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UFO UpDates Mailing List

The Rod

From: **Jim Deardorff** <deardorj@proaxis.com>
Date: Fri, 17 Jul 1998 23:17:27 -0700 (PDT)
Fwd Date: Sat, 18 Jul 1998 09:43:53 -0400
Subject: The Rod

Is there an expert on "rods" on this list? Until yesterday I was rather of the opinion of Bob Shell, for example, that the "rods" were likely insects whizzing close by the video camera. But then I had a sighting of what seems to fall into that category.

It was in mid afternoon, July 16th, 1998, when I was in my front yard in Corvallis, OR, admiring the blueness of the sky and lack of smoky smog that day. While still admiring the visibility, I looked up to watch a plane go by, N to S, at high elevation angle above the western horizon. While still facing west with my head turned up, I suddenly saw this whitish thing zoom by from nearly overhead traveling straight west in a perfectly straight line till it disappeared in the distance at about 20 degrees elevation angle. But it was only visible for about 2 seconds, or maybe only 1.5 sec., so fast was it going.

It seemed to be at a considerable height, like 500 or 1000 ft, and so to be of a size like no insect! It wasn't much like a rod, but maybe a rod with stubby fins of some sort attached to each side, and though I'm not sure, the front of it (head) I think was tapered. Its rigidity was very noticeable; i.e., no flapping appendages. The linearity of its flight path was the most impressive thing (relative to what an insect or bird would exhibit), combined with its speed. And of course no exhaust, no noise. It was a sort of "misty" white color, with no shaded underside and no highlights reflecting the sunlight. It disappeared by a combination of its angular size becoming too small in the distance, and its contrast with the sky becoming too weak.

Immediately afterwards I moved my eyeballs around while looking up at the sky to see if I had any strange "floater" in an eye, but there were none; but such wouldn't have been the right color or shape, nor visible with both eyes to give depth perception.

Last night I heard a part of the Art Bell show with its interviewing of a "rod" investigator. If I hadn't heard that show, I would have just chalked this up as another UFO sighting and not thought of 'rods', as I've had a few UFO sightings in the past 12 years (described in my web site). In any event, a sighting that only lasts a second or two isn't anything to get too steamed up about -- no time to go looking for another witness or anything.
Easy to dismiss as an anomaly.

Does this fit the "rod" category?

Jim Deardorff
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