



ORBITER

The New England Aerial Phenomena Report

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ISSUE #1

October, 1987

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

"Orbiter", The New England Aerial Phenomena report will provide news and information on cases and current events of significant value. It will take an objective and scientific point of view on the physical aspects of unidentified flying objects. The editor and supporters of "Orbiter" wish to see a serious regional newsletter and clarify the reliable evidence of an important phenomenon that has recently been clouded by a fog of fringeness and mysticism. The UFO phenomena cannot be explained away - people worldwide are still reporting maneuvering apparently controlled unknown aerial objects. This is the information we wish to record and preserve when it comes to our attention. This report will replace the Mass. MUFON Newsletter.

CAUSE REPORTS....

A giant black eye on the face of Ufology! This was the attitude of members of CAUS as reported in their newsletter JUST CAUSE on the MJ-12 affair. Barry Greenwood reports that CAUS had hopes of additional releases so that a proper explanation could be found for the problem, but there were no further developments. As the research progressed CAUS members saw a dark cloud developing around the MJ-12 fiasco.

Serious flaws in the documents are detailed in the newsletter, such as the manipulation of a plastic file cover, the heading "Executive Correspondence" printed on the top, and "Do Not Write on the Cover as it is Intended for reuse. Return it with the File Copies to Originating Office", printed on the bottom. CAUS believes the plastic file was dropped down about an inch with only "Executive Correspondence" showing on the paper giving it a presidential appearance. Other significant details brought to the surface by CAUS researchers was the emblem on the cover of the Aquarius paper having the appearance of being drawn. The CIA MJ-5 memo has serious problems i.e. tpestyle, placement of security markings, use of CIA letterhead stationary instead of internal forms and the language are not of CIA standards. The CIA labeled the memo a poorly made fabrication. It is interesting to note that Moore, Shandera and Freidman no longer mention this memo though it came from the same source as the other documents. What does this say for the other documents? To add, M,S,&F are still not naming the source of the documents, though we suspect who the smoking gun might be. If the suspicions are correct on the source of the MJ-12 material, this may lead to dire consequences for other released documents.

Reading the 22+page CAUS report (Sept. Issue #13) is a must. It reveals in a matter-of-fact style, details proving the documents are riddled with loopholes and flaws. It also stresses the lack of indepth research and critical thinking on the part of M,S,&F.

Brief note: We heard supporters of the M,S,& F camp boast of the hundreds of hours spent in the National Archives and in researching their material. JUST CAUSE proves the fact that quality must come before quantity.

LOCAL DEBUNKER GROUP FORMING

A chapter of CSICOP is forming in the Massachusetts area and call themselves the Skeptical Inquirers of New England (SINE). They are based in Malden, Mass. and their first conference will be held on November 1, at the First Parish Universalist Church in Malden.

ATTENTION ALL MUFON MEMBERS

Telephone numbers of MUFON members are not be given out under any circumstances. We have a hot line (617-944-0686) which is monitored by me and section directors. Messages will be promptly distributed to the appropriate party.

The planet Uranus is 1.8 billion miles from the sun; it takes 84 years to make its circuit around it.



Tides are a natural earthy phenomenon involving the alternating rise and fall of large bodies of water.

NEW BOOK

Night Siege - The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings, is now for sale in area bookshops. The price is \$6.95 in the U.S.A. The publisher is Ballantine Books, a division of Random House, Inc.) Night Siege is authored by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Philip Imbrogno and Bob Pratt. The book reveals the hard evidence on the series of UFO sightings which took place in Southwestern N.Y., and nearby Fairfield County, CT. From 1982-1986, thousands of collaborating witnesses reported a low flying object the size of a football field with a boomerang-shaped pattern of lights fly over major highways and populated areas. The Hudson Valley UFO is unique in that it has the greatest number of witnesses as opposed to any other case in history since the great airship mystery of the early 1900's. One other important note: this was one of Dr. Hynek's last pieces of work in the UFO field.

RADIO-TV LOG

Middlesex County Section Director Steve Firmani was interviewed by Gene Molter of Radio New England Magazine. The interview was broadcast over approximately 84 radio stations in New England on Sept. 19 and Sept. 20, 1987.

