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*Does rocket activity spur
UFO activity (or sightings)?*

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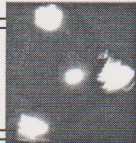
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Director's Message

By James Carrion

New Editor; SIP Program Clarified

This issue is the last for *MUFON Journal* Editor Sally Petersen who is relinquishing the editor position so that she can pursue her counseling and hypno-therapy practice full time.

Larry Rimbart is taking over as the new *Journal* Editor effective the October issue. We thank Sally for her dedication to MUFON and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Larry will be working to get the production schedule back on track and the *Journal* delivered to you on time each month. Please feel free to provide Larry with any ideas or suggestions for future *Journal* content by sending him an email at editor@mufon.com.

SIP Program Update

There have been a number of misconceptions about the SIP Program that I would like to clarify. Yes, MUFON is conducting rapid response investigation of UFO cases on behalf of Bigelow Aero-

space Advanced Space Studies (BAASS).

No, it is not a conspiracy to take the best cases and spirit the data away to a black hole. All SIP Cases that are investigated each month are detailed in the *MUFON Journal* and the case details are available in CMS. SIP

Investigators have produced some very good reports on some very good cases. MUFON would like for the SIP Program to be as transparent as possible to the MUFON membership, so if you have questions about how the program works, please ask me by sending me an email at jcarrion@mufon.com. Ufology abounds



James Carrion

Continued on page 22

MUFON'S MISSION IS THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF
UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH
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Rocket Launches in the Northeast U.S. Result in Increased Reports of UFO Activity

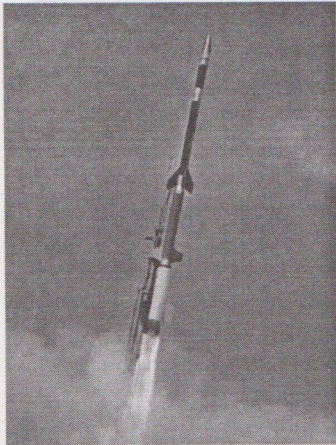
By Larry Rimbart

Recently NASA launched the Black Brant XII rocket from a facility in Virginia. At nearly the same time, reports were made by persons seeing unidentified lights in the area. Strange cone-shaped lights were reported to MUFON shortly after the launch. Were these reports of UFOs or merely sightings of the rocket?

Black Brant XII was part of an experiment designed to gather data on the clouds in the atmosphere and its designed ability to create an artificial cloud at about 173

miles about the earth's surface. When one considers how the rocket works, it is somewhat easy to see how it can be mistaken for a UFO.

With a lifting capacity of 1000 pounds to an altitude of 500 km (almost 311 miles) the Black Brant XII is a rather large rocket and uses solid propellant in four stages. When the rocket is flown in its northern latitudes during the winter months such as the Aurora Borealis are visible. The four stages of the rocket, the Talos, Taurus, Black Brant and Nihka are ignited over a 96.64 second time line. The rocket's projections are indicated in the following photo and can be seen from up and down the eastern coast. Each booster ignition is a new light in the sky.



such as the Aurora Borealis are visible. The four stages of the rocket, the Talos, Taurus, Black Brant and Nihka are ignited over a 96.64 second time line. The rocket's projections are indicated in the following photo and can be seen from up and down the eastern coast. Each booster ignition is a new light in the sky.

Although the light from each booster ignition may be mistaken for a UFO, the Black Brant XII also created what is called an "noctilucent" cloud or light from an artificial cloud formed by the exhaust particles of Nihka (4th stage). According to NASA, the cloud formation happened at approximately 173 miles high. Natural noctilucent clouds are also called a "polar mesospheric clouds, are the highest clouds in the Earth's atmosphere and are easiest seen after sunset. Not generally seen with the naked eye, noctilucent clouds can only be seen when illuminated by the sunlight below the horizon. On this day the launch was at 7:46 pm

Cover photo: Four-stage Black Brant XII blasting off from launch pad at the Wallops Island Flight Facility in Virginia. the Wallops facility conducts about 35 launches per year. Photo courtesy of NASA Great Images in NASA Collection. www.nasaimages.org

and the sun was setting for the day, thus creating an anomaly causing many people to see the unusual light.

MUFON was busy that night with dispatch reporting as it received approximately 70 sighting reports (during overnight) describing a similar object and event. The time of the launch was consistent with the times of the multiple sighting reports coming into CMS (MUFON's online reporting system). Witness descriptions were very similar and reports came in from Virginia to Nova Scotia. Witness descriptions were as follows:

- Witnesses generally reported a Bright Ball-like light
- With a cone-shaped light coming from it, shining down to earth (also referred to as flood light and flash light beam)
- Generally observed for about 30 seconds
- Sighting reports timed the event from 1945 hrs to 2010 hours EST
- Object reported to be high in the sky, in the general area where jets normally fly
- Some witnesses reported that they could see a triangular-shaped object in front of the light coming down to earth.

Even Wikipedia is up-to-date on these sightings: On September 19, 2009, a Black Brant XII that was launched to study clouds caused numerous calls from the Northeastern US reporting "strange lights in the sky". NASA reported that the light came from an artificial noctilucent cloud formed by the exhaust particles of the rocket's fourth stage about 173 miles high.

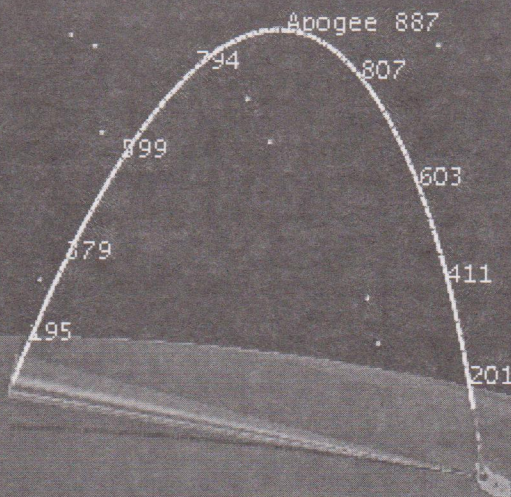
According to CMS, most reports were made, unsurprisingly, in Pennsylvania. Here are some of the case reports (thank you Roger Marsh).

MUFON Case # 19490

"I was on a private farm just outside of Brookeville, Pennsylvania, for a music concert, standing around waiting for the band to begin at 8:00 PM. I was facing the barn (where the music was about to begin), facing due West. My friend tapped me on the shoulder and said "UFO, UFO, UFO!" I turned around (facing due East) to see a very bright point of light, much brighter in magnitude than a star. From this point came a cone shaped [sic] beam of light that descended to the ground, much like a fan, but with extremely well defined, sharp edges. Once it filled the sky

Continued on page 4

0.0 seconds: Talos Ignition
 6.4 seconds: Talos Burnout
 18.0 seconds: Taurus Ignition
 21.51 seconds: Taurus Burnout
 27.0 seconds: Black Brant Ignition
 59.42 seconds: Black Brant Burnout
 78.0 seconds: Nihka Ignition
 96.64 seconds: Nihka Burnout
 542.27 seconds: Apogee



Altitude KM
 1002.500 Time Step: 0.50 sec

BBXII Epoch Sec LLA	Position
Time (EpSec):	1002.500
Lat (deg):	33.615
Lon (deg):	-65.200
Alt (km):	89.193375
Lat Rate (deg/sec):	-0.006145
Lon Rate (deg/sec):	0.012435
Alt Rate (km/sec):	-3.642591

Photo of Black Brant XII projection, looking southward on Eastern United States coastline. Launch originates from Wallops Island Flight Facility in Virginia. Photo courtesy of NASA.

between what would be the ground and the origin, the area appeared to become even brighter, before retracting back to the point of light, leaving a smokey [sic] or cloudy sky in its wake. I remember thinking, "It got cloudy" because it had been a clear blue sky all day. As I looked closer at the area from which the beam had emerged, I noticed a shimmering section of the sky (like you would see on a hot day above a long road surface on the horizon) above the cloudy section, and this space began to slowly move from left to right. The entire episode lasted about 9 seconds, no time to even think about grabbing [sic] a camera. It immediately became apparent that others had seen the same thing, so I began to talk to others, confirming my report above. There were at least 50 witnesses to this event. One final note is that as we stared at the sky just seconds after, we noticed a few private planes in the sky in the general area, so these pilots could have seen the light and reported it to a control tower. It was really amazing to see."

MUFON Case # 19491

"Saw bright round light moving East across the sky. Light had a beam shining down from it. Moved into a misty cloud, light began to dim and then went out. Mist traveled for another 15 to 20 seconds and then evaporated, the light and mist were gone. The odd part is that this was a cloudless, star-filled sky. After the mist dissipated, the stars were visible again. Very strange. I was taking trash to the dumpster behind my work. At first I thought helicopter, but then I realized there was no sound at all. I called my wife after the sighting and told her that I just saw something weird in the sky."

Common among these reports is the "misty cloud" in the witness reports. To complete a proper field report, the astute field investigator should make sure to exclude any natural or manmade possibilities for the "UFO" sightings prior to finalizing his conclusions and the report.

Rimbert is the new Editor of the Journal, as of October.

1969 Revisited: UFO Sightings linked to Rocket launches to Moon

By Franz W. Nentwich

The year 1969 was significant for the United States' landing of a spaceship on the moon. Could there be any relationship between rocket launches into space and the incidence of UFO sightings that year?

Could UFOs have been responding to rocket launches, and is there a lunar connection? Or are people mistaking rockets for UFOS?

March 4, 1969

In this regard, on March 4, 1969, a round-shaped UFO was observed by seven Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers between 7:45 and 9:34 p.m. on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. (Bondarchuk, 1979) Also on this date in Atlanta, Missouri, an object emitting a light beam associated with electromagnetic effects was observed to rise and fall, then veer off and fly out of sight. (1)

Is there a connection of some sort, given that Apollo 9 had been launched at 11:00 a.m. EST the previous day? (2) Or was this simply coincidence?

June 5, 1969

Later in the summer, on June 5, 1969, a UFO was observed in Ottawa, Canada, by Nentwich (2008), the approximate shape of which is shown in Figure 1.

