpress.html>



## Galaxy Has “Billions of Earths”

**There could be one hundred billion Earth-like planets in our galaxy, a US conference has heard.**

Dr Alan Boss of the Carnegie Institution of Science said many of these worlds could be inhabited by simple life forms.

He was speaking at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Chicago. So far, telescopes have been able to detect just over 300 planets outside our Solar System.

Very few of these would be capable of supporting life, however. Most are gas giants like our Jupiter, and many orbit so close to their parent stars that any microbes would have to survive roasting temperatures.

But, based on the limited numbers of planets found so far, Dr Boss has estimated that each Sun-like star has on average one "Earth-like" planet.

This simple calculation means there would be huge numbers capable of supporting life.

"Not only are they probably habitable but they probably are also going to be inhabited," Dr Boss told BBC News. "But I think that most likely the nearby 'Earths' are going to be inhabited with things which are perhaps more common to what Earth was like three or four billion years ago." That means bacterial life forms.

Dr Boss estimates that NASA's Kepler mission, due for launch in March, should begin finding some of these Earth-like planets within the next few years.

Recent work at Edinburgh University tried to quantify how many intelligent civilizations might be out there. The research suggested there could be thousands of them.

Story from BBC NEWS: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/7891132.stm>

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## WE ARE NOT ALONE



Tune in to David Twichell's one-hour radio talk show, **"We Are Not Alone"** on **WHFR**, broadcast from Henry Ford Community College (**89.3 FM**).

**James Gilliland** (The Gilliland Ranch in Trout Lake, WA) will be the guest on **May 2, 2009**. Author and MUFON Consultant **Dr. Joye Jeffries Pugh** will be the guest on **June 6, 2009**.

Tune in on the **first Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM (EST)** with a new show each month.

Out of the area? Go to: <http://whfr.fm/index.php> and click on **"Listen Live now"**. The latest shows are now archived. Click on **"The Forum"** button on WHFR's Homepage and click on the earliest date of each month.

# MUFON 2009 Symposium - August 6-9, 2009 Denver, Colorado

## Schedule of Events - (Silent Auction: All Weekend)

Thursday, August 6, 2009 Field Investigator Training Workshops all day

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Workshop Registration
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM	<b>Jan Harzan</b> – MUFON's 10 Step Investigation Process in Detail
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>Jude Talaba</b> – CMS Basics
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	<b>Debbie Ziegelmeyer and Chuck Zukowski</b> – Field Work Basics
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH - ON YOUR OWN
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<b>Marc D'Antonio</b> - Photo and Video Analysis Basics Every Investigator Should Know
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	<b>Chuck Modlin</b> - Field Investigator Equipment—Far Out Gadgets
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	<b>Richard Lang</b> - Witness Interview Techniques
4:45 PM - 5:45 PM	<b>Marc D'Antonio</b> - Astronomy 101 for Field Investigators

Friday, August 7, 2009

### **Friday, August 7 – Morning/Afternoon**

8:00 AM	Registration starts
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	State Directors Meeting
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	MUFON Business Board Meets with State Directors
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Press Conference</b>
11:30 AM – 3:00 PM	MUFON Business Board Meets
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>Benefactor Reception</b>
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Cocktail Hour (cash bar)

### **Friday, August 7 - Evening**

6:00 PM	Symposium Opening
6:15 PM – 7:15 PM	<b>Stanton Friedman</b> —Pseudoscience of Anti-Ufology
<b>Dinner and Program (Meal requires advance reservation) MUFON 40th Anniversary Celebration Party!</b>	
7:30 PM – 8:45 PM	Dinner/Speaker:
8:45 PM – 9:30 PM	Awards Program: <b>MUFON Award for Excellence in Ufology</b>

Saturday, August 8, 2009

### **Saturday, August 8 – Morning**

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	<b>Dr. Frank Salisbury</b> —Reflections of an Old UFO Chaser
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	<b>John Ventre</b> — UFOs Over Pennsylvania
12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM	Luncheon – (Meals by advance reservation)- <b>John Greenewald</b> Project Preserve History

### **Saturday, August 8 – Afternoon**

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	<b>Dr. Jeffrey Bennett</b> — Beyond UFOs: The Scientific Search for Extraterrestrial Life
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	<b>Ted Phillips</b> —Dramatic Changes in Trace/Landing Events
4:45 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner Break (On your own)

### **Saturday, August 8– Evening**

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	<b>Marc D'Antonio</b> —How to Talk to a Skeptic About UFOs
8:30 PM – 9:45 PM	<b>Dr. Kevin Randle</b> - Moving Ufology into a Scientific Arena

Sunday, August 9, 2009

### **Sunday, August 9 – Morning**

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	<b>Peter Robbins</b> —Politics, Religion and Human Nature: Roadblocks on the Path to Disclosure
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	<b>Chris Rutkowski</b> —20-year Longitudinal Study of Canadian UFOs
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Break (On your own). <b>MUFON State Directors Luncheon</b>

### **Sunday, August 9 – Afternoon**

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM	<b>Bruce Maccabee</b> —A 35 Year Perspective on UFO Photo Investigation
2:30 PM – 3:45 PM	<b>James Carrion</b> - New Research Avenues for Ufology
4:00 PM—5:00 PM	<b>Speaker Panel</b> - moderated by John Greenewald
5:00 PM—5:30 PM	2010 MUFON International Symposium Announcement and Closing

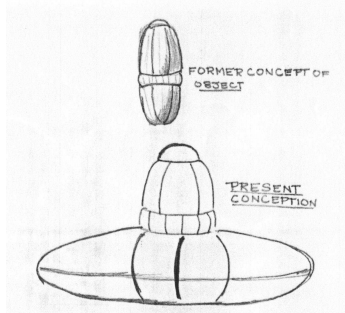
**Go to <http://mufon.com/symposia.htm> to make reservations.**





# Two Fascinating “Michigan Wave of 1966” Reports

## Bill Murphy's Column



Recently I was scouring old N.I.C.A.P. and Blue Book cases from the 1965-1966 UFO “Wave” that really picked up in Michigan with the famous March 17-20, 1966 “swamp gas” cases. These much-less-known cases contradict one of the favorite themes of debunkers -- that spectacular initial cases shape what later observers will see and report. In both instances, the witnesses provided carefully-drawn sketches of the objects that they saw, as well as the locales in which the sightings occurred.

