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## Happy 40th Anniversary, MUFON!

You're Invited to the  
40th Annual MUFON Symposium  
August 6-9

# MUFON UFO JOURNAL

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## Mutual UFO Network

155 E. Boardwalk Drive  
Suite 300  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
Tel: 970-232-3110 or  
888-817-2220  
Fax: 866-466-9173  
hq@mufon.com

## International Director

James Carrion, M.A.  
jcarrion@mufon.com

## Office Staff

Business Manager:  
Lori Rae Steele  
lori@mufon.com  
Retail Manager:  
Kim Combs  
kim@mufon.com

## Editor

Sally Petersen, M.A.  
Tel: 888-817-2220, so has 4-4-1  
Editor@mufon.com

## Columnists

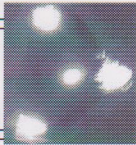
George Filer, M.B.A.  
Stanton Friedman, M.S.  
Gavin A. J. McLeod

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# Director's Message

By James Carrion

## SIP Project creates rapid investigations

MUFON's Star Impact Project (SIP) is in its third month of operation and has already proven to be a worthwhile experiment. What we have learned from the project so far is that a MUFON Dispatch Operation that vettes cases up front and sifts the high priority cases from the low priority cases is absolutely essential. Project investigators can rapidly deploy to the scene of a high priority case, gather evidence before it is contaminated and interview witnesses while their memories are fresh.

The MUFON Dispatch team is to be congratulated for their excellent work in categorizing cases and the MUFON SIP Coordinators and Investigators for getting boots on the ground as soon as possible. Richard Lang has done an excellent job in coordinating the SIP Project and so has Jess Johnson in managing operations. It is truly an exciting time to be conducting UFO

investigations. MUFON will be releasing an interim project report card on the SIP Project at the MUFON Symposium in August. The SIP Project has been renewed until our next review window in October 2009.



James Carrion

## MUFON Symposium

You still have time to join us at the MUFON 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium in Denver, Colorado August 6-9. We have a special celebration planned in honor of MUFON's long history in the UFO field. We are hoping to have past MUFON International Directors Allan Utke, Walt Andrus and John Schuessler

*Continued on page 22*

MUFON'S MISSION IS THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF  
UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH  
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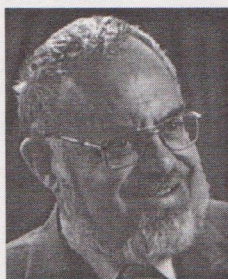
# Dawn of a New Era in UFO Research

## 2009 International Symposium Speakers

The theme of the 40th Annual International UFO Symposium this year is "Dawn of a New Era in UFO Research." MUFON has gathered an impressive roster of speakers for the event, to be held August 6-9 in Denver, Colorado.

Here, the speakers give a brief look at their papers to be presented at the symposium.

Register online at [www.mufon.com/symposia.htm](http://www.mufon.com/symposia.htm).



### *Stanton Friedman* **Pseudoscience of Anti-ufology**

There have been a number of remarks by people calling themselves scientists attacking the notion that any flying saucers are of alien origin. The arguments aren't scientific, but rather represent research by proclamation

rather than investigation. We can learn a lot about how to deal with these attacks by focusing on the claims that are made and what is irrational or illogical or just plain wrong about them. This is worth doing because often the claims are left unchallenged and college level students in science and journalism and the general public are taught baloney as if it were truth. They need ammunition from those of us in the scientific ufological community in order to deal with the false arguments and illogicality of the pseudoscientific anti-Ufologists. There are a number of demonstrably false claims which have been put forth such as there is no evidence, one can't get here from there, Governments can't keep secrets, if aliens were visiting they would want to talk to me, or land on the White House lawn. They also falsely claim that Occam's Razor rules out UFO reality. They also claim that no scientists have seen a UFO. Phil Plait of the blog Bad Astronomy falsely claims that no astronomers or amateur astronomers have seen a UFO. This paper provides a guide for the perplexed about UFOs and their critics.

*Nuclear Physicist-Lecturer Stanton T. Friedman received his BSc. and MSc. Degrees in physics from the University of Chicago in 1955 and 1956. He was employed for 14 years as a nuclear physicist by such companies as GE, GM, Westinghouse, TRW Systems, Aerojet, General Nucleonics, and McDonnell Douglas working in such highly advanced, classified, eventually cancelled programs as nuclear aircraft, fission and fusion rockets, and various compact nuclear power plants for space and terrestrial applications. He became interested in UFOs in 1958, and since 1967 has lectured about them at more than 600 colleges and 100 professional groups in 50 U.S. states, 9 Canadian provinces and 16 other countries in addition to various nuclear consulting efforts. He has published more than 90 UFO papers and*

*has appeared on hundreds of radio and TV programs including on Larry King in 2007 and twice in 2008, and many documentaries. He is the original civilian investigator of the Roswell Incident and co-authored Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident. TOP SECRET/MAJIC, his controversial book about the Majestic 12 group, established in 1947 to deal with alien technology, was published in 1996 and went through 6 printings. An expanded new edition was published in 2005. Stan was presented with a Lifetime UFO Achievement Award in Leeds, England, in 2002, by UFO Magazine of the UK. He is co-author with Kathleen Marden (Betty Hill's niece) of a book in 2007: Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience. The City of Fredericton, New Brunswick, declared August 27, 2007, Stanton Friedman Day. His new book Flying Saucers and Science was published in June 2008 and is in its 3rd printing.*



### *Jeffrey Bennett:* **Beyond UFOs: The Scientific Search for Extraterrestrial Life**

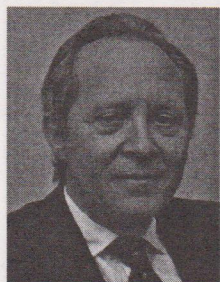
Why would we want to go "Beyond UFOs" at a conference that is about UFOs? The answer is simply that this is where all people interested in extraterrestrial life can find common ground.

Scientists like myself are often skeptical of claims about UFOs, but we are no less interested in finding proof that life exists beyond Earth. In this talk, I will discuss how scientists approach the topic, and show why most scientists believe we getting ever-closer to finding solid evidence of extraterrestrial life.

*Jeffrey Bennett holds a B.A. in Biophysics from the University of California, San Diego, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of Colorado, Boulder. His extensive experience in research and education includes serving two years as a Visiting Senior Scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC; creating research and education projects for the Hubble Space Telescope and other missions; proposing and helping to develop the Voyage Scale Model Solar System on the National Mall in Washington, DC; and teaching at every level from preschool through graduate school. He is the author of best-selling college textbooks in astronomy, astrobology, mathematics, and statistics, as well as of the award-winning children's book series that includes Max Goes to the Moon, Max Goes to Mars, and Max Goes to Jupiter. His most recent book for grownups, Beyond UFOs, has won numerous accolades and honors. For more information, see his personal Web site, [www.jeffreybennett.com](http://www.jeffreybennett.com).*

## Speakers

Continued from page 3



### *Peter Robbins*

**Politics, Religion, and Human Nature: Practical Problems and Roadblocks On the Path to Disclosure**

A new administration is now installed in Washington, D.C. with an intelligent, seemingly open-minded president whose very election has set a new course for the nation. A key presidential adviser, John Podesta, is on record as taking seriously the issue of excessive UFO related secrecy and an independent public initiative is already in place to bring the subject to the president's attention. As such, it is not surprising that many in the UFO research community are more hopeful than ever that the long sought after goal of disclosure may finally be within our reach. Such a historic change in policy may be unlikely however if it is not built on a strategy which anticipates the cultural, political and theological resistance it is sure to face. Among the complex and often delicate issues involved are the deeply entrenched ridicule factor which lawmakers, politicians, and the public still associate with the subject of UFOs, the seeming inability of many to acknowledge that a UFO cover-up even exists, and the ongoing resistance of a scientific establishment which refuses to examine the myriad of available evidence. Further complicating a strategy to resolve this issue are the deeply held religious convictions of many Americans, particularly fundamentalists, whose beliefs seem in conflict with certain implications of UFO reality. Additional factors to be explored include ways of addressing humanity's resistance to radically new ideas, and our almost universal collective fear of the unknown.

*Peter Robbins has been involved in UFO studies for more than thirty years, as a researcher, investigator, writer, lecturer, activist and author. A regular fixture on radio shows throughout the country, he has also appeared as a guest on and been consultant to numerous television shows and documentaries. He is co-author – along with Larry Warren, of the British best-seller, Left at East Gate: A First-Hand Account of the Rendlesham Forest UFO Incident, Its Cover-Up and Investigation. Peter has lectured extensively both in the States and abroad, including dozens of talks throughout the United Kingdom. Robbins' lecture topics have included but not been limited to: the UK's Rendlesham Forest UFO incident; the suppression of UFO information by the American and British Governments; UFOs and alien imagery in advertising; the media and UFOs; stress and UFO studies; Politics, History and Human Nature: The Incendiary Roadblocks on the Path to Disclosure; James Vincent Forrestal, America's first Secretary of Defense and an early casualty of*

*UFO secrecy; Dr. Wilhelm Reich and UFOs; the UFO abduction phenomenon; Controversial deaths of key investigative writers, and the 1950s: golden age of UFO literature.*



### *Chris Rutkowski*

**A 20-year Longitudinal Study of UFOs: What the Canadian UFO Survey Tells Us about UFO Reports**

In Canada, more and more people are reporting UFOs each year, from all provinces. Yearly numerical analyses of UFO reports show variations that give insight into the nature of the UFO phenomenon as a whole. Although started as an experiment in UFO data collection, the Canadian UFO Survey has yielded some interesting results over the years. After 20 years of UFO report collection and study, this longitudinal analysis is useful in helping to understand the characteristics of UFO sightings. If UFOs do not represent alien visitation as is popularly conceived, the numbers of reports demand that the phenomenon deserves scientific study, if not as a physical phenomenon, then one of a sociological or psychological nature.

