



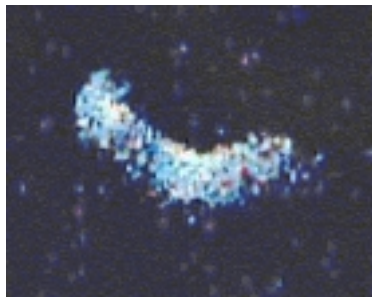
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# UFO Journal

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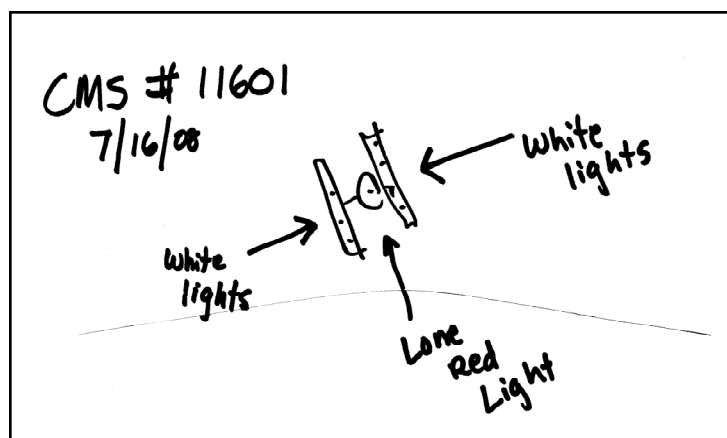
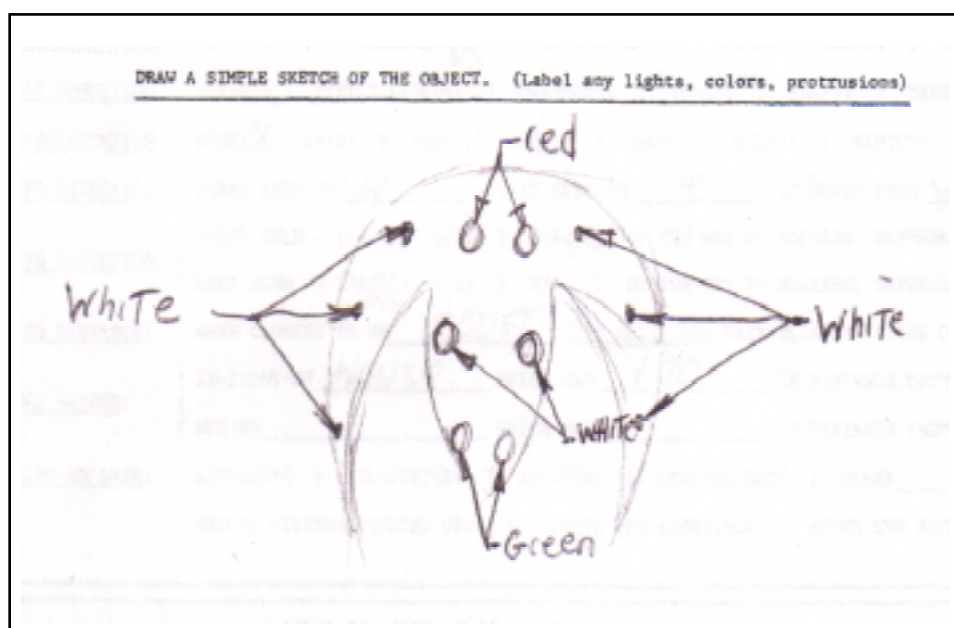
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*Unusual activity reported over  
5-County Philadelphia Metro Area*

# MUFON UFO Journal

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## Director's Message

By James Carrion

### Discovery Channel show date yet to be announced

At MUFON Headquarters we have been receiving a number of inquiries on when MUFON's Discovery Channel show, "UFOs over the Earth," is going to air on television. Well the short answer is we are not sure but probably sometime at the end of 2008 or beginning of 2009. Most of the shooting has been finished and now it is up to the creative editors to put it all together.

I just came back from a weeklong trip to Mexico, where Ruben Uriarte and I investigated a number of recent UFO cases for the series. I will write up a couple of these cases for future issues of the *Journal*. If the show ratings are favorable, it may end up being carried for a full season. What a great way to showcase what MUFON does best – solid scientific investigation of the UFO Phenomenon.

### Symposium DVDs

If you missed the 2008 MUFON

Symposium in San Jose, California, you can now order all the Symposium Presentations and Field Investigator Workshops at the MUFON online store at <http://store.mufon.com>.

We will continue to offer new Field Investigator workshops at future MUFON Symposiums which will contribute to our body of training material. State Training coordinators should use these training DVDs in conjunction with the new MUFON Field Investigators manual in State Field Investigator training classes to ensure consistent education of new MUFON Field Investigators in proper field investigation techniques.



*James Carrion*

*Continued on page 22*

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# "Signs" over Bucks County, Pennsylvania

## Over 100 UFO sightings reported over the summer

By John J. Ventre  
MUFON State Director  
Pennsylvania & West Virginia

Something strange has been occurring over the skies of Pennsylvania. Residents have reported 114 UFO sightings on MUFON CMS from June through August 31 across Pennsylvania.

### Two types of objects are reported over Bucks County

Ordinarily there are eight to ten sightings reported to CMS per month in the entire state of Pennsylvania. However, this summer there were 16 reports in June, 63 in July, and 25 in August. Forty-four of the 114 sightings have been in Bucks County, which is north of Philadelphia. This is the largest UFO wave across Pennsylvania since 1973.

The series of sightings actually began on January 27, 2008, when a star-like object was observed. There were two more sightings reported in March, four in April, and one in May, eight in June, seven in July, and five in August over Bucks County, Pennsylvania. There were similar sightings over Western Pennsylvania. Bucks County is a suburb of Philadelphia and coincidentally was the location for Mel Gibson's movie "Signs."

The sightings over Bucks County alone involved two types of objects. Twelve residents saw a bright star-like object predominately above cloud level. Nine residents saw a boomerang V-shaped object at lower levels. Among the witnesses are a retired homicide detective and an active police officer who is a military buff and who says he has never seen anything like this in our military. Other witnesses have been logging unusual activity over the Oxford Valley Mall area as well as numerous other hot spots over Philadelphia since 2001. The Oxford Valley Mall is a bi-level mall located in a regional shopping district adjacent to Sesame Place in Langhorne, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

MUFON Field Investigators Bob Gardner and Elisa Simon have been very active in interviewing witnesses and verifying their accounts. Gardner has investigated 53 cases, and Simon has investigated 10 cases.

### Sightings sparked extensive media interest

The events have been covered widely in the media. On June 27, Elisa Simon contacted the local police as well as the *Bucks County Courier Times*. Reporter Jim McGinnis contacted me for a story and said he would like to accompany an investigator on a case. (He hasn't.) He ran his story on July 2, 2008. Two radio stations and two other newspapers also contacted me. Bob Gardner was also contacted by local radio and interviewed by three newspapers. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran a two page story on July 11. Gardner appeared

on local ABC, CBS, and FOX television news. Bob was also a guest on the Paranormal Café internet show and was contacted by the internet site UFO Casebook.

The following day, ABC channel 6 news interviewed a local store owner who sells Chinese lanterns. The owner's conclusion was that residents are seeing these lit candles that float up like balloons. (He must have read about the recent lights over Phoenix where they drew the same conclusion.) The only problem with this theory is that these Chinese lanterns don't look like the objects being reported and the store didn't open until June. There were nine reported sightings prior to this store even being in business!

### My first personal UFO sighting

Even though I am the State Director for MUFON Pennsylvania, I had never personally seen a UFO—until the evening of Sunday, June 29. I let my two dogs out around 10:15 PM. Something in the sky caught my attention and I looked up. I saw a bright star-like object traveling toward the northeast at approximately 2000 MPH. It was much larger than an airplane. It went behind some clouds and didn't reappear. I immediately went inside and told my girlfriend what I saw and commented that "we don't have anything that looks or flies like that!" The following day, I told the employees in my office what I saw. An administrative assistant said she also saw something around 10 PM. What she described was the same as what I saw, flying in the same direction.

The Discovery Channel is filming a MUFON based series called "UFOs over the Earth." They flew into Pennsylvania in July to film and interview witnesses of the Bucks County UFO sightings. Filming concluded in August. They brought a photo expert and we conducted bio-chemical tests. Results will be reported at a later date.

## Sightings Summary thru 8/31/08

*Compiled by Bob Gardner, FI*

From January 1 – August 24 this year, there have been 153 cases in Pennsylvania reported to MUFON.

Sixty-three of those sightings were in July, which was the most reported sightings for a single month for any state, with California having the second highest number of reported sightings, at 32.

Bob Gardner, the Lead Investigator on most of the current Metro Philadelphia cases, has handled 53 cases since the end of March. Forty-two cases occurred in the metro Philadelphia area alone.

There have been 61 total sightings reported since January 1 in the Metro (five-county) Philadelphia area. The Metro

*Continued on page 4*





*Denise Murter sighting on April 20, 2008. Photo taken from her back yard.*

## Pennsylvania Sightings

*Continued from page 3*

Philadelphia Area consists of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties.

Of the 61 total cases in the Metro Philadelphia area since January 1, 14 cases occurred between January 1 – June 24.

Following is a sampling of some of the reports.

### Case report summaries

March 28, 2008, 10:20 PM

Hatboro, PA (Montgomery County)

Rich Ferello was walking his dog when he looked out to the eastern sky. He noticed an aircraft heading southwest at an extreme height and then observed four unusual looking craft coming east, flying low without any noise. Each craft had at least one red light on the top in addition to white flashing and static lights on their fronts and sides. The crafts were not following any of the normal flight patterns. The crafts approached the east, then swerved north and started to fly away. The witness immediately returned to his house and mentioned the sighting to his wife, Jo Anne. He looked out of the bathroom window and called his wife to come to the window as the crafts had circled around and were flying somewhat in a circle again. They made no noise. Mr. Ferello called to his son, Justin, who also came to the window and thought that they appeared unusual. The crafts appeared to fly in the same manner as helicopters with their quick movements, but without the noise. Rich said during our interview, “We thought that they might have been searching for something but they didn’t use any searchlights. After about 15 minutes they then flew off in a northwest direction. Several minutes later we observed and heard several aircraft fly north using the usual flight patterns.” The Ferello family was interviewed by State Director John Ventre on 7/13/2008 for the Discovery Channel Special, *UFOs over the Earth*. (Report taken by F.I. Bob Gardner)

April 20, 2008, 03:00 AM, Levittown, PA

Denise Murter was awakened from sleep by a noise that sounded like a screen ripping. Her dog was growling as well. Denise looked out back and saw an object hovering in the sky that had lights on the front of the craft and also emitted a cone shaped light from its underbelly. After watching this object for 30 minutes, the witness woke her husband Dan and together they observed the craft for about another 20 minutes. The witness also had three other sightings after this one. The second sighting occurred on May 20, 2008, at 4 AM, for a duration of 30 minutes. The third sighting occurred on June 12, 2008, at 1 AM, also for a duration of 30 minutes. Both of these sightings were similar to the first. A separate report was filed for the fourth sighting, which occurred on July 8, as it was significantly different. This witness was interviewed once by me and again by me and State Director John Ventre for the Discovery special, *UFOs over the Earth*. (F.I. Bob Gardner)