Nentwich (2008) mentioned three satellites launches on June 5, 1969. One was at 14:42 GMT (9:42 a.m. Ottawa time) from Vandenberg in California. (3) Another launch was of an X-ray astronomy mission from Norway and a third launch was of a re-entry test flight originating from Green River. (4)

However, subsequent to publication of Nentwich (2008), it became apparent that a fourth launch was listed for June 5,

1. Retrieved Aug. 10, 2009 from <http://www.nicap.org/waves/1969fullrep.htm>
2. Retrieved Aug. 10, 2007 from <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/history/apollo/apollo-9/apollo-9.htm>
3. Retrieved Oct. 4, 2005 from <http://www.astronautix.com/lvs/thoslv2h.htm>
4. Retrieved Sept 30, 2005, from http://www.rocketsservices.co.uk/spacelists/sounding/_rockets/decades/1965-1969.htm
5. Retrieved Oct. 4, 2008 from http://www.ispyspace.com/1967_to_1974.html
6. Retrieved from http://www.ispyspace.com/1967_to_1974.html
7. Email communication, Oct. 17, 2008

1969, namely, a Luna automated sample return mission to the moon, though the second stage of the Proton booster failed (USSR). (5) Although this launch was not mentioned in Clark's (1977) list of Luna launch failures, Greg Kennedy, author of the online "Chronology of Human Space Exploration Part 5: 1967-1974" (6) expanded on the information in this listing by mentioning the following :

The original data came from the 'Mission Planner's Manual Proton Commercial Launch Vehicle' printed in 1989 by the Space Commerce Corporation in Houston. Section 2.7 in the manual gives a listing of Proton launches and lists the launch on June 5 with the notation that the second stage failed. The "TRW Space Log" for 1996 also lists the launch as being on June 4, with the notation "Lunar probe; failed to orbit." I used the June 5 date because the SCC manual was created with the cooperation of Glavcosmos. Neither source gives any details beyond those on the flight. (7)

Continued on page 6

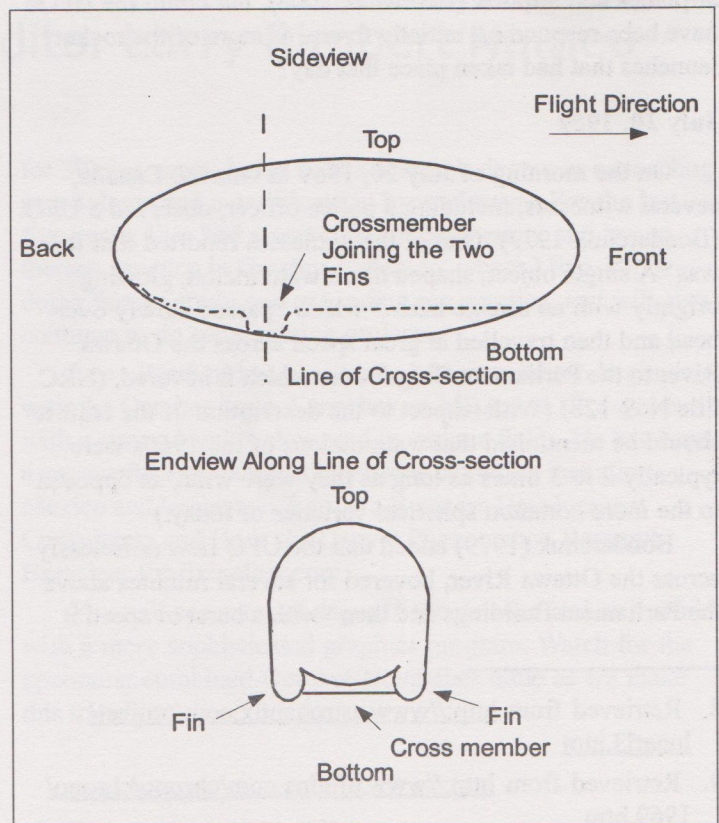


Figure 1: Longitudinal and cross-sectional views of the June 5, 1969 Ottawa UFO described by Nentwich (2008).

1969: Rocket Launches and UFOs

Continued from page 5

Thus, we have a June 4th or 5th launch. However, in a section identified with the heading “1969 June 1 –Soviet lunar plans” it was noted that “... lunar launch window constraints meant the launch had to be made at precisely 23:18 on 3 June 1969.” (8) In general, Clark (1977) showed that the Luna launches were made within an hour or so of the ideal time, such that an early June 4th as opposed to a June 5th launch would have been a definite possibility.

In addition to the UFOs discussed in Nentwich (2008) for June 5, 1969, a UFO was observed after 1600 hrs. on this same date by several witnesses at a lake about 60 km west of Quebec City, Canada (at +46.941300 latitude, -72.015700 longitude), and a daytime disc was seen at 1800 hrs. in Tipton, Iowa. (9)

Furthermore, at Cedar Rapids, only 45 km northeast of Tipton, a private pilot and his friend had reported circularly-shaped iridescent UFOs only 1000 feet above the ground. (Nentwich, 2008) Originally, Nentwich suggested that this description was so vague that it could have referred to the two main fireballs. However, given the report of a daytime disc on the same day near Cedar Rapids, the term ‘iridescent’ now seems rather suggestive of a tarnished metal appearance, as opposed to that of a distant fireball.

On June 5, 1969, UFOs seemed to have been attracted to airplanes and airports (Nentwich, 2008), but could the UFOs have been responding initially to one or more of the rocket launches that had taken place that day?

July 20, 1969

On the morning of July 20, 1969 in Ottawa, Canada, several witnesses, including a police officer, observed a UFO. (Bondarchuk 1979) One of the witnesses reported that it was “A single object, shaped like a watermelon, glowing brightly with an orange hue...” which “passed slowly overhead and then travelled at great speed across the Ottawa River to the Parliament Bldgs” over which it hovered. (NRC File N69-128) (With respect to the description of the craft it should be mentioned that watermelons of the 1960s were typically 2 to 3 times as long as they were wide, as opposed to the more common spherical varieties of today.)

Bondarchuk (1979) added that the UFO flew noiselessly across the Ottawa River, hovered for several minutes above the Parliament Buildings and then “with a burst of speed it

was gone from sight.”

Clearly, the shape, the glowing nature and the silent flight of this craft were similar to the June 5, 1969, object illustrated in Figure 1. One question which arises, however, is “Why did it stop over the Parliament Buildings?”

Is it merely coincidence that Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, on the same day that a UFO hovered over Parliament Hill in Ottawa?

Remarkably, UFOs were seen by the Apollo 11 crew two days earlier. On July 18, 1969, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin observed a UFO pacing the spacecraft he was in, and with an on-board telescope, the UFO was described as resembling “a series of ellipses, but when you made it real sharp it was sort of L shaped.” (10)

Could this description be explained as two docked ellipsoidal UFOs, one larger than the other? If so this would be reminiscent of the June 5, 1969 case in which one of the UFOs was larger than the other (Nentwich, 2008).

Discussion and Conclusions

UFO observations in Ottawa on March 4, 1969, on June, 5, 1969, and on July 20, 1969, in Canada and from the voyage of Apollo 11, all correspond closely in time with lunar missions, either manned or unmanned. Subsequently, during the Apollo 16 voyage in April 1972, a video was recorded of what appeared to be, after a detailed study by Nakamura,

... an artificial structure consisting of a disc that has a prominent dome at the center. The apparent motion toward the moon which, nevertheless, avoided collision with the moon, and the unsuitable shape for a minor planet suggest that the object is a kind of very large extraterrestrial spaceship. (Nakamura, 2003, p. 409)

The question that naturally arises is “Are these Apollo-UFO encounters merely coincidence or is there a causal connection?” In this regard, Good—who devoted several pages in his book to UFOs encountered during the Apollo program—quoted Maurice Chatelain, who claimed that

...all Apollo and Gemini flights were followed, both at a distance and sometimes also quite closely, by space vehicles of extraterrestrial origin—flying saucers, or UFOs if you want to call them by that name. Every time it occurred, the astronauts informed Mission Control, who ordered absolute silence. (Good, 1988, p. 385)

More generally, UFOs seem to have been attracted by rocket launches. In one case in 1964 a UFO was filmed intercepting an Atlas rocket soon after launch (Fox &

Continued on page 7

8. Retrieved from <http://www.astronautix.com/project/lunar13.htm>
9. Retrieved from <http://www.ufodna.com/chrono/chrono/1969.htm>
10. Retrieved July 24, 2007 from <http://www.ufoevidence.org/cases/case592.htm>

1969: Rocket Launches and UFOs

Continued from page 6

Coleman, 2007). A statistical analysis of UFO activity versus rocket launches might shed some light on whether or not such events are linked. A statistical approach, such as taken by Sturrock (2004) using a database of 12,100 UFO events, linked to databases such as referenced above for rocket launches, especially to the moon, might reveal some interesting correlations.

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Franz W. Nentwich received B.Sc. (Hon.), M. Sc., and Ph.D. degrees, all in Geology. In addition, he obtained a B.Ed. degree and is currently teaching grades 6-9 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. His email is fwmentwich@hotmail.com

Sally Petersen Resigns, New Editor Larry Rimbart Named

Dear Members and Readers,

After producing 32 issues of the *MUFON UFO Journal*, I am resigning from the editorship to concentrate on other professional endeavors. This is my last issue.

The last three years has been a fascinating time for me, as I've learned so much more about the science and study of ufology. I believe MUFON is at the forefront of UFO research, working with great integrity in the process of uncovering the truth. I have been impressed with the quality and credentials of those of you who devote so much time and energy toward this pursuit. MUFON has been especially fortunate to have such dedicated International Directors, both past and present. I will miss working with Director James Carrion, office goddesses Lori Steele and Kim Combs, and all of you who have contributed to the *Journal* and helped me out when I asked.

I have enjoyed this time getting to know so many of you—mostly through email communication—as I plugged away in solitude in my home office, and also meeting you in person when I attended the Symposiums.

Now I've decided to devote more time and energy to my counseling practice. While I have been an writer and editor

for 30 plus years, I also hold a Master's degree in counseling psychology, and a certificate in hypnotherapy. For the last five years, I've had a part-time psychotherapy and hypnotherapy practice in Greeley, Colorado, where I live. I'll be doing further study and expanding my practice, and will also continue to do some editing projects.

Larry Rimbart has been named the new editor, beginning with the October issue. Larry has an MBA and JD degrees with a strong legal background in various fields. He has been a successful entrepreneur in various countries including Mexico and Venezuela. Larry is a Business Development Consultant and He is the Denver Phenomenon Research Examiner for Examiner.com.

You will see some changes in the *Journal* as Larry works with a more sophisticated graphics program. Watch for the upcoming combined October-November issue as we make this transition.