*Chris Rutkowski is a Canadian science writer and editor with degrees in science and science education, specializing in astronomy. Since the mid-1970s, he also has been studying reports of UFOs and writing about his investigations and research. Rutkowski has six published books related to UFOs and related issues, including: Visitations? (1989); Unnatural History (1993); Mysterious Manitoba, co-authored with Dave Creighton and Brian Fidler (1997); Abductions and Aliens (2000); The Canadian UFO Report, co-authored with Geoff Dittman (2006); and A World of UFOs (2008). Rutkowski also has contributed chapters to many anthologies such as Phenomenon, Frontiers of Reality and UFO 1947-1997, a 50th anniversary review of the UFO phenomenon. He is a contributing editor of International UFO Reporter and is the editor of the Swamp Gas Journal, an occasional ufazine first published in 1978. He writes two blogs: The UFO Report ([dundurn.com/ufos](http://dundurn.com/ufos)) and Ufology Research ([uforum.blogspot.com](http://uforum.blogspot.com)). Since the late 1980s, Rutkowski has studied annual Canadian UFO report data and published results as the Canadian UFO Survey, online since about 1999 ([survey.canadianuforeport.com](http://survey.canadianuforeport.com)). The data is analyzed by ufological statistician Geoff Dittman. Rutkowski has appeared on numerous radio programs, podcasts and TV series, including Unsolved Mysteries, UFO Hunters, Sightings and A&E's The Unexplained.*



**Marc D'Antonio**  
**How to Talk to a Skeptic about UFOs**

When talking to skeptics about UFOs, you want *them* to conclude on their own that visitations from other worlds could be likely. *That* is the true measure of success when talking to a skeptical person. *That* is how you turn a skeptic into an ally. This talk will look

at the core discoveries that you need to understand to achieve this result.

*Marc D'Antonio is president of FX Models, a model making company specializing in digital and physical models of all kinds. His degree is in astronomy, and he has spent decades capturing thousands of images of many kinds of sky phenomena using a diverse range of photographic gear ranging from small cameras and backyard telescopes to large multi-million dollar professional telescopes in large research observatories. Starting before computers were mainstream, he developed his own film and slides in the darkroom and used techniques in the darkroom to highlight details of his imagery. Shortly after the first desktop computers were becoming available he assisted in the creation of a powerful image processing software program tailored to the specific needs of his own image analysis requirements. Once computer-generated imagery programs and image analysis programs became more readily available he began to work with such software to create his own imagery and to augment and analyze existing imagery. His unique blend of astronomical and computer generated model Making background come together in his photo analysis work, where he has been utilizing advanced software toolsets for many years to coax data out of imagery. Currently, when not creating digital models for the Navy and private industry, he utilizes observatories worldwide to obtain nightly photographic data for analysis from remote mountaintop telescopes.*



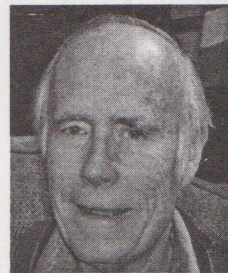
**Kevin D. Randle**  
**Bringing the Scientific Method to the Study of UFOs**

Since the beginning of the modern UFO era in 1947 we have been searching for legitimacy in a variety of arenas and have failed to achieve it. We have been criticized for a lack of standards, a lack of investigative skills and a failure to understand the scientific method. As

we move through the 21st century, it is time for us to study all this and to improve our standards. The methodology is simple, if we just pay attention to detail. This is a way of investigating and studying UFOs that will show the world that there is more to it than illusion, delusion, misidentification and hoax.

*Kevin D. Randle has studied the UFO phenomena in all its various incarnations for more than thirty year. His training by the Army as a helicopter pilot, intelligence officer and military policeman, and by the Air Force as both an intelligence officer and a public affairs officer, provides Randle with a keen insight into the operations and protocols of the military, their investigations into UFOs, and into a phenomenon that has puzzled people for more than a century. Randle's educational background is a diverse as his military experience. As an undergraduate at the University of Iowa, he studied anthropology. Graduate work included journalism, psychology and military science at the University of Iowa, California Coast University and the American Military University. He has both a master and doctoral degree in psychology and a second masters degree in the Art of Military Science.*

*During his investigations, Randle has traveled the USA to interview hundreds of witnesses who were involved in everything from the Roswell, New Mexico crash of 1947, to the repeated radar sightings of UFOs over Washington, D.C. in 1952, to the latest of the abduction cases. Randle was among the first writers to review the declassified Project Blue Book files, among the first to report on animal mutilations and among the first to report on alien abductions. He was the first to report the alien home invasions and among the first to suggest humans working with the aliens. Randle has written extensively on UFOs beginning in 1973 with articles in various national magazines. He had published many books about UFOs starting with The UFO Casebook in 1989 and continuing to Roswell Revisited in 2007.*



**Dr. Bruce Maccabee**  
**From McMinnville to Stephenville:  
 A 35-Year Perspective on UFO  
 Photo Investigation**

One might think that photos, films or videos of strange objects in the sky would be proof that "flying saucers are real." However, these forms of UFO imagery cannot be considered proof until the circumstances that explain how the images were obtained can be proved to be true. Some of the approaches to determining whether or not a photo, film or video illustrating a sighting investigations actually show a UFO are described in his presentation. One may conclude that, in general, "a photo, a UFO does not make."

*Bruce Maccabee received a B.S. in physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics at American Universit. In 1972 he began his long career at what is now the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division, in Dahlgren, Virginia, finally retiring from government service in 2008. He has worked on optical data processing, generation of underwater sound with lasers and various*

## Speakers

Continued from page 5

aspects of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) using high power lasers. Maccabee has been an active Ufologist since the late 1960s when he joined the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and was active in research and investigation for NICAP until its demise in 1980. He became a member of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in 1975 and was subsequently appointed to the position of state Director for Maryland. In 1979 he was instrumental in establishing the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR) and was the chairman for about 13 years. He presently serves on the National Board of the Fund. His UFO research and investigations have included the Kenneth Arnold sighting, the McMinnville, Oregon photos, the Gemini 11 astronaut photos, the 1997 Phoenix lights sightings of March 13, 1997, and many others. He has also done historical research and was the first to obtain the secret "flying disc file" of the FBI (what he calls "the REAL X-Files").

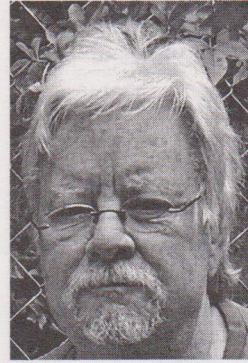


### **Dr. Frank Salisbury** **Reflections of an Old UFO Chaser**

Frank Salisbury spent over twenty years applying the scientific method to the study of matters related to UFOs. This activity led to many talks at UFO symposia and other situations, several years as a member of the National Enquirer Blue Ribbon Panel established to evaluate UFO reports, and a book based on reports collected by Joseph

Junior Hicks in eastern Utah: *The Utah UFO Display: A Biologist's Report* (published in 1974). Dr. Salisbury will provide insight into the UFO Phenomenon from his experience over the years and from his perspective as a scientist.

*Frank Boyer Salisbury grew up in Springville and Salt Lake City, Utah. As a teenager he led hikes and taught nature and crafts at two scout camps, where he began a life-long fascination with biology in general and botany in particular—as well as all the physical sciences. Frank holds B.S. and M.A. degrees in botany and biochemistry from the University of Utah and a doctoral degree in plant physiology and geochemistry from the California Institute of Technology. After a year teaching ecology, general biology, and other subjects at Pomona College, he spent eleven years at Colorado State University, and then taught for 31 years at Utah State University in the Plant Science Department of the College of Agriculture.*



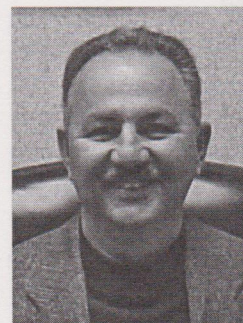
### **Ted Phillips** **Dramatic Changes in Trace/ Landing Events**

Ted will present the results of a forty-one year study of UFO landing events involving the observed generation of physical changes in the immediate area of the landing. These changes are often dramatic and in a number of cases remain visible for weeks, months and years after the landing event. Obviously this type of event presents us with the most direct approach to resolving the UFO puzzle. The observed object is not available for study but the resulting traces remain. This gives us the ability to sample and test the site over a long period of time. Ted believes these cases to be the most significant of all UFO reports on the road to answers to the incredible number of UFO sightings that have been reported for many years.

*Ted Phillips is the director of the Center for UFO Research. He began investigating UFO reports in 1964 and was a research associate of Dr. J. Allen Hynek from 1968 until Dr. Hynek's death in 1986. It was at Allen Hynek's suggestion that he began specializing in physical traces with UFO sightings in 1968. Phillips has personally investigated hundreds of UFO cases and his files contain 3,189 physical trace landings from 91 countries.*

*Ted made a presentation at the first MUFON Symposium and at several more including the 2006 Symposium. He has appeared on national television in numerous documentaries including In Search Of, NBC News, CBS News Special Reports and the documentary movie, UFOs Are Real. Most recently he was featured in a History Channel documentary Alien Encounters. Current research projects include active UFO sites in the central U.S. and a major project in the Tatra Mountains, Slovakia.*

### **John Ventre** **UFOs over Pennsylvania**



UFO sightings increased from 45 to 225 in Pennsylvania in the second half of 2008. This was the largest UFO wave across Pennsylvania since 1973. Unlike Kecksburg in 1965, these reports were filed by a large number of witnesses which included six police and or military witnesses and nearly all reports were across the

southern part of the state from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia. The sightings brought local media attention and subsequently international attention when both the Discovery Channel and History Channel produced shows on the sightings. John will

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See the center pages for  
more information about the  
40th Annual International UFO Symposium

# Murrow vs. The Saucers

By Billy Cox

June 18, 2008—It's been almost 40 years now since the U.S. Air Force pulled the plug on Project Blue Book and essentially order the news media to shut up already about UFOs. And at a moment when America's dazed free press is poised to take a knee on the canvas, De Void can't help but wonder how one of journalism's 20th-century giants would've responded to the challenges.

For Edward R. Murrow, the CBS Radio lion who survived the technology transition to unmask Red-baiting demagoguery for what it was on national television, mastering a new medium was difficult. "This is an old team," he told a new class of consumers known as viewers, "trying to learn a new trade."

Inevitably, Murrow's running battles with management over commercial and entertainment compromises led to his undoing at the network. But his commitment to telling compelling stories, regardless of the medium or its constraints, never faltered.

On April 7, 1950, a year or so before his TV makeover, the man who once told listeners, "If I've offended you by this rather mild account of Buchenwald, I'm not in the least sorry," filed a report on UFOs. His commercial-free half-hour account—available at <http://www.albany.edu/talkinghistory/arch2004jan-june.html> - looks relatively tame in retrospect. Especially given the magnitude of the coverage of the Roswell UFO crash not quite three years earlier.