October 21: Whitley Streiber was a guest on the Morton Downey, Jr. show in New York.

October 28: Good Morning America aired a segment on UFO's.

POLL

I would like to take a survey of the readers of this newsletter. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Please return your response by either a small letter or postcard. Please share this with your local study groups and colleagues as their participation is also essential.

- 1) How do you rate the current state of Ufology as opposed to five years ago?
- 2) Has your view of the UFO field changed in recent months?
- 3) In your opinion where do you see this subject headed?
- 4) Has the media affected your interest in the subject? Was it negative or positive?
- 5) How many conferences have you attended this year?
- 6) On a rate system of 1-10 how would you rate each conference?
- 7) In your opinion why does the scientific community refrain from taking a serious attitude towards the subject?
- 8) Do you believe the MJ-12 affair has in any way damaged future document research?
- 9) From what you know of the MJ-12 affair, who or what do you think the source of the documents is?
- 10) How long have you been involved in studying the subject of UFO's?

UFO CONFERENCE

"THE UFO EXPERIENCE" - Ramada Inn, North Haven, Connecticut.

Saturday, November 7, 1987 speakers are:

John White, David Menke Ph.D., John Timmerman, Lawrence Fawcett, Philip Imbrogno, Marianne Shenefield, Patricia Sable and John W. Donoghue, and Betty Hill.

Sunday, November 8, 1987 speakers are:

John White, Ellen Crystal, Betty Andreasson Luca and Bob Luca, Budd Hopkins,

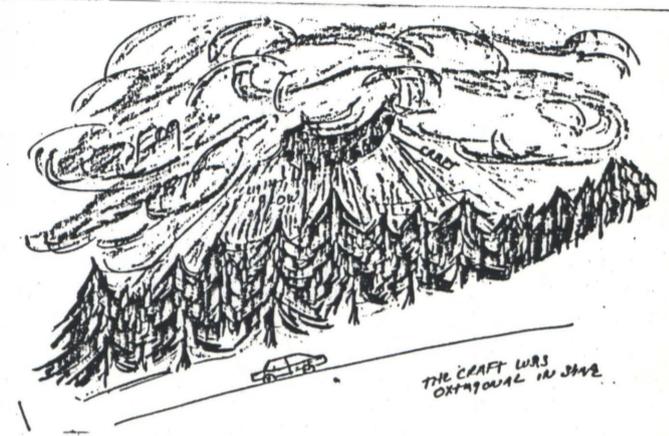
For reservations contact the Ramada Inn, 201 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT (203-239-4225)

CAPE COD OCTAGONAL OBJECT REPORTED

This sighting which occurred a number of years ago, recently came to the attention of Mass. investigators as the result of a radio-talk program on UFO's. This sighting involved four adults, longtime friends, who were traveling back to their homes in Boston after having spent the New Years weekend in Provincetown on Cape Cod. The date was January 1, 1979.

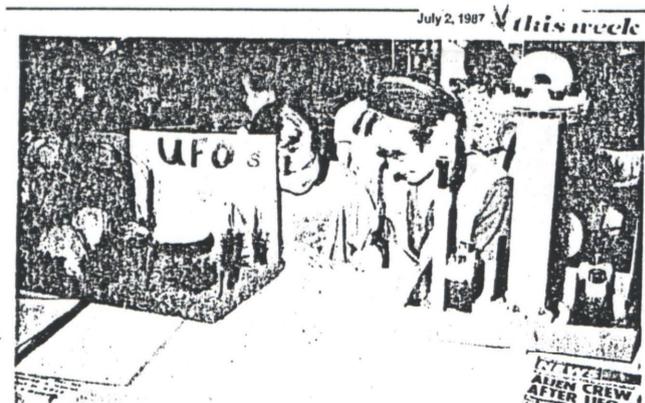
Judging from the likely time they would have left Provincetown on their journey back to Boston, the time of the sighting is reasonably guessed to be about 9:00 p.m. and the location somewhere in the vicinity of Yarmouth (on the Cape traveling west on Rt. 6, a two-lane highway).

