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The Drones: One Year Later –  
MUFON's Investigation of  
the most dramatic UFO  
Photos since Gulf Breeze

# MUFON UFO Journal

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## Director's Message

By James Carrion

Spring is finally here and with it the promise of new beginnings. 2008 has already sized up to be a banner year for public UFO awareness—starting with a bang in January with the national coverage over the Stephenville, Texas, sightings and in February with the release of the History Channel's *UFO Hunters*. March brought added media coverage of the drone photos that are discussed in this month's issue of the *Journal*. I can only imagine what the rest of the year will bring.

Fleeting media interest and entertainment aside, for MUFON, UFOs are serious business and we have a serious mission to pursue. What it really boils down to is hard work and volunteered time that takes us away from family and other pursuits. What we gain is the satisfaction that we are diligently working on a problem that is ignored by the world around us, but deserves serious attention. By joining MUFON, you have already made a statement that you are serious about learning the truth

behind this phenomenon and I thank you for being on our team.

## New Initiatives

A new MUFON online store is coming with state-of-the-art order processing and fulfillment along with a whole new line of MUFON merchandise. Our current online store has served us well but needs an overhaul. MUFON is committed to fully using the power of the Internet to promote its mission and goals and the new store will go a long way towards making that happen. PayPal will no longer be used for merchandise/membership payments; a merchant account that accepts standard credit cards will be used instead.



James Carrion

*Continued on page 22*

**MUFON'S MISSION IS THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF  
UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH  
INVESTIGATION, RESEARCH, & EDUCATION.**

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# The Drones and the CARET Documents: One Year Later: Part 1

*By James Carrion, MUFON International Director*

Case summaries are listed in order by report date.

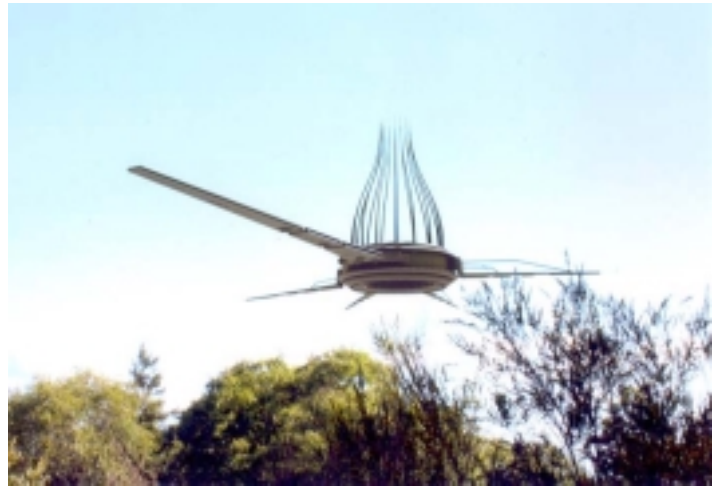
## **Chad's Report**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a person only known by the name Chad, emailed to *Coast to Coast AM* Radio photos of a strange airborne craft over Bakersfield, California. One of the pictures was from a cell phone and allegedly taken by Chad's wife at an earlier time with the remaining photos allegedly taken on May 6, 2007. All of these photos were then posted to the *Coast to Coast* website at <http://www.coasttocoastam.com/gen/page2022.html?theme=light> with the following narrative:

"Last month (April 2007), my wife and I were on a walk when we noticed a very large, very strange 'craft' in the sky. My wife took a picture with her cell phone camera (first photo below). A few days later a friend (and neighbor) lent me his camera and came with me to take photos of this 'craft.' We found it and took a number of very clear photos. Picture #4 is taken from right below this thing and I must give my friend credit as I was not brave enough to get close enough to take this picture myself!

"The craft is almost completely silent and moves very smoothly. It usually moves slowly until it decides to take off. Then it moves VERY quickly and is out of sight in the blink of an eye. MORE THAN ANYTHING I simply want to understand what this is and why it is here?

"We found your show with Google and I have listened for a few nights now. I have decided that if anyone can help me understand what this thing is, it is you and your audience. I must admit I am deeply unsettled by this thing. I have never seen anything like this in my life... Location: I would prefer not to say for now. —Chad"



*Photo by Chad, May 2007, near Bakersfield, California*

Chad wrote back to us (*Coast to Coast*) with additional info:

"Thank you so much for posting my photos! I hope someone can help identify this... First of all, I see this thing VERY often. Since it first appeared, I have probably seen this thing maybe 8 different times since the first appearance. My friend and I went out the next day after I first saw it to get the photos, but it was not there. Then we tried again the next day, and we found it within like 30 minutes and followed it for a while. Most of the time I see it out of windows in my house, in the distance, but I would say almost half of the hikes I have gone on in my area, I have seen it very close. It is very easy to photograph and many neighbors aside from my friend have also seen it.

"It is almost totally silent but not quite. It makes kind of "crackling" noises. It's hard to describe them but they are only intermittent and not very loud, but you can notice them. Sometimes there is a very slight hum that sounds

*Continued on page 4*



*Photos by Chad, May 2007, near Bakersfield, California.*



# Drones—CARET

*Continued from page 3*

kind of mechanical, almost like when you are near very large power lines. But it is nothing loud like a jet engine, it is very quiet for the most part.

"It moves almost like an insect. If you have ever seen a bug on a pond, it is kind of like that. It is VERY smooth and slow most of the time, but then every now and then it will rotate very quickly and go VERY fast into another direction, then stop, and repeat the process all over again. There is just something very unnatural about the way it moves.

"Also, I have had maybe 4 headaches in the last week, and I am normally not the kind of person who really ever gets them. Also my wife has been tired and fatigued lately. She is about a month pregnant, and the doctor said fatigue is normal around this time, but I worry that it is a lot. Basically what I'm worried is that this "craft" has got some kind of radiation or something. Like I said, it sounds like power lines if you get close enough to it. Obviously I am worried for our health, especially with a baby on the way. I don't know if they are related, but again, this is why I really hope someone can answer these questions! —Chad"

## Deborah's Report

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a person going by the name of Deborah McKinley of San Jose, California, submitted a report to MUFON's website with two cell phone photos allegedly taken in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, of a similar airborne craft.

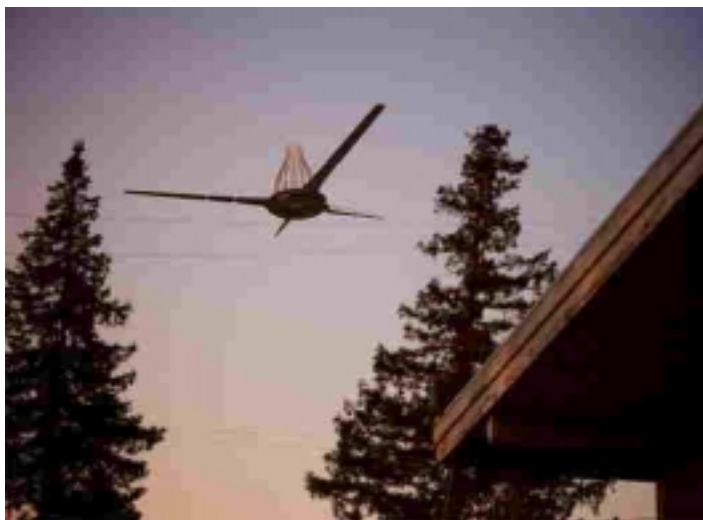
From MUFON CMS Case 7013:

"I saw this thing in the sky at about 7 PM in Lake Tahoe. It was spinning and moving slowly. Took 2 cam phone pics.

"Detailed Description of the UFO Event: My husband and I were in Lake Tahoe over the weekend. We left on Friday

afternoon and came back Monday morning. On Saturday at about 7 PM, I was walking out to my car to get a sweater when I saw this thing in the sky. It was pretty close I think, but still above the trees. It was moving and spinning slowly, heading towards my right. I was startled and confused at first and wanted to take a picture, but our camera was still inside so I took two pictures with my camera phone before it passed behind the roof of the house. I ran around to the other side and was yelling to my husband to come out. We came around the other side and saw it just as it was going down behind some trees. He didn't get a good look at it, but he saw enough to convince him that it was something really strange. We decided to take a drive around the area to see if we could see it again, but we never did. We didn't see it the next day either. Since we were renting the cabin for the weekend we didn't know any nearby residents but I would bet at least a few other people saw it. It was very visible and very strange looking. I was definitely a little freaked out but my husband didn't seem very bothered by it. He was more interested in it than scared. He wanted to drive around a lot longer trying to find it than I did! :) It didn't make any noise except for a very, very faint sound that is hard to describe but sounded like something vibrating. We both heard the sound although just barely. It moved in a very straight line when it went over the house but when we saw it on the other side of the house, when it was going down behind the trees, it made a very sharp turn. It didn't move like a helicopter or airplane, it was very "exact." We did see one person on our drive who was a few blocks away taking a walk and asked him if he saw it, and he said no. Then we asked him if he heard any weird noise and tried to describe it as best we could, and he said he might have but he wasn't sure. By this time it was at least 20 minutes since we first saw the thing so, who knows.

"I talked to some friends over the week about sending these to a newspaper or something but a guy at work suggested I look up MUFON, so I'm starting with you guys."



*Photos by Deborah McKinley, Lake Tahoe, March 5, 2007*



### Raj's Report

On May 20th, 2007, a person going by the name of Rajinder Satyanarayana posted six photographs (through [Craigslist.com](http://Craigslist.com) with a link to the photos on [Flickr.com](http://Flickr.com)) of a strange airborne object, allegedly taken on May 16, 2007, in Capitola, California. His initial account of the sighting was:

"This week I was visiting my fiancé's parents in Capitola (we were actually there to tell them about our engagement, in fact). We were eating dinner on the back porch when we noticed this "object" sort of hovering in the sky. The camera was still out from earlier so I grabbed it and tried to get some clear shots of it. It took off over the roof shortly after, so I ran into the street in front of the house to follow, trying to get more shots without wobbling around too much (which was harder than it sounds). It then came in lower over a telephone pole, where I was able to get a few more pictures, before it finally took off into the distance pretty fast. I thought it was gone but noticed it was still visible, so I grabbed a few more pictures. At one point a car stopped to look as well. No one had any idea what this thing was but everyone in the car was visibly freaked out by it. Once it was gone they told me to call the news and drove off. I'm not sure who else saw it in the neighborhood since I don't live down there, but I'm sure at least a few others must have noticed it. It was way too weird and way too close to go unnoticed. Once it was gone and I caught my breath I could barely stop my hands from shaking for the next hour or so. Needless to say, this is all we talked about for the rest of the night. None of us can figure out what it was (and that's saying something, because my fiancé's dad is a mechanical engineer). We sent a copy of the photos to their newspaper but haven't heard back yet. I dunno how long that kind of thing takes. There's also some writing on this thing, which I didn't recognize (and I read both English and Hindi). You can see it in a few of the pictures.

"Anyway, I created this Flickr account for the best of these pictures. I have no clue what this thing is so I'm putting it out there to see if anyone else saw it."