But Murrow's gravitas helped validate as a mainstream issue what were then known as flying saucers. Not surprisingly, he played it straight, plumbng skeptics, witnesses like Kenneth Arnold, and official sources alike. Although he drew no conclusions, Murrow was clearly suspicious of military kiss-offs, grouching that "The figures just don't add up."

He reminded Americans that while the USAF's Project Saucer came up empty-handed in 1949, bear in mind "the stubbornness of the saucers to accept the mantle of oblivion." Murrow quoted critics who theorized the flying discs were merely classified American programs. Then he'd come back with a Charles Zimmerman, designer of the most exotic XF5U1 "flying pancake," who countered that "this aircraft never flew."

Although journalism will find a way to morph through the latest turbulence, the star system that helped expedite the shift from radio to television is a museum piece. But we can guess with reasonable certainty how the pugnacious chain-smoker would've reacted to, say, the USAF's refusal to address FAA radar records confirming eyewitness reports of jet fighters chasing a UFO last year near President Bush's home in Texas.

It'd be the same way anyone whose intelligence is insulted might respond. That is, if anyone was paying attention.

Source: *The Sarasota Herald Tribune* — Florida, USA  
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20090618/blog32/906189941>.  
We read it at [www.ufoupdates.com](http://www.ufoupdates.com)

## Speakers

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review the most interesting cases which are supported by scientific analysis.

*John Ventre is a native New Yorker. He attended college at S.U.N.Y. of Farmingdale and C.W. Post on Long Island. John is the Pennsylvania and West Virginia State Director for the Mutual UFO Network and headed up the investigation of numerous UFO sightings in Pennsylvania in 2008 that was the subject of one of the Discovery Channel shows "UFOs Over Earth." In 2006, John wrote the Sci-Fi novel 12/21/2012 A Prophecy.*



### James Carrion

#### New Research Avenues for Ufology

UFOs are the greatest mystery of our time. The passion, or dare say we the obsession, to find the truth and solve this mystery has consumed many notable people in the history of Ufology. From freedom of information requests to hacking into government computer systems, the relentless drive of truth

seekers in search of the holy grail of Ufology has led to small successes but more often than not, frustration and heart-break. It is time for a new generation of researchers to pick up the gauntlet and to forge ahead where these courageous souls left off. James suggests new lines of research to be explored by those who are up to the challenge.

*James is the International Director of the Mutual UFO Network and began his lifelong interest with the UFO phenomenon at the age of 11 when he began his own UFO news clipping collection. James served for four years as a U.S. Army Russian Linguist in the Military Intelligence Corps. Upon moving to Colorado in 1996, James joined the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and worked as the state section director for both North Eastern and North Western Colorado. James proposed and implemented MUFON's Pandora Project, the electronic archiving of all MUFON's UFO case files and served on the MUFON International Business Board for three years before being elected as the MUFON International Director in 2006. James holds a Bachelors of Arts in Russian Language and a Masters of Arts in International Affairs, both from Florida State University. James is also the CEO of a national computer training company and is widely recognized as a computer expert.*

## Small black triangle drops lights in Utah

By Elaine Douglass  
Mufon State Director, Utah

Reporting witness, his wife and an adult male friend were standing in the driveway of witness's home in Nephi, Utah, talking about motorcycles the evening of Sept. 28, 2008 when they saw something extraordinary.

What they saw was so unusual the memory of it disturbed the reporting witness until mid-November when he finally reported the event to MUFON. In the intervening weeks, the witness did considerable checking on his own in an effort to find a prosaic explanation for what the three adults saw.

### Witness searched for explanation

The witness searched the area in daylight for physical traces, made inquiries with his local airport and other official agencies, and turned the event over in his mind many times comparing it with his considerable knowledge of fixed wing and rotary aircraft. Witness said he reported the event to MUFON because he could find no ordinary explanation for what he had seen.

The hour was 10:15 pm (MDT). The sky was black with many stars. No moon was visible. Wind speed that night in Nephi, Utah, was 5 mph.

Nephi is a small town of fewer than 10,000 residents on highway 15 in central Utah some 35 miles south of Provo, Utah. Witness (DOB 1968) is a college graduate, the father of three small children, and employed as a regional manager for a food company.

### Witness was a keen observer

Witness explained he was formerly employed in the field of "special operations/protection" which meant, he said, that he was a "bodyguard" in a corporate setting. "So you were a Wackenhut or a Blackwater type?" I asked. Witness received considerable specialized training in his former employment including, he explained, the ability to determine how far away things are.

Accordingly, witness is convinced the object the three adults saw that evening was 500 feet aloft, and remained at that altitude throughout the 5 minute duration of the sighting.

### Three orange lights

At first they saw only the three lights moving slowly toward them from the north headed south and elevated 40–50 degrees. The three lights were arranged in an equilateral triangular pattern and did not move relative to each other at

any time. Color of the lights was light orange and, when first observed, the apparent size of each light was larger than an aspirin at arm's length. The boundary of each light was crisp, well-defined and the texture was flat, uniform without variation.

Witness believes the actual distance between the lights was 15 meters or about 41 feet. By way of comparison on a smaller scale, witness states that if an equilateral triangle of 10 feet on a side were laid out, and dinner plates placed at each corner, that would be a smaller scale equivalent to what he saw.

### The purpose of the lights?

Witness puzzled over the function of the lights. They were not landing lights, he said, since they did not illuminate the area, and they were not navigation lights, since they were not mobile or rotate-able. He finally decided the lights were "illumination lights," although that explanation is not satisfactory either. The speed of the object was constant, witness says, and was under 10 mph.

### Falling light balls

After the witnesses watched the object for about 2 minutes, things got stranger. An area of brightness appeared at the center of the three lights. The bright area, which was the same light orange color as the three lights, expanded and engulfed the lights, then contracted back to the center position, then extruded itself downward. This event, which amazed and confounded the witnesses, occurred three times at regular intervals of duration, which the witness estimates at 20 seconds.

What fell from the 3-light formation was ball-shaped and left a trail behind as it fell downward, looking, the witness said, "like a comet." This manifestation "fell way too fast to be a flare," witness said. Witness's impression was the falling balls with trails were "let go" from the 3-light formation; it seemed to the witness the movement downward was not propelled, but that the objects fell from the force of gravity.

### No trace of physical evidence

The falling objects retained shape, color, brightness and size while moving downward, but when 50-75 feet above ground, witness said, the falling objects disappeared. It was possible debris from these falling objects that the witness searched for, in vain, the following day.

Witness said the phenomena produced no disturbance in the immediate environment. There was no sound or vibration,

*Continued on page 9*



# May 2009 Monthly Statistical MUFON Report

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In May 2009 there were 500 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS from the following countries:

United States	410
United Kingdom	25
Canada	11
Australia	7
Brazil	6
Mexico	6
Spain	4
Costa Rica	3
Puerto Rico	3
Colombia	3
Argentina	2

There was one sighting reported from each of the following countries: Trinidad & Tobago, Germany, Norway, Iraq, India, Peru, Egypt, Timor-Leste, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Ecuador, Sweden, Italy, Indonesia, South Africa, Ireland, Venezuela, China, Chile, and Taiwan.

Most impressively there were 25 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 19 Entities observed.

Within the United States the distribution by State was as follows:

Arizona	32	Vermont	5
Pennsylvania	29	Connecticut	5
California	29	Mississippi	5
Washington	23	Tennessee	5
Michigan	23	Massachusetts	4
Florida	17	North Carolina	4
Texas	17	Delaware	4
Nevada	15	Kentucky	4
Illinois	14	Louisiana	3
Colorado	13	Nebraska	3
New Mexico	12	Idaho	3
Ohio	11	New Hampshire	3
Georgia	11	West Virginia	3
Oregon	11	Minnesota	3
Virginia	10	Kansas	3
Indiana	10	North Dakota	3
New York	10	Maine	2
Wisconsin	9	Rhode Island	2
Missouri	9	Iowa	2
Maryland	7	South Carolina	2
New Jersey	7	D.C.	2
Alabama	6	Alaska	1
Oklahoma	6	South Dakota	1
Arkansas	6		

To review the CMS data yourself, go to [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com) and click on "UFO Case Files."

## Incoming Space Rocks Now Classified

*Military Hush-Up: Incoming Space Rocks Now Classified—10 June 2009.*

"It's baffling to us why this would suddenly change."

For 15 years, scientists have benefited from data gleaned by U.S. classified satellites of natural fireball events in Earth's atmosphere – but no longer. A recent U.S. military policy decision now explicitly states that observations by hush-hush government spacecraft of incoming bolides and fireballs are classified secret and are not to be released, SPACE.com has learned. The satellites' main objectives include detecting nuclear bomb tests, and their characterizations of asteroids and lesser meteoroids as they crash through the atmosphere has been a byproduct data bonanza for scientists. The upshot: Space rocks that explode in the atmosphere are now classified.

See the article at [www.space.com/news/090610-military-fireballs.html](http://www.space.com/news/090610-military-fireballs.html)

## Small black triangle in Utah

*Continued from page 8*

witness said. "Not a leaf on a tree moved." No rush of air was created that the witness noticed. Nor did the object or its falling parts illuminate the immediate area. Witness compared the luminosity of the three lights and the falling parts to "volcanic lava which looks very bright but does not cast light in its vicinity."

After the dropping maneuvers, the three lights continued as a group moving south and closer to the witnesses. Now the lights made the closest approach, at which time the elevation was about 80 degrees. Had the object dropped to the ground, witness states, it would have been 50-75 feet from the witnesses. At this point, the lights extinguished.

### The lights went out

Now the reporting witness could discern nothing, but his friend pointed out that the area of sky where the lights had been was black, blotting out the stars. Then both witnesses discerned a triangular black mass against the night sky. They could make out no surface features whatsoever, except they

noticed that the black mass did not reflect any light from the ground, leading to the conclusion the surface was dull and not shiny. Witness says the size of the triangular black area was "slightly larger than an F-15 aircraft."

The object continued its slow movement until it was obscured by a nearby house top. Witnesses ran behind the house, but could no longer discern an object.

The reporting witness is a keen and well trained observer, objective, rational, coherent, and his emotional response was appropriate to the surprising nature of what he observed. Investigator believes witness's estimate of altitude and actual size of the object is reliable.

