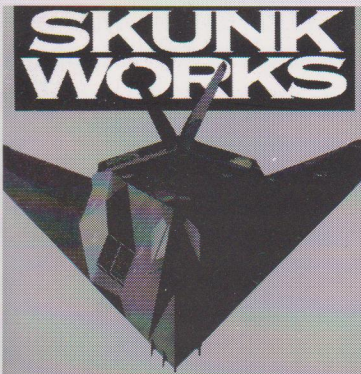


in  
this  
issue



A look at Ben Rich, former head of the legendary Skunk Works and a man whose accomplishments may have included developing the technology necessary to take ET home. Story on page 3.

**features**

- 45 life-changing seconds...10
- Opinion: Let's stick to basic questions.....15
- 63 years of sightings.....20

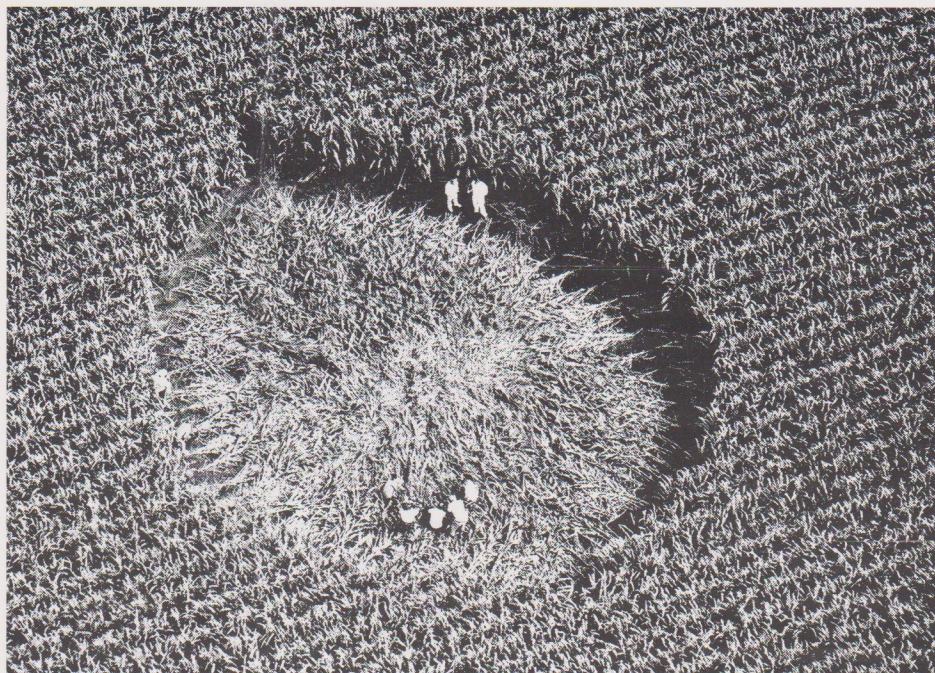
**in every issue**

- Director's Message ..... 2
- Filer's Files.....12
- Letters to the Editor .....15
- Volunteer of the Month.....16
- Calendar.....16
- Perceptions ..... 18
- CMS Rankings.....21
- Marketplace.....23
- The Night Sky.....24

MUFON  
Mutual UFO Network  
UFO JOURNAL

MAY 2010

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BOBBY RATLIFF/KCRG-TV

People examine a 55-foot circle of flattened corn in a field near Arlington, Iowa. Ohio and Iowa head the list for the greatest number of crop circles.

## Crop circles, close encounters at Eureka Springs conference

A VICTORIAN VILLAGE in the Ozarks, what a wonderfully incongruous setting for discussions about crop circles, close encounters of the fifth kind, and government cover-up of the extraterrestrial presence. It was the 22nd annual Ozark UFO Conference held in April at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. A full house greeted some of the top names in ufology, as well as some distinguished speakers who are new to the UFO lecture circuit. —Janice Currie

For a sample of ideas that emerged during talks that weekend, please turn to page 6.





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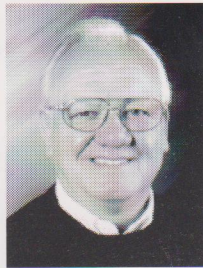
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## director's message

# Plans and hopes for MUFON's future

By Clifford Clift

AS THE NEW International Director of MUFON, one of the many things I have discovered when organizing the new office in Greeley is the vast amount of information in MUFON's archives. This includes reports of more than 30,000 UFO sightings, articles about and by the most famous people in ufology, and general UFO information. It is truly mind-boggling.

One of the more exciting cases I discovered in the archives was the abduction/encounter of Herbert Schirmer on December 3, 1967, in Ashland, Nebraska. This case was investigated by NICAP (a predecessor to MUFON), the Condon Committee investigators, and many newspaper journalists. It was a truly inexplicable event, and I believe one of the better cases in support of the existence of UFOs and ETs. If you would like a copy of this report, please contact MUFON headquarters by phone, e-mail, or

letter. A \$10 fee includes shipping costs.

## Technological Advances

The past UFO reports are exciting, but MUFON must look toward the future. Today's young people (and some of us who are older, too) are very computer-savvy. With that in mind, MUFON needs to update our computer technology in an effort to be the leading information site for all UFO sightings, the No. 1 place to report a sighting, and the go-to place for UFO information.

MUFON currently is looking into how best to accomplish this. Exciting new technology would allow us to fulfill our ambitions, but many computer products are cost-prohibitive at this time. MUFON is dedicated to moving forward, and we are diligently investigating all avenues that might help us to

*Continued on page 17*

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# A look at Ben Rich, a man who kept secrets of stealth and space travel

By Tom Keller

ONE DAY IN 1993, I received a call from a good friend, Jan Harzan, inviting me to a lecture sponsored by the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Engineering Alumnae Association. Jan had graduated in engineering at UCLA in the '70s, about a decade after me. He asked, "How'd you like to hear a lecture by someone from Lockheed's Skunk Works?"

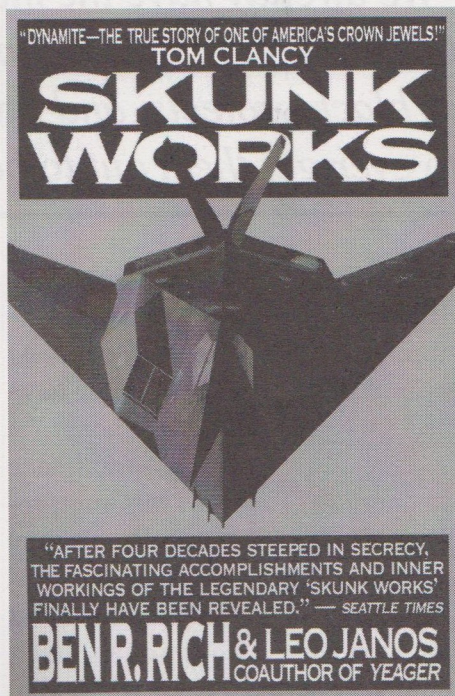
"Sure," I said. "Who's speaking?" "Ben Rich," he answered. "Who's Ben Rich?" I asked. It turns out that Rich, Skunk Works director from 1975 to 1991, was an alum of the UCLA School of Engineering.

On the appointed day (March 23, 1993), Jan and I sat at the front of an audience of about 150 to 200. The group included aerospace-industry professionals, members of the press and academia, and a few military types in uniform sitting at the back. Knowing the history of Lockheed's activity in military intelligence, my guess was that there also were a few "spooks" in attendance.

## The Threat of Leavenworth

Soon a short (5' 5" or so), thin, gray-haired man walked to the podium. He was wiry-looking, with 65 years of worry wrinkles on his face. His first words were, "Please don't ask me any questions about the Aurora Project. I can't answer, and if I did, I'd be thrown in jail. There are some representatives of the CIA here."

He sounded dead serious. My



*"Anything you can imagine, we already know how to do," Rich told a group of engineers in 1993.*

feeling is that Kelly Johnson (the founder of Skunk Works) had instilled in him a serious respect for national security.

In his book *Skunk Works*, Rich recorded a conversation in which Johnson told him: "Rich, this project [the U-2 spy plane] is so secret that you may have a six-month to one-year hole in your resume that can never be filled in. Whatever you

learn, see, and hear for as long as you work inside this building stays forever inside this building. Is that clear? You'll tell no one about what we do or what you do—not your wife, your mother, your brother, your girlfriend, your priest, or your CPA. You got that straight?"

"Yes, sure," Rich replied.

"OK, first read over this briefing disclosure form, which says what I've just said, only in governmentese. Just remember, having a big mouth will cost you 20 years in Leavenworth, minimum."

## Accomplishments Galore

At that lecture in 1993, Rich talked for an hour, reviewing the history of Skunk Works. It was obvious from the way he carried himself and what he said that he was proud of his accomplishments. His talk was highlighted by numerous slides of each project he had worked on. He described the U-2 reconnaissance plane and its successors, the TR-1 variants. He spoke about the SR-71 Blackbird, its various missions, its speed records, and a few of its less well-known mishaps.