Case #1 – Northwest of Manistique, October 7, 1966, approximately 9:30 pm, a single witness sighting, and October 8, 1966, about 8 pm, approximately 14 witnesses, of apparently the same object. Unfortunately, the initial letter to Blue Book of October 10, 1966, was misfiled for a year and a half, and we can imagine how chagrined Dr. Hynek was when he chanced upon this first report. Hynek wrote to the young man for more details, particularly about the second sighting (as Hynek always valued multiple-witness events far more than those by single percipients), and also whether his respondent had come to a satisfactory explanation for what he’d seen, such as a helicopter.

While coming home on evening of October 7, the single witness saw what looked like a helicopter hovering about 70 feet over the birch and pine trees. Yet, as the young man approached, he could detect no helicopter-like sound, and began to make out what looked like a bullet, but about 13 to 16 feet tall, and 12 to 14 feet wide. Its sharper end had a series of three rotating lights of red, green, and fluorescent blue. A yellow glow ringed the object about its middle. The lower half of the “bullet” had identical lights to those of the upper half, “except the lights rotated to the left”. This apparition in itself was highly unusual and unhelicopter-like, but then the object did something even more outrageous; “All at once the object took off at jet speed and disappeared over the trees past our house.”

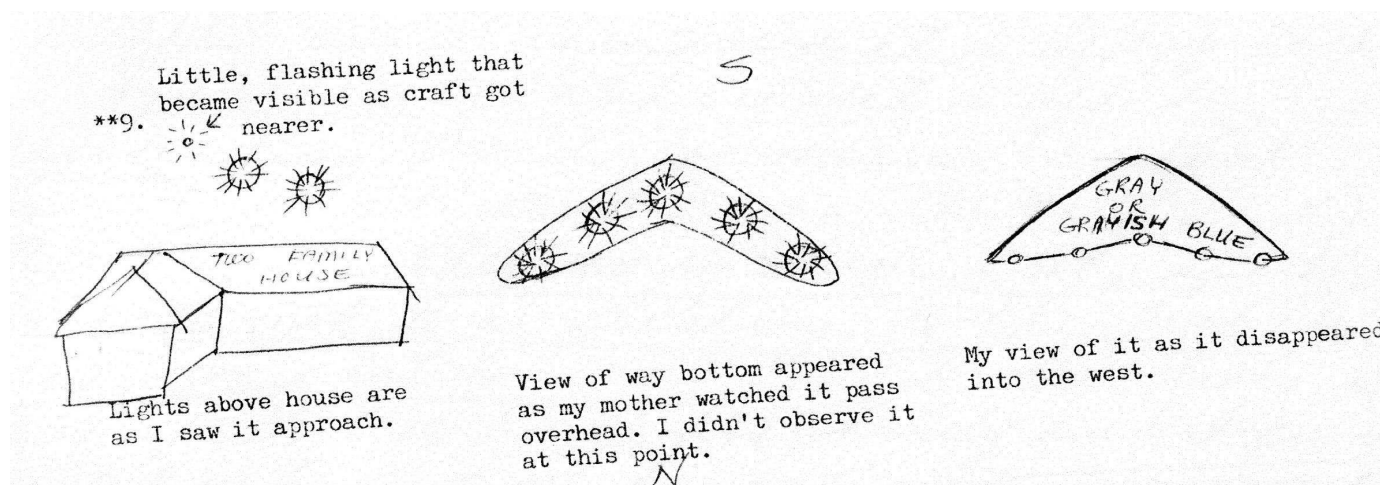
The next evening at about 8 pm a group of young people were gathered in front of a store at a corner where two roads joined to form one, when the reporter’s brother first saw the object, bobbing up and down and pulsating red, blue, and yellowish, at an altitude between 500 and 1000 feet. The thing appeared as about the size of a golf ball held at arm’s length. When the reporting witness tried to approach the object, he thought “it reacted as an animal would”, so he retreated, and he and his companions decided to stay still and observe the thing from where they were. Suddenly, one of the girls got so scared that she ran home, precipitating a general exodus from the scene. The young man said he maintained his vigil for about ten minutes more, then he himself ran home to tell

his parents. In the meantime two other parents had been apprised of the situation and gone out to see the thing, one of them commenting “I don’t know what it is, but it sure isn’t a helicopter.” Another of the kids had come back outside, and watched the craft disappear behind the trees across the street from his home. He claimed that he then saw blue lights out in the woods, and heard what sounded like bird calls, and also sounds like dogs yelping and whining as if they had been hurt. This individual then went back into his house.

Later on, the reporting witness says at about 9:30, he decided to see whether the object was still around, so he went back to the corner where all the excitement had started. Since he now saw nothing, the young man decided to return home, but, as he turned, he heard a loud crack from behind. Wheeling about, the astonished youth saw the object rise from out of the woods where his friend had seen the thing descend. The craft ascended about 20 feet above the trees, thus to a height of about 80 to 110 feet above the ground, then it passed over the road and hovered over one of the homes for about a minute. The family inside claimed that at that point their radio went completely to static. Finally, the main craft was joined by a smaller object coming from out of the west, and the two aerial objects left the scene.

