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MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

UFO JOURNAL

APRIL 2011

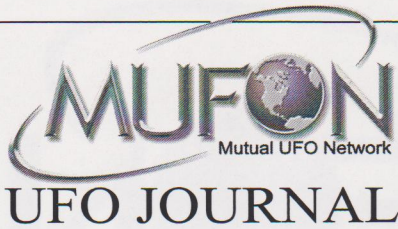
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COURTESY TRAVIS WALTON

A new look at 'best-documented case ever' of abduction by aliens

MOST UFO BUFFS already are familiar with Travis Walton's eerie account of his 1975 abduction. Last year Walton released an updated version of his popular book, *Fire In the Sky, The Walton Experience*, and that has led to a new round of public appearances and mainstream media attention, including a recent interview on NBC-TV's weekend *Today* show. *MUFON UFO Journal's* veteran reporter Bill Ryberg chats with Walton about how opinions about UFOs have changed in the past 36 years. *Story begins on page 7.*



MUFON
Mutual UFO Network
UFO JOURNAL

USPS 002-970

ISSN 0270-6822

MUFON's mission is the analytical and scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon for the benefit of humanity.

International Director

Clifford W. Clift
cclift@mufon.com

Editor

Janice Currie
editor@mufon.com

Columnists

George Filer
Stanton Friedman
Gavin A. J. McLeod
Ted Phillips

Business Office Manager

Patti Wolff
patti@mufon.com

Business Office Assistant

Robyn Rodd

CONTACT US

Mutual UFO Network

2619 West 11th St. Rd. Suite 21
Greeley, CO 80634

telephones: 970.352.5319

1.888.817.2220

fax: 970.352.5365

e-mail: hq@mufon.com

Web site: www.mufon.com

MUFON amateur radio net:

40meters —7.237 MHz

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Individual: \$50 hard copy of the *Journal*;

\$35 electronic; \$55 for both

Seniors and students (18 and younger):

\$40 hard copy of the *Journal*;

\$30 electronic; \$45 for both

International: \$50 (+\$60 shipping) hard copy

of the *Journal*; \$35 electronic;

\$55 (+\$60 shipping) for both

Donor: \$150 per year

Professional: \$250 per year

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Benefactor (Lifetime Member): \$1,500

First-class delivery (U.S. & Canada):

additional \$15 per year

Air-mail delivery outside the U.S.:

additional \$35 (U.S.) per year

Send subscription, extra-copy, and change-of-address inquiries to:

Mutual UFO Network

2619 West 11th St. Rd. Suite 21

Greeley, CO 80634

or e-mail hq@mufon.com

MUFON UFO Journal is published monthly

by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.,

Greeley, CO.

Second-class postage paid at Versailles, Mo.

Postmaster: Send Form 3579

to advise change of address to:

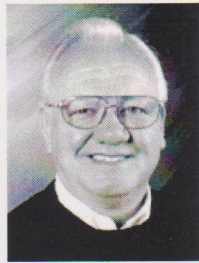
MUFON UFO Journal

2619 West 11th St. Rd. Suite 21

Greeley, CO 80634

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director's message

MUFON: One network with a shared vision

By Clifford Clift

E PLURIBUS UNUM, “from many, one,” describes MUFON.

Our organization was started in 1969 by Walt Andrus and John Schuessler, who recognized that a handful of people would not be able to investigate UFO sightings from around the United States and the world. They knew that a network of like-minded people was needed. Thus MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network) was born.

What kind of network did Walt and John envision?

I was asked by Jim Mann and Stacey Wright to speak to a recent meeting of the Arizona MUFON chapter. During conversations with Jim and Stacey, Stacey said something about MUFON that I thought really hit the nail on the head. She described our organization as a network of people with the same interest and who share the same intent to resolve the UFO enigma.

Stacey is right. MUFON is a worldwide network of people who

want to work to fulfill our mission statement, which is “the analytical and scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon for the Benefit of humanity.”

MUFON is not a trade union, nor are we a company that operates for profit. We are a non-profit organization, and our members are volunteers who desire to make a difference by assisting in what could potentially be the greatest discovery mankind has ever known.

MUFON is the world’s leading vehicle for like-minded people to come together, to investigate UFO sightings, and then to report our findings to the world.

The public has begun to recognize the importance of MUFON’s archival UFO information and to appreciate the great asset we have in our trained field investigators who are prepared to investigate UFO events around the world.

Because of the hard work of our

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EDITORIAL POLICIES

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There's a place for 'insufficient-data' designation

By David Kreiter

FIELD INVESTIGATORS who file a Case Management Systems (CMS) sightings report for MUFON have a choice of several categories or dispositions for any case—"unknown" (UFO), "identified flying object" (IFO), "hoax," or "insufficient data" (ID). Some of these designations also have sub-categories. At a recent MUFON meeting I was told by my state director and another field investigator that the "insufficient data" disposition is discouraged by some MUFON officials and might soon be eliminated as a designation.

I contacted the Deputy Director of Investigations, Terry Groff, for more information. He responded to my e-mail and wrote: "The insufficient-data disposition is one of the most overused of them all." He confirmed that there have been discussions about removing ID as a disposition choice.

Educated Guesses

Groff explained that an investigator is expected to make an educated guess and use IFO or "Unknown—Other" disposition instead. According to Groff, there are two criteria for using an ID disposition: The witness supplied little or no information, or there is no contact information for the witness.

I think that these two criteria are too limited in scope. I have found that even if the witness provides good information in the initial report, it is not always possible to make an educated guess as to a

An investigator is expected to make an educated guess and use IFO or "Unknown—Other" disposition.

case's disposition, and past experience has demonstrated that an interview is not always possible even when the witness supplies contact information. In some of these cases an ID disposition is warranted.

The Field Investigator's Manual describes the witness interview as "the single most important aspect of a UFO report." The interview is the starting point for almost all UFO investigations; yet, this is often where the investigation ends.

A variety of circumstances exist that might prevent a field investigator from conducting that first critical interview. One such circumstance is systemic: In my short tenure as an investigator I have found that most witnesses who fill out the CMS report are unaware that they will be contacted by an investigator. As a result, many witnesses are apprehensive about divulging information.

After I contacted my very first witness by phone, it became apparent that initial contact by phone was far too intimidating. I began a policy of contacting witnesses via e-mail. Even with this low-key ap-

proach, many witnesses are caught off-guard, putting them in a defensive mode and provoking feelings of anxiety and fear. Some anxiety could be eased if there were information on the CMS form advising the witness that they might be contacted for a follow-up interview.

Several other reasons exist for a witness's reluctance to grant an interview. It could be as simple as the witness not wanting to take time from a busy schedule. One witness told me that she felt she had already fulfilled her duty by filling out the lengthy seven-page online CMS report.

Other witnesses might wonder about the identity of the investigator who is contacting them. They might not feel certain that the investigator is really with MUFON, for instance.

Witnesses' Major Concern

By far the biggest concern witnesses have is that their identity might be compromised, despite assurances that they can remain anonymous. One recent witness told me that he was an active member of the armed forces and he didn't want to jeopardize his career.

Though these fears might be unfounded, the field investigator must be sensitive to the witnesses' concerns. For these reasons it is often impossible to acquire more information, and this leaves the investigator with few options. In more than 50 percent of the cases I've investigated in which I could

Continued on page 21

Evidence shows SR-71 Blackbird may have

I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS an opinion piece in the *Journal* entitled: "Scientists should look closely at the Big Bang" by Irena Scott. In the article, Dr. Scott attempts to make a connection between a loud and far-ranging "boom" reported in many midwestern and northeastern states on the evening of October 11, 1973, and a rash of UFO reports immediately thereafter.

