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Message from the State Director

By Tom Wertman



The past five months have created a lot of changes in most everyone's life. If you're like me, I weathered the shutdown, but still stay mostly hunkered down. By the way, hunkered down is one of my new favorite terms for confinement. It's both descriptive of the situation and better than just saying, "I'm staying at home." There are the weekly trips the grocery store to forage for food, cleaning supplies, and toilet paper. A look in my storage closets may make you think I'm hoarding. I prefer to think of it as I'm simply optimizing my trips to the store.

Besides changing shopping habits, dining out has also become a thing of the past. My wife, who loved to go out about four times a week, now must suffer through more of my cooking. Although being hunkered down and binge-watching cooking shows, has improved my cooking. I am proud to say I have advanced well beyond putting prebreaded Tyson chicken strips in the oven.

Taking up new hobbies, or reviving old ones, is something else I've done to fill my free time. On that note I almost forgot to mention that I retired

from my regular job as a computer programmer/designer last October. I planned on doing more UFO talks, investigations, and private research. The pandemic changed part of that plan. Speaking events around the state at libraries, community centers, and conferences were canceled due to policies regarding gathering sizes and potential low attendance due to personal safety. Canceling the MUFON of Ohio conference this year was a tough decision. We had an excellent lineup of speakers across a number of subjects that we felt everyone would enjoy. Are there any plans for the return of public outreach programs, bi-monthly MUFON state meetings, and 2021 conference? The only thing I can say is stay tuned to the MUFON of Ohio website for potential updates.

Speaking of updates, there is a change in leadership at MUFON headquarters. Jan Harzan was removed as executive director for what can best be termed as inappropriate behaviors. The MUFON Board of Directors was made aware of these behaviors the middle of July. Those who worked beside Harzan on a daily basis were caught off guard by the seriousness of the allegations. Once aware of the situation the MUFON Board of Directors quickly investigated the accusations. Their findings mandated a swift decision to remove Harzan not only as Executive Director, but any involvement in any aspect with MUFON.

The MUFON Board of Directors returned David MacDonald to the position of Executive Director. MacDonald stepped down as Executive Director in 2013 to become Director of International Operations. I look forward to what MacDonald brings in leadership. MacDonald is from the Cincinnati, Ohio and is President of Flamingo Air and Executive Director of Airline Ground Schools by Flamingo Air. The operation is headquartered at Lunken Airports near Cincinnati. Ever wonder where the show Hangar 1 got its name. Previously when MacDonald was Executive Director the MUFON files were kept in a hangar at Lunken Airport.

Based on my previous experiences, I look forward to MacDonald's leadership. I found him very down to earth and willing to help in any way possible. As a matter of fact, MacDonald personally administered MUFON of Ohio Chief

Field Investigators certification exam. For that matter I think he also graded my exam.

What else? Back to the pandemic and people being hunkered down has not decreased the number of UFO reports. A couple of weeks ago I pulled the number of reports from 2019 both across the country and only Ohio and did a comparison to 2020. The results were surprising. Reports for 2020 increased 20% in the United States while showing a 6% decrease in Ohio. This is based on 3719 reports from January 1, 2019 to August 30, 2019 in the US as compared to 4470 for the same time frame this year. In Ohio there were 152 reports from the same time from in 2019 to 143 this year. I didn't pull all the other states numbers, since I do have a life.

There are a lot of potential reasons for change but no supportive data. The change in numbers could be due to people being more receptive of the possibility of UFO's, publicity of naval encounters, recent announcements from the Pentagon, or simply peoples changing habits during the pandemic.

I sum things up! I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. Please check the MUFON of Ohio website for updates on the return of library programs and the 2021 conference.



Editor's Notes

By Phyllis Budinger



In lieu of our cancelled conference we promised four issues instead of the usual three. This is the third. A fourth issue will be issued in November.

Paul Althouse has updated our website giving e-mail access to all our previous newsletters through 2018. We did this for our readers who haven't yet subscribed. There are instructions for subscribing as well as a bonus issue after applying! Thanks Paul. Good idea!