*Three photos taken by Rayinder Satyanareyana, May 16, 2007, Capitola, California.*



### Stephen's Report

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 a person going by the name of Jenna L. posted 3 photos on [www.ufocasebook.com](http://www.ufocasebook.com) of a strange object allegedly taken by a man named Stephen in Big Basin, California, on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2007. Stephen's account of his sighting follows:

"Okay, where to begin. Yesterday I was up around Big Basin for my assignment like I've been mentioning for the last couple weeks—the theme for those that don't remember was photographing something at a small scale against a large scale backdrop to contrast scales and to play with depth of field, etc. I chose to photograph a couple of flower/weed things growing right on the edge of a drop off with the valley in the background. I'm still using the Rebel XT I bought off Mark which is SLR so I'm looking at everything through a viewfinder when I notice something appear in the distance, like just pop out of nowhere. I look up and there is this huge who-knows-what-the floating in the distance and rotating very slowly and jerkily. Almost by reflex I take

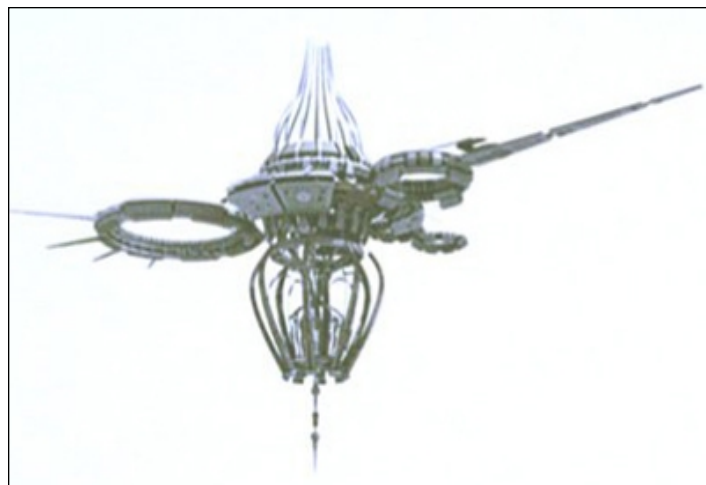
*Continued on page 6*

# Drones—CARET

*Continued from page 5*

another shot which is focused in on it this time and go to stand up but practically fall over because I can't even think straight."

"I was able to get one more shot which came out kind of blurred and then the thing vanished like as in, now you see it, now you don't. I attached the pictures so you guys can check them out before I really decide to do something with them—are these going to the 6 o'clock news or what—any feedback would be great before I make a major decision here. Also, by the way I attached three pictures the first is when it first appeared right as I was taking a shot of the flowers but I wanted you guys to see everything I saw. Sorry I only got 3 pix but this thing was seriously gone in like a matter of seconds. Also, by the way, I am planning to return to the area this weekend with the camera and anyone else who wants to join me. I'm seriously going to spend all day hiking around to see if it shows up again if it does I am going to get a million shots of this thing if it does you seriously have to see it to even believe it so anyone who wants to come me let me know the more people that see this the better because I don't even need to tell you that so far this is a pretty crazy situation and I want some witnesses to back me up. —Stephen"



*Photo by Stephen, June 5, 2007, Big Basin, California.*

## Ty's Report

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Linda Moulton Howe received an email from a person going by the name of Ty claiming that he photographed a strange object while bicycling with some friends, also on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in Big Basin, California. Ty mailed to Linda 12 photographic prints which she then scanned and posted on [www.earthfiles.com](http://www.earthfiles.com).

## Isaac's Explanation

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a website at [isaaccaret.fortunecity.com](http://isaaccaret.fortunecity.com) published the following letter:

### Explanation of the Recent "Strange Craft" Sightings

"Here is the brief introduction. I'm using the alias Isaac, and used to work in what was called the CARET program in the 80's. During my time there, I worked with a lot of the technology that is clearly at work in the recent drone/strange craft sightings, most notably the "language" and diagrams seen on the underside of each craft. What follows is a lengthy letter about who I am, what I know, and what



*Three photos (at left) taken by Ty, June 5, 2007, Big Basin, California.*

these sightings are (probably) all about.

"The appearance of these photos has convinced me to release at least some of the numerous photographs and photocopied documents I still possess some 20 years later that can explain a great deal about these sightings. On this site you will find some of these. They are available as high resolution scans that I am giving away free, PROVIDED THEY ARE NOT MODIFIED IN ANY WAY AND ARE KEPT TOGETHER ALONG WITH THIS WRITTEN MATERIAL. I am also trying to get in touch with the witnesses so far, such as Chad, Rajman, Jenna, Ty, and the Lake Tahoe witness (especially Chad). I have advice for them that may be somewhat helpful in dealing with what they've seen and what I would recommend they do with what they know. If you are one of these witnesses, or can put me in touch with them, please contact *Coast to Coast AM* and let them know.

*"My Experience with the CARET Program and Extraterrestrial Technology (Isaac, June 2007)"*

"This letter is part of a package I've assembled for *Coast to Coast AM* to distribute to its audience. It is a companion to numerous document and photo scans and should not be separated from them.

"You can call me Isaac, an alias I've chosen as a simple measure of protection while I release what would be called tremendously sensitive information even by today's standards. "Sensitive" is not necessarily synonymous with "dangerous," though, which is why my conscience is clear as I offer this material up for the public. My government has its reasons for its continual secrecy, and I sympathize with many of them, but the truth is that I'm getting old and I'm not interested in meeting my maker one day with any more baggage than necessary! Furthermore, I put a little more faith in humanity than my former bosses do, and I think that a release of at least some of this info could help a lot more than it could hurt, especially in today's world.

"I should be clear before I begin, as a final note: I am not interested in making myself vulnerable to the consequences of betraying the trust of my superiors and will not divulge any personal information that could determine my identity. However my intent is not to deceive, so information that I think is too risky to share will be simply left out rather than obfuscated in some way (aside from my alias, which I freely admit is not my real name). I would estimate that with the information contained in this letter, I could be narrowed down to one of maybe 30-50 people at best, so I feel reasonably secure.

*"Some Explanation for the Recent Sightings"*

"For many years I've occasionally considered the release of at least some of the material I possess, but the recent wave of photos and sightings has prompted me to cut to the chase and do so now.

"I should first be clear that I'm not directly familiar with any of the crafts seen in the photos in their entirety. I've never

seen them in a hangar or worked on them myself or seen aliens zipping around in them. However, I have worked with and seen many of the parts visible in these crafts, some of which can be seen in the Q3-85 Inventory

"Review scan found at the top of this page. More importantly though, I'm very familiar with the "language" on their undersides seen clearly in photos by Chad and Rajman, and in another form in the Big Basin photos.

"One question I can answer for sure is why they're suddenly here. These crafts have probably existed in their current form for decades, and I can say for sure that the technology behind them has existed for decades before that. The "language," in fact, (I'll explain shortly why I keep putting that in quotes) was the subject of my work in years past. I'll cover that as well.

"The reason they're suddenly visible, however, is another matter entirely. These crafts, assuming they're anything like the hardware I worked with in the 80's (assuming they're better, in fact), are equipped with technology that enables invisibility. That ability can be controlled both on board the craft, and remotely. However, what's important in this case is that this invisibility can also be disrupted by other technology. Think of it like radar jamming. I would bet my life savings (since I know this has happened before) that these craft are becoming visible and then returning to invisibility arbitrarily, probably unintentionally, and undoubtedly for only short periods, due to the activity of a kind of disrupting technology being set off elsewhere, but nearby. I'm especially sure of this in the case of the Big Basin sightings, where the witnesses themselves reported seeing the craft just appear and disappear. This is especially likely because of the way the witness described one of the appearances being only a momentary flicker, which is consistent with the unintentional, intermittent triggering of such a device.

"It's no surprise that these sightings are all taking place in California, and especially the Saratoga/South Bay area. Not far from Saratoga is Mountain View/Sunnyvale, home to Moffett Field and the NASA Ames Research center. Again, I'd be willing to bet just about anything that the device capable of hijacking the cloaking of these nearby craft was inadvertently triggered, probably during some kind of experiment, at the exact moment they were being seen. Miles away, in Big Basin, the witnesses were in the right place at the right time and saw the results of this disruption with their own eyes. God knows what else was suddenly appearing in the skies at that moment, and who else may have seen it. I've had some direct contact with this device, or at least a device capable of the same thing, and this kind of mistake is not unprecedented. I am personally aware of at least one other incident in which this kind of technology was accidentally set off, resulting in the sudden visibility of normally invisible things. The only difference is that these days, cameras are a lot more common!

*Continued on page 8*



## Drones—CARET

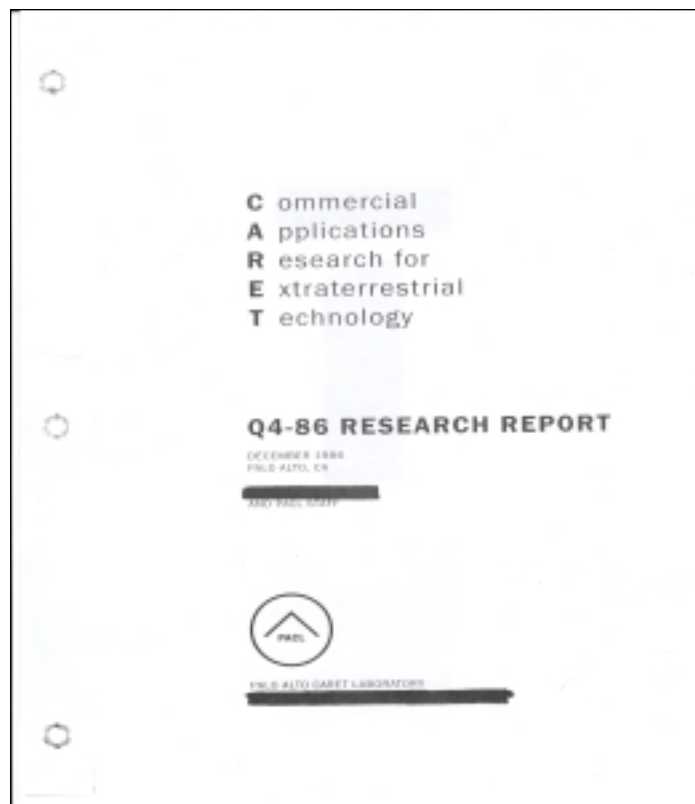
*Continued from page 7*

"The technology itself isn't ours, or at least it wasn't in the 80's. Much like the technology in these crafts themselves, the device capable of remotely hijacking a vehicle's cloaking comes from a non-human source too. Why we were given this technology has never been clear to me, but it's responsible for a lot. Our having access to this kind of device, along with our occasionally haphazard experimentation on them, has lead to everything from cloaking malfunctions like this to full-blown crashes. I can assure you that most (and in my opinion all) incidents of UFO crashes or that kind of thing had more to do with our meddling with extremely powerful technology at an inopportune time than it did mechanical failure on their part. Trust me, those things don't fail unless something even more powerful than them makes them fail (intentionally or not). Think of it like a stray bullet. You can be hit by one at any time, without warning, and even the shooter didn't intent to hit you. I can assure you heads are rolling over this as well. If anyone notices a brilliant but sloppy physicist patrolling the streets of Baghdad in the next couple weeks, I'd be willing to guess how he got there. (I kid, of course, as I certainly hope that hasn't actually happened in this case)."

