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In this issue

Stephenville, Texas Report	3
City places UFO Historical Marker	13
Another Roswell UFO?	14
CMS Rankings	21
New STAR Member	22
UFO Marketplace	23
Columns	
Director's Message	2
Calendar	13
Stan Friedman: More attacks on MJ-12	16
Filer's Files	18
Night Sky	24

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UFO Journal



Computer illustration courtesy of Linda Moulton Howe and Earthfiles.com based on Ricky Sorrells' sketches © 2008 by Gregory Watters.

What passed through the skies over Erath County, Texas, earlier this year?

Stephenville Update inside.

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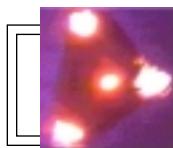
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Director's Message

By James Carrion

Director's Message for May 2008

Investigating UFOs is hard work and not everyone is cut out for the job. It takes time away from family and other life pursuits usually at one's own expense. Some cases can take weeks or even months to investigate depending on the complexity and nature of the event. There is no place for armchair investigation when it comes to uncovering the facts behind a UFO sighting, but requires boots on the ground willing to spend the time necessary to rule out the mundane in the search for the unknown. Oftentimes it is the IFO disposition that results from such tenacious work and to be frank, we wouldn't want it any other way, as only rumor and innuendo and hurried conclusions result from improper investigative technique. In today's information overloaded world, people want answers and they want them fast, but when it comes to proper investigation, there are no shortcuts to the truth.

Case in point is Stephenville, Texas, the cover story for this month's *Journal*. When the media frenzy kicked into high gear, MUFON Texas State Director Ken Cherry and Chief Investigator Steve Hudgeons found themselves in the international spotlight with the entire world demanding to know what was flying over Erath County. Rather than try and appease the curious with hurried explanations or conclusions, they appealed to reason and asked the world to be patient until the investigation was complete. Although the media coverage was great for UFO public awareness, it made conducting even basic witness interviews a complex task of weeding out



James Carrion

Continued on page 22

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UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH
INVESTIGATION, RESEARCH, & EDUCATION.**

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Stephenville: Report of Cluster of UFO Sightings in Erath County, Texas, Nov. 2007 to Feb. 2008

By Steve Hudgeons, Texas Chief Investigator
and other MUFON Texas Field Investigators

On January 10, 2008, the MUFON Case Management System (CMS) began to receive more than its normal number of sighting reports. In less than seven days the system had received over 100 new sightings in central Texas.

The Texas Chapter of MUFON was now faced with a large logistical problem of interviewing over 100 witnesses. After a discussion with Ken Cherry, the Texas State Director, it was decided that an email be sent out to the MUFON Field Investigators located in the cities surrounding the Dublin/Stephenville area requesting assistance.

Texas has over 40 Field Investigators. An email request was sent to the FIs in Dallas, Ft Worth, Abilene, Waco and Austin, and eight investigators committed themselves to a project that has never been attempted in the history of MUFON—to interview a large number of witnesses at one time.

I contacted Angelia Joiner of the *Stephenville Tribune*; she was the first reporter to break the story on January 10. Among other matters, we told her of our need for a meeting location. A short time later, a meeting room was donated for our use by the Dublin Dr Pepper Co and the Dublin Rotary

Club. MUFON Texas held a meeting on January 19 for witnesses to come forward and make reports. A second meeting was held February 23.

To give you some perspective as to the number of sighting reports received, we need to go to the MUFON online Case Management System (CMS). Since MUFON began computerized record keeping in 1995, 568 sightings have been reported online for the state of Texas, with sightings reported which date back to 1947. (Figure 1.)

In contrast, during the short period from November 2007 to March 1, 2008, an estimated 300 new reports were recorded via CMS and in-person reports. The months of January and February produced 259 sighting reports.

On January 8 alone—the day of the most publicized sightings—CMS received a total of 19 sighting reports from across Texas, of which 10 were reports of sightings from the Stephenville-Dublin area. (Figures 2 and 3.)

Many of the sighting reports described large lights in the sky coming on and going off in sequence. Descriptions were varied.

There were two “official” daylight sightings of large objects. The object was described as gray in color, emitting no sound, and moving at a high rate of speed. (See cover

Continued on page 4

Cover illustration. Artist's conception of the bottom side of a large UFO as seen by a witness near Dublin, Texas in the early evening in early January. The witness (who prefers to remain anonymous) said the ship was approximately 300 feet above him and it was so large he couldn't see the edges from his vantage point in the woods. The witness described the ship as dull gray in color with cone-like protrusions on the bottom surface, but no visible seams or bolts. The ship was silent and there were no lights. His description is similar to that given by three police officers who also saw a large object in the skies over Erath County, Texas.

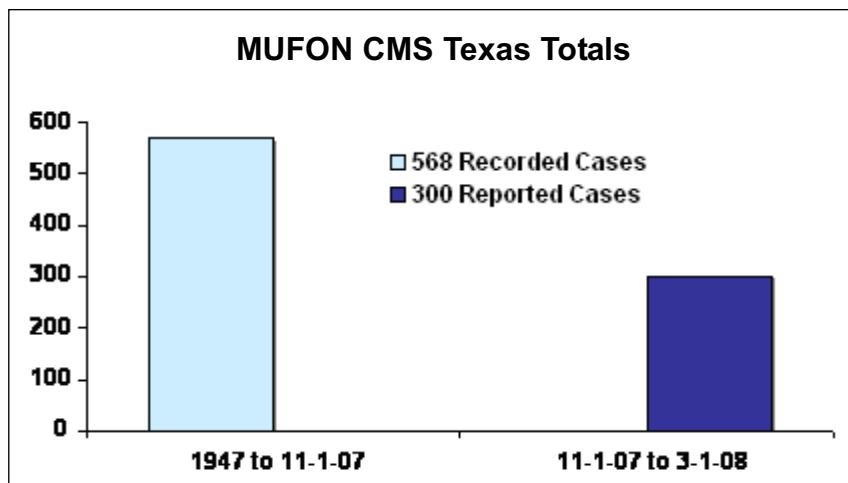


Figure 1

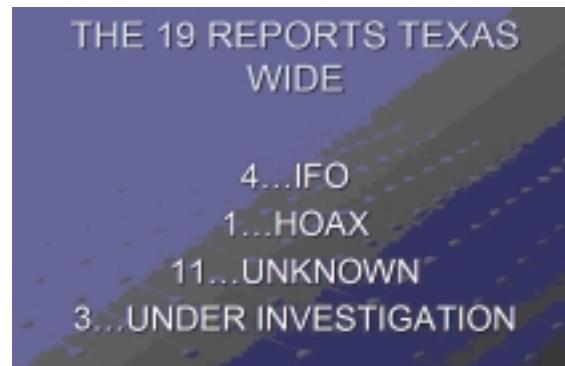


Figure 2. Reports received on January 8, 2008.

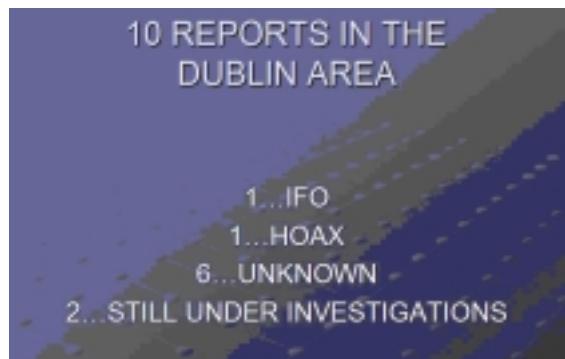


Figure 3. Reports received on January 8, 2008.

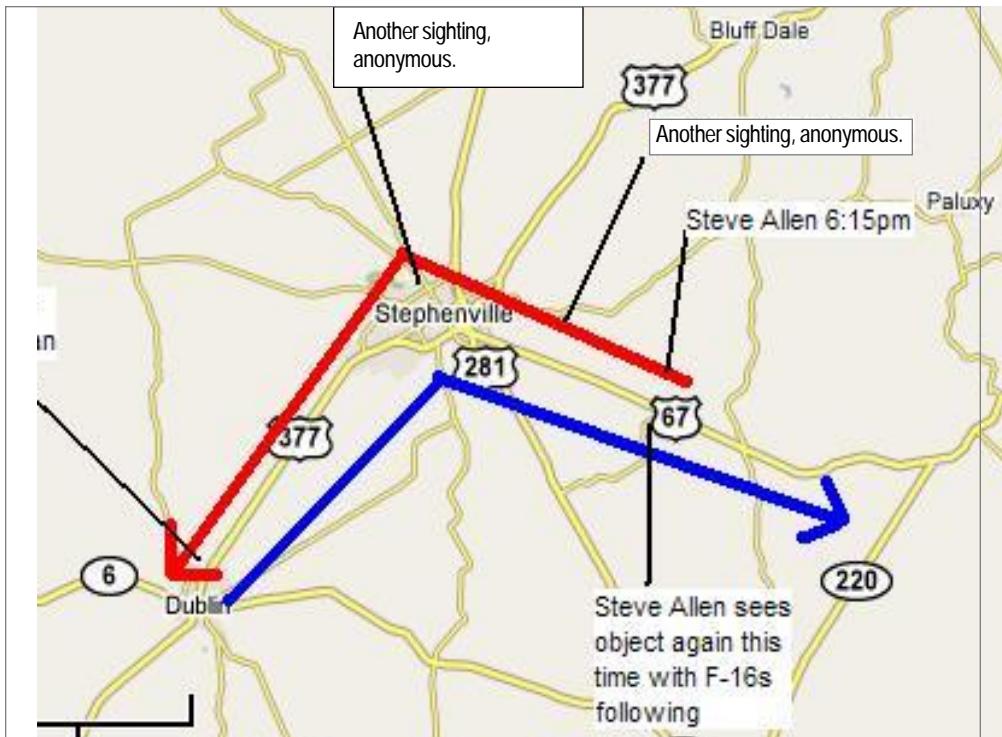


Figure 4. According to reports, the large object seen on January 8, 2008, came in from the Southeast (red line), moving to the Northwest, made a left on the Northern side of Stephenville and covered the distance to Dublin. It then circled Dublin and returned to Stephenville on the Southern side and made a right heading back out the way it came in, however, reports indicated that by this time it was being followed by two F-16s with after-burners. The object and jets moved off at a high rate of speed to the Southeast.

Continued from page 3

illustration.)

Witness Steve Allen, pilot and businessman, went on record describing a large object one mile long and half a mile wide, moving away at high speed, soundless, and being chased by jet aircraft on after-burners breaking the sound barrier. Three other witnesses (who did not file reports) were with Allen at the time of the sighting and also observed the object.

Witnesses in general were highly credible: pilots, police officers and city officials, most of whom wish to remain anonymous.

An estimated 500 people attended the MUFON-arranged meeting held on January 19, including the media. Over 50 reports were taken.

We received a larger than expected number of reports, some as old as 30 years. The witnesses told us that they felt it was okay now to come forward to tell what they had seen.

Photos, videos and other visual evidence

We viewed photos and cell phone mpg files. We viewed photos of a strange cloud formations outlined by a light source, which we could identify as the sun, not visible in the photo. The rays of sunlight could be seen in the upper right side, beaming in behind the cloud.

A truck driver had cell phone photos of what are called sun-dogs—holes in clouds with the sunlight beaming through. Sun dogs—also called mock suns—are colored luminous spots caused by the refraction of light by six-sided ice crystals in the atmosphere. These bright spots form in the solar halo at points that are 22 degrees on either side of

the sun and at the same elevation as the sun. They can be misinterpreted as UFOs.

There are a few videos of unknown objects, taken from the dash-cams of police cruisers. We have not been able to view these due to legal issues, as there is other data recorded on the same videos.

Another video presented by a witness showed a black snake-like object being blown across the sky. This has been identified as a military target sleeve.

Investigators viewed film from “deer cams” showing odd lights and objects “disappearing.” (A deer cam is a motion-activated camera mounted on a tree in order to pick up still photo images of game animals.) They determined that the odd lights typically came from conventional sources, and that the “disappearing” affects were caused by the sensitivity of the motion-activated camera, which snapped photos, not video.