As they recalled, it was a particularly desolate stretch of road in that area. No houses, no buildings. Just the forest of scrub pine which lined either side of the highway. At one point they noticed a patch of fog just ahead emanating from the left hand side of the road (the east bound lane). They slowed down as they approached the fog patch and then were startled when, as they were moving through it, their eyes were compelled by the presence of a "brilliant fluorescent glow" in the midst of the fog in the forest across the highway (to their left and south). The driver of the care slowed down more, but didn't actually pull over and stop. (She admitted being somewhat fearful and refused to stop altogether even when she was asked to do so.) Located some 40 or 50 feet back into the woods, the light was recalled being perhaps as wide and as high as a two-story house. As one witness described it, the light, which all agreed was absolutely "brilliant", appeared to be a "contained glow", that is, it did not seem to radiate above or beyond a specific area. Within that area, the trees and forest floor were lighted up like "sudden daylight". There was no movement associated with the light and only one person thought it generated sound which he described as "subtle machinery". Two people recalled seeing color near or within the glow. But only one person, the man who wrote to the investigators, recalled specific colors and other details including a solid structure associated with the light. He made some effort to show this in a sketch he sent to the investigators along with his letter and again in a sketch he made during the interview. As he recalls, there seemed to be a geometric shape sticking out above the glow and tilted to one side. It was within this protruding shape, which he drew as a three-sided form, that he saw "round portals of light".



Thus far, Joanne Bruno has conducted a search of the news clipping file but did not turn up a report one might associate with this sighting (which had not previously been reported to anyone by them). With further investigation needed, it will be kept in mind that not far from the town of Yarmouth is Otis Air Force Base. The possibility of some military maneuver which might account for this light has to be addressed.

The octagonal-shaped object that the witness reported is unique as we have never received reports of this type in this area in recent time. Unfortunately, the case is eight years old which is hampering investigation efforts in locating additional witnesses and gathering further data that could be significant to the investigation.



As part of the recently held Share Fair by the Medford Public Schools Gifted and Talented Program, the above students proudly displayed their exhibits featuring UFO's. Throughout the year, elementary school students have been focusing on problem solving skills and interest area research. The Share Fair gave the students an opportunity to apply the skills they have learned and to exhibit these products to their families and each other. Members of the Share Fair planning committee were Marilyn Blumsack, Teacher/Coordinator; Roberta Brown, Teacher; Linda O'Connor; Connie Dowger; Joan Yaeger; Kathy Wynnes; Arlene Mercier; Marilyn Sheridan; Susan Tomco; Betty McKoun; and Mary Nikorian.

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. is one of the world's great historical, scientific, educational and cultural establishments.

Man in space
On April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin became the first human in space. During his 108-minute orbit of Earth in Vostok 1, he attempted eating, drinking and writing. Gagarin died when his jet crashed during a training mission on March 27, 1968, little more than a year before Americans walked on the moon. (From the "Omni Space Almanac.")

Boston Globe
10/16/87

NASA chief calls for search for life in space

By David L. Chandler
Globe Staff

BRIGHTON, England — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration should undertake a massive effort to search for signals of extraterrestrial intelligence beginning by 1992, James C. Fletcher, the agency's administrator, told an international space meeting in England this week.

But if such a search is successful, it is essential that the results be made public in a quick and responsible way, other delegates at the International Astronautical Federation's annual meeting said. Toward that end, a group has begun drafting an agreement, which they hope will be adopted by international scientific groups, to specify how researchers who might detect such a signal should go about notifying their colleagues, international agencies and the public.

Although funding for a full-scale search for extraterrestrial intelligence, known as SETI, is not yet formally part of the US space agency's budget, preliminary planning is well under way for a search that, Fletcher said, would exceed "the sum total of all previous searches by 10 billion times."

The search will make use of the Deep Space Network of tracking antennas already operated by NASA as well as several large radiotelescopes.

If communication were established with intelligent beings on another planet, Fletcher said, it "could lead to the equivalent of another intellectual renaissance and maybe even could change our perception of our Earth instantly from one of competing states and superstates to a single, precious home for the human family."