He talked about the little-known D-21 supersonic spy drone that was carried atop an SR-71 mother ship. He even spoke of missions in which the D-21 was launched toward mainland China and went out of control. He covered the Sea Shadow, a prototype stealth surface ship commissioned by

*Continued on page 4*



# The man who kept secrets of space travel

*Continued from page 3*

the Navy. (According to Rich, the Navy ran it through a few sea trials, but never really understood how to use it.) He also spoke of the F-117—sometimes erroneously called a stealth “fighter”—it’s strictly an attack bomber and is subsonic. All of these aircraft were built by Skunk Works, not designed there and built elsewhere.

## “Nuts and Bolts” Operation

Skunk Works consisted of research and development designers, but the designers also were fabricators. In other words, they were “nuts and bolts” people.

Here it is in Rich’s own words: “Inside the Skunk Works, we were a small, intensely cohesive group consisting of about fifty veteran engineers and designers and a hundred or so expert machinists and shop workers. Our forte was building a small number of very technologically advanced airplanes for highly secret missions.”

During what probably was the most fascinating talk I have ever heard, Rich showed a carousel of slides. In his concluding comments he said that Skunk Works would continue to develop cutting-edge technology, and he noted that no one knows what they would work on next. “We already have the means to travel among the stars, but these technologies are locked up in black projects, and it would take an act of God to ever get them out to benefit humanity. Anything you can imagine, we already know how to do.”

He then showed his last slide, an

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*“We already have the means to travel among the stars, but these technologies are locked up in black projects, and it would take an act of God to ever get them out to benefit humanity.”*

---

artist’s conception of a flying disk-shaped craft—a “flying saucer”—zipping off into the unknown. At this point, Rich said, “We now have the technology to take ET home.”

The reaction of the audience was nervous laughter. My interpretation was that this was Rich’s way of saying, “We can do it now.” A few others in the room, including my friend Jan, also took this statement very seriously. All you had to do was read between the lines.

After the talk, about 30 of us crowded around Rich like rock fans around the Beatles at their last concert. I was beginning to wonder if anyone else in the audience was having the same thoughts as Jan and I. Could Skunk Works be working on some otherworldly craft?

## Travel to the Stars

One man said that he was a new manager at Northrop Corporation (an aircraft manufacturer) and wanted Rich’s advice. Rich pointed his finger at the man and said, “Let me ask you a question: Is it possible to travel to the stars?” The man was taken back a bit and then said, “Sure. It would just take a long time.” Rich replied, “No, it won’t take someone’s lifetime to do

it. There is an error in the equations. We know what it is. We now have the capability to travel to the stars.”

A man in the crowd asked, “Just how are we going to get to the stars?” Rich immediately responded, “First, you have to understand that we will not get to the stars using chemical propulsion. Second, we have to devise a new propulsion technology. What we have to do is to find out where Einstein went wrong.”

## Correcting Einstein’s Error

Rich went on to imply that various people at Skunk Works had been studying alternative propulsion technologies for interstellar travel. Rich said they had, for example, determined that Einstein’s equations dealing with relativity theory were incorrect. I asked him to clarify that. Did he mean that Skunk Works employed theoretical physicists, “Einstein types,” to look for alternate means of space travel? Rich said, “Yes.”

Rich went on to say that Einstein had been proven wrong. I didn’t know how other people in the room interpreted that, but to me Rich possibly meant scientists had determined how it is possible to travel faster than the speed of light.



It's important to keep in mind that Skunk Works is a fabrication outfit. They are not in business to be a theoretical think tank.

## Looking for Loopholes

My take was that at Skunk Works they were looking for loopholes in Einstein's work that would give them a way of traveling to the stars and back at ultra-high, faster-than-light speeds. I interpreted Rich's comments to mean that the scientists at Skunk Works had found such a loophole—and they were building or had built a craft to do it.

One woman in the crowd apparently had similar thoughts. She asked, "Mr. Rich, when will the ETs go home?" Rich smiled, looked down at the floor and said nothing. Some of us were left wondering what his response might have been had he been able to answer without fear of being sentenced to 20 years in Leavenworth.

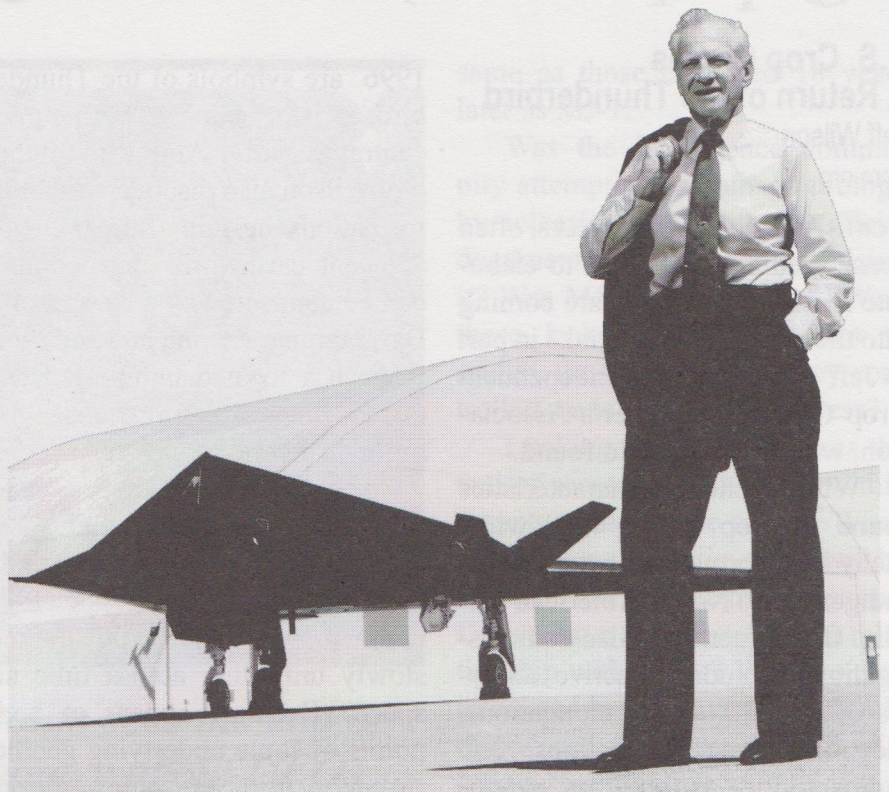
As Rich was walking out the door, Jan followed and asked privately, "Ben, what equations are you talking about?" Jan explained that he was interested in propulsion and how UFO propulsion worked. Rich said, "Let me ask you. How does ESP work?"

Jan replied without thinking, "All points in time and space are connected?" Rich shot back, "That's how it works!" Jan did not know if Rich was referring to his question or his answer. Rich then turned around and abruptly left the room.

Rich died of cancer in 1996. Who knows what secrets he took to his grave? ■

*Tom Keller is an aerospace engineer who has worked as a computer systems analyst for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.*

## about Ben Rich



LOCKHEED MARTIN

*Ben Rich and one of the stealth fighter-bombers he helped to develop.*

## The "Father of Stealth"

Ben Rich was the second director of Skunk Works, serving in that position from 1975 to 1991. He succeeded Kelly Johnson, founder of Lockheed's secret research and development section. Known as the "father of stealth," Rich headed development of the F-117A, the "stealth" fighter-bomber that is invisible to enemy radar.

In his memoir *Skunk Works* (Little, Brown & Company, 1994), Rich recalled the evolution of his aeronautical triumph. "As it happened, I was damned lucky," he wrote. "Stealth technology landed in my lap."

The idea grew out of a technical paper on radar by a Russian scientist that had been published in the West. A mathematician and a radar specialist at Skunk Works recognized its potential and handed it to Rich in 1995.

Rich also worked on the F-104, U-2, SR-71, A-12 and F-22, among others, and many of his projects remain classified. He retired in 1991, just as the first deployment of his stealth aircraft saw action in Desert Storm. ■



# Crop circles, close encounters, and

## U.S. Crop Circles & Return of the Thunderbird

Jeff Wilson

iccra.org

NORTH AMERICAN CROP CIRCLES, often considered a poor cousin to elaborate British formations, are coming into their own. This is thanks in part to Jeff Wilson and the Independent Crop Circle Researcher's Association, which he helped to found.

While echoing characteristics found in crop circles worldwide, many U.S. formations have themes indigenous to Native American culture. Consequently, Wilson's investigations include objective analysis of the data—node elongations, electromagnetic fluctuations, and radioactivity—as well as examination of symbols and alignment found in the formations.

Wilson has documented some interesting characteristics of crop circles worldwide—95 percent are close to power lines, near water (lakes, creeks, drainage ditches, or underground aquifers), and on the down slope or in the lowest point in a field. Sixty-five percent are in proximity to earthworks or ancient archeological sites.