*Elaine Douglass is the MUFON State Director for Utah, and a founding editor of Journal of Alien Research (JAR).*

State Directors and Assistant State Directors are invited to write up their best cases for submission to the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Please email Editor Sally Petersen at [editor@mufon.com](mailto:editor@mufon.com) to suggest your case.

# Summary of 12 previously classified folders released by Brazilian Government

By A. J. Gevaerd  
Editor, *Brazilian UFO Magazine*

## Dear colleagues of the World UFO Community:

As of May 4th, the Brazilian Government disclosed over 600 new pages of previously classified documents, covering UFO reports and military investigations from 1970 to 1979, including photos and films, for the first time.

The content of this material has now been examined and proved to be very interesting and revelatory of Brazilian official strategy to cover UFO cases, often openly regarded as “from external sources” in these new documents, meaning from outside Earth. The cases covered and the methods used to investigate them by the military are also very significant.

On my opinion, the most important material contained in this new declassification are 195 new pages of documents resulted from Operation Saucer, conducted in the Amazon by the Brazilian Air Force from September to December 1977, certainly the biggest *known* official initiative for military investigation of UFOs in the world.

Over 1,400 pages of previously classified Brazilian UFO documents have been released thanks to the efforts of the Brazilian UFO Researchers Committee (CBU), through the campaign UFOs: Freedom of Information Now, started in 2004 and articulated by the *Brazilian UFO Magazine*. This last one has been the biggest disclosure ever in Brazil.

The PDF files of 12 envelopes or folders now released can be downloaded at: [www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2). Please read below a summary of the contents of each envelope or folder (pay special attention to Folder 10 – 1978), downloadable at: [www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_10\\_1978.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_10_1978.pdf), with 195 pages of Operation Saucer material.

Brazilian UFO researchers are very excited about these new disclosures, which unquestionably prove that our efforts have been profitable for the entire Brazilian UFO Community.

Readers can download more official disclosed documents at the *Brazilian UFO Magazine* FTP areas:

[www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_1](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_1)  
[www.ufo.com.br/public/brasil](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/brasil)  
[www.ufo.com.br/public/documents](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/documents)

A. J. Gevaerd

## MUFON Members Message Board

[mufonmembers.proboards55.com](http://mufonmembers.proboards55.com)

Password: Hynek1947

(case sensitive)

## Disclosure of UFO-related documents in Brazil continues

Contents of 12 folders disclosed by the Brazilian Ministry of Defense confirm activities of unidentified flying objects in Brazilian territory. Moreover, it shows that Brazilian military authorities have always monitored such activities of other species in the country's environment.

### Folder 01 - 1970

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_01\\_1970.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_01_1970.pdf) - 13 pages

This folder contains statements delivered at a police station in the city of Bauru (SP). The office was linked to the extinct DOPS, an acronym for the feared Brazilian Department of Political and Social Order during military dictatorship. There are also reports of numerous UFO sightings occurring in many cities of the state of Sao Paulo. Such reports highlight the good reputation with which police officers regard the witnesses. There are also occurrences from the state of Rio Grande do Sul involving an unsuccessful attempt of an official car to chase a UFO—the object exploded in the air without leaving a trace.

### Folder 02 - 1971

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_02\\_1971.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_02_1971.pdf) - 22 pages

Military reports addressed to Brig. Gervasio Duncan and Gen. Moacyr Uchoa describing UFOs flying and landing in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Rio de Janeiro, including a UFO chasing aircraft and sightings of 2-meter tall beings beside their spacecraft in the city of Belo Horizonte (MG). Report from the Division of Security Information of the 2nd Air Zone Command on the spotting of UFOs by radars in the region of Varginha (MG). It also contains an official report sent to the Air Force Command on the sighting of a large flying saucer with several windows over Presidente Dutra highway.

### Folder 03 - 1972

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_03\\_1972.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_03_1972.pdf) - 15 pages

Newspaper clippings reporting UFO sightings followed up by military and police forces at the time. One case describes how two UFOs chased a bus carrying 34 students onboard. Military telegrams including one from the Air Base in Rio de Janeiro informing a UFO sighting at Morro da

*Continued on page 18*

# Terry Groff, Deputy Director of Investigations

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Terry Groff, of Dallas, Texas, deserves recognition for his contributions to MUFON as a computer programmer and field investigator, as well as for his musical accomplishments.

After joining MUFON in 2002, Terry became a Field Investigator in 2004. He doubles as the webmaster for the Texas State MUFON Website (<http://mufontx.org>) and The Dallas-FortWorth MUFON website (<http://mufondfw.org>). He was a member of the original investigation team for the Stephenville, Texas, sightings of 2008. In March 2008, Terry was given the position of CMS Administration Supervisor under Jude Talaba. In March of 2009 he was promoted to Deputy Director of Investigations under Chuck Reeve.

Terry has worked very closely with Jan Harzan and Tomas Karlsson improving the current version of CMS. Suggestions included applying case numbers for quicker ID case recognition, and other improvements which are now part of CMS.

While he was training as a Field Investigator, Terry wrote the online version of the Ballester-Guasp Report Evaluator. The BGE is now part of the MUFON Case Management System (CMS). He also contributed code for the CMS Text Notification system.

Terry calls himself a skeptical-believer, and believes all investigations should be approached with healthy skepticism. He believes MUFON is not out to prove aliens are real but rather to find out what those unusual things are that people have been seeing in the skies (and seas) for thousands of years, alien or not.

On his UFO Tools website (<http://ufotools.mufondfw.org>) he says, "I think that every seemingly inexplicable event can be explained by scientific thought. We just may not understand the science yet. This does not preclude the idea that extraterrestrial influences may be the cause of the phenomena. Occam's Razor is for lazy theorists."

Terry is a self-taught musician. His parents and many of his relatives played musical instruments. His dad played guitar and his mother played organ and piano. He picked up the guitar when he was 9 and never put it down. After his dad showed him his first guitar chords, he picked up a copy of Mel Bay's book of chords and learned every chord listed. When Terry discovered Jazz and began learning music theory, the chords began to make sense. This opened a whole new world as he finally realized that music was much more than a top 40 list.

Terry dropped out of high school at age fifteen because he was only interested in performing music. A few years later, he earned his GED. His interest in many subjects prompted him to take a few college classes at Richland College in Richardson, Texas. Selecting his classes based solely on a desire to know something about the subjects, he studied various programming languages (Pascal, Fortran), astronomy, analytical geometry, trigonometry, statistical quality control, English, and biology. Terry has since taught himself HTML, Javascript and Perl.

Terry worked for Hudson Industries for a year as a jack-of-all-trades, operating such diverse equipment as CO2 laser cutting tools, screen printers, electroplaters and injection molders. In 1979 he transferred to Mostek Corporation as an operator and expeditor. Terry left Mostek to become a process technician for TRW Opto-Electronics Division working on Gallium-Arsenide Epitaxy for very small LED sensors. From 1984-1986 he was a training specialist and statistical quality control coordinator for National Semiconductor Corp. (Arlington, Texas).

In 1986 Terry left the corporate sphere to return to his first calling, music. He has played bass guitar with many great blues musicians. A list of people he has performed with can be found at [http://terrygroff.com/tg/bio/band\\_list.html](http://terrygroff.com/tg/bio/band_list.html). As a professional musician and composer, he composed the soundtrack for the independent film *Bobby Speaking* and the documentary *Le Strade Di Parma (The Streets of Parma)*. The soundtrack to *Parma* is available at <http://CDBaby.com>. Terry's first CD, "He-Wolf, She-Wolf," is now out of print and is unavailable except at resale shops. He is nearing completion of his second CD, entitled "The Speed of Dark."

Terry is slated to write some, if not all, of the music for a comedy directed by Terry Kizer (*Weekend at Bernie's*) starring Jason Alexander (of *Seinfeld* fame). The working title is *The Cruise* and will be filmed on a cruise ship to the Caribbean. He has also been asked to write music for a documentary on Peru.

Terry has noticed one parallel between music and ufology. Much of the time it can be very slow and boring, then all of a sudden something spectacular will happen and remind you why you're doing it.

Terry's hard work and effort is very much appreciated by everyone in MUFON.

## Calendar . . .

### **July 2–5. Roswell UFO Festival.**

Peter Robbins, Donald Burleson, Karyn Dolan, Paola Harris, and more. Roswell, NM. [www.ufofestivalroswell.com/ufo/](http://www.ufofestivalroswell.com/ufo/)

### **July 18. Mysteries of the Universe Conference.**

Kathleen Marden, Stan Romanek, Ted Phillips, Jack Kasher, Heidi Hollis, Todd Sheets. Kansas City, MO. [www.mouconference.net/](http://www.mouconference.net/)

### **July 19. PA MUFON Philadelphia Awareness Day.**

Philadelphia, PA. Bob Gardner, 267-258-5200 or [www.pamufon.com](http://www.pamufon.com)

### **July 24–26. Glastonbury Symposium: Investigating Signs of our Times.**

Glastonbury, England. [www.glastonburysymposium.co.uk/glastonbury.html](http://www.glastonburysymposium.co.uk/glastonbury.html)

### **July 25–26. European Exopolitics Summit.**

Barcelona, Spain. [www.exopoliticseurope.com/en/accommodation-exopolitics-congress.htm](http://www.exopoliticseurope.com/en/accommodation-exopolitics-congress.htm)

### **August 6–9. 40th Annual International UFO Symposium: Dawn of a New Era in UFO Research.**

Stanton Friedman, Dr. Frank Salisbury, Dr. Kevin Randle, Ted Phillips, Bruce Maccabee, Dr. Jeffrey Bennett, Chris Rutkowski, Marc D'Antonio, Peter Robbins, John Ventre, James Carrion. Denver, CO. MUFON's 40th Anniversary. <http://www.mufon.com/symposia.htm>

### **August 14–15. 2009 Shag Harbour UFO Festival and Symposium.**

David Cvet, Chris Styles, Don Ledger, Stanton Friedman. Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia. [shagharbourufo.com/](http://shagharbourufo.com/)

### **September 5. Exeter UFO Festival.**

Ted Loder, Peter Geremia, Kathleen Marden, Peter Robbins Bill Foster. Exeter, NH. Molly, 603-772-2411 or [www.exeterarea.org](http://www.exeterarea.org).