The family whose house was closest to these atmospheric cavortings claimed that new shingles on their roof showed signs of melting down the rain troughs of their home. The reporting witness also claimed that trees across from this house had been scorched on their upper branches. The witnesses and a State Policeman checked the area for further evidence, and learned from workers at the local airport that there had been no flights in or out during that night. While some residents thought the families may have seen helicopters that were working on a pipeline across the lake, the witnesses were adamant that they had seen the objects on their side of the lake, and their description of what they had seen did not match that of a helicopter. In the two years since his sighting, the reporting witness had come to feel that the form of the primary object may have had more of an oval shape, with an extended cupola, and that the angle from which it had been observed had hidden its true form. Whether this was so, or whether the reconstruction had over time been unconsciously altered to that of a “classic” domed disc, is an interesting but likely unanswerable question.

In the close of his first letter to Dr. Hynek, the witness wrote "I have taken into consideration the swamp gas and the recent plasma theory, but as I think you will agree, [they] do not fit this object."



**Sketch of object witnessed in the Plainwell, Michigan case (above)**

Case #2 – Southwest of Plainwell, October 22, 1966, 6:00 or 6:30 PM: A woman was returning her mother to the latter's home at dusk one evening. Though the sun had retired, the clear sky still held a hint of blue and the horizon a tinge of orange. As they, along with the niece of the daughter-reporter, drove up the driveway, the daughter chanced to see two extremely bright "stars" rapidly descending and approaching from out of the east. Since the other half of the duplex house was owned by the mother's son, the brother of the reporting witness, the younger woman called out to her nephew, who was outside, to get his father. For the aerial display was nearer and now included a small, sparkly and flashing light to the left of the bigger, brighter lights, tilting on descent, then leveling off, as if it were an airplane approaching for a landing. This pushed the object into the realm of the unusual, for there was only a small airport in the vicinity, and that was located north of town, well away from this phenomenon's flight path. The brother was not home, but his wife rushed out and peered upwards, immediately identifying the apparition as a helicopter. A loud rumbling sound, like that produced by a low-flying jet, was also noted, and this may have contributed to the sensibleness of this first identification. But, while the two younger women were conversing, the older woman watched the display pass directly overhead, making a slight arc to the north as it passed over the house. The mother saw what she thought was no helicopter, but rather a boomerang-shaped craft with about five bright lights running the length of its bottom, with the middle light in the point of the "V". The reporting witness then turned her attention back to what was happening overhead, but the object had already gone past, curving back towards a dead-west course. The glimpse the younger woman now got was also of a boomerang or flat-spearhead-shaped solid craft, with about five very dim red and green lights across its rear. To her these lights seemed to be green, and steady, not blinking. While watching the craft disappear (the whole event taking an estimated 10-20 seconds), the witness thought she detected a grayish or bluish-gray hue to the thing, but she allowed that "watching something disappear against a sunset makes for uncertainty about the color." She was certain that the object was not glowing, however, and maintained that the front lights she saw, and those that her mother noted on the bottom of the craft, were no color other than that of a star.

The reporter demonstrated considerable discrimination in her handwritten report. She was seeking answers, rather than publicity – "to the contrary I even feel a little silly and embarrassed writing to you at all." But her curiosity was piqued especially since "in all the articles I have read I don't recollect one mentioning a shape like this and tho't [sic] you want to know of any new information." She asked whether this country (or any other, for that matter), had any new aircraft fitting that description, or whether she had actually observed a UFO. The woman included a sketch with her initial handwritten letter, and it appears that she followed up with an official NICAP report, including a rather impressive sketch, with views from several different perspectives, of the course of the object and its varied appearances. She allowed as how her time, distance, and speed estimates might be questionable – in fact, she did give an outside guess at up to two minutes' duration for the entire episode, although she highly doubted that length. In all, five people saw something whose outline ran against the conventions of that era, but would become a common feature in the 1970s and beyond.

Thanks go to Linda Murphy for the heavy lifting of scanning and cropping of pictures in this article.



# UFO Enthusiasts May Sue NASA for Fraud

Mar 19 2009, by Jaime L. Hartman

The U.S. space agency NASA may want to brace itself for a flood of lawsuits in small claims courts. The idea was floated at the recent International UFO Congress and supporters will again promote it at the X-Conference next month.

Small claims courts, similar to the ones popularized on television shows like the People's Court, are usually the domain of neighbor disputes over minor property issues. Citizens can file suit against another person, business, government, or other entity for an amount not to exceed hundreds or thousands of dollars, depending on the state or county statute. Attorneys are not allowed for either the plaintiff or defendant.

So what beef do UFO hunters have with NASA? They claim that the space agency is committing fraud by altering or destroying photographic evidence it has of signs of life in other planetary systems. Part of NASA's official mission is to "Look for signs of life in other planetary systems" and the agency receives over \$17 billion a year in taxpayer funding to accomplish that mission. Supporters of the small claims idea say that this is "waste, fraud and abuse" because it keeps asking for the money every year while "pretending" that it hasn't found anything.