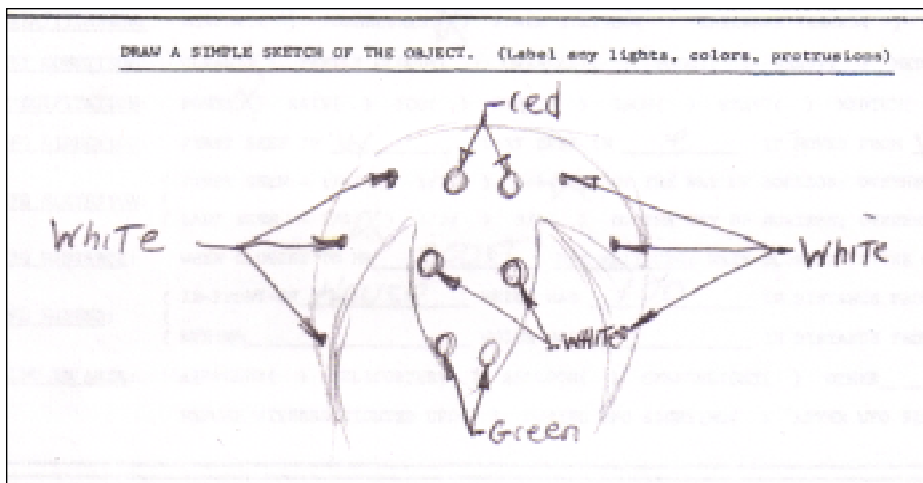
June 3, 2008, 04:20 AM, Doylestown, PA

Cliff Vandegrift woke up at approximately 4:20 AM on June 3rd, 2008, rolled over and looked out his window. As he stared out at the sky, Cliff noticed a small cloud was moving closer at a very slow speed. The closer it came, the less it looked like a cloud and the more it began to take a definite shape—that of an elongated hexagon, dark gray in color just



*Computer-generated illustrations of Cliff Vandegrift’s June 3, 2008, sighting at Doylestown, Pennsylvania.*





*Illustration drawn by Anthony Gurka of his June 25, 2008 sighting.*

a shade darker than the backdrop of the sky. Also, this object was very large, which made it difficult to tell its size or its height. He estimated that it was at an altitude of approximately 600 feet, and that it was at least over 100 feet wide and 100 feet long, with two of the sides slightly longer than the other four. As the witness got out of bed and went to the window (which was open) he noticed that there was no sound coming from the object. Cliff then went outside to get a closer look at the craft and witnessed the object make a complete circle around his property. Then the craft returned along the same path on which it originally approached, toward the south, and then it gained altitude and disappeared.

The witness had a repeat sighting on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:05 AM. The craft did pretty much the same thing as before, but this time, Mr. Vandegrift got a much better look at it. As previously stated, the craft was hexagonal in shape, but it was not just one craft, but six craft connected to each other! The witness also got a better look at the top of the multi-part craft and observed that the sides were gray in color with protrusions and indentations. There were definitely some sort of windows on the craft with spirals and aerials protruding above the top of the craft. Mr. Vandegrift was interviewed by Field Investigators Elisa Simon and Bob Gardner along with State Director John Ventre on 7/12/2008 for the Discovery Channel Special, *UFOs over the Earth*. (F.I. Elisa Simon)

June 25, 2008, 01:00 AM, Levittown, PA

On June 25th around 1:00 AM, Anthony Gurka was on his front porch when he noticed a strange sound that was very similar to the sound of a passenger jet but not as low in tone and at a higher pitch. As he heard the sound he looked up in the sky and saw a boomerang shaped object fairly low to the ground (roughly 1000 feet above the ground). It had white lights from the points of the boomerang spaced evenly to the middle of the boomerang and had a football shaped body with mirrored lights on both sides of the body with the back light being red, the middle white, and the last being green. It moved at a fairly slow pace. The whole event lasted

roughly five minutes. This witness was interviewed once by me and again by me and SD John Ventre for the Discovery Channel Special, *UFOs over the Earth* on 7/12/2008. (F.I. Bob Gardner)

July 8, 2008, 04:10 AM, Levittown, PA

Denise Murter was out in the yard with her dog at 4:10 AM on July 8, 2008. This was her fourth sighting since mid-April. She looked up in the sky and saw four lights this time, three on the front of the object that looked like two eyes and a nose and were as bright as head lights, and a pink colored light toward the rear of the object. The craft emitted a blue fog out of what appeared to be the rear; the

fog contained silver flakes which fell through two trees, filtering down through the trees until they hovered about three feet off the ground. After a while the silver flakes went back up to the object. The witness observed the whole



*Photo of Denise Murter's sighting on July 8, 2008.*

encounter for 40 minutes this time. A robin which had lived in one of the affected trees for four months was found dead on the patio the next morning. The robin and tree branches have been sent off to different labs to be tested; preliminary results show significant changes in the chemical makeup of the branches. (F.I. Bob Gardner)

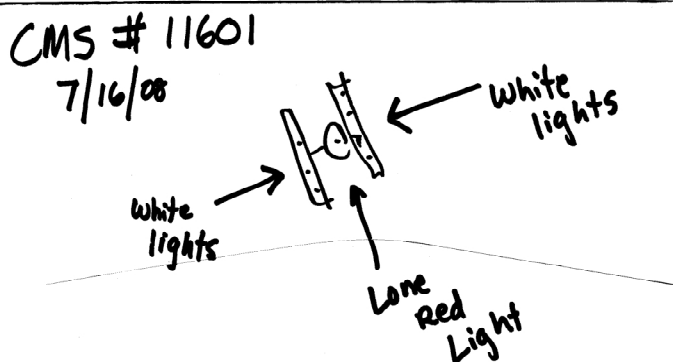
July 16, 2008, 11:45 PM, Philadelphia, PA

Sunnie DeAngelis-Gardner saw an "H" shaped object in the sky as she was coming home from work. She noticed the craft in the sky as she was stopped at a stop sign. There were four white lights on the near side and at least two white lights on the far side with a red light in the middle. As she

*Continued on page 6*

# Pennsylvania Sightings

Continued from page 5



*Drawing by Sunnie DeAnglis-Gardner of her sighting July 16, 2008.*

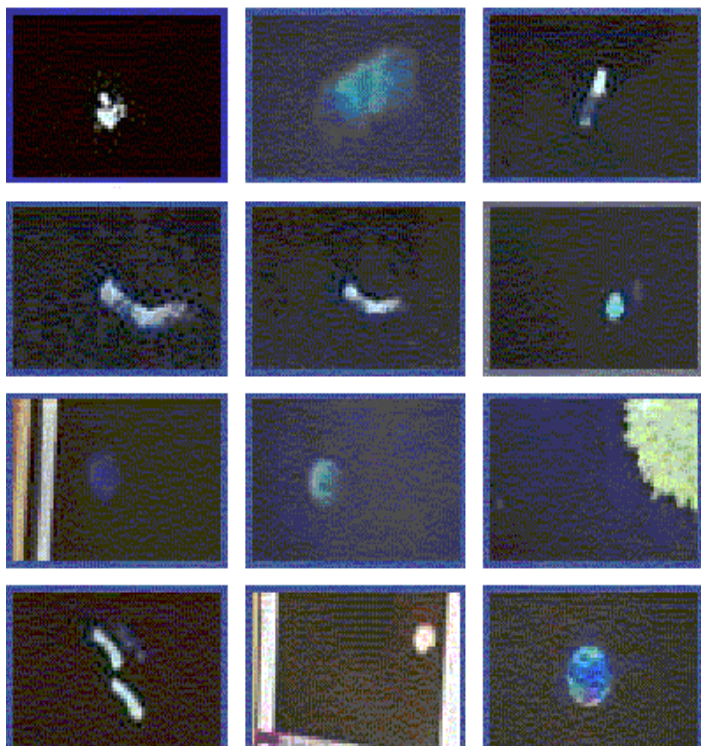
continued to drive slowly she lost sight of it behind the trees that lined the street. The craft just seemed to hover in the sky. Sunnie described the event in an interview, "I was a few blocks from home and the object looked like it was hovering over the woods behind my house like the Police Helicopters do when they are looking for someone or kids drinking in the park, but my husband said that no helicopters were around

within this time frame. It was an "H" shaped object that reminded me of a Tie Fighter from Star Wars." The witness is the wife of this MUFON Field Investigator. (F.I. Bob Gardner)

August 3, 2008, 10:10 PM, Philadelphia, PA

Tony Fusco was sitting on his balcony looking at the night sky when he heard an electronic type sound in his right ear. The sound occurred again a couple of minutes later. He turned in the direction of the sound and saw the object coming from the West to the East. The witness lives near the Philadelphia International Airport and there were no planes come from that direction at that time. The object was just a ball of light travelling slowly and silently with no blinking lights of any kind. As it got closer to him it just faded out and disappeared in a red flash. Tony said, "For some reason UFO activity in the Philadelphia area has been intensifying in the past year and that something is definitely going on." It's interesting to note that there were three other confirmed sightings of this exact event on the same day and time frame in Deptford, New Jersey (which is right across the Walt Whitman Bridge from Philly), in West Virginia, and in Michigan. The Fusco family—other family members have had other sightings in the past as well—was interviewed by F.I. Bob Gardner for the Discovery Channel Special, *UFOs over the Earth* on 8/11/2008. (F.I. Bob Gardner)

## Filer's Files reports coverage of Pennsylvania sightings in the media



*George Filer of NUFOC ([www.nationalufocenter.com](http://www.nationalufocenter.com), also known as "Filer's Files") reports the following about the Pennsylvania sightings in File #35, August 27, 2008.*

**Bucks County**—Fox TV in Philadelphia reports, "So far, nobody has reported taking a ride in any unidentified flying objects." But people who never believed in them before say they've sighted them, literally, in their own backyards. [Fox 29's Gerald] Kolpan reported that, back when he was a kid, it seemed people spotted UFOs every few minutes and there was something of a panic over them. Most of that panic has subsided, but people still see them—especially people in Bucks County.

"The first time I ever saw it was above this yellow townhouse," said Denise, who believes she was a UFO witness. Denise has seen UFOs over her backyard five times since April. "It was kind of oval shaped and it was about the size of a car, a small car, and it had three giant headlights on the bottom of it," she said.

Since June 25 between Bucks and Philadelphia, 44 such bogeys have been spied. How do we know? Well, people like Denise have pictures. "Between the malls to my right and Don Pablo's there have been V-shaped objects," said Bob Gardner, a field investigator for MUFON. He says the sightings over Bucks are legion, in regular old neighborhoods, right over the Oxford Valley Mall and above the now-shuttered Don Pablo's restaurant.

"With the universe that vast, it's like Columbus discovered America, these aliens or extraterrestrials are trying to discover new worlds," Gardner said...

Bucks County residents have snapped pictures of what they believe are UFOs.

There have been dozens of sightings recently in the suburban Philadelphia County, and Kolpan found neighbors aren't afraid to talk about it.