Best Regards,

Sally Petersen, MA, CHT
salpetersen@comcast.net

Featured SIP Case Report...

Woman reports possible UFO crashing into lake

Case Report: MUFON SIP Category 2 Deployment

Case Number: #18646

Field Investigator: Richard Webb

MUFON Dive team: activated on Standby

Location: Washington County (Forest Lake), Minnesota

Date of Event: July 27, 2009

Newspapers and TV news stations all over the Midwest focused on MUFON Case # 18646 about an alleged UFO crashing into Sylvan Lake in Washington County (Forest Lake), Minnesota.

On the morning of August 13, 2009, MUFON Dispatch evaluated several cases coming into CMS where witnesses reported about 15 divers from the Forest Lake Fire Rescue Dive team and Washington Sheriff's Dept Dive team looking in the water looking for a crashed UFO in the Lake.

A STAR Team CAT 2 Deployment was authorized and the MUFON Dive Team (headed by Debbie Ziegelmeyer) was put on alert. STAR Team Investigator Richard Webb was immediately deployed to the area to conduct a preliminary investigation. (The following contains excerpts taken from the original case report written by Richard Webb.)

MUFON Investigator Richard Webb interviewed the primary witness, who wanted to remain anonymous. The primary witness said that on July 27, 2009, that she was doing laundry in her home basement.

The house sits on a hill and from the back of the house, where the laundry room is located, she could see the lake. She turned around and faced the lake and saw a "line" about 30 feet long on the surface of the water, about 200 yards from the shore. Two (2) waves, one on each side of the "line" and about 12' high, were emanating from each side of the "line." According to the witness the waves traveled outward in opposite directions from the "line." She also saw a circle in the water rotating counter clockwise after the line disappeared.

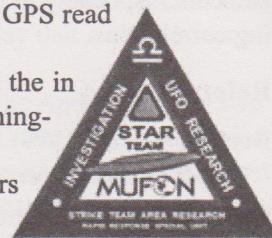
Investigator Richard Webb conducted a very comprehensive investigation. He interviewed various members of the Fire Rescue Department and obtained the official Police reports written by the Sheriff's Office Deputies who were on the scene.

He conducted interviews with the primary witness and personally inspected the area of the lake on a boat. The primary witness and her husband took the investigator out onto the lake in their pontoon boat to the area of where the witness thought the line in the water was. Investigator Webb

took compass readings, tri-meter, and GPS readings at the area of interest.

The primary witness also advised the investigator that deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's Department contacted all of the witness's neighbors that live around the lake to see if anyone had also seen any event that might have happened on the lake. No other witness was found.

The Washington Sheriff's Office prepared a very comprehensive well written report which was also included in the MUFON CMS Case report.



Conclusions

- There were discrepancies with the witness's testimony in the initial reports and discussions with Sheriff's Deputies as compared to testimony later given to MUFON Investigator.
- There was only one witness, who was in the basement of her home when she saw the alleged event, which was wave action in the water.
- According to the primary witness testimony to our investigator, the witness saw a line in the water, 30 feet long. She described it as two waves, one on each side of the line moving away from each other. Then she claimed to see the water swirling counter clockwise and saw bubbles at the surface.
- In her testimony, the witness, used the term "helicopter" in her initial call to the Sheriff's department, even though she couldn't remember exactly what she said, because she was so excited at the time she called the authorities
- Forest Lake Fire Dept Rescue Dive team and Sheriff Dept Dive team responded immediately, because the Police Radio Dispatcher mentioned a "possible helicopter crash."
- Forest Lake Fire Dept Rescue Dive team didn't find anything relating to a helicopter.
- The primary witness testified to our investigators that she did not ever see anything airborne or see anything go into the water (or crash into the water).
- According to the Sheriff's Report, the sheriff's deputies used side scanning sonar in the area of the possible event.

Continued on page 9

Featured SIP Case Report...

Two men see three black triangles in Virginia

Case Report: MUFON SIP Category 2 Deployment

Case Number: #18855

Investigator: Norman Gagnon

Location: Manassas, Virginia (County of Prince George)

Date of Event: August 23, 2009

Time of Event: 3:30 PM Eastern Time

On Sunday, August 23rd, 2009 at approximately 3:30 PM, two Virginia men were in their backyard working on the house. One man was on the roof cleaning the gutters. They both witnessed an unusual *aerial phenomenon*. They both saw three black triangular/chevron UFOs hovering above the house, which is located 9 miles south of Dulles International Airport. According to the witnesses the UFOs maneuvered over the house for approximately 7 minutes.

On August 25, 2009, a CAT 2 STAR Team Deployment in Manassas, Virginia, was authorized and Norman Gagnon was assigned as lead investigator. (The following contains excerpts taken from the original case report written by Norm Gagnon.)

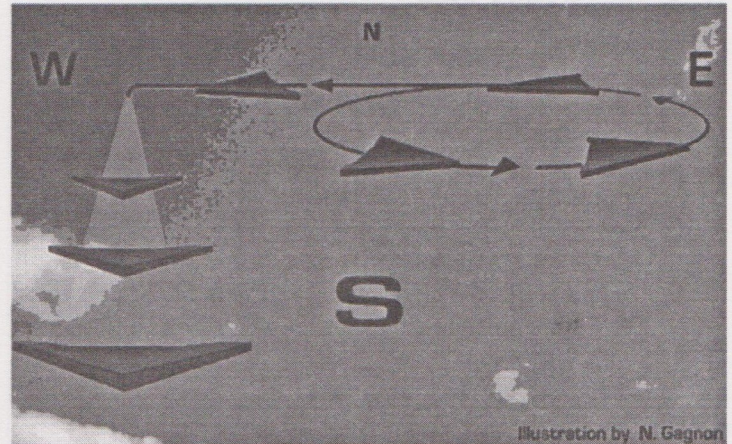
UFO in Minnesota Lake

Continued from page 8

The witness was asked to stand on her back deck with another deputy and guide the sheriff's boat to the area where she said she saw bubbles at the water's surface.

- The deputy said in his report, "I dropped a marker and she also indicated that the linear wave came from the far side of the lake, which I traveled to and placed a marker there. These two markers were approximately 1/4 mile apart."
- The deputy also stated that he made eight (8) passes with the Side Scan Sonar. His report then said, "We did find one anomaly approximately 30 yards from where the witness told us to put the marker, the anomaly appears to be an object approximately the size of a dryer or wash machine. It appears to be man-made in origins as it is not a rounded object."
- Investigator Richard Webb found no evidence to support that anything actually crashed into Sylvan Lake in Washington County, Minnesota.

Richard Lang
STAR Team Manager
SIP Project Coordinator



The investigator found both men to be credible and professional. Primary witness "A" is a registered nurse and Witness "B" works for the United States Secret Service agency, but no other details were given.

Witness A first observed a low flying 767 commercial plane preparing to land at Dulles Airport. Soon after the plane went overhead, both witnesses noticed the three black, triangular/chevron shaped UFOs hovering above them. The crafts appeared to be dark metal, about the size of mid-size sedans.

The UFOs flew below cloud level and seemed to be right at the middle of the planes' landing flight path at Dulles. According to the Witness testimony, the UFOs seems to be "playfully" flying in a circular, clock-wise formation, hovering smoothly and were evenly spaced.

The UFOs were also ascending while in motion. Minutes later, the UFOs broke formation and shot across the westerly sky, took a sharp turn and disappeared toward the south. Witness "A" stated "*These triangular crafts maneuvered very, very fast... objectively, there is no explanation that is of this world in my opinion and the G-force would have been way too strong for any human to endure.*"

According to both witnesses, the Triangles did not emit sound nor did they affect home electronic or electrical equipment. No vapor trails were seen. There were no dogs or any other pets in the vicinity for both witnesses to take notice if any animals were affected by the presence of these UFOs.

Richard Lang
STAR Team Manager
SIP Project Coordinator

See list of SIP Cases on page 10

SIP Cases for July 2009

➤ Case # 17919, CAT 2

Location: Howell, Michigan
Investigator: Patty Donahue
State Coordinator: Patty Donahue
Event Date: 7-7-09
Deployment date: 7-10-09
Noteworthy details: "At least 15 blinking lights in red, white, yellow and sometimes blue. As we drew even closer it became clear that it was very, very large. We both got the feeling it was as large as a 747. When we drove under it, we could see it had no wings and was completely stationary."
Disposition: Insufficient data

➤ Case # 17960, CAT 2

Location: Somis, California
(county of Ventura)
Investigators: Ruben Uriarte &
Chuck Fetterman
State Coordinator: Ruben Uriarte
Event Date: 7-5-09
Deployment date: 7-20-09
Noteworthy details: Four witnesses, three events. Object appeared to have landed or hovered close to ground. Approx 30 ft wide, 20 ft tall, cone shaped, seven portholes illuminated from within, unknown color. Coyotes were howling excitedly, which is unusual.
Disposition: Pending

➤ Case # 17997, CAT 3

Location: Thornville, Ohio
(county of Licking)
Investigator: Connie McNichols
State Coordinator: Connie McNichols
Event date: 6-12-09
Deployment date: 7-10-09
Noteworthy details: Female executive saw human-like being in neighbor's yard; it appeared out of nowhere, took 15–20 steps, maybe a distance of 30 feet, very rapidly then disappeared into nothing... it was invisible (like the alien in the movie Predator)
Disposition: Pending

➤ Case # 18156, CAT 3

Location: Sherwood, Oregon
(county of Washington)
Investigator: Devlin Rugne
State Coordinator: Tom Bowden

Event date: 7-17-09 (3 months' duration)
Deployment date: 7-18-09
Noteworthy details: "Every night for past three months, my family and I have observed "Spinners" in the night skies over our home in Sherwood, Oregon. To the unaided eye, they have the appearance of very bright stars with a distinct shape and brilliant light, with flashes of color. With binoculars you can see the underside of the crafts spinning."
Disposition: Unknown—other

➤ Case # 18187, CAT 3

Location: Scottsdale, Arizona
(county of Maricopa)
Investigator: Christine Dickey
State Coordinator: George Parks
Event date: 7-18-09
Deployment date: 07-19-09
Noteworthy details: Woke up to glowing bluish light in bedroom with all lights off. Witness was bleeding at naval upon waking up. Witness says electricity kept

SIP—The STAR Impact Project

The STAR Impact Project (SIP) is a program funded by Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS) whereby MUFON is subcontracted to provide information on the UFO phenomenon. The SIP project, operational since April 2009, will help us get us closer to understanding the UFO phenomenon. (STAR stands for Strike Team Area Research; it is MUFON's Rapid Response Special Unit.)