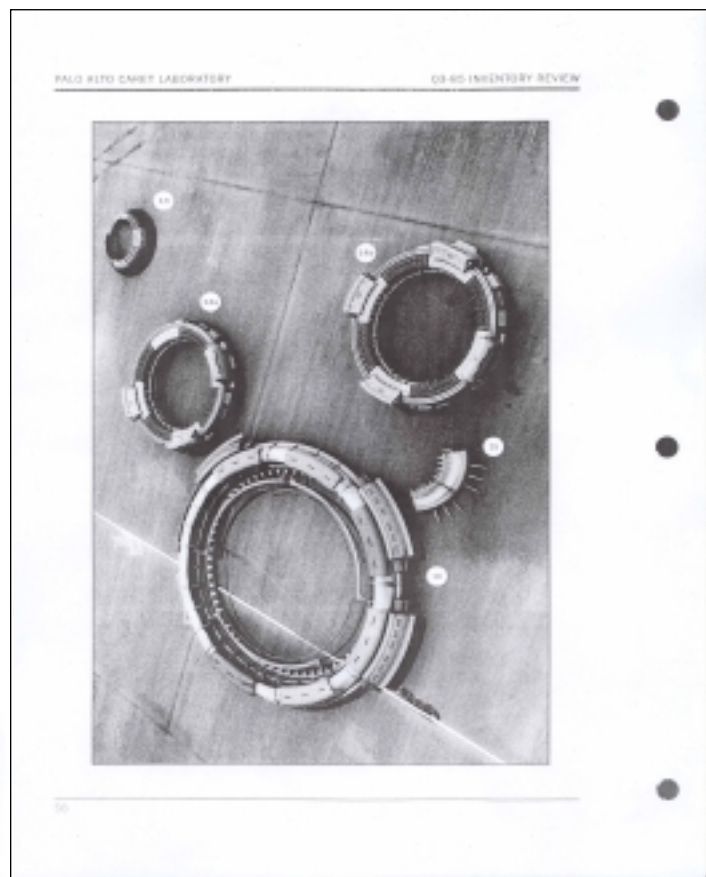
Isaac goes on to discuss the time he worked in the CARET (Commercial Application Research for Extraterrestrial Technology) program at the Palo Alto CARET Laboratory (PACL), on a secret reverse engineering project of alien technology. The website contains a series of alleged smuggled documents from the CARET program including a five-page *Linguistics Analysis Primer* that provides some detail on the language symbols, a ten-page *Q4-86 Research Report* and a page from a *Q3-85 Inventory Review* that depicts some of the alien or reverse engineered artifacts that Isaac came into contact with.



*Photo from CARET Q4-86 Research Report. Scale unknown.*



*CARET Q4-86 Research Report Cover—provided by "Isaac"*



*Page from Q3-85 Inventory Review—also provided by "Isaac"*



## Enter the Matrix

All of the sighting reports and corresponding photos have collectively become known as the “drones,” alluding to the unmanned nature of the strange craft. What makes this case intriguing is the exclusive use of the Internet for not only filing the UFO reports but also for publishing the related claims of alien technology reverse engineering. Since Isaac has from the very beginning hidden behind an assumed name, MUFON’s investigation began with establishing the identity of the original five photo-witnesses: Chad, Deborah, Raj, Stephen and Ty.

### Forensics 101: Validate Witness Identity

In forensic science, the term “non-repudiation” refers to the concept of ensuring that a party in a dispute cannot repudiate, or refute the validity of a statement or contract. In the case of a UFO report, the term “witness non-repudiation”

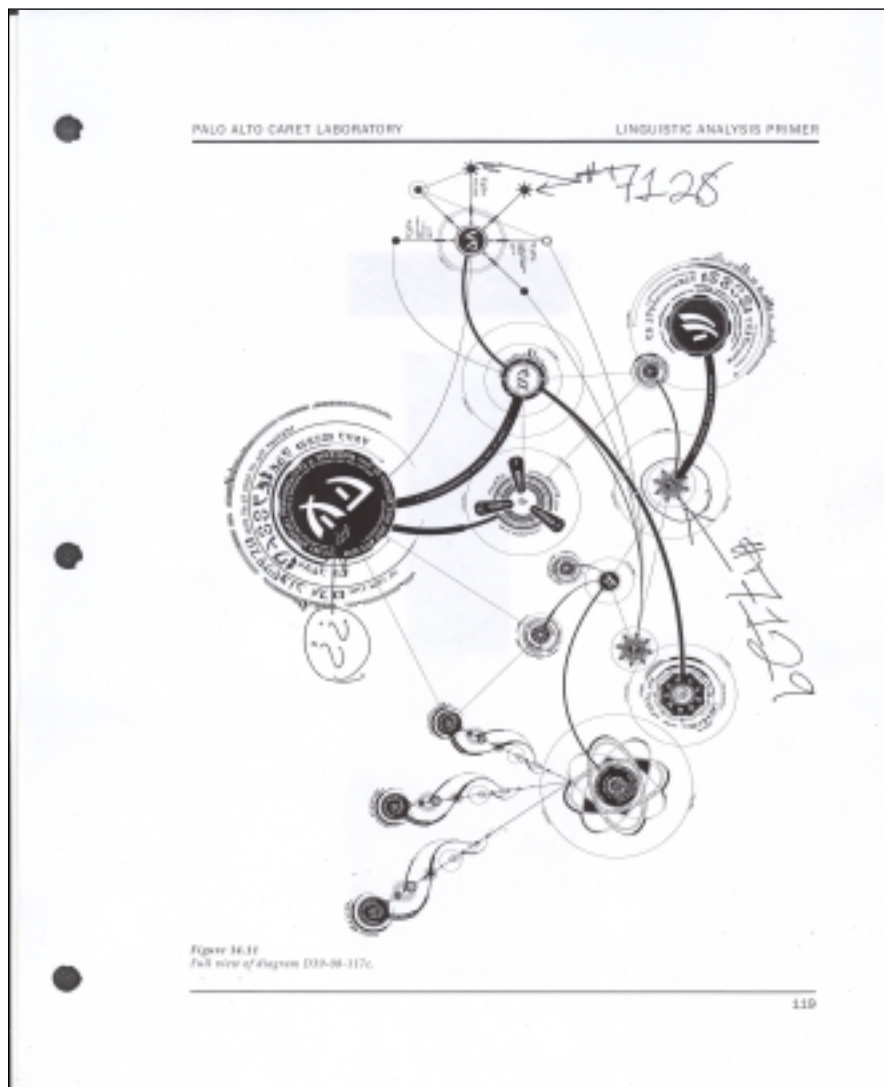
refers to establishing the irrefutable identity of the witness and their claim of having witnessed and reported an extraordinary event.

In the drones case, non-repudiation has not been established for any of the original photo-witnesses because they have chosen to communicate exclusively through email or by telephone and have not permitted anyone to interview them in person. One of the fundamental things a MUFON investigator must do in an extraordinary case of this nature is to meet with the witness in-person, establish their identity through photo identification and crosschecks of public records and secure a signed statement of what they witnessed. Witness non-repudiation has been the backbone of MUFON investigations for the past 40 years, and the Internet age does not change this fundamental aspect of an investigation.

It has been MUFON’s long experience that a witness will request anonymity from public disclosure while still providing enough personal details to the investigator to validate their

identity as a real person. In the case of the drone photo-witnesses, they have not provided enough personal details to irrefutably establish their identity. Members of the Open Minds Forum Drone Research team at <http://lucianarchy.proboards21.com> have allegedly been in contact with the photo-witnesses but they have refused to share this information with MUFON, and it is doubtful that they have established photo-witness non-repudiation. Linda Moulton Howe has also corresponded with the photo-witnesses by email and by telephone but not through in-person interviews. Linda Moulton-Howe sent me an email on March 25, 2008, stating:

“Chad, Rajman and Ty B. corresponded with me in full first and last names. Each asked me specifically not to reveal those names and email addresses and Chad emailed that his pregnant wife was so upset he was concerned about her health and they were leaving their house to stay with relatives. Ty also sent me 12 photographs of the Big Basin craft by hard mail with his return address. I sent hard mail to that address, which was not returned, but Ty B. did not reply further. Rajman’s Flickr account was mysteriously shut down on June 6, 2007, which angered and scared him, and he had negative feedback at work and from his family about the growing commotion over his posted photos, even though his fiancé and some of his family saw the drone as well the day he took the photos. By mid-June 2007,



*A page from Linguistics Analysis Primer showing some details about the language symbols.*

*Continued on page 10*

# Drones—CARET

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as far as I know, Rajman had withdrawn from communications with most everyone.

"I don't have 'irrefutably established identities' for Chad, Rajman and Ty B. But from my point of view, their 2007 photographs need to be considered in the context of 1987 to mid-November 2007, eyewitness accounts (without photographs) by people with whom I have corresponded and in most cases, recorded phone interviews at length."

## Witness Trepidation

What are the odds that the clearest and most detailed UFO photographs since Gulf Breeze, were taken within a one month time period in the same state and involved five different sets of multiple witnesses whose identities have still not been irrefutably established a year after the event took place? Are all the photo-witnesses truly hiding behind their anonymity out of fear or ridicule? Keep in mind that Isaac is the only alleged "insider" in this case possessing information about the true nature of these strange craft and the technology they employ and also the only one who knew the risks of disclosure while the photo-witnesses claim to be innocent bystanders from normal walks of life who happened to be in the right place at the right time with camera in hand.

UFOs are sighted daily by average everyday citizens and it is more likely than not that they WILL come forward and forgo their anonymity especially when such extraordinary evidence is at stake. If we examine UFO History, every extraordinary photo of a UFO has a real person behind it—Ed Walters at Gulf Breeze, the Trents in McMinnville and Rex Heflin in Santa Anna. Of the thousands of cases reported to MUFON CMS, 54% of the witnesses (a majority) *did not* request anonymity while 46% *did* request anonymity.

Witnesses also come forward despite the possibility of public ridicule, as evidenced by the recent January 2008 sightings in Stephenville, Texas, where numerous real citizens who experienced an anomalous event came forward to publicly disclose their sightings. Of the many Stephenville witnesses, some did request anonymity but still agreed to in-person interviews and their identities could be established.

Of the five original photo-witness reports, only one reported their alleged sighting directly to MUFON (through CMS), despite the fact that the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) and MUFON are at the top of the Internet search engine ranking orders (Google rankings seem to work for everyone except Chad who somehow got *Coast to Coast AM*). The person claiming to be Deborah McKinley left only an email address (deborah\_mckinley@hotmail.com) on the CMS report she filed and DID NOT request anonymity. MUFON investigator emails sent to that address were never responded to although it is a registered HOTMAIL.COM email address. Unfortunately, anyone can register a

hotmail.com email address without first having to prove identity and can do so under a fictitious name. Virtual witnesses do little for the credibility of any case, but especially in this case with such extraordinary claims.