In most cases we were able to identify and or explain the photos and videos, and therefore classify the report as an “identified flying object” (IFO). As has been most often true throughout our years as MUFON Investigators, the “Smoking Gun” they were not.

Direction of movement

Based on witness testimony we were able to create a basic line of movement for the object as shown above. (Figure 4.).

The large object came in from the Southeast (red line), moving to the Northwest, made a left on the Northern side of Stephenville and covered the distance to Dublin. It then circled Dublin and returned to Stephenville on the Southern side and made a right heading back out the way it came in.

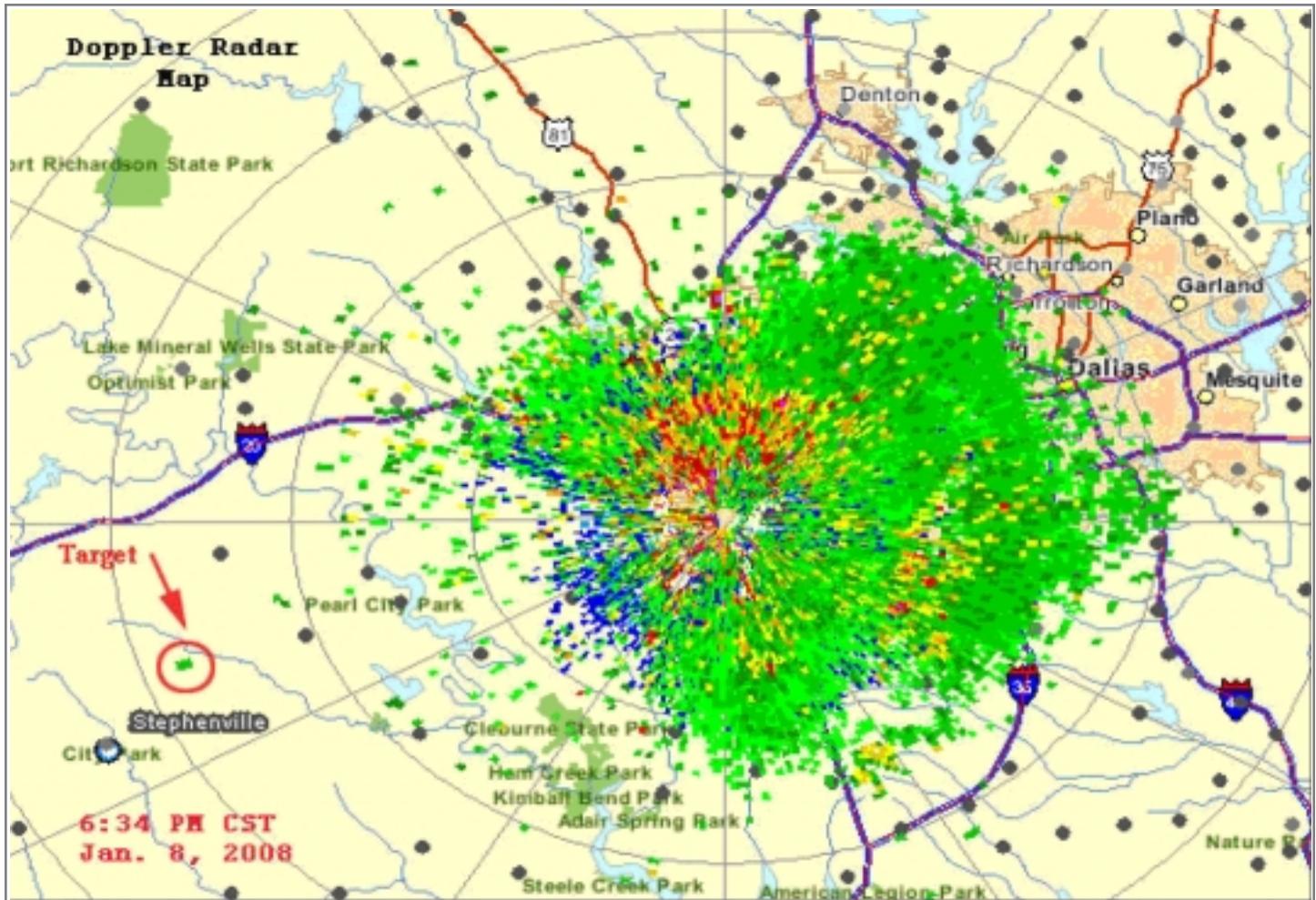


Figure 5. Notice target at lower left, near Stephenville, in this Doppler Radar Map of January 8, 2008, the evening of the most publicized sightings. Dublin, Texas (not visible on this map), is to the southwest of Stephenville.

Reports indicated that by this time it was being followed by two F-16s with after-burners. The object and jets moved off at a high rate of speed to the Southeast.

Object appears on Doppler radar

The Doppler radar jpg graphic (see Figure 5) is part of the data made available in response to an FOIA request by William Puckett, a retired meteorologist from the National Weather Service and EPA (and also a MUFON Member and Field Investigator). His report is as follows:

"At 6:34 CST, Doppler radar showed one return [pick-up] about 10 miles to the northeast of Stephenville. However, the return does not indicate a "radar hit." This is interesting because [Doppler] maps 10 minutes before and 10 minutes after [this time] did not show this return."

"I found one fast-moving target moving on an eastward vector of about 700 MPH. This was clearly not a passenger jet. It could have been a military jet or an unknown object. The object was not transponding."

"The Doppler radar was running in "clear air mode" indicating that no precipitation was in the area. In clear air

mode, Doppler radar can [pick] up [flocks of] birds, insects, and even atmospheric particulates. Stephenville is approximately 60 miles from the radar antenna so any returns would probably be from a large object. The ISS and Space Shuttle were not visible at this time and Venus was below the horizon. Surface weather [reports] for 6:00 PM CST on Jan. 8, 2008, note that the area was under the influence of high pressure, showed a few clouds with bases at 14,000 feet and broken clouds at 25,000 feet. Visibility was 10 miles and winds were from the north at 7 mph, the temperature was 52 degrees Fahrenheit and the humidity was a dry 45%."

Police officer witnesses

The Stephenville cluster of sightings has been said, by some, to be the most significant UFO event in recent history. The most often stated reason is the credibility and number of the witnesses.

Three police officers (constables) witnessed this large craft. The officers were each at separate locations at the times of their sightings, yet they describe the same large

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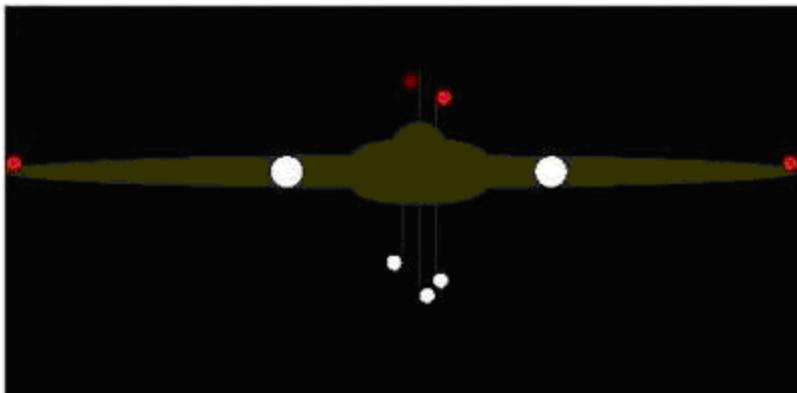


Figure 7. The large craft seen independently by the three officers was reported to be dark gray or green.

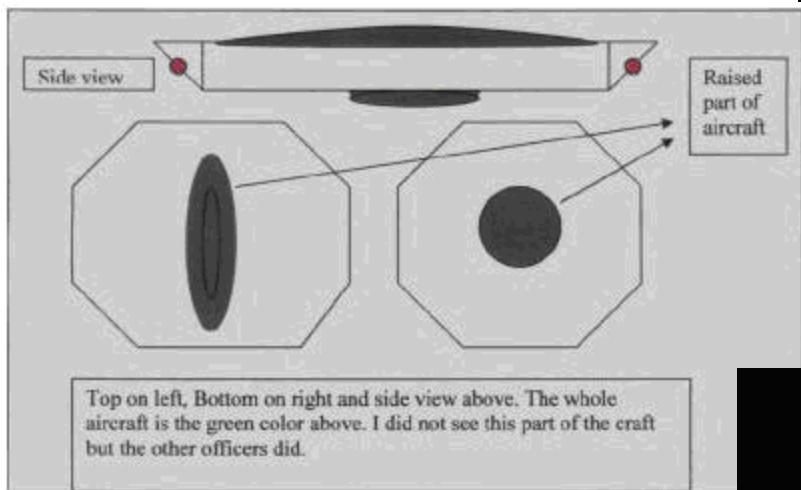


Figure 8. All three officers agreed it had red strobe lights.

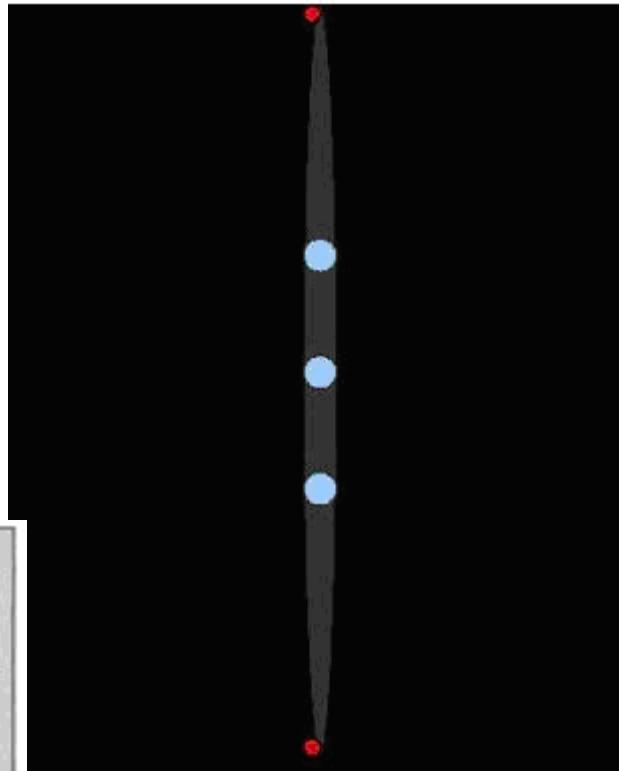


Figure 9. One officer reported seeing the ship move slowly in a vertical position.

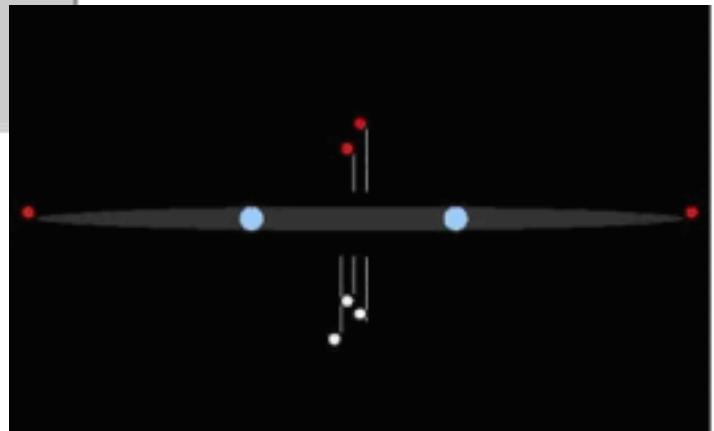


Figure 10. Two officers said the craft was silent. The third officer had his car windows rolled up at the time of the sighting.

Continued from page 5

craft. They declined to file an official report or to allow their names to be made public.

Police officers are trained to be observant, exact, and credible. When they testify in court, you can be sure the questioning attorney will make a point of establishing their credibility. Unfortunately, these officers declined to provide any written statements to MUFON. They did, however, give verbal descriptions and provide illustrations. (See Figures 7–10.) Even today, some people are afraid to come forward to report a UFO because of possible negative ramifications on the job.