### **September 11–13. 2009 Paranormal Symposium at Angel Fire.**

D. Balthaser, G. Bishop, D. Burleson, M. Halpin, N. Hayakawa, N.T. Isley, G. Knapp, M. Many, G. Malone, N. Redfern and more. Angel Fire, NM. [www.aspefiles.org](http://www.aspefiles.org)

### **September 25–27. A Galactic Gathering.**

Norma Milanovich, Arthur David Horn, Leo Sprinkle, Wendelle Stevens, Sheldon Nidle, Stan Romanek, Rainbow Eagle. Denver, CO. [www.GalacticCivilizations.org](http://www.GalacticCivilizations.org)

### **October 17. Pennsylvania MUFON UFO Conference.**

Youngwood, PA. B. Witkowski, E. Altman, S. Gordon, J. Ventre, Father B. Downing, B. Birnes, Dr. D. Jacobs, P. Wilson. Call John Ventre 724-836-1266 or [www.johnventre.com](http://www.johnventre.com) or [www.pamufon.com](http://www.pamufon.com)

### **October 24. Mysteries of Space & Sky VI.**

Baltimore, MD. Dr. Peter S. Resta [spr100@aol.com](mailto:spr100@aol.com)

List your event here. Email [editor@mufon.com](mailto:editor@mufon.com)

## **AERC IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDY Need Abductees, Contactees, & Control Group Participants**

AERC, the Abduction Experiencer Research Committee, under the auspices of MUFON, is looking for volunteers to participate in a research study.

If you believe you have been abducted or had contact with an alien entity we need your help. We are also looking for those people interested in participating that do not believe they have been abducted or had contact for inclusion in the control group. Please contact Lester Velez, Co-Chairman and Assistant State Director for MUFON in Northern California. [Lesterv424@aol.com](mailto:Lesterv424@aol.com) (408-268-2837)

## **HELP WANTED!**

Need volunteers with the following skills willing to work on the CMS II Project.

Database knowledge of mySQL.

Solid Perl experience both for shell and CGI scripting, preferably on UNIX platform.

Good skills in modern Web programming using Javascript, HTML, and CSS. In addition, experience in using AJAX and JSON is desired.

Please contact Jan Harzan at [janharzan@hotmail.com](mailto:janharzan@hotmail.com)

if you are willing and able to work as part of the CMS II development team.

## *Nominate a Volunteer of the Month*

MUFON is blessed with great volunteers—State Directors, Field Investigators and more. Do you know someone in the MUFON organization who deserves to be recognized as the Volunteer of the Month?

Tell us why. Email [Editor@mufon.com](mailto:Editor@mufon.com).

Use "Volunteer Nomination" in Subject line.

## Letters to the Editor . . .

### Snap a photo and it will be there

Dear Editor,

Why isn't anyone talking about the fact that you can point any digital camera skyward and get photos of real UFOs? I stumbled onto this phenomenon by accident. After sifting through many UFO related sites, I noticed a common denominator developing in some of the reported sightings—that in some cases people are reporting not having seen any object in the sky, but having them show up in their photos here and there. Well, I consider myself a logical person so I thought about it after seeing these types of reports all over. I asked myself if it was possible that maybe digital photography is somehow taking away the object's invisible shields?

Well, here I am, hundreds of UFO photos later. IT IS TRUE! You can just point your camera to the sky and capture them—they are literally all over up there! Some seasoned investigators must be aware of this discovery. Why isn't anyone talking about it? If anyone questions what I'm saying, then don't take my word for it, and just go out and start snapping—it's incredible! One good tip: don't take photos on windy days. Apparently, they don't like the wind.

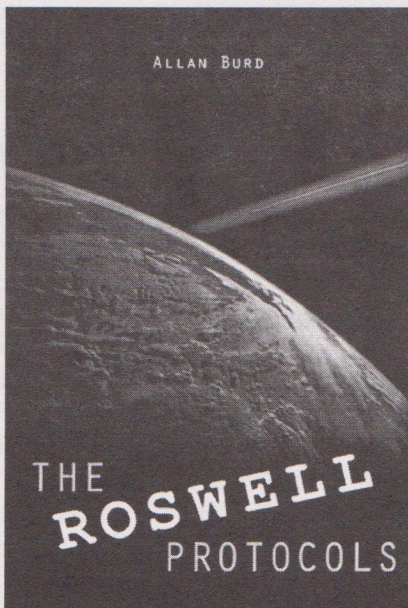
I took one photo at a river ferry crossing which shows a triangular object spawning what looks to be orbs out one side. It was located directly over where the ferry crosses. I have to assume it had an interest in the ferry activity. Water photos and places of people's activity seem to produce the most UFOs.

The question shouldn't be "are we alone out there?" — It should be "are we ever alone here?"

Sincerely,  
Richard Van Meter

P.S. I can send the ferry photo or others at anyone's request.

WE ARE NOT ALONE!



a novel

Available this summer at Amazon.com



### Ken Ewing

Ken Ewing was a long-time member of MUFON. He passed away earlier this June at Sombrillo Nursing Home in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where he was recovering from a broken pelvis. We'd like to share this photograph, taken at the 2005 MUFON Symposium in Denver, one of the many UFO conferences to which we had taken Ken. For your information, Ken is the individual on the left (we think).

Albert and Joan Charnatz  
Los Alamos, NM

# Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

## Disagreements, Agreements with SETI positions

### SETI looks for radio signals from unknown senders

As readers of this column and my other writings know, I have been very skeptical of the SETI movement. I think it is based on a host of inappropriate assumptions and is more a Silly Effort to Investigate than a scientific Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. On the other hand, spokesmen for the movement, such as Carl Sagan in the past, and Jill Tartar, Frank Drake, Seth Shostak these days, must be given credit for having stimulated many people via the media, books, and so forth, to at least think about life in the universe outside Earth and to recognize how vast and old the universe is—especially when compared to our views less than 100 years ago. They are, of course, not looking for intelligent life, but rather for radio signals from somewhere unknown and from someone unknown using techniques about which we know nothing, but which we somehow can identify.

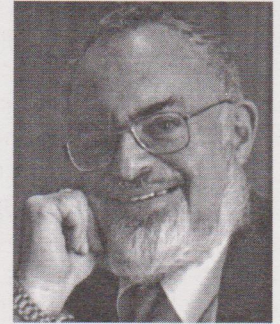
One of my favorite targets has been Dr. Seth Shostak, a Senior Astronomer with the SETI Institute in California. Seth and I met while we each spent several days on a cruise on the *Queen Elizabeth 2* in its last Westward sailing from Southampton in the UK to New York. We had been selected via Cunard at the suggestion of the late Graham Birdsall who had been editor of the *UFO Magazine* of the UK to accompany him on the trip with each of the three of us giving two lectures to provide entertainment for the passengers. Graham very unfortunately took ill and died not long before trip time. Seth and I each then gave three lectures. We were cordial to each other, even if not bosom buddies. I had read his books. It

was obvious he hadn't read much and didn't know much about UFOs.

More than six months later we had a 3-hour debate on *Coast to Coast* radio hosted by George Noory. It was clear that Seth still hadn't read any of the five large scale scientific studies I discussed in one of my cruise lectures. I ask audiences after reviewing each item. No hands from Seth. The vote at the end of the radio show indicated I was favored by 57%, Seth by 33, and 10% called it even. He did much better than Dr. Michael Shermer, head of the Skeptic Society, Publisher of *SKEPTIC* magazine, debunker and pseudoscientist anti-fologist. Michael and I had both appeared on a *Larry King Show* in July 2007 at which his major contribution was interruption and playing with little alien dolls. After our debate on C to C two weeks later, Shermer got only 20% of the vote and had clearly done no homework at all.

Seth and I had another sort of limited close encounter on *Larry King Live* on July 18, 2008. This was the show with Bill Nye (the supposed science guy whose purpose is to deny), despite his almost complete ignorance of the subject of UFOs. Seth was on from Boston. Nye and I and James Fox were in Los Angeles. We talked by phone later and Seth had had as much trouble seeing and hearing me as I did seeing and hearing him, modern TV techniques notwithstanding. He made a false claim that I had said one wasn't entitled to an opinion unless one had done many case investigations. What I claimed was that one needed to review the evidence, but not necessarily do many field investigations. You know those large scale scientific studies (Think: *Blue Book Special Report 14*, the Congressional Hearings etc).

As a matter of fact I fully agreed with Seth's comment that a scientist should be able to judge other people's work in fields far removed from his own, if he checks out the papers and the authors, etc. I did a weekly science



commentary for *Stanton Friedman* CBC radio for six years by doing just that, covering a very wide range of subjects outside my own areas of expertise. With his approval, I sent him a copy of my book *Flying Saucers and Science*. I am told that Seth commented during a recent appearance on *Coast to Coast*, that he had the copy on his nightstand. I would have preferred that he had read it, but...

### Take my idea...please

Anyway I want to—surprise, surprise—express my approval of some recent comments he made on Space. Com-New York: "Have a Wacky Theory? Write It Up." (<http://tinyurl.com/c9qqeu>) He gets lots of communications from people who think they have found new insights that, as he put it, "somehow eluded the tweedy practitioners of mainstream science." I, too, receive such new "insights." People seem to think that having an idea is enough. Somebody else like me or Seth can easily flesh it out since the idea is supposedly both brilliant and now made available. Just explain it to the person of choice. My advice is usually the same as Seth's: please write it up and provide some evidence to substantiate it. This

reaction doesn't usually please the sender of the idea. I guess he expects me to be very grateful for the opportunity to elucidate his earth-shaking ideas. Furthermore, I agree with Seth that "Just about every new theory appears wacko at birth. If not, it's unlikely to be either novel or important. In addition, experts can be so thoroughly marinated in the 'conventional wisdom' that they'll rail at any theory that isn't already in the textbooks."

### Once wacky, now mainstream

Kathleen Marden and I are working on a new book, *But It's Impossible*, for which we have located many many examples of claims—which turn out to be totally false—of wackiness by highly educated people who knew X-rays, flight in the atmosphere, space travel, the germ theory of disease, and many other important concepts, were all impossible. The false claims make entertaining reading with the benefits of hindsight, but the intransigence of the often well-educated pseudoscientific disbelievers often delayed beneficial treatments of disease, new methods of transport, etc.

However, Seth then claims, "The inability of some scientists to consider ideas that aren't already afloat in the mainstream is a cudgel that UFO believers often wield to beat up skeptics." I, for one, consider myself a scientist who has studied the UFO evidence long and hard, not a believer.