## Photographic/Video Evidence and the Age of Computers

With the increasing sophistication of photo and video manipulation software available today, it is becoming increasingly difficult to discern a real photo or video from a hoaxed one. Given enough time and computing resources, a determined hoaxer could produce a quality fake that would fool most people and would require tedious expert analysis to prove a fake. Since seeing-is-no-longer-believing in today's digital world, it becomes even more important to validate the identity of a photo or video witness.

Validating the photo-witnesses in this case is not only important for authenticating the photographic evidence but also to ascertain if there is any truth to the CARET documents released by Isaac. In other words, if the photo-witnesses prove to be non-existent, it is likely that the CARET Program is non-existent since Isaac claims that the only reason he released the CARET documents publicly was in response to the photo-witnesses reporting their sightings.

## Inside the Matrix

What also sets apart this case from others is how much the drone photographs and the CARET documents have been analyzed for authenticity on many Internet message boards despite the lack of identifiable witnesses. All MUFON investigations should begin with establishing the authority and identity of the witness. If a witness makes extraordinary claims and or produces extraordinary evidence but refuses to provide enough personal detail to establish non-repudiation (claimed identity beyond doubt), this should be an immediate red-flag for any further investigation. You can argue the authenticity of a photograph or the science of a technology (human or not) until you are blue in the face, but with a virtual witness as the source, you may as well just debate science fiction.

## Down the Rabbit Hole, Again

It appears that the Internet has become the media of choice for persons making unsubstantiated and extraordinary UFO claims while hiding behind fictitious names or anonymity. I personally experienced this when investigating the October 2006 Kinross UFO case where a non-existent dive company alleged the discovery of a missing 1953 Air Force jet and the UFO it was chasing, at the bottom of Lake Superior. (Please see the articles on MUFON's investigation of the Kinross case in the October and November 2006 issues of the *MUFON Journal*.) In that case, the perpetrators set up an Internet message board to answer questions about their discovery.

After I joined the message board, it quickly became apparent that the majority of board members consisted of a mix of believers and perpetrators who were quick to attack any members with dissenting views who called into question the claims being made. The dive company's website and message board eventually disappeared from the Internet, never to resurface, but only after the irrefutable facts gathered by MUFON investigators through many hours of tedious research were made public and promulgated throughout the Internet.

MUFON did not spend inordinate amounts of time analyzing the sonar images posted on the dive company's website, or researching lake floor currents to calculate object drift, or speculating on the technology that contributed to an object being radioactive hot after 53 years at crush depth. MUFON's investigation began with the human element—focusing on the dive company and its principals who proved to be non-existent.

### **Beware of the Matrix**

The road of ufology is littered with dead-end tales of alleged crashed saucers, alien treaties, imminent disclosure and other false claims made by shadowy figures with assumed names, false identities, and alleged insider information. Many respected ufologists have let their guard down when approached by an insider claiming altruistic motives for

revealing their deepest darkest secrets. Hoaxers and disinformation agents don't play nice and the carrot they dangle can look very enticing to those of us who so passionately want to find out the truth. To further darken the already murky ufological waters, the Internet has become the spawning ground of choice for new UFO myths, memes, and disinformation. Virtual witnesses flourish in this anonymous environment, making incredible claims that are readily consumed by a hungry public more than willing to believe.

MUFON investigators should always take a forensic approach to any investigation by starting with validating the authority and identity of the information source, not by debating the science or authenticity of claimed evidence. Start with the human element, and once a witness's identity is irrefutably established, only then engage known experts to look at the claimed evidence.

I would love for the drone photos and the CARET program to be real, but until the photo-witnesses come forward out of the shadows in which they hide and their identities irrefutably established, their claims are dubious. If you have more information about the photo-witnesses in this case, please feel free to email me at [hq@mufon.com](mailto:hq@mufon.com). I will follow up with Part 2 of the drone's investigation in a future *Journal* issue.

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## UFO Updates. . .

### Bad Timing for MoD

*By Billy Cox*

Source: The Sarasota Herald Tribune - Florida, USA  
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080310/BLOG32/748583566>><http://>

March 10, 2008

The British Ministry of Defence has just given The History Channel's *UFO Hunters* the sort of publicity windfall that money just can't buy.

On Feb. 25, just two days before the network aired an episode on the Rendlesham Forest incident, the MoD announced it was yanking related documents off its Web site.

Its press office cited "breach of copyright" laws pertaining to public correspondences bundled into the military data, arguing that "it made little sense" to delete those letters while trying to uphold their context. The MoD reassured inquiring minds that said documents—letters and all—could still be obtained through individual Freedom of Information Act requests.

The announcement was disseminated to the rest of the world largely through Nick Pope, an ex-MoD official who worked the Ministry's UFO desk from 1991–94. Given how long those suddenly withdrawn documents had languished in

the public domain—not to mention the banality of the accompanying letters that so recently raised the eyebrows of the UK's legal eagles—Pope found the sudden move perplexing.

"MoD is its own worst enemy sometimes," Pope stated in an e-mail. "(It has) managed to turn a potentially good news story about open government and freedom of information into a bad news story about cover-ups and conspiracies."

Indeed, unlike the U.S., which insults common sense by insisting it doesn't collect UFO data, the Brits at least pay lip service to the notion by logging queries from its citizens who want to report sightings. Certainly, keeping official links open removes the stigma from British pilots like Ray Bowyer who, without fear of negative professional repercussions, felt free to discuss the "mile wide" UFO he and others spotted over the English Channel last April. No such openness exists among active-duty American pilots.

The Rendlesham Forest incident occurred in late December 1980, when U.S. military security working the UK's NATO base outside Woodbridge investigated night time sightings in the woods nearby. Several Americans reported seeing a UFO on the ground, as well measuring its attendant landing-gear indentations in the soil as well as residual traces of radiation.

*Continued on page 20*



# Jim DeManche Deputy Director of Investigations

By Chuck Reeve  
*MUFON Director of Investigations*

Jim DeManche was born in White Plains, New York in 1956. Following the death of his father in 1969, Jim's mother and two younger sisters moved to California where his mother remarried. Santa Rosa, California is the place he calls home. He attended grade school, Montgomery High School, and Santa Rosa Junior College, where he graduated as Student Body President in 1977. Jim earned an Associate of Science Degree in Administration of Justice. It was this same year that he experienced his first UFO sighting as a Reserve Police Officer with the City of Healdsburg, California.

Since his first sighting, Jim has always maintained an interest in the UFO phenomenon. In 1977 he began his 29-year career with the California Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer. In July 2004, Jim and his wife Sharon settled back home in Santa Rosa, California, after 13 years in state housing at San Quentin State Prison. He retired in December of 2006. Due to family needs and the nature of his work, Jim was unable to pursue his interest in ufology until after retirement. Jim joined MUFON in 2007, and immediately became a Field Investigator. His attention to detail, easy manner, and ability to thoroughly investigate sighting reports became apparent early on. He had already created a UFO group in Santa Rosa called "*DARK OBJECTS—UFO Investigations*"

Chuck Reeve, MUFON Director of Investigations, and Ruben Uriarte, MUFON State Director for Northern California, asked Jim to convert his group into an official MUFON chapter. He quickly agreed, and MUFON Santa Rosa was born. With the assistance and approval of MUFON International

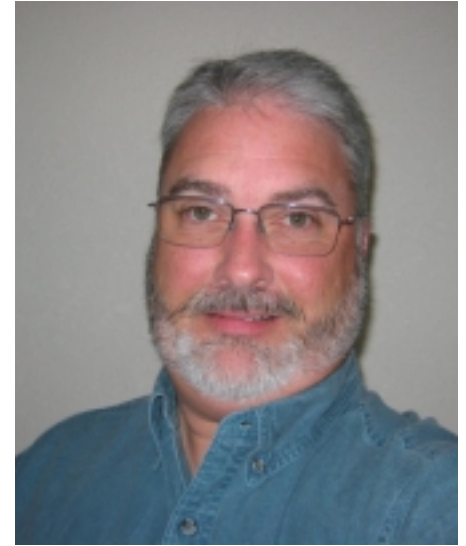
Director James Carrion, MUFON Santa Rosa is listed on the official MUFON website. You can visit MUFON Santa Rosa online at [www.mufon-santarosa.com](http://www.mufon-santarosa.com). Currently MUFON Santa Rosa has meetings every three months, and membership has grown to approximately thirty (30) members.

As a result of Jim's career experience, his ability to manage and operate a MUFON chapter, and his willingness to help, he was asked to assume the newly created position of MUFON Deputy Director of Investigations. His responsibilities include acting as State Director for all "unaffiliated" states and foreign countries that do not have an active state or provincial Director.

He currently works with investigators in the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, with people in additional countries becoming more interested each month. Many times Jim is the only MUFON contact these Field Investigators have. He is responsible for training those investigators in the CMS-Case Management System, and for following up on their investigations through completion. He has worked silently in the background, supervising and coordinating delicate field investigations.

Due to Jim's ability to work easily with other MUFON members, a program to share "unaffiliated" states with neighboring state Directors and Asst. Directors has begun. State Directors and Asst. State Directors can now take over operations in these states, until a new State Director can be appointed. This helps relieve the backlog of cases that build up under these circumstances.

Jim is dedicated to MUFON's mission. He volunteers countless hours assisting MUFON members and interested individuals, along with doing



*Jim DeManche*

his own field investigations in and around the Santa Rosa, California, area. Jim also gives of his time and energy to his community working as a Sonoma County California law Enforcement Chaplain.

Jim and Sharon have two daughters, one son-in-law and two grandchildren, Jordan, 13, and Noah, 11. Their son Jimmy passed away in 2005 from a sudden illness at age 25. When not working on MUFON business, Jim enjoys woodworking, ministry, fishing, reading, movies and chasing after those grandkids with his wife, the love of his life.

*"I believe Roswell happened, I believe we have been visited, I believe it's only a matter of time before the truth finds the light of day."*

— Jim Demanche

For membership questions  
or change of address,  
call MUFON headquarters  
970-232-3110

MUFON now accepts VISA &  
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# UFO Updates. . .

From: [ufo-updates-bounces@virtuallystrange.net](mailto:ufo-updates-bounces@virtuallystrange.net)

## Was It A UFO Above Corpus Christi Skies?

Source: KIII-TV—Corpus Christi, Texas, USA  
<http://www.kiiitv.com/news/local/16972316.html>

*March 25, 2008*—He doesn't want to be identified because he says he doesn't want to draw attention to himself. What this man does want is to share what he saw.

"It got to the point to where it got a little closer and that's when I got a little bit more nervous," says the man who brought us this video, what he calls a UFO.

The active duty military man captured it on his cell phone.

The video may not seem intimidating but it certainly is different. The image looks like a white, glowing spot moving around. At first we were definitely skeptical.