# Is Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life a Threat to Religion?

## *Theologian studies beliefs about aliens among the religious*

By Ted Peters & Julie Froehlig

Although the UFO phenomenon only suggests without requiring speculation about the existence of extraterrestrial intelligent life (ETI), the possible connection between flying saucers and space aliens has been present since the Roswell case in 1947. The 1951 movie, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, sealed into our minds the image of shiny space ships piloted by beings from a more advanced civilization somewhere among the stars. Just how we earthlings might react to contact has become a big question. In trying to answer this question, many have suggested that the more highly evolved and more technologically advanced aliens would provide such a challenge to traditional religious believers that their faith would be shattered. Extraterrestrial intelligence means crisis if not collapse to terrestrial religious beliefs.

Could this be true? How might we test to see if it is true? The two of us authoring this article decided to test the following hypothesis: upon confirmation of contact between earth and an extraterrestrial civilization of intelligent beings, the long established religious traditions of earth would confront a crisis of belief and perhaps even collapse. The test would include two forms of evidence: (1) what theologians say about the prospect of ETI's existence plus (2) a survey asking believers what they actually believe about this topic. Evidence gathered from both sources tends to disconfirm the hypothesis.

### **What do theologians say about ETI?**

A report by Ted Peters on the history of theological speculation regarding the existence of "other worlds" in God's creation has been available for some time now. In the book chapter, "Exotheology: Speculations on Extraterrestrial Life," he cites medieval and contemporary theologians debating the matter of ETI. Even though some theologians such as Thomas Aquinas thought that the idea of "one world" suggests a higher level of perfection than does "many worlds," the preponderance of religious thinkers has favored the view that God's creatures could live in many locations throughout our universe. Among contemporary religious thinkers, examples can be cited among Roman Catholics,

mainline Protestants, evangelical Protestants, and Jews who place ETI within the scope of God's graced creation.<sup>1</sup>

Among contemporary Roman Catholic theologians, University of Tübingen's Hans Küng has said that "we must allow for living beings, intelligent—although quite different—living beings, also on other stars of the immense universe."<sup>2</sup> Similarly, Georgetown University theologian John Haught greets "encounter with alternative intelligent worlds" as an occasion "for theology to enlarge its sense of God and divine creativity."<sup>3</sup> Just recently, "L'Observatore Romano reported Jose Gabriel Funes, Director of the Vatican Observatory, saying, "How can we rule out that life may have developed elsewhere? Just as we consider earthly creatures as 'brothers' and 'sisters,' why should we not talk about an 'extraterrestrial brother'? It would still be part of creation."<sup>4</sup>

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Speculation regarding the existence of "other worlds" in God's creation has been available at least since medieval times.

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Among contemporary Protestant theologians, University of Munich's Wolfhart Pannenberg takes up the issue of redemption for extraterrestrial creatures in his *Systematic Theology*.<sup>5</sup> British scientist-theologian David Wilkinson holds that "at present there is no strong evidence for extraterrestrial intelligence. [Yet,] as a scientist and a Christian I want to encourage the search for extraterrestrial life and intelligence."<sup>6</sup> He registers a level of enthusiasm about the speculative prospect of ETI. "I believe that the discovery of extraterrestrial intelligence would be exciting for the Christian, for it would open up even more of the glory and stunning creativity of the God revealed to us in Jesus."<sup>7</sup> From this, we can see that theologians do not register fear of a crisis or collapse at hearing news confirming the existence

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<sup>1</sup> Ted Peters, "Exotheology: Speculations on Extraterrestrial Life" *Science, Theology, and Ethics* (Aldershot UK: Ashgate, 2003) chapter 6.

<sup>2</sup> Hans Küng, *Eternal Life?* (New York: Doubleday, 1984) 224.

<sup>3</sup> John F. Haught, *Science and Religion: From Conflict to Conversation* (Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 1995) 297

<sup>4</sup> David Ariel, "Vatican: It's OK to believe in aliens" AP story, May 13, 2008. [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080513/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/vatican.aliens](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080513/ap_on_re_eu/vatican.aliens) .

<sup>5</sup> Wolfhart Pannenberg, *Systematic Theology* (3 Volumes: Grand

Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 1989-1997) 2:75-76.

<sup>6</sup> David Wilkinson, *Alone in the Universe?* (Crowborough UK: Monarch, 1997) 138.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 136.

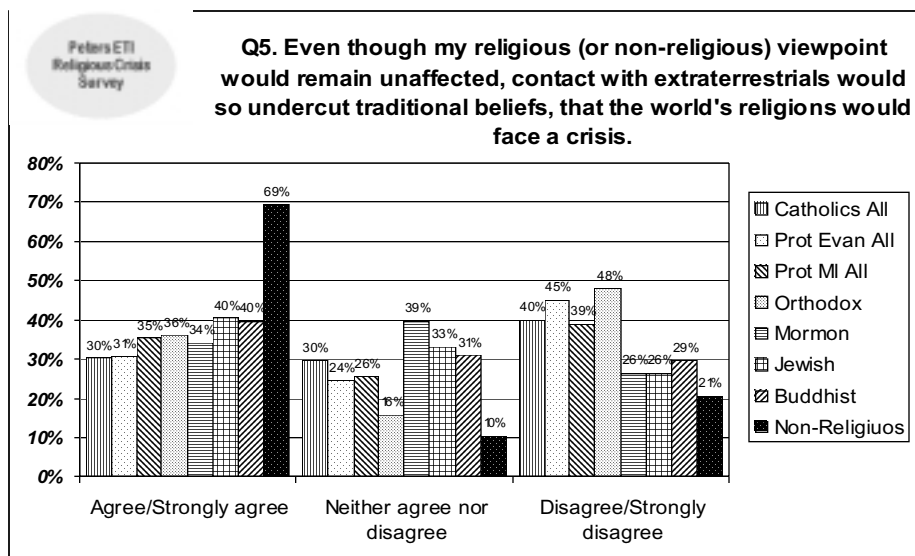
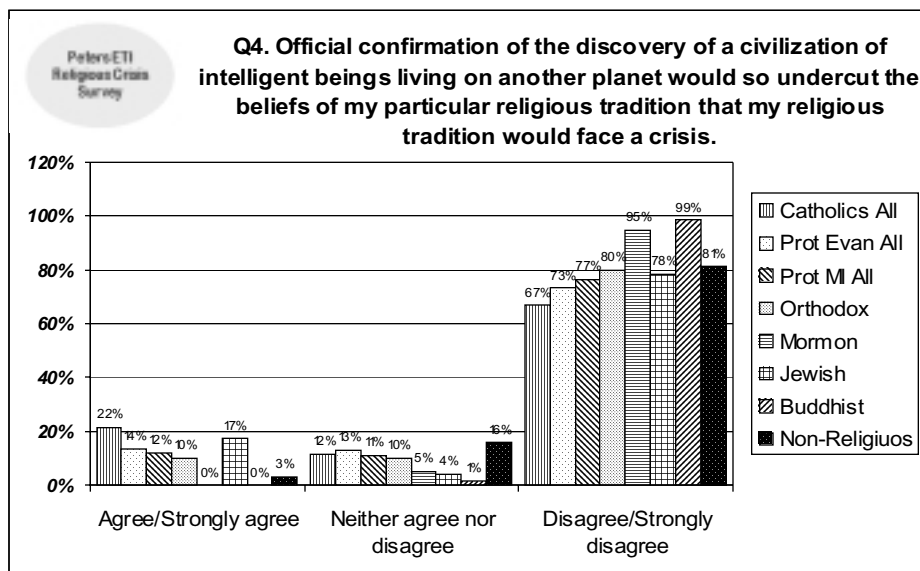
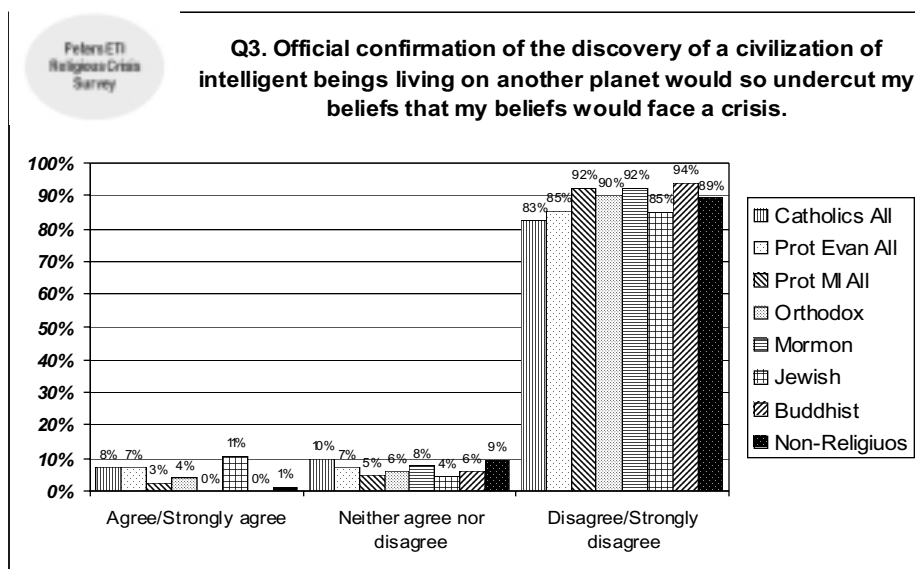
<sup>8</sup> Victoria Alexander, "Extraterrestrial Life and Religion," in *UFO Religions*, edited by James R. Lewis (Amherst NY: Prometheus, 2003) 360.

<sup>9</sup> The summary report and all raw data for the *Peters ETI Religious Crisis Survey* of 2008 can be accessed at the following web site: <http://www.counterbalance.org.etsurvey.html> .



# Is ETI a threat to religion?

Continued from page 9



of extraterrestrial intelligence. We must conclude that theological speculation regarding ETI does not reveal an antipathy or fragility regarding the possible existence of alien neighbors in space.

## What do surveys reveal about ETI and religious belief?

Of value in testing our hypothesis is the survey of Victoria Alexander. In 1994 Alexander conducted a survey of U.S. clergy regarding their religious responses to extraterrestrial life. She provided clergy from Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations with a set of questions such as: would you agree that "official confirmation of the discovery of an advanced, technologically superior extraterrestrial civilization would have severe negative effects on the country's moral, social, and religious foundations"? She tabulated her data and concluded: "In sharp contrast to the 'conventional wisdom' that religion would collapse, ministers surveyed do not feel their faith and the faith of their congregation would be threatened."<sup>8</sup>

In the spring and summer of 2008 we followed up on the Alexander study by distributing questionnaires to gather data for the Peters ETI Religious Crisis Survey. This survey expands the scope to include seven religious traditions: Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, evangelical Protestant, Orthodox Christian, Mormon, Jewish and Buddhist traditions.

We asked clergy, lay, and religious (monks, nuns, etc.), whether, in the event of confirmation of ETI, a respondent's own personal beliefs might confront a crisis; the beliefs of his or her tradition; the beliefs of other religious traditions; and numerous additional questions. No evidence of a widespread sense of threat to religion in any of these categories appeared. To the contrary, confidence that the new knowledge of ETI would be incorporated into systems of religious belief was predominant.<sup>9</sup>

Note here in question 3, for

Continued on page 10

example, that among the 1325 respondents the vast majority expect no crisis to develop when learning of ETI. Note further that this refers to their own personal religious belief, which may be distinguishable from the beliefs of the religious tradition with which they self-identify. What is significant, we believe, is this: adherents to the world's religious belief systems foresee very little if any threat to their personal beliefs.