Others warned, however, that such contact could initially produce a reaction of panic and that fears of such a reaction might lead to efforts to suppress the information.

Astronomer Alan Tough of the University of Toronto stressed the need for international agreement on what to do if a signal is received, in order to forestall any attempts at suppressing the news. He countered concerns about a public panic by citing polls that show 50 percent of the public already believe in extraterrestrial intelligence and would easily accept the information.

Signal may be ambiguous

The first detection of a signal might be ambiguous, Tough said. Thus the natural response — and the one advocated by most of the speakers at the meeting — would be to treat the information like new or unusual astronomical discovery: The first step would be to notify the International Astronomical Union's Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams in Cambridge, Mass., as was done within hours of the discovery of a supernova earlier this year.

The bureau would then immediately transmit the information to astronomers worldwide, who could quickly attempt to confirm the detection.

In addition to drafting an international agreement on how to release the information that a signal has been detected, the group of scientists and lawyers in attendance hopes to formulate a plan on how to reply to it.

"Any answer we do has to be done on behalf of all mankind, and not by any one country or group," said Peter Boyce of the American Astronomical Society.

2 efforts under way

The only two full-time search efforts under way are both in the United States, but groups in other nations have plans for conducting such a search.

B.A. Balazs of Eotvos University in Hungary, for example, said computer technology has reached a level of sophistication that allows an automated search through decades of astronomical archives to determine whether such a signal has already been received without being recognized. The computer would comb the records in search of anomalous data that cannot be explained in terms of present physics.

The growing acceptance of the idea of searching for extraterrestrial signals was demonstrated by the wide international participation in the discussion at the conference and the serious effort to hammer out a global agreement on how to proceed in the event of success.

As Fletcher said, "In order to fully comprehend the human race's place in our galaxy, it is necessary to know whether we are alone here."

An applicant for the position of Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation must be a citizen of the United States, at least 23 years old and not over 35 years of age, and a graduate of an accredited law school or of an accredited college or university with a major in accounting.



Great Wall of China

It took an estimated 300,000 laborers over a decade to build the Great Wall of China. Mostly in ruins today, the Wall has been restored in part near Peijing, where visitors can walk on it. It is the only man-made structure visible from the moon.



Lights over the Atlantic puzzling to Coast Guard

By PATRICIA MCCARTHY
Staff Writer

Coast Guard officials in South Portland, Portsmouth, N.H., and Boston said today they were perplexed by mysterious, colored lights they saw last night over the ocean 38 miles southeast of Cape Elizabeth.

They couldn't determine the source of the lights despite a three-hour investigation, said Boatswain Mate 1st Class William Falk of the Coast Guard Portland Group.

His group got a call at 8:55 p.m. yesterday from the captain of a sailboat who said he saw red flares in the distance. Red flares gen-

erally indicate a vessel in trouble. The caller gave the Coast Guard the positions and asked the Coast Guard to investigate.

The 82-foot Coast Guard cutter Bonita was diverted to the location, along with a rescue boat from Coast Guard Portsmouth Harbor Station and two other Coast Guard boats from Massachusetts, Falk said.

Several civilian boats also went to the scene.

Officers on the scene describe the sighting as lights low on the water, approximately 400 to 500 feet above the surface, appearing initially as a green light, then turning to red, then to amber and white, and then turning away,

Falk said.

The flashes of light occurred at one- to 10-minute intervals, he said.

"These were not flares of distress as we know them," he said. "They were unexplainable. There was no vessel involved that we could see. There was no boat or aircraft in the vicinity."

"What we have here is the latest unidentified flying objects," Falk said. "It's very mysterious."

Coast Guard boats stayed at the site until shortly after midnight then called off the investigation pending further information, he said.

See Lights Back Page This Section



How pets like to ride on other planets

Now You Know

By United Press International

In the 16th century, hunters in the Philippines devised a killer yo-yo of large wood disks and sturdy twine that was hurled at prey. The weapon snared the animal by the legs and tripped it for an easy kill.

Lights

Continued From Page One

Coast Guard Petty Officer Paul Scharlacker of the Boston Operation Center said the Bonita reported "strange, weird lights — they'd never seen anything like it."