Jeff Peckman, of the Denver UFO Examiner, explained the reasoning using his hometown as an example:

*...the portion of NASA funding coming from Denver taxpayers amounts to over \$30 million each year. That might seem small compared to the Federal budget and even the Denver city budget. But it's almost daily news that city budgets like Denver are cutting \$1 million here and there from programs to help the homeless, children, people with special needs, law enforcement and more.*

*NASA's bloated and wasteful budget could be better spent locally to help individuals and communities. The alleged fraud NASA has engaged in by doctoring or destroying UFO photos is just a small piece of the bigger picture. But it's a piece that citizens can use to get at least one government agency into the light of closer public scrutiny.*

The claim that NASA is hiding the truth about aliens isn't just an idea of sci-fi fans who emerge from their mother's basement just once a year for gatherings of like-minded fanatics. A 77-year-old former NASA astronaut, Dr. Edgar Mitchell, who was a crewmember of the Apollo 14 mission, says he knows that NASA is well aware of visits to earth by "little people who look strange to us."

NASA's response was not surprisingly concise and authoritative: "NASA does not track UFOs. NASA is not involved in any sort of cover up about alien life on this planet or anywhere in the universe. Dr. Mitchell is a great American, but we do not share his opinions on this issue."

Source: [http://ohmygov.com/blogs/general\\_news/archive/2009/03/19/ufo-enthusiasts-may-sue-nasa-for-fraud.aspx](http://ohmygov.com/blogs/general_news/archive/2009/03/19/ufo-enthusiasts-may-sue-nasa-for-fraud.aspx)



## YouTube Leads To Capture Of N.J. UFO Pranksters

Morris County Prosecutor: 2 Men Documented January Balloon & Flare Hoax, Which Led Directly To Downfall.

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (CBS) — It wasn't exactly a close encounter.

April 3, 2009

It turns out the mysterious red lights that hovered over Morris County, N.J. back in January were really the work of two men with too much time on their hands.

It wasn't exactly a close encounter. It turns out the red lights seen in the skies over Morris County, N.J. back in January were part of a hoax, CBS station WCBS-TV reports.



What do you get with five flares, fishing line and helium balloons? That's the red light riddle that had everyone in Morris County talking and thinking they were seeing UFOs. But prosecutors said Thursday it was the work of two men with too much time on their hands.

The men now charged in the out-of-this-world stunt made it easy for police to get a hold of them. They posted all their plans for their bizarre red light riddle online.

The mysterious red lights that had county residents thinking they were being visited by aliens was no UFO. Police said it was a hoax concocted by two New Jersey men and they recorded their entire scheme.

"We're out in the woods again. This is Joe Rudy and Chris Russo. It's Jan 29, about 7 o'clock. About to fill up the first balloon. ..." goes the YouTube video.

Police said earlier this year 28-year-old Rudy and 29-year-old Russo lit red flares and sent them airborne with helium balloons and then posed as concerned residents calling local television stations for attention. Police said Rudy and Russo pulled off



the scam multiple times in January and February. They posted their activities on YouTube -- and that's exactly how they got caught.

"People who generally do stuff like this will not be satisfied with just a couple people knowing. They get it out there," Morris County Prosecutor Robert Bianchi said. "It's not surprising to me that they would have posted it on YouTube and posted it on the Internet. And we expected that would happen and in fact it did."

And in this case many were fooled, but prosecutors said the joke is over. They're grateful no one was hurt. "In fact, they knew there were certain risks both to air flight, fire risks associated with what they were doing and I think clearly now they recognize that even more," Bianchi said.

The men stopped the hoax after Bianchi issued a statement asking the then-unknown balloon launchers to put an end to it. The prosecutor said the fact that they did stop led to a less severe charge against them. They have been charged with disorderly conduct.

Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/watercooler/strange.lights.ufo.2.975059.html>

Thanks to MiMUFON member Fred Varner for submitting this article.



## Former Astronaut: Man Not Alone in Universe

(CNN) -- Earth Day may fall later this week, but as far as former NASA astronaut Edgar Mitchell and other UFO enthusiasts are concerned, the real story is happening elsewhere.

Mitchell, who was part of the 1971 Apollo 14 moon mission, asserted Monday that extraterrestrial life exists, and that the truth is being concealed by the U.S. and other governments. He delivered his remarks during an appearance at the National Press Club following the conclusion of the fifth annual X-Conference, a meeting of UFO activists and researchers studying the possibility of alien life forms.

Mankind has long wondered if we're "alone in the universe. [But] only in our period do we really have evidence. No, we're not alone," Mitchell said. "Our destiny, in my opinion, and we might as well get started with it, is [to] become a part of the planetary community. We should be ready to reach out beyond our planet and beyond our solar system to find out what is really going on out there."

Mitchell grew up in Roswell, New Mexico, which some UFO believers maintain was the site of a UFO crash in 1947. He said residents of his hometown "had been hushed and told not to talk about their experience by military authorities." They had been warned of "dire consequences" if they did so.



Former Astronaut Edgar Mitchell

But, he claimed, they "didn't want to go to the grave with their story. They wanted to tell somebody reliable. And being a local boy and having been to the moon, they considered me reliable enough to whisper in my ear their particular story."

Roughly 10 years ago, Mitchell claimed, he was finally given an appointment at Pentagon to discuss what he had been told. An unnamed admiral working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff promised to uncover the truth behind the Roswell story, Mitchell said. The stories of a UFO crash "were confirmed," but the admiral was then denied access when he "tried to get into the inner workings of that process." The same admiral, Mitchell claimed, now denies the story.

"I urge those who are doubtful: Read the books, read the lore, start to understand what has really been going on. Because there really is no doubt we are being visited," he said. "The universe that we live in is much more wondrous, exciting, complex and far-reaching than we were ever able to know up to this point in time."

A NASA spokesman denied any cover-up. "NASA does not track UFOs. NASA is not involved in any sort of cover-up about alien life on this planet or anywhere else -- period," Michael Cabbage said Monday.