We are energized with our new National MUFON Director David MacDonald. He is a fellow Ohioan who I had the pleasure of meeting at one of our Ohio MUFON conferences. He refers to himself as the "Captain". On page one Tom Wertman's write up gives an excellent description of this flamboyant person! We look forward to his coming to one of our future conferences. Let's hope we can have one next year. He gave us permission to reprint a motivational letter he sent to the membership reaffirming the MUFON mission.

"HOPE

And, we have! After 51 years MUFON has been through a lot. We have seen the good, the bad, the ugly and just about everything in between.

Regarding the recent unfortunate developments we need you to know that the MUFON Board of Directors and Staff was totally blindsided by the events. Though in shock they moved quickly to address the issue.

But through it all we have continued on our mission.

We have emerged from the darkness, rose up from the valley of tears and have survived the constant attacks of our detractors; we have deflected the slings and arrows of a multitude of malcontents. However, the Mothership we call MUFON has held its course and become faster, stronger, more powerful than any of those who try so hard to disrupt our mission.

Why?

Because of you! Our membership, our supporters, our volunteers, our backbone!

Mufon shall emerge from its troubles because we are strong. We can overcome our difficulties through it all; we understand the power of WILL, pure unwavering WILL! The absolute belief that we will endure, and we will continue the mission. And with that applied WILL, HOPE shall emerge and guide us through the dark night.

This is not the first time I have been called on the step into the position of Executive Director under less than perfect conditions and I am humbled to accept the mantle.

There will be changes ahead, as there must be if we are to continuously evolve, strengthen and grow.

So, hang with me Mufonians. I am good at this and I promise that we will come out more competent, stronger and respected than we came in. MUFON is in good hands with a sound Board of Directors, staff and dedicated leaders we will go further than we have ever gone before."

And finally, thanks to our membership for their contributions: Rick Hilberg for his constant supply on Ohio Retro articles, Tom Wertman for synopsis/opinions on UFO shows on TV; Ron McGlone for his Field Investigator's report.

Stay safe and healthy my friends!



Ohio Field Investigations

**By Ron McGlone
Chief Field Investigator**



Once the overcast skies cleared and the nights got warmer, UFO reports really started coming into us. We're a little above average, but several of the reports were likely the Starlink satellites. We currently have 34 open investigations, which are spread across the state in 22 countries with Lucas having the most at 4. There have been some similar daytime sightings in northern Ohio of a white, oblong or doubled up object, traveling at seemingly moderate speed. I'm also working on some daytime sightings of a somewhat clear or translucent distortion, which hovers and then accelerates while disappearing. Sometimes a flash is what draws the witness's attention. Other reports include triangles, cigar shapes, starlike, and some even have blue, yellow, or orange colored lights. Some examples are below. The reports on these are currently in progress.



Translucent Object
August 18, 10 a.m. Cleveland area
(Similar Object reported in Cincinnati)



White Oblong Object
July 26, late afternoon
Warren area
(Similar reports of this came from the Toledo area)

If not mentioned before, Ohio MUFON welcomes new investigators Rich Harris and Teresa Lee. Rich has been working in the northern section and Teresa will be working in the South. Teresa is also a full time nurse and has been working overtime preparing for virus outbreaks. Once things settle down she's ready to start investigating. Also, Mark Williams is back investigating in the central area. We typically work on a handful of reports each, so there are plenty of reports in Ohio to go around. If anyone is interested

in becoming an official MUFON investigator, check out the mufon.com site on how to get started or email us at mufonohio@columbus.rr.com.



(One of Ufology's most revealing pieces of information, that utterly astounded me some years ago, was the time I learned the CEO of Lockheed, Ben Rich, admitted we had UFO technology. When Ben Rich knew he had cancer and very limited time left, he related the following information. Whether you have heard this story, and I suspect many have not, it should be repeated now that the Pentagon is beginning to release information on UFOs.

Ben's bio follows. "Benjamin Robert Rich (June 18, 1925 – January 5, 1995) was the second director of Lockheed's Skunk Works from 1975 to 1991, succeeding its founder, Kelly Johnson. Regarded as the "father of stealth,"[1] Ben Rich was responsible for leading the development of the F-117, the first production stealth aircraft. He also worked on the F-104, U-2, SR-71, A-12, and F-22 among others, many of which are still classified." From Wikipedia Ed.)