Is it a UFO? It could have been anything.

But then, we went back and looked at the video captured by residents in Stephenville. Look for yourself. There are some similarities. Both objects move back and forth and from side to side in the same way

"It got to the point that it was close enough that one of my Chihuahuas saw it and he was trying to take care of me and just started to bark and when he started to bark that's when the light started to do that weird movement."

The man spotted this object Saturday night just outside his home on the corner of Holly and Everhart. He says it lingered in the skies for about 15 minutes.

"Were you scared?"

"Yes, because I was by myself. I may be a dude but I ain't dumb. I don't know if it was instinct and not trying to be seen, maybe I've watched too many movies, I don't know."

Too many movies or not, this man wanted to share the video with us to see if anyone else also spotted this object in the sky.

He says he' shared it with family and some friends and they all say that's definitely not a plane, satellite or shooting star.

"Yeah it made me feel like I'm not nuts or maybe I wasn't the only one that saw it."

So if you saw it, shoot us an email to [news@kiiitv.com](mailto:news@kiiitv.com).

[To see the video of the news report, including the cell phone video of the object filed by the Corpus Christi resident, go to <http://www.kiiitv.com/news/local/16972316.html> and click on the video icon below the title. ]

## A Real Phenomenon—Tinley Park, 2004

Source: *The South Town Star*—Tinley Park, Illinois  
<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/867998,033008ufos.article>

By Jason Freeman, Correspondent

*March 30, 2008*—It's out of focus at first, and the cameraman is so overcome with excitement that the picture's constantly bouncing motion momentarily detracts from the three eerily silent red objects sauntering across the night sky.

If you didn't experience the alleged mass UFO sightings above Tinley Park on Aug. 21 and Oct. 31, 2004, the video

captured by Crestwood resident T.J. Japcon is the next best thing, said Sam Maranto, State Director for the Illinois Mutual UFO Network.

"When you analyze (the footage) at 1/30th of a second, what you'll notice is there are actual patterns of intensity ... and (the lights) are rotating counterclockwise," he said. "You'll also notice that (you can hear) crickets in the background, yet you can't hear the object (generating the lights), although it was relatively close (to the camera)."

Maranto joined fellow UFO researchers and authors to talk about the "Tinley Lights" sightings and others like it during a UFO symposium held Saturday at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

The event, which was organized by MUFON and the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, featured lectures on the history of UFO research as well as in-depth case reports from the legendary 1947 Roswell, New Mexico, incident to the more recent mass sightings in Tinley and Rockford.

"What I like to work on most is mass sightings," said Maranto, who showed portions of Japcon's UFO footage during his lecture. "When you have a mass sighting, you have a cross section of the community at large ... you'll get people of a higher status in the community coming forward because they know they cannot be discounted as being crazy because other people have reported seeing (what they have)."

In many of the cases where video footage of alleged UFOs are captured by multiple people, Maranto says he is bombarded with explanations from skeptics that range from road flares tied to balloons to digital fakery to mass hallucination.

"Mass hallucinations cannot be photographed, and the videos aren't computer-generated fakes," he said. "Everybody who tapes this stuff isn't going to have time to make computer-generated images that all look exactly the same. It's moronic. There's a point where skepticism goes and falls off the face of logic and becomes idiotic."

Symposium attendee Guy Richards, of Rockford, said he would love to someday use his bachelor's degrees in engineering and physics to study UFOs.

"UFOs are a real phenomenon," he said. "Whether or not they're alien spacecraft is an open question. I classify myself as a skeptic who comes from a scientific background, and I'm interested in doing some serious scientific study of the phenomena."

"I think it's a shame that it's not being studied by people with technical training who have an open mind who will do it in a methodical and scientific manner," he added.

[*Journal Editor's note: Actually, that's exactly what MUFON is doing. SP*]

Listen to "Strange Days... Indeed" - The PodCast

See: <http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/sdi/program/subscribers/>

UFO UpDates - Toronto - [ufoupdates@virtuallystrange.net](mailto:ufoupdates@virtuallystrange.net)  
A UFO & Related Phenomena Email List operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp

*See another UFO Update on page 11.*

# Case solved by MUFON: Multiple Witnesses in California Report Strange Lights in the Sky

By Jan Harzan

**Editor's Note:** Oftentimes UFO sightings have a logical explanation and become an "Identified Flying Object." Here is a report of such a case, in which our intrepid MUFON investigator, Jan Harzan—after lots and lots of phone calls—uncovers out the real story.

January 26, 2008—A major UFO sighting is reported in Orange County, California. Witnesses report that three (3) bright lights descend to earth with blazing speed then suddenly stop, move back and forth as they slowly sink toward the ground, then wink out one by one. Meanwhile a new light winks on above the light that has extinguished itself below.

MUFON received 12 such reports in a 48-hour period between Saturday, January 26 and Monday, January 28, all for the same date, time, and location, Fullerton, California. Several other UFO investigative groups around the world received similar reports. The internet was rampant with postings surmising an extraterrestrial origin for the lights. Wish it were true; now comes the hard part—doing the investigation.

### These are the facts

The sighting reports came into MUFON via the Case Management System (CMS), [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com), and were immediately routed to Georgeanne Cifarelli, MUFON State Director for Southern California. She assigned the case to Orange County State Section Director, Jan Harzan, for follow-up and further investigation. Jan then contacted the numerous witnesses and began compiling the facts around the case. The facts were:

1. Individuals in and around the cities of Fullerton, La Brea and Yorba Linda in Orange County, California, observed several lights in the sky at approximately 6:00 PM on the night of January 26, 2008.
2. During the time the lights were observed, a helicopter was also seen in the same general vicinity.
3. Witnesses reported seeing no more than three lights in all.
4. Most first observed a light or lights falling to earth and assumed it must be a meteor shower. Suddenly the light(s) stopped falling and began slowly drifting back and forth downward.
5. After several seconds one light, then another, would extinguish. Then a new light would light up above the one that just went out.
6. The lights were described as bright white, and as they

moved they left a bright trail of "fire" behind them, like a smudge on a piece of paper.

7. After a minute or two the lights disappeared.

Based on these reported facts, the first hypothesis was that this was probably pyrotechnics either fired into the sky, or dropped from the helicopter seen in the vicinity, and then falling back to earth and deploying a parachute to slowly drift to earth, burning out in the process.

### Many, many phone calls

The investigation began with the interview of all witnesses by phone. Based on the description and location information provided by each of the witnesses, it was easy to triangulate the location of the lights as being over Cal State Fullerton University in Fullerton, California. Next a quick check of the Cal State Fullerton website showed two events on campus that day: an art show and a scholarship meeting. A call to the University information desk found that those were in fact the only two events scheduled by the University for that day, but neither of them had used pyrotechnics. The information officer did not know anything about the lights that had been reported or what they might have been.

Not giving up, calls were made to all the helicopter companies in Los Angeles and Orange County listed in the Yahoo yellow pages, trying to find one that might have had a helicopter in the area around that time. Eight calls later, not one company had a helicopter in the air at the day and time of the sighting.

At this point the investigation took a new direction, trying to find a police department report of the event, or police helicopter pilot who might shed some light on what these objects were. Calls were made to the La Brea, Placentia and Fullerton Police departments. Again, no luck, nothing reported, and no knowledge of any pyrotechnics being fired off that night.

### A helpful lead

On the last call to the Fullerton Police department, Detective Betts suggested contacting the Cal State Fullerton Police Department. This was new news as it was not even known that a separate Cal State University Police Department existed, nor was it listed on the Cal State Fullerton website. Finally, a potential breakthrough. A call was placed, and a message left. Lt. Fred Molina returned the call almost immediately. He was very helpful and quickly identified the

*Continued on page 14*



### Case Solved: California Sightings

*Continued from page 15*

lights as being part of a Navy Seals pre-game demonstration that he had personally arranged for the Heritage Bowl football game being held that night at the Cal State Fullerton Football Stadium. Lt. Molina provided information on the event via the website <http://www.fightonfoundation.org/college.htm>.

The description of the Heritage Bowl is as follows:

*"American Heritage Bowl*

*January 26, 2008*

*Game Recap*

*The All-Star Classic resurrects a historic game with the American Heritage Bowl. In its return the Heritage Bowl brings together the best football players from historic black colleges and universities, giving athletes from small schools the opportunity to play on the big stage. The American Heritage Bowl brought together future NFL prospects under the Southern California lights."*

#### **The Leap Frogs: A Navy Parachute Team**

Lt. Molina also provided information on the Navy Seal Squadron that did the demonstration allowing us to track down the website for the "U.S. Navy Aerial Event Support," who had the show listed on their website <http://www.navy.mil/navco/airshows/avsjan08.html>.

Using the contact information on the webpage a call was placed, and an e-mail sent to verify what exactly had happened that night. The following day an e-mail was received from LT Anthony Allard, Navy Office of Community Outreach, Aviation Support. The text of the message follows:

*"On Jan 26, 2008 the Navy Parachute Team, The Leap Frogs, were performing a parachute demonstration at the stadium at Cal State Fullerton. The jumpers have pyrotechnic devices attached to make themselves visible to the crowd. It would probably look like a giant sparkler to the crowd below. I hope this answers your question.*

*Respectfully,*

*LT Anthony Allard*

*Navy Office of Community Outreach*

*Aviation Support"*

Wanting a more detailed description of the demonstration to check against the sighting facts that had been gathered from the witnesses, I contacted LT. Allard by phone and asked if I could speak to the pilot of the helicopter that had been involved in the actual event. He provided me the contact information to the Navy Base in San Diego where the Seals Demonstration team is stationed. A call was placed and I spoke to LT Footbracks.

He explained to me that the Navy Seals do two demonstrations, a daytime one and a nighttime one. The Heritage

Bowl was a nighttime demonstration. During this event three (3) Navy Seals, called Leap Frogs, exited the helicopter at approximately 4,000 feet wearing a Pyrocast strapped to their boot loaded with pyrotechnics. After clearing the helicopter they ignite the pyrotechnics with a nine-volt battery which would have appeared to observers on the ground as three (3) bright white lights streaking toward the ground. At about 1,500 to 1,000 feet altitude, the Navy Seals deploy their chutes and begin slowly drifting to earth with the pyrotechnics still ignited and burning brightly. After a minute or so the pyrotechnics burn out, and the Navy Seals, if they have time, ignite another one. This would explain one light going out below and another one turning on just above based on the general positioning of the three (3) Navy Leap Frogs.

Thanks to all those individuals who contributed to the investigation and corroboration of information for this report. Your help is greatly appreciated.