Debates have continued about what happened at Roswell. The U.S. Air Force said in 1994 that wreckage recovered there in 1947 was most likely from a balloon-launched classified government project.

Stephen Bassett, head of the Paradigm Research Group (PRG), which hosted the X-Conference, said that the truth about extraterrestrial life is being suppressed because it is politically explosive. "There is a third rail [in American politics], and that is the UFO question. It is many magnitudes more radioactive than Social Security ever dreamed to be," Bassett said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/04/20/ufo.conference/index.html#cnnSTCText>



# Canada Opens Secret UFO Files

Editor's Note: The article below is an example of the many documents now being made public by Canada's government as more and more countries open their once TOP SECRET files to the world. Go to <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ufo/index-e.html>

## Shirley's Bay, Ontario

### Project Magnet, 1952

In 1950, a senior radio engineer from the Department of Transport, Wilbert B. Smith, made a request to his superiors to make use of a laboratory and the department's field facilities in a study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and the physical principles connected to them. Smith spearheaded Project Magnet with the purpose of studying, among other occurrences, magnetic phenomena, which he believed would open up a new and useful technology.

The goals of Project Magnet were fueled by the concepts of geomagnetism, and the belief that it may be possible to use and manipulate the Earth's magnetic field as a propulsion method for vehicles. Tests conducted by Smith were reported in November 1951 and they stated that sufficient energy was abstracted from the Earth's field to operate a voltmeter at approximately 50 milliwatts. Smith believed he was on the "track of something that may prove to be the introduction to a new technology." Smith believed that there was a correlation between his studies and investigations into UFOs: "...the existence of a different technology is borne out by the investigations which are being carried on at the present time in relation to flying saucers.... I feel that the correlation between our basic theory and the available information on saucers checks too closely to be mere coincidence" (Smith, *Geo-Magnetics*, Department of Transport, November 21, 1950).

It was believed by both Smith and other government departments involved, that there was much to learn from UFOs. Investigations into these sightings and interviews with the observers were the starting point for Project Magnet.

In connection with the establishment of Project Magnet, members of other government agencies formed a committee solely dedicated to "flying saucer" reports. This committee was sponsored by the Defense Research Board and called "Project Second Story." Its main purpose was to collect, catalogue and correlate data from UFO sighting reports. The committee created a questionnaire and interrogator's instruction guide. The reporting method used a system intended to minimize the 'personal equation'. In other words, a weighting factor was created to measure the probability of truth in each report. Smith explained that most UFO sightings fit into two general types: "those about which we know something, and those which we know very little."

In a summary of 1952 sighting reports, Smith noted common significant characteristics of UFOs: "They are a hundred feet or more in diameter; they can travel at speeds of several thousand miles per hour; they can reach altitudes well above those which should support conventional air craft or balloons; and ample power and force seem to be available for all required maneuvers" (Smith, Project Magnet report, 1952, p. 6).

In his closing, Smith stated, "Taking these factors into account, it is difficult to reconcile this performance with the capabilities of our technology, and unless the technology of some terrestrial nation is much more advanced than is generally known, we are forced to the conclusion that the vehicles are probably extra-terrestrial, in spite of our prejudices to the contrary." (Smith, Project Magnet report, 1952, p. 6).

Smith summed up the possibilities of studying the technology of these vehicles, and suggested that the next steps in the Project Magnet investigation should be a "substantial effort towards the acquisition of as much as possible of this technology, which would without doubt be of great value to us" (Smith, Project Magnet report, 1952).

It was with these goals in mind that Smith set up an observatory in Shirley's Bay, Ontario, 10 miles outside of Ottawa. Based on the conclusions of the 1952 sighting report, Smith thought that these vehicles would emit physical characteristics that could be measured. In October of 1952, he set up the observatory to attempt to measure magnetic or radio noise disturbances. Many more sighting reports were investigated by Project Magnet, but in 1954, the project was shut down.



Senator Barry M. Goldwater, Sr., (R-Arizona), Republican presidential candidate (1964). In a letter to researcher Shlomo Arnon, dated March 28, 1975, he stated:

"The subject of UFOs is one that has interested me for some long time. About ten or twelve years ago, I made an effort to find out what was in the building at Wright Patterson Air Force Base where the information is stored that has been collected by the Air Force, and I was understandably denied the request. It is still classified above Top Secret. I have, however, heard that there is a plan under way to release some, if not all, of this material in the near future. I'm just as anxious to see this material as you are, and I hope we will not have to wait too much longer."

(Good, T., *Above Top Secret*, New York: Quill William Morrow, 1988; Frontispiece.)

## **Michigan MUFON State Section Directors Meeting Minutes March 15, 2009**

The March 15th State meeting was held at Walli's Restaurant in Flint, Michigan.

Bill Konkolesky, State Director, called the Section Directors' meeting to order at 4:35 PM. In attendance were David Twichell, Darlene and David Bleicher, Patty Donahue, Gary Golem and Wendy Smith.

Bill opened the meeting with his thoughts on the collaboration between MUFON International and Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Sciences, LLC. (BAASS). He feels that the decision in this matter belongs to the International Director, James Carrion, and any state that does not agree with the collaboration is free to not participate.

Gary reported a Michigan investigation involving two people who claim that they are human/alien hybrids. He questioned whether BAASS/MUFON would be interested in testing their DNA, and possibly surgically removing the implants the couple also claims. The subjects state they have a five-page letter written by a group of hybrids, confirming their claims. David Twichell noted that Dr. Roger Leir has in the past received funding from BAASS for implant removal surgery. Gary will arrange an interview with the couple.