### Consider the evidence

And his complaint isn't mine. My biggest gripe with the SETI believers, including Seth, is that they have refused to consider the evidence related to alien visitations. Look at their references, not the idea. They already assume, with no evidence provided at all, that there are aliens sending radio messages and that nobody is coming to Earth, establishing colonies or migrating. They are the true "dis" believers. After all, disbelief doesn't require evidence. That is the problem with the people who approach Seth and me with their "ideas" and expect us to just believe them.

### Publish, publish, publish

I certainly agree with Seth about what should be done with a new idea to demonstrate that it is wheat not chaff. PUBLISH. Best in a refereed scientific journal, but that is very difficult for a non-mainstream notion. And he includes even self publishing as an option, pointing out something that I didn't know. Namely that when Galileo made his telescopic discoveries of the moons of Jupiter and other important items in the sky back in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, he had them typeset and bound, so that nobody could claim priority to those discoveries. Obviously he couldn't have had them published in an astrophysics or astronomy journal since there were none. But he did have night-by-night drawings of Jupiter's moons. As a side comment, I recall how surprised I was at an all-night Temple gathering that most of the generally well-educated people there had never looked through a telescope at Jupiter. I had brought a small one along, to see Jupiter's moons, which had been, after a relatively short period of time, shown by Galileo to be orbiting Jupiter and not the Earth. Copernicus was indeed moving things in the right direction when he claimed in 1543 that planets move around the sun and not the earth. Of course, it took the Church 300 years to agree with him.

### Ideas vs. data

I also agree with Seth that "Data are valuable. Ideas on the other hand—like phone calls or email—are cheap." In other words, don't just tell him or me or some other "expert" about your idea. Write it up.

There is, of course, far more to be said about the weakness of SETI and the strength of ufology when it comes to trying to discover ETI as I note in the chapter, "The SETI Cultists," in *Flying Saucers and Science*. But there is also an important psychological part to the resistance to the notion of alien visitation or any of the many "new ideas" that Kathleen and I are noting in the new book. People who are held in

high esteem often have much to lose in the way of research grants, media appearances and peer group recognition, if it turns out that they are wrong and have held up progress for many years. How many journalists would be happy admitting that they had basically ignored for more than half a century the biggest story of the millennium: alien visitations and government cover-ups?

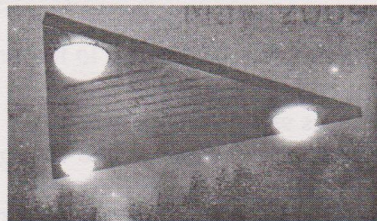
Often arrogance goes with prestige. I know that Seth and other SETI specialists have been attacked by debunkers who claim there is nobody else out there because things would have to have been exactly right out there with regards to temperatures, gravitation field, planetary compositions, and so on. They are almost demanding that proof be provided, perhaps in the form of an alien body. This is just as foolish as the frequent demand from pseudoscientific anti-ufologists such as Dr. Michael Shermer for an alien body. It is generally considered very poor science to generalize from a sample of one.

There is another important aspect to the over importance of ideas versus data. Many people have been touting a connection between WW2 Nazi technology and drawings, sketches, and ideas put forth at the time concerning round and other radical airborne vehicles. There is an enormous difference between artists' concepts and the real world. Rarely are we shown actual photographs as opposed to pretty drawings. The same problem exists with some of the concepts shown in *Popular Mechanics*. An idea is not evidence.

Stan Friedman [fsphys@rogers.com](mailto:fsphys@rogers.com)  
[www.stantonfriedman.com](http://www.stantonfriedman.com)

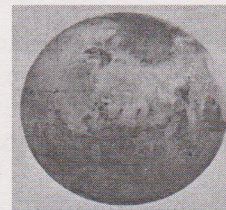
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# Filer's Files

By George Filer  
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



## Uruguayan Air Force Declassifies UFO Files

Daniel Iglesias reports, "The UFO phenomenon has manifested itself many times in Uruguay, South America. The Uruguayan Air Force (FAU) high command has declassified its files and allowed EL PAIS (The National Newspaper) to access its UFO records and eyewitness accounts. While the Air Force commission that studies these cases has been operating for only a few decades, the UFO phenomenon in Uruguay began in 1947, and continues a rich history of seeing UFOs, according to Col. Ariel Sanchez, an Air Force officer with 33 years of active service and who presides over the UFO commission.

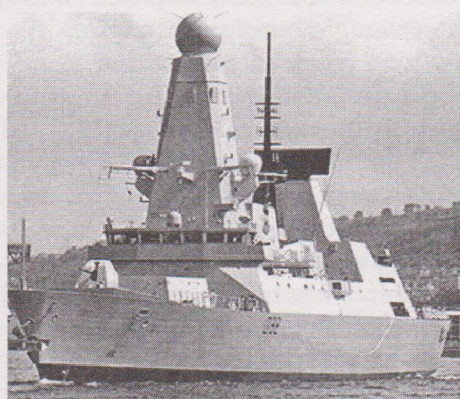
The agency operates out of a small office in downtown Montevideo and has a computer database and print archives. There are hundreds of files in green binders under the heading "Confidential", containing eyewitness accounts, photographs, sketches, drawings, documents and evaluations made by officials. The files consist of reports that accrue at a rate of 100 cases per year with 2100 solid reports the commission has researched and dismissed many for various reasons.

Thirty years after research began, forty cases remain unexplained. These files have been kept open, and range from sightings and landings of alleged craft to abductions, where people claim to have been kidnapped by extraterrestrial entities.

Read the rest of the report about Uruguay in Filer's Files #25 at:  
[http://www.nationalufocenter.com/artman/publish/article\\_284.php](http://www.nationalufocenter.com/artman/publish/article_284.php)

## British Navy comes close to fire at UFOs

**MERSEYSIDE**—A British Navy destroyer, the HMS Daring may have come within seconds of opening fire on Unidentified Flying Objects on June 5, 2009, possibly narrowly avoiding the precipita-



tion of an interstellar war and the obliteration of humanity by testy aliens. Reports have it that the UFOs - speculated to have been visiting spacecraft from beyond the solar system - were tracked on naval weapons radars on a Type 45 Destroyer. The revelation comes from the *Telegraph*, reporting on last week's sightings of "orange, ball-shaped" UFOs cruising between South Liverpool and Southport. The orange, blob-like flying balls "dropped fire" at times—were assessed by some to be floating Chinese lanterns, but lanterns don't move at 3,000 miles/hour. The *Telegraph* entered the debate with stunning revelations from "an ex-military source" regarding the presence of a destroyer docked in Liverpool was tracking extraterrestrial spacecraft, and possibly almost certainly coming within

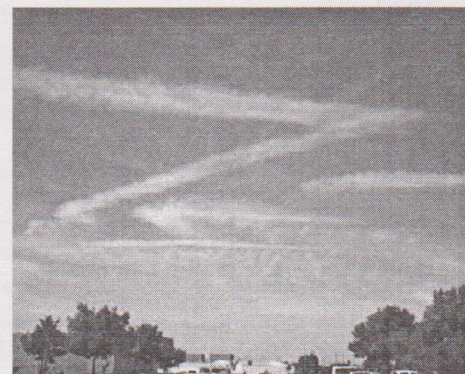
inches of triggering an interstellar invasion by an ill-timed freak accidental firing mishap. That is, in the unlikely event that the rather feeble weapons actually fitted to the navy's newest, billion-dollar destroyer were actually able to do any harm.



George Filer

## California Contrails

**SACRAMENTO**—At about 11:45 AM, on June 14, 2009 I stepped out of church and looked into the western sky and saw several "V" shaped contrails. These were obviously not a natural occurrence and it was difficult to



conceive that conventional jet aircraft could have turned this sharp. There were no aircraft in view when I observed these contrails. I was facing Sacramento International airport ten miles away. Thanks to MUFON CMS

## New Jersey Triangle & Green Light

**WOODSTOWN**—On June 4, 2009, witness was coming home from her hair dresser traveling on Route 40 east towards Pole Tavern and noticed a strange





black triangle in the sky at 9 PM. She pulled to the side of the road to see it better as it hovered over the tree line a short distance from her car. She noticed the object from the driver's side of the car with the window down. There was no noise or movement. It just hovered there. The underside of the triangle was lit up with lights that were bright but not blinding as shown in the drawing. She could not tell if the middle of the triangle was filled in or not.

**TURNERSVILLE** — I was outside on my porch at 11 PM, on June 10, 2009, and saw a bright flash of light in the SE that caught my eye. I stood there looking for the source. I then saw a lime green point of light pulse in the sky. I watched for another minute trying to make out what was making the light because it was overcast. I saw a faint dark red object moving in the clouds where the yellow green light appeared. I was not scared. These things used to scare me but now I am used to it.

**ERIAL** — About 12:30 PM, on June 7, 2009, I was standing by the driver's side door of my Ford Explorer and was looking up into the sky when I observed a long black object in the break of the clouds. It resembled a cigar shape, but I didn't recognize it as anything I had seen before. The object was traveling north between Philadelphia, PA and the Blackhorse Pike in Turnersville, NJ at 10 miles per hour and at a 15 degree angle. I observed the object for a minute when it disappeared suddenly. There were no planes in the air at this time. Thanks to MUFON CMS

#### North Carolina Lunar Eclipse UFO

**FAYETTEVILLE** — On February 20, 2008, I was observing the lunar eclipse

in clear blue sky and ten minutes into the full lunar eclipse, about 22:40 EST, I noticed on the left side of the moon, a very bright, round bright pin-point of light; clearly not a naturally formed object appeared suddenly, traveling in a straight line from the left side of the back side of the moon- it was clearly traveling in a straight line towards Earth. In a second, the object made a 90 degree turn to my right, directly in front of the face of the fully eclipsed moon. As quick as it appeared and shot across in front of the eclipsed moon, it disappeared off to my right side of the Moon and became invisible almost immediately of passing out of the Umbra shadow of the Earth eclipse of the Moon. The entire event was less than five seconds.

I am a US Army combat helicopter pilot, Desert Storm veteran of the Gulf War. I'm accustomed and trained to look for things, especially at night and this object made intelligent turns and was traveling at as fantastic rate of speed. I have observed a great deal of objects while flying with night vision goggles at night and have witnessed many naturally occurring and man-made events in the sky normally not seen with the naked eye. But this object that appeared from the back-side of the moon with my un-aided view and flew directly across in front of the moon was of intelligent design and flight path. I was 47 years old at the time of the lunar eclipse and my eyesight has been evaluated as 20/12 & 20/15 in each eye. I truly believe the object I observed was not of natural origin but of intelligent origin. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

#### New York Triangle

**40.939 N 72.93 W** — At 11:30 AM, on June 13, 2009, sitting on my porch texting and I heard a loud humming noise like engine above my head. I looked up and saw a slow moving triangle flying low. No way around it, this is a UFO. Thanks to MUFON CMS

(See illustration on cover page.)