Question 4 differs somewhat from Question 3. Here we ask each individual believer to speak on behalf of his or her religious tradition. Note two things. First, again, the vast majority of adherents to our seven tested religious traditions (plus non-religious) perceive no threat of crisis when engaging ETI. Second, the numbers differ slightly from Question 3 reviewed above: we see a fraction more in the agree/strongly agree category. Might we perceive here a slight worry that one's religious tradition is more vulnerable to a crisis than one's own personal belief?

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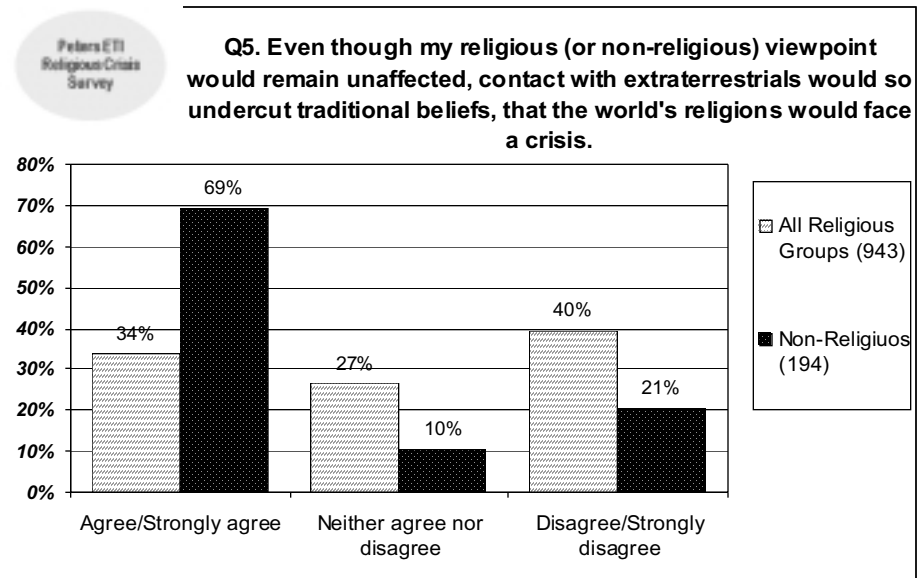
**What is significant, we believe, is this: adherents to the world's religious belief systems foresee very little if any threat to their personal beliefs.**

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Now, let us turn to the question regarding other people's religions. What do believers say about other people's beliefs? What do non-religious people say about religious people's beliefs? Question 5 gets at this.

Here in Question 5 we see that the majority of self-identified religious adherents remain in the disagree/strongly disagree category. Yet, the agree/strongly agree cluster is significantly higher than in question 3 and still higher than in 4. Those who identify with a major religious tradition give a modest degree of credence to the forecast that the world's religions—religions other than their own—might confront a crisis. Some degree of credence, only, we stress; yet, it is still worth noting. Could it be the case that an individual religious believer is slightly more worried about someone else's beliefs than his or her own?

When we turn to comparing religious believers with nonbelievers, what we find is startling. Below is a composite for Question 5. Note how a significant majority (69%) of those who identify as non-religious project a crisis for religion. This is twice the average of those who are affiliated with a religious group (34%). That is, the non-religious have a much more negative forecast for religion than do adherents



to religion. What might this reveal? Could it suggest that the widespread assumption that religion is fragile and subject to a crisis is an idea promulgated by nonbelievers?

### Conclusion

In conclusion, we find neither theologians nor average adherents to religious traditions are fearful that their belief systems will be upset at the news of extraterrestrial contact. More precisely, people who embrace a traditional religious belief system do not fear for their own personal belief; nor are they particularly worried about their own respective religious tradition. A shred of evidence suggests that believers in one religious tradition might be more inclined to impute fragility to other religions to which they do not subscribe or about which they know little. Our central finding is this: *the hypothesis that the major religious traditions of our world will confront a crisis let alone a collapse is not confirmed by the Peters ETI Religious Crisis Survey*. In addition, it appears that non-religious persons are much more likely to deem religion fragile and crisis prone than would those who hold religious beliefs.

*Ted Peters, MDiv, PhD, teaches theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. In addition to his work as a theologian and educator, he is a prolific author and editor on Christian and Lutheran theology in the modern world. He co-edits the journal, Theology and Science, for the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences. He is author of UFOs—God's Chariots? (Westminster John Knox 1976) as well as The Evolution of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Life (Pandora 2008). He served formerly as Louisiana State Director for MUFON.*

*Julie Froehlig teaches natural science at St. John's School in San Francisco.*

## The UFO Experience Reconsidered: Science and Speculation

By Robert L. Mason, 2007. Schooner Moon Books, Mendocino, California. ISBN 978-0-6151-9045-7. Paperback, 150 pages. \$19.95.

### About UFOs: Thoughtful Speculations, Respect for Science

*Reviewed by Donald R. Burleson, Ph.D.*

This book is a voyage of conceptual discovery for both the reader and the author, a professional engineer who characterizes himself as essentially a kind of UFO agnostic who, like the rest of us, would like to know the truth about the fascinating subject of UFOs.

He begins by saying that the field of UFO studies is “extraordinarily polluted” by irrelevant forms of mysticism and nonsense. He’s right; to this day in most bookstores one finds the UFO books shelved alongside books on witchcraft, Tarot card reading, and kindred species of foolishness. Hard science, he says, is what we need, and he has my vote on that one.

Mason correctly identifies astronomer Allen Hynek as a primary source of inspiration, though complaining that much of Dr. Hynek’s data was anecdotal, a common experience for sure. We all know that hard empirical data can be tricky to come by in this field, but the important thing is the understanding that this is precisely what we need nonetheless, if the field is ever to enjoy respect in mainstream scientific circles.

Citing a case report from 1958 by an acquaintance named Gordon Chism, Mason makes the point that even a skeptic has to find some witness accounts compelling, and one must keep an open mind. The case he cites is a gratifyingly detailed report from a witness who appears perceptive and articulate. The account is not at all unusual as UFO reports go, but it does serve the purpose of recording a possibly important case that might otherwise never have been known.

In the spirit of scientific inquiry, the author indulges in a number of thought experiments to try to explain at least some airborne phenomena. This strikes me as a productive approach, one often used in science. (In quantum theory, for example, the famous “Schrödinger’s Cat” scenario is a valuable thought experiment.) In one of these mental ventures, Mason suggests a possible connection between UFO sightings and the effects of sunspot activity on high atmospheric optics, though he admits the available solar data would not seem to provide any significant correlations with UFO sightings.

Much good science has gotten done over the years by

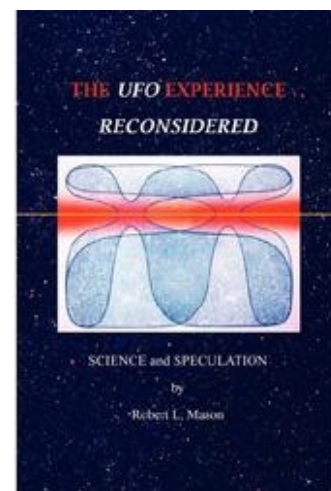
way of reasoned speculation, and Mason turns his own speculative eye upon the quantum phenomenon of particle entanglement and its possible employment for the purpose of creating plasma-like “virtual” spacecraft that some observers may take to be physical aerial objects. The author remarks that this sort of thing could account for their being “no hard physical evidence,” but the problem with this is that there *has* been hard physical evidence, e.g. the Roswell crash debris seen and handled by many people.

Mason struggles with the problem that the majority of alien life forms purportedly seen by contactees are humanoid, suggesting a parallel development that seems improbable in terms of biological evolution. One feels that another hypothesis should be entertained here—that humankind may be, in some sense, the offspring of these extra-terrestrials, which would help account for the similarities of form.

The author considers various possible ways of explaining the apparent presence of strange craft in our skies—possibilities ranging from quantum teleportation to the notion of particle-beam projections that could produce a sort of hologram effect in our skies. We ourselves are already starting to experiment with quantum teleportation on the particle level; this possibility would clearly go a long way toward answering the old argument that other star systems are too far away to allow ordinary travel across the distances involved.

The idea of particle-beam projections producing a hologram effect could offer an explanation that would have its impact on the problem that high-velocity sharp-angle turns should be harmful to a pilot—a hologram could of course turn as sharply and as fast as its projecting intelligence might wish, with no ill effects. This “hologram” idea is, to me anyway, the most interesting of the author’s ruminations. I can think of no logical or scientific reason why hologram projections of this kind, even over long distances, would be strictly impossible, especially given that our own knowledge of some areas of physics is still pretty much in its infancy.

One serious objection, though, is obviously that hologram projections could possibly account for only *some* UFO



*Continued on page 11*

# Exploring possibilities of life elsewhere in the universe

*Two books offer provocative conjectures about feasibility of alien visitation*

By Tyler A. Kokjohn

Direct exploration of our solar system has revealed an astonishing diversity of environments among the planets and their many satellites. The discovery of new places in which pre-biotic chemistry or novel life forms might exist has ignited the interest of the scientific community and spawned a new research program, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Astrobiology Institute (13).

## Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI)

The idea that technology-using intelligent life exists elsewhere is widely held (9) and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence program (SETI), is now underway to detect coherent electromagnetic radiation signals originating from space (17). Despite such palpable optimism about the prospects for finding evidence of life in our own solar system, many scientists are decidedly negative when it comes to the idea that UFO observations constitute persuasive evidence that our planet has accommodated extraterrestrial visitors. This skepticism concerning the visitation hypothesis partially reflects strong doubts over the vast distances involved and technical obstacles associated with traversing interstellar space to reach our lonely little planet.

## Friedman's Flying Saucers and Science

Two recent books offer some provocative conjectures and possibilities concerning the feasibility of alien visitation. Stanton Friedman in *Flying Saucers and Science* (5) performs calculations and concludes enormous interstellar distances are not insurmountable barriers and that neighboring space-faring civilizations could reach our planet. Further, he goes on to suggest that nearby stars zeta 1 and 2 Reticuli

are a likely source of the extraterrestrial visitors he believes are already here.

## Mason's The UFO Experience Reconsidered

Robert L. Mason in *The UFO Experience Reconsidered* (10) reminds us of ideas championed by the eminent astronomer Harlow Shapley who postulated the existence of "Lilliputs," small, dim stars unobserved (at that time) in the darkness of space. Shapley's Lilliputs, now designated brown dwarfs, are abortive stars with gravitational masses insufficient to initiate the nuclear fusion reactions that power our much larger sun. These dim, sub-stellar objects are challenging to observe, but a survey with the Hubble Space Telescope revealed they exist in substantial numbers (14, 15). Mason also draws attention to astronomer Franklin Roach who extended Shapley's ideas and hypothesized Lilliputs may exist comparatively near our solar system and could possibly harbor life (10).

Making those ideas more intriguing is the discovery of small, planet-sized sub-stellar objects traveling through space entirely alone (7, 15). Since they are not orbiting a star, these objects are not planets in a strict sense, leading to their classification as planetary mass objects or planemos. Clearly, our knowledge concerning the contents of our universe, how objects within it are distributed and the collective implications of these findings have become more complex recently.