Having grown up in Binghamton, New York, I distinctly remember this incident. I was 11 years old at the time. When the boom occurred, I was in the process of getting ready for bed. Suddenly

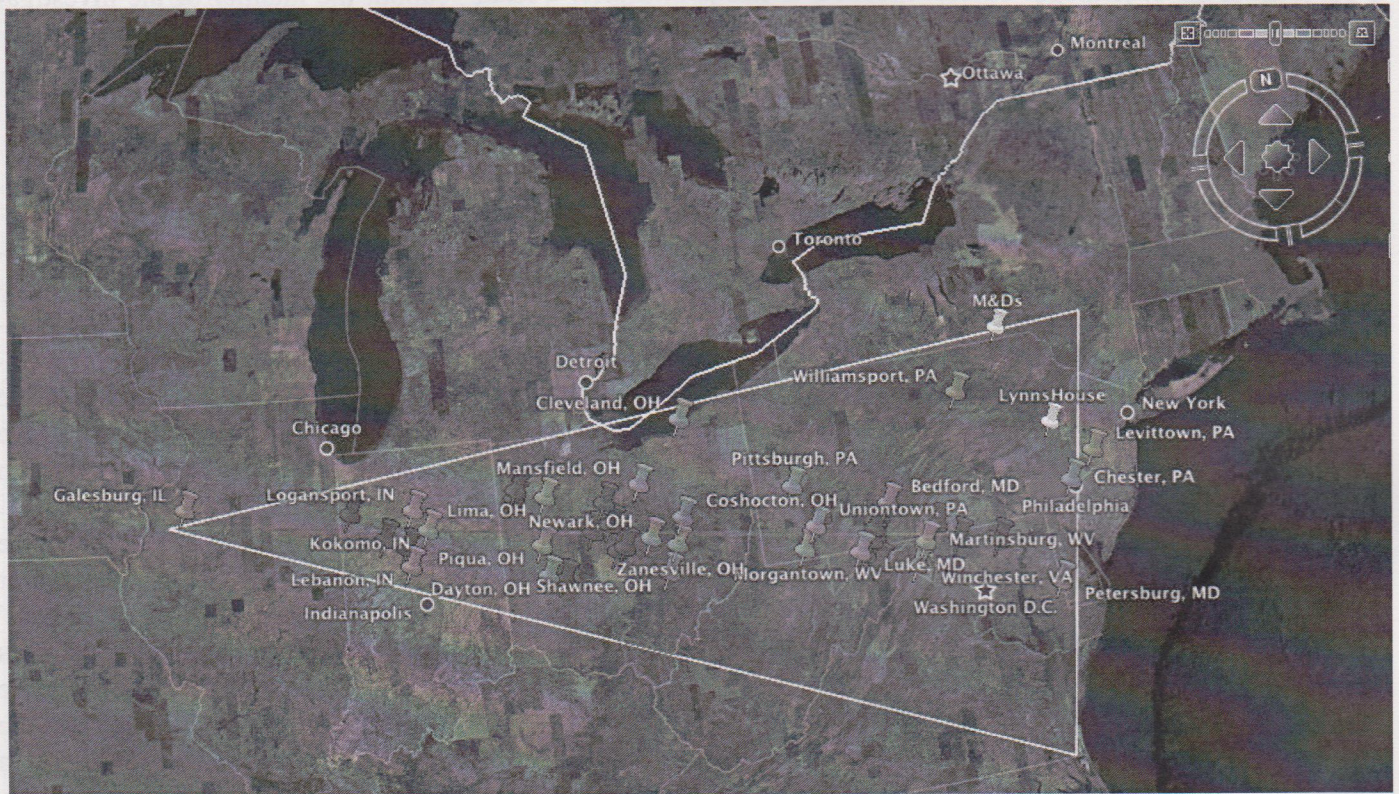
around 9 p.m. the whole house shook and the windows rattled. My dad thought my two older brothers were wrestling on the floor of the upstairs bedroom and proceeded to "give 'em hell." But, for once, they were innocent.

Newspaper Articles

The local paper carried several articles about the boom the next day; and we talked about it at school. That night has haunted me for years. It wasn't until just three years ago that I finally found, without a doubt in my mind, the source of the mystery boom of 1973.

The research I conducted over the years included gathering newspaper articles regarding the event from many states. From that information, I was able to create a map of a "ground track" of whatever it was that generated the boom.

Paying particular attention to the specific local times cited in the various articles, it became quite apparent to me that the source was traveling west-to-east at a sustained speed of approximately Mach 2.5. This is too slow for a meteor or space junk, and too fast for conventional aircraft of the time. The only aircraft that could maintain a speed



GOOGLE IMAGE

Map shows the path of the SR-71 Blackbird that flew from Illinois to Griffiss Air Force Base in New York on the evening of October 11, 1973, causing a sonic boom felt over a large number of midwestern and northeastern states.

caused the Big Bang of 1973

of Mach 2.5 over the distance from Illinois to New York is, of course, the SR-71 Blackbird. I began looking into specific movements of the SR-71 across the United States in the 1970s, and I came across this webpage:

<http://www.blackbirds.net/sr71/sr-timeline/sr71.html>

It clearly shows that an SR-71A (aircraft 979) was flown into Griffiss Air Force Base on October 11, 1973, in preparation for overflights of Israel at the onset of the Yom Kippur War. Griffiss Air Force Base is in Rome, New York, about 80-some miles north of Binghamton. In 1973 it was a Strategic Air Command (SAC) B-52 bomber base. I knew I was onto something.

After more searching, I came across a book—*SR-71 Blackbird: Stories, Tales, and Legends* by U. S. Air Force Colonel Richard H. Graham—that chronicles the events of that night from the perspective of the pilot who was flying the SR-71A on the night of October 11, 1973. Retired Colonel James H. Shelton Jr. writes: “I knew we had created quite a sonic boom. However, it turned out to be worse than I thought, as indicated by the articles that appeared in newspapers on October 12, 1973. The shock wave stretched from Indiana to New York state.”

And, as a final touch, I was able to find the final resting place of SR-71 (aircraft 979) on static display at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

I do share Dr. Scott’s curiosity regarding UFO’s but, sadly, I’m afraid we can close the case on the Big Mystery Boom of 1973. Like the saying goes, somewhere, someone knows the truth. In this case, the United States Air Force knew all along what caused all the fuss that cool October night in 1973. It just took me almost 35 years to catch up

—Joseph Tester

Reader praises Jones, Phillips

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU know that I loved Bill Jones’s story about J. Allen Hynek, Neil Armstrong, and the UFO connection.

On another note, every month I can hardly wait to read Ted Phillips’ new column on Marley Woods events! Ted brings a whole new dimension to the UFO enigma with his discussions about paranormal events and possible alien sightings and contact.

Thanks for giving us the facts while simultaneously presenting them in an entertaining fashion!

—Mary Lynne Zahler

Are Arkansas animals and Marley Woods dogs related?

TED PHILLIPS’ thought-provoking column in the February *Journal* about pairs of strange large white dogs in the Missouri woods rings a cryptozoological bell. In 2006 at least two strange large animals were observed in northwest Arkansas. They were similar in estimated size and physique, but the Arkansas animals differed with small footpad size, more natural color, noticeable fangs, and disposition. They definitely were aggressive.

Anecdotal descriptions of visitors to the planet occasionally mention their genetic engineering and interbreeding interests. Perhaps the Ozark woods could be a convenient game preserve for some results of that scientific pursuit. If hair samples remain from the Marley Woods encounters and there are any with roots and useful DNA, genetic analysis versus normal expected canid family markers might make a case for the long-sought (not invented here) conclusion.

—Lou Whitehair

MUFON’s 2011 SYMPOSIUM

E.T. Contact: Implications for Science & Society

JULY 29–31

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

Reader bemoans *Journal* articles that lack scientific focus or clear UFO relationship

I WANT TO ADDRESS something that has bothered me for quite some time. It regards MUFON's mission and how seriously the mainstream scientific community takes the UFO subject, and MUFON in particular.

I am not a scientist, nor do I profess to be an expert in the field of ufology. I've been interested in UFOs since I was a kid growing up in the 1950s and '60s. I've been a member of MUFON for a couple of years now, and a field investigator in Maine for about a year and a half.