Each officer saw a large craft, each reporting that it was gray. Each said it had red strobe lights on top. Two of the officers said the craft was silent. The third officer was in his car with the windows up, and could not say whether it was silent or not.

Each officer said that the object moved off to the northwest. One officer viewed it moving slowly in a vertical position.

Caron 15-minute film

Photoanalyst Dr. Bruce Maccabee; Ken Cherry, MUFON Texas State Director; myself; and representatives of the History Channel *UFO Hunters* TV show, including Ted Ackworth, Ph.D., viewed a 15-minute video from a digital camera taken on January 19, 2008.

The 15-minute film was taken on January 19, 2008, by Mr. David Caron with a JVC camcorder from his front porch. He was pointing the camera approximately southeast

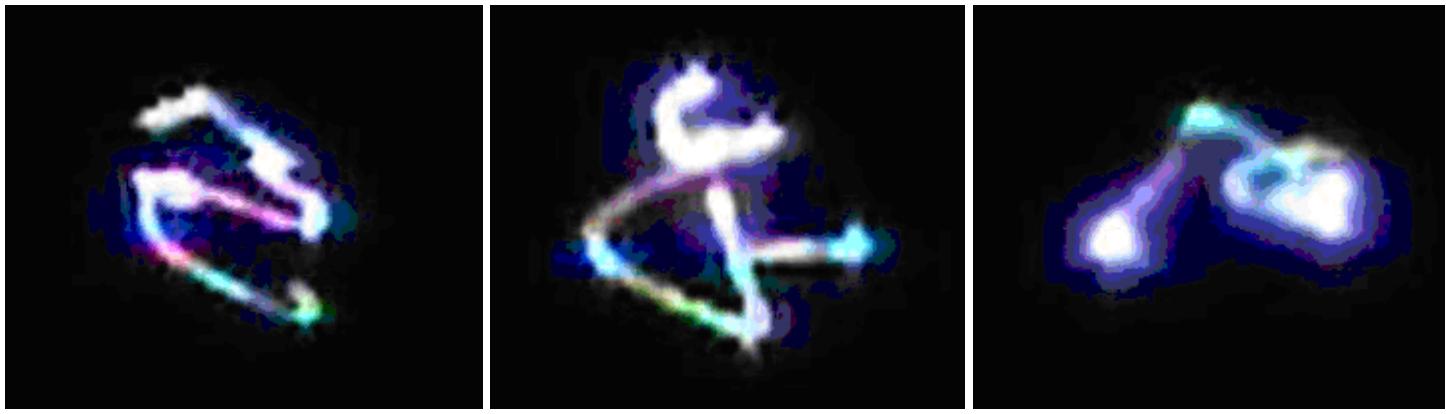


Figure 11. Three stills taken from video by David Caron. They show colors of blue, blue-green and purple, as well as a little pink. This video was analyzed by Dr. Bruce Maccabee and was concluded to be of an out-of-focus star.

in direction with about a 32 degree elevation. Shown above are stills from his video. Caron's video was shown on the April 9, 2008, episode of *UFO Hunters*.

It was determined that the film was a combination of a bright light and the camera being in "night mode" causing it to freeze 15 frames then move to another 15 frames.

Trying to determine whether David Caron's sighting could have been an airplane, Dr. Ted Ackworth and his *UFO Hunters* team set up a lab experiment at Tarleton State University (in Stephenville), with the camera trained on a steady white light source and two laser lights, one red and one green, were trained on the white light. The laser lights were to see if the blue streaks in the video could be duplicated. The test failed to reproduce the effect. This experiment rules

out a distant aircraft. The angle of elevation of the sighting also rules out the possibility of a distant aircraft.

Dr. Maccabee, Ken Cherry and I wanted to take the camera to the actual location at the same time of night and point it in the same direction of Caron's sighting to see if we could locate the light source and possibly recreate the effect. We were not able to do this experiment due to time constraints caused by other experiments being conducted by the *UFO Hunter* TV crew.

Dr. Maccabee remarked that the pulsing aspect of the light was attributable to the camera running on night mode at two frames per second versus the normal mode of 30 frames per second. According to Maccabee, filming an object at a great distance (such as the Dog Star, Sirius) would not allow the camera to focus properly, which would also cause a vibration, causing the appearance of "drawing" a glyph or symbol.

Dr. Maccabee concluded that the color source was due to the elevation combined with atmospheric conditions while fixed on an out-of-focus star.

Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D.

Photo analyst Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D., studied at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (B.S. Physics) and then at The American University (M.S., Ph.D., Physics). In 1972 he commenced his long career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, presently headquartered at Dahlgren, Virginia. He has worked on optical data processing, generation of underwater sound with lasers and various aspects of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) using high power lasers.

Maccabee has been active in UFO research and investigations since late 1960s when he joined the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) until its demise in 1980. He joined MUFON in 1975 and was appointed to the position of state Director for Maryland, a position he still holds.

His UFO research and investigations are too numerous to mention. As a historical researcher, Dr. Maccabee was the first to obtain the "flying disc file" of the FBI (the *real X-Files!*).

Ted Ackworth, Ph.D.

Ted Ackworth of the *UFO Hunters* TV show holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering Design from Stanford University. He is currently a researcher at MIT.

Report summaries from individual field investigators

A number of Field Investigators each researched a large number of reports. For example, FI Gary Neitzel was assigned to investigate 25 sighting reports. He said that several witnesses he spoke to reported sightings from many years earlier, including one that happened in 1970.

Most of the witness reports spanned the period of December 1, 2007, to March 1, 2008. MUFON continued to receive reports of sightings after March 1, but they are not included in this report.

Field Investigator Terry Groff said, "It is difficult to sift thorough all the reports received and try to determine which had any relevance to the recent events in Stephenville, Texas.

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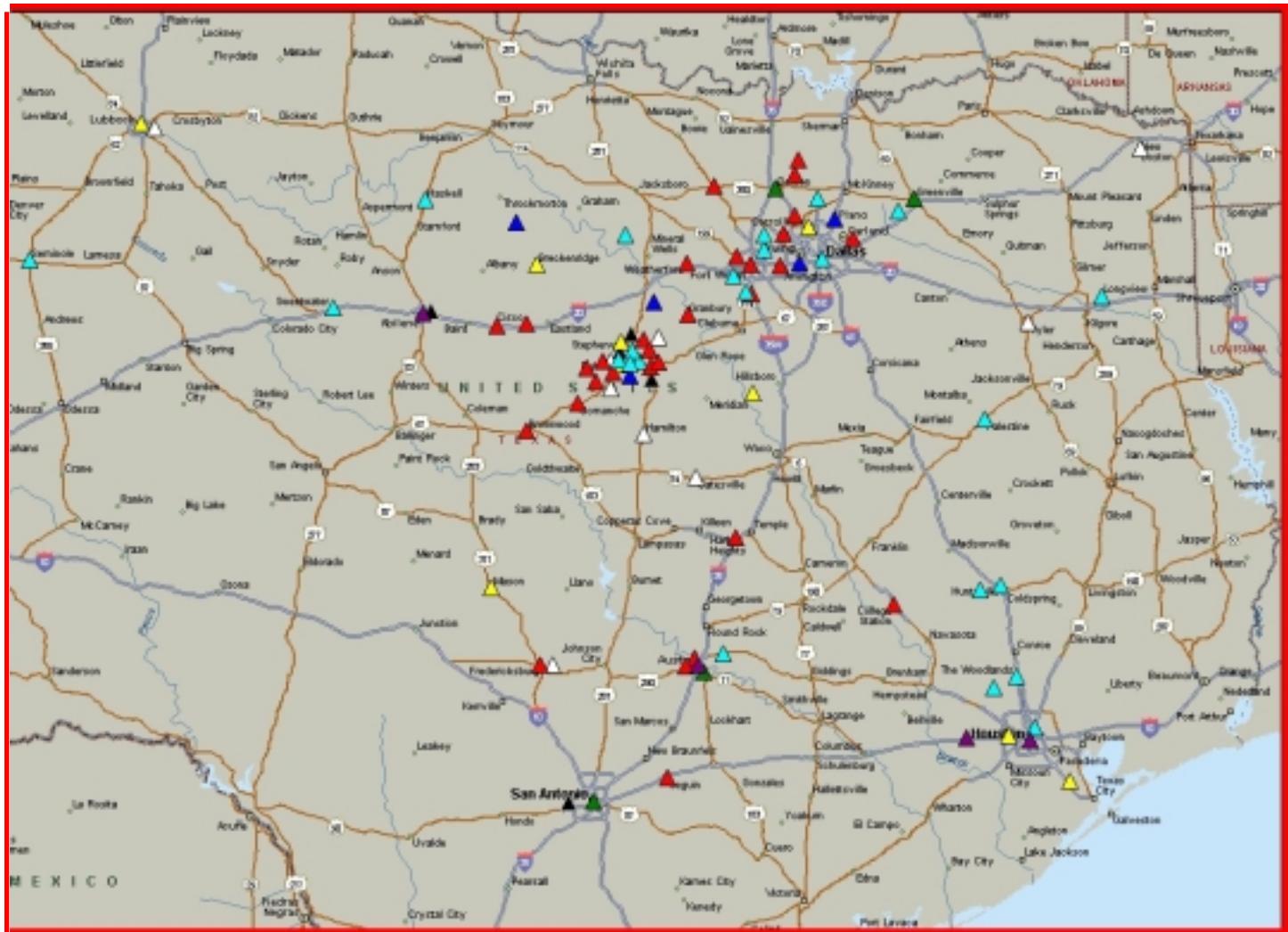


Figure 12. February 10, 2008—Stephenville UFO Chronology Map shows an UFO cluster geographical plot for all UFO activity that was reported into the CMS database from Dec. 2, 2007 to Feb. 2, 2008. Map legend at right: triangles are color-coded by week. Commissioned for MUFON Texas. Credit: All maps and CMS research by Steve Reichmuth, CMS Director, California Assistant State Director, member MUFON Northern California.

Continued from page 7

"It must be noted that none of the witnesses I interviewed in Dublin had sightings that occurred in January 2008 but there were two events that occurred in December 2007.

"My reports ran the gamut including black triangles, orange explosions, and neon green orbs. There were some IFOs such as a bolide (meteorite) and a blimp. There were two hoaxes as well."

It would be impossible to include all the reports. Following are summaries of a number of the reports taken by various Field Investigators.

Names of witnesses are used only if they have given permission.

August 15, 2007. 7:15 PM. Lancaster, TX

I'm including this case (reported online at www.mufon.com) in my report because this witness

supplied an intriguing photo of an object that resembled one seen in the recent video captured by Constable Gaitin in January 2008. Unfortunately the witness has not responded to any of my attempts to contact her. She supplied her address but requested anonymity. Witness was taking photos of the sunset when she claims to have taken a sequence of 19 images. She supplied one image in her report. She did not see the lights while taking the photos. The witness' story was unique in that she spoke about seeing "beings" in some of the pictures. (FI Terry Groff)

Stephenville Region	
Dec. 2, 2007 to Feb. 2, 2008	
All Reports	
▲	12/02/07 to 12/05/07
△	12/16/07 to 12/22/07
▲	12/23/07 to 12/29/07
▲	12/08/07 to 01/05/08
▲	01/06/08 to 01/12/08
▲	01/13/08 to 01/19/08
▲	01/20/08 to 01/26/08
▲	01/27/08 to 02/02/08
All Reports from MUFON CMS	

December 10, 2007. 7:30 PM.

Stephenville, TX

Witnesses Cecil and Misti Ford observed an oval-shaped object. They were northbound on Hwy 108 approaching County Road 456. Misti says she noticed the object by its movement. They briefly observed the object in the northeast moving northwest slowly until it suddenly "swooshed away" to the northwest. (FI Terry Groff)

December 11, 2007. 9:30 PM.