Bill commented on there has been positive progress toward the formation of the MUFON Advocacy Group, a forum for State Directors established by James Carrion.

David Twichell reported that he can mail the Newsletters folded in thirds in envelopes that cost \$0.59 to mail, instead of \$1.00, the current rate when the Newsletter is folded in half.

David Bleicher reported that the MIMUFON library had double to triple the normal lending activity during today's meeting.

Wendy reported that the day's attendance was 52 people, including 16 attending their first meeting. Two others also declined lunch and paid \$5.00.

Patty reported that the MIMUFON store sold \$54.00 worth of merchandise.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy Smith, April 2, 2009.



## **SGRA's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual ParaCon**

The Smoking Gun Research Agency is counting down the days to its Paranormal Conference in Connecticut. Friday, June 5 - Sunday, June 7, 2009 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Milford, Connecticut.

This year's conference is particularly special for the SGRA because it marks the 10th year the organization has hosted this event. The goal of the three-day conference is to bring together many fields of paranormal research, including UFOs, Ghosts, Metaphysics, Cryptozoology, and Government Conspiracies, all under one roof. There is always something for everyone at ParaCon. Presenters at this year's conference include Philip Imbrogno and Nicholas Roesler (UFOs), Mark Mihalko (Cryptozoology), Jon Nowinski (Government Investigations), Thomas Cooney and Diane Bajorinas (Ghosts), Dr. Andrew Neblett and Mandy Oram (Metaphysics), and others to be added soon.

Activities include workshops, New Age vendors featuring unique gifts, three movie screenings, two panel discussions, and much more! As with every year, admission to the presentations, workshops, and vendor area of the conference is free.

For those who aren't able to make it to the conference, there are still ways to tune in. The SGRA puts together a "Virtual ParaCon" section of their dynamic website that is available during the conference. In that area visitors can read live blog updates, frequently updated photographs, video and audio interviews, and other exclusive online content. Additionally, the conference Program Book, as well as DVDs of all presentations, are available through the SGRA's online store.

More information can be found at [www.sgra.org](http://www.sgra.org) or [www.sgra.org/paracon/](http://www.sgra.org/paracon/)

\*Special Note: MUFON Members always receive a 10% discount on conference tickets or items.

**JON NOWINSKI: SMOKING GUN RESEARCH AGENCY DIRECTOR**  
**203-247-0310 | [www.sgra.org](http://www.sgra.org) | [jon@sgra.org](mailto:jon@sgra.org)**  
**Truth, Fact, & Understanding**

# Recent Michigan Sightings

Reported: April 12, 2009. Date of event: September 2007.

Sweeping the deck, heard a faint humming noise off to my right. Went to check it out and I saw what I described above. The odd thing about it was that it was so huge but was hardly moving. I called 911 - I don't think they believed me and I had my husband come out to take a look. We watched it for quite awhile then just went back inside. It was still there when I looked out to see if it was gone. I didn't know what to think of it or I would have taken a picture. We just kept trying to figure out what it was. We think it may be something from the government or a practice run for some new airplane. Who knows?

All I know is that is was HUGE and flying very low and very still. It was black, triangular in shape and humming. The lights were not symmetrical in placement- 2 on the left and 3 on the right. We live in the country and it was just about at the level of some trees on the hill so it was hanging very low.

Could you shed some light? Really interested in your thoughts.

Jackson, MI March 22, 2009. 10:15 PM

My Daughter and I were driving west on I-94 in Jackson last night at approximately, 10:15. As we approached the exit ramp onto Airport road, we saw three spectacular flashes of a white silvery light. The lights lasted approximately 3 to 4 seconds and as each light blinked out it would reappear in a different location going up and down and side to side as the lights were heading in an easterly direction. As we looked back in just a millisecond the lights just shot off and disappeared. Me and my daughter just looked at each other as if we had seen a ghost and were pretty shook up at what we had just witnessed.

Thanks to MUFON CMS for the preceding two accounts.

Occurred : 3/17/2009 00:00. Location: Grand Rapids, MI

Shape: Disk. Duration:45 minutes

I went outside just before midnight, to smoke a cigarette and looked up at the stars and saw a formation of 5 golden lights speeding across the sky West/northwest. I stared in disbelief, then I saw two more reddish golden disks flying (one slightly behind the other) much lower and extremely fast. I started backpedaling and tapped on the window to the room where my fiancé was and before she came out I saw five more heading northwest. By the time she came outside they were gone, but I just said, look at the stars...then bam, 3 more just flew West right then. We witnessed a few more flying west and then I called my parents (looking at my phone. I believe it was 12:07 when I called my mom and I talked to her for 11 minutes about what I was seeing). My phone wasn't working first, but just as it finally started ringing and she answers, (she lives in Kalamazoo Michigan) two more flew over heading due west completely silent and extremely fast. I witnessed 3 more formations as I talked to her, but I started seeing so many, I lost count of how many were in which formation. Every formation was heading west or northwest, except one lone formation of 3 that traveled southeast. The whole time I was seeing them, I only saw one airplane with blinking lights and one helicopter which was extremely huge and loud (it was flying very low, so I could see it was like a Huey and had only red lights). My fiancé had gone into the house to file a report and I stayed outside and kept seeing these things. At about 12:30am she came out and we called a number to report what we had seen, and two flew over very low and fast heading northwest. I talked to someone on the phone for 4 minutes, and the helicopter flew over during the call. Then we tried to call the airport, but only got automated answers. I also was shocked when I witnessed a small flash and shower of sparks in the sky to the north. It looked as though something may have exploded.