A formation that occurred on July 4, 2003, in Mayville, Wisconsin, reflected a pattern found in many circle formations. An eye witness watching an approaching storm saw a crop circle form in front of him. This happened in less than 15 seconds and accompanied the passage of the weather front.

Unique to U.S. crop circles that Wilson has documented since

1996 are symbols of the Thunderbird and the serpent, both figures central to Native American mythology. Wilson also discovered that the formations he's investigated—and adjacent earthworks or mounds—can be connected by a straight line. By mapping the line and following it, he has located unreported crop circles. The circles also connect to mounds that no longer exist.

This alignment raises many questions. Can we predict where crop circles will appear in the future? Were all the crop circles planned in advance, and are they slowly unfolding across time and space? Do they appear at nodal points of some underlying geometric energy grid? Are there additional forces that we have yet to consider?

## Project Blue Book Remembered

Bill Pitts

ONE OF THE PIONEERS of ufology, Bill Pitts organized the first Ozark UFO Conference 22 years ago. A state director of MUFON, Pitts described the many incarnations of the government's Project Blue Book designed to document/discredit UFO sightings, from its beginnings as Project Sign, through Project Twinkle, Project Grudge, and finally, Project Blue Book.

Pitts recalled some of the dramatic events that occurred during his years as an investigator, including the incident in 1948 when Air Force pilot Thomas Mantell was killed when his F-51 plane crashed

in the pursuit of a "metallic object" of "tremendous size." He also spoke about the Gorman Dogfight, another UFO classic from 1948 when Lt. Gerooge F. Gorman of the North Dakota Air National Guard pursued a UFO for 27 minutes through a series of intricate maneuvers.

Pitts is a board member of the International UFO Registry.

## Exopolitics, Disclosure & New World Order

Stephen Bassett

paradigmresearchgroup.org

AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of Paradigm Research Group, the Political Action Committee X-PPAC, and executive producer of the X-Conference, Stephen Bassett is a leading advocate for ending the government-imposed "truth embargo" regarding an extraterrestrial presence interacting with the human race.

Ufology attempts to understand the UFO phenomenon scientifically, documenting sightings, crop circles, animal harvesting, and contact, and searching for government documents verifying the alien presence. While ufology has proven the existence of aliens over and over, Bassett said, the government won't allow this. Exopolitics was born to resolve the issue politically.

Disclosure is the most important exopolitical thing going on right now. The formal acknowledgement by the world's governments of a non-human extraterrestrial intelligence engaging the human race—this is the deal to end all deals.



# cover-ups reigned at Eureka Springs

Disclosure became an issue because of the truth embargo that began in 1947, when for security reasons Brigadier General Roger Ramey switched the identity on the recovered Roswell craft from a flying saucer to a weather balloon.

The secret empire began: millions of people, black programs, surveillance systems, underground facilities, with no scrutiny, no press, no oversight, and with unlimited access and unlimited dollars. "It's out of control," he said.

## UFOs & the National Security State: The Cover-Up Exposed

Richard Dolan

keyholepublishing.com

HISTORIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE Richard Dolan summarized key UFO sightings and the government's cover-up from his book, *UFOs and the National Security State: The Cover-Up Exposed, 1973-1991*, the second in his historical trilogy. He recalled some key sightings during that era, with emphasis on military encounters. Among them, the 1976 encounter over Iran, "the best documented good case." When two F4 fighter jets were ordered to shoot down a UFO, the first plane found its instrumentation disabled as it was about to fire a missile. When the second plane prepared to fire, a small UFO dropped from the larger craft and again disabled the firing.

One of the more well-known UFO enthusiasts was President Ronald Reagan. When Reagan was governor of California, he saw a



*Dolan sees the end of secrecy about UFOs within a generation, maybe sooner.*

UFO during a flight across the state. In true Reagan fashion, he said, "Let's go after it," but the UFO shot straight upward and out of sight.

Dolan recalled government attempts to confuse the situation. In 1983 Linda Moulton Howe was called in to the office of Richard Doty, of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and allowed to view some documents. She was told the papers couldn't leave the room. They included a list of several UFO crashes, and they documented the retrieval of live aliens recovered from a 1949 crash near Roswell, New Mexico. These documents were similar to but not the

same as those disclosed 18 years later as MJ-12.

Was the intelligence community attempting to manage ufology by releasing data without official documentation, thus compromising it? Was MJ-12 true or false? Were these leaks sympathetic, lies to muddy the truth, or were they controlled management of the press?

Looking ahead, Dolan sees the end of secrecy about UFOs within a generation, maybe sooner. When this happens, he believes we will be left with uncomfortable questions. Do we have a confrontational relationship with UFOs? Why are they interested in us? Have they recently discovered us, or are we part of a long-term program?

## United Kingdom Ministry of Defense UFO Files

Nick Pope

nickpope.net

IN 2007 THE BRITISH government began the process of declassifying its archive of UFO files, releasing the information over a three-year period. It was a purely practical decision, said Nick Pope, whose job with the Ministry of Defense was to oversee the UFO project. Under the Freedom of Information Act, they received more requests for information about UFOs than for any other subject. It had become an administrative burden. After one batch of files was released May 14, 2008, there were 2 million downloads in two weeks.

*Continued on page 8*



# Many talks focused on fascinating

Continued from page 7

Don't look for any smoking guns, Pope said. There's no spaceship in a hangar. Most of the information is mundane misidentification of satellites or meteorites.

The British UFO project wasn't terminated, the public was cut out of the loop. Investigations continue, but reports will reference unusual aircraft or unidentified aerial phenomena. A record level of UFO reports precipitated the change: In 2005 there were 95 reports, in 2009 there were 685—and a large proportion were misidentifications—frequently Chinese fire lanterns.

## Finding June Crain: Discovery of a Key Witness

James Clarkson  
clarksonufo.com

JUNE CRAIN WORKED in the foreign technology division of the Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, with Q clearance. She was retired when she attended a lecture by James Clarkson, a retired police sergeant in Aberdeen, Washington, and a MUFON investigator. Crain authorized Clarkson to document her experiences at Wright-Patterson, among them, a master sergeant describing a UFO crash and the two little green men—greenish blue really—4-foot tall and non-human, who were retrieved from the site. Immediately following, a courier arrived with papers for her to sign, agreeing that talking about the incident would lead to dismissal and charges.

In 1952, Crain had a direct ex-

perience with the famous memory metal from the Roswell crash. She was encouraged to “throw it on the desk, tear that thing apart, rip it up, twist it.” Crain said, “It was light as a feather, but I couldn't cut it.” When she set it down, it returned to its original shape. The soldier told her, “It's a piece of a spaceship.” He had brought it from New Mexico.

## What's Next for Ufology?

Jim Marrs  
jimmarrs.com

IF YOU LIKE CONSPIRACY theories you'll love Jim Marrs. The journalist and best-selling author of *Alien Agenda*, *Rule by Secrecy*, *Rise of the Fourth Reich*, and *Above Top Secret*, Marrs peppered his discussion of UFO history with information about the Nazi connection to the U.S. space program.

Marrs introduced a number of lesser-known UFO stories. A news clipping from Chile in 1947 quoted Admiral Richard E. Byrd cautioning the United States to prepare defensive measures against enemy airmen that come from the polar regions and fly aircraft at tremendous speeds from one pole to the other. The New York Times reported that 2 moonlets had been discovered circling the earth. The story received no follow-up. Why? The moonlets went away.

In addition to UFO incidents, the intrepid reporter has investigated cattle mutilations (a coincidence that cows have 23 chromosomes that are a perfect match for

humans?) and crop circles (intergalactic corporate logos?).

Directing attention to a National Geographic report, Marrs noted that as the planet has been aligning with the center of the Milky Way, the Earth has been receiving signals from the center of the galaxy. Do they come from an intelligent source? Stay tuned.

## Intruders: 27 Years Later

Debbie Jordan-Kauble  
sgenco.com/debshome

A GLIMPSE INTO DEBBIE Jordan-Kauble's world takes you to a reality that is a little off-kilter to our own. It's a world where the paranormal is the norm and alien intrusions are a recurring theme. Debbie—aka Kathy Davis—was the focus of Budd Hopkins' *Intruders*, *The Incredible Visitations at Copely Woods* and the follow-up *Abducted*, *The Story of the Intruders Continues*, written by Debbie and her sister, Kathy Mitchell.

The intervening years have been a continuing record of high strangeness. Jordan-Kauble recalled waking up one day and discovering two burn-like marks on her chest. They looked like a sunburn, were hot to the touch and sore, and she became ill. Two weeks later there were more burn marks, following a sighting of yellow balls of light in her yard and white marble-sized balls of light in her house.

