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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: *U* Map: North America 1947

From: Bob Young <YoungBob2@aol.com>
Date: Wed, 2 Jun 1999 15:01:45 EDT
Fwd Date: Thu, 03 Jun 1999 06:37:38 -0400
Subject: Re: *U* Map: North America 1947

>From: Larry Hatch <larryhat@jps.net>
>Date: Thu, 20 May 1999 02:18:54 -0700
>Fwd Date: Thu, 20 May 1999 11:35:07 -0400
>Subject: *U* Map: North America 1947

<snip>

><http://www.jps.net/larryhat/NAM47.html>

<snip>

>I hope you all have some time to look around the website. It
>took 15 years to gather the data.

Larry and Everyone:

You should really be commended for this effort, which provides a continuing, public record of this information. Your site provides a lot of food for thought. For a number of pages that I looked at some thoughts come to mind relative to your analyses:

Venus-Earth Sidereal Proximity.

For some 16,800 UFO sightings with known dates, the Heliocentric Longitude of Earth and Venus are compared.

The DIFFERENCE between these longitudes is divided into 24 "zones" of 15 degrees each. Earth and Venus are closest in zone 12 (yellow bar). Sightings >that occur at these times increment the height of the bar. "Zone zero" sightings >occur when they are on opposite sides of the sun.

The influence of Venus is diminished in zone 12, probably lost in the Sun's glare.

Mars - Earth Sidereal Proximity.

For some 16,800 UFO sightings with known dates, the Heliocentric Longitude of Earth and Mars are compared.

The DIFFERENCE between these longitudes is divided into 24 "zones" of 15 degrees each. In "zone 12" Earth and Mars are on the same side of the Sun, as close as they get for any given orbit. Zone zero sightings occur when Mars and Earth are on opposite sides of the sun.

While Venus is often blamed for low quality sightings, It would seem that Mars correlates much better using a filtered database.

I agree, but the the reason for the closer correlation of Mars probably has to do with its longer visibility to an Earth observer. Mars, an outer planet, is best seen which it is at opposition, or opposite to the Sun, when it is closest to Earth, and hence brightest. Since it is 180 degrees away from the Sun it rises in the East when the Sun sets, is highest due South at midnight, and sets at dawn. In other words, it is up all night and can be observed by all observers who are outside.

Venus, on the other hand, is visible either in the evening or morning, but never all night. Also, Venus, an inner planet, is closest to Earth when in Conjunction, or nearest to the Sun, but this is not, as you point out, its best visibility. This occurs from the time that Venus is at Greatest Elongation (about 45 degrees away) East of the Sun in the evening, or Greatest Elongations West, in the morning, until the time of greatest brilliance some weeks later, when it is closer to us and the Sun, and presents a large, thin, but brilliantly illuminated crescent. Greatest elongations occur about 10 weeks on either side of close approach to the Earth, and greatest brilliancy is about five weeks on either side. For example, this coming week, on June 10, Venus will be at Greatest Eastern Elongation, easily noticed 30 degrees above the horizon at sunset and will set 3 hours after the Sun, at about 11:30 P.M., Daylight Saving Time.

The giveaway for this Observers Effect is that more UFO reports occur at the _evening_ Eastern Elongations, not at the less well noticed morning Western Elongations, on the right of your 12-hour band.

Sidereal Sightings Histogram.

For any given date, time and place, some part of the zodiac is directly overhead.

Astronomers divide the sky into hours of Right Ascension (R.A.). By convention, the >Vernal Equinox in Pisces is considered "zero hours" R.A. This display divides the sky into 24 hours (R.A.) with UFO sightings counts for each hour.

There is a notable rise between 20 and 21 hours R.A., when Capricorn is overhead. Oddly, this points toward the galactic center.

I have no ready explanation for this surprising effect

The galactic center is not in Capricorn, it is at 17H 45.7m Right Ascension, -29 deg Declination, two Zodiacal signs to the west, in Scorpio. Also, Capricorn is never overhead but is actually more than 100 degrees away from the zenith. I think that you meant that it appears highest in the sky, or due south at midnight.

But, again, for this peak of reports I suggest an Observer Effect. The jump in sightings you point to undoubtedly comes from reports in early August, during the summer months when folks are outdoors and when it gets dark by 9 P.M.

Clear skies,

Bob Young

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