Our Dispatch Operation works continuous shifts throughout the day, monitoring CMS and reviewing all the new cases. (CMS is MUFON's online Case Management System.) Deployments involving paid Field Investigators began in April.

Each month in the *MUFON Journal*, we feature one or two of the more compelling cases we deployed on during that month. We will also provide a case listing of all SIP STAR Team deployments for that month.

Richard Lang
MUFON STAR Team Manager
MUFON SIP Project Coordinator

Reports from the Field. . .

SIP Cases

Continued from page 10

going on and off in bedroom area. Roommate also had unexplained events.

Disposition: Unknown—other

➤ Case #18370, CAT 3

Location: San Jose, California
(county of Santa Clara)

Investigator: Chuck Fetterman &
Steve Reichmuth

State Coordinator: Steve Reichmuth

Event date: 6-27-09

Deployment date: 7-28-09

Noteworthy details: "Bright light overhead. It started getting closer to us, then it stopped over our patio. I got my phone out and started taking videos of the object. It was 20 ft. away. Then four human-like people jumped off onto my patio."

Disposition: IFO—Manmade objects.
(Investigator observed air-planes that witness claimed were UFOs.)

➤ Case # 18254, CAT 2

Location: New London, Connecticut
(county of New London)

Investigator: Ken Pfeifer

State Coordinator: Steve Firmani

Event date: 7-6-09, 11:20 PM

Deployment date: 7-30-09

Noteworthy details: Large triangle one mile each side emitting electrical discharges; deep red glow coming from bottom center. Witness felt electrical field around him throughout the night.

Disposition: Pending

➤ Case # 18386, CAT 2

Location: Fairbury, Nebraska

Investigator: Richard Webb

State Coordinator: Leslie Varnicle

Event date: 7-23-09, 2:30 AM

Deployment date: 7-30-09

Noteworthy details: A pulsating self-illuminated light about the size of a dinner platter was observed floating stationary about 4 feet above a city street. Witnesses called police; policeman also observed object.

Disposition: Unknown—other.

Definitions of Categories

MUFON Dispatch Operators review all cases that come into CMS and part of their responsibility is to categorize each case as a CAT 1, CAT 2, or CAT 3. The dispatchers use a series of questions to categorize each case. The questions are based on the traditional Jacques Vallee classifications. In brief, the categories can be defined as such:

CAT 1) The witness sees a strange or unidentified light(s) or object(s) in the sky.

CAT 2) The unidentified light(s) or object(s) is observed to have landed on the ground or in some way affected the immediate physical environment.

CAT 3) The witness also experienced one or more of the following during or after the event:

- A) Observations of beings or entities
- B) interaction with nonhuman entities
- C) episodes of missing time
- D) wounds or trauma to body of unknown origin
- E) taken onboard a craft
- F) telepathic communication
- G) out of body experience
- H) encounter with an unknown animal

The Dispatcher will contact the witness if more information is needed.

Turn to pages 12-13 to read some MUFON sighting reports of the phenomenon described on pages 3 and 4, related to the Black Brant rocket launch in New Jersey on September 19.

Correction

MUFON Benefactor **James Whitley** was incorrectly identified as John Whitley on page 13 of the August issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. The Editor regrets the error.

Reports from the Field. . .



Object photographed with a cell phone over a Phoenix residential street. MUFON CMS database



The object is moving away and has tilted. MUFON CMS database.

Girl, 12, photographs UFO in neighborhood

Submitted by Roger Marsh

A 12-year-old Arizona girl was getting the mail when she spotted a UFO hovering over her neighborhood street and snapped two images with her cell phone camera, according to a report filed with the MUFON CMS database.

The mother states that her daughter snapped the first photo where the object appears to hover above the street. In the second photo, the object is moving away and has tilted.

Following is the unedited report filed by the child's mother.

MUFON Case # 19210
Arizona, May 2009

Round squat object, flat on bottom with thicker midsection and tapering top.

My 12-year-old daughter went to check the mail box and as she walked outside our house she witnessed floating above our street a round object not too far in the distance. She quickly grabbed her cell phone in her pocket and snapped off two photos.

This happened on a school day approximately around May 2009 around 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Sorry, I do not remember the exact dates.

What is interesting is she managed to capture the object as it tilted and moved off. You can see the landmarks of the houses and the trees to get a distance measurement and size approximation of the object.

She was very excited when she showed me the pictures. I think the whole event lasted only for a few seconds.

Look at the [first photo above]. The object should be seen stationary. The other photo [shows] the object moving away from the camera over the trees.

Investigators' conclusion: Unknown

Sighting reports sparked by Black Brant Rocket Launch

Compiled by Roger Marsh

Over at the MUFON witness reporting area (CMS online), many testimonies were filed on the day of the Black Brant rocket launch (see pages 3–4), including these:

NJ, September 19, 2009 – MUFON Case # 19498.

Object made Mist/Cloud, mist enveloped object, object disappeared. About 20 folks at an outdoor dinner party in Pittstown reported an unusual object at 7:30 p.m. EST “between Saturn and the Constellation Sagittarius” that generated a cloud or mist.

PA, September 19, 2009 – MUFON Case # 19491.

Large bright light with triangular beam emanating from below. This Pennsylvania witness reported a bright, round light moving east across the sky that had a beam shining down from it, and then mist that “traveled for another 15 to 20 seconds and then evaporated.”

Continued on page 13

Reports from the Field. . .

Sighting Reports

Continued from page 12

PA, September 19, 2009 – MUFON Case # 19490.

Cone Shaped Beam of Light Descends From Sky. Another Pennsylvania report from Brookeville at about 8 p.m. CST describes a bright point of light followed by a cone-shaped beam of light. MUFON Case # 19486 seems to be the same witness.

PA, September 19, 2009 – MUFON Case # 19488.

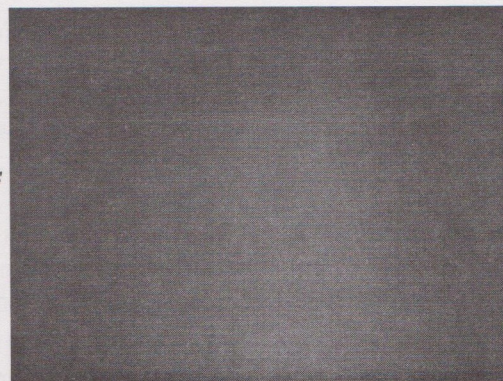
Bright light - upside down cone. A Pennsylvania report describes “a bright cone-like” object “to the left of Mercury. CN, September 19, 2009 – MUFON Case # 19483. Bright stationary light shining down from an undecipherable object in cone shape pattern that just faded from sight without movement. A group from Connecticut reported that at 8 p.m. CST they saw “a very bright light in a cone shaped pattern.”

ME, September 19, 2009 – MUFON Case # 19482.

During Acadia Night Sky Photography Workshop, an

Cone of light photographed by witness in New Jersey. This photo is from Filer's Files #39, Sept. 23, 2009.

www.nationalufocenter.com



unidentified bright object appeared and then disappeared. And finally, this report from a night sky photography class where 15 people observed a “cone of light” at 7:50 p.m. EST. The group was obviously photographing the sky – and the photograph here is one of them.

See this amazing photo (not the one above) of cone-shaped light at Mudon.com, #19482 in CMS (Case Management System). Go to link:

http://www.mufoncms.com/files/19482_submitter_file2_Acadia-NightSkyWorkshop2-Ray.jpg

Monthly Statistical Report for August 2009

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In August 2009 there were 560 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS from the following countries:

Reports	Country
452	United States
30	United Kingdom
25	Canada
5 each:	Argentina, Italy
3 each:	Costa Rica
2 each:	Spain, France, Germany, China, Ireland, Denmark, New Zealand, Brazil, Peru
1 each:	Australia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Norway, Greece, Iraq, Sweden, Bulgaria, Colombia, U.S. minor outlying islands, Croatia, Mexico, Vietnam, Iran, Estonia, Austria, Namibia, Honduras, Cyprus

Total: 557

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

State	Reports	State	Reports	State	Reports
California	55	Nevada	9	Maine	2
Texas	38	Louisiana	8	Oklahoma	3
Pennsylvania	35	Arkansas	6	Virginia	2
Arizona	27	Massachusetts	6	Rhode Island	2
Colorado	22	Minnesota	6	North Carolina	2
Ohio	20	Tennessee	6	Kentucky	2
Michigan	19	Alabama	5	Montana	2
Florida	19	New Mexico	5	Utah	2
Indiana	18	Iowa	5	Hawaii	1
Washington	17	Wisconsin	5	Vermont	1
New Jersey	16	Georgia	5	New Hampshire	1
Oregon	14	Maryland	4	West Virginia	1
New York	14	South Carolina	4	South Dakota	1
Missouri	12	Nebraska	4		
Illinois	10	Idaho	3		
Connecticut	10	Kansas	3		

Calendar . . .

September 19. *The Biggest UFO Story of 2008!*
Angelia Joiner, Texas Newspaper Reporter, on the
Stephenville Lights. Memphis, TN
www.nightsearch.net/indexspeakerseries.htm, or
contact Eddie Middleton, 901-503-4994

September 25–27. *A Galactic Gathering.*
Norma Milanovich, Arthur David Horn, Leo Sprinkle,
Wendelle Stevens, Sheldon Nidle, Stan Romanek, Rainbow
Eagle. Denver, CO. www.GalacticCivilizations.org

October 3–4. *6th Irish International UFO Conference.*
B. Meyler, H. Akdogan, G. Cameron, A. Foster, G. Heseltine,
D. Hodrien, P. O’Conner, J. Summerscales. Boyle Co.
Roscommon, Ireland.
www.ufosocietyireland.com/conference.htm

October 9–10. *Philadelphia UFO Conference.*
B. Witkowski, B. Barnes, B. Downing, W. Allen, S. Friedman,
R. Dolan, J. Stein, J. Ventre, T. Carey, P. Robbins, C. Feindt, S.
Swiatek, R. Swiatek, R.E. Guiley. Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.
Call John Ventre 724-836-1266 or www.pamufon.com
(Please see ad in August *MUFON Journal*.)