Events escalated. The following month she heard a moaning sound in the yard, followed by the sound



# details provided by eye witnesses

of something dragging up the side of the house. Dogs in the neighborhood were howling. From the kitchen came the sound of paper rustling, which stopped when she inquired who was there. Through a window, Jordan-Kauble could see soccer-sized yellow balls in the yard. The following day she had more marks on her body, and marks have continued to appear.

Meanwhile, the infamous black helicopters have returned to her life, flying very low and circling her house.

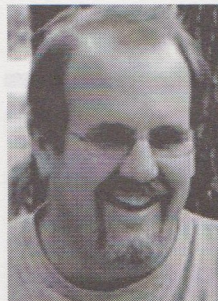
## Update: 1980 Bentwaters

Linda Moulton Howe  
& John Burroughs  
earthfiles.com

IF A READER FINDS England's famous Bentwaters case a little confusing, it's not surprising—and not even accidental. One of the eye witnesses to the event, Staff Sergeant James Penniston, learned under hypnosis that the government tried to defuse the incident by scrambling the dates.

Multiple Emmy-winner Linda Moulton Howe has spent a year researching the case. She clearly documents events and dates on which they occurred, and along with eye witness John Burroughs discloses new evidence in the evolving, and ultimately alarming, story.

For those unfamiliar with the history, on December 25, 1980, Airman First Class John Burroughs, a member of the base's security force, was on duty at the East Gate at



John Burroughs



Linda Moulton Howe

Woodbridge Air Force Base, when he and Staff Sergeant Budd Steffen saw blue, white, and orange lights in the adjacent Rendlesham forest.

Burroughs, Penniston, and Airman First Class Edward Cabansag drove into Rendlesham to investigate. When the road became too rough, Burroughs and Penniston continued on foot and Cabansag stayed behind as a relay for radio communication.

At 0300 hours they reported lights and the image of a craft. Then communication with the base was lost for 45 minutes. Burroughs moved toward the craft, then suddenly felt he had passed it. He had no further memory of the incident.

Penniston proceeded closer to the triangular craft. It looked like black glass and was warm to the touch. There were circular patterns of color that moved over the craft. Penniston sensed an intelligence, then lost track of time.

The night of December 27, a group under Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, deputy commander at USAF Woodbridge, led a team, including Burroughs back into the area, where they encountered a craft. Burroughs was engulfed in a

red light, and later under hypnosis recalled communicating telepathically with the craft. "It wanted to pull me toward it. It was strong," he said. He felt a sense of distortion, of things moving in slow motion.

Halt saw a small red light about 4 feet off the ground coming toward them with a white laser-like beam. The beam zapped the ground about 10 to 12 feet from his shoes.

The light moved out of the forest into a farmer's field, and the team followed. Halt compared the light to "molten metal" throwing off heat and sparks. Then it exploded into five white lights that shone laser-like beams in a grid pattern as if searching for something.

It wasn't until June 25, 2009, that Halt made the statement that these were structured machines moving under intelligent control and that they were extraterrestrial.

In years following the incident, Penniston underwent hypnosis to unravel the event and recalled that the craft was operated by human time travelers. "They are us from the future."

Penniston said that all the travelers wanted was a place to stay while their craft repaired itself. He also recalled learning that the travelers have been coming to Earth for 30,000 to 40,000 years. He said they have physical problems, and they need human chromosomes from us to sustain their children in the future.

"Are they using us like breeding stock?" Penniston was asked.

"No, like band-aids," he said. ■



# An engineer recalls 45 intense seconds

By David Pares

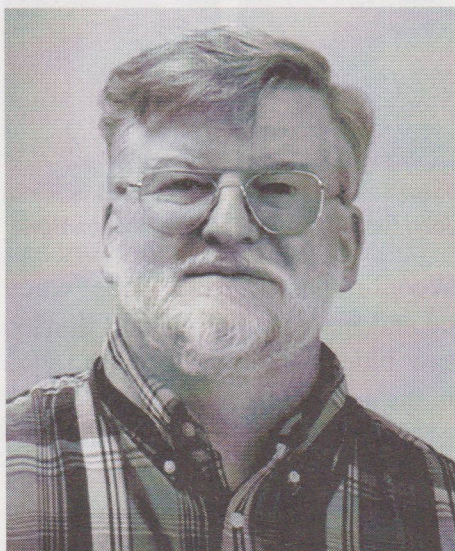
APOLLO 11 HAD JUST LANDED a month before, the country was real upbeat about the space program, and all of us kids were going to go to the Moon and beyond the first chance we got. Wow! What a time to be young—despite all the other world events occurring then.

It was a cool morning in late August 1969 at Goodyear Lake in Oneonta, New York. I was 16, waiting with five friends to go to swim class, when in the clear blue sky we saw a silver metallic disk object. The intriguing thing is that this sighting coincided with a report on the late-night television news from the Utica-Rome station only 10 hours before our encounter.

## A Good Laugh

The TV station had reported that a group of children near the Unidilla area in upstate New York had come upon a landed silver flying saucer, and that the children had run home terrified. The story went on to say that the children told their parents they had approached the craft while playing in the woods. They saw people who were wearing silver suits moving outside the craft. One of the persons spotted the children and started to run toward them. That's when the kids took off. The parents called the authorities, who subsequently investigated and found some uniform depressions in the ground around the clearing.

When I originally heard the TV report, I had quite a good laugh. I



*My father's reaction was: "Oh, for God's sake! You didn't see anything. Are you crazy?" —David Pares*

didn't believe a word of it, nor did I believe UFOs even existed. My dad offered the same opinion. The next day I walked up to our neighbor's house to gather for the trip to swim class at the pool in nearby Milford.

I arrived shortly after 8 a.m. and started to tell the guys about the ridiculous report from the previous night. We were laughing and having a good time. Looking away from the group, I noticed something out of the corner of my eye. I was stupefied—a silver metallic disk was just clearing the top of

the mountain on my front left at 2 o'clock high. I pointed and shouted out to the group, "Look, look! Holy shit! It's a flying saucer."

## Who Would Believe Kids?

I was transfixed, taking in all the details I could. Several seconds into this encounter, I shouted for someone to run into the house and bring an adult outside who could verify this sighting. Who would believe us—we were just kids? I think maybe I remembered the old saying, "what goes around comes around."

The vehicle was platinum in color (a luster that only platinum presents), without any windows. There was no greenhouse. There were no outlines of a hatch or panel, no protrusions, engines, or smoke. There was no noise, either, with one exception—a light air-buffing sound could be heard as the craft moved, similar to the sound one hears when flying in a glider as air buffs against the canopy.

The disk was about 60 feet in diameter with about a 10- to 12-foot girth around the middle of the craft. We later referred to a topographic map of the area and learned that the mountain was 400 feet high, which put the craft about 100 feet above the mountain.

So the craft was 500 feet above us traveling at about 20 miles per hour and moving in an east-to-west line perpendicular to our position looking north about 1,200 feet down range. The sky was a perfect-



# in 1969 that forever changed his life

ly clear blue, and the sun was low and to our backs.

The craft was extremely stable, a symmetrical convex-lens-shaped object with very distinctive edges. As it came to our 12 o'clock high position it banked about 15 degrees, revealing the entire top of the craft. I sensed that it knew we were there, and to this day my hair still bristles when I mentally replay the encounter.

The craft never lost an inch of altitude when banking. Even more intriguing was that when it banked, the sun illuminated very subtle striation patterns in its metal surface. The lines ran from the front of the leading edge over the center girth to the back of the craft. This observation made it clear that the craft did not rotate and that it appeared to have a front, back, and top—even though it had a symmetrical disk shape.

## Impeccable Maneuvering

After the craft banked and passed in front of our position, it quickly righted straight and level. I want to stress that this craft never lost an inch in altitude during this maneuver. I have never seen any aircraft have such incredible stability and impeccable maneuvering capability at 20 miles per hour—a Piper cub stalls at 50 miles per hour.

After the craft righted itself, it very quickly accelerated. We visually tracked it across the lake and

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*I kept thinking of the encounter and the possibilities of antigravity, and I also realized there is a great probability that we are not alone in the universe.*

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valley floor to the next rise some 10 miles away.

My friend's mother did join us outside, but as we pointed to the craft she was unable to get a visual track on it. My friends and I ended up skipping swim class to talk about what we had just seen, after which I went home and excitedly told my parents.

## "Are You Crazy?:"

My father's reaction was: "Oh, for God's sake! You didn't see anything, Are you crazy? You'd better not tell anybody about this—what would people think? You don't want people putting a label on you, do you?"

That encounter changed my life forever. I dropped out of all of my extracurricular and sports activities during my senior year in high school, and I took a new direction. I keep thinking of the encounter and the possibilities of antigravity, and I also realized there is a great probability that we are not alone in the universe.