At 12:01 a.m., Coast Guard boats reported seeing nine red flares, Scharlacker said.

The office called the Federal Aviation Administration Air Routing Traffic Control Center in Nashua, N.H., which monitors all air traffic in New England, and was told that no aircraft had been reported in the area.

"We thought it could have been some sort of military operation, but if it were a military aircraft, the Boston Center (the FAA center) would have known about it," Scharlacker said.

Boatswain Mate 3rd Class Gary Birchell of the Portsmouth Harbor station, who was on a Coast Guard patrol boat about 20 miles from the lights, said he thinks they were coming from an aircraft.

"It definitely wasn't a flare," he said. "I saw running lights, and it was some sort of aircraft. I saw green, red and amber lights through my binoculars. I pretty definitely determined it was a plane, but I couldn't see the outline of the craft. It was really far away."

Birchell said he had tried to get closer but was already about 40 miles offshore, and then the investigation was ended.

New science journal will tackle unusual subjects

By KEAY DAVIDSON
For Scripps Howard News Service

UFOs, psychic phenomena, the Loch Ness monster and other weird topics are routine fare in the National Enquirer. But starting this summer, these topics will be featured in a scientific journal overseen by Stanford scientists.

The Journal of Scientific Exploration will provide a forum for scientists to publish articles on subjects too off-beat for orthodox scientific publications, said Peter Sturrock, an award-winning expert on solar physics and deputy director of Stanford's Center for Space Science and Astrophysics.

At first glance, the journal will resemble any other scientific periodical with footnotes and technical jargon. And like submissions to any other scholarly journal, manu-

scripts must be "peer reviewed" — that is, approved by a scientific board of editors, Sturrock said.

The journal's editor is professor Ronald Howard of Stanford's department of engineering economic systems. It will be published twice a year by Pergamon Press in New York City.

"It took many years to find the right publisher, the right person with the right attitudes" about publishing such an unusual magazine, Sturrock said.

The journal will be the scientific organ of the Society for Scientific Exploration, a 200-member international group of scientists, of which Sturrock is president.

The society includes among its members a number of astrologers, astrophysicists and parapsychologists from Princeton, Cornell and Stanford universities and the University of Virginia.

"Over half the members are faculty members in North America. Almost all have Ph.D.s," Sturrock said.

"The goal of this (group) is to provide a forum in which professional scientists and other scholars can meet and discuss topics that cannot get discussed in normal professional meetings," he said.

The first issue, to be 70 to 100 pages, is expected to include articles on the Loch Ness monster, on unidentified flying objects and on parapsychology. Other examples of "out subjects" include ball-shaped lightning and mystery "booms" over the East Coast that were recorded and studied and never explained, Sturrock said.

The premier issue's UFO article, written by Sturrock, reviews the so-called Condon Committee Report of 1968, a

U.S. Air Force-funded study of sightings of UFOs.

The Condon team concluded there was no evidence UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecrafts. That conclusion spurred the Air Force to close its 20-year-old study, known as Project Blue Book.

Sturrock's article will compare the Condon report skeptical summary — written by University of Colorado physicist Edward Condon, now deceased — with data the rest of the report.

In a phone interview, Sturrock criticized as "very flimsy" the Condon team's chemical analysis of metal fragments from South America. The fragments alleged came from a crashed UFO, which Sturrock — who does have an opinion on their true nature — now keeps in a Stanford office.

The sun, the controlling body of our solar system, is a star that is classified as average in size, temperature and brightness.

KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, ME
D. 18,845

AUG 18 1987



Explosion, bright flash mystify local residents

By GARY J. REMAL
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — A boom in the night, a flash in the sky — was it a bomb, a meteor, a UFO or an errant Soviet satellite?

That's the question the residents of Burns and Mount Vernon roads want answered, following an enormous explosion that occurred last week, lighting up the evening sky.

At this point, no one seems to know what it was.

"It is a mystery," said Augusta Police Dispatcher Fred Naborowsky, who received the first calls about the explosion.

