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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Recent Australian 'Fireballs'

From: John Stepkowski <legion@WERPLE.NET.AU>
Date: Sat, 21 Dec 1996 11:47:59 +1100
Fwd Date: Sat, 21 Dec 1996 05:04:28 -0500
Subject: Recent Australian 'Fireballs'

Hi Ole!

How are things at CRULP and Project Hessdalen?

> You know anything of this, John Stepkowski?

> ----- Forwarded Message Follows -----

> Date: Mon, 16 Dec 1996 14:38:36 -0700
> To: DevereuxP@aol.com (Paul Devereux), eps@victor.hiof.no
> (Erling P. Strand)
> From: Kwint <gwprod@primenet.com> (by way of John Derr
> Subject: Recent australian "fireballs"

> Australian Sighting Reports:
> National UFO Hotline
> Australia Ph: 190 224 3529 New Zealand Ph: 0900 58367
> November 26, 1996 6.00am

The 'National UFO Hotline' is a commercial recorded UFO "phone-in" service where people are charged \$3.00 per minute to report their own sightings or listen to others. The 'Hotline' also sells copies of their phone calls for \$25.00 a tape. This "commercial" imperative means that 'Hotline' reports end up being sent to the media very quickly, long before the sightings can be confirmed or checked with local UFO groups. Several UFO groups have tried to establish contact with the 'Hotline' to exchange data and sighting reports, but the 'Hotline' owner has been rather unresponsive. This doesn't mean that the 'Hotline' reports should be discounted, just taken with a large pinch of salt until they can be cross-checked with local UFO groups.

> Summary Australian Reports
> Canberra 10.30 pm EST Monday 25th Nov. 1996.
[...]
> Adelaide 1.25am CT Monday 25th Nov. 1996.
[...]
> Perth 5.25pm WT daylight Sunday 24th Nov. 1996.
[...]

I'll follow these up and post the results to the list.

> Alice Springs 11.15 pm CT Monday 25th Nov. 1996 Respondent callers

> report seeing up to four intense bright orange fireball lights over
> Alice Springs before heading off in a Westerly direction.

As already mentioned by Jan, there have been a lot of "plastic bag UFO" incidents in Alice Springs lately. This mirrors events in the southern states where all year there have been a large number of BoL reports connected to the subsequent discovery of wire and wooden-framed plastic bag UFOs.

Unlike older "hot air" UFOs which used candles or cotton wool soaked in methylated spirits, the newer models utilise fire-lighters to generate lift. These fire-lighters burn for considerable periods of time and aren't easily extinguished. As a result these "fake" UFO flights tend to last a long time and cover large areas. Add a few coloured light-sticks - green and blue are the current favourites of the hoaxing 'cognoscente' - and you end up with some spectacular UFO reports.

Despite the probability that the Alice Springs event was the product of hoaxers, that area of Australia has had a long history of BoL events, most notably of the 'Min-Min' light variety.

Two years ago there was extended BoL activity in the Wycliffe Well area of the Northern Territory which resulted in hordes of tourists invading the area with their cameras. The result was several pictures and some video-tape of a moving fuzzy, white blob. Not a single spectrogram to determine a thermal or non-thermal spectrum, however. Some university scientists talked about going up and "taking a look", but they never did. Maybe next time.

I'll append a short clipping about Wycliffe Well in case its of interest.

Welcome to the list.

- John

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>From: Barrier Daily Truth
Broken Hill
5.9.94

MYSTERY LIGHTS IN OUTBACK

MELBOURNE: Wycliffe Well in the Top End [Northern Territory] boasts only a caravan park, a roadhouse and a population of three -- but it's facing the glare of publicity because of mysterious lights in the night sky.

Lou Farkas, who runs the roadhouse at Wycliffe Well, 374km north of Alice Springs, declares himself accustomed to the phenomenon.

But one of his employees Malcolm White is not so blase -- one of them gave him a scare last week.

"He was driving along the road on Monday night when it came down and rushed towards him," Lou said.

"It shot away to the side but not before his car engine cut out, stopping him from driving on for 15 minutes."

Malcolm White was not available to elaborate on his experience, he has gone into hospital for a leg operation.

Lou, 47, says he has seen the lights to the west of his roadhouse now and then ever since he arrived from Adelaide seven years ago but they have been causing him some trouble recently.

"They sit up there, orange with some red and green and they come down to the ground just before half past nine at night," he said.

"That's when the EFTPOS and the phone and the fax play up and Telecom can't do anything for me."

He said the 300 or so Aborigines of the Alicurung people who live in the district had known of the lights for a long time.

The proprietor of the newspaper at Tennant Creek, Jasmin Afianos, 31, travelled the 130km to Wycliffe Well on Tuesday to

view the phenomenon -- and it lived up to everything she had heard.

"One of them is bigger than the other and they are about 45 degrees from one another," said Ms Afianos, whose article about them was published in a Darwin newspaper yesterday.

"They are not on show every night but when they are they come down about 9.20pm and cause trouble with electricity."

Asked the question sceptics always put -- "Did you take any photos?" -- she said she had but was still waiting to receive the prints back from the developer.

And she will return to Wycliffe Well soon -- this time with a video camera.

--AAP

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