October 10–11. *UFO / ET Congress*
B. Witkowski, V. Dana, K. Marcattilio, M. O’Connell, C.
Bledsoe, Y. Bledsoe, W. Allen, R.E. Guiley, B. Biernes, N.
Biernes, P. Moon, plus mystery speaker. Bordentown, NJ.
www.Drufo.org, or call Pat J. Marcattilio 609-631-8955

October 16. *4th Annual Mass UFO Show.*
Watertown, MA. www.ufoshow.org

October 17. *Pittsburgh UFO Conference.*
B. Witkowski, E. Altman, S. Gordon, J. Ventre, B. Downing, B.
Birnes, D. Jacobs, P. Wilson. Youngwood, PA.
Call John Ventre 724-836-1266 or www.pamufon.com
(Please see ad in August *MUFON Journal*.)

October 24. *Mysteries of Space & Sky VI.*
Dr. S.. Peter Resta, Budd Hopkins, Col. Charles Halt,
Capt. Robert Durant, Rob & Sue Swiatek, Rosemary Ellen
Guiley, Nicholas Roesler, Peter Franks. Baltimore, MD.
Contact Dr. Peter S. Resta at spr100@aol.com

October 24–26. *Contact: Countdown to Transformation.*
Steven Greer, MD, Colin Andrews, Theodore Loder, PhD, Lynne
Kitei, MD. Rio Rico, AZ. <http://cseti.org/contact>

November 6–8. *7th Annual UFO Crash Retrieval Conference.*
S. Bassett, R. Wood, P. Robbins, L. Moulton Howe, R. Dolan, J.
Clarkson, M. Schrat, M. Salla, K. Thomas, N. Redfern, R.
Wood, J. Carrion. Las Vegas, NV. www.ufoconference.com

January 7–10. *Earth Transformation Conference.*
Kona, Hawaii. www.earthtransformation.com

List your event here. Email editor@mufon.com

Letter to the Editor . . .

Dear Editor,

One can't help but be impressed with the rapid growth of sighting reports worldwide. With each issue of our *Journal*, it is becoming more and more apparent.

In my community, people—when finding out that I am a MUFON investigator and researcher—are approaching me as never before and telling me of their sightings—in some cases more than one. Most of them act surprised when I tell them that their seeing a UFO is no longer unusual. Of course these are the best reports, as they are not sharing their story with any attempt to make things up. Often they act sheepish in telling me, even knowing they will not be frowned upon. Along with craft sightings, I am also having more and more persons taking pictures that have orbs in them. A lady the other day asked me what were these “strange circles” were on one of her pictures? She had taken a rapid series of pictures at night of her family with a mountain in the background. It had not been raining. Of the four photos, only one had these circles. I told her they may be orbs, and that I

would like to see that picture. She responded, “and what are orbs?” No fakery here!

Here in southwestern North Carolina near and around the town of Cashiers there have been a number of spectacular sighting and communications from the craft repeatedly appearing in that vicinity. This can be found on the extensive website skyshipovercashiers.com. If our membership has not yet visited that website, they need to. Mentioned there is also an accounting of the massive sized craft identifying itself as the Blue Moon, and its messages to us.

Donald Cooper
MUFON Investigator and Researcher
Spruce Pine, NC

MUFON has no knowledge whether sightings reported at the website listed in the letter have been investigated. Readers can search for North Carolina sightings at www.MUFON.com. Select “UFO Case Files,” then “Search UFO Database,” and enter the parameters of your search.

Volunteer of the Month. . .

Thank you, Volunteers!

To All State Volunteers:

It was a great disappointment for me to miss the MUFON 40th Anniversary and Symposium and not be able to attend the State Directors meeting. I had talked with James many months ago and told him of my plans for Mrs. Reeve and me to take a road trip to Alaska through British Columbia and the Yukon. We had planned this trip several years ago but MUFON asked me to join them and help direct activities and do a lot of writing, so this adventure was placed on hold until this year.

I have heard the Symposium was a success with terrific talks. We know that MUFON is moving forward at a rapid pace and improving so many areas of the organization, it is sometimes hard to keep track of the changes. One of my responsibilities is to observe the progress of investigations, note changes, and recommend improvements where required. If one looks at the past history of the Ranking reports over the past several years one thing is obvious: all of you have done a masterful job with investigations. About three months ago just before I started to travel, I was as absolutely surprised to see that there were no "0" rankings. I talked with James and Jan Harzan and they said, *yes—and did you see all of the 100% ranking for so many states?*

All of this is attributed to you the State Directors, Assistant State Directors, Chief Investigators, State Section Directors, and Field Investigators.

I cannot thank all of you enough for the hard work and dedication you have given MUFON.

Please remember that I am available to help train new investigators on CMS and any other way I may assist you. Deputy Directors of Investigations Terry Groff, Ruben Uriarte, and Training Administrator Lorna Hunter are also pleased to help you when called. Terry also acts as CMS Administrator in Texas and assists in managing United States

Domestic activity, and Ruben is the State Director in Northern California and manages MUFON's international investigations. Lorna Hunter is Assistant State Director for Minnesota and State Director for South Dakota.

Chuck Reeve
Director of Investigations

See CMS Rankings monthly on page 21.

Nowegian UFO evidence Blog

Dear Editor,

Greetings from Norway!

I wish to commend MUFON for the great work your members are doing. Your Web site is excellent and very informative.

Personally, I run the "UFOs Found in Real TV Broadcasts" blogspot: <http://realtvufos.blogspot.com/>

This blog presents UFO evidence recorded or obtained by any media or government source. In short, I research the 'real' and official UFO evidence. I try to the best of my ability to include only news reports, which most reasonable people would agree bring forth credible UFO evidence and are presented in a fair way. The ?Real TV Broadcasts? part of my blog deals with UFO footages which have been found in regular TV programmes.

Several very interesting Norwegian UFO cases are presented on my blog. The blog has a link on the Paradigm Research Group, UFOs Northwest Web sites respectively.

Please inform MUFON members about my blog. I've added a link to MUFON on my blog.

Alfred Røsberg, Norway (Scandinavia)

walt

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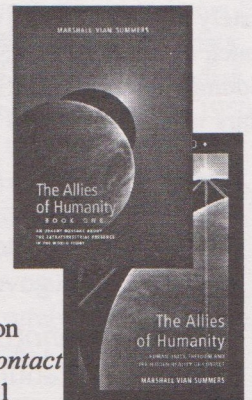
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Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

Tribute to Chandra: the man and the observatory

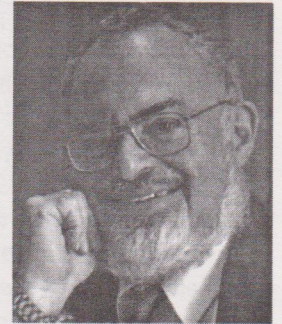
I don't usually pay much attention to anniversaries of various events. But I decided to make an exception when I noticed that NASA in mid-August was honoring the 10th anniversary of the first observations by the quite remarkable Chandra X-Ray Space Observatory. Besides its incredible scientific benefits, it also touched on some closer-to-home values. It is named after Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, universally referred to as Chandra. I took a course in Quantum Mechanics under him at the University of Chicago in the early 1950s. He was actually based at the Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, a part of the University of Chicago, and drove down to teach the course. He was a great astrophysicist who was finally awarded half the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983.

He was born in India in 1910, the same year as my father and Dr. J. Allan Hynek. He was one of 10 children, was homeschooled until he was 12, and was the nephew of C. Venkata Raman (1888-1970), another Nobel Prize winning (1930) physicist from India. Chandra won scholarships to study in England and early on derived what is today referred to as the Chandrasekhar Limit for White Dwarf stars. Unfortunately his notions were ridiculed by the much older Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington for years. ASE claimed all stars would collapse to a White Dwarf

when they ran out of fuel. It took a lot of years for the astrophysics community to recognize that Chandra was right. Depending on the star's mass, it could become a black hole or a neutron star, both very strange items indeed. But the attacks were one of the reasons he left the UK to take a position at the University of Chicago in 1937, where he stayed for the remainder of his life.

One of the remarkable aspects of his career was that he made very sophisticated mathematical/physics computations long before sophisticated computers were available. He would spend several years in one area of astrophysics, write a definitive book, switch to another area for several years, write another book and move on. His areas of interest included white dwarf stars, super nova, black holes, and the lives and deaths of the great variety of stellar objects out there. I was surprised to learn that his highly technical books sold a total of over 100,000 copies. I also hadn't known that during World War 2, he worked in areas important to the war effort for the Aberdeen Proving grounds. These included the theory of shock waves, ballistic tests and neutron diffusion. In addition he almost single handedly turned the *Astrophysical Journal* into a very important journal while serving as editor for 19 years.

The achievements of the Chandra Observatory certainly are in keeping with the breadth of scientific activities of the man revealing to the whole world an entirely new understanding of what the universe is like.



Stanton Friedman

By using X-rays instead of visible light, the universe surely looks different than when seen in visible light. The Hubble space telescope provides that in spades. The Compton Observatory early on provided us with a view of gamma ray sources, and the Fermi Gamma Ray Space telescope reached orbit in 2008. Enrico Fermi was another Nobel Prize winning physicist based at the University of Chicago. New and strange and undreamed of stellar objects continue to be found.

The planning or at least thinking about an X-ray observatory began way back in the 1970s. Some of the originators such as Dr. Martin Weisskopf, the scientific director of the project, are still involved. One of the many special aspects of the new system was that when it was carried aloft by the space shuttle Columbia in 1999, its total weight was 55,000 pounds, the heaviest load ever lifted by a shuttle. Most of that was the Inertial Upper Stage propulsion system needed to establish a very elongated orbit. At its highest point it is about a third of the way to the moon rather than in low earth orbit. This allows for continuous observations

For more information on the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, go to:
www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/chandra/main/index.html.

For images photographed by Chandra, go to:
<http://chandra.harvard.edu/photo/category.html>

for 55 hours of the total orbital period of 65 hrs. The Earth is out of the way most of that time. The Space Station, in contrast, only takes 90 minutes to orbit the earth. The observatory itself only weighs 10,600 pounds, but it has an extraordinary angular resolution over one thousand times better than that of the first orbiting X-ray telescope. I am particularly intrigued by the possibility that Chandra may have already observed some “quark” stars. People have asked me for suggestions about an interstellar propulsion system beyond nuclear fusion. I have suggested that since the amount of energy per particle goes up greatly when the size of the object (from the atom to the nucleus) goes way down, maybe the same thing happens when we go from the nucleus to the much smaller quarks of which fundamental particles like neutrons and protons are supposedly made. Talk about cutting edge technology!