## Our solar system is more crowded than we thought

Astronomers have confirmed that the immediate solar neighborhood is a bit more crowded than once supposed. Surveys conducted by the Research Consortium on Nearby

*Continued on page 12*

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## Book Review: The UFO Experience Reconsidered

*Continued from page 10*

phenomena, since a hologram presumably could not produce physical trace effects. But we do have physical trace effects, as in the Delphos, Kansas, event, or as in the Socorro, New Mexico, case in which landing pod marks in the sand were observed and even photographed and could only have been made by a heavy object. I should point out, though, in fairness, that the author nowhere claims that *all* cases might be explained as holograms.

Mason straightforwardly admits in the end that it is difficult to draw any definite conclusions in this field. He has indulged in speculation throughout, but he has been careful to call it speculation, and to entertain it in a spirit of scientific curiosity that demands consistency and coherence. Despite a

few errors (e.g. the author cites a doubtful date for the Roswell incident, and the word "sign" is used once where "sine" is intended), one feels that this book, while leaving the UFO phenomenon an unresolved mystery, does so through an honest realization that it *is* a mystery, and that it would be presumptuous to suggest otherwise. A variety of hypotheses must always exist, and Robert Mason examines a few of the more intriguing of these, to good effect overall.

*Donald R. Burlison, Ph.D., is a mathematician and retired educator who lives in Roswell, New Mexico. He is the State Director for MUFON New Mexico. His email is burlison@dfn.com.*



# Possibilities of life in the universe

*Continued from page 11*

Stars (RECONS) have steadily increased the number of known stellar and sub-stellar objects within 10 parsecs (32.6 light years) of our sun (16). Recent observations have revealed that our own solar system harbors quite a diversity of small worlds, perhaps substantial numbers of them, at its most remote fringes.

Several sizeable objects in orbit far beyond Neptune, in some instances larger than the dwarf planet Pluto, have recently been discovered, characterized and named. Object 50000 Quaoar lies within the Kuiper belt, a zone of solid bodies well beyond the orbit of Neptune (8). Other surveys have revealed larger objects, including Orcus (18) and a dwarf planet bigger than Pluto, Eris, attended by its own satellite, Dysnomia (2). Beyond the Kuiper belt and possibly traversing the Oort cloud, the far distant region harboring the comets and extending perhaps half the distance to alpha Centauri (1, 4), is Sedna (6).

Considering the ideas of Friedman and Mason in the context of recent astronomical discoveries leads to a tantalizing conjecture—what if getting here could actually be a bit easier than has commonly been thought? Interstellar distances are vast and the technical challenges that must be overcome to traverse them are daunting. However, new discoveries have revealed that the space between stars is not an enormous empty void, but instead contains a sprinkling of small worlds exhibiting a diversity of conditions and potentials. The exact distribution and physical properties of these mysterious bodies await full elucidation, but the accumulating new data regarding their abundance and compositions invites speculation that comets or the other large objects at the far fringes of our solar system in the Kuiper belt, Oort cloud and beyond could represent something akin to stepping stones to travelers or their exploration devices (3).

Up-close studies of Jupiter family comets such as Tempel 1 and others from still more distant reaches such as Hyakutake and Halley's comet revealed both their physical diversity and suggest essential molecules (e.g. water and volatile organics) are widely distributed and abundant throughout the remotest realms of the Oort cloud (1,11,12). If interstellar safe harbors are available and offer some prospect of resources replenishment, the logistics, risks and potential rewards of far-flung explorations change immediately. In principle, an impossibly long expedition could become a series of more manageable smaller steps.

## No signs of life yet; doesn't mean it's not there

The SETI surveys of nearby, predominately sun-like stars thus far have failed to reveal any sign of intelligent civilizations. This failure to observe coherent signals does not necessarily mean that technology using civilizations cannot exist at these locations. All that can be said with certainty is that nothing has been detected. A key limitation in the search for life beyond our planet is the fact that  $n = 1$ ; we know a

good deal about life on earth, but at the moment have no other systems for comparison. Although rooted firmly in observation and indisputable scientific fact, we have been quick to narrow the search by assuming that extraterrestrial intelligent life will most likely reside on planets in orbit around sun-like stars within narrow habitable zones.

When it comes to finding intelligent life, we may have been so dazzled by worlds illuminated by bright, sun-like stars to imagine the situation may be more complicated. Seeking the proverbial needle in a haystack, it might be wise to consider that to some degree attention could have been focused most intensively on the wrong haystack. The illuminated worlds may be only one part of a substantially larger story. In addition, it is also possible that a long-ago evolved civilization capable of space travel may not necessarily be located at its place of origination at the precise moment we happen to discover them.

So, where are they? Freeman Dyson (3) reminds us that "nature is usually more imaginative than we are." Perhaps they are far closer than many have dared to think.

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## The Allies Of Humanity

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## Art of deception: Crystal skulls in British, US museums were fakes

Less than three months after the Quai Branly Museum in Paris discovered that a crystal skull once proclaimed as a mystical Aztec masterpiece was a fake, it is now the turn of the British Museum and the Smithsonian Institution to find they were victims of skull-duggery, according to Richard Ingham in an article dated July 8 on Pysorg.com.

Scientists from those two prestigious institutions on Wednesday, July 2, said their crystal skulls were cut, honed and polished by tools of the industrial age, not by Mesoamerican craftsmen of yore.

Some had believed that the skulls were part of a collection of 12 that dated back to the pre-Columbian period in Central America.\* This legend was portrayed in the recent Indiana Jones movie, "The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

On April 18 the Quai Branly reported it had found grooves and perforations in its 11-centimetre (4.4-inch) quartz skull revealing the use of "jewellery burrs and other modern tools."

Museum researchers examined the skulls with electron microscopes, looking at tiny scratches and marks left by the carving implements. These were then compared with known Aztec or Mixtec goblets, beads, and jewels. The study appears in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, published by the Elsevier group.

The investigators found that rotary wheels gave the British skull its sharp definition, a drill had dug out the nostrils and eyes, and diamond or corundum had been applied with iron or steel tools to smooth its upper surfaces. No evidence has ever been found that rotary wheels were used to cut stones in Central America before the arrival of Europeans.

Tiny irregularities in the quartz suggest the mineral for the London skull came from the European Alps, Brazil or Madagascar.

*\*Editor's Note: Others have speculated an extraterrestrial origin.*

For the complete article by Richard Ingham, go to: <http://www.physorg.com/news134796564.html>.

Submitted by Elaine Douglass, Utah MUFON State Director.

## Calendar. . .

**September 27–28.** 10th Annual Bay Area Expo. Santa Clara, CA. [www.thebayareaexpo.com/](http://www.thebayareaexpo.com/)

**October 16-18.** Culture of Contact UFO Festival. *Mythology is Reality*. Stephen Basset, William Birnes, Richard Dolan, Budd Hopkins, Giorgio Tsoukalis, many more. Jersey City, NJ. 718-786-0094. <http://cultureofcontact.squarespace.com/>

**October 25.** Pennsylvania MUFON Conference. John Ventre, Stan Gordon, Rick Fischer near Kecksbug PA. [www.pamufon.com](http://www.pamufon.com) (412) 251 2734.

**November 1.** Mysteries of Space & Sky V. Dr. David Jacobs, Keith Chester, Don Berliner, Anna Jamerson, Rob/Sue Swiatek, & Dr. S. Peter Resta. Near Annapolis, MD. Contact Dr. Resta at [spr100@aol.com](mailto:spr100@aol.com)

**November 7–9.** 6th Annual Crash Retrieval Conference: The Truth. Las Vegas, NV. [www.ufoconference.com](http://www.ufoconference.com). (720) 887-8171.

**April 17-19, 2009.** X-Conference 2009. Gaithersburg, MD. [www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2009/X-Conference2009.htm](http://www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2009/X-Conference2009.htm)

## Exploring possibilities of life elsewhere in the universe

*Continued from page 12*

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*Tyler A. Kokjohn, Ph.D, is a Professor of Microbiology at Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona. For the last ten years he has been a research group member investigating Alzheimer's Disease biochemistry and pathologies associated with aging. His interest in all facets of UFO research began over forty years ago after reading Frank Edward's book Flying Saucers, Serious Business. [tkokjo@midwestern.edu](mailto:tkokjo@midwestern.edu)*

# Monthly Statistical MUFON Report for August 2008

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In August 2008 there were 443 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS from the following countries:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Reports</u>
United States	380
Canada	16
United Kingdom	12
Germany	5
Australia	5
France	3
Portugal	2
Brazil	2
Mexico	2
Japan	2
Switzerland	1
Bulgaria	1
Spain	1
Turkey	1
Ireland	1
Netherlands	1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	1
Italy	1
Georgia	1
Afghanistan	1
Puerto Rico	1
Egypt	1
Zimbabwe	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>442</b>



## Coyame, Mexico sighting filmed for TV

The story told in *Mexico's Roswell: The Chihuahua UFO Crash* (review on page 15) was filmed for the History Channel's *UFO Hunters* show in October 2007. Called "Crash and Retrieval," it originally aired on February 20, 2008. From left, back row, Ruben Uriarte, Ron Milione, Pat Uskert, Bill Birnes. Kneeling: Noe Torres and Pedro Gomez. Photo taken during filming of the TV show.

## Volunteers wanted

MUFON is creating a Field Investigator Training team to design and develop a FI Training Program based on the new Field Investigator Manual (FIM) and related material. One must be a Certified Mufon Field Investigator and a MUFON member in good standing to be considered as a member of the team.

If you are interested in being part of this working group please contact Chuck Reeve, Director of Investigations, at:

[wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org)  
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# Mexico's Roswell: The Chihuahua UFO Crash

By Noe Torres & Ruben Uriarte, April 2007. VBW Publishing. ISBN 978-1602640139. In English. Paperback: 220 pages. \$15.95 on Amazon.com.

Reviewed by Nicholas Roesler

*On August 25, 1974, along the Rio Grande River, near the Texas border town of Presidio, a thunderous explosion in the sky shattered the stillness of the warm summer night. An unidentified flying disc traveling at 2700 miles per hour collided with a small airplane heading south from El Paso, Texas. The flaming wreckage of both aircraft fell to the desert below, igniting a desperate race by two governments to recover technology from beyond the stars...*

*Mexico's Roswell: The Chihuahua UFO Crash*, the first of a planned three-book series by authors Noe Torres and Ruben Uriarte, tells of the 1974 midair collision of a Cessna passenger aircraft, with an as-yet unidentified aerial craft in the desert surrounding Coyame, Chihuahua, Mexico. The Cessna was heading south from El Paso, Texas, en route to Mexico City. The pilot of the aircraft, believed to have been the only person aboard, was presumed killed. No body was ever recovered from the crash site or surrounding area.

The book was born out of a 2005 television documentary on which Ruben Uriarte, spoke extensively on the case. He is the State Director for MUFON in Northern California.

The case involved both the United States and Mexican militaries, with the Mexican military's involvement reaching the highest levels, including SEDENA, Mexico's equivalent to the US FBI.

When one takes into account that militaries from two countries were involved, the authors' accomplishments become all the more remarkable.

The authors had the unenviable task of actively researching and investigating a case that, at the time of publication, was over thirty years old. The crash at Coyame is the perfect subject for a full-length case study, given the striking parallels drawn by the authors between that case and the 1947 Roswell incident, as far as the recovery operation by United

States and Mexican military personnel is concerned.