— Jan Harzan, MUFON Field Investigator

## Calendar. . .

**April 18–20.** X-Conference 2008: The Insider II. Edgar Mitchell, Paul Hellyer, Jesse Marcel, Jr., George Noory, Bruce Maccabee, Angelia Joiner, Rob Simone, and more. Gaithersburg, Maryland. <http://www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2008/X-Conference2008.htm>

**May 16–17.** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual UFO Festival. Richard Dolan, Robert Nichol. McMinnville, Oregon. <http://www.hoteloregon.com/ufofest07/index.html>

**May 16–18.** Earth Transformation Conference: New Science, Consciousness and Contact. Michael A. Cremo, Victoria Liljenquist, Angelika Whitecliff, Elizabeth Rauscher, David Wilcock, Paolo Harris, Michael Salla, and others. Kona, Hawaii. <http://www.earthtransformation.com/>

**June 7.** First Annual Mysteries of the Universe Conference. Stanton Friedman, Margie Kay, Chris Brethwaite, Jason Offutt, Vince White, Bill Hamilton. Kansas City, Missouri. <http://www.ufokc.4mg.com/conference.htm>

**July 3–6.** Roswell UFO Conference: Contact: The Evidence... The Message... Roswell, New Mexico. [www.Roswellnmufocconference.com](http://www.Roswellnmufocconference.com)

**July 24–27.** MUFON 39<sup>th</sup> Annual International UFO Symposium: *UFOs—A Worldwide Phenomenon*. See center pages of this *Journal* for detailed information.

# PercePtions

By Stanton T. Friedman

## *Beyond UFOs*, by Dr. Jeffrey Bennett

I have been working on several different projects and was trying to decide which one should be the topic of this column. Should I talk about the various rumors about a supposedly very important group of sessions at a special meeting at the United Nations in New York, the week of February 11, 2008? Supposedly, according to the Exopolitics Movement, there was a focus on the release of government UFO information by 2009, if the world was in a stable situation. Big concern was the impact on various religions. The story has been changing and I am very dubious about the Exopolitics Movement and their pronouncements. I think I should wait until I have a bottom line on this story.

The second topic could be my efforts to determine whether or not General Roger Ramey and his Chief of Staff, then Colonel (later General) Thomas Jefferson DuBose, were actually present at the meeting in Colonel William Blanchard's office in Roswell on July 8, 1947. We know they were back in Fort Worth, Texas, that afternoon as their pictures were taken there with Major Jesse Marcel and the substituted balloon wreckage. This was claimed in a newly posthumously published affidavit signed by Walter Haut as reported in the new book *Witness to Roswell* (New Page Books) by Thomas Carey and Donald Schmitt. I have with considerable effort (and considerable assistance from Dr. David Rudiak) located various family members of Ramey and DuBose and of Ramey's pilot, and hope to locate flight logs which would provide solid evidence as to whether or not Ramey and DuBose were indeed in Roswell on July 8, 1947. Hopefully, I will have this all pinned down by my next column deadline.

Finally the third topic and the one I have selected is the new book *Beyond*

*UFOs: The Search for Extraterrestrial Life and Its Astonishing Implications for our Future*, published in 2008 by Princeton University Press. The author, Dr. Jeffrey Bennett, has a PhD in astronomy and has written a number of books, several of them for children. He has worked with SETI specialist Dr. Seth Shostak, and the book jacket has a favorable commentary from Dr. Michael Shermer, Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine. Both have demonstrated their complete ignorance about UFOs.

I didn't know when I ordered the book from Amazon that there would be no index and no references. Interestingly it doesn't provide an address or phone number for Dr. Bennett. I take pride in putting mine in my books. He apparently lives in Boulder, Colorado, and is now a full time self-employed writer. About the only comment that directly relates to a UFO observation is a 10-second observation by him and his young son early in the morning while watching a meteor shower. A bright light opposite in the sky from Venus got much brighter and then according to the boy moved off rapidly. Bennett has convinced himself that since 25 million meteors hit the earth every year, this must have been a meteor. Not the slightest hint in the book of multiwitness radar visual cases, physical trace cases, pilot sightings, etc. Is he also not aware of the re-entry of man made objects?

He says "it is far more reasonable to think that I saw an odd one among those 25 million rather than something as extraordinary as beings from another world." "More reasonable" based on what? What in the world is extraordinary about vehicles coming here from another world? They are observed all over the planet. Their appearance and behavior together indicate they come from away.

Does he have an ET travel schedule indicating nobody is coming here?

Bennett says, "I tell this story not to discredit other UFO sightings, but rather to emphasize what I consider to be the most basic difference between science and beliefs. Science is



Stanton Friedman

supposed to be based on verifiable evidence, while beliefs are matters of faith or opinion." I agree, but it is Bennett who, like the SETI community, expresses a belief without examining any evidence at all. There isn't the slightest mention of the five large scale scientific studies I discuss in my lectures or of the dozen or so PhD theses on UFO topics, or the annual MUFON Symposium with presentations by scientists.

Bennett asks, "Why do so many UFO believers think that science is trying to hide the truth from them?" Much as I have written about SETI specialists and other scientists whose opinions are based on ignorance and aversion to research, I for one have never said that scientists are trying to hide the truth from believers. Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Dr. Robert Wood, John Schuessler and myself aren't "believers." We are scientists who have studied the evidence. I don't know of any other serious ufological scientists who make the claim either. You can't hide something that you don't have and are too lazy and arrogant to seek. I have loudly said over and over again that the subject of flying saucers represents a Cosmic Watergate. The primary villains would appear to be the

*Continued on page 17*

# Friedman: Beyond UFOs

*Continued from page 16*

intelligence community including such agencies as the CIA, NSA, FBI, OSI, ONI, etc. Do note the blacked out and whited out documents one gets from these agencies when they deign to release any. There is an entire chapter about "The Cosmic Watergate" in my new book *Flying Saucers and Science* (due out June 1).

In an interesting discussion of the Copernican revolution taking Earth out of the center of the universe, Bennett—speaking of Johannes Kepler (a truly great astronomer)—says, "he did something no one else had been willing to do in the preceding 2000 years: He trusted the data more than he trusted his own deeply held beliefs." Now if we could only get people like Dr. Bennett and Dr. Shostak and Dr. Shermer to put aside their beliefs about UFOs and look at the data, we might make progress. I won't hold my breath.

I was shocked to see Bennett claim that one of three hallmarks of science is: "Modern science seeks observations for observed phenomena that rely solely on natural causes."

This notion is absurd. It leaves out all the activities that relate to things and actions of intelligent beings. If I see something (seemingly metallic) fly overhead, blot out the sky for a bit, maneuver in a strange fashion, hover silently, etc, must it be a bird? It could be an airplane, helicopter, balloon, alien spacecraft. If my car is involved in an accident, is it to be blamed only on sun in the eyes of the driver or ice on the road? If a person is found dead in his front yard, could it only be caused by natural causes? What about murder, suicide, a close encounter with a blunt object?

Bennett says, "Science progresses through the creation and testing of models of nature that explain the observations as simply as possible." The real world in which we live has much more in it than natural phenomena.

He also says, "A scientific model must make testable predictions about natural phenomena that would force us to revise or abandon the model, if the pre-

dictions do not agree with observations." How about testable predictions about unnatural phenomena like flying saucers? I have made many that have been confirmed, for example, by the data in *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*. If some UFOs were alien spacecraft, then I would predict that they would be observed all over the planet, that they would be seen by airborne and ground-based radar and by pilots; that the better the quality of a sighting the more likely to be unidentifiable as conventional; that the characteristics would not match those that have been identified.....all demonstrably true.

To me as a physicist, science is an approach to problem solving. One gathers, reviews, and evaluates evidence, makes and tests hypotheses, and reaches a conclusion based on logic, not belief systems or the silly, but common assumption—amongst the academic guys—is that if this were true, they would know about it.

Bennett, like many deniers, doesn't like eyewitness testimony, saying, "The demonstrated unreliability of eyewitness testimony explains why it is generally considered insufficient for a conviction in criminal court; at least some other evidence such as motive is required." Wouldn't O.J. Simpson have been convicted if there had been an eyewitness? I surely live in a different world. As would be expected, he seems totally oblivious that, human nature being what it is, motive has much less going for it than observation. Not long ago a man was executed in Texas based entirely on eyewitness testimony from one witness. Of course no consideration is given to the simple fact that the reason most sightings can be explained, after careful investigation, is that most eyewitness testimony is quite good as a basis for a conventional explanation as long as one focuses on observation as opposed to interpretation. It is absurd to suggest that eyewitness testimony is reliable so long as we can find a conventional explanation, but unreliable if we can't. Bennett does admit "science can rarely prove anything to be true beyond *all doubt*."

Bennett states, "Indeed, I find the entire idea of crashed aliens to be very

hard to swallow. Even with our current primitive technology we manage to build aircraft that hardly ever crash... So if you ask me how often aircraft or spacecraft will crash in 50,000 years, here's my answer: essentially never... consider how far they've come and how long they had to perfect their technology." Not a clue that he knows anything at all about crashed airplanes, no less saucers. Between 1999 and 2007, according to the Geneva-based Aircraft Crashes Record Office there were 1,584 plane (able to hold 6 or more passengers) crashes in which 11,333 people died. Two Space Shuttles have crashed. The B-2 recently crashed.

This is not the only example of his incredible arrogance and ignorance. "And this brings me to claims that the government developed our current computer technology by "reverse engineering alien computers recovered from crashed spacecraft." He admires Bill Gates "but his software is not always reliable." I laughed out loud at this one. Of course, he provides no indication of who made such claims or where or when. The only claims I have heard are that the transistor, which is certainly hardware, not software, might have been derived from wreckage. Roswell happened in July 1947. The official birth date of the transistor is December 1947, and it was developed by guys who were already working on solid state physics. A vital ingredient or new direction could easily have come from a piece of wreckage sent for evaluation.

Bennett says "the bottom line is that virtually any claim of "hard evidence" of alien visitation quickly collapses under its own weight of implausibility." Not a mention of pictures evaluated by scientists, of Ted Phillips' 4,000+ physical trace cases, of multiple witness radar visual cases involving guys in the air and on the ground, of NARCAP's thousands of pilot sightings, of more than 1,000 abduction cases. Without data, "implausibility" is ridiculous.

That Princeton University Press published this nonsense is as sad as Harvard publishing Susan Clancy's book on abductions. See my review at [www.stantonfriedman.com](http://www.stantonfriedman.com) Stan Friedman [fsphys@rogers.com](mailto:fsphys@rogers.com)





# Filer's Files

By George Filer  
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



*Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.*



## B-1B Flies with Synthetic Fuel

An Air Force B-1B bomber from the 9th Bomb Squadron at Dyess AFB, Texas on March 19 became the first aircraft to fly at supersonic speeds burning the synthetic fuel blend that USAF wants its entire inventory cleared to use. The B-1B conducted the four-and-a-half hour flight over White Sands Missile Range, N.M., with all four its General Electric turbofan engines burning the fuel mix of 50 percent JP-8 aviation fuel and 50 percent synthetic kerosene derived under a method called the Fischer-Tropsch process that is derived from natural gas, coal or shale. Rick Fournier, the pilot said, "There was no noticeable difference flying with this fuel." The Air Force has already cleared the B-52H to operate with the 50-50 fuel blend and is close to certifying the C-17. Thanks to SSgt. Matthew Bates and the Air Force Association.