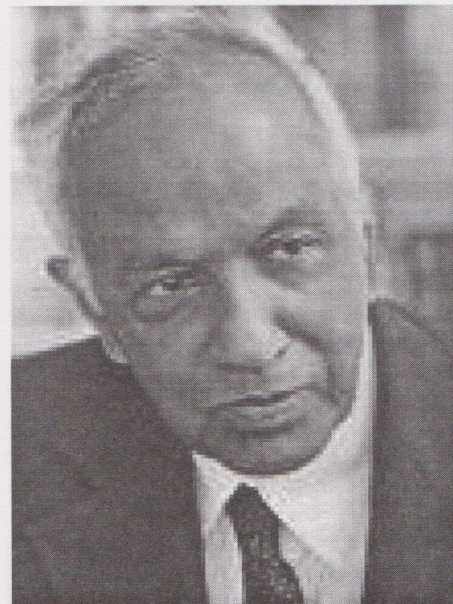
Another personal connection I found was that the Observatory package was integrated by TRW Systems, now known as Northrop Grumman. I worked for TRW Systems in Redondo Beach, California, on the Pioneer 10 and 11 Spacecraft which have left the solar system after going past Jupiter and the outer planets... way back in 1970. That was fun.

Also of special interest to me was the opposition of a highly respected British Astrophysicist Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington (1882-1944) to Chandra’s theoretical derivation of the notion that if a Star’s mass was greater than 1.41 times the mass of the sun, it would not collapse to a White Dwarf. If it was much larger, it would become a black hole or neutron star upon its death. Eddington had been a very creative scientist—being an early champion of Einstein’s General Relativity—and was also head of the eclipse expedition in 1919 which first measured the apparent displacement of the light from a star when it passed by the sun... a truly far-out idea, but actually true. In any event, Eddington actually ridiculed Chandra’s

work and this delayed work on Black Holes, neutron stars, and so forth for at least 20 years. Chandra’s Nobel Prize was probably delayed for at least that long as well. After all, Eddington was 28 years older than Chandra and extremely well established.

One reason this intrigues me is that Kathleen Marden (who did most of the work on our book *Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience*) and I are working on a new book *Science Was Wrong*. (The Publisher changed the title from “It’s impossible, isn’t It?”) We have focused on many instances in which a bright, well established, senior scientist’s opposition to new ideas delayed progress for many years. In the medical world this often resulted in many unnecessary deaths. Nobody died because of Eddington’s opposition to Chandra’s revolutionary ideas, but our understanding of that strange universe out there was long delayed by Eddington’s pronouncements. I must admit one of my mantras for many years has been that progress comes from doing things differently in an unpredictable way. X-ray astronomy was born in the 1960s with the launch of Uhuru in 1970. It observed a few hundred sources. Chandra has a hundred thousand times the sensitivity and has made more than 9500 observations. One of many interesting and surprising findings was that both Mars and Venus emit X-rays.

Another more important discovery was that the Cas A Supernova remnant (in the constellation of Cassiopeia—that big W in the sky) had in the course of that supernova explosion sent material thundering into surrounding gases at 10 million miles an hour. There were violent shock waves that produced an enormous 50 million degree bubble of X-ray emitting gas. The heavy elements (having atomic numbers well above those of the lightest gasses, hydrogen and helium) produce X-rays of specific energies and tell us how much of each element is present and give us a much greater indication than was known

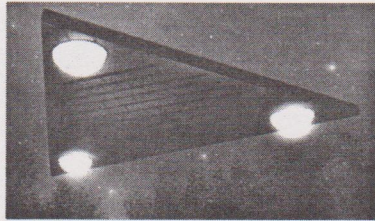


Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

earlier of the production of those elements in the universe. The skies give the appearance of being peaceful. In truth it is clear when studying the X-rays that there is a great deal of violence going on. We should be grateful, since, without it, we wouldn’t be here. Or as Carl Sagan used to say: “we are star stuff”.

I have often complained that one of the false arguments made by UFO debunkers has been that “Absence of Evidence is evidence of Absence.” If I can’t provide a piece of an alien spacecraft or an alien body, they claim that such items don’t exist. Without Chandra, there would be much less, if any, data about what is happening out there and has been happening for ages even when we couldn’t observe it. I don’t have a high level security clearance and don’t have a need to know for the highly classified government data about bodies and wreckage. Canadian Wilbert Smith noted way back in 1950 that UFOs were the most classified topic in the USA. I and other serious scientists seeking the inside story don’t have a new observing technique for accessing the government’s store of UFO data. That surely doesn’t mean there is none there. I thought it was

Continued on page 20



Filer's Files

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Japan's Next Prime Minister's Wife Flew to Venus on a UFO

TOKYO—Miyuki Hatoyama, a former actress and wife of Yukio Hatoyama — who will likely be sworn in as Japan's prime minister on September 16 2009, promises to



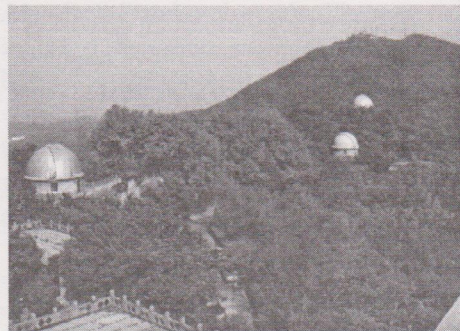
become one of Japan's most colorful first ladies ever. A strong believer in spiritualism, Hatoyama said in a TV appearance earlier this year claims that her soul traveled to Venus on a UFO. "I have a dream that I still believe will come true, which is to make a film in Hollywood with Tom Cruise because I knew him in a previous life. I also eat the sun," Hatoyama said on the program, looking up with her eyes closed, raising her arms high as if she was tearing pieces off an imaginary sun. "Like this, hum, hum, hum. It gives me enormous energy." "My husband has recently started doing that too," said the 66-year-old Hatoyama, who was born to Japanese parents in Shanghai and met her husband in the United States where he was a PhD student at Stanford.

The Democratic Party of Japan, which her husband heads, scored a sweeping victory in recent elections for the 480-seat lower house of parliament, winning 308 seats and ending the ruling party's virtually uninterrupted more than half-century domination of government. His party's majority means he is a shoo-in to be the

next prime minister. Miyuki Hatoyama, a former actress, dancer and singer in the hugely popular Takarazuka Revue all-female theater group, wrote in a book published last year about her surrealistic space trip about 20 years ago. "While my body was sleeping, I think my spirit flew on a triangular-shaped UFO to Venus," she said in the book called "Most Bizarre Things I've Encountered," according to an Internet bookstore. "It was an extremely beautiful place and was very green," she said. The book is a compilation of interviews with 26 prominent people originally published in her "Miracle Interview" column in the monthly spiritual magazine "Mu." She is also known for her healthy cooking and making her husband look presentable and healthy.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences Performs UFO Video Analysis

Scientists at the Purple Mountain Observatory in Nanjing are reported to have confirmed that they filmed a UFO during the eclipse for 40 minutes. The Observatory is famous for discovering of 147 asteroids. They say that they will spend the next 12 months studying the footage before drawing any conclusions. The director of the observatory, Ji Hai-sheng, told sina.com



that scientists would not be speculating publicly on the nature of what was captured on film until it had been properly studied. He added: "Purple Mountain Observatory and Chinese Academy of Sciences said that during the July 22, 2009, total solar eclipse observation, China had discovered near the

sun, by observing staff, an unidentified object; its physical nature remains to be further studied. "Currently manpower is being organized to deal with this data, complete the data analysis and reveal the scientific results and this will take at least one year's time to finalize."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/ufo/6148974/Chinese-scientists-filmed-UFO-for-40-minutes.html> Thanks to Jeff Hansen

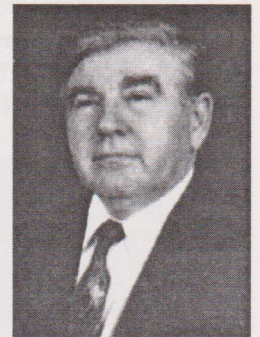
Hacker Uncovered US Off-Planet Space Navy

Gary McKinnon, the English hacker facing 70 years in U.S. prison for searching Pentagon sites for UFO evidence, says the weirdest thing he found was a list of "Non-Terrestrial Officers" and fleet transfers between ships that don't exist in the U.S. Navy.



Note: This is possibly a profoundly important development. If Mr. McKinnon's data is correct, it validates the assumption the US Navy may well be operating off-planet via back-engineered ET technology. His data indicates the Navy and probably the Air Force operate a fleet of space craft and officers to either man them or otherwise control them. The Clementine mission, you will recall it was a US Navy project which mapped the entire Moon.

Gary McKinnon states, "I found a list of fleet-to-fleet transfers, and a list of ship names. I looked them up. They weren't U.S. Navy ships. What I saw made me believe they have some kind of spaceship, off-



George Filer

planet". http://www.sploid.com/news/2005/07/hacker_uncovere.php

Alabama Four Balls of Light

SPANISH FORT -- It was about 1 AM, Sunday August 23, 2009, my husband and I went outside to smoke and instantly noticed this huge blinking light over Highway 31 about three miles away. My husband brought to my attention that planes only flash red and green lights while this object was flashing red, green, blue and orange lights in vibrant colors. It was swaying from side to side. My husband ran and got our camera and binoculars but my camera wouldn't catch the object but when we looked through the binoculars you could see clearly that it was the most perfect circle ball shape ever. It stayed hovering in the same spot for an hour launching three smaller versions of the light circle with vibrant color flashes. This was no helicopter, weather balloon, or aircraft.

Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

California – Mysterious skin markings

HOLLYWOOD – I awoke at 4:45 AM, on September 16, 2009, due to a burning pain in my right arm at the elbow nearest my body. I felt an area of skin that seemed hot and burning. I noticed a whitish substance on my arm that easily came off when I touched it.

There was a single line about 1 inch long where the skin was broken in a very neat line like a razor blade would make. This opening in the skin seemed very shallow and there was no bleeding. Around this cut was a four inch area of skin that was slightly reddened with streaks of white tissue that were raised from the normal level of skin like an allergic reaction. Between these white raised lines was reddened skin. No pain or itching was present. The only discomfort was in the area of the single line "break" in the skin which burned when I touched it.

I had a somewhat similar episode about four months ago on the outer part of my left thigh. On this occasion, again in the early morning hours, I took a photo of the skin which had a large red spot in the middle of two small puncture marks that were all lined up in a straight line spaced about 3 or 4 inches apart but directly on line.