Stephenville, TX

Witness Brian McCabe described a very large Black Triangle moving slowly about a block and a half from his home. He described it as "very large" with what appeared to be three blue "exhausts" underneath moving slowly in an easterly direction. It was slow enough to observe for 7–8 minutes but made no sound. His dog had alerted him to its presence. (FI Terry Groff)

December 21, 2007. Old Boston, TX

One sighting involved a large object somewhat similar to that seen by several in the Stephenville area during January 2008. The witness reported that at 8:13 PM on December 21, 2007, near Old Boston, Texas (near Texarkana on the Texas-Arkansas border), he was looking east towards the Moon when he saw some lights that he thought belonged to an airplane. He did not realize the object was not an airplane until it was almost overhead. It was very large and moving very fast. It had about 20 lights around it in a rectangular pattern. The lights were an orange golden color and did not blink. He could not see any surface, just lights. Even though the witness could not see the surface of the object, he said it blocked out the stars when it passed overhead. The witness believed that the object he saw was approximately 1 mile long by $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide with a rectangular shape. This is based on comparisons with commercial airliners that fly over. The object made a low humming

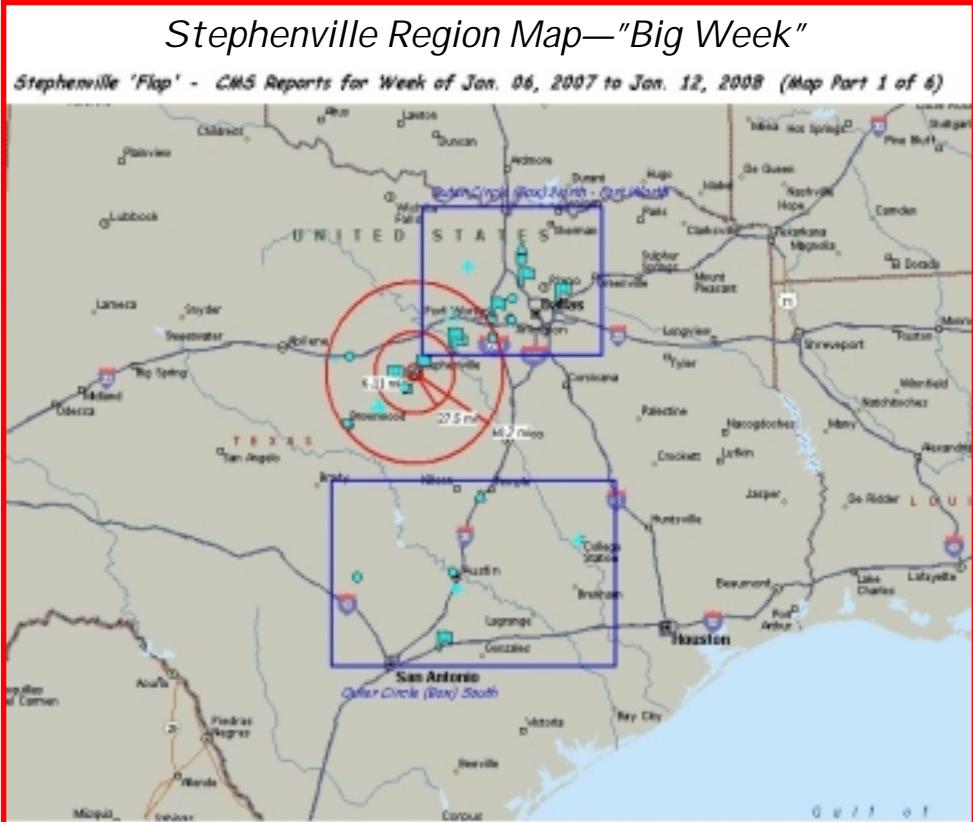


Figure 13. Map showing locations of sightings reported to have occurred during the week of January 6 to 12, 2008—the peak week for sighting reports. (See map legend on page 8.) Research and map by Steven Reichmuth.

sound, not loud but audible. The witness thought the object's speed was about 10 times that of a regular commercial airliner. He said the object appeared to be about 10,000 feet high. This sighting is interesting because it is very close to the Red River Army Depot and the Lone Star Army Ammunition plants. During the interview the witness seemed very credible. He had been in the U.S. Army and was currently employed as a technician. (FI Gary Neitzel)

January 8, 2008. 6–7 PM. Fort Worth and Burleson, TX

Four sighting reports for January 8, 2008, involved unknown objects sighted during the hour from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Four of the witnesses were from the Fort Worth area. Two of them reported large stationary objects with bright lights to the southwest of Fort Worth. One of these two witnesses reported seeing a bright cigar-shaped object to the southwest of Fort Worth moving fast to the west and at a long distance away. The second witness saw an unusual object with eight stubby wings flying southwest over Burleson, a suburb south of Fort Worth. (FI Gary Neitzel)

January 8, 2008. 6:10 PM. Hwy 67 west of Chalk Mountain

"I drive a water transport in the oilfield out of Bono, Texas. I drive to and from Stephenville Saturday thru

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Wednesday. I left work at 5:45 PM Tuesday evening January 8, 2008, traveling west on Hwy. 67 between Chalk Mountain and Three Way. This is when something caught my eye off in the western sky. I saw two very bright lights shining in no apparent direction. The lights were very bright, like a welding arc. The lights were dancing around and then they split in two different directions at a very fast rate of speed. I do not know what it was that I saw, but I don't think that it was a plane, weather balloon, a reflection of the sun or anything manmade. Thank you, Harlan Cowan."

Witness was interviewed on the phone with three follow-up conversations. By the time of the sighting, he had traveled 30 miles on Hwy 67 to just west of Chalk Mountain. He estimated that he saw the objects at about 6:10 PM in the western sky at an elevation of about 10 degrees. He indicated that the sun had already set, there weren't any stars out yet, and there was still light in the sky. His reported travel time and amount of light in the sky supports the witness's estimation of a sighting at about 6:10 PM.

He saw two bright lights towards the west, which would have been in the direction of the Stephenville area 17 miles to the northwest, and in the direction of Selden area 11 miles to the west northwest. He described the lights as similar to welding arcs that were next to each other and stationary when he first saw them. He estimated each light to be the size of his little finger at arm's length. This would equate to about 1 degree. The two lights then split apart and moved very rapidly with one light moving to the north and the other to the south. The lights moved so rapidly that the witness was not certain how far they had moved apart before disappearing, other than to say that they disappeared before they left his field of view through his truck windshield. That would put the lights' distance from each other at their time of disappearance at between 20-50 degrees. (FI Robert Powell)

January 8, 2008. 6:20 PM. Farm Road 1496 near Lake Proctor

"My dogs were barking their little heads off that night of the eighth. When I went outside, they were barking and howling toward the Dublin area. I know this for a fact because I work in Dublin at Three Oaks Retirement Center. I went outside with a flashlight and a pistol to check on them because I live in the country at Lake Proctor. I looked around to see if there were any stray animals that they might bark at, and that is when I saw the lights. They were moving at a very fast pace. I thought that it might be military jets in formation because of all the lights, funny thing though, there was no noise coming from all of them. I watched until they were gone and I looked down and both dogs were gone. When I got back to the house both of them were hiding under my Sports-Track like they were scared to death."

This report was from a witness who was at his home 22 miles to the southwest of Stephenville near Lake Proctor and

was able to see the Stephenville lights from his location. The witness was interviewed in person and indicated that he saw the lights between 6:15 PM to 6:25 PM because he was waiting for *Inside Edition* to come on TV at 6:30 PM. He also indicated that it was dark enough that he needed to bring a flashlight when he went outside to check on his barking dogs. The witness saw what he first thought were aircraft in formation to the northeast towards Dublin. They were at an elevation of 10 degrees and the lights spanned across an area of about 20–30 degrees based on the witness indicating that they took up 2–3 fists extended at arms length. He described the brightness as brighter than the brightest star in the sky and that the lights were steady. There were 8–10 lights. However, there was no noise and the lights moved very rapidly in a southerly direction. The lights disappeared in 6–7 seconds. The last time the witness saw the objects they covered one-half a fist width or about 5 degrees of sky. The witness indicated that both his dogs were scared. (FI Robert Powell)

January 8, 2008. 6:30 PM. Legends Golf Course, NW Stephenville, TX

"I was walking the dogs on the golf course at this time. The sun was set and only a slight redness could be seen in its direction. I saw what looked to be two welding arc strikes at a distance of arm's length and pea-sized between my index finger and thumb. First one appeared and then another as the first bleeped out. They were like pearls on a string and looked like bubbles with a light encased inside. They were incredibly bright...beyond halogen color temperature. Just like an arc welding strike. There was no sound and they just trailed off to the west. They were traveling just as a plane had passed and along the same trailing heading. They were probably one minute behind the plane and seemed to be moving at about the speed of a plane. They originated in the northeast and I saw them moving to the southwest towards Dublin. They were around 25-45 degrees above the horizon." (FI Robert Powell)

January 8, 2008. 7–8 PM. Aubrey, TX

Caregiver "C. B." in Aubrey, Texas, observed two lights approaching rapidly from the east. Before reaching the witness they "made a sharp turn" south towards Denton. A line continued through Denton would take the objects straight to the Stephenville area. (FI Terry Groff)

January 8, 7:10 PM, Brownwood, TX

The 15-year-old witness, her mother and younger brother were driving home. As they topped a small hill they saw huge bright yellowish blinking lights in front of them. The lights were scattered and very close to the ground. They stopped the car and watched the lights blink on and off a few

times. The lights then all lined up in a row and blinked out. Due to the size and brightness of the lights, the witnesses could not determine their distance from the lights. (*FI Dave Keel*)

January 8, 2008. 8:50 PM. Granbury, TX

The witness, 45, was traveling on Hwy 4 from Granbury to Action, Texas, and observed a large blimp-size craft that was too low to be an airliner. It was not the kind of blimp that sometimes flew over football stadiums. She could hear a hum like a generator. It had red lights on the front and rear. The craft appeared to have large turbine engines on each side and moved slow and low. It was last seen heading southeast from the Granbury area. (*FI Dave Keel*)

January 8 or 9. About 7:00 PM. Stephenville, TX

Another witness from Stephenville could not be sure whether his sighting occurred on January 8 or 9. He reported seeing a large stationary object in the northeast sky at about 7:00 PM, which he described as a bright light with five small lights along the bottom of the object. (*FI Gary Neitzel*)

January 8 or 9. At night. Gorman, TX

The witness, 53, has an active stationary digital infrared game camera attached to a tree facing a northwesterly direction. The camera is located about 45 miles southwest of Stephenville and about 10 miles south of Gorman. The camera is movement and heat sensitive. It captured large lights or large flashes of lights on two consecutive images. Because the time and date stamp was not working correctly on the camera, it is unknown exactly what date and time the pictures were taken, but they were clearly taken at night. It is located deep in a remote wooded area hundreds of yards from the nearest highway. One can see bright large lights over the tree tops in the digital pictures. The photos are attached to the report from this witness. (*FI Dave Keel*)

January 9, 10:00 PM, May, TX

The witness, 44, was heading south on Hwy. 183 towards Rising Star, Texas, about five miles out of Cisco when he observed a set of about five strobe lights. He

Continued on page 12

A Field Investigator Relates an Unprecedented Investigation

*By Michael Ray DeGroff
Austin Area State Section Director*

Dublin, Texas, southwest of Stephenville, is a small tight-knit community in Erath County, Texas, where the surrounding countryside is primarily farming and cattle ranching land. The citizens appear to be hard working, honest, law-abiding people, most of who were born and raised there. Many have families going back many generations, even back to the early Texas pioneering days.

There are several military bases in the area as well as commercial airports so residents seem very familiar with the air traffic during the day and night.

The Dublin / Stephenville area gained international notoriety on January 8, 2008, thanks to 50 to 60 people witnessing strange objects in the sky during the daylight hours and strange light displays after dark. But in fact the area has been a Hot Spot for UFO activity for decades. People in the area continue to see strange things on nearly a daily basis. It took an event with multiple witnesses followed by an intensive MUFON investigation to bring out many witnesses to report their sightings for the first time.

Chronologically, the reports I recorded ranged from the mid 1960s to the present time. Although we were most interested in the time period just preceding and following January 8, we filed reports of all sightings, regardless of date. The ages of the witnesses I interviewed ranged from a fourteen-year-old young man to a retired couple in their mid-seventies. In my opinion, all of these witnesses appeared to be sound of mind, credible intelligent witnesses, upstanding and unpretentious.