Faced with a very cold case, authors Ruben Uriarte and Noe Torres investigated every avenue firsthand, interviewing witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the event, including the locals in Coyame, Mexican military personnel, and others in the surrounding area. In this respect, the case becomes a human interest story. Given the nature of the incident itself, it is impressive that the witnesses speak so candidly to the authors about their experiences and impressions regarding the incident and subsequent military recovery operation.

While the title *Mexico's Roswell* is perhaps a misnomer, it is nonetheless apropos in terms of the importance of the case. The scope and breadth of this case is every bit as worthy of study as its American counterpart.

The crash of the aircraft itself is only the very beginning of the story. The issue then becomes the recovery of debris by a joint team consisting of US and Mexican military personnel. The authors' study and detailing of the military aspects of this case is first-rate.

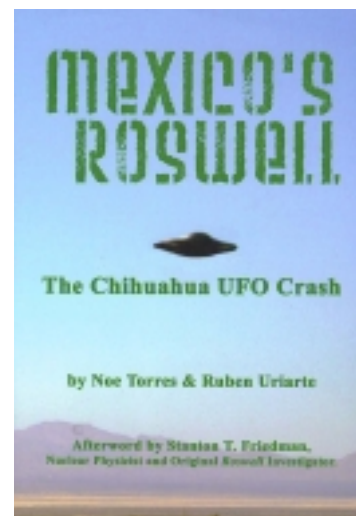
*Mexico's Roswell* is well researched, well written, and well constructed as a whole. They could have, however, offered a bit more detailed background information to readers coming to this case cold, or by expanding the entire work in a later edition.

At 220 pages, *Mexico's Roswell* is a reasonably quick read; the average reader should be able to read it in the span of a weekend.

Torres and Uriarte are to be commended to tackling such an important case, whose impact on ufology may just now be coming to light thanks to the research they have undertaken. A definite must-read.

*MEXICO'S ROSWELL* is the first of a three book series by co-authors Ruben Uriarte and Noe Torres. The Authors' second work in this series, *The Other Roswell: UFO Crash on the Texas-Mexico Border*, is currently available. This book discusses the eyewitness testimony of Colonel Robert Willingham, who claims to have chased a UFO across Texas, saw it crash to the earth near Del Rio, Texas, and later visited the crash site. The title and subject of the authors' third offering has yet to be announced.

For further information, see: [www.RoswellBooks.com](http://www.RoswellBooks.com)



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# PercePtions

By Stanton T. Friedman

## Kimball, Smith, Bush and MJ-12

Paul Kimball has, for reasons unknown, become very upset about my claiming that he got things wrong about Wilbert Smith, Van Bush, MJ-12 in "Flying Saucers and Science." He claims in various blogs that I have said that Wilbert Smith headed a major Canadian UFO group, that President Truman would never have appointed Dr. Vannevar Bush to head the MJ-12 project had there been one; that Smith was basically an individual not to be respected, a kind of nobody, that Truman didn't like Bush, etc. Paul spent six hours at the Dalhousie University Library looking up comments in the Canadian Hansard (unclassified record of Parliamentary testimony) made about UFOs back in the 1950s. He apparently spent no time with Smith's papers in an archive in Ottawa. He apparently didn't look into Defense Research Board Materials at the National Archives in Ottawa. The 300+ page formerly classified DRB UFO file has been available for a number of years. He totally neglected what I have said about the comments made by George Elsey, who had responsible positions at the White House as noted below during Truman's entire tenure there.

Nowhere did I, or anybody else besides Paul, claim Truman had appointed V. Bush to head Operation Majestic 12. The proof is the statement in the Truman Forrestal memo. It clearly authorized James Forrestal, the new and first Secretary of Defense, to proceed with Operation Majestic 12. He did not authorize Bush to proceed with Majestic 12. He did say, "It continues to be my feeling that future considerations relative to the ultimate disposition of this matter should rest solely with the Office of the President following appropriate discussions with yourself,

Dr. Bush, and the Director of Central Intelligence."

Yes, Bush would be consulted. There was nobody more knowledgeable about developing new technology with national security implications. Bush had been head of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics pre-war. During the war he had directed the Office of Scientific Research and Development which covered such major areas as the development of the atomic bomb, the proximity fuse, radar, and many dozens of other devices. Literally billions of dollars were spent at a wide variety of labs. There was nobody who knew more about who the best practitioners of advanced science and technology having security clearances were.

On September 24, 1947 (the date of the Truman Forrestal memo), Bush and Forrestal were with Truman at the White House. He appointed V. Bush to be head of the new Research and Development Board which had replaced the Joint Research and Development Board which had replaced OSRD, all headed by Bush. We have unclassified notes made by Bush after the meeting. We furthermore know that Bush was also later appointed by Truman to head a classified committee to review data that might indicate the Soviets had exploded their first atomic bomb. We know that he continued to be a member of the high security War Council, that he was in charge of another high security committee concerned with a possible Surprise Attack, though the attackers were unspecified. To suggest that Truman would not have used him to look into Modus Operandi for saucers is absurd.

Furthermore the crucial statement in the Smith memo so disliked by Paul, is: "Their Modus Operandi is unknown,

but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush." Modus Operandi

means manner of working. Note "small group."

There is no suggestion anywhere that Bush was in charge of all aspects of effort dealing with UFOs or

Majestic 12, just that he was working on technological aspects. Obviously the US government was also concerned with the origin and purpose of alien visitation and their interaction with other countries. There was nobody better equipped than was Bush to look into "Modus Operandi." Of course Truman and Forrestal would have picked him. Bush and Forrestal had a long and close relationship, even playing tennis together. There were six military and intelligence people and five scientific people on MJ-12. Forrestal as head of DOD would have been on top and report directly to Truman .

After sending Elsey, with his permission, a copy of the three primary MJ-12 documents, I had specifically asked him, as I have reported, if he saw any reason to believe that the Eisenhower Briefing Document or Truman Forrestal or Cutler Twining memos were fraudulent. He said no. I asked if he had any reason, knowing all the people, to believe that, if a saucer had crashed, Truman would not have picked any of the 12 to be a member of an over-group. No. They were all people he trusted. I asked if the TF memo could have been typed elsewhere than at Truman's office. He said more



*Stanton Friedman*

than 80% of what a President signs is prepared elsewhere. I noted that the numerical portion of the date is offset from the month and that there is a period after the date and that Bush's office always put a period after the date. Could it have been typed in Bush's office (or Forrestal's?). He said certainly. Truman certainly trusted them. He also noted that often documents had to be put in a typewriter twice to put the right date on them as to when directives etc. went into effect. I have examples from the National Security Council where the date and text are typed in two different fonts.

In case people are wondering why I place much reliance on Elsey, here is some background: He was a Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve and the duty officer at the White House map room from 1941 until 1946, that is the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. He was assistant to the Special Counsel to the President (Clark Clifford) 1947-1949; Administrative Assistant to the President 1949-1951 and assistant to the Director, Mutual Security Agency 1951-1953.

He also filled me in on the close connection between James Lay, Executive Secretary to Eisenhower's National Security Council, and Robert Cutler, Ike's National Security advisor. This helped very much in evaluation of the Cutler Twining memo. The evidence strongly indicates this is also a genuine document despite the attacks of noisy negativists, armchair theorists. This is not only because Phil Klass paid me \$1000 for proving him wrong about the typface on the memo.

Paul doesn't mention that the public Hansard Question Period comments could not be classified. The Canadian Defense Research Board for some time was denying to anybody who asked that it had any concerns with UFOs, even though they had a committee meeting often to deal with them. There was no Access to Information act (like FOIA) in Canada then. In the USA, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover wrote many letters to people who had asked, saying the FBI is not now and never has been involved with the question of UFOs. He also lied. Dr. Bruce Maccabee obtained

over 1500 pages of FBI UFO material using FOIA. There were many other government UFO lies as noted in a piece by that name at my website. [www.stantonfriedman.com](http://www.stantonfriedman.com).

Another point of the Smith memo helps explain the lies: "The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States government, rating higher even than the H-Bomb." I believe that this explains why Canada's sort-of-equivalent to Bush at that time, Omond Solandt, was so negative about Smith, long after Smith was no longer around to defend himself. Solandt was very careful in what he said to me at his home in the manner of someone who is dealing with classified material and must be very careful. He knew I had had a clearance. He did admit that if the effort had been accountable only to the President, that he wouldn't have been privy to details.

Paul is also unhappy with the role of Dr. Robert Sarbacher who supplied the info to Smith noted in his Classified memo of 1950. He suggested that Sarbacher, whose meeting with Smith was arranged by the Canadian Embassy, was passing on false information about alien technology in order to have it move up through channels—by some very mysterious means—and be passed on to the Soviets to get them to think, falsely, that the US had learned about alien technology. He calls Sarbacher a young scientist. He was 43 in 1950 and already had made many major contributions to the US national security technology working on various high tech projects. He was featured in a *Saturday Evening Post* article as a boy genius. It is an insult to Smith to suggest that he was a disloyal Canadian and would have passed on classified information (true or untrue) to the Soviets. What possible basis is there for this damning remark? Paul provides none. Sarbacher was concerned with advanced technology, not intelligence as such.

I should mention that I had visited Sarbacher and had phone and letter communication with him as well. I was very favorably impressed. He said the

accounts given in the Smith memo sounded right to him. He appreciated that I had found an old Research and Development Board colleague with whom he had lost touch.

Paul could have benefited from reading Chapter 16 of *Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience* by myself and Kathleen Marden, Betty's niece. It discussed Smith and Sarbacher and Solandt. Paul condemns Smith for being a contactee. The chapter discusses others who were interested in contact, including US Navy Admiral Knowles who, along with various CIA personnel, was also interested in contactees such as a Mrs. Swan. They were impressed when she told them to look out the window and they saw three UFOs.

Paul also, for reasons unknown, belittles Smith by showing a Canadian Government Organization chart and showing what a small fraction of the budget Smith controlled and suggesting he would never have been let in on the most classified Information in the US. Funny there isn't the slightest suggestion that he was. He certainly knew that the military, especially the Canadian Air Force was heavily involved in monitoring UFOs. Neither he nor Sarbacher said Smith was given the secret details, only told that there was some very classified material—which is very different.

Of course, Paul has also insisted that I am really hurting ufology by championing MJ-12, The Flatwoods Monster work of Frank Feschino (*Shoot Them Down*) by standing behind the Aztec crash and the 1947 Plains of San Agustin saucer crash. Art Campbell has added greatly to my early work on the Plains. I am very familiar with the outstanding research on Aztec done by Scott and Suzanne Ramsey. Paul isn't, nor is he familiar with the work done by Frank. Clearly he is also not well versed about the Plains. He, of course, is free to believe whatever he wants to, regardless of the evidence or lack thereof.

Stanton Friedman  
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# Filer's Files

By George Filer  
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



## Alabama Three Lighted Object

PETERSVILLE—On August 12, 2008, I was watching the pre peak of Perseids meteor shower in my back yard at 2:15 AM, and stood up to refresh my coffee, when I saw a bright light through the trees. I knew immediately what it was. My wife and I had seen something similar in early June at a much greater distance. This time I could plainly see a three lighted object that looked like a standing triangle. The lights were blinking/trading places, and were amber/white and red. It was swinging like a pendulum and played hide and seek behind the trees.



