

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP, 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014, (301) 654-8091

A non-profit corporation since 1956

* * * * *

ANOTHER NEW ZEALAND SIGHTING

How hard it is to get recognition of UFO phenomena and how little one is appreciated in his own country. Consider this letter sent to NICAP from New Zealand:

"Towards the end of 1978 a New Zealand cameraman took some remarkable movies and stills of a UFO off the Kaikoura coast of South Island. This incident received world coverage. The enclosed photographs were taken by me in Auckland in February 1979. I sent copies of my photos to the TV channel but they were never acknowledged. I then sent copies to the Auckland Star newspaper and they published a short item on them. Now, more than six months have passed and I have heard no more from the newspapers or TV channel. Because no one in New Zealand has shown interest in my photos I would like to submit them to you for authenticity and analysis. The technical data are:
Time: 9:30 p.m. Camera: Titan 35mm. Lens: 300mm on tripod.
Speed: 1/60. Stop: f3.5. Film: ASA 100. Distance: approximately one half mile, two degrees above the horizon looking west northwest."

The letter encloses two 5x8 inch glossy color prints as well as the original negatives. The image they show is of a round, blue object. In the prints there is some graininess, due to the enlargement, and some atmospheric distortion due to the low elevation of the object. But what is quite clear in the pictures are clear white lines running vertically through the disc. Some frames show four, some show five. These lines, or bands, are one of the things that caught the attention of Dr. Bruce Maccabee when he analyzed the Kaikoura, New Zealand films of the December 1978 event. It is a testimony to NICAP that a New Zealander should come to us, with his negatives, when he gets a cold shoulder in his own country.

OTHER SIGHTING REPORTS

Stroudsburg, Pa. 1 September 1979. 11:00 p.m. EDT. A young man and woman, in their 20s, one a high school graduate and the other a college graduate, were driving east on Interstate Route 80. The sky was completely overcast, neither the moon nor stars were visible. About 2 miles east of Stroudsburg the woman noticed a lighted object approaching from the opposite direction, going west. At first she saw it through the windshield and watched it for a few minutes. It seemed to slow down as it came closer. She called the man's attention to the object and rolled down the side window to get a clearer view. The man slowed the car almost to a stop. As he did so the object hovered ahead of them and appeared to be observing them. They estimated the object's distance, while hovering, to have been about 200-300 yards. After having been observed for a period of 5 to 10 minutes, the object turned to the north and disappeared from view.

The observers describe the object as an oval disc. The object had a clearly defined outline and they describe the exterior color as dull. There were a series of windows around the edge of the object and through them the observers could see that the interior of the object was lighted. Both observers say the object was larger than a grapefruit held at arms length. The object rotated slowly in a direction which if seen from above would be counterclockwise. No sound from the object was heard nor were any conventional airplanes observed in the area.

Washington, DC. 24 October 1979. 1:45 a.m. EST. The observer is a pilot, college graduate, in his mid 50s. He was on his back porch. The night was cold and very clear. Hundreds of stars could be seen. While looking at the sky he noticed a "star" that made him pay closer attention. It was a point of light but seemed to have a red light on top and a blue/green one on the bottom. There was a clear white light in the middle. Being familiar with the area, he thought it might be a distant helicopter heading for the Navy hospital in nearby Bethesda. If it were a helicopter it should have gotten closer and moved in relation to the stars. It did not. The observer had "grid" references because he was looking through the branches of a tree whose leaves had fallen. He observed the object continuously for six minutes from 1:43 a.m. to 1:49 a.m. He went in the house to get warm. He then went back to the same place on the porch and observed the object for another seven minutes. Still no change in position. But now, the lights, though distant, were clearer: white in the middle, intermittent red on top, green on bottom. The observer also thought he saw the reflexion of bright lights (but not the lights themselves) which could have been a strobe light on the tail.

He was convinced he was seeing a helicopter at a distance. But over a period of half an hour it had not changed its position. Helicopters in the Washington area do change their position. Meanwhile, half a dozen conventional airplanes flew through the area and they were seen and heard. He asked a NICAP Regional Investigator to help and spent the next two hours on the phone. Washington National tower and radar: nothing in that area. Baltimore Washington International: nothing. Andrews Air Force Base: nothing showing. Maryland State Police helicopter unit at Martin Field, Baltimore: we were on the ground by 11:10 p.m.

The observer of this report does not know what he did see, but he is still not convinced that it was a UFO.