I personally interviewed over a dozen people during the two meetings held in Dublin and interviewed at least a dozen more people over my home phone in the weeks following.

One of my interviewees was Steve Allen, a pilot, business owner and one of the primary witnesses in this investigation. He was extensively interviewed by the media. Both a written and audio account was recorded of his sightings.

One female witness from Brownwood, Texas, had witnessed strange lights in the sky looking northeast towards Stephenville at the precise time Steve Allen saw them.

Another woman described seeing a long, multi-section, silvery, cylindrical object, hovering at high altitude in broad daylight at 9:00 AM in mid-December 2007.

All the rest of the witnesses who I interviewed described the strange lights in the sky in the same manner, day or night: as appearing in different colors, different displays and configurations. Everyone told me they know what conventional aircraft running lights look like and said the objects they saw resembled nothing they had ever seen before.

I would like to acknowledge the hospitality of the Dublin Rotary Club who so graciously allowed us to occupy their building on January 19 and February 23 to interview the sighting witnesses. They also kept us going both days with generous amounts of Dublin Dr Pepper and popcorn!

I am honored to be a part of this investigation and very proud to be a member of MUFON's "Team Dublin." I will fondly remember this experience for the rest of my life.

Continued from page 11

estimated they were two miles away and about 1000 feet high. The lights came on one at a time and when the fifth one came on the first one would go out and come back on. Each light did this in a strobing fashion. After about 20 or 30 seconds they were gone. (*FI Dave Keel*)

January 10, 2008. 6:30 PM. Dublin, TX

The witness, 51, was sitting in her pickup about dusk waiting for her husband to finish plowing. She looked up and saw six lights in the sky that reminded her of bright headlights. They moved slightly from her right to just in front of her and blinked out. She saw no aircraft in the sky before or after the lights appeared and left. (*FI Dave Keel*)

January 10, 2008. 8:15 PM. Stephenville, TX

While driving home, the witness, 53, encountered a V-shaped formation of very bright lights coming from the east that passed over his vehicle and traveled west. He was near his home and ran inside to get a camera but the formation was gone when he got back outside. He estimated the lights were 300 feet above him and the object was very large. He did not see an actual structure because the lights were too bright. (*FI Dave Keel*)

January 11, 2008. 6:50 AM. Pilot Point, TX

James Beatty had a close encounter with a delta-shaped craft moving at about 30 mph. James was turning east on to SR 455 from Running Bear Road. He first saw bright white lights coming over the hill, on the opposite side of the dam. He said the object approached to about 30–50 yards away, very low to the ground. He said it seemed to be hugging the shoreline. Here is the witness description of the object:

“Delta shaped. The object was black and gray in color. No bigger than [his] 1978 Thunderbird. The rear was rectangular with three large round openings in side. No apparent thrust, no fire, etc. The top of the craft looked as if it had an extended canopy running about three quarters of the way down the fuselage. It was metallic as well. The bottom looked like it had panel lines. It had three, non-blinking, white lights under it. It made no sound at all.” (*FI Terry Groff*)

January 22, 2008. From airplane en route to Dallas/Fort Worth

Another sighting involved a witness seeing a large dark object while on a flight from Nashville to Dallas/Fort Worth on January 22, 2008. She said the object was bullet- or cigar-shaped, moved towards the airplane, then back and down

into the clouds. The duration of the sighting was about three minutes. She estimated they were around 30,000 feet high. (*FI Gary Neitzel*)

Feb. 23–28, 2008. Southwest of Fort Worth, TX

This report involves witnesses using an infrared camera that is used in aircraft to film unusual objects in the sky southwest of Fort Worth. The witnesses used a recording device which was attached to their camera and made videos during the period February 23–28, 2008. They submitted four DVDs that comprise over 8 hours of video. The unknown objects appear large and change shape but do not show up when looking at the sky nor do they make any sound. Normal aircraft can be easily distinguished when looking through the camera. They also make a sound and can be seen in the sky. (*FI Gary Neitzel*)

Still Investigating...

*By Steve Hudgeons
Chief Investigator, MUFON Texas*

The Texas Team is still investigating over 100 reports. The people in and around the Dublin-Stephenville area are still seeing objects and lights in the airspace.

MUFON has a new title, Chief Investigator, shared by myself and six other Senior Field Investigators. As Texas Senior FI, I organize and assign sighting reports as received. Additionally, I provide training and educational materials to the Texas FIs. This communication and training was instrumental in enabling us to mobilize the team of field investigators on short notice. The investigation continues.

Some Solved, Many Unknown

*By Ken Cherry
State Director, MUFON Texas*

Almost without exception, the Dublin-Stephenville team headed up by our chief investigator, Steve Hudgeons, performed in an exemplary manner. The courtesy and professionalism of our field investigators toward the citizens and witnesses involved in this case have earned MUFON great respect and praise as fair and unbiased investigators.

No doubt this report will not satisfy the skeptics or true believers. While we have solved dozens of cases so far, there remains a hard core of similar witness reports from highly credible sources that indicate there is something unknown that defies conventional explanation operating in the skies around Erath County.

As more information is forthcoming, we will publish updates in the *MUFON Journal*.

Watch Ken Cherry and Constable Lee Roy Gaitan, a witness, on NBC *Dateline* on Sunday, May 18.

Calendar . . .

May 16–17. 9th Annual UFO Festival. Richard Dolan, Robert Nichol. McMinnville, OR. <http://www.hoteloregon.com/ufofest07/index.html>

May 16–18. Earth Transformation Conference: *New Science, Consciousness and Contact*. Michael A. Cremo, Victoria Liljenquist, Angelika Whitecliff, Elizabeth Rauscher, David Wilcock, Paolo Harris, Michael Salla, and others. Kona, HI. <http://www.earthtransformation.com/>

June 7. First Annual Mysteries of the Universe Conference. Stanton Friedman, Margie Kay, Chris Brethwaite, Jason Offutt, Vince White, Bill Hamilton. Kansas City, MO. <http://www.ufokc.4mg.com/conference.htm>

July 3–7. Roswell UFO Festival: *Contact: The Evidence... The Message...* Roswell, NM. www.Roswellnmufconference.com

July 3–6. Roswalian Experience 2008. International UFO Museum, Roswell, NM. <http://www.roswellufomuseum.com/festival.htm>

July 24–27. MUFON 39th Annual International UFO Symposium: *UFOs—A Worldwide Phenomenon*. San Jose, CA. See center pages of this *Journal* for detailed information.

July 25–27. Glastonbury Symposium—Investigating Signs of our Times. Glastonbury, England. www.glastonburysymposium.co.uk/speakers.html

August 29–31. Alamo conference—A Desert UFO Experience. Charles James Hall, Jim Sparks, Paolo Harris, Ike Bishop. Alamo, Nevada, near Area 51. www.freewebs.com/alamo-ufoconference/ (208) 484-1574. ibishop@hotmail.com



The Socorro, New Mexico site of the Lonnie Zamora UFO event of April 24, 1964. Photo by Don Burleson.

City recognizes UFO event with historical marker

The city of Socorro, New Mexico, in conjunction with its historical society, is officially recognizing the UFO incident that occurred there on April 24, 1964. This was announced at a statewide MUFON meeting in Socorro on April 12.

Socorro mayor pro-tem Donald Monette announced that a historical marker is to be erected near the gully where policeman Lonnie Zamora witnessed a UFO on the ground and saw diminutive figures nearby.

Artist Patrick Richard, who has been centrally instrumental in securing the historical marker, followed up Mr. Monette's announcement with the further news that he (Patrick) is donating his oil painting of Lonnie Zamora to the city's Visitor Center in commemoration of the 1964 occurrence.

State Director Don Burleson pointed out at the meeting that this is probably the first time a municipal government in the United States has ever officially recognized the historical reality of a UFO event.

Volunteer of the Month

The Volunteer of the Month column will return next month. If you know of someone you would like to nominate for this honor, please send an email to Sally Petersen at Editor@mufon.com with the person's name and a description of why you think he or she should be honored.

Submissions for the July issue of the *UFO MUFON Journal* should reach us by June 5, 2008

Submit articles to:
Editor@MUFON.com

Sally Petersen, Editor
888-817-2220

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Another Strange Object Over Roswell?

Alert Observers take note of all pertinent data

By Donald R. Burleson, Ph.D.
State Director, MUFON New Mexico

Alert observers take note of all pertinent data

Once in a while a UFO investigator is able to obtain, from perceptive and knowledgeable witnesses, precisely the sort of information needed to pursue a sighting case with the specificity that one always hopes for, and even if we may only call the phenomenon "unknown" in the end, the effort is rewarding when the information is of the right kind.

Time

On Sunday, 21 October 2007, I was contacted by Patricia O'Rourke and her sister Carole, who live in a mid-town neighborhood here in Roswell, New Mexico. They described a UFO sighting they had experienced at 5:20 that morning, while they were out in their back yard watching meteors. I began a series of further contacts to pursue the investigation.

From the outset, I found the internal consistency of the report to be high. For example, there had indeed been a meteor shower, namely the Orionids, radiating from the northeast corner of the constellation of Orion, which at the time in question was in the south-southwest sky at an elevation of 65 to 70 degrees. (This meteor shower was prominent between the dates of 15 and 29 October.) The direction in which the witnesses would have been looking corresponds to other details of their sighting.

Duration

Patricia and Carole reported seeing a triangular (or possibly horseshoe-shaped), dimly lighted object that looked "ghostly" or "smoky" and seemed to be dimming and brightening in and out of visibility. Patricia had instinctively counted "one thousand, two thousand" and determined that the silent and slow-moving object was in view for eight to nine seconds. (I took 8.5 seconds as a working value for my subsequent computations.)

Movement and Direction

The object, with an angle of elevation of about 30 degrees, moved right to left, from the western sky to the southeastern sky, first sighted at the "nine o'clock" position (due north = twelve o'clock) and last visible at the "four-thirty" position, thus covering an arc of 135 degrees in the sky.

This is exceedingly important information of the kind one wishes one's UFO witnesses could always provide, because at the very least the angular speed can now be determined,

and a good deal more as it turns out.

Changing 135 degrees to the more useful radian measure by multiplying 135 by $\pi / 180$ (or about 0.0174533) we find that the object moved through about 2.3562 radians of arc in about 8.5 seconds, for an angular speed of $2.3562 / 8.5 = 0.2772$ radians per second.

Distance

The witnesses judged the object to be "less than the length of a football field" away. Since a football field is 360 feet long, for approximate computational purposes I took the distance to be 250 to 350 feet as a working hypothesis.

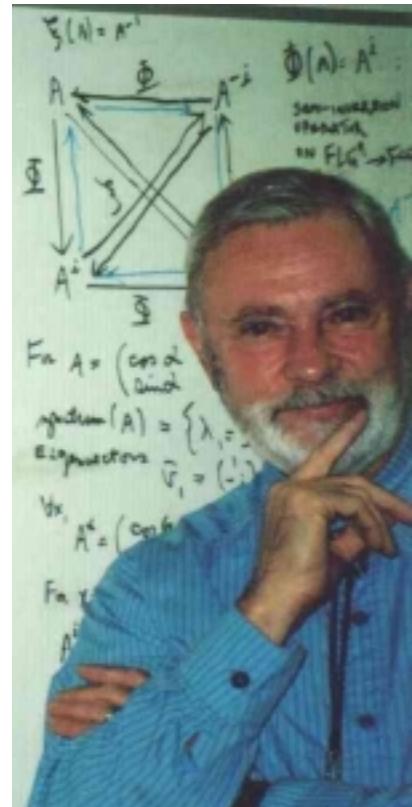
At a distance of 250 feet, an arc of 2.3562 radians suggests a true distance covered, specifically $250 \times 2.3562 = 589$ feet. This distance covered in 8.5 seconds suggests an air speed of $589 / 8.5 = 69.3$ feet per second or about 47 miles per hour. At a distance of 350 feet, the same arc gives a distance of $350 \times 2.3562 = 825$ feet with air speed 97 feet per second or about 66 miles per hour.