But at least one University of Maine expert says it could have been a large meteor that struck the Earth nearby and he plans to pass on the sighting to officials at the Smithsonian Institute for analysis.

Between 10:30 and 11 p.m. Thursday, residents who live in neighborhoods around the sand pits in North Augusta heard a thunderous explosion. Some also saw a bright flash in the dark sky about the same

time.

Rumors quickly began spreading about a meteor landing or a satellite crash recovered by government agents.

Those rumors appear to be based on people's imaginations, but Alan Davenport, planetarium director for the University of Maine in Orono, said it is possible a meteor might have caused the noise.

Davenport says he plans to file a report with the Smithsonian's Scientific Events Alert Network in Washington, D.C., and may try to track down eyewitnesses.

The university astronomer said he received word of several sightings from people in the Bangor area reporting "fireballs" south and southeast of their locations last Wednesday and possibly Thursday, an intriguing coincidence considering the Augusta reports.

"They could hear things resembling a sonic boom," Davenport said of meteor landings. "They would usually see a bright object airborne. When it crashes, I don't know what to expect. Usually it's a very localized event. I

See: EXPLOSION 3
Page 10

Explosion, flash mystify residents

wouldn't necessarily expect to see a flash, but it depends on what it's made of."

He said a meteor striking the ground would create a crater of at least three feet in diameter.

The Earth is currently passing through a meteor shower, he said, but usually those showers only contain dust-sized pieces which never reach the ground. "It really isn't" an indication of an increased chance of larger chunks, he said, "except for the other reports."

However, Davenport said there has been an increased likelihood of large chunks of interplanetary debris dropping through Earth's atmosphere, the result of the breakup of some local comets.

Naborowsky said his first thought was that a plane had crashed. But he checked with Federal Aviation Administration flight controllers in

Bangor, who said (after also checking with Boston flight control) that no planes were known down.

"Of course, that doesn't prove anything because many small planes fly in this area without filing a flight plan. Without a flight plan the federal air controllers would have no way to know what was in the air," he said.

Two Augusta police cruisers were dispatched to check out the reports but police officers found nothing, Augusta Public Safety Director Richard Griffin said. Griffin said his reports indicate the blast came from Readfield, but that conflicts with eyewitness accounts.

One man thought his neighbor's cows may have been the target of night hunters, but a count Friday morning revealed all the herd accounted for.

Although some people thought it

sounded like nearby gunfire, most described the noise more as an explosion or sonic boom. Coupled with a number of reports of a huge flash in the sky from several different areas, gunshots are unlikely.

"I thought my next door neighbor's house blew up," said Donna Fairfield who lives near the sand pits on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Fairfield said she heard an even louder boom during daytime hours about a month ago but assumed it was a sonic boom.

Jeanne Nadeau lives a little farther away from the sand pits, but her home sits on top of a knoll facing northeast, toward the direction of the explosion.

She was in bed when the boom rocked her mobile home and the flash lit up her bedroom — even though the blinds were closed.

"It sounded like a gun went off right outside the trailer. That's what I thought it was, but when we saw the flash we didn't know what it was," Nadeau said. "It looked like someone came up the driveway with lights."

The blast shook pictures off the walls at a home on Burns Road.

"It was so loud it shook the trailer over there" where her son lives, said Gertrude Sanford, who lives on Burns Road. "He said it shook the pictures off the wall."

Sanford said the sound was much too loud to be gunfire.

"Oh, no, no, no. It scared me. I went outside to see if it was a plane," she said. "It was a wicked, wicked noise. I never heard anything so loud. It was even louder than thunder."

Sanford said the noise was more like a severe sonic boom.

Animal groups

You can have either a clowder or a clutter of cats, a leap of leopards or a leash of greyhounds. Then there are musters of peacocks, downs of hares and sleuths of bears. You can also hear a mute of hounds, a volery of birds and a watch of nightingales.

Space hair

According to the Omni Space Almanac, while Charles Duke of the Apollo 16 space crew — one of the last of the manned lunar flights — was on the surface of the moon, he had an inside-the-helmet mishap. His orange juice squirted by mistake. "I wouldn't give two cents for that orange juice as hair tonic," Duke said later.