These things were a goldish somewhat red color and traveled in formations of 2, 3, or 5. I lost count, but I saw at least 2 dozen. They were silent, extremely swift, and mostly stayed in very tight rigid formations that were shaped like triangles or an upside down check mark. Two or 3 of the formations were loose on one side with the things weaving back and forth while the other side of the formation stayed in a tight line. The lights DID NOT blink ever. The ones that were flying lower looked as though they had a ring of light, golden light around them. They moved easily 10X faster than the airplane I saw to the north (which had blinking lights that were greenish). There wasn't a cloud in the sky, and I saw no moon. If I had to guess, I'd say they were heading towards Muskegon and Lake Michigan. I have NEVER seen anything like what I saw tonight. I have seen meteor showers, shooting stars, satellites, airplanes, helicopters, planets and the MOON of course. I can't say what to use for a background but the formations with 5 all had objects the size of stars and were flying much higher I believe. The lower flying formations which only had 2 or 3 objects were much larger than stars. Probably 4x the size of a star. These larger objects were moving incredibly fast. Even the smaller objects moved easily 10 times faster than the airplane to the north. We do not have any camera to take pictures. And these things were so fast and some of them were so high, I highly doubt anyone could capture them on film. It would just be a blurry mess I think. I hope someone has at least tried to capture them though. It was unlike anything I've ever witnessed in my life. When I witnessed the shower of sparks, I did not see any objects around it and it was to the north. It was around 12:30 when I saw it and my fiancé just missed seeing it too as she was dialing a number for me and our house blocked her view.

Thanks to NUFORC.com



## Tom Maat to Present at the May 3rd. Meeting



Our afternoon presentation will be ghost investigator of 37 years (and newly appointed MIMUFON field investigator!), Tom Maat, demonstrating tools of the trade shared by ghost and UFO hunters alike. He will also present on reported phenomena that blurs the boundaries between these two fields.

Tom started a career as a paramedic in 1975-1980, dealing with death on a first hand basis. The next 22 years were spent as a project manager, traveling to all 48 contiguous states, giving him the opportunity to observe diverse differences in cultures and belief systems. He has been involved with the hotel industry for the past 4 years, and is currently working with a hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, MI. *He has been interested and studying the paranormal for over 36 years.*

As a young child, he could remember having feelings of not being alone whenever he was in a room by himself. During the summer of 1971, he had an experience while meditating, which started him on the path of Shamanic studies and practices, which resulted in being certified as an Ama Deus Shamanic Healer in 2004. Throughout the years, he has been searching for information about the

paranormal through personal investigations, books, lectures and numerous paranormal organizations. In 2003 he was instrumental in the creation of the Great Lakes Paranormal Research Organization based in Michigan.

He has appeared in newspaper articles, and has participated in several radio programs dealing with the paranormal and became a statewide representative for the American Ghost Society in June of 2007. He joined the Michigan chapter of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) in October 2008 and as of January 2009, is an official MUFON investigator for West Michigan.

Tom is a member of the American Ghost & Co-Founder of Michigan's Otherside.

Join us in Flint at Walli's for this eye-opening presentation. See you there.



**REMEMBER:** If your 2009 MiMUFON dues are not paid after this month, you will not be receiving the full newsletter next time, only an invitation via email.

### **MUFON Field Investigator's Training**

Chief Investigator Gary Golem will conduct our morning Field Investigator Training. FI's are encouraged to attend the 10:00 AM meeting.

## **Make Your Meeting Reservations Today!**

Phone in your reservations to State Director Bill Konkolesky at (248) 515-9568 or email at [wjk@mimufon.org](mailto:wjk@mimufon.org) no later than **Wednesday, April 29 2009**. Please leave your name, number attending in your party, and a telephone number where you can be reached, in case we need to contact you. Please let us know as soon as possible, whether you will be attending. Thank you.



# Michigan MUFON Meeting

at Walli's East Restaurant

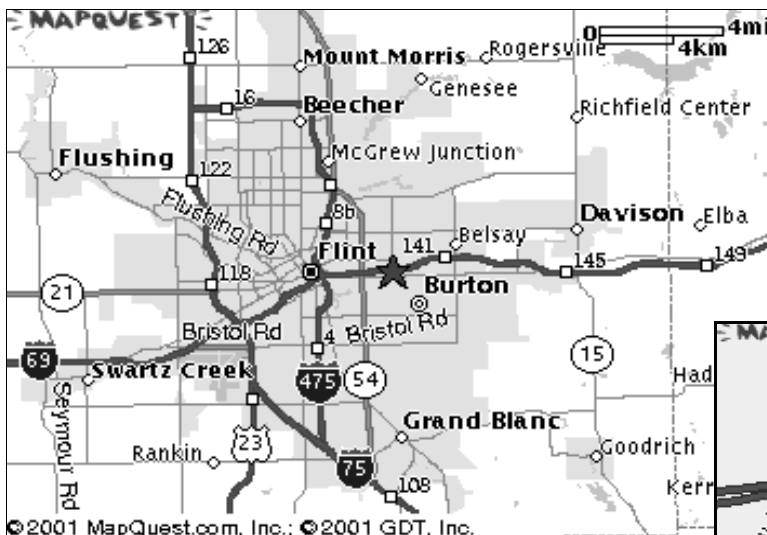
Sunday, May 3, 2009

Members \$14.00 / Non-Members \$16.00

First time guests are \$5.00.