## Alaska Bright Large Light

**HOPE**—I was awakened in our RV in the Porcupine Campground by a very bright large light shining in the window on my bed on September 16, 2007. My first thought was that it was an aircraft with landing light headed for Anchorage airport

but light did not move and was silent. I looked at the object for wings, fuselage, or tail, but there was none. After a minute or so it moved slowly with a transparent trail. It lit up the edge of the cliff and stopped again about where the last RV was parked. Still no sound and then disappeared. Thanks to Brian Vike, Director of HBCC UFO Research, <http://www.hbccufo.org>

## Arizona Spherical Shape Lights

**SAFFORD**—Around 8:15 PM on February 13, 2008, while en route to Deming, NM, on Highway 70 my brother and I noticed four low flying flashing lights in the distance near the Peloncillo Mountains. We pulled over because it seemed odd to us that there would be commercial airliners flying that low in a flight pattern. The presumed aircraft were directly in front of us as we were looking East at mile marker 362 on HWY 70. I had turned off my lights so we could get a better view. As we watched we visualized six bright lights, not quite orange and not quite white in color, appear tilted and low to the ground.

Four of lights remained almost steady for a couple of seconds then in succession, two more lights came on which allowed us to see the spherical shape and a 30 degree angle on the craft above the lights. They disappeared one after the other, again giving us a visual of a sphere. My heart starting pounding and I was fumbling for my cell camera, when I saw four of the lights again a little higher. The first light flowed to the second, again giving off a perception that the craft was spherical. We both saw five steady lights directly north of us and further away. The flashing lights came out of formation and zigzagged in front of us higher than the spherical craft. After about a minute of this, we saw the four flashing light craft

take off quickly towards the south and seconds later heard the deafening roar of what sounded like jets.

I am a higher education graduate with a prominent career in the healthcare field. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com)

## Hawaii - Twelve Lights

**BIG ISLAND of HAWAII**—On Highway 19 between Waikoloa and Mauna Lani Resorts we saw ten to twelve objects. They were bright torch like lights outlining the Mauna Kea Mountain. They lit up brightly and then faded out. It



George Filer

was a little windy, but clear with a little fog. Thanks to Brian Vike, Director HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org>

## Indiana - Five Whitish Discs and Triangles

**FORT WAYNE**—My girlfriend and I stepped out of her apartment to go to the store at exactly 9:56 PM, on March 22, 2008, we looked up to see five whitish discs. They were flying in a perfect diagonal straight formation spread apart by 15-20 feet each. They were flying lower than any plane. I could see the under belly of these craft from some reflected light. I flipped out and ran around the other side of my girlfriend's car and grabbed her head and pointed her eyes toward the spot where I saw them, but by then they were gone. I was shaking badly. I always have wanted to see something like that but now I'm scared. <http://mufoncms.com/>

*Continued on page 19*

# Filer's Files

*Continued from page 18*

## NEW MIDDLETOWN/CORYDON –

About every other night there are re-occurring events taking place near us. On March 16, at 11:42 PM, my husband and I decided to go out front and look. It was too cloudy to see, so my husband started to go inside, when I noticed this thick white line light over the top of our house that looked like the power line lit up, but we don't have a power line. We agreed that that was very odd, and we noticed something flashing in the sky. We went inside and later I got binoculars to look at it. The object was definitely hovering and was the size of a penny through binoculars with many lights flashing in different sequence. My teen could make out red, blue, lights with a big white center light.

On March 20, 2008, at 3 AM exactly our dogs started barking and whimpering, and wouldn't go after whatever it was they saw. To the north above the house, there was one of them again with the same red, blue rows of lights, with a white light in middle as before. The white light goes off, then another white light comes zigzagging across with great leaps. Two more lights were seen with one zigzagging around. Finally five of these objects are flying around my house. At 4:07 AM, all but the closest one disappeared and I decided to go to bed. Thanks to MUFON CMS



## Missouri - Verizon Commercial Shows Possible UFO

**SPRINGFIELD**—A viewer of the 10 PM, March 6, 2008, newscast aired on KY3 TV in Springfield, Missouri called and said that he saw a strange object on the

newscast. We called the TV station to report what he saw and ordered the telecast. We found a short segment of footage from a Verizon commercial that showed a silver object near a helicopter. The object was hovering with some up and down oscillation.

**Comments:** It is difficult to say what the silver object in the video could be. The object is only visible for a few frames next to the helicopter making analysis difficult. The object could be an apparatus used in recording of the commercial, but this is speculation. Thanks to Bill Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com> [Click Here to Play Video](#)

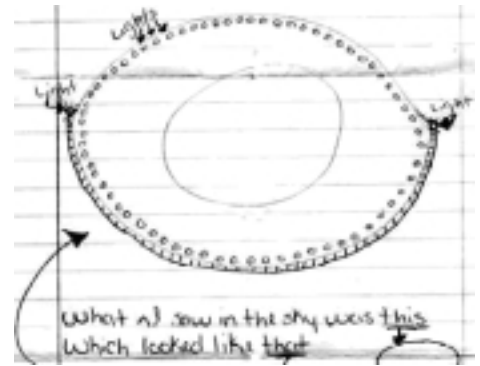
**JEFFERSON CITY**—On March 1, 2009, I got home at 9 PM, and was walking up the driveway when I saw a flying triangle about 1-2 acres in size. It was very hard to see it as it had no lights and made no sound. I thought this was very strange. I have heard of numerous reports of people seeing a UFO, but never heard of one without lights. It looked to be gray and blend in with the dark sky. The edges were a little lighter than the rest, but it was a solid triangle. It sort of scared me but at the same time amazed me. It went directly above my house and kept going east down to the Missouri River. It never slowed or stopped. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com)

## New Jersey - Cigar

**TURNERSVILLE**—Saw two cigar shaped aircraft with two bright lights on one side and one red light on the other side. I have been seeing these craft in the woods next to my home for several weeks. It started on January 28, 2008. They fly over my home above the tree line. Then they seem to turn sideways and hover then go down in the trees.

My daughter and I have also experiences strange occurrences around our home. A dead bird on our porch that looked like it and a branch fell off a tree, but in was under our awning. Also a bright flash of light in our kitchen, it came in thru a crack in the curtains. Dimming of the lights in our home at night. I also caught on tape lights on the side of our neighbor' house. One red light in the trees, a purple/blue light on the ground next to

their house and other phenomena. It has increased in intensity over the weeks. Started with me seeing blinking lights in the sky on February 19, 2008, at 7:30 PM. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com)



## North Carolina - Round Donut

**LUMBERTON**—I was getting out of my car on March 6, 2008, about 8:30 PM, and I glanced up at the sky and saw what looked like a large round donut with lights all around it. The size of the object was bigger than anything I had ever seen. It was the size of four to five airplanes. The object was very slow almost like it was scooping [scoping?] everything out. The craft itself was dark gray with all the lights around it. There were four witnesses. Whatever it was it wasn't normal and I will never look at the sky the same way again.

**Comments:** The witness has described a strange looking very large object. Objects of this shape and configuration are rarely reported. Conclusion: Based on available data I can't identify this object. Thanks to Bill Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

## Oregon - Zigzagging White Stars

**GRANTS PASS PEAK**—My husband's alarm clock went off at 5:15 AM, on March 6, 2008, and he got up to get ready for work. I was awake lying in bed and stared out the window at two dim white stars in the sky to the left of the Grants Pass Peak, I then noticed that the star to the right of the other one was moving very slowly eastward. As it moved slowly

*Continued on page 20*



## John Bainbridge named new member of STAR Team

John Bainbridge, Field Investigator, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania has been named to the MUFON Strike Team for Area Research, or STAR team. He joins members announced last month: Kristen Winslet, Norman Gagnon, Richard Webb and Jay Jordan.

Thanks for volunteering, John!

## UFO Updates

*Continued from page 11*

It's an old case revisited numerous times, from *Unsolved Mysteries* to *Larry King Live*. But *UFO Hunters* would be derelict if it didn't exploit the MoD's recent maneuver, even if the issue is more about timing than intention.

Meanwhile, back in the UK, Pope says readers who might not have otherwise been inclined to review those documents online are still free to do so, thanks to some real crackerjack quality control.

"MoD haven't even blocked access properly anyway," he writes.

"There are still ways of accessing it, e.g. through the Wayback Machine, which gave me this: <http://tinyurl.com/2ppg3g>." <http://tinyurl.com/2ppg3g>."

So have at it, but don't get your hopes up. It's pretty dull fare.  
From: ufo-updates-  
bounces@virtuallystrange.net

## Filer's Files

*Continued from page 18*

the dim light got brighter and larger. I jumped out of bed as it continued to move to the east and to my surprise it started zigzagging upward and downward

At this point I knew it wasn't any airplane or helicopter. It went back to its previous position and headed east once again. Suddenly it drove and circled around heading west. The bright light and large size got smaller as it moved west and then it disappeared. Our house guest saw something similar to what I saw eight hours earlier. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

### Oregon Photo Was Satellite Dishes

**UMPQUA RIVER NEAR CANYONVILLE**—The witness originally made the report by faxing three photos and stating



that he and two others were floating near Canyonville when river guide was able to photograph a UFO like object on February 3, 2008, at 11 AM. Bill Puckett spoke to the river guide who took the photos and he returned to the site on a later trip down the river to investigate and found two

satellite dishes welded together and suspended from the trees by cables. I really wonder why someone would put something like this along a river in a remote area? Thanks to Thanks to Bill Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

[This photo ran in the *March MUFON Journal*.]

### South Africa - A Massive Disk Shaped UFO

**PHILLIPI, CAPE TOWN**— I was around six years old, alone in the house with my nanny in her own quarters and my parents were out. There was a large storm overhead and I was sitting at a glass door looking up at the sky. I was scared because of the storm and suddenly through the clouds appeared the front edge of a massive disk that covered most of sky. It was silver gray in color and all around the disk edge were lights spaced evenly apart. My child's mind made it look like a long string of light bulbs hanging in the cloud, and only later on in life did I realize what it was that I saw. Thanks to Brian Vike, Director HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccufo.org>

This report taken from Filer's Files # 10-2008, 3/4/08, and #13-2008, 3/26/08.

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## MUFON-Black Vault Partnership

After successfully converting MUFON's archive of paper documents to electronic form as part of the Pandora Project, MUFON has forged a strategic partnership with member John Greenwald to host the MUFON archives for public consumption on John's well known web site *The Black Vault* - <http://www.theblackvault.com/>. The initial trove of documents that are already available on the site are *MUFON Journals* in Adobe PDF format from 1967 (when it was *Skylook*) to 2007 at <http://www.theblackvault.com/>

[wiki/index.php/Category:The MUFON Archive](http://wiki/index.php/Category:The_MUFON_Archive) . Only *Journals* older than one year from the current issue will be added to the site.

In addition, the site will also host all MUFON's cache of Government documents, special collections, and case files that do not violate witness anonymity. A link from MUFON's website to the Black Vault Archive has been added. We are excited about this important partnership that will provide substantial documentary resources to UFO researchers worldwide.



# Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is March's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), **Bland Pugh** (Florida), and **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico) for being at 100%! The top 10 State Directors are highlighted.

The report is based on our two measures of UFO Investigation effectiveness: assigning reports within 72 hours of receipt, and completing all investigations within 90 days of being assigned.

The "Assigned" column is a six-month running average of the number of cases assigned within 72 hours divided by the total number of cases received in that six month period. The "Completed" column is the number of cases completed beginning sixty-two (62) days back and going back six months from there (for a total of eight months back) divided by the total number of cases reported in the same period. The "Weighted Rank" is just the average of the two columns expressed as a percent.

State Directors can improve their scores by being sure to assign all cases within 72 hours, and to follow up with their Field Investigators to ensure all reports are completed within 90 days. To be considered complete, a report must have been investigated and placed in one of the three completed status codes (Unknown, Hoax or IFO) by the State Director.

If you have any questions or need help with your investigations please contact me, Chuck Reeve, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at [wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org).

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	24/24	15/15
2	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	16/16	15/15
3	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 %	91/91	62/62
4	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	23/23	16/16
5	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	99 %	265/265	68/69
6	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	98 %	49/49	35/36
7	California	Georgianne Cifarelli	97 %	148/148	74/78
8	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	94 %	46/46	44/50
9	West Virginia	John Ventre	92 %	10/10	11/13
10	Wisconsin	TG Whiteagle / DJ Watson	89 %	17/18	11/13
11	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	89 %	18/23	20/20
12	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	88 %	47/61	76/76
13	Georgia	Walter Sheets	85 %	27/27	12/17
14	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	85 %	45/47	38/51
15	Washington	Marilyn Childs	82 %	25/30	19/23
16	Iowa	Jim King	80 %	26/26	8/13
17	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	79 %	25/41	50/51
18	Utah	Elaine Douglass	73 %	15/16	9/17
19	Arizona	George C. Parks	72 %	39/86	87/87
20	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	71 %	68/68	24/57
21	Nevada	Mark Easter	59 %	9/40	29/30
22	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	58 %	9/15	8/14
23	Ohio	William Jones	57 %	35/48	16/38
24	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	57 %	13/29	16/23
25	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	56 %	2/15	2/2
26	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	52 %	3/12	8/10
27	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	50 %	16/24	6/18
28	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegal	50 %	0/0	1/1
29	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	50 %	0/2	1/1
30	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	47 %	7/20	6/10
31	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	44 %	53/65	4/60
32	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	44 %	22/40	17/51
33	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	35 %	6/15	4/13
34	Maryland	Bruce S. Maccabee	34 %	4/16	8/18
35	North Carolina	George E. Lund, III	31 %	11/42	12/32
36	New Hampshire	Peter R. Geremia	30 %	3/5	0/5
37	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	16 %	0/23	9/27
38	Massachusetts	Greg S. Berghorn	9 %	3/33	2/21
39	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	8 %	1/6	0/8
40	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	8 %	1/6	0/9
41	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	2 %	1/18	0/18
42	Hawaii	Puuloo M. Teves	0 %	0/5	0/4
43	Rhode Island	Richard Lynch	0 %	0/10	0/7
44	Idaho	Robert Gates	0 %	0/14	0/14
45	North Dakota	Kurt Pflieger	0 %	0/4	0/3
46	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	0 %	0/23	0/9

## MUFON

### Field Investigators Manual

The official Mutual UFO Network guidelines for in-depth UFO investigation

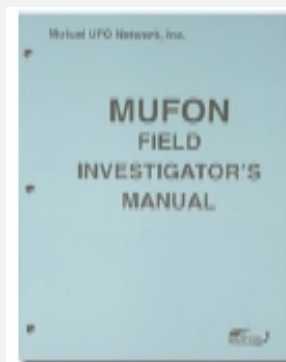
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## Director's Message

*continued from page 2*

Changes to MUFON's Case Management System (CMS) are also coming, including the implementation of MUFON's new triage report categorization system. By categorizing reports based on their Vallee Classification, higher priority reports such as CE3 reports can be assigned a higher level of investigator response and follow-up, while lower category reports such as CE1 reports can receive a lower response level. This new system will make the MUFON reporting system more efficient and responsive. More details will be forthcoming soon.

### Position Announcements:

#### New State Directors:

**Lorna Hunter** is the new **State Director for South Dakota**.

### New Field Investigators:

**Garret Moore** of Fremont, California; **Guy Ball** of Pleasant Hill, California; **Cal Gregory** of Westlake Village, California; **Bill Hammill** of Orange Park, Florida; **Richard Marcey** of Lakeland, Florida; **Marie Malzahn** of Priest River, Idaho; **Frank Coffman** of Elgin, Illinois; **Patrick O'Brien** of Peking, Indiana; **Sheila C. Smith** of Grantsville, Maryland; **Grover Dodds** of Richfield, Minnesota; **Jessie MacKenzie-Rosenberg** of Roswell, New Mexico; **Michael Palmer** of Salisbury, North Carolina; **Jannice Fadely** of Grants Pass, Oregon; **John Bainbridge** of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; **Robert Gardner** of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; **James Kromwall** of Benton City, Washington.

## MUFON Volunteer Opportunity: Case Management System (CMS) Administrator

### Responsibilities:

1. ALL administrative tasks related to the CMS System.
  2. Maintain the MUFON USER list based on the current list in CMS, plus any adds due to membership growth and new Field Investigators who have passed their FI Exam, minus any deletes based on expired memberships or State Director directed deletions. Eventually the membership adds and deletes should be an automated feed between the membership system and CMS.
  3. Log onto CMS several times each day to check the LAST 20 Reports and ensure the content posted is appropriate. This includes clicking on all links and checking all pictures, videos, and other files posted for appropriate content.
  4. Review all automatically deleted reports by CMS, review the content, and restore those that are valid reports.
  5. Check to see that all States with multiple SDs (California, Tennessee, Washington, etc.) have the County field filled in for all reports submitted.
  6. Delete duplicate reports after reviewing all duplicates and determining which one has the most data in it to become the surviving case file.
  7. Alert the Director of Investigations regarding all exceptional cases that come in. An exceptional case is one that is a recent landing and/or entity case at close range (<300 feet). These require IMMEDIATE follow-up.
  8. Work with the Director of Investigations to ensure the timely assignment and follow-up of all reports by State Directors and FIs respectively.
- If you are interested in this *new, volunteer position*, contact Jan Harzan at [janharzan@hotmail.com](mailto:janharzan@hotmail.com) or Chuck Reeve at [wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org).

## The Night Sky: April

*Continued from page 24*

meteors or more per hour. Viewing will be slightly more favorable in the southern hemisphere.

### Planetary Conjunctions and Occultations:

May 10<sup>th</sup>: Mars 0.2 degrees south of the Moon.

May 12<sup>th</sup>: Regulus 1.2 degrees north of the Moon.

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Antares 0.2 degrees north of the Moon.

May 24<sup>th</sup>: Jupiter 2 degrees north of the Moon.

## Leave a Legacy to MUFON

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# The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

## May 2008 Sky

### Moon Phases

New Moon May 5<sup>th</sup>  
First Quarter May 12<sup>th</sup>  
Full Moon May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Last Quarter May 28<sup>th</sup>

### Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

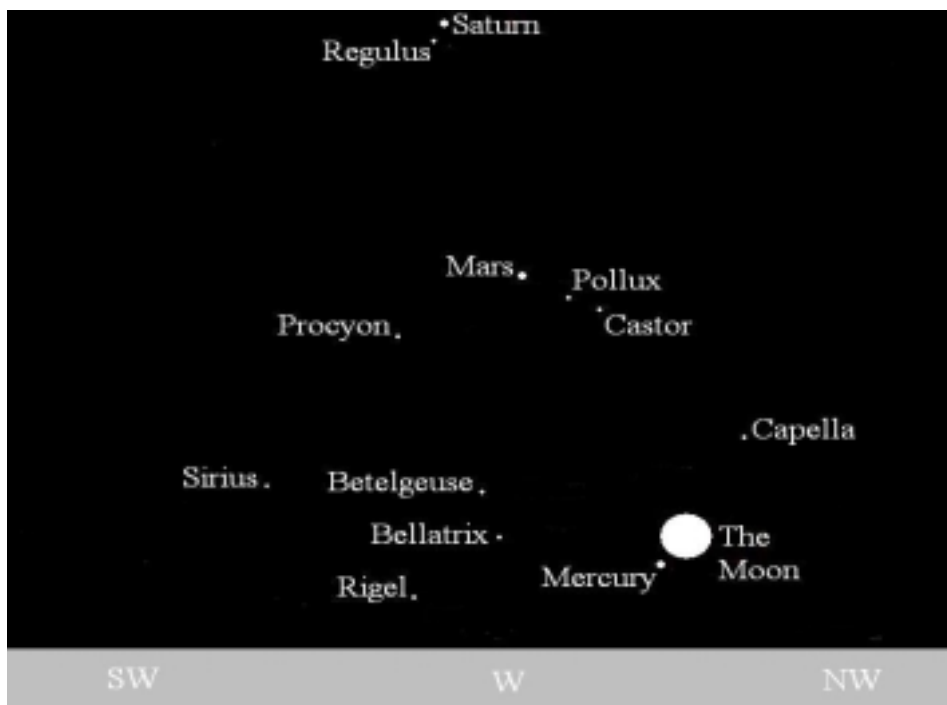
**Mercury** (magnitude -0.9 to 1.4): In Taurus. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month high above the west-northwest horizon after sunset and will slide slowly towards the glare of the Sun as the month passes. For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month very low over the northwest horizon after sunset and will slide slowly towards the glare of the Sun as the month passes.

**Mars** (magnitude 1.2 to 1.4): Moving from Gemini into Cancer. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will be high above the southwest horizon at sunset and will set below the west-northwest horizon about 5 ½ hours after sunset. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will be above the northern horizon at sunset and will set below the northwest horizon about 5 hours after sunset.

**Saturn** (magnitude 0.5 to 0.6): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will be standing high above the southwest horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 7 hours later. For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will be low over the northeast horizon at sunset and will set about 7 1/2 hours after the Sun.

### Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

**Venus** (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Aries into Taurus. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month very low on the eastern sky before sunrise and will slide towards



*Conjunction of the Moon and Mercury, after dusk on May 6, 2008*

the glare of the Sun as the month passes. For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month very low above the east-northeast horizon before sunrise and will rapidly slide towards the glare of the Sun as the month passes.

**Jupiter**: (magnitude -2.4 to -2.5). In Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will rise above the southeast horizon about 5 hours after sunset and will be standing above the southern horizon as the Sun rises. For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will rise above the southeast horizon about 5 hours after sunset and will be standing very high above the northwest horizon as the Sun rises.

### Other Celestial Phenomena

#### **Meteor Shower**

**Eta Aquarids.** The new moon will not interfere with the viewing of the Eta Aquarids. These meteors originate from

the famous Halley's Comet and can be seen from the end of April until the middle part of May. They peak on the 5th of May and can produce around 30

*Continued on page 22*