What I know about UFOs comes from what I read and what I see, words and works from accomplished ufologists like Dr. J Allen Hynek, Stanton Friedman, Jesse Marcel, Jr., and from such serious investigative reporters as Leslie Kean. Their credibility is unassailable. What they write and present is based on sound scientific and investigative principles.

At least one opportunity arose for Hynek and Armstrong to meet

REGARDING "AN astronaut, an investigator, and perhaps a secret request" in the March *MUFON Journal*: J. Allen Hynek and Neil Armstrong were both invited guest lecturers on *Eclipse Cruise, Voyage into Darkness* in June–July 1973, each speaking individually on their respective areas of expertise.

Maybe I'm the one who's way off-base. Maybe UFOs and the paranormal are interconnected, maybe even one and the same. I don't have a clue.

What bothers me is the course MUFON is taking, at least as seen in the *MUFON Journal*. In my humble opinion, the *Journal* puts way too much emphasis on subjects that seem to have nothing to do with the scientific study of UFOs: Articles presented by individuals who converse with animals; the *Outside the Box* monthly column; and other articles that deal more with paranormal activities, not with UFOs.

I am not attacking the individuals who write these articles, but I do question whether the articles belong in the *Journal*.

Put yourself in the place of an

astronomer, astrophysicist, or some other mainstream scientist reading the *Journal* for the first time. What would you think of MUFON's mission, the scientific study of UFOs? Now that I've spouted off, maybe I'm the one who's way off-base. Maybe UFOs and the paranormal are interconnected, maybe even one and the same. I don't have a clue, but appearance is important. And any outside observer who looks at the *Journal* may wonder exactly where MUFON stands; dedicated to the scientific study of UFOs or with "the fringe element."

I apologize if I've offended anyone with this letter, but I stand by my belief that as long as the *Journal* keeps printing articles that, at least on the surface, have nothing to do with UFOs, MUFON will not be taken seriously by mainstream science. —Michael Barron

editorial policy

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High prices for Walton's story spark renewed media interest in 1975 abduction experience

By Bill Ryberg

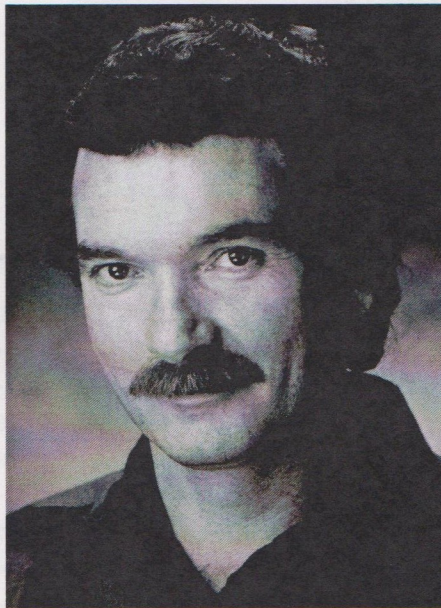
DURING THE YEARS that Travis Walton's 1997 book *Fire in the Sky* was out of print, he had almost daily inquiries from people wanting to know where they could find a copy. When he learned that used copies were selling online for \$200 to \$300, he decided it was time to print another edition.

The last week of March, Walton's 1997 book was selling for \$195.42 on amazon.com. The new version—which includes revisions, more illustrations, and 25 pages of additional material—costs a mere \$30. It only is available on Walton's Web site, travis-walton.com.

Walton's story began 36 years ago, and continuing interest in it has led mainstream media to take another look at his experience.

His strange adventure occurred on the evening of November 5, 1975. He was a young man, just 22 years old, working as a lumberjack, when he spotted a glow coming through the trees of a forest in the White Mountains of Arizona and began to be drawn into what has been called "the best-documented case of alien abduction ever recorded."

In the days and years that followed, Walton's experience has been the subject of law enforcement investigations, news articles and broadcasts, research by UFO experts, documentary films, television shows, a major motion picture, and books by Walton and others.



Travis Walton

After 36 years, memories remain.

Walton, 58 years old now, is retired and lives in Arizona with his wife, Dana. They have four grown children—two sons and two daughters—and eight grandchildren.

Memories of his experience in 1975, however, have never left him. "The nightmares were worse at first," Walton said in an interview with the *Journal*.

Back to the Abduction Scene

The release in 2010 of the updated version of his book, *Fire In the Sky: The Walton Experience*, led to a new hectic round of public appearances and interviews, including one this year on the weekend *Today* show on NBC-TV in which Walton and interviewer

Amy Robach returned to the scene of the abduction.

"It seems like just yesterday, you know, in a way. A lot of those memories are just so burned into my mind," Walton said as he and Robach walked through the snow-covered forest where, 36 years ago, Walton got out of a pickup truck to investigate a strange object among the trees.

The event, has, "regrettably," he said, defined his life. "If I had it to do over again, I'd never get out of the truck. I'd rather it never happened," Walton told Robach.

Walton was born in Phoenix, and moved with his family as a child first to Payson, Ariz., and later to Snowflake, Ariz., a town of about 6,000 in the high desert near the White Mountains and about a three-hour drive northeast from Phoenix.

Snowflake remains his home today, and is not far from the area where his incredible encounter began in 1975.

Walton was a member of a seven-man logging crew, driving back to town together in a pickup truck when they spotted first the glow through the trees and then an object.

"My God, it's a flying saucer," one of the men yelled.

The driver stopped, and Walton alone got out to take a closer look. "I was hit by a bolt of energy from it," Walton told the *Journal*. "It

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For some time, Walton refused to talk about his

Continued from page 7

knocked me back through the air 10 or 20 feet and the crew thought I had been killed and figured they were next, so they took off in a panic.”

His co-workers soon doubled back, however, hoping to rescue Walton, but found that he was gone and must have been taken by the craft, Walton said.

The co-workers reported what had happened to the sheriff’s office, prompting a search that began that night and stretched into the following days, involving dozens of searchers on foot, on horseback and all-terrain vehicles, and in helicopters and airplanes. Newspapers reported the horses acted strangely and one bolted and couldn’t be found, Walton said. Tracking dogs were unable to find any trail of a scent beyond the clearing where Walton was last seen.

Walton, meanwhile, was waking up inside the craft, not knowing where he was. “When my vision finally cleared, I saw the creatures and I knew where I was then,” he said.

There were three of them, all less than four feet tall, with two arms and two legs like humans, but hairless and with large heads and big glassy eyes. “They were definitely not human,” Walton said.

“They were coming toward me and I grabbed a piece of equipment and swung it at them. I was too far away to hit them, but was trying to keep them at bay,” Walton said. They turned and left.

“I was in a terrible state of hysteria and went looking for a way out,” pushing buttons and trying to open

Some trees in the area of the abduction later were found to be growing at many times their normal rate.

doors, but with no luck, Walton said.

Four human-appearing strangers, a female and three males, entered the room, one wearing a transparent astronaut-like helmet and three without helmets. All resembled each other like they were members of the same family, not identical, but like they were siblings or cousins, Walton said.

He tried to ask questions, but none of them would answer him. They tried to get Walton to lie down, and he resisted until some sort of gas mask was put over his face, and he lost consciousness.

Woke Up Five Days Later

When he woke up, he was outside of the craft lying face down on the pavement of a highway near a small town. He looked up in time to see the craft leave and then ran to the town of Heber, Ariz., and called his family for help. It had been five days since he disappeared.

While Walton had been experiencing his strange encounter on the craft, his co-workers had been undergoing an ordeal of their own. Law enforcement officers accused his co-

workers of murdering him and making up a cover story, Walton said.

The men were outraged. The sheriff called in the state police and a state polygraph examiner to administer tests to the six co-workers. All passed, Walton said. Members of his family have passed lie detector tests, too, Walton added.

After Walton returned, skeptics came up with theories to debunk the alien abduction idea. Among them: The whole thing was a hoax, or Walton had imagined it all because he had been on drugs, or had had some sort of mental psychotic episode.