I started to hone my skills in aviation, astronomy, and a host of fields in math, science and engi-

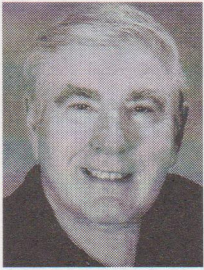
neering. I have served in the United States Air Force as a numerical weather modeler, forecaster, and weather observer, and I hold a variety of technical positions—from hardware and software engineer to professor of physics, meteorology, and astronomy.

I own my own company, which designs custom scientific systems for military, commercial, and private sectors. I hold a commercial hot-air balloon license, pilot's license, and a ham-radio license. I hold four degrees (in engineering, meteorology, and geography), including a master's degree in satellite remote sensing.

I also conduct personally funded research and development in spacecraft structures, electrokinetic, plasma, and open-fusion engine technology. My point in listing these things is to show how that encounter years ago truly was a defining moment for me—45 seconds that literally changed my life.

I am now 55 years old, with an understanding wife, two teenagers, and two cats—and I'm still working on figuring out just what made that damned thing fly! ■





## *filer's files*

By **George Filer**

*Editor's Note: This roundup of UFO sightings is presented to keep Journal readers informed about some of the vast number of sightings being reported. Unless otherwise noted, these cases have not been officially investigated.*

### **Colored lights, saucer shapes appear over English skies**

**Lufton, England**—At 9:32 p.m. on April 17, I left my home to go to the shops and saw a very bright orange hazy light with a blue glow around it. I first thought it was a helicopter flying from the east.

I live very close to Lufton Airport, so I'm used to airplanes passing overhead, but this craft was absolutely silent. Because of volcanic ash it was a no-fly zone over Britain that evening. As I watched the light, it headed upward, became more faint, and then stopped. When I ran to get my partner, the light moved slowly and stopped again, started to flicker, and was gone.

I looked back toward the east and there was another light moving the same as the first one. It disappeared when it reached the place where the first light had vanished. I admit to being a non-believer, but the sight exhilarated me. I saw the lights at a time when there were no flights due to volcanic ash. I cannot explain it at all. (MUFON CMS)

**Frenchay, England**—As I was driving down M32 near Bristol at 8:20 p.m. on February 27, my 5-year-old daughter turned to me and said, "Look at the flying saucers in the sky!" I looked up to my left and saw about ten large orange orbs about 1,000 feet up, widely spaced in a random pattern floating across the sky heading east. These strange lights in the sky definitely were not fireworks or streetlights.

### **Chem-trail triangles observed in Tennessee**

**Signal Mountain, Tennessee**—I woke up on March 3, and noticed a ton of chem-trail activity in the sky. I grabbed my camera and began filming the aircraft flying back and forth laying these chem trails.

It always has been a theory of mine that these aircraft are masking the presence of UFO activity. When there are chem trails, many times I have seen "spheres," which always take on the color of their surroundings. In the clear blue sky, they appear transparent. I have led a few people to see UFOs when they did not believe.

I grabbed some 10x binoculars and was able to view a triangular, bell-shaped object. It was stationary for several minutes before it disappeared.

I live on a mountain in the Appalachian area, and I frequently see UFOs. I have held a high-

level security clearance for the Department of Defense and have worked in intelligence with one of the top-tier defense contractors in the United States. (MUFON CMS)

### **Black triangle hovers over Mississippi**

**Deer Island, Mississippi**—We were at the casino at 11 p.m. on March 22, when we saw a black triangular craft over Mississippi Sound near Deer Island. The craft was moving slowly toward the east with soft white lights on each corner and one in the middle. I saw a similar craft at Biloxi Beach two years ago. This craft made no sound. Thanks to Peter Davenport, director, National UFO Reporting Center (<http://www.ufocenter.com>).

### **Cigar-shaped object seen by students in Missouri**

**Bolivar, Missouri**—I was on duty with a group of junior high students at our school on April 8, when I looked up and saw a cigar-shaped craft. It was very high in the sky and much larger than an airliner. Several students watched it with me for two minutes before it stopped, blinked on and off several times, and then vanished. I have seen fly-over's of many B2 bombers, and this was too fast and white and long without wings. (MUFON CMS)



## Unusual craft observed over Georgia

**Atlanta, Georgia**—At 9:27 p.m. on March 28, a witness saw a craft with one blinking light move across the sky. He lives near the Atlanta airport and is familiar with lights on regular aircraft. He was convinced that the craft was not a conventional aircraft. He described the light as moving “back and forth” for about 30 seconds before it descended rapidly and disappeared.

Anyone who may have seen this object is urged to file a report at <http://www.ufosnw.com>.



## Multiple sightings of triangles in Illinois

**Lockport, Illinois**—I was taking my dog out at 11 p.m. on March 5, when I noticed a beam of green light coming from a hovering object. My mother and son came out, and my sister also came over to watch for 45 minutes. With binoculars, we could see various colored lights and noticed three more craft.

One was flying towards Joliet, so my son and I decided to follow it. We drove down Route 53, and as we got closer, the object’s lights were blindingly bright. We crossed Gaylord Road and parked. A triangular shaped craft with large red lights on the bottom hovered above us. It made no sound, and as I took a picture, it took off.

During the next several days, we videotaped other similar objects.

Thanks to Peter Davenport, director, National UFO Reporting Center (<http://www.ufocenter.com>).

## Stripe appears in Las Vegas night sky

**Las Vegas, Nevada**—On March 29 I was staying at the Luxor Pyramid Hotel, which has a giant vertical light beam that is turned on at night. Near midnight, I decided to take pictures of the city from my hotel window. Directly above and far enough up that it appeared above a thin layer of clouds directly to the south of it, was a small “stripe” in the sky aligned on a north-to-south axis. I watched it over the next hour. Although the stars appeared to “move” as the Earth rotated, the stripe stayed in the same spot relative to the Earth. When I looked again about 2 a.m., and the “stripe”

was still there, but it was gone later at 7 a.m. The stripe did not reappear the next night. (MUFON CMS)

## Flight attendant and pilot observe UFO

**Little Rock, Arkansas**—On January 5, I was working as a flight attendant on a commercial flight. Our plane was flying about 100 miles southwest of Little Rock, Arkansas, and I was inside the cockpit talking with the pilot. We both observed a bright oval object that sent a beam of light to the ground, illuminating a round object there. This strange-looking object followed our aircraft at 500 feet for approximately 30 minutes before it suddenly disappeared. Neither the pilot nor I reported this because we feared retribution. (MUFON CMS)

*Continued on page 14*



Continued from page 13

## Circular object divides in two over Texas

**Arlington, Texas**—Around 9 p.m. on March 29, I took my dogs out and saw the usual air traffic from Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. Then I saw a flash in the sky. At first I thought it was an airplane with its FAA lights blinking, but as I watched, the circular object suddenly split into two craft that flew in different directions. One object went north in an erratic flight, while the other stayed on its path heading east in a steady pattern. The two objects were identical in size, shape, and color. The moon was visible but not emitting a lot of light. I've never seen anything like this before. (MUFON CMS)

## Saucer-shaped UFO seen

**Eldersburg, Maryland**—About 11 p.m. on March 20, as my friend and I were driving, we saw blinking red and white lights and slowed down, assuming that it was a police car. As the lights came closer, it became

## 1951 sighting at sea near Nova Scotia

**Nova Scotia, Canada**—In 1951, my father was on a frigate heading back to port. During a calm, sunny afternoon, the sky became dark and the electrical power on board the ship shorted out, causing almost total blackness. My dad was hailed to the bridge with other shipmates, and they saw six glowing lights in the water on the port side of the ship. He said the lights were about seven fathoms down, and too cylindrical in shape to be coral. All the men had difficulty later recalling the event. The strangest thing of all is that by the time they were contacted by their Canadian military port they were 100 miles off course. They also were two days late returning to port and did not realize it. Their captain and some other officials told the crew never to speak of the incident. Dad is turning 80, and this day remains a mystery embedded in his mind. (MUFON CMS)

obvious that they were blinking in a circular fashion around the bottom of a disk. The object descended to only 100 meters above our car and passed over us heading in the opposite direction. It was about the size of a small ranch house. The episode gave me a powerless feeling, and I broke down in tears. Thanks to Peter Davenport, director, National UFO Reporting Center (<http://www.ufocenter.com>).

## White object over Wisconsin

**Tomah, Wisconsin**—On April 11, I was photographing birds when I noticed a white, reflective object flying east. About 30 minutes later, I saw a spray plane traveling in the same path at a high rate of speed. Within 15 minutes, the sky was a complete white-out. (MUFON CMS) ■

MUFON needs product donations for the upcoming silent auction at the 2010 Symposium in Denver.

For more information or to send your letter of intent, please contact:

**MUFON Symposium/Mutual UFO Network**  
2619 West 11th St. Rd., Suite 21  
Greeley, CO 80631  
[hq@mufon.com](mailto:hq@mufon.com)



# Let's stick to basic questions

By Tom Deuley

THE HISTORY OF UFOs has seen various approaches in attempts to answer the questions, "What are UFOs?" and "Why are UFOs here?" And last but not least, "What is all of this going to come to?"