*George Filer*

I ran to get my 13-year-old son who has good eyes. After sufficiently freaking out, he went back to bed and I jumped in the car to go get a better look. I was driving down CR 124, but the object was moving away at a great speed. I stopped at the top of a large hill and could see the triangle moving away. They seem to be surveying, and taking inventory? One minute it would swing north and south the next it would shoot straight up only to settle down to where it was. By 3 AM, it was very far away to the west or much dimmer. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

## Arizona - UFOs Caught on Videotape in Storm

TUCSON—I'm a videographer and on August 5, 2008, at 7:30 PM, a friend and I were videotaping an approaching storm as the lightning was really going off. I often film these storms and go back

through my footage to find cool still images of lightning. I uploaded my video and started going through and flying across the top right corner of my screen was an object moving too fast to be a plane. Then I discovered that prior to seeing this object, something appears from a cloud in the middle of the screen and zigzags what appears to be into the distance then it shoots off with incredible speed and you hear this sound like a ricochet. I decided I needed to go through this footage and see if I had captured any other activity.

First, I zoomed in the image and found three disc shaped objects flying together. I captured the still images for the evidence file. Earlier in the film I discovered two more UFOs. The first appeared about 100 yards away and very quickly flies up from behind a large pine tree across the street and flips then descends and appears to go directly behind my buddies' truck. The other UFO is moving very fast through the clouds.

I discovered another object moving very fast along the horizon real low. It enters from the right as it reaches the left side of the screen in moves in a very fast circular pattern upwards then disappears into the clouds. Further along in the footage an object is seen on the right side of the screen. It appears to be moving towards us the changes direction sharply and zigzags two times then flies quickly into the distance. I zoomed up on this to discover it was 3 or 4 disc-shaped objects flying together. My buddy and I saw nothing during the time we were videotaping. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

## Arkansas - Disk Seen from Airplane

On August 17, 2008, my family and I were on our way back from Costa Rica and had taken a connecting flight in

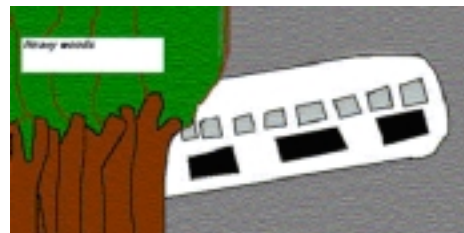
Atlanta, Georgia. Upon leaving Atlanta airport on Delta Flight #125, at 4:15 PM, I was seated in the last aisle of seats on the left side of the plane.

At 5:15 PM, I was looking out the window when I saw a disk shaped UFO fly from right to left of my window heading west as we were flying east towards Los Angeles. The sighting lasted about 5-10 seconds in duration.

Our altitude was 32,000 feet and flying at 512 miles per hour. Thanks to MUFON CMS

## Indiana - Scariest Night of Our Life

EVANSVILLE—I can't believe I am reporting this because my boyfriend and I talked about not telling anyone since this would make us seem crazy or people would just not believe us. August 17, 2008, was the scariest night of our lives.



*Sketch of object by one of the witnesses*

We were driving down Morgan Avenue at 9:30 PM, with corn fields on each side of the road, right across Ohio River from Kentucky. I had seen a car parked on the side of the road and then another not too far up the road. I had a feeling they were watching something and looked over at the fields and noticed two bright lights that were not close to each other, but at the same height. They looked like they were above the trees and in front of them. The color was not right or normal and was kind of a bright yellow.

The light to the left descended and disappeared, but the other light that was



closer to us was still there. We turned on one of the country roads off Morgan Avenue, trying to drive towards the lights. ...I thought we would just find out it was a radio tower. The road was dark, and my boyfriend said, "It's moving towards us." I was scared and told him to stop the van, and we stopped and it started moving the opposite direction. It did NOT turn around like an airplane; it just started going in the opposite direction away from us rather fast. We kept following but there were heavy trees everywhere blocking our view. In between breaks in the trees, we could see the light and it was getting smaller and disappeared.

We decided to turn around and as we did, on his side of the road was this big long fat cigar-shaped thing. It was huge. Lights were going down the sides of it, and they were going in a row down the side and then instantly they would go down the side of it again. I was so scared; we couldn't believe what we were seeing and it changed my life.

[My boyfriend] turned and backed up and then it was on my side. The trees were heavy and thick and this "thing" was the size of an airplane, shaped like an airplane without any wings, kind of like a big fat whitish cigar. It was so close to us. It went down behind the trees, looking like it was landing, but it made absolutely no noise. We were so scared. I kept telling my boyfriend to "go, go, go!" He drove fast and finally we made it back to the main highway. Duration of sighting was 8 to 10 minutes. I kept looking back and didn't see it anymore. The lights were so weird as they flickered down a row down the side of the "craft."

Comments: Quite clearly the witnesses were very frightened by what they saw. Given the detailed report and the fact that other witnesses may have also seen something unusual this sighting cannot be explained. Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

### Massachusetts - UFO Sightings

SOUTHBOROUGH—On August 3, 2008, at 7:45 PM, I was at a stop sign ready to take a right turn onto Route 85, when I saw what I thought was auto headlights coming and also heard a truck.

I waited for the vehicle to pass, but it took longer than expected and realized it wasn't what I'd expected. Traveling along the main road about five feet off the pavement was a triangular shaped flying object 2.5 inches in thickness and about the size of two large pickup trucks in length, with three bright lights emitting from the front of the vehicle and it was darker than stainless steel. There was one light on each side and one in the middle of the front. It was moving slower than the 35 mph speed limit. Very shortly after passing in front of me it completely disappeared. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

CANTON—On August 4, 2008, at 7 PM, I was in my backyard and observed a cigar shaped object with no blinking lights, or sounds, or wings. The object continued through the open sky then into clouds and came out a few seconds later then disappeared into the tree line. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

SUDBURY—On August 4, 2008, at 7:45 PM, my husband and I were returning from a movie and noticed a strangely bright light over to my right. I was driving and could not stay focused on it, so my husband watched as I kept trying to grab glimpses as well. We discussed that it was too big and close to be a star and was not moving, so not a plane? I pulled into the driveway and it was now front and center above the tree line before us. We stood watching its reflectively bright metal, very roundish with a slight bluish tint, but it made no sound. We remained calm and my husband suggested we go inside and get a camera and binoculars. We saw a bluish light coming from our computer room, even though the computer was off.

We returned outside but the camera could not pick up any details, but the binoculars showed a craft of metal in the shape of a cylinder on end or a roundish object. I could not see any "spinning" or movement of the craft itself. Later we went inside and the computer was on, even though we knew we had shut it off, and my husband asked if I smelled body odor, but I felt it was more an electrical smell with biological undertones to it. We

took a flashlight and walked the entire house but found nothing else disturbed. We are pretty average people employed by corporations and work hard. NUFORC Note: Witness elects to remain totally anonymous. Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

### New Mexico Earth Circles

ALBUQUERQUE—My husband found these circles Monday, July 14, 2008, and called to see if I knew anything



about them. He was going into the horse arena when he noticed them. I was home all weekend and did not hear anything out in the arena.

The only thing that I can think back about that was unusual was that sometime late in the night on Saturday, I woke up to find my lab pup up on the love seat in our bedroom looking out at the arena. Once I spoke to him, he just gave me a strange look and laid back down. When there is someone or something on or near the property, he and my other dogs bark quite loudly. He did not even growl!

The circles are approximately 20 feet in diameter and approximately in the ground about 1-2 inches. There are absolutely no tracks leading up to the arena.

State Director Donald R. Burleson investigated and states, "Having discussed this with the submitting witness I am convinced that she is sincere, that her secondary witnesses are sincere, and that this represents an anomalous phenomenon, i.e., not readily accountable for by any facile means; as no crop fields are involved, one would call these "earth circles" presumably. There is no evident explanation for their being there. They created something of a media stir, locally,

*Continued on page 20*



# Filers Files

*Continued from page 19*

as Albuquerque's Channel 7 had flyovers to photograph them." Thanks to MUFON CMS

## Texas - Disk

DENTON—On August 9, 2008, I went outside to have my afternoon break, which today was at 5:25 PM, and happened to look up and see the same disc as I had seen the day before. It was shiny white/silver disc shape with a domed top. It was traveling from the northeast to the southwest, traveling at a leisurely pace. This time it traveled from the tree line to the north across the sky in front of me until it almost reached the tree line to the south, at which time it turned around and traveled back to the northeast. So again I saw this object from many angles. I was able to watch it for at least five minutes or more.

Today there was also a small plane in another part of the sky a little lower than the object, but I was able to compare the two and see that this object was not a plane. It also appeared to be about the same size as the plane but with no wings, or tail, or rudder. The sky was clear except for a few cirrus clouds to the northeast. When the object turned going back in the direction that it had come from it passed behind the cirrus clouds, yet I was still able to see it. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

## Australia - Light Darts Back and Fourth

PERTH CITY—I was at work having a smoke break on the second story balcony and towards Armadale I spotted a light brighter than a star. I continued to watch the light as it darted to the left, too quickly for a plane or helicopter to move, and then it darted back to the right and continued to move until it disappeared. It then reappeared over Perth City side in a matter of seconds and disappeared. Thanks to Brian Vike Director of HBCC UFO Research <http://www.hbccUFO.org>

## Canada - 289 Sightings this Year

WINDSOR, ONTARIO—I happened to look up into the sky on August 2, 2008,

at 11 PM, to see a bright oval shape object moving slowly in the sky at a fairly low altitude. It suddenly vanished as it picked up a tremendous amount of speed. A flash of light occurred before it vanished. The sighting lasted about 4 to 5 seconds.

AYLMER—We were crossing the Champlain Bridge over Ottawa River at 9:43 AM, on August 9, 2008, when we spotted a bright orange rectangle above the river. We drove down street parallel to the river, and it had already disappeared. I saw a huge disk with two big lights and several smaller lights around it.

I was star gazing and I saw a huge light thinking it was a plane. Then I saw it was like a disk shape with two huge lights and several smaller lights. It was dark but I could see its form and knew 100% it was no plane. I yelled, "Everybody come quick. Hurry, hurry..." My cousin and brother saw it too and screamed in horror. But by the time my father came, it vanished.

## Reunion Island - Possible Crash

ETANG SALE—According to some witnesses who called up radio stations on August 14, 2008, about 6 PM, a flying vessel with blinking lights fell or dived into the sea two kilometers offshore from the Reunion southwestern coastline Madagascar plane about to land at FMEP airport to check for a crash. The pilot told the control tower there were no debris nor had they heard any distress call while descending from 10,000 feet.

Information about the sighting is in the newspaper this morning. The four main witnesses say it was like a red ultra light air craft, but nobody at the two airports (FMEE and FMEP) got a flight plan neither a departure of any ultra light nor private aircraft or helicopter. At this time the mystery remain unsolved. According to another witness he saw three balloons (two red and one black). These balloons could have been mistaken for an object falling into the sea.

Comments: Apparently several saw an unusual craft hit the water. According to the "second-hand" witness no regular aircraft with flight plans were missing. A link to a local newspaper article was sent,

but the newspaper is written in French so no additional information could be gathered. One witness believes that the object was a balloon. Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

## France Photograph

PARIS—I was walking on the banks of the Seine River in the late August afternoon with my camera and took a photo of Austerlitz bridge near the Gare de Lyon. I looked at the photo on the screen and noticed a large object. This was neither an airplane, helicopter, bird, or a balloon. I had time to see that the



lower part of the apparatus was turning on itself, while the upper part was fixed. I have never seen such a thing, and I do not believe in UFOs.