“That doesn’t make sense because seven people don’t have the same delusion,” Walton said.

Walton dismisses the skepticism, but acknowledges that it has bothered him in the past.

“It used to bother me a lot more, but anymore, I think, you know, the record speaks for itself,” Walton said on the *Today* show.

Walton said he has passed five lie-detector tests administered by three different examiners. Crew members passed lie detector tests, too, Walton said, “and they stand by what happened to us to this day.”

Scientific checks of the abduction area revealed unusual magnetic readings and increased levels of radiation and ozone, Walton said. Later checks found that trees in the area were growing at many times their normal rate, Walton said.

Core samples on a 100-year-old tree showed that half of its growth occurred in the 15 years after the abduction, Walton said.

eerie and fascinating experience 36 years ago

Other strange events occurred around the time of the abduction, Walton said. A nurse called Walton's family and said she had been working in a hospital when an elderly couple came in and reported that they had had a close encounter with aliens. The nurse left them for a moment and when she returned, the elderly couple was gone, along with all records of their visit. Hospital co-workers acted as if the couple had never been there.

A Town Divided

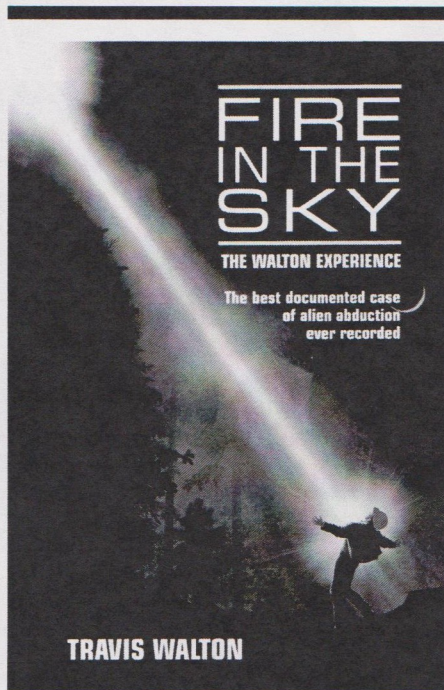
The town of Snowflake was divided on the question of whether Walton's story was true, he said.

Walton's abduction story became world-wide news. Film crews showed up not just from U.S. news media, but from Japan and Great Britain. Reporters tromped through his mother's flower beds in Snowflake.

He and Dana had been dating at the time. She stood by him when the incident occurred, and has never wavered in her support and her conviction that what he said is true, Walton said. His family has been unwavering in their support, too, Walton added.

Walton and Dana married and went on with their lives. Over the years, Walton worked as a logger, and later as the head maintenance mechanic in a wood-molding mill and as a quality-control inspector at a paper mill.

Walton said he went through long periods of time when he simply



Title: *Fire in the Sky: The Walton Experience*

Author: Travis Walton

Available at: travis-walton.com

Pages: 396, softcover

Price: \$30, plus \$5.95 shipping

wouldn't talk about the abduction, but interest in his story continued.

Among the highlights: A major 1993 Paramount Pictures movie about the abduction. The movie, also entitled *Fire in the Sky*, was based on Walton's original book, and featured a cast that included James Garner and starred D.B. Sweeney as Walton.

Walton feels it helped open people's minds about his story, but he takes some exceptions to parts of the film. The real interior of the craft was sterile-looking, mechani-

cal and metallic. In the movie, it was organic and cluttered.

A 1993 article reported that the film studio thought Walton's recollections of what happened on board the craft were too fuzzy and had a screenwriter pump up the story with fictionalized scenes about ghoulish experiments and chases involving Walton and the aliens, according to EW.com (*Entertainment Weekly*).

Walton calls his book "the only comprehensive assembly of data surrounding" the event.

He said he was prompted to write the updated version because he has seen that, in recent years, interest in his experience has continued to be high. Online he saw people searching for used copies of the original version of his book. In addition, he was constantly getting e-mails from people urging him to republish *Fire in the Sky*, and friends were urging him also.

Walton spent about six months working on the updated version, tracking down crew members to find out where they are now. In addition, he wanted to report on yet another polygraph test that he passed in 2009.

New Bits and Pieces

Bits and pieces of what happened continue to emerge to Walton. For example, he has memories about blond aliens, but isn't sure if these are actually recovered information or memories of past dreams that he has had.

Continued on page 10

Despite many theories about extraterrestrials, Walton believes he encountered space aliens

Continued from page 9

Walton said reaction to the book has been very enthusiastic. "So many people are just so thrilled that I've finally done this," Walton said. He said demand has been intense. "The book met a need that was there," he added.

Among the issues Walton addresses in extensive detail is the skepticism of doubters. He gives more information about the backgrounds of the people involved and the community in which it happened.

Event Nearly Overshadowed

"And the years of the aftermath are a story unto themselves, a story so excruciating that my memories of what I have lived through because of some people's reaction to what happened are a hell which nearly overshadows the experience itself," Walton writes in the preface.

An entire chapter is devoted to the 1993 movie. There are color artist's renderings of the craft, the humanoid creatures and the muscular, more human-looking beings that he encountered.

Future plans could include yet another update of the book, and he's hoping that a remake of the movie could be made, too, Walton said. He said there have also been



COURTESY TRAVIS WALTON

An artist's rendering of the eye of one of the unusual alien creatures that Travis Walton encountered 36 years ago.

discussions about a new documentary on his abduction. He'd like to see one made that is a definitive piece on the subject, made with a high level of production value.

In her *Today* show segment, Robach said townspeople in Snowflake are more likely to believe Walton's story today than they were in 1975.

"Travis and some of the (other) men who still live in the area say

that before they were ridiculed. Now, people say, 'You know what? I believe it,'" Robach said.

Robach attributes the change in attitude to the fact that today, compared to the time of Walton's experience, much more is known about "space and about planets and what's possible out there."

"Thirty-five years ago there were a lot of things that seemed impossible," Robach said.

Walton, in the *Journal* interview, said that before the abduction he had no more than a passing interest in UFOs, like most people do.

He notes that there are many theories about what extraterrestrials might be besides space aliens, including travelers from another time or dimension or even participants in the operation of some earth-based agency.

Walton, however, said he has come to accept the term alien to mean visitors from space, most likely beings from another planet, although no one can be positive.

"I don't know for sure," Walton says. "I was just reporting my experience." ■

Bill Ryberg is a former reporter for the Des Moines Register.

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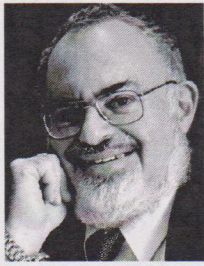
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- * **RICHARD DOLAN** - “After Disclosure, from Rumor to Reality.”
- * **TED PETERS** - “Will ET Contact End World Religion?”
- * **JOHN ALEXANDER, Ph.D.** - “The Federal Government and Military Response to ET Contact.”
- * **GEORGE FILER** - “MARS the Living Planet.”
- * **JOSEPH McMONEAGLE** - “How Will Full Contact Impact our Science and Society?”
- * **BARBARA LAMB** - “Are Human - ET Hybrids in our Future?”
- * **JIM SPARKS** - “Time Travel is a Fact.”
- * **LINDA MOULTON HOWE** - “Time Travel and UFO Cases.”
- * **TED LODER** - “The Science of Tomorrow.”
- * **STANTON FRIEDMAN** - “Are We Ready for Contact?”

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The enigma of John Alexander

By Stanton Friedman

JOHN ALEXANDER has been around the UFO movement for decades and in my eyes he is something of an enigma. He has been a green Beret, a pioneer in the development of non-lethal weapons, a project leader at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and connected with Robert Bigelow's National Institute for Defense Sciences (NIDS). He has close connections in the CIA and has published a number of books. *UFOs: Myths, Conspiracies, and Realities*, his first UFO book, was published in February.

Alexander spoke about the topic of his book at the 20th Annual International UFO Congress held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in February, and I heard his talk. His focus was on the activities of a group called the Advanced Theoretical Physics (ATP) project, whose major goal was to find out what government agencies knew about UFOs.