#### South Carolina Triangle Photographed

**GREENVILLE** — I was outside watching some thunderstorms pass over my home on May 26, 2009 at 12:30 PM. I had my camera with me, hoping to get a picture or two of some lightning. I didn't hear any sound but then again there was thunder in the background...the camera I was using was a MINOLTA Z5....Special note: the witness did capture three clear shots of the object as it flew across the sky. Thanks to UFO Case Book and Ken Pfeifer MUFON NJ.

#### Tennessee Disk

**JACKSON** — I was mowing the yard May 29, 2009, at 7:45 PM, and saw a flash of extremely bright light and noticed a very slow moving disc shaped object. It was flying east and I cut the mower off and could not hear a thing. There was a jet flying much higher. I watched the object for 20 to 30 seconds and it was gone. I just don't know what it was. (NUFORC Note: Witness elects to remain totally anonymous; provides no contact information. PD)

#### Washington Boomerang UFO flying Low

**GRAHAM** — About 1:30 AM on May 26, 2009, my brother in-law and our two lady friends noticed three very bright lights closing in quite fast. We were headed east on 224th Street as it neared the tree line it almost stopped and began drifting with a kind of a crab walk, with no sound, across the road 200 feet above us. We stopped the car, and were hanging out the window as it

*Continued on page 19*

# Brazilian UFO Documents

Continued from page 10

Onsa—the landing site was spotted by a FAB aircraft. A document from the Division for Flight Protection on the 3rd Air Zone describing UFO sightings in June 1972 as a “swarm of fish.” Letters and instructions.

## Folder 04 - 1973

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_04\\_1973.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_04_1973.pdf) - 26 pages

DOPS report containing statements delivered by Sao Paulo city teachers on UFO sightings occurring between municipalities of Ubirajara and Galia in August–October 1972. UFOs seen there had the ability to split and rejoin their pieces which illustrates their intelligent behavior towards the witnesses. Bulletins from the Sociedade Pelotense de Investigação e Pesquisa de Discos Voadores, from April to October 1973 containing articles on the Brazilian cases emphasizing several occurrences registered in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The fact suggests that Brazilian researchers had been monitored by the Air Force.

## Folder 05 - 1974

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_05\\_1974.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_05_1974.pdf) - 19 pages

This folder contains memos from the Office of Public Security of the State of Sao Paulo addressed to the commander of the 4th Air Zone—investigations carried out by Sorocaba and Votorantin police stations on UFO sightings in those municipalities were altogether forwarded. There are also materials from civil ufologists. Letter from the Canadian UFO Research to the 4th Air Zone requesting information on the ufological occurrence in the city of Arasariguama (SP) which resulted in a certified death of witness. Copies of the report from Centro de Investigação Civil de Objetos Aéreos Não Identificados on the UFO spotted and registered in Belo Horizonte plus details of the case.

## Folder 06 - 1975

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_05\\_1975.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_05_1975.pdf) - 68 pages

This folder contains documents generated by several civil associations throughout the country which clearly indicates the government surveillance of researchers' activities. Among those pages are bulletins from Sociedade Pelotense containing researches on animal mutilations, correspondence exchanged by the Air Force and Gen. Moacyr Uchoa, and also a summary of David Jacobs' book, *The UFO Controversy in America*. Strangely enough, it also contains an Italian citizen's statement reporting a UFO occurrence caught by

movie camera in 1975; the movie would have been sent to the USA.

## Folder 07 - 1976

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_07\\_1976.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_07_1976.pdf) - 30 pages

Memo from the minister of aeronautics' chief of staff to the head of the Air Force regarding the release of reports on Caso Ilha da Trindade, which occurred in 1958. Both response and letter from requestor are attached including a brief on the Center for UFO Studies which was directed by ufologist J. Allen Hynek. There is also correspondence exchanged among Brazilian ufologists and the military concerning a cooperation for sharing of materials such as UFO case studies and bulletins. Also a letter dated 25 May 1976 from Brazilian Air Force representative in Washington requesting the Air Force Command for information to the US researcher.

## Folder 08 - 1977

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_08\\_1977.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_08_1977.pdf) - 24 pages

Includes a protocol from Salvador Air Base undersigned by several brigadiers reporting occurrences in which military reported sightings of large UFOs followed by smaller ones. Air traffic controller and other seven witnesses claim to have seen a large UFO that would be the “mother ship”. Also letters exchanged by Brazilian and foreign civil ufologists with Air Force military. Among these, there is one request from researcher Bob Pratt concerning UFO incidents in USA territory. There are also reports on sightings that triggered Operacao Prato.

## Folder 09 - 1978

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_09\\_1978.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_09_1978.pdf) - 85 pages

Assorted materials including issues of research bulletins and the case of abduction of Australian pilot Frederick Valentich. This folder contains a protocol by the Ministry of Aeronautics describing UFO sightings at the country's capital including reports of witnesses being chased by flying saucers. Also a letter from the 5th Regional Air Command in Canoas (RS), containing illegible registers on a UFO case, and the investigation of the 4th Regional Air Command on the UFO that hovered over a plot of land at low altitude beside a family's residence in Sao Paulo.

Continued on page 19

# Brazilian UFO Documents

Continued from page 18

## Folder 10 - 1978

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_10\\_1978.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_10_1978.pdf) - 195 pages

This is the folder which contains more information including reports on several sightings all over the country. Reports from Operacao Prato account for most of the material in the folder amounting to 170 report pages and 126 mission pictures. The most important cases are there and include maps, diagrams and other sketches of varied UFOs and mother ships. Materials describe UFO trajectories, geographical coordinates, view angles, time, and physical effects caused by UFOs on soil and to people when there were direct contacts.

## Folder 11 - 1978

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_11\\_1978.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_11_1978.pdf) - 66 pages

Reports from a serious occurrence registered by the Integrate Center for Air Defense and Air Traffic Control (Cindacta) on the night of June 20th, 1978. A multicolored UFO performed maneuvers at high speed causing panic. The object showed intelligent behavior and ability to vanish from one spot to reappear in another. The chief of police and 20 of his men were witnesses to that. There is also a transcription of talks between radar operators and three civilian aircraft

over a UFO sighting among Campinas, Marilia, Pirasununga and Brasilia cities.

## Folder 12 - 1979

[http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura\\_2/CENDOC\\_ENVELOPE\\_12\\_1979.pdf](http://www.ufo.com.br/public/abertura_2/CENDOC_ENVELOPE_12_1979.pdf) - 68 pages

This folder contains interesting material on civil UFO investigations both in Brazil and abroad. The 2nd Regional Air Command (COMAR) forwards tens of articles published by US magazine *International UFO Reporter* and also newspapers. There is also a letter from an attorney of Banco do Brazil on his experience with a UFO on 26 February 1979 and an enquiry from Comitê Nacional de Investigacao de Fenômenos Aéreos to the governments of Brazil and US. These contain parameters for the scientific research of UFOs and other enquiries.

Report by: A. J. Gevaerd,  
Editor, *Brazilian UFO Magazine*  
Coordinator, Brazilian UFO Researchers Committee  
[www.ufo.com.br](http://www.ufo.com.br)  
[gevaerd@ufo.com.br](mailto:gevaerd@ufo.com.br)  
[aj@gevaerd.com](mailto:aj@gevaerd.com)

Translated by Eduardo Rado, volunteer, *Brazilian UFO Magazine*. [www.ufo.com.br](http://www.ufo.com.br)

## Filer's Files

Continued from page 17

passed over. It was large and began to turn slightly and stopped. I could clearly make out the almost boomerang shape with lights at each corner.

Its top was totally flat and the bottom was three elongated footballs molded seamlessly to each other. The center shape was glowing a dull blue, and had three evenly spaced small blue lights on its bottom. At this point the craft was hovering emitting a blue glow on the tops of houses. After five minutes another car slows to have a look as the object. It then began to move in its original direction before picking up enough speed to disappear in a matter of seconds. This was not of this world. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

**MOUNT SI** — While driving on Highway 202 between Snoqualmie, and North Bend, on May 29, 2009, at 10 PM, I was looking at Mount. Si and saw a shiny, silver saucer at high altitude. It moved slightly diagonal then disappeared. I pulled over and a few minutes later saw a light like a star

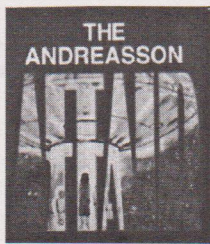
very high in the blue sky. It shined very bright and moved very fast across the sky and then disappeared. This object created an air disturbance in a large radius around it like heat waves. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

## Norway Disk Spotted Twice

**HELLESYLT** — A white disk was seen while looking from a plane on May 31, 2009, at 2:50 PM. It was seen for 20 seconds before it disappeared, then 30 seconds later we noticed it again, but this time it was further away. The first time we saw it, it flew in many directions, and the second time it was almost standing still. It didn't make any sound. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

*This month's Filer's Files includes excerpts from File # 25, June 17, 2009. (c) by George A. Filer.*

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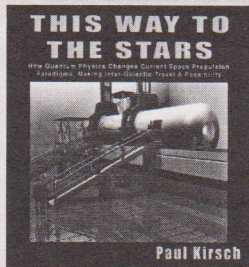
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# Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is May's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Eddie Middleton** (Tennessee), **Ruben J. Uriarte** (California), **John Ventre** (West Virginia), **John Skare** (Kansas), **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico), **Jim King** (Iowa), **Bland Pugh** (Florida), **Lorna Hunter** (South Dakota), **Augustine B. Fawkes** (Idaho) 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 assigning all cases within 72 hours, and following 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.

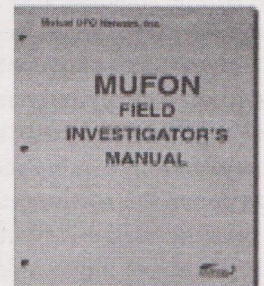
If you have any questions or need help with your investigations please contact me, Chuck Reeve, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at [wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org).