Complicating the search for answers to these questions is all the extra baggage that has been piled on and ascribed to UFOs—supposedly offering further evidence of their existence. Unfortunately, these additions often do not have anything to do with UFOs.

It seems this continuous adding on is simply based on an idea that if something is unusual in nature, then UFOs must be involved. I frankly think that in many cases this possibility is extremely remote. Everything odd, weird, or out-of-the-ordinary cannot be associated to UFOs.

If we were to pick apart all the various ideas of what UFOs are all about, the resulting list undoubtedly would include nearly every professional discipline one can imagine. I can think of no other fields in which it is necessary for every discipline to hold a share in a few very simple questions.

It probably is time to begin to peel away some of the ideas that have latched onto UFOs, if for no other reason than to make the problem, and the questions about it, simpler for all of us—from those who have a very high interest to those who don't seem to care one way or another. The basic questions about UFOs are difficult enough

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*It probably is time to begin to peel away some of the ideas that have latched onto UFOs.*

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for any of us to confront without having to wrestle with a gamut of ideas that should only be addressed after the answers to the first and foremost questions are known.

We who study UFOs face a paradox of trying to learn about a matter that does not present itself very well to us, yet is so inviting to speculation, exaggeration, and tall tales that the latter overwhelms the former. Today we find ourselves basking in a world of obfuscation.

One of our major tasks is to unravel and discard things that do not lend relevant information, and we must do this while at the same time being much more vigilant about accepting new information. We are on the verge of getting better, newer information faster.

The hope is that as this comes about and as we mature into that new paradigm, we eventually will put aside many of the speculations of today for the sake of the simplification that this new and better information will provide. ■

*Tom Deuley is corporate secretary of MUFON and a member of the board of directors.*

## Observations

I CAN'T BELIEVE the so-called experts in the scientific-investigation arena. They've cost us the discovery of many new things by dismissing sightings that do not meet their scientific criteria. People who come forward to report their sightings—and there are many—are as much as called liars.

I've seen this over and over in investigations of bigfoot as well as of UFOs and other things that don't conform to the way of thinking of many in the scientific community. It must scare the heck out of them to think they might be observing something unknown that they can't sit behind their desks and explain.

They apparently believe that if something doesn't conform to human criteria, it can't exist in the universe. Intelligent life must look like us, or it doesn't exist. If a planet isn't like ours, no life—including intelligent life—can exist there. It's not possible for another planet's spacecraft to travel fast enough to get here. Such narrow-minded thinking is very dangerous.

I'm thankful that MUFON's approach to investigations is open-minded and honest, taking all factors into consideration and not hindered by preconceived ideas. Our approach will open the door to discovery.

—Richard Sherertz

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## editorial policy

Letters to the Editor may be submitted by e-mail to [editor@mufon.com](mailto:editor@mufon.com). Please include your full name. Letters chosen for publication may be edited for length.



## volunteer of the month

# Michigan director recognized for tireless professionalism

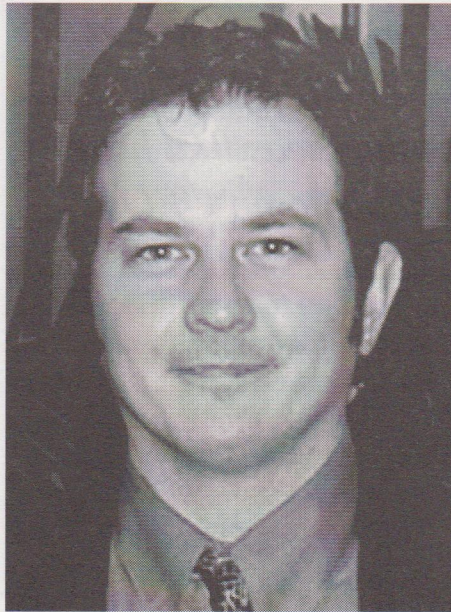
WILLIAM (BILL) KONKOLESKY and his then-girlfriend, Becky, began attending MUFON meetings in Flint, Michigan, in September 1997, and Bill hasn't missed a meeting since. In March 2004, Bill became state director for the Michigan chapter of MUFON. He and Becky have since married, and there's a possibility that he might miss his first meeting in May because it's scheduled near the anticipated birth of the couple's first child.

Bill has been an experiencer since the tender age of two. He recently chronicled his early life experiences in a book, *Experiencer: Raised in Two Worlds*. It's available online at Amazon.com and through [www.experiencer.me](http://www.experiencer.me). He plans to write a sequel soon.

Bill has shared his personal abduction experiences on ABC television's *Peter Jennings Reports: UFOs—Seeing is Believing* and the SCI-FI Network's *Abduction Diaries*, as a guest on numerous radio shows, and as the subject of newspaper and magazine articles.

Bill often speaks to community groups in Michigan about his personal experiences and about the general UFO phenomenon. He always touts MUFON's scientific approach to the UFO topic, and he urges his listeners to attend a state meeting. He has garnered many new members for the Michigan MUFON group.

Bill strongly supports MUFON Field Investigators training, and he



**William Konkolesky**

*an author and guest on TV shows*

occasionally fills in as trainer for the chief investigator

Bill works tirelessly for MUFON, coming up with fundraising ideas and selling items from the MUFON store. He never fails to round up quality speakers, and Michigan meetings attract an average audience of 40. As Michigan's State Director, Bill exudes an air of professionalism and sincerity, which does not go unnoticed by newcomers who are looking for a credible approach to better understand the UFO and abduction phenomenon. ■

*Bill was nominated by Michigan MUFON members Gary R. Golem, chief investigator, and David Twichell, newsletter editor.*

## calendar

**May 14-15**—The 11th annual Paul Trent Memorial UFO Fest will be at the Hotel Oregon in McMinnville, Oregon. Speakers include James Clarkson, Colin Andrews, and Travis Walton.  
[www.mcmenamins.com/371-hotel-oregon-ufo-festival](http://www.mcmenamins.com/371-hotel-oregon-ufo-festival)

**May 15**—MUFON of Ohio presents "UFO's Bigfoot & Portals to an Alternate Reality" at the Ashland Municipal Building in Ashland. Speakers include Ted Phillips, Stan Gordon, and John Ventre.  
**Contact Cathy Richards at** [richards.cathy@ymail.com](mailto:richards.cathy@ymail.com)

**May 15**—Maryland MUFON presents a "UFO Awareness" conference near Baltimore. Speakers include: Ron Fink, Don Borton, Carl Feindt, Rob Swiatek, and Anna Jamersen.  
**Contact Dr. S. Peter Resta at** [spr100@aol.com](mailto:spr100@aol.com).

**July 22-25**—MUFON International 2010 Symposium in Denver, Colorado (see story on page 20). Field Investigator training will be offered on July 22 before the Symposium begins.  
[www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com)

**September 10-12**—Alliance Studying Paranormal Experiences (ASPA) 2010 Paranormal Symposium at Angel Fire, NM.  
[www.aspefiles.org](http://www.aspefiles.org) ■

## list your calendar event

Submit MUFON-related events to [editor@mufon.com](mailto:editor@mufon.com). Please include the word "calendar" in the subject line of your e-mail. Items are limited to eight lines. They will be printed as space is available.





## Passing the gavel in Minnesota

MUFON Minnesota's Board of Directors recently elected Lorna Hunter as state director. She replaces Richard Moss, who resigned after serving as state director for 10 years. Richard will remain active as an assistant state director. Board members are (front row from left) William McNeff, Lorna Hunter, Richard Moss, Robert Engberg, and (back row from left) Preston Mattke, Craig R. Lang, Dean DeHarporte, Dennis Myers, and Joel Henry.

### director's message

## Plans and hopes for MUFON's future

*Continued from page 2*

obtain the funds necessary to fulfill MUFON's mission statement.

One of MUFON's goals is to establish a user-friendly Web site that anyone can visit for research or to discover important information about UFOs. MUFON can and will be the go-to place for reporting sightings and making the best investigated cases available to the public in the most efficient manner.

### **A New Editor for the *Journal***

Next on my list of exciting events is MUFON's hiring of a new

Editor for the *Journal*. This May issue reflects the work of Janice Currie. Janice lives in Iowa and has a strong editorial background. A member of MUFON, she has been on a number of investigations. We are very pleased to have Janice on board as Editor, and we look forward to seeing many great articles in future issues of the *Journal*.

I would like to thank John Ventre, state director of Pennsylvania, and Marie Malzahn, state director of Montana and Idaho, for their generous contributions of time and

money. Recently I asked the state directors to consider contributing money for a new office computer and to begin development of MUFON's new Web site. John contributed \$3,000, and Marie gave \$1,650. Their support is deeply appreciated.