The Bottom Line

Everybody seemed to think that somewhere else in government was a super-secret project researching UFOs. Although members of ATP traveled all over and asked lots of questions of lots of people, they never could locate such a group. The bottom line is that Alexander decided that since no such group was discovered, therefore none exists.

Alexander often is critical of how the government handles UFO-related topics, its strange redactions

of UFO documents, some of its public comments, etc. I agree. But his basic premise seems to be that absence of evidence in his hands, or ATP's hands, is evidence for absence. Alexander also claims that United States Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall gave amnesty to all Air Force personnel wanting to talk about classified UFO material. This is false. Widnall said Air Force personnel could talk to Col. Richard Weaver, author of the Air Force's *The Roswell Report: Fact vs. Fiction in the New Mexico Desert*.

I agree that the matter often has been badly handled. I appreciated Alexander's nine-page letter to Col. Philip Corso asking critical questions about the many strange unsubstantiated claims made by Corso in *The Day After Roswell*.

I cannot agree with Alexander's conclusions, however. Obviously he is familiar with security procedures, including need-to-know concerns. There seems to be no basis for assuming that, if there was such a high-level compartmented group (call it Majestic-12), Alexander or ATP would have had access to their work. I have written in the past that people wanting to keep secrets often use the egos of "insiders" to help. The attitude of the latter is that if what is claimed to be true was indeed true, they would have known about it.

Many times in his book Alexander fails to make any distinction be-

tween classifications of "secret," "top secret," and "top-secret" code words such as Ultra, Umbra, or Majic.

Alexander quotes from the famous September 23, 1947, Twining memo, which was written only a couple of months after Roswell. He fails to mention that the memo was only "secret." We know from many items, including more than 150 National Security Agency (NSA) "top secret" Umbra documents and a number of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) documents, that a crashed saucer certainly would have been classified with a "top-secret" code word, and could not have been mentioned in a merely "secret" document.

Black-Outs, White-Outs

Alexander mentioned that I like to show blacked-out UFO documents, and he agrees that these make the government look inept. But he argues that NSA and CIA have released all their documents, which now are on the Internet. The NSA documents are all whited-out except for a sentence or two per page. "Top secret" CIA documents often are almost completely redacted, as opposed to the full release of hundreds of CIA UFO-related documents rated only "secret."

Alexander seems to think Twining would have mentioned alien bodies to his superiors. We don't know how many people had a need to know that information, which

certainly would have been rated above "secret."

Concerning the MJ-12 documents, Alexander says that these documents are available on the Internet and covered in fair detail in my book "Top Secret/Majic." The original book was published in 1996, and Alexander failed to mention the second edition in 2005, which added 5,000 words. He also neglected to mention several other important sources (my own *Final Report on Operation Majestic-12* and several MUFON conference papers).

It's apparent that Alexander has not read my books. He takes strong exception to the Cutler Twining memo of July 14, 1954, and quotes at length from an old National Archives letter denoting 10 problem areas with the memo. He doesn't mention that a later letter was issued correcting a number of the claims found to have been in error.

For example, the government claimed that the security classification "top secret restricted" was not in use until years later, that there was no National Security Council (NSC) meeting on July 16, 1954, that there was no "top secret" registry number, that Cutler was out of the country at the time, etc. The Cutler Twining memo does not say that the National Security Council MJ-12 special studies briefing would take place during an NSC meeting, but during "an already scheduled meeting."

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), while conducting its search for Roswell documents, found a number of documents listed as "top secret restricted." Archivists at presidential archives have stated they have many "top secret" documents without "top secret" registry numbers.

*It's apparent that
John Alexander has
not read my books.
I would be happy to
engage in a formal
debate with him.*

Cutler not only was out of the country on July 14, 1954, but he left written instructions to James Lay (National Security Council executive secretary) to keep things moving out of his in-box. I obtained a message from Lay to Cutler dated July 16, 1954, while Cutler was out of the country. Alexander claims that if either had written the memo, it would have been signed.

Enter George Elsey

George Elsey worked at the White House under President Roosevelt and all during President Truman's tenure. He said that Cutler and Lay sat next to each other at National Security Council meetings and got copies of the other's paperwork. After Elsey learned that Lay had met with Eisenhower at 2:30 p.m. and had a phone conversation with him at 4:45 p.m., Elsey said that of course Lay would have written a brief memo in Cutler's name. There is, of course no signature.

I should add that Elsey was shown copies of the Cutler Twining memo and could find no reason to say it was fraudulent. Elsey also was asked if he, as an insider, knew of any reasons that any of the 13 named MJ-12 members would not have been named to such a panel by President Truman, had something like Roswell happened.

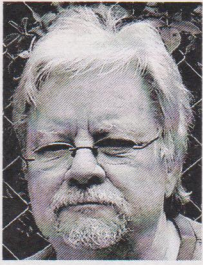
Elsey's answer was no.

Alexander doesn't mention that Phil Klass paid me \$1,000 for providing more than 10 examples of National Security Council memos done in the same size and style pica type as the Cutler Twining memo. Klass had claimed because he had nine NSC memos written in elite type, that only elite type was used in NSC memos. There are more than 250,000 pages of National Security Council materials at the Eisenhower Library. Alexander quotes a historian's conversation about an MJ-12 memo but not that I provided it to an archivist and have noted it and many other documents as frauds.

I have made many notes on my copy of Alexander's book. For example, he refers to Project Mogul as very highly classified. It wasn't, but its purpose (detecting possible Soviet nuclear explosions) was. No flights required chase planes, and remnants of the balloon trains were left out on the desert.

Alexander believes that if Roswell wreckage were of an alien craft, it would have been taken to Los Alamos National Laboratory and not Wright Patterson Air Force Base. I agree that, because of the high-quality personnel and instrumentation, some wreckage would have been taken there. I have heard a story to that effect. We know from testimony from crews who flew most of the wreckage to Wright Patterson that large quantities went there, where the personnel specialized in aeronautics and astronautics. Los Alamos, on the other hand, was an outstanding nuclear lab.

I would be happy to engage in a formal debate with Alexander about our books. ■



outside the box

A light in the Woods—and more— and a UFO at a Ukraine nuclear facility

By Ted Phillips

AN INCREDIBLE VIDEO was taken inside the Marley Woods of a brilliant object. The video was captured on an inexpensive camera hard-wired to a VCR. One of three witnesses spotted the very bright object on the ground and yelled for the others to come look at it.

One of them grabbed the video unit, and dragging the connecting line behind him, began recording. The device was oval and a number of colors could be seen flickering off and on at the front and back of the object. There seemed to be something moving or rotating at the right end of the object. The device was on the ground for three to four minutes after photographing began. It suddenly and silently lurched into the air and headed in the direction of the observers.

The three witnesses made their way into a two-story building. Their idea was to get to the second floor for a better view of the object, which looked like an elongated device with moving parts.

It was observed above three tree limbs that are some 30 to 40 feet above the ground. One easily could make out a cone-shaped section that emerged from the right end of the primary object.

A short distance ahead of the cone there was a thin line, elongated to the vertical, and it seems to be rotating. Then the cone section instantly disappeared into the body of the device and just as instantly another

cone-shaped section appeared at the opposite end of the device.

The second cone appeared to be the same configuration and size as the first. As it was being photographed, the object began to move very slowly toward a high hill. The object displayed vertical “flares” of light moving up and down.

At the top of the hill was a mercury-vapor light 30 feet above the ground. The object appeared to stop near the vapor light. If it was close to that light it would have been about 100 feet above ground. Once again the device moved slowly away until it was no longer visible.

The video lasts 43 minutes and is being studied one frame at a time, (At this rate, a final report may be ready by 2020 or so.)

Nuclear Facilities

UFO events near nuclear facilities have recently become a hot topic, and I just happen to have in my files one that I personally investigated.