**10am** FI Training: CI Garry Golem instructor  
**12pm** Buffet Lunch  
**1:30pm** Presentation: Tom Maat  
**4:00pm** MIMUFON Announcements & Necessary Business

**MIMUFON Board members: Please plan to attend the brief meeting following the guest speaker.**



**Walli's East Restaurant**  
**G1341 South Center Rd**  
**Burton, Michigan**  
**(810) 743-9600**



- Exit 139 off of I-69
- Just East of I-475
- SE Corner of South Center Rd & Faith Way

### From The Editor's Desk



David Twichell

## "SIP" Could Open Doors for MUFON

When Robert T. Bigelow, billionaire real estate investor and entrepreneur from Las Vegas, Nevada, put NIDS (National Institute for Discovery Science) into inactive status in 2004, it appeared that his involvement with the UFO and paranormal phenomena had gone into retirement. Now he is back in full force after clinching a deal with James Carrion and the Mutual UFO Network.

Bigelow has agreed to fund "SIP" (Star Impact Project), wherein qualified volunteer MUFON Field Investigators are part of a rapid response team summoned to thoroughly and scientifically investigate

category 2 and 3 UFO sites. The classification system was devised by UFO researcher Jacques Vallee. Category 2 and 3 indicates trace landing cases where physical evidence may be garnered or psychological effects are evident in the witness.

Ever since its inception, MUFON investigators have been trained yet unpaid volunteers who devote their time and talents at their own expense to gathering evidence that might shed some light on the most baffling and elusive mystery in human history. Professional scientists have devoted their time and expensive equipment to the same end. Now, thanks to the SIP project, investigators will be notified of category 2 or 3 cases and will respond within 24 hours to the site. Their time and travel expenses will be compensated by Mr. Bigelow and any high-tech equipment that might be necessary to aid in the investigation will be transported to the scene at no expense to the investigator or MUFON. Any evidence gathered from the scene will be promptly transported to the Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) in Las Vegas for laboratory analysis.



Robert T. Bigelow: Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies

It would appear that one hand washes the other in this unprecedented agreement. Bigelow is seeking the secrets of alien propulsion systems in an effort to establish the first commercial hotel in orbit around earth, while MUFON seeks the same information for the sake of scientific confirmation of the phenomenon. Under the SIP agreement, any and all knowledge garnered in the BAASS laboratory will be shared with MUFON.

While category 2 and 3 UFO cases are rare, they *do* occur and the SIP team will be standing by with Geiger counter and overnight bag at the ready.

SIP will afford MUFON volunteers the ability to accomplish the kind of quality investigations that have been heretofore out of their financial reach. The project will be reevaluated at the end of June 2009 to determine if it is worthy of further financing. This may seem like a short period of time in which to prove itself but it is a significant advantage to the alternative. With a lot of hard work on the part of MUFON Field Investigators and a little cooperation from ET, the Star Impact Project just might prove to be the start of an ongoing endeavor that will be mutually beneficial to MUFON and BAASS. Meanwhile, UFOlogy as a whole will enjoy a renewed sense of credibility with the backing of such a reputable scientific organization. Mainstream science will be forced to reexamine the need to pay serious attention to the phenomenon instead of uninformed lip service.

MUFON is grateful to Robert Bigelow for the opportunity to work hand in hand with his prestigious laboratory. We are hopeful that this will mark the beginning of a long and successful affiliation.

David Twichell

MiMUFON Newsletter Editor



# Michigan MUFON Contact List

**The following people are the State Section Directors for Michigan. If you have questions, comments, sightings, or any other report, please contact the State Section Director covering your county.**

If there is no specific State Section Director listed for your county, please contact one of the following three Regional State Section Directors:

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Regional State Section Director for SE MI.

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Chief Investigator

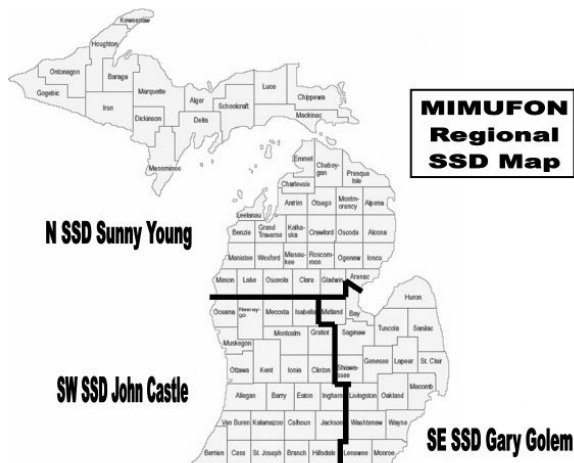
Bill and Linda Murphy  
Michigan MUFON Consultants

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## MiMUFON MEMBERS IN THE "STAR IMPACT PROJECT"

- \* Gary R. Golem-----State Coordinator
- \* Patty Donahue-----Field investigator
- \* Dan Marcelain-----Field investigator
- \* David Twichell-----Field investigator

When possible, contact by e-mail is the best method to reach most of the people on this list, but does not preclude using the telephone numbers if desirable. If you call please be patient as most of the people are not available during the daytime hours. When you leave a message, please speak clearly and leave your telephone number, city, state, and brief message explaining your contact. We will return your call at the earliest convenience.



**ATTENTION: If you would like to start receiving your newsletter or invitation via email, please email the editor at [news@mimufon.org](mailto:news@mimufon.org)**

## Suggestion Box.

Please help us improve our organization with your comments and suggestions.

What is your interest in the UFO phenomenon?

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What kind of events should MIMUFON sponsor?

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Do you have any suggestions for future speakers at state meetings?

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Any other comments or suggestions?

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Mail to: Michigan MUFON, PO Box 8532, Kentwood, MI 49518-8532

For the 2009 calendar year memberships (if you are a member) or subscriberships, please use the form below and send it, with a \$25.00 check or money order to:  
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