As we move into the future of ufology, let's all continue to work together in our quest. MUFON has the people and the information, and we're optimistic that we'll soon also have the technology needed to resolve the UFO phenomenon. ■





## *Eerie Silence*: Paul Davies' latest book omits much, makes for bizarre reading

By Stanton Friedman

Dr. Paul Davies, born 12 years after Carl Sagan, is in much the same mold as a scientist and a popularizer of science. A distinguished cosmologist, physicist, and astrobiologist, Davies currently serves as director of the Beyond Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science and is co-director of the Cosmology Initiative at Arizona State University.

The author of more than 25 books, Davies has released a new title: *The Eerie Silence: Renewing Our Search for Alien Intelligence*,

### Relevant References

I admit that I rather enjoyed portions of this book. Davies' treatment of UFOs and possible live alien visitors, however, is almost completely uninformed. He mentions only two relevant references, and there are problems with both.

The first is *Beyond UFOs: The Search for Extraterrestrial Life and Its Astonishing Implications for Our Future*. It's author, Dr. Jeffrey Bennett, use no references and apparently knows even less about the subject of UFOs than Davies does.

The second is the *Condon Report*. Davies makes the erroneous claim that Condon's role was to provide an assessment of the thousands of sightings investigated by Project Blue Book. Condon's people, in fact, looked at 117 cases on their own—cases that were not from Project Blue Book.

Davies claims: "Condon concluded about 90 percent of the [Blue Book] sightings could be explained as normal phenomena, while the remaining 10 percent didn't contain enough of scientific value or of defense significance to warrant Blue Book's continuation." (Davies also falsely states that Project Blue Book was begun in 1950; it was instead begun the summer of 1952.)

A special UFO subcommittee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics determined that one could come to the opposite conclusions of Condon based on the data in the report. They concluded any phenomenon 30 percent unexplained is surely worthy of further investigation.

Davies makes no mention of United States Air Force General Carroll Bolender's 1968 statement that reports of UFOs which could effect national security are not part of the Blue Book System.

### Largest Study Ignored

Davies also ignores the largest study—*UFOs: Project Blue Book Special Report 14*, which included data on 3,201 sightings. That study concluded that 21.5 percent of the sightings could not be explained; 9.3 percent were listed as having insufficient information. The data further showed that the better the quality of the sighting, the more likely it would be determined

unexplainable. A comparison between "unknowns" and "knowns" showed that based on six observable characteristics, probability that "unknowns" actually were missed "knowns" was less than 1 percent.

Surely Davies would not argue that since black holes, neutron stars, supernova, etc. make up fewer than 10 percent of star-like objects, they are not worth studying. As a nuclear physicist, I'd like to point out that fewer than 1 percent of isotopes can sustain a nuclear chain reaction. We still study them.

Davies mentions Allen Hynek, "the amiable pipe-smoking astronomer from Northwestern University" who had a cameo role in Steven Spielberg's film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. While Davies acknowledges that he briefly found Hynek's views intriguing, Davies eventually dismisses Hynek's cases as being too anthropocentric.

In *Eerie Silence*, Davies notes "the banality of the aliens' putative agenda, which seemed to consist of grubbing around in fields and meadows chasing cows or aircraft or cars like bored teenagers, and abducting humans for Nazi-style experiments." He writes that this is not "what one would expect of cosmic super-minds."

This cartoon picture has nothing to do with reality. Why would one consider an astrobiologist to be an expert on human behavior, no



less alien behavior? It's a pity that Davies doesn't mention Hynek's book, *The UFO Experience*, or his testimony with 11 other scientists at Congressional hearings held on July 29, 1968.

### Noticeable Omissions

Davies might be especially surprised to read the 71-page paper by another Arizona scientist, the late Dr. James E. McDonald. McDonald presented data on 41 cases and interviewed more than 500 witnesses. Davies' work also would have benefitted had he read Ann Druffel's biography of McDonald, which contrasts Hynek and McDonald.

Also noticeably absent are any mention of the dozen or so Ph.D. theses about UFOs, or mention of Dick Hall's *The UFO Evidence*.

While Davies brings up the widely held notion of governments conspiring to withhold UFO information, he dismisses it after a discussion with Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) specialist Dr. Seth Shostak, who Davies claims has studied the UFO scene in detail.

I've heard Shostak lecture. I've read his books. I've debated with him on Coast to Coast Radio. (I won, 5,733 to 10.) I've seen no evidence that Shostak is familiar enough with UFO information sources to himself be considered a reliable source.

### Legitimate Security Concerns

Neither Davies nor Shostak show any indication of knowing anything about the legitimate national-security concerns relating to UFOs, UFO technology, or UFO influence on activities on the Earth. Shostak has pointed out that this is the same government that runs the Post Office, but certainly the

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*Davies' cartoon picture has nothing to do with reality. Why would one consider an astrobiologist to be an expert on human behavior, no less alien behavior?*

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Post Office is not in the same class as the Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies that regularly operate with a high degree of secrecy. The \$10-billion stealth-aircraft program conducted by Lockheed in secret for more than 10 years provides an excellent example that secrets can be kept. [*Editor's Note: For more about the man who directed development of the stealth bomber, see story on page 3.*]

### Provocative, Wrong-Headed

Davies is critical of a number of aspects of the SETI community. He makes the following provocative suggestion: "Traditional SETI probing the skies with radio telescopes looking for a message from the aliens may well be a good idea, but we are doing it a few millennia too soon." Davies bases this wrong-headed statement on the idea that although there might be a civilization only a thousand light years away, they, of course, would not know we were here until about nine hundred years from now when they would receive our inadvertently transmitted signals. It would be another thousand years before we could receive any signals back from them. How bizarre.

*Eerie Silence* includes a critical discussion of the plaques sent on the Pioneer and Voyager spacecraft. It's Davies' opinion these convey information of little interest to aliens who might intercept them.

He mentions nuclear fusion once as an energy-production system, but he says nothing about such large-scale studies of fusion propulsion as that published by John Luce. Davies makes space travel sound as though it would take prohibitively long using our very slow chemical rockets. This thinking makes as much sense as using a slide rule for advanced computations instead of one of today's super-computers.

### A Change in Signals

Davies does do a fine job of noting how we have changed our mode of sending radio signals. Instead of blasting out in all directions we now send signals of much lower power to satellites that rebroadcast them to Earth-based receivers—we are indeed going "dark."

Davies currently is chairman of a SETI post-detection task group, but the task group has no power of enforcement. Unlike Davies, I believe there are many national-security matters about which the public does not have the right to know. I cannot imagine any government accepting that such a naïve group should have a say about interaction with aliens.

There is a lot of thoughtful material in *Eerie Silence*, but its connection with the real world is tenuous at best.

Even less connected to the real world are recent comments made by Dr. Stephen Hawking, a great astrophysicist, about not responding to alien visitors—more about that in a future column. ■



## UFO daze

# Why not celebrate twice?

TOO BUSY TO CELEBRATE UFO DAY on June 24 this year? No problem. You can celebrate the occasion on July 2—or you can celebrate both days.

June 24 marks the date in 1947 of the first reported UFO sighting, when pilot Ken Arnold spotted nine unidentified flying objects in the sky over Mt. Rainier, Washington. If you prefer, you can celebrate on July 2. That day marks the date, also in 1947, of the discovery of an unidentified aircraft that had landed near Roswell, New Mexico.

Those two incidents 63 years ago gave rise to fears of extraterrestrial invasion and speculation about government cover-ups, and eventually led to the study of ufology.

Here are a couple of ways you might consider celebrating:

- Invite friends over to watch the sky with you, but first familiarize yourself with what normally is visible. (Check out Gavin McLeod's "The Night Sky" on the back cover of every issue of the *Journal*.)
- Rent a UFO movie classic such as *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), Carl Sagan's *Contact* (1997), *Men in Black* (1997), or *Men in Black II* (2002). ■

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## 2010 Symposium

# 'The Cutting Edge of UFO Investigations'

THIS YEAR'S MUFON Symposium, "The Cutting Edge of UFO Investigations," offers speakers who truly are on the cutting edge of the UFO frontier and who will continue in the foreseeable future to be on the front lines in the quest for answers and the truth about UFOs.

Scheduled speakers for this 41st annual Symposium include John Burroughs, Marc D'Antonio, Richard Dolan, George Filer, John Greenewald, Budd Hopkins, Kathleen Marden, Linda Moulton Howe, Kevin Randle, Nick Redfern, Donald Schmitt, and Michael Schrott. The Symposium will be July 22–25 at the Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel in Denver. ■

## how to register

An online registration form is available at [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com). Please note that package prices increase \$20 after the June 15 registration deadline. Hotel registration is separate but may be done by visiting [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com)

**Blue Book Package (all events and meals):** \$229 for members, \$259 for non-members

**Majestic Package (all events, but not Friday dinner or Saturday lunch):** \$169 for members, \$199 for non-members

**Saturday Only (no meal):** \$109

**Sunday Only (no meal):** \$79

**Single Speaker:** \$29

**Field Investigator Training:** \$109; manual \$25 at the July 22 training.



# April CMS rankings

CONGRATULATIONS to Donald R. Burleson (New Mexico), William J. Konkolesky (Michigan), Lorna Hunter (Minnesota), Eddie Middleton (Tennessee), William Jones (Ohio), Debbie A. Ziegelmeier (Missouri), John Ventre (West Virginia), David McDonald (Kentucky), Marie C. Malzahn (Idaho and Montana), Jim King (Iowa), for being at 100 percent in April's Case Management System (CMS) rankings! These top 10 state directors are highlighted on the chart at right.