This interval estimate of the air speed (47 to 66 mph) is consistent with the witnesses' description of the motion as being unusually slow for an aircraft.

Size

The witnesses also said that a stretched-out hand at arm's length (extended to a V) would just about exactly occlude the object, so that I took the angular size to be roughly 10 degrees or $10 \times (\pi / 180) = 0.1745$ radians.

At a distance hypothetically 250 to 350 feet away, this angular size suggests an object size ranging from $250 \times 0.1745 = 43.6$ feet to $350 \times 0.1745 = 61.1$ feet, or roughly 44 to 61 feet across.



Donald R. Burleson, PhD

Reports From the Field . . .

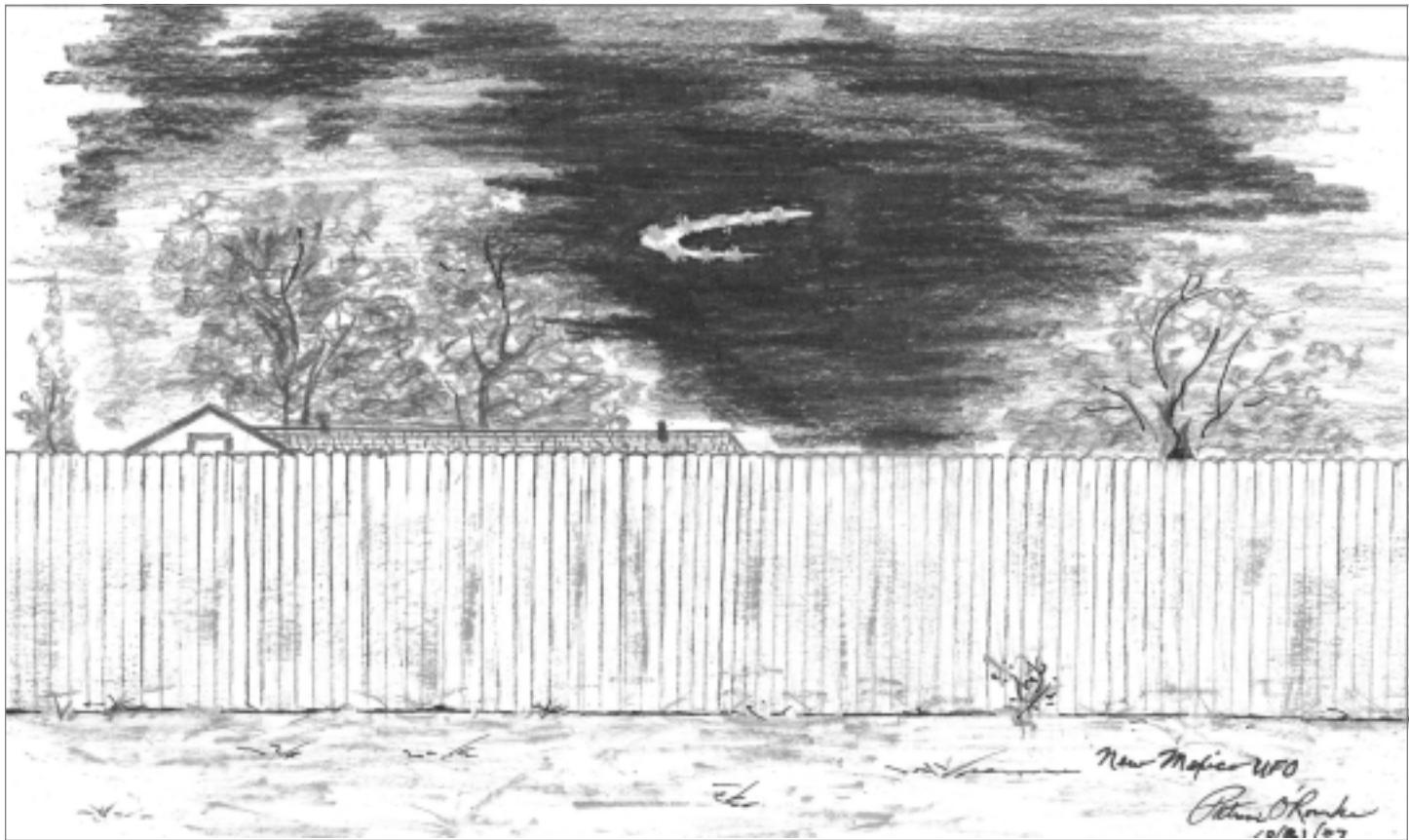


Illustration of object by witness Patricia O'Rourke, dated 1/21/07. Ms. O'Rourke served as an illustrator in the Marines.

Sound

Further, the witnesses reported that although they heard no sound from the object, a succession of barking dogs seemed to follow its motion. (Patricia's and Carole's dog was in the house, and appeared disturbed when next seen.)

This would not be unnatural, as the altitude (at a distance of 250 to 350 feet and angle of elevation 30 degrees) would only have been from $250 \times \sin(30) = 125$ feet to $350 \times \sin(30) = 175$ feet. The distance along the ground from the observers to a point beneath the object would be (under the same assumptions about the distance away) from $250 \times \cos(30) = 216.5$ feet to $350 \times \cos(30) = 303.1$ feet.

Visiting the site, I observed that there are indeed residential areas (with dogs) at those distances in the appropriate direction.

Surroundings

In fact, the sighting was in the direction of the Roswell airport, so that there was special reason to eliminate aircraft takeoffs and landings. When I interviewed the airport manager on 24 October 2007, he reminded me that the control tower doesn't open until 6:00 a.m. At 5:20 a.m. the object in question could not have been a tower-assisted

takeoff or landing. (Besides, the barking dogs were nearby, and the airport is several miles away.)

Credibility

Both Patricia and Carole have served in the Marines and are familiar with conventional aircraft, which their object, they assured me, in no way resembled.

Illustration

Also, as fortune would have it, Patricia had worked as an illustrator in the Marines and was able to provide an excellent sketch of what she and Carole observed.

I put out an appeal in my monthly newspaper column, to other witnesses who may have seen the object, but none have come forward. (It was, after all, the pre-dawn hours on a Sunday morning, so it is quite possible no one else saw it.) We may never know exactly what this object was, but unquestionably the witnesses are perceptive, intelligent, detail-conscious, and highly credible observers who have provided the sort of information any UFO investigator should find optimal.

Donald Burleson, PhD, is the State Director of MUFON New Mexico. He is a mathematician and retired educator who lives in Roswell, New Mexico. His email is burleson@dfn.com .

PercePtions

By Stanton T. Friedman

More Attacks on MJ-12

Quite often I use this column to expose the false, misleading, and inaccurate, anti-UFO arguments of the Piled Higher and Deeper (PhD) brigade. This list includes such stalwart debunkers as Dr. Joe Nickell of the skeptics group who claimed falsely that the monster observed in Flatwoods West Virginia on Sept. 12, 1952 was just a 6-foot-tall owl. There is Dr. Michael Shermer who shows how seriously he takes UFOs by playing with small alien dolls on *Larry King Live*. Then, of course, we have Dr. Seth Shostak who insists that there is no good evidence for flying saucer reality (he never mentions the scientific studies) and also claims there can't be any aliens coming from Zeta Reticuli because those stars were listened to 10+ years ago by a SETI group which didn't hear anything; There are many other noisy negativist PhDs.

Now, however, it is time to consider the anti-MJ-12 articles of Dr. Kevin Randle. He at least is convinced that Roswell was real, that aliens are visiting and that there is a cover-up. However, for years, for reasons which aren't clear other than bias, he has proclaimed that MJ-12 is nonsense. I just recently stumbled across his blog "A Different Perspective: a Commentary on UFOs, Paranormal Events and related Topics." It was dated September 1, 2007, and titled "MJ-12 is DEAD." (10)

The conclusion isn't surprising, coming from him, but it is based on misinformation, false claims, false logic and a total failure to deal with the counter arguments which I have published (Ref. 1–7); none of these references are even given, though in several of his books he has large lists of references (many are personal communications). Perhaps not surprisingly, he provides no other references than to his book *Case MJ-12* (9). He takes no note of my 9000-word re-

view (6) of this book (available on my website for five years), which raises and demolishes his anti-arguments. There is no mention of *TOP SECRET/MAJIC*, (7) which is focused entirely on Majestic 12 and again demolishes the arguments of the debunkers including Kevin (especially with the new 5000-word afterword). It is as if they didn't exist.

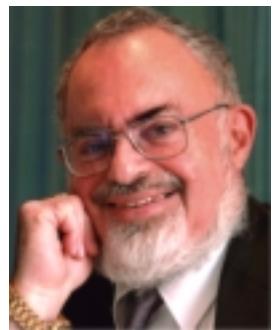
I guess I shouldn't be surprised as Kevin has a long history of false claims. I noted 38 of these in my paper (3) and spelled out rebuttals in an eight-page letter to Kevin dated Nov. 10, 1995, in response to Randle's article about the Roswell crash in the October 2007 *MUFON UFO Journal*. (10)

A typical example is his claim about the typewriter used for the Truman Forrestal memo of September 24, 1947. In the blog he says that Peter Tytell, a questioned documents expert, said, "the typeface on the documents [he should have said document] was from a typewriter that didn't exist at the time the document was supposedly written. Yes I know that Friedman has said experts said the typewriter did exist, but he has offered no proof of this and has not identified these experts." Balderdash. As a matter of fact in both *TOP SECRET/MAJIC* (7) and in *Review of Case MJ-12* (6) I wrote, "Dr. Robert M. Wood did pay a Questioned Documents Examiner, James A. Black, to perform a professional examination of the Truman Forrestal typeface. In a letter dated November 13, 1998, Black stated, "My knowledge of typewriter fonts permits me to conclude that the letter was likely to have been typed by an Underwood Standard typewriter. The portions of the type font of the letter that can be clearly visualized match those of a typewriter exemplar of an Underwood Standard typed in May 1940."

Randle claims in his blog that "Friedman has little to say about Tytell." In fact, I had directly quoted what Randle had said about him in *Case MJ-12*, (6) and had provided other discussion about Tytell. He had said, "It was just perfect because the whole thing of the 12 pages or how-

ever many pages it was. Most of the pages were just blank pages with just five words written on them like Top Secret or Appendix A or something like that." I pointed out that actually there were eight pages, not twelve, and only page 7 (which Randle didn't include), mentioned Appendix A and had security markings. In his book Kevin didn't even include the Cutler Twining memo though it is the only original MJ-12 document. I also talked about Kevin's false claims about the Truman signature converting my "matched" to "exactly matched" etc.

Kevin has a very long history of writing what he wishes were true rather than what is factual. This is certainly not surprising since, as of at least 10 years ago, he had written more than 80 books of fiction. These were usually under other names and were adventure and science fiction stories. He obviously is skilled at creating scenarios. Another example is his statement that Friedman and Moore weren't aware that the briefing was by a military man for a military man. The fact is that I had actually explicitly stated (2, p.54): "One has to remember that the briefing was done, if it's genuine, for a military man by a military man." Kevin had the report.



Stanton Friedman

He was, for several years, a strong booster of Frank Kauffmann as a Roswell witness who knew everything about everything even though his stories often made no sense. Kevin himself created one claiming that Frank had rigged up a mirror so he could watch a radar set in Alamogordo while in the restroom. Kevin later admitted that that notion came from a science fiction story. There were a number of reasons (ignored by Kevin) for not buying Frank's stories such as his claim that the radar showed that an object had exploded north of Roswell (the range of the radar was less than 40 miles). He supposedly dashed over the more than 100 miles to the base, woke base commander Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel in the middle of the night, drove with them north and then cross country through the hills and valleys, found the downed saucer, noted bodies, called the base, and a flat bed truck came out, also cross country, got the saucer on board and was back to base by morning!! Frank was a civilian at the time!! Problem is, there was no road and it was a bogus site. The owners of the land at that time said the only way to get there would have been by horseback.