Michigan – Saw Two UFOs

ROGERS CITY – On September 8, 2009, I pulled into a gas station, looked up and saw two UFOs flying toward Lake Huron. They made no sound, and were brighter than nearby Venus. UFOs powered up and then faded out. Both were traveling the same direction and altitude. My girlfriend, her brother, and two people at the gas station and I witnessed the UFOs. One was the clerk who came out of the store. I stepped out of my truck and got my digital camera to take a few pictures with the flash on, and then turned on the video mode and got two clips. Thanks to MUFON CMS

New Jersey – Disc Flies out of Delaware River

TRENTON – The witness reported on September 9, 2009, "I was working the overnight [shift] in a retirement living assistance building. I was on tour checking and securing the building. I work in contract security; I happen to be a very observant when it comes to details and when something is out of place and doesn't seem right. So around midnight, just the start of my shift, up on the 12th floor (top floor) I noticed on the south corridor the tenant from Apt #1201, Miss Green, who stared out the window talking about aliens, saucers and a home base under the Delaware River. As I approached her, she said "*Look at the moon, there's more than one, look, there are aliens here.*" She was in the tone of imaginative spirit and so convinced that they simply exist. After I get back to post I noticed papers scattered over my console with drawings and notes, and some unclear handwriting stating aliens are here and their home base is there located along with directional arrows telling me where the aliens are."

The security officer followed her instructions and has also seen saucers entering and leaving the river.

RARITAN – On September 8, 2009, about 9 PM it was getting pretty warm so I decided to go outside to get some air. The first thing I noticed the cloudy sky was devoid of stars except for just this one. It was orangish and about the size of a BB (as in BB gun). About a minute later, I noticed it was moving toward me until it was right over my head. Suddenly the orangish "star" just blinked out and two lights, one bright white

and the other a ruby red appeared near each other. Each of these lights was half the size of the "BB". They continued flying but after a few seconds they also blinked out. Throughout the entire sighting there was total silence. Later that night we all gathered on my cousin's patio and I observed a number of aircraft fly over which were immediately recognizable as such going by light pattern and engine sound. What I observed earlier was totally different. I am a MUFON member and had a previous sighting over 15 years ago. Thanks to MUFON CMS

North Carolina – Chevron Seen by Pilot

RALEIGH – This is a report of a sighting that happened on October 3 or 5, 1992, while flying a Boeing 727 for a major airline. We were approaching Raleigh RDU airport in North Carolina at 1:37 PM, from the northeast, when I observed what I thought was a flight of two F-16's within thirty five miles of the airport, below 10,000 feet and going 250 KIAS. The First Officer was flying the airplane, and I was looking out ahead of us and saw the sun glinting off them. Raleigh Approach controller didn't call them as traffic, and the next thing I see is a chevron shaped vehicle within an eighth of a mile of us. It is now right outside of my window, just forward off the left wing, traveling the opposite direction at our altitude. The chevron shaped object must have been in a turn earlier, and with the sun glinting off the flashy flyer. It was standing on the tip of its left wing; with the wing being parallel to the surface of the earth. It was perpendicular to us. I watched it for about five seconds before it passed behind our left wing.

I asked the Raleigh Approach controller, "*What just passed us? it was just to our south, and at our altitude, flying from a generally southwest direction to the northeast.*" The controller took a little longer than normal to reply. He said, "I don't have anything on radar." Then he waited a little bit longer, and asked if I had seen anything. I knew it was better, at the time, to keep my mouth shut, so my reply was along the lines of: no, I guess not. The controller didn't press, and I didn't offer anything else. This vehicle was unusual in a couple of ways. It flew on the tip of a wing, level (as it were) and didn't seem to have any problem

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Filer's Files

Continued from page 19

maintaining altitude. There was no visible means of propulsion. It didn't leave any type of trail. It was fifty feet (plus or minus ten feet) from tip to tip, and from its nose to the trailing edge of its wing was no more than maybe twenty to twenty five feet. It was a dull grey, and no lights. There were no markings. After it passed behind the left wing, I asked to FO and FE if they had seen it. They had not. (NUFORC Note: The witness who is a retired senior captain for a major U. S. airline. PD)

Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

Editor's Note: Controllers are instructed not to acknowledge UFOs to aircrews. GF

Ohio Bright Star like Object

TOLEDO – I was standing in my backyard looking up, when I saw a very bright star-like object slowly moving across the sky on September 10, 2009, at 8:29 PM. I have seen this object for the past three nights. The first two nights they were in pairs. The third night it was a single light. I did not think it was a plane because there was no sound and no flashing navigation lights. All three nights that I saw these objects, they were traveling west to east.



As the object floated across the sky, I lost sight of it due to the houses in the distance. I truly felt as though I have witnessed something miraculous. Thanks to MUFON CMS

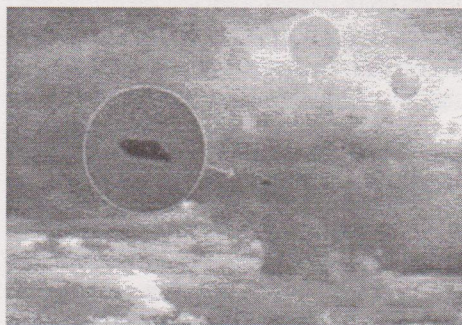
SANDUSKY — My girlfriend Amber, my younger cousin Jordan, and I were standing outside of my home watching a large storm come in on September 5, 2009 at 7 PM. Seconds after another very close lightning strike and hearing fire trucks' sirens, we saw a football shaped object that was dark in the middle and lighter at the edges. It was 500 yards away and seemed slightly bigger than a helicopter. We watched for 15–20 seconds in silence when Amber says "That's not a helicopter..." and then I said, "And it's not a plane!" We then noticed that the area around this object seemed kind of hazy, with some kind of energy around it.

Then it started changing shape. The sky

was completely overcast and parts of the object seemed to disappear as it was the same gray color as the sky. The gray moved into the middle of the object and created a horseshoe shape with a crescent opening at the top. The spot then moved up and to the left or west. The object now changed back to its original shape. We all get very excited at this point and decide to get a camera as it was moving west and climbed in altitude. I ran inside to get my phone to take photos but it was now far off, but still visible so I took four pictures and a short video until it moves into the overcast clouds. We looked at the pictures but you can barely tell it is there. Thanks to Derek Milner

Russia UFOs invade Siberian tourist spot

YAKUTIA — Michael Cohen writes, "Several holidaymakers photographed at



Friedman: Chandra

Continued from page 17

hilarious when in Mid-August Dr. Seth Shostak of the SETI institute asked on Larry King how could any one think the US government could keep big secrets for a long time in view of how badly FEMA operated?. I have noted many examples of multibillion dollar research and development programs kept secret for decades in my book *Flying Saucers and Science*. Last I heard Seth had a copy on his nightstand. Think of Lockheed's Stealth fighter program which spent ten billion dollars and 10 years successfully developing the stealth fighter in total secrecy.

Chandra (both the man and the observatory) has been extraordinarily productive. Just two months after its

launch, Chandra imaged a supernova explosion in the Crab nebula. There were luminous rings of high energy particles surrounding its core. That had never been observed before. As a result of its new technology, new clues have been observed about so called dark energy, dark matter and a variety of black holes, quasars and other strange bodies in the celestial zoo. Originally it was hoped that Chandra would last five years. It has already been ten and many more are expected. Kudos to all those involved and to the inspiration provided by a truly great and courageous scientist and a fine teacher: Subramanyan Chandrasekhar.

Stanton T. Friedman
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www.stantonfriedman.com

least three UFOs above Bear Island on the Lena River. The appearance of the UFO fleet in the vicinity of the village Zhatay coincided with the sensational observations in Shandong, China, where two UFOs were even filmed on video by a TV camera crew on 20 August." My brother celebrated his wedding anniversary on the island, Igor Vylegzhanin told the Russian Media outlet 'Life'.

"A number of people fishing and sunbathing saw the UFOs. All took photographs. There was no audible rumble or roar the weather was sunny and calm. One strange thing happened: mobile communication suddenly began to play up. My friend's mobile phone turned itself off, and then spontaneously switched back on!" Thanks to Michael Cohen Source: Life.ru Kiev Proua info@allnewsweb.com

Excerpted from Filers's Files #37, 9/09/09, and #38, 9/16/09. Uninvestigated reports, unless noted. www.nationalufocenter.com

Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is August's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **David MacDonald** (Kentucky), **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Eddie Middleton** (Tennessee), **Ruben J. Uriarte** (California), **John Ventre** (West Virginia), **John Skare** (Kansas), **Georganne Cifarelli** (California), **Jim King** (Iowa), **Bland Pugh** (Florida), **Steve Firmani** (Maine), **Lorna Hunter** (South Dakota) for being at 100%!!! The top 10 State Directors are highlighted.

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

The "Assigned" column is a six-month running average of the number of cases assigned within 72 hours divided by the total number of cases received in that six month period.

The "Completed" column is the number of cases completed beginning sixty-two (62) days back and going back six months from there (for a total of eight months back) divided by the total number of cases reported in the same period.

The "Weighted Rank" is just the average of the two columns expressed as a percent.