It occurred during my second trip to Slovakia/Ukraine to research the Moonshaft artifact. (This was discovered by a Czech engineer during World War II as he and fellow soldiers were hidden in a vast cavern in the High Tatra Mountains, and Allen Hynek and I began investigating it in 1970.) On April 30, 2001, my Slovakian translator and his family were at my door at a very early hour. They had just seen video

on Slovakian National Television of an unidentified flying object over a nuclear facility in southern Slovakia. They said the object had appeared the previous night. Security camera footage from the facility showed the object to be circular and extremely bright.

The UFO approached from the north on a descending trajectory. It passed over the area where a defunct nuclear unit recently had been shut down. The new facility had been activated only a week before the incident.

The object passed over a large central control building, almost hitting one of two tall venting stacks near the building. It stopped over the first of four nuclear units. The news report stated that it hovered 20 feet above the active unit for a full 10 minutes. It was captured on film by many security cameras stationed around the facility. The UFO then descended vertically until it disappeared into the night.

On the Road Again

I began throwing things into the car before the family finished their story. I drove 160 miles southwest to the city of Levice. The nuclear facility is located eight miles northwest of the city. I asked my translator family to call the director of the Slovakian National Television Network and attempt to obtain a copy of the video. The director agreed to make me a copy, but by

the time I reached Levice he had called back to say the tape had been taken by “officials.” There would be no copy available. This came as no surprise.

I walked the streets of this rather large city, and found a newspaper with a front-page article about the incident. I tried to get more information from people on the street and in businesses, but without much luck. Many people saw the UFO since the facility is clearly visible from the city. Few were able to provide many details, however. Many did tell me the sky was full of Mig 29s brief minutes after the event.

The younger folks were pleasant and far more open, and they all said I would need to talk to the Major. The Major was the “director” of the city, a guy who controlled the flow of information. One of the young men walked with me to the Major’s office.

The Major had a secretary who spoke quite good English, and I told her of my work with Allen Hynek, who is very well known in that part of the world. I explained my interest, she translated, the Major smiled and gave her a very short answer.

He said I should talk with the scientists who “knew everything about the event.” The Major even directed me to the location of these scientists. He said they were across the street from the hospital at the top of the hill, and that I couldn’t miss the place. As I left the Major, I was thinking that this was a little too good to believe.

My rental Skoda climbed the hill as best it could. There was indeed a hospital at the top. I headed down the narrow street by the hospital. It ended at two enormous gates, behind which I could see a huge cemetery. I got the point, and

My search for the scientists who “knew everything” about a UFO seen over the Slovakian nuclear facility ended at two gates, behind which I could see a cemetery. I got the Major’s point.

drove the Skoda back down the hill.

I talked to a few more folks and left the city. Would I give up? Of course not, at least not until I drove to the nuclear facility, and then cranked up my camcorder and digital camera to film the entire place. I walked around for 10 minutes or so. I didn’t see any Mig 29s, helicopters, or vehicles coming at me at high speed, so I considered myself quite lucky. I brought home some very nice images and video of one of that country’s most secure sites.

More from Marley Woods

Here is my most recent observation made February 25, 2011, deep in the Marley Woods. I was with Pat, one of our team members, and we were scratching our way through some dense woods in an area of high activity. When we reached a place with a clear view of the sky, we set up the cameras.

In a couple of hours we saw two amber lights, which were stationary to the east. They were side by side with no visible motion. After a minute or so the left amber light appeared to be spinning. This

continued for several seconds then stopped. The two lights merged into one, which moved away at incredible speed to the south.

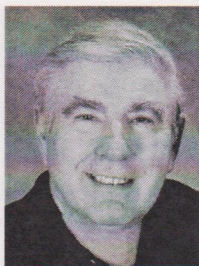
At 10:55 p.m., I thought I could see a faint greenish-blue light back in an opening in the trees. After 30 seconds it increased in brightness and appeared blue-white. It was about the size of a baseball and perhaps two feet above the ground.

Twelve minutes later (timed from the video) a small light seemed to emerge from the rear left side. It slowly took form as a circular blue-white light ball matching the first in size and configuration. It was less than 12 inches behind and slightly left of the first light ball.

We watched the two using night-vision gear, and we clearly could see the area around the small spheres. Small twigs were quite visible beneath the two. There was nothing around, over or under these very strange devices.

I grabbed another camcorder and captured the view through the night-vision unit. Twenty-six minutes into the video, Pat called my attention to two more light balls. They were some 10 to 12 feet to the right and some six to eight feet beyond the first two. They were slightly behind each other and both were on the ground. Even the light balls on the ground did not illuminate the ground around them. They disappeared, moving into the trees.

I will be undergoing some scheduled medical procedures, so this will be my last column for a few months. I have numerous experiments scheduled for 2011. I believe interaction is the path to understanding this activity. The Marley Woods project is in the good hands of Ginger, Pat, Rodney and the other team members. ■



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 officially been investigated.]

California man watches lights on triangular object

Fort Bragg, California—At 8:30 p.m. on March 3, I saw six lights approaching surrounding a bright pulsing red light in the shape of a triangle. I estimate the object's altitude to be between 5,000 and 10,000 feet, and it moved rather slowly, more like a propeller-driven plane than a jet. It passed nearly directly overhead, at an elevation of about 80 degrees from the horizon. I observed it for what I would estimate to be four or five minutes. As for size, it would have filled the lower half of a full moon. It made no sound and flew off shore and ejected a smaller orange pulsing craft from out of its starboard bow. Both objects moved northeast and disappeared behind some trees. (WWW.UFOSNW.COM)

Triangle in Florida skies

Deerfield, Florida—On March 11, I parked my car and noticed a triangle in the sky. It was large and moved slowly. Red orbs flew into it and made it larger. It then slowly vanished. (MUFON CMS)

In Ontario, meteor-like object observed sending out other lighted objects

Ridgeway, Ontario, Canada—At 11:45 p.m. on March 1, my friend and I witnessed a bright glowing object, like a meteor, that came very close to our vehicle. We stopped the car as it hovered and emitted a bright white light and four other colors that weren't as bright. After a minute, the object sent down another object that appeared to come out of it. This object was blue and visibly smaller and duller than the original object. A second blue object was sent down at a perfect diagonal. Then the original bright object made a sudden movement and disappeared. (WWW.SIGHTING.COM)

Pole-shaped UFO with orange lights disappears

Maryborough, Queensland, Australia—My friend and I were in the car on Kent Street driving toward town at 8:28 p.m. on February 25. I saw what looked to be a pole with orange lights, but there are no poles with orange lights in the area. I slowed the car and said, "What is that? Get your mobile phone and record it!" He tried, but did not get anything. We saw five lights. Three were fairly close together, and two were further down closer to the horizon. The orange lights started to

move and spread apart. One fizzled and could no longer be seen. I turned around and there were two that I focused on. They were like orange round embers floating really fast. When I watched the one that fizzled, it was like when you break up a fire ember on the ground, but instead it was in the sky. There was no sound. I have never seen such strange color and movement in the sky before. (WWW.UFOCENTER.COM)

Massachusetts family spots boomerang in sky

Monson, Massachusetts—I was coming home with my kids on March 2. As I turned onto my street, I saw a very bright light that seemed like a tower light. It was hovering in the sky. As we got closer, I could see three lights coming from the northwest that were hovering directly over our house at the top of the hill. This object seemed low, and the lights were big. My oldest son is 15, and he and I stood at the end of our driveway, where we got a good look at a triangular boomerang, possibly flatiron-shaped, with three big bright lights along the middle. One was red and the other two were white, with a small blinking light toward the left side. It seemed to sit there not moving, and we noticed that there was no noise except a weird electronic-kind of hum. A couple of seconds later a small plane flew by headed south. (MUFON CMS)

South Dakota security officer reports being touched by a space alien

Timber Lake, South Dakota—I am reporting this for my husband who works for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as a security officer. When he came home on March 6, he said, "It touched me!" His usual drive back home takes 90 minutes. He started for home around 11:15 p.m., but he didn't get home until almost 2 a.m. He was unaware of more than an hour of missing time.