Plane crash investigators (Kevin was a pilot) always want to examine the crash site to get forensic data in daylight before moving wreckage. Blanchard, as head of the 509th, our primary atomic bomb retaliatory group, would never have left the base without knowing what was out there. Marcel would have reacted very differently later that day, July 6, when Mac Brazel came into town. Later Kevin wouldn't believe me when I told him that Frank told me in front of three other witnesses that he hadn't taken Blanchard or Marcel out. Kevin finally admitted that he had been wrong and Frank's story was all baloney after Don Schmitt and Mark Rodeghier—after Frank's death—had discovered evidence that Frank had forged documents among other sins.

Kevin claimed that certain archeologists had been out on the Plains of San Agustin (the site of the 1947 Barney Barnett crashed saucer story (4)) in early July 1947, and said there had been no

crash there. It turns out none of them were there at the time and had said they hadn't heard of a crash, a very different notion indeed.

In his blog, Kevin speaks very highly about Brad Spark's 2007 MUFON Symposium paper (12) attacking the MJ-12 documents and even gives an internet link so people can easily read it. Of course he doesn't mention my *MUFON Journal* (October 2007) rebuttal to Brad's claims about the MJ-12 documents.

Kevin had claimed in one of his books that before getting involved in Roswell research that he had shown—in an 1980 article in a UFO encyclopedia—that there was nothing to the crash stories from Aztec, Spitsbergen and Roswell. I pointed out the there was no article mentioning Roswell in the book. He refused to believe me and pulled out the book. He read the passage and said, "See, I didn't say that." After a third reading, he slowly said, "I can see why some people may think that is what I said." After the fourth reading at my behest, he said, "That wasn't what was in my head at the time." I pointed out that I was a physicist and not a psychic and had to go by his written words not what he claims was in his head.

The blog has a number of derogatory comments about me mostly claiming silly nonsense such as that I can't give up on MJ-12 because "it is his [Friedman's] cash cow. He makes a quite a lot of money from his speaking engagements." None of the comments refer to any of my publications destroying the false attack on MJ-12 by people like Kevin. None note how much time and money I have spent on researching the documents at visits to archives. The debunkers sit in their armchairs making false claims.

I should add that Kevin again, in the blog, repeated the false claim that Bill Moore had supposedly told me it was time to make up a false document and put it out to smoke out others who knew about MJ-12. Supposedly I agreed. This is totally false. Perhaps it is a twist on the fact that Bill in his FOCUS publication included a heavily censored version of part of the Eisenhower Briefing document. I had not

been asked about doing that and didn't give approval.

I would strongly recommend that anybody wanting to know about the Majestic 12 documents (I did detailed research showing that a mess of Tim Cooper Documents are indeed phony) check out my references where they can get the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

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* Item available for purchase from UFORI, POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958. <http://www.v-j-enterprises.com/sforder.html>

Stan Friedman sphys@rogers.com
www.stantonfriedman.com



Filer's Files

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Note: These reports are presented to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.

Stephen Hawking says we are not alone in the Universe

WASHINGTON – Famed astrophysicist Stephen Hawking has been thinking a lot about the cosmic question, “Are we alone?” The answer is probably not, he says. If there is life elsewhere in the universe, Hawking asks why haven’t we stumbled onto some alien broadcasts in space, maybe something like “alien quiz shows?” Hawking’s comments were part of a lecture at George Washington University on Monday [April 21] in honor of NASA’s 50th anniversary. He theorized that there are possible answers to whether there is extraterrestrial life.

One option is that there likely isn’t life elsewhere. Or maybe there is intelligent life elsewhere, but when it gets smart enough to send signals into space, it also is smart enough to make destructive nuclear weapons. Hawking said he prefers the third option: “Primitive life is very common and intelligent life is fairly rare,” he then quickly added: “Some would say it has yet to occur on earth.” However, because alien life might not have DNA like us, Hawking warned: “Watch out if you would meet an alien. You could be infected with a disease with which you have no resistance.”

The 66-year-old British cosmologist, who suffers from ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease, and must speak through a mechanical device, believes “if the human race is to continue for another million years, we will have to boldly go where no one has gone before.”

Thanks to Fox News. www.FOXNews.com .

Arizona Lights; Man claims hoax

PHOENIX – My husband and I were going from Ahwatukee to the Chandler Mall on April 21, 2008, about 7 PM, and dark. We first headed east on the I-10, and when we took the ramp to go east on the 202, I saw three lights in the sky in a triangle shape. I pointed them out to my husband, and although he was driving, he looked and saw them distinctly. The entire time we were on the 202, they did not move.

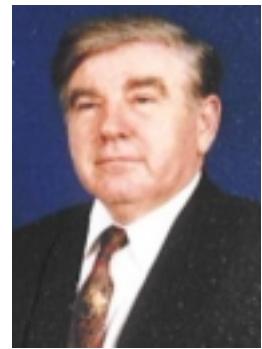
A north Phoenix man told *The Arizona Republic* that he saw his neighbor launch several helium balloons with flares attached to them shortly before people began seeing the four red lights about 8 p.m. Tuesday. That raised the possibility they were sky lanterns. A police chopper pilot who saw the Phoenix lights said they appeared to be flares, possibly hanging from one or more helium balloons moving in formation. Thanks to MUFON CMS and *The Arizona Republic*.

MUFON Editor’s note: A [Phoenix] area man who does not wish to be identified claims that he was behind the mysterious phenomenon. He told KTVK-TV that after the sun went down Monday night, he tied road flares to four large helium-filled balloons using fishing line. Then he released the balloons one-by-one, at one-minute intervals. Thanks to Brian Webb of KTVK-TV.

Indiana – Flap

INDIANAPOLIS – Strange sights and sounds filled the nighttime sky in Howard and Tipton counties late Wednesday night April 16, 2008, leaving residents and authorities wondering what they had seen and heard. Reports of lights in the sky, crashes, and vibrations on the ground baffled residents, who began calling authorities right after the rumblings at about 10:30 PM.

WESTFIELD – Tonight, April 16, 2008, at about 10:37 PM, my brother, our friend and I witnessed something that was not man-made. We live in Central Indiana. I was looking north a little northwest and saw these bright lights come into view. They were rotating in a counter-clockwise direction. It wasn’t fire. These were lights because you could see each light. We all kind of looked at it for about a minute and a half and then boom! It just took off and vanished. We called the local police department and reported it, and then we called the local news. They had calls flooding in. So we watched the news and they reported that



George Filer



something shot out of this UFO, and that a plane was down and that there was a huge explosion or a sonic boom. Later on at the end of the program they said that nothing was down and no planes were missing. What I witnessed tonight changed the way I look at the sky. Weather: Few clouds at 25,000 feet. visibility was 10 miles. Winds were from the south at 9 MPH.

Filer's Files

Continued from page 18

Whatever I was looking at was not no way no how anything manmade. The area where the news reported it happened was over 20 miles away. This thing was HUGE because we could see it perfectly. Anyway I don't know what reporting this event might do. More than likely nothing... I'm sure the government is already covering it up. They are already starting to say that it may have been military flares. No WAY!!! NO HOW! These were in a perfect line and rotating. The location of the sighting was Tipton County and State Road 31 intersecting with Country Road 300. Something happened and I am now, I think, a believer.



Depiction of Craft

Comments: What these witnesses have reported and what the news media reported are certainly dichotomous. These witnesses say that they saw rotating lights followed by an explosion. The media (via police reports) explained the explosion as due to meteors. Given this witness report a meteor or military flares seems like quite an unlikely explanation. Anyone seeing these lights is urged to file a report. Please send any photos, videos, or sketches of your observations. Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

TIPTON COUNTY – On April 16, 2008, I was in the living room watching TV, about 10:30 PM. there was a huge boom that rattled the front window. My husband asked what the noise was, and I went to the front door to see. Off to the west there appeared a large object with lights all the way across. It reminded me of a hair barrette with lights. It seemed to be hovering, yet the lights appeared to turn. My husband came out to stand



F-16 Blacksnakes Fighter Wing

behind me just in time to see the lights reappear from right to left until five lights were showing, and then it did it for a second time before it disappeared. The lights were yellow orange in color.

If you look on www.WWKI.com, click on the article "Big Boom! Lights in the sky?", you will see pictures that someone submitted. The fourth picture down is exactly what I saw when I first looked out. This was no meteor or F-16; they don't hover. We could not take our eyes off of it, and my husband, who is a Viet Nam veteran and a retired deputy sheriff said he had never seen anything like it. Thanks to MUFON CMS

Editor's Note: Assuming the witnesses all saw the same thing, some were close to the actual craft that appears to have been disk shaped with multiple lights. Military fighters were launched and participating in an exercise and were called on to pursue the intruder. When I was in the Air Force we would be asked to intercept an unknown to identify as friendly or foe. The 122nd Fighter Wing known as the Blacksnakes at Fort Wayne airport shown below is equipped with F-16s and probably conducted an intercept.

According to Glen Means, MUFON State Section Director of the affected counties, several witnesses saw a huge circular craft smoking and leaving vapor trail just after a huge explosion. For more information and an excellent detailed report go to www.ufofiler.com

Montana – Orb Chases Smaller Orb

BUTTE – I was on my front porch looking at the stars on March 29, 2008, because it was a very clear night at 8 PM, when I saw a bright white orb moving from west to east. I thought it was a plane at first because of its slow speed, until I noticed it was following a smaller white

orb barely visible. I ran inside to get my 8mm camcorder, and filmed it just over my house.

Upon review of the tape, towards the end of the film the smaller craft, takes off at a right angle and disappears. I did not see this with my bare eyes. Then, something else shoots from left to right of the screen from the bigger bright orb. I could not identify what it was. I stopped filming when I went to move through my house to my back porch. [Then] I lost track of it. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director www.ufocenter.com

South Carolina – Triangle Mysterious Aurora or TR3B??

GREENVILLE – I got two photos on April 19, 2008, of this triangle object that flew over my subdivision at 11:24 AM; I thought it was a B-3 bomber. (No, it's not!!) There were thunderstorms in Greenville this morning and it was raining and windy. (The clouds did not help in the lighting.) I was outside checking on a bird nest on my front porch, when I spotted a triangle shape object heading toward my subdivision. I went inside and grabbed my camera and took two pictures of the unknown object. I would have taken more but my battery pack died. (I wonder???) The UFO or aircraft came from the west and headed east. Could this be Lockheed's new toy? It barely made a sound as it flew over. (It sounded like a low humming transformer.)



Comments: This could be it! This could be a real photo of the mysterious Aurora or TR3B Flying Triangle that has longed been rumored to be in construction. The craft must have been flying very low given the low cloud ceiling. In addition the low sound certainly

Continued on page 20

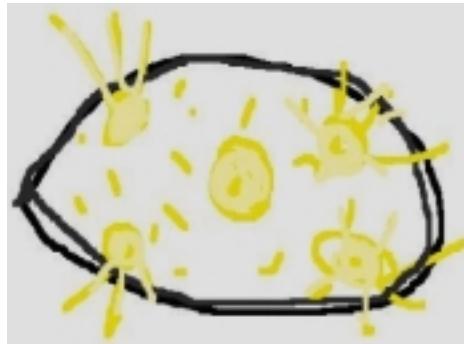
Filer's Files

Continued from page 19

excludes any Stealth aircraft. I have posed more questions to the witness. Preliminary analysis shows that these photos are authentic. However, more analysis will be performed. Thanks to Bill Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

Washington -- Disc Photo / Drawing

SEATTLE – I was on the 18th Floor of the Hyatt in Bellevue on April 11, 2008, eating my dinner when an object flew by flying slightly higher than the buildings in front of me. It came and went quickly but I did have time to get my binoculars locked on to it and it was the strangest thing I have ever looked at. My husband observed it as well, with the naked eye and also was fascinated with it. Its lights



were very bright, had lights on four sides and one in the middle, it was kind of oval shaped and I couldn't tell where the front of the craft was, nor the back, nor the top nor the bottom. I only saw it from one angle as it went by... and if I had to guess, to me it looked like I was seeing it from the bottom (but that would mean it was flying sideways...). It was a decently large object; not very long—kind of fat—

seemed really ...mechanical? Like the bottom of some huge craft on Star Wars... but it wasn't huge... it was nothing like any kind of plane, and moved quickly by—not “out of this world” quick, but definitely fast.