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank	Assigned	Completed
1	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	23/23	36/36
2	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 %	48/48	48/48
3	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	100 %	102/102	152/152
4	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	8/8	12/12
5	Kansas	John Skare	100 %	15/15	24/24
6	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	19/19	26/26
7	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	23/23	29/29
8	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 %	176/176	202/202
9	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	4/4	4/4
10	Idaho	Augustine B. Fawkes	100 %	5/5	11/11
11	Georgia	Walter Sheets	99 %	76/76	70/71
12	Kentucky	David MacDonald	98 %	28/29	46/46
13	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	98 %	81/84	109/109
14	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	98 %	195/196	239/245
15	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	98 %	26/26	34/35
16	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	94 %	230/240	345/369
17	Maine	Steve Firmani	94 %	15/16	19/20
18	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	93 %	91/93	113/128
19	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	93 %	58/66	72/72
20	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	93 %	192/194	207/234
21	Utah	Elaine Douglass	93 %	28/31	26/27
22	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	89 %	26/31	49/51
23	Vermont	Steve Firmani	88 %	7/9	5/5
24	Ohio	William Jones	88 %	67/86	114/114
25	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	86 %	8/11	10/10
26	New Hampshire	Steve Firmani	82 %	15/18	18/22
27	Washington	Marilyn Childs	80 %	36/56	59/61
28	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	80 %	96/97	67/108
29	Arizona	George C. Parks	80 %	93/131	124/137
30	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	76 %	8/12	12/14
31	Missouri	Debbie A. Ziegelmeyer	75 %	31/51	51/57
32	North Carolina	Richard Lang	73 %	19/41	53/53
33	Connecticut	Steve Firmani	70 %	14/25	24/28
34	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	68 %	52/82	96/129
35	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	62 %	8/32	39/39
36	Nevada	Mark Easter	61 %	8/34	44/44
37	Delaware	Carl W. Feindt	55 %	1/10	6/6
38	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	53 %	30/56	35/65
39	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	52 %	57/89	43/104
40	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	48 %	14/28	18/38
41	Rhode Island	Steve Firmani	44 %	0/10	17/19
42	Montana	Augustine Fawkes	42 %	2/8	9/15
43	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	36 %	2/23	13/20
44	Mississippi	Bobby Lee Walker	32 %	7/12	1/14
45	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	31 %	3/12	7/18
46	North Dakota	Kurt Pfleger	18 %	0/7	3/8
47	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	16 %	1/60	15/48
48	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	15 %	8/31	2/37
49	Wisconsin	Timothy G. Whiteagle	15 %	5/18	1/30
50	Maryland	Ron Fink	9 %	3/30	3/37

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## Director's Message

*Continued from page 2*

present for the anniversary dinner on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. It will truly be a historical occasion.

This year at the Symposium, MUFON HQ is auctioning off a number of historical UFO items from our archives—everything from rare UFO books from the MUFON library to rare pieces of art. We still have room however for your silent auction donations, so please send those ahead of time or bring them with you.

In addition, we are bringing back—by popular demand—MUFON Field Investigator workshops on Thursday, August 6. Even if you are seasoned UFO investigator, you can benefit from these instructional workshops that will cover a number of important topics from field collection to witness interviewing to proper use of field equipment.

I hope to see you at the MUFON Symposium in Denver. Please visit the MUFON web site at <http://www.mufon.com/symposia.htm> for more information and to register.

## Position Announcements

### *Special Appointments*

**Terry Groff** of Dallas, Texas has been named Deputy Director of Investigations for the United States. **Jude Talaba** of Boulder, CO will remain as Supervisor for CMS Administrators, United States.

These people have been appointed as CMS Administrators (under the supervision of Jude Talaba): **Sandalio "Sandy Gonzalez"** of Doral, FL; **Joseph DiEduardo** of Wildwood Crest, NJ; and **Steve Venet** of Framingham, MA.

Past CMS Administrators were **Steve Firmani** of Leominster, MA; **Debra Lowery** of Rochester, IL; and **Connie Watson** of Tracy, CA. Their service is appreciated.

**Ruben Uriarte**, Northern California State Director, of Union City, CA, has been named Deputy Director for International Investigations. **Hana Kotek** of Fuquay Varina, NC, has been appointed as CMS Administrator Supervisor for International activities.

**Carlos Alberto Guzman** of Mexico City has been appointed as MUFON's Representative to Mexico.

### *Assistant State Directors*

**Marilyn Carlson** for Oklahoma.

### *New Field Investigators*

**Victor Golubic** of Phoenix, Arizona; **Carol Paulis** of Ocala, Florida; **Gary Paulis** of Ocala, Florida; **Donald Borton** of Frederick, Maryland; **Shaun Delmolino** of Dalton, Massachusetts; **Zachary Smith** of Olivet, Michigan.

**Adam Hardy** of Fridley, Minnesota; **Valerie Fehrenback** of Ringwood, New Jersey; **David Warren** of Piqua, Ohio; **Dr. John Geiger** of Wynnewood, Oklahoma; **Cameron Pack** of Virginia Beach, Virginia; **Ralph Johnson** of Clifton, Virginia.

**Congratulations to you all.**

## July Night Sky

*Continued from page 19*

the east-northeast horizon about 3 hours before sunrise and will be standing very high above the eastern horizon at sunrise; by month end Mars will rise above the east-northeast horizon about 4 hours before sunrise and will be standing very high above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 4 hours before sunrise and will stand high above the north-northeast horizon as the Sun rises; by month's end Mars will rise above the east-northeast horizon about 3 ½ hours before sunrise and will stand above the north-northeast horizon at sunrise.

**Jupiter** (magnitude -2.7 to -2.8): In Capricornus. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 6 ½ hours before sunrise and will stand high above the south-southwest horizon at sunrise; by the end of the month Jupiter will rise above the east-southeast horizon about 9 hours before sunrise and will stand above the west-southwest horizon as the Sun rises.

### **Other Celestial Phenomena**

June 21st will mark the Summer Solstice (beginning of summer).

### **Planetary Conjunction**

Conjunction of Venus and Saturn

### **Conjunctions and Occultations:**

July 4: Antares 0.5 degrees south of the Moon

July 10: Jupiter 4 degrees south of the Moon

July 18: Mars 5 degrees south of the Moon

July 18: Venus 6 degrees south of the Moon

July 25: Saturn 7 degrees north of the Moon

July 31: Antares 0.5 degrees south of the Moon

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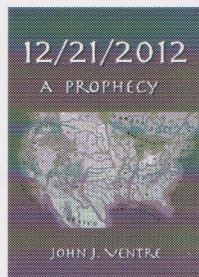
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# The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

## July 2009

### Moon Phases

- Full Moon—July 7<sup>th</sup>
- Last Quarter—July 15<sup>th</sup>
- New Moon—July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- First Quarter—July 28<sup>th</sup>

### Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

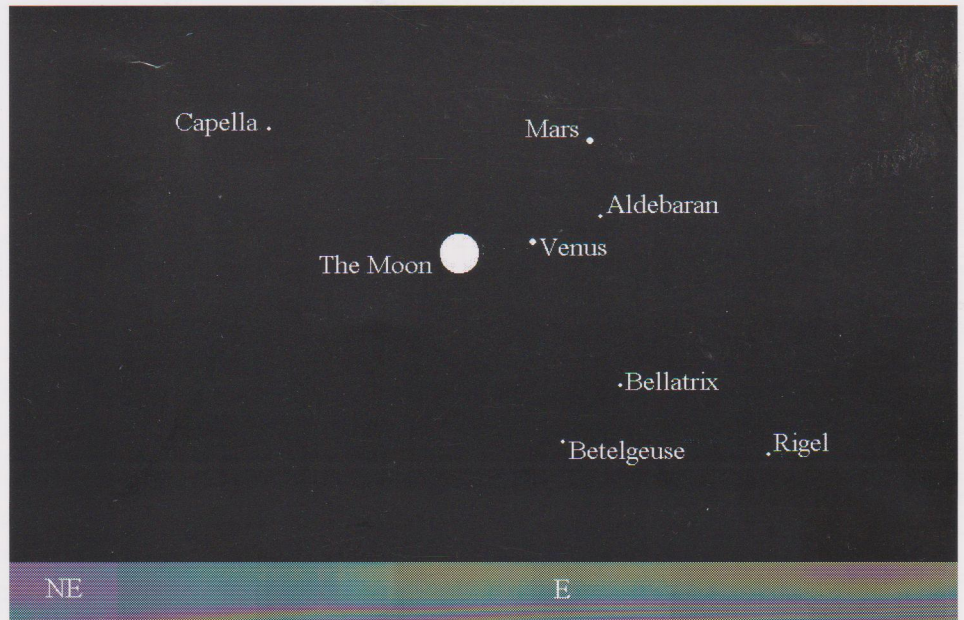
**Saturn** (magnitude 1.0 to 1.1): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month standing high above the west-southwest horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon about 3 ½ hours after sunset; by the end of the month Saturn will stand above the western horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon about 2 hours after sunset.

For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month standing high above the northern horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon about 5 ¾ hours after sunset; by the end of the month Saturn will stand high above the northwest horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon about 3 ½ hours after sunset.

### Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

**Mercury** (magnitude -0.9 to -1.9 to -1.3): Moving from Gemini through Cancer into Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 1 hour before sunrise and will stand low above the east-northeast horizon at sunrise; during the month Mercury will sink towards the rising Sun and will transition to the evening sky about mid-month; by the end of the month Mercury will stand low above the west-northwest horizon at sunset and will drop below the horizon about 1 hour after sunset.

For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the northeast horizon



*Conjunction of the Moon, Mars and Venus on July 18, 2009*

about one hour before sunrise and will stand low above the northeast horizon at sunrise; during the month Mercury will sink towards the rising Sun and will transition to the evening sky about mid-month; by the end of the month Mercury will stand low above the northwest horizon at sunset and will drop below the horizon about 1 ½ hours after sunset.

**Venus** (magnitude -4.0 to -3.9): Moving from Taurus into Orion. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 2 ½ hours before sunrise and will be standing high above the eastern horizon at sunrise; by month's end Venus will rise above the east-northeast horizon about 3 hours before sunrise and will be standing high above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 3 ½ hours before sunrise and will stand high above the east-northeast horizon at sunrise; by month's end Venus will rise above the east-northeast horizon about

2 ½ hours before sunrise and will stand above the north-northeast horizon at sunrise.

**Mars** (magnitude 1.1): Moving from Aries through Taurus into Orion. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above

*Continued on page 22*