Driving home alone about 11:40 p.m. on Highway 63, he saw red lights like softballs spinning around his car. He was traveling south toward Eagle Butte. Hundreds of the red balls spun around the car for a couple of miles. He was going 60 miles an hour, but unexpectedly the car slowed to a speed of about 40 miles an hour and wouldn't go any faster. After a while the red lights disappeared, and he was able to increase his speed to 60 miles an hour. Fifteen miles south of Timber Lake he got

the feeling of goose bumps and a tingly cold feeling all over.

He said, "I saw an alien entity on the side of the road. It reached in through the windshield and touched my head, then ran its hand down my back making it real hot." He said it was a horrifyingly ugly beast with an oblong head, human-size eyes, a long nose, and a very large mouth. It had really thin arms, legs, and body that were translucent and glowing like a dim light bulb. It was around four feet tall, and my husband said that he could see through it.

When my husband reached the bison farm 15 miles from Eagle Butte, the entity suddenly disappeared. That night the car used a lot more gas than it usually does. My husband's head was hot and his demeanor agitated when he got home. (MUFON CMS)

Flying saucer observed in skies over Alaska

Wasilla, Alaska—I have had UFO reports come in from Wasilla many times. I've heard that Wasilla, like Seward, is a hotbed of UFO activity. I went there on March 3, a very clear night, and I observed a fast-moving craft at high altitude. It stopped mid-flight and hovered for about a minute, but it was too far away for me to get a good view. I very clearly was not seeing a plane or a helicopter. Wasilla sets back in a mountain range in an area like a bowl, and that makes a good viewing location. (MUFON CMS)

Large boomerang craft escorted by smaller craft over Sag Harbor

Sag Harbor, New York—Getting out of my truck in my driveway on February 18, I observed a large object with three white lights on it and a center red light. Two other smaller objects seemed to be escorting it. The objects moved very slowly and did two big loops over the town in the next half hour. The large object was bigger than any commercial jet. It was shaped like a boomerang or maybe a diamond. The two other craft escorting it

were smaller and appeared to have red and green lights. I did not hear any helicopter engines, and the only sound I could hear was possibly a jet engine, but if it was that it was a very quiet one. The objects were several thousand feet up. What was odd was the way they acted in the sky. This is the first time I have seen flying objects that seemed to be cruising around with no destination. My 7-year-old son observed the crafts when I called him out to the porch. I also noticed bright flashes of light in the sky to the north at the time, like a lightning storm, but the weather was clear. (WWW.UFOCENTER.COM) ■

Star Team update

A personal note from Star Team's new director

I AM HONORED to be taking over the reins of MUFON's Star Team, and I promise to make it the best program that MUFON ever has launched.

From the time that I heard about the forensic approach to tackling these events, I was thrilled. When I was offered the chance to be part of Star Team, I was humbled. I determined to do my best to provide the Star Team with my years of forensic investigation knowledge and to support Star Team efforts in every manner possible.

I welcome the chance to build upon the solid foundation that Chase has created for the Star Team. I will continue to keep in mind how important MUFON's mission is to all of humanity.

Fostering cooperation between members of MUFON is what Star Team is all about, and any changes will be made with that in mind.

My goal is to get to know the State Directors individually and to establish a great working relationship with each one of them.

As we move forward, the focus will be on training so that all of us can benefit from being better at what we do. I vow to do my best to make this Star Team everything that it can be.

I look forward to working with all MUFON members at every level of the organization. We are Team MUFON! ■

—Larry Gessner



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CMS rankings

CONGRATULATIONS to Donald Burleson (New Mexico), George Filer (New Jersey), Cheryl Ann Gilmore (South Carolina), Steve Hudgeons (Texas), Jimi Hughes (Montana), Lorna Hunter (South Dakota), William Jones (Ohio), Jim King (Iowa), William Konkolesky (Michigan), David MacDonald (Kentucky), Eddie Middleton (Tennessee), Brent Mitchel (Alaska), Bland Pugh (Florida), John Ventre (Delaware and West Virginia), and Steve Winans (Kansas) for being at 100 percent in March's Case Management System (CMS) rankings. The top state directors are highlighted on the chart at right.

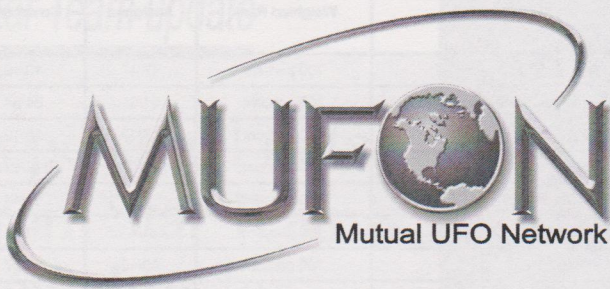
For help with investigations please contact MUFON International's Director of Investigations, Marie Malzahn, at mcmalzahn@gmail.com. ■

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.

- **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.

	State	Director	Weighted Rank	Assigned	Completed
1	Kentucky	David MacDonald	100 percent	47/47	40/40
2	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 percent	61/61	64/64
3	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 percent	17/17	19/19
4	Michigan	William Konkolesky	100 percent	95/95	132/132
5	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 percent	8/8	14/14
6	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 percent	4/4	3/3
7	New Jersey	George Filer	100 percent	49/49	57/57
8	Kansas	Steve Winans	100 percent	31/31	35/35
9	New Mexico	Donald Burleson	100 percent	25/25	29/29
10	Ohio	William Jones	100 percent	70/70	99/99
11	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	100 percent	10/10	7/7
12	Texas	Steve Hudgeons	100 percent	200/200	186/186
13	Iowa	Jim King	100 percent	13/13	26/26
14	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 percent	171/171	143/143
15	Delaware	John Ventre	100 percent	2/2	2/2
16	Montana	Jimi Hughes	100 percent	5/5	12/12
17	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	99 percent	107/109	119/119
18	Georgia	Ralph Howard	98 percent	74/76	77/77
19	Indiana	Stewart Hill	98 percent	75/77	129/129
20	Minnesota	Lorna Hunter	98 percent	25/26	32/32
21	Missouri	Debbie Ziegelmeyer	98 percent	61/63	93/93
22	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	98 percent	54/54	74/77
23	Oklahoma	Charles Pine	96 percent	38/41	39/39
24	Arizona	James Mann	93 percent	92/104	91/93
25	Rhode Island	Steve Firmani	93 percent	5/5	7/8
26	Washington	Marilyn Childs	92 percent	51/57	76/80
27	Nebraska	John Kasher	92 percent	11/13	24/24
28	District of Columbia	Donald Borton	91 percent	5/6	3/3
29	Colorado	Douglas Wilson	88 percent	58/59	51/65
30	Louisiana	Vivian Walker	87 percent	50/52	34/43
31	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	86 percent	164/169	125/166
32	Maryland	Donald Borton	85 percent	32/34	26/34
33	Idaho	Marie Malzahn	83 percent	10/14	19/20
34	Utah	Terry Groff	82 percent	18/19	17/24
35	Virginia	Susan Swiatek	81 percent	37/37	26/41
36	North Dakota	Lawrence Gessner	76 percent	6/7	2/3
37	New Hampshire	Steve Firmani	74 percent	14/19	12/16
38	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	70 percent	25/33	25/38
39	New York	Samuel Falvo	66 percent	62/70	42/94
40	Hawaii	Lorna Hunter	66 percent	9/9	2/6
41	Alabama	Roy Patterson	66 percent	8/25	32/32
42	Maine	Steve Firmani	59 percent	16/21	7/16
43	Vermont	Steve Firmani	58 percent	2/6	5/6
44	Connecticut	Steve Firmani	56 percent	16/27	15/28
45	California (Area 1)	Ruben Uriarte	53 percent	18/138	131/140
46	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	51 percent	34/79	67/113
47	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	41 percent	3/6	2/6
48	Mississippi	Norman Walker	32 percent	1/7	4/8
49	Arkansas	Norman Walker	31 percent	6/26	10/25
50	Wisconsin	Nathan Tomisich	20 percent	8/24	2/26
51	North Carolina	Marie Malzahn	12 percent	10/44	1/41
52	Nevada	Ellen Bullock	0 percent	0/20	0/25



Mutual UFO Network, Inc.