For answers to questions or help with investigations please contact MUFON International's Director of Investigations, Chuck Reever. He may be reach by telephone at 530.414.4341 or 530.582.8339, or by e-mail at [wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org). ■

## understanding the chart

The CMS Report is based on two measures of UFO Investigation effectiveness—(1) assigning reports within 72 hours of receipt and (2) completing all investigations within 90 days of being assigned.

To be considered complete, a report must have been investigated and placed by the state director in one of the three completed status codes (Unknown, Hoax or IFO).

- **Assigned** 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.
- **Completed** is the number of cases completed beginning 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.
- **Weighted Rank** is the average of the two columns expressed as a percentage.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 percent	46/46	52/52
2	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	100 percent	93/93	170/170
3	Minnesota	Lorna Hunter	100 percent	25/25	37/37
4	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 percent	60/60	64/64
5	Ohio	William Jones	100 percent	72/72	114/114
6	Missouri	Debbie A. Ziegelmeier	100 percent	50/50	78/78
7	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 percent	13/13	26/26
8	Kentucky	David MacDonald	100 percent	25/25	32/32
9	Idaho	Marie C. Malzahn	100 percent	12/12	23/23
10	Iowa	Jim King	100 percent	19/19	30/30
11	Montana	Marie C. Malzahn	100 percent	9/9	12/12
12	Florida	Bland Pugh	99 percent	171/173	182/182
13	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	99 percent	112/114	145/145
14	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	99 percent	140/141	205/205
15	New Jersey	George A. Filer III	98 percent	44/45	79/80
16	Arizona	Christine Dickey	98 percent	85/87	124/126
17	Kansas	Steve Winans	97 percent	22/23	28/28
18	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	97 percent	205/208	214/221
19	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	97 percent	21/22	29/29
20	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	95 percent	56/56	74/82
21	Georgia	Ralph O. Howard	92 percent	47/52	52/55
22	Utah	Elaine Douglass	92 percent	6/7	9/9
23	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	91 percent	167/179	185/205
24	Maryland	Ron Fink	90 percent	33/35	41/47
25	Oklahoma	Marilyn K. Carlson	89 percent	25/32	39/39
24	Washington	James E. Clarkson	89 percent	25/32	77/77
27	Louisiana	Karen Bravata	84 percent	25/30	29/34
28	South Dakota	Lorna Hunger	83 percent	3/3	4/6
29	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	83 percent	8/12	12/12
30	New Hampshire	Steve Firmani	82 percent	12/16	17/19
31	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	81 percent	32/44	72/79
32	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	78 percent	76/77	74/128
33	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	76 percent	25/33	43/56
34	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	72 percent	8/14	22/25
35	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	71 percent	7/7	3/7
36	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson Jr.	69 percent	6/14	25/26
37	Mississippi	Norman D. Walker	61 percent	6/15	10/12
38	Vermont	Steve Firmani	60 percent	3/6	10/14
39	Rhode Island	Steve Firmani	59 percent	5/9	7/11
40	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	54 percent	39/69	45/86
41	Maine	Steve Firmani	48 percent	13/25	11/25
42	Connecticut	Steve Firmani	45 percent	8/21	18/34
43	New York	James G. Bouck Jr.	44 percent	58/110	59/167
44	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	37 percent	7/23	14/31
45	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	20 percent	3/32	13/42
46	North Dakota	Kurt Pflieger	20 percent	0/3	2/5
47	Wisconsin	Nathan Tomisich	14 percent	4/35	8/48
48	Delaware	Carl W. Feindt	10 percent	0/4	1/5
49	Nevada	Mark Easter	2 percent	2/46	0/58





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### To nominate a Volunteer of the Month

Do you know someone in the MUFON organization  
who deserves to be recognized in the *Journal*  
as a Volunteer of the Month?

Contact your state director, and e-mail  
[editor@mufon.com](mailto:editor@mufon.com) (please include the words  
"volunteer nomination" in the subject line).

### To contact the Editor of *MUFON UFO Journal*

E-mail Janice Currie at [editor@mufon.com](mailto:editor@mufon.com)

### To access the MUFON members message board

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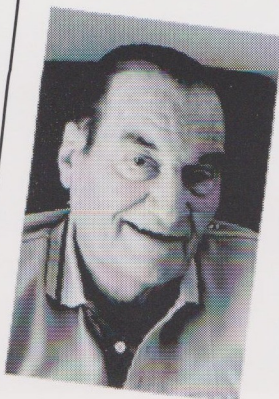
Case-sensitive password: **Hynek1947**

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Contact Kim Freeman, business manager,  
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# the night sky in June

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

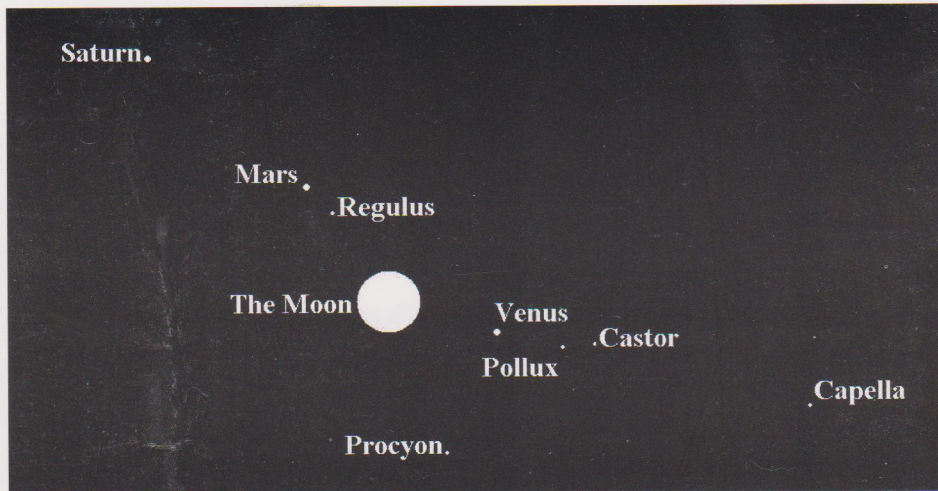
## Bright Planets (evening sky)

**Venus** (magnitude -3.9 to -4.1): From Gemini through Cancer into Leo. For northern hemisphere observers Venus will begin the month standing high above the western horizon at sunset and will set below the west-northwest horizon about 2½ hours later.

For southern hemisphere observers Venus will begin the month standing above the north-northwest horizon at sunset and will set below the northwest horizon about 2 hours later.

**Mars** (magnitude 1.1 to 1.3): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers Mars will begin the month standing high above the southwest horizon at sunset and will set below the west-northwest horizon about 4½ hours before sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers Mars will begin the month standing high above the north-northeast horizon at sunset and will



Observers who look toward the west just after sunset on June 15 will see the Moon, Venus, Mars, and Saturn together in the evening sky.

set below the west-northwest horizon about 6 hours after sunset.

**Saturn** (magnitude 1.0 to 1.1): In Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers Saturn will begin the month standing very high above the southern horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon about 3 hours before sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers Saturn will begin the month standing low above the east-northeast horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon about 5 hours before sunrise.

-2.4): In Pisces. For northern hemisphere observers Jupiter will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 2 hours before sunrise and will be standing above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers Jupiter will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 6 hours before sunrise and will be standing high above the northern horizon at sunrise.

## Other Celestial Phenomena

**Summer Solstice:** June 21. ■

## moon phases

- last quarter:** June 4
- new moon:** June 12
- first quarter:** June 19
- full moon:** June 26

## conjunctions & occultations

- June 6:** Jupiter 7 degrees south of the Moon
- June 11:** Mercury 5 degrees south of the Moon
- June 15:** Venus 4 degrees north of the Moon
- June 17:** Mars 6 degrees north of the Moon
- June 19:** Saturn 8 degrees north of the Moon
- June 24:** Antares 1.8 degrees south of the Moon

## Bright Planets (morning sky)

**Mercury** (magnitude 0.1 to -1.4): From Aries through into Gemini. For northern hemisphere observers Mercury will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 1 hour before sunrise and will be standing low above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers Mercury will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 2 hours before sunrise and will stand above the northeast horizon at sunrise.

**Jupiter** (magnitude -2.3 to