I showed a friend the photo who called it "a drone," a kind of surveillance aircraft, but I've never seen one in Paris or elsewhere. I can swear that it was amazing, and most incredible is that nobody else has seen the object at the same time as me. I'm still excited about what I saw, and I can tell you that I lift my eyes to heaven every day since Monday. Thanks to MUFON CMS

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

*This month's Filer's Files include excerpts from File #35, August 27, 2008 and File #34, August 20, 2008..*

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# 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 **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Lorna Hunter** (South Dakota), **John Ventre** (West Virginia and Pennsylvania), **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), 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 Reeve, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at [wizard@telis.org](mailto:wizard@telis.org).

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	21/21	29/29
2	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	2/2	1/1
3	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	21/21	17/17
4	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	100 %	122/122	71/71
5	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	16/16	16/16
6	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	37/37	43/43
7	Florida	Bland Pugh	99 %	130/131	155/155
8	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	97 %	231/237	354/365
9	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	97 %	81/83	114/118
10	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	96 %	26/26	29/31
11	Georgia	Walter Sheets	93 %	31/32	35/39
12	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	92 %	116/118	84/97
13	Utah	Elaine Douglass	91 %	17/17	15/18
14	Iowa	Jim King	91 %	12/12	25/30
15	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	88 %	173/177	171/214
16	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	84 %	72/78	48/63
17	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	83 %	59/80	62/67
18	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	82 %	80/81	57/86
19	Arizona	George C. Parks	79 %	44/71	118/122
20	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	77 %	20/32	39/42
21	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	75 %	15/15	12/24
22	Washington	Marilyn Childs	75 %	40/54	38/49
23	Ohio	William Jones	74 %	48/53	34/59
24	Massachusetts	Greg S. Berghorn	71 %	21/50	50/50
25	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	70 %	19/21	14/28
26	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	67 %	7/20	22/22
27	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	57 %	4/9	7/10
28	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	51 %	35/61	27/60
29	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	48 %	73/82	6/76
30	New Hampshire	Peter R. Geremia	43 %	4/8	3/8
31	North Carolina	George E. Lund, III	41 %	17/46	28/60
32	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	36 %	4/9	2/7
33	Wisconsin	Timothy G. Whiteagle	35 %	17/29	4/32
34	Nevada	Mark Easter	35 %	3/43	31/49
35	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	35 %	3/26	19/32
36	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	32 %	7/13	2/19
37	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	31 %	10/19	2/20
38	Maryland	Bruce S. Maccabee	29 %	2/29	15/29
39	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	16 %	0/14	3/9
40	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	15 %	9/32	1/41
41	Maine	John Selman	6 %	1/14	1/18
42	Hawaii	Puuloa M. Teves	0 %	0/7	0/8
43	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	0 %	0/29	0/31
44	Rhode Island	Richard Lynch	0 %	0/4	0/7
45	North Dakota	Kurt Pfleger	0 %	0/4	0/5
46	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegal	0 %	0/1	0/0

## MUFON Field Investigators Manual NEW!! Version 5.0

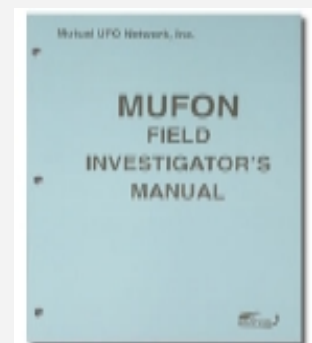
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## Director's Message

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### MUFON STAR Team Coordinator

Richard Lang of North Carolina has accepted the position of MUFON STAR Team Coordinator and will facilitate ongoing team communications and deployment.

### Position Announcements

**Lorna Hunter** is now MUFON's Director of CMS and Field Investigator Training.

### Assistant State Directors:

**Patty Donahue** is the Assistant State Director: Administration for the state of Michigan.

**Linda and Bill Murphy** provide consulting services to Michigan MUFON.

### Chief Investigators:

**Beverly Trout** is now the Chief Investigator for Iowa. **Richard Lang** is the new Chief Investigator for Virginia.

### State Section Directors:

**Sunny Young** is the new Regional State Section Director for Northern Michigan, **Gary Golem** is the new Regional State Section Director for Southeast Michigan, and **John Castle** is the new Regional State Section Director for Southwest Michigan.

New State Section Directors in Georgia are **Jay Jordan** of Tifton, GA, **Joe McElveen** of Rincon, GA, and **Steve Bass** of Cumming, GA.

### New Field Investigators:

**Jane Boston** of Livermore, California; **Steven Cohen** of Shamong, New Jersey; **John Weaver** of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania; **Jim Matthews** of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania; **Bernhard Wolf** of Plainview, Texas; **Karl Redell** of Delafield, Wisconsin.

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## October Night Sky

*Continued from page 24*

### Other Celestial Phenomena

#### Meteor Showers

**Draconids.** The point from where the Draconid meteors appear to radiate is located within the constellation Draco and is referred to as the radiant, that's why it is best viewed from the northern hemisphere. The radiant point is highest in the sky as darkness falls. The shower is normally unspectacular but has been known to spew forth hundreds to thousands of meteors in a single hour. The moon will be in its first quarter phase so it will be best to wait until after moonset around 11 pm, more meteors are likely to fly in the evening than the morning hours after midnight. Look northward for Draconid meteors on the evenings of October 7 or 8.

**Orionids.** This shower produces fast meteors (40 miles/sec.). About 20% will leave trails. While the rate is stated to be 25/hour it can vary between 10 and 70 per hour.

The duration of this meteor shower extends from October 15 to 29, with maximum occurring on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The point from where the Orionid meteors appear to radiate is located within the constellation Orion and is

referred to as the radiant. The radiant is located in the north-eastern part of that constellation. The radiant rises around 10:30 p.m. local time. At about 3:00 a.m. the radiant is about 50 degrees above the horizon.

To best observe the Orionids wear appropriate clothing for the weather and lie outside in a reclining lawn chair. The two best ways to observe the Orionids is either by pointing your feet southward (the general direction of the radiant) and looking in the region straight up, or pointing your feet southward and have your centre of gaze around 60° above the horizon. Do not look directly at the radiant, because meteors directly in front of you will not move much and fainter ones might be missed.

Other minor meteor showers will be going on at the time and stray meteors, more commonly called sporadics, will frequently be seen that do not belong to a meteor shower. When you see a meteor mentally trace it backwards and if you arrive at the region just north-east of the main body of Orion outlined in the picture above, it is probably an Orionid. Unfortunately the last quarter moon will be close by in the early morning sky preventing observation of all but the brightest meteors.

### Zodiacal Light

Zodiacal light will be visible in northern latitudes in the East before the start of morning twilight from October 20<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 Conjunction

A collection of bright stars and inner solar system planets.

### Conjunctions and Occultations

October 1<sup>st</sup>: Mars 5 degrees north of the Moon

October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Venus 5 degrees north of the Moon

October 4<sup>th</sup>: Antares 0.1 degrees north of the Moon

October 7<sup>th</sup>: Jupiter 2 degrees north of the Moon

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Mercury 1.3 degrees north of the Moon

October 15<sup>th</sup>: Antares 0.6 degrees north of the Moon

October 30<sup>th</sup>: Mars 3.0 degrees south of the Moon

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# The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

## October 2008 Sky

### Moon Phases

First Quarter October 7<sup>th</sup>

Full Moon October 14<sup>th</sup>

Last Quarter October 21<sup>st</sup>

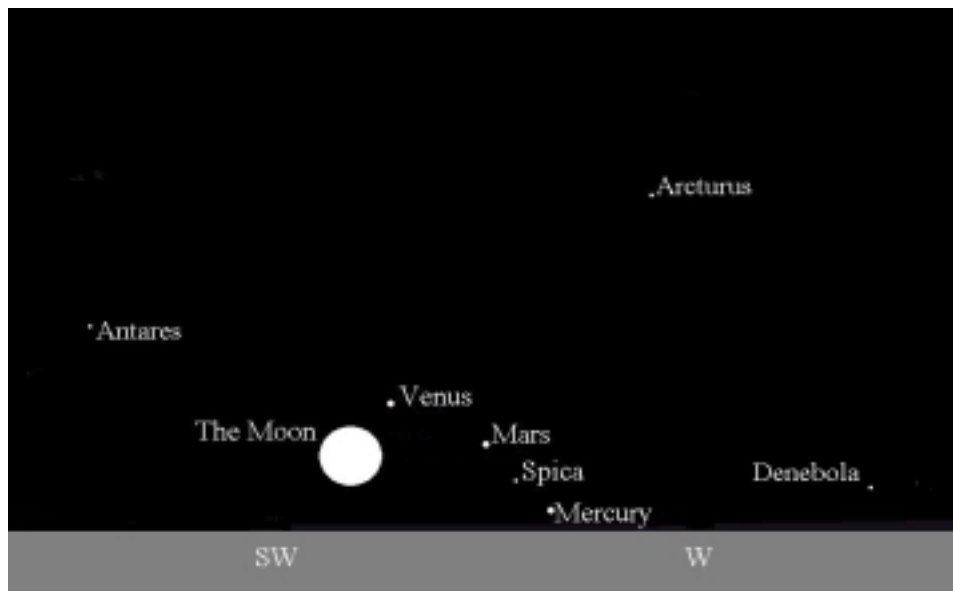
New Moon October 28<sup>th</sup>

### Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

**Venus** (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Libra through Scorpius into Ophiuchus. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month standing above the west-southwest horizon at sunset and will set about 1 hour after the Sun; by the end of the month Venus will be standing high above the western horizon at sunset and will set about 2 hours after the Sun. For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month standing high above the western horizon at sunset and will set about 2 ½ hours after the Sun; by the end of the month Venus will be standing very high above the western horizon at sunset and will set about 3 ½ hours after the Sun.

**Mars** (magnitude 1.6): Moving from Virgo into Libra. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will be found standing low over the west-southwest horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the horizon about ½ hour later. For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will be found standing over the west-southwest horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 1 hour later.

**Jupiter** (magnitude -2.3 to -2.2). In Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month high above the southern horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 5 hours later; by the end of the month Jupiter will be found above the northern horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 4 1/2 hours later. For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month very high above the northwest horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the



*Planetary conjunction: A collection of bright stars and inner solar system planets. Looking low above the western horizon just after sunset on October 1, 2008*

horizon about 8 hours later. By the end of the month Jupiter will be found high above the northwest horizon at sunset and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 5 1/2 hours later.

### Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

**Mercury** (magnitude 2.6 to 3.2 to -0.4): In Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month lost in the glare of the setting Sun, then reappear in the morning sky where it will slowly rise out of the glare of the Sun above the east-southeast horizon. For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month low over the evening west-southwestern sky, drop into the glare of the Sun by the end of the first week and then reappear in the morning sky where it will slowly rise out of the glare of the Sun barely above the east-southeast horizon.

**Saturn** (magnitude 1.0): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 2 hours before the morning Sun; by months end it will rise above the eastern horizon about 4 hours before the morning Sun. For southern

hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 1/2 hour before the morning Sun; by months end it will rise above the eastern horizon about 1 1/2 hours before the morning Sun.

*Continued on page 22*