2619 West 11th St. Rd., Suite 21
Greeley, Colorado 80634

970.352.5319 1.888.817.2220

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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 (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

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Contact Patti Wolff
Business Office Manager

at **970.352.5319** or patti@mufon.com

UFO Radio

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calendar

April 2—The UFO Club of Virginia Beach, Virginia, will meet at 1 p.m. at the Kempsville Public Library. **757.217.8401**

April 16—Phoenix MUFON welcomes Travis Walton at 2 p.m. at the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Arizona. He will discuss the Walton case, which took place in northeastern Arizona. **phoenixmufon.com**

May 7—Paola Harris will introduce her new book *Expolitics: Stargate to a New Reality*, at a meeting of Phoenix MUFON 2 p.m. at the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Arizona. **phoenixmufon.com** ■

list your calendar event

Submit MUFON-related events by the 15th of the month preceding the event to **editor@mufon.com**. Items are limited to six lines. They will be published as space is available.

director's message

MUFON's shared vision

Continued from page 2

volunteer field investigators, state directors, and many other volunteers from around the country; our Case Management System (CMS) files have become the place where members of the media, those doing academic research, and other interested people repeatedly turn to discover the truth about the UFO enigma.

guest opinion

'Insufficient-data' designation serves purpose of science

Continued from page 3

not obtain an interview, I could not in good conscience use the alternative dispositions, despite the fact that the witnesses provided quality information in the initial reports.

In each of these cases there were too many unanswered questions. For example, the previously mentioned armed forces witness filled out a thorough report and provided contact information. This negated both criteria for classifying the case in the ID category, but there were discrepancies in his report that needed to be resolved before I could proceed. I never was able to obtain an interview, but the dispositions of UFO, IFO, or hoax seemed inappropriate in that case.

Discouraging or eliminating the ID category would be a misjudgment for several reasons. It might cause some field investigators to be-

come too proactive and in the process intimidate witnesses. Repeated e-mails and phone calls might cause some witnesses not to report future sightings, not to mention the unfavorable impression this would leave about our organization.

Some field investigators who are sensitive to the concerns of the witness might not want to intimidate the witness with e-mails and phone calls and will instead simply label the report a hoax, even though the report may be legitimate.

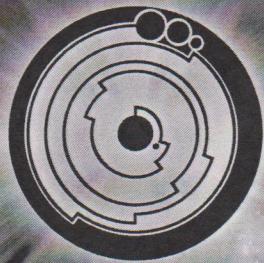
MUFON's mission statement is: "The analytical and scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon for the benefit of humanity." Sometimes it takes as much analytical and scientific investigation to conclude that a particular report is a hoax as it does to conclude that the report is a genuine UFO or an IFO. Merely to make an educated guess and classify a case as a UFO, IFO, or hoax because there are no other alternatives is scientifically dishonest.

When it is not possible to draw a conclusion from the amount of data one has accumulated, it must be designated as insufficient data.

As an organization that prides itself as being thorough and scientific in its approach, we field investigators need not only the Insufficient-Data disposition, but a broadened definition of that disposition. ■

David Kreiter is a MUFON field investigator from Iowa.

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the night sky

By **Gavin A. J. McLeod**

Bright Planets (evening sky)

■ **Saturn** (magnitude 0.4): In Virgo. In the northern hemisphere, Saturn will begin the month above the eastern horizon at sunset and will be very low above the western horizon at sunrise; by month's end it will be standing above the east-southeast horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon 1 hour before sunrise.

In the southern hemisphere, Saturn will begin the month above the eastern horizon after sunset and will be very low above the western horizon at sunrise; by month's end it will be above the eastern horizon at sunset.

Bright Planets (morning sky)

■ **Mercury** (magnitude 2.1 to 5.9 to 2.3): In Pisces.

In the northern hemisphere, Mercury will begin the month above the western horizon at sunset and will set below the west-northwest horizon about 1¼ hours later; by month's end it will be rising above the eastern horizon 1 hour before sunrise and will be low above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

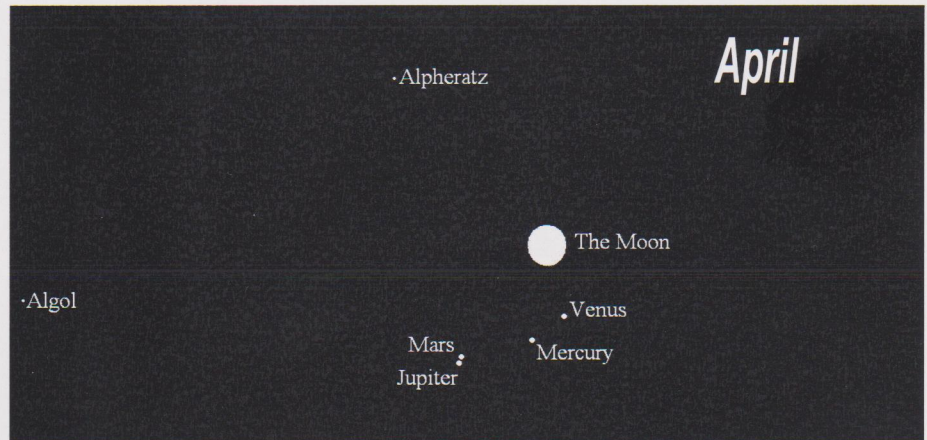
In the southern hemisphere, Mercury will begin the month very low above the west-northwest horizon at sunset and will set below the west-northwest horizon less than ½ hour

moon phases

- new moon:** April 3
- first quarter:** April 11
- full moon:** April 18
- last quarter:** April 25

conjunctions & occultations

- April 1:** Saturn 8 degrees north of the Moon
- April 19:** Mercury 0.8 degrees north of Mars
- April 30:** Venus 7 degrees south of the Moon
- April 30:** Mercury 8 degrees south of the Moon
- April 30:** Mars 0.5 degrees north of Jupiter



Observers who look to the east just before sunrise on April 30 will see the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter clustered together.

later; by month's end Mercury will be rising above the eastern horizon 2¼ hours before sunrise and will be above the east-northeast horizon at sunrise.

■ **Venus** (magnitude -3.8): From Aquarius into Pisces.

In the northern hemisphere, Venus will begin the month above the east-southeast horizon 1¼ hours before sunrise and will be low above the horizon at sunrise; by month's end it will be rising above the eastern horizon 1 hour before sunrise and will be low above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

In the southern hemisphere, Venus will begin the month above the east-southeast horizon 3 hours before sunrise and will be high above the east-northeast horizon at sunrise; by month's end it will be above the eastern horizon 2½ hours before sunrise.

■ **Mars** (magnitude 1.2): In Pisces.

In the northern hemisphere, Mars will begin the month above the eastern horizon ¼ hour before sunrise and will be very low above the horizon at sunrise; by month's end it will be above the eastern horizon ¾ hour before sunrise and will be very low above the horizon at sunrise.

In the southern hemisphere, Mars will begin the month 1 hour before sunrise above the eastern horizon and will be low above the horizon at sunrise; by month's end it will be above the horizon about ½ hour before sunrise.

■ **Jupiter** (magnitude -2.1): In Pisces.

In the northern hemisphere, Jupiter will begin the month lost in the glare of the rising Sun; as the month progresses Jupiter will slowly rise above the eastern horizon, by month's end it will be above the horizon ½ hour before sunrise and will be very low above the horizon at sunrise.

In the southern hemisphere, Jupiter will begin the month very low above the western horizon at sunset and will set ¼ hour later; by month's end it will be above the eastern horizon 1½ hours before sunrise.

Other Celestial Phenomena

■ **A Gathering of Planets:** The Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter will appear together just before sunrise April 30. ■