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

If you have any questions or need help with your investigations please contact me, Chuck Reeve, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at merlin@suddenlink.net.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	Kentucky	David MacDonald	100 %	29/29	32/32
2	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	18/18	24/24
3	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 %	44/44	54/54
4	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	100 %	83/83	116/116
5	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	15/15	12/12
6	Kansas	John Skare	100 %	17/17	17/17
7	California	Georganne Cifarelli	100 %	171/171	207/207
8	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	21/21	25/25
9	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 %	145/145	198/198
10	Maine	Steve Firmani	100 %	17/17	21/21
11	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	4/4	5/5
12	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	99 %	113/115	106/106
13	Missouri	Debbie A. Ziegelmeyer	99 %	64/65	59/59
14	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	99 %	150/150	220/222
15	Georgia	Walter Sheets	98 %	59/59	85/88
16	North Carolina	Richard Lang	98 %	41/42	44/44
17	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	98 %	43/43	30/31
18	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	97 %	94/99	104/104
19	New Hampshire	Steve Firmani	96 %	12/13	21/21
20	Washington	Marilyn Childs	96 %	62/66	77/77
21	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	96 %	41/43	71/72
22	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	96 %	151/160	262/266
23	Ohio	William Jones	96 %	84/88	97/99
24	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	96 %	31/31	31/33
25	Idaho	Augustine B. Fawkes	96 %	12/13	9/9
26	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	95 %	25/26	34/36
27	Utah	Elaine Douglass	94 %	22/25	34/34
28	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	93 %	7/8	11/11
29	Vermont	Steve Firmani	91 %	9/9	10/12
30	Connecticut	Steve Firmani	90 %	32/33	25/30
31	Arizona	George C. Parks	88 %	125/153	156/163
32	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	83 %	3/4	11/12
33	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnice	83 %	122/123	75/112
34	Montana	Augustine Fawkes	81 %	5/8	8/8
35	Rhode Island	Steve Firmani	79 %	6/9	11/12
36	Delaware	Carl W. Feindt	77 %	6/11	14/14
37	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	73 %	14/28	37/38
38	Maryland	Ron Fink	65 %	14/32	34/39
39	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	57 %	11/21	10/16
40	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	57 %	19/29	17/35
41	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	57 %	38/64	37/66
42	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	54 %	38/82	62/100
43	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	49 %	59/97	40/103
44	Mississippi	Bobby Lee Walker	46 %	6/7	1/15
45	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	44 %	5/24	20/29
46	Nevada	Mark Easter	37 %	5/47	28/43
47	North Dakota	Kurt Pfeleger	36 %	1/6	5/9
48	Wisconsin	Nathan Tomisich	28 %	12/30	5/28
49	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	26 %	4/57	33/72
50	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	24 %	10/25	3/37

MUFON Field Investigators Manual

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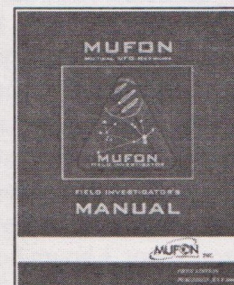
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Director's Message

Continued from page 2

with conspiracy theories but the SIP program is not one of them and here at MUFON we are as focused as ever on accomplishing our mission and goals.

MUFON European Conference

MUFON and the Italian Center for UFO Studies (CISU) are co-sponsoring a European Ufology Conference in Turin, Italy to be held May 28–30, 2010. I will be in Europe anyway around that time and will be representing MUFON at the conference along with Ruben Uriarte who is MUFON's International Coordinator. Edoardo Russo of CISU is our very gracious host and has offered the CISU offices for conference meetings. Like-minded science-based UFO Organizations from all over Europe are being invited to the conference with the goal of forging strong collaboration agreements for investigating and researching the UFO phenomenon. MUFON is an international organization and our goal is to strengthen our partnerships with existing organizations while reaching out to new partners.

Position Announcements

Mark Easter has been hired as the MUFON Director of Public Relations. **Sally Petersen** has resigned and **Larry Rimbart** has been hired as the *MUFON Journal* Editor.

State Directors

August Fawkes has resigned as the State Director for Idaho and Montana and **Marie Malzahn** has taken over both State Director positions. **Michael Sandras** has resigned as the State Director for Louisiana and **Karen Bravata** has taken over that position.

George Parks has resigned as the State Director for Arizona and **Terry Groff** has taken over that position. We thank August, Michael and George for their dedication and support of MUFON and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Chief Investigators

Douglas Wilson for Colorado; **David Lyle** for Maryland. **Devlin Rugne** for Oregon

State Section Directors

Morgan Beall to the position of State Section Director for the following Florida Counties: Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hardee, Desoto and Highlands.

New Field Investigators

Jerry Noguera of Laval, Quebec, Canada; **Sharon Jackson** of Chinle, AZ; **Daniel Philbin** of Cathedral, CA; **Donald Sparry** of Boulder, CO; **Walter Heller** of Evansville, IN; **Timothy Sparklin** of Baltimore, MD; **Terra Russom** of Brooklyn, MD; **Deborah Patton** of Queentown, MD; **Dale Brown** of Bismarck, ND

Jack Nicholais of Belvidere, NJ; **Donald Rohrbach** of Monroe Twp, NJ; **Julie Francis** of Gansevoort, NY; **Dan Medleycott** of Mt. Penn, PA; **Jimmy Wenger** of New Kensington, PA; **Jennifer Stein** of Radnor, PA; **David Bost** of Inman, SC; **Clyde Odum** of Lewsburg, TN; **Alyson Burgess** of Memphis, TN; **Nicholas Rodnicki** of Houston, TX; **Christopher Dean** of Watauga, TX.

Congratulations to you all.

October Night Sky

Continued from page 24

will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 3 hours before sunrise and will be found standing above the north-northeast horizon at sunrise; by month's end Mars will rise above the east-northeast horizon about 3 hours before sunrise and will be standing very high above the north-northeast horizon at sunrise.

Saturn (magnitude 1.1): In Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 1 hour before sunrise and will stand above the eastern horizon at sunrise; by month's end Saturn will rise above the eastern horizon about 3 hours before sunrise and will stand high above the east-southeast horizon at sunrise. For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn

will begin the month lost in the glare of the Sun but will slowly rise above the eastern horizon as the month passes; by month's end Saturn will rise above the eastern horizon about 1 hour before sunrise and will be found very low above the east-northeast horizon at sunrise.

Other Celestial Phenomena

Zodiacal Light

Zodiacal light will be visible in northern latitudes in the East before the start of morning twilight from October 20th to November 3rd. The phenomenon is only visible from very dark locations. Zodiacal light is sunlight bouncing off dust grains in our solar system. These grains lie mostly in the plane of the solar system.

Look for a pyramid of light in the morning sky somewhat in appearance to

the light from a city or town just over the horizon.

Planetary Groupings

Moon Mercury Venus Saturn Mars

Conjunctions and Occultations

October 8th: Mercury 0.3 degrees south of Saturn

October 12th: Mars 1.2 degrees north of the Moon

October 13th: Venus 0.6 degrees south of Saturn

October 16th: Saturn 7 degrees north of the Moon

October 16th: Venus 7 degrees north of the Moon

October 21st: Antares 1.0 degrees south of the Moon

October 27th: Jupiter 3 degrees south of the Moon



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Please remember MUFON in your will. Besides monetary bequests, you can also donate your UFO case files, books, periodicals, etc. Don't let your valuable research end up at a flea market or estate sale. Contact MUFON at 970-232-3110 for more information.

Nominate a Volunteer of the Month

Do you know someone in the MUFON organization who deserves to be recognized in the *MUFON UFO Journal* as the Volunteer of the Month? Tell us why. Email Editor@mufon.com.
 Use "Volunteer Nomination" in Subject line.

To contact Journal editor

Email Sally Petersen at Editor@mufon.com

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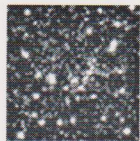
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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

October 2009

Moon Phases

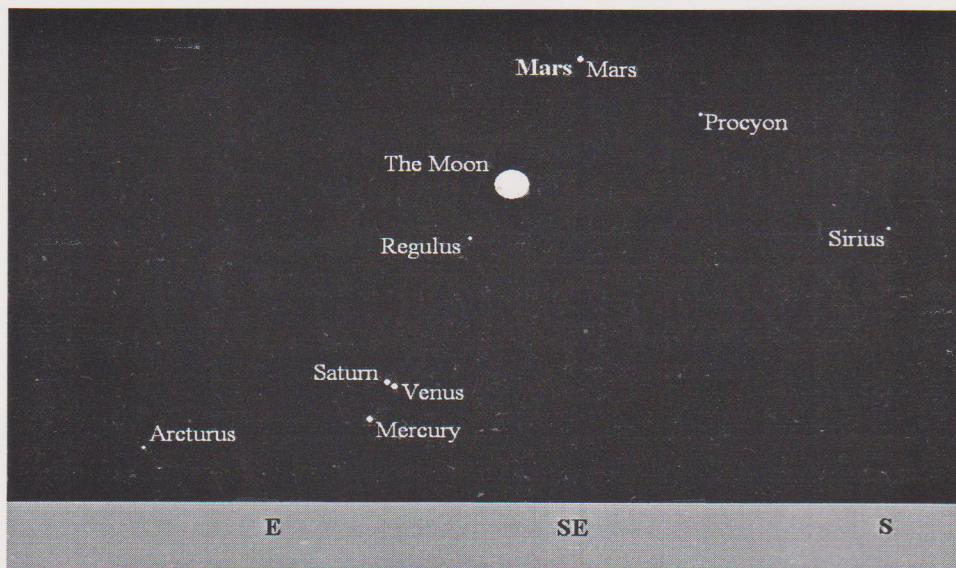
Full Moon October 4th
Last Quarter October 11th
New Moon October 18th
First Quarter October 26th

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

Jupiter: (magnitude -2.7 to -2.6 to -2.5): In Capricornus. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month above the southeast horizon at sunset and will set below the west-southwest horizon about 5 hours before sunrise; by month's end Jupiter will be found above the south-southeast horizon at sunset and will set below the west-southwest horizon almost 7 hours before sunrise. For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month very high above the east-northeast horizon at sunset and will set below the west-southwest horizon about 1 ½ hours before sunrise; by month's end Jupiter will be found very high above the northern horizon at sunset and will set below the west-southwest horizon over 2 hours before sunrise.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Mercury (magnitude 0.5 to -0.9 to -1.0): From Leo into Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon less than ½ hour before sunrise and will be found very low above the eastern horizon at sunrise; Mercury will slowly drop towards the horizon until by the end of the month it will become lost in the glare of the rising Sun. For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about ½ hour before sunrise and will be found very low above the eastern horizon at sunrise;



Planetary Grouping of Moon, Mercury, Venus, Saturn and Mars—looking low over the eastern horizon on the morning of October 13, 2009.

Mercury will slowly drop towards the horizon until by the end of the month it will become lost in the glare of the rising Sun.

Venus (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Libra into Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 2 hours before sunrise and will be found high above the eastern horizon at sunrise; by month's end Venus will be found rising above the eastern horizon about 1 ½ hours before sunrise and will be found above the eastern horizon at sunrise. For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon over ½ hour before sunrise and will be found above the east-northeast horizon at sunrise; by month's end Venus will be found rising above the eastern horizon about ½ hour before sunrise and will be found low over the eastern horizon at sunrise.

Mars (magnitude 0.8 to 0.7 to 0.6): Moving from Gemini into Cancer. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 5 ¾ hours after sunset and will be found standing

very high above the south-southeast horizon at sunrise; by month's end Mars will rise above the east-northeast horizon about 5 ¾ hours after sunset and will be standing very high above the south-southwest horizon at sunrise. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars

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