Sometimes I laugh when I see people's ridiculous hand drawn pictures of sightings, but now I understand! Here's mine, it's the best I could do. Thanks to MUFON CMS

MUFON Editor's note: This illustration is similar to that the craft reported by Chris Bledsoe Sr. and Chris Jr. in North Carolina in January 2007. (MUFON Journal, February 2008)

This month's Filer's Files includes excerpts from File #17, April 23, 2008, and File #16, April 16, 2008. Filer's Files is copyrighted 2008 by George A. Filer, all rights reserved. Send your letters to majorstar@aol.com.

2008 MUFON Field Investigator of the Year Award

MUFON is now taking nominations from State Directors for the top MUFON Field Investigator of 2008. The award will be given at the MUFON Symposium in San Jose. All nominations must be received no later than July 1, 2008.

Award Criteria:

1. Number of Sighting Investigations completed in CMS from June 1, 2007 to June 1, 2008;
2. Quality of the Investigations completed.
 - a. Complete investigative job done following the elements of the Investigative Process on a timely basis.
 - b. Investigation Report includes all elements of the Investigative Process.
 - c. CMS has been updated including every data element.
 - d. Conclusions/Case Dispositions supported by the Investigation and report.
 - e. Results shared with the witness and witness agrees.
3. All Data Elements in CMS are updated as appropriate and data is properly entered.

The award will be an engraved plaque with the MUFON Logo and a MUFON Field Investigator Bag.

MUFON Volunteer Opportunity: Case Management System Administrator

Responsibilities:

1. ALL administrative tasks related to the CMS System.
2. Maintain the MUFON USER list based on the current list in CMS, plus any adds due to membership growth and new Field Investigators who have passed their FI Exam, minus any deletes based on expired memberships or State Director directed deletions. Eventually the membership adds and deletes should be an automated feed between the membership system and CMS.
3. Log onto CMS several times each day to check the LAST 20 Reports and ensure the content posted is appropriate. This includes clicking on all links and checking all pictures, videos, and other files posted for appropriate content.
4. Review all automatically deleted reports by CMS, review the content, and restore those that are valid reports.
5. Check to see that all States with multiple SDs (California, Tennessee, Washington, etc.) have the County field filled in for all reports submitted.
6. Delete duplicate reports after reviewing all duplicates and determining which one has the most data in it to become the surviving case file.
7. Alert the Director of Investigations regarding all exceptional cases that come in. An exceptional case is one that is a recent landing and/or entity case at close range (<300 feet). These require IMMEDIATE follow-up.
8. Work with the Director of Investigations to ensure the timely assignment and follow-up of all reports by State Directors and FIs respectively.

If you are interested in this *new volunteer position*, contact Jan Harzan at janharzan@hotmail.com or Chuck Reever at wizard@telis.org.

Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reever
MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is April's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **John Ventre** (West Virginia), **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), **Bland Pugh** (Florida), **Jim King** (Iowa), and **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico) 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 being sure to assign all cases within 72 hours, and to follow 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 Reever, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at wizard@telis.org .

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	22/22	21/21
2	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	16/16	13/13
3	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	14/14	15/15
4	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 %	112/112	91/91
5	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	27/27	22/22
6	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	29/29	23/23
7	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	98 %	51/51	46/47
8	California	Georjeanne Cifarelli	96 %	159/161	117/123
9	Georgia	Walter Sheets	93 %	27/27	21/24
10	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	93 %	20/23	23/23
11	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	92 %	41/41	47/55
12	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	90 %	60/62	44/52
13	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	89 %	57/72	93/93
14	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	87 %	278/285	169/220
15	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	84 %	37/52	43/44
16	Washington	Marilyn Childs	78 %	27/32	25/34
17	Arizona	George C. Parks	73 %	42/90	90/90
18	Wisconsin	TG Whiteagle / DJ Watson	72 %	18/21	12/20
19	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	70 %	57/57	28/67
20	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	68 %	17/20	12/23
21	Utah	Elaine Douglass	68 %	9/10	8/17
22	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	65 %	4/9	12/14
23	Ohio	William Jones	63 %	32/44	26/48
24	Nevada	Mark Easter	57 %	9/39	35/38
25	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	55 %	2/19	7/7
26	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	55 %	9/13	7/17
27	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	53 %	16/34	15/25
28	New Hampshire	Peter R. Geremia	50 %	3/3	0/5
29	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegal	50 %	0/0	1/1
30	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	50 %	0/2	2/2
31	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	45 %	54/65	5/69
32	Massachusetts	Greg S. Berghorn	35 %	5/31	16/29
33	North Carolina	George E. Lund, III	33 %	13/48	15/38
34	Maryland	Bruce S. Maccabee	33 %	4/17	9/21
35	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	32 %	21/43	8/48
36	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	31 %	6/15	4/18
37	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	30 %	5/18	7/21
38	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	11 %	3/20	2/25
39	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	8 %	1/6	0/7
40	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	3 %	0/25	2/26
41	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	1 %	1/31	0/20
42	Hawaii	Puuloa M. Teves	0 %	0/7	0/4
43	Rhode Island	Richard Lynch	0 %	0/9	0/10
44	Idaho	Robert Gates	0 %	0/9	0/14
45	North Dakota	Kurt Pfleger	0 %	0/4	0/5
46	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	0 %	0/5	0/11

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Director's Message

continued from page 2

the weak media-induced reports while under the constant surveillance of news-media cameras. Complicating the investigation were the sensationalist investigative reporters and others who descended on Stephenville and whose primary goal was not the truth but to get exclusive access to witness stories, photos and videos in the same way the tabloid paparazzi vie for exclusive celebrity photos. MUFON Field Investigators on the other hand are a special breed of people and their dedication to comprehensive and thorough investigation amazes me. I am proud of the way MUFON Texas handled this very complex situation.



Charles Modlin named new member of STAR team

Charles W. Modlin of Pewaukee, Wisconsin, has been named to the MUFON Strike Team for Area Research, or STAR team. He joins five other members.

Modlin was a Senior Engineering Associate at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 1986 to 2006. He is retired. He has experience with radar systems, navigational aids, missile systems, telemetry, lasers and many other technologies. A master scuba diver, an avid adventure traveler and a photographer, his wife Vicki shares his interests.

New MUFON Merchandise Available

The new MUFON online store is up and running with a whole new line of MUFON merchandise, from Field Investigator bags and kits to denim and polo shirts to the new *UFO Hunters* line of items. You can now pay directly with a credit card and also choose expedited shipping methods from FedEx and UPS. In addition, if you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to MUFON, you can set up a recurring credit card payment and spread your donations over time. MUFON needs your financial support to continue to fulfill its mission and goals and every donation is greatly appreciated.

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benefits will begin when the last payment is received.

Position Announcements

New State/Assistant State Directors:

Washington State has been consolidated and is no longer divided up into East and West Washington. The State Director for all of Washington State is **Laurence Childs**. **Marilyn Childs** and **David George** are the Assistant State Directors for all of Washington State.

New Field Investigators:

Monroe Slocumb of Harvest, Alabama; **John Morrison** of Alameda, California; **Richard Sherertz** of Rockford, Illinois; **Jack Agard** of Shawnee, Kansas; **Gary Connor** of St. Peters, Missouri; **Art Giannetti** of Kingston, New Hampshire; **Brian Langerman** of Lloyd Harbor, New York; **Debbie Garland** of Lloyd Harbor, New York; **David MacDonald** of Cincinnati, Ohio; **Devlin Rugne** of Portland, Oregon; **Elisa Simon** of Buckingham, Pennsylvania; **Alfredo Barrientos** of Del Rios, Texas; **Daniel Lile** of Bothell, Washington; **Victoria Ramsay** of Appleton, Wisconsin; **Deborah Atherton** of Black River Falls, Wisconsin; **Vicki LeBlanc** of Pewaukee, Wisconsin; **Diane Luchterhand** of Spencer, Wisconsin.

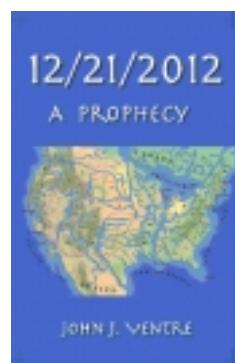
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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

June 2008 Sky

Moon Phases

New Moon June 3rd
First Quarter June 10th
Full Moon June 18th
Last Quarter June 26th

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

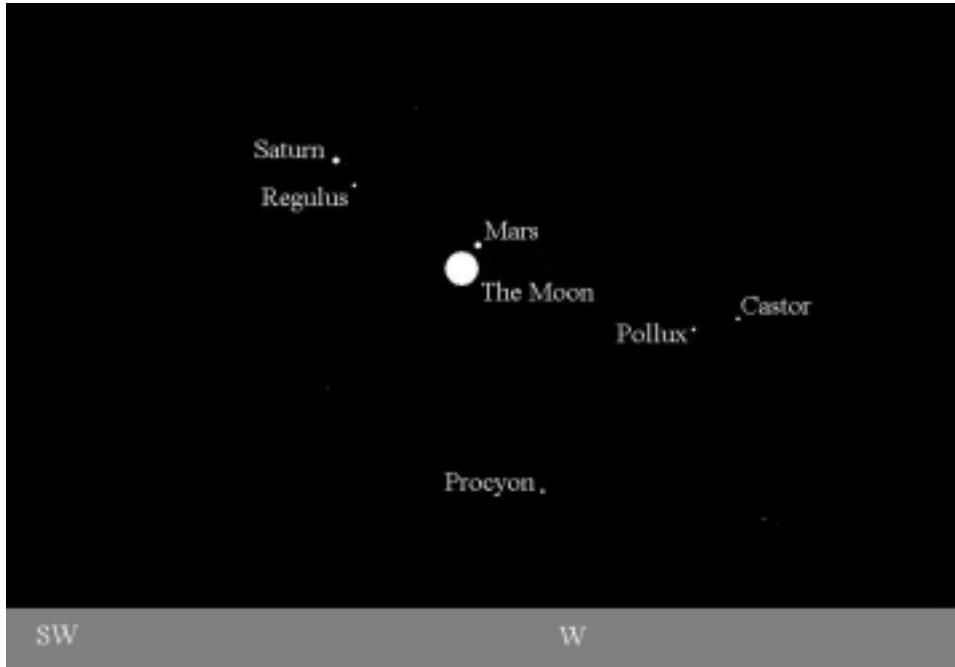
Venus (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Taurus into Gemini. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will be easily observed shining brightly high above the western horizon at sunset. For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will be easily observed shining brightly high above the northwest horizon at sunset.

Mars (magnitude 1.5 to 1.6): Moving from Cancer into Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will rise above the eastern horizon about 2 ½ hours before the Sun and will be high above the east-southeast horizon as the Sun rises. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will rise above the eastern horizon about 3 hours before the Sun and will be very high above the northeast horizon as the Sun rises.

Saturn (magnitude 0.7 to 0.8): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will be very high in the west-northwest at sunset and will set about 4 ½ after the Sun at the beginning of the month and 2 ½ hours after the Sun at the end of the month. For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will be very high in the north-northwest at sunset and will set about 5 hours after the Sun at the beginning of the month and 3 hours after the Sun at the end of the month.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

Mercury (magnitude 4.1 to 5.1 to 2.1): In Taurus. For northern and southern hemisphere observers,



After sunset on June 7, 2008

Mercury will begin the month lost in the glare of the Sun but will reappear in morning twilight during the last ten days of June where it will be found above the east-northeast horizon.

Jupiter: (magnitude -2.6 to -2.7). In Sagittarius. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will rise above the east-southeast horizon as the Sun sets and will descend below the west-southwest horizon as the Sun rises.

Other Celestial Phenomena:

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

Planetary Conjunction

Conjunction of the Moon, Mars and Saturn

Conjunctions and Occultations:

June 8th—Mars 1.1 degrees north of the Moon.

June 9th—Regulus 1.4 degrees north of the Moon.

June 17th—Antares 0.2 degrees north of the Moon.

June 20th—Jupiter 2 degrees north of the Moon.