AN AUDIO UFO "SIGHTING"

We have a letter from our Spanish colleagues, the Center for Inter-Planetary Studies in Barcelona, announcing research into an unusual type of UFO "sighting," the recording of the sounds of a UFO on tape. The recording was made some years ago and research on the matter has been going on for more than five years. Analysis shows that there are two main carrier frequencies: 1,050 Hz. and 4,150 Hz. The conclusion reached so far is that the 1,050 Hz. signal is associated with the propulsion system of the UFO and that the other frequency is associated with the reconnaissance mission of the UFO. The two basic frequencies are, of course, just carrier waves. What is interesting is that riding on each of these carriers are what the Spanish call "strange and sophisticated modulations in amplitude." This fact causes them to speculate that there is some form of data coding involved. It would not be surprising if this were the case. We have become familiar since the end of World War II with the

transmission from rockets and other instruments of coded data. This is known as telemetry.

RENTING NICAP MAILING LISTS

Over the past several months we have received a number of letters complaining about what seems to have been a practice in the past: the renting of NICAP mailing lists to other businesses or publications. The result is that NICAP members have been receiving mail which is annoying and objectionable to them, mail that they didn't ask for and which they don't want. This is even more unfortunate since this mail has come with clearly identifiable NICAP address labels including the membership number and expiration data.

This unwanted mail seems to fall into two general categories. One is hate mail which expresses extreme political positions held by minority groups. The other tries to push faddist, sensational books on pseudo-science, the occult and sometimes on UFOs. One such slick paper brochure promises the buyer of the book such things as: "actual quotes from the Aliens," and the "clearest, sharpest color photographs ever seen of UFOs." One irate member who thought NICAP was behind this sales effort (it was not and is not) called it preposterous and asked if we took him for an idiot.

The rental of mailing lists is an established and respectable part of business. In the past six months we have had repeated requests by phone and mail for the rental of our membership lists. Not one of them has been accepted. Since last March it has been--and will continue to be--our policy that NICAP membership lists will not even be considered for rental until a full and proper investigation of the reputation of the business and the quality of its product can be made.

AIR FORCE PROJECT BLUE BOOK

We continue to get requests from members on how they can get copies of the Air Force's reports on Project Blue Book. The reports are unclassified and available to the public. While they are not classified, they have been edited to protect the identities of the persons who made the sightings.

The problem with Blue Book is not its availability but its size. It is not a little book with a blue cover that you can get for a dollar or so. (Blue Book was just the Air Force's name for the project, not the color.) The project files consist of 94 reels of microfilm totaling some 90,000 individual frames of film. The cost of getting copies is 75 cents for the first page plus 25 cents per page for each consecutive page.

Another problem in working with the Blue Book material is that there is no index to the material in the way that there is in regular reference books. That means that one cannot recover sighting reports on the basis of their being nocturnal lights, daylight discs, close encounters, degree of strangeness, geographical location or any of the other familiar categories. The reports in Blue Book are organized only by the date of the sighting. But they are openly available to the public. For those who are interested in further information, write The National Archives, Modern Military Branch, Washington, DC 20408, or phone (202) 523-3340.

AUSTRALIAN UFO EXHIBITION

We have been advised by the Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research Society of an exhibition of UFO related materials to be held next spring. The occasion will be a British Exposition Fair to be held in Adelaide, South Australia. The exhibition will include entertainment of various kinds, displays of motor cars, new inventions and one pavilion devoted to the UFO exhibit. The dates are March 28-30, 1980. NICAP members who happen to find themselves next spring in South Australia, 7,500 miles from the U.S., are assured a cordial welcome to the show.

* * * * *

Membership renewals have been pouring in from all over the country, and from abroad. This is gratifying evidence of the continuing interest of NICAP members. However, the volume of mail has been so great that it has swamped our small clerical staff. While we may be behind in processing the renewals, members should be certain that no one will be dropped from the mailing list because of delays in processing.

We have received a new book that will be of interest to everyone who is concerned with the scientific study of UFOs. It does not deal with physics or astronomy. Other books have done that. Rather, it deals with the less easily measured subject of us humans, both individually and in society, and how the things we know about our perceptions can be a useful approach to a better understanding of UFOs. The book is: UFO Phenomena and the Behavioral Scientist, edited by Richard F. Haines. We will have a review of it in an early issue of the Investigator.

NICAP
5012 Del Ray Avenue
Washington DC 20014

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Washington DC
Permit No. 1783