Lockheed CEO Ben Rich Declared On His Death Bed: Extraterrestrial UFO Are Real

[\(https://bendedreality.com/lockheed-ceo-ben-rich-declared-on-his-death-bed-extraterrestrial-ufo-are-real/\)](https://bendedreality.com/lockheed-ceo-ben-rich-declared-on-his-death-bed-extraterrestrial-ufo-are-real/)



Ben Rich

Ben Rich Lockheed Skunk Works CEO had admitted in his Deathbed Confession that Extraterrestrial UFO visitors are real and the U.S. Military travel among stars.

According to article published in May 2010 issue of the Mufon UFO Journal ...- Ben Rich, the “Father of the Stealth Fighter-Bomber” and former head of Lockheed Skunk Works, had once let out information about Extraterrestrials.

UFO Visitors Are Real And U.S. Military Travel To Stars

What he said might be new to many people today, but he revealed the information before his death in January 1995. His statements helped to give credence to reports that the U.S. military has been flying vehicles that mimic alien craft.

The article was written by Tom Keller, an aerospace engineer who has worked as a computer systems analyst for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

1 : “Inside the Skunk Works (Lockheed’s secret research and development entity), we were a small, intensely cohesive group consisting of about fifty veteran engineers and designers and a hundred or so expert machinists and shop workers. Our forte was building technologically advanced airplanes of small number and of high class for highly secret missions.”

2 : “We already have the means to travel among the stars, but these technologies are locked up in black projects, and it would take an act of God to ever get them out to benefit humanity. Anything you can imagine, we already know how to do.”

3 : “We now have the technology to take ET home. No, it won’t take someone’s lifetime to do it. There is an error in the equations. We know what it is. We now have the capability to travel to the stars. First, you have to understand that we will not get to the stars using chemical propulsion. Second, we have to devise a new propulsion technology. What we have to do is find out where Einstein went wrong.”

4 : When Rich was asked how UFO propulsion worked, he said, “Let me ask you. How does ESP work?” The questioner responded with, “**All points**

in time and space are connected?” Rich then said, “That’s how it works!”

Ben Rich Lockheed Former CEO knew of extraterrestrial UFO visitors

Lockheed “Skunk Works” former CEO knew the Roswell extraterrestrial UFO influenced designs of Testor model kits for Roswell UFO models, and U.S. top secret aircraft. According to a CNI News report by Colorado resident Michael Lindemann, the design information was derived from forensic illustrations and numerous witness testimonies about the Roswell UFO, provided by William L. “Bill” McDonald.

In an e-mail, dated July 29, 1999, apparently addressed to Lindemann, McDonald referenced an excerpt of a discussion with Harold Puthoff, founder of the highly classified U.S. “remote viewing” program.

McDonald said: “Well Hal, you asked for it! Now that legendary Lockheed engineer and chief model kit designer for the Testor Corporation, John Andrews, is dead, I can announce that he personally confirmed the design connection between the Roswell Spacecraft and the Lockheed Martin Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles (UCAVs), spyplanes, Joint Strike Fighters, and Space Shuttles.

Andrews was a close personal friend of “Skunk Works” CEO Ben Rich — the hand-picked successor of Skunk Works founder Kelly Johnson and the man famous for the F-117 Nighthawk “Stealth” fighter, its “half-pint” prototype the “HAVE BLUE”, and the top-secret F-19 Stealth Interceptor. Before Rich died of cancer, Andrews took my questions to him.

Dr. Ben R. Rich former Lockheed Skunk Works CEO confirmed:

1. There are 2 types of UFOs — the ones we build and ones ‘they’ build. We learned from both crash retrievals and actual “hand-me-downs.” The Government knew and until 1969 took an active hand in the administration of that information. After a 1969 Nixon “purge”, administration was handled by an international board of directors in the private sector...

2. Nearly all “biomorphic” aerospace designs were inspired by the Roswell spacecraft — from Kelly’s SR-71 Blackbird onward to today’s drones, UCAVs, and aerospace craft...

3. It was Ben Rich’s opinion that the public should not be told [about UFOs and extraterrestrials] . He believed they could not handle the truth — ever. Only in the last months of his decline did he begin to feel that the “international corporate board of directors” dealing with the “Subject” could represent a bigger problem to citizens’ personal freedoms under the United States Constitution than the presence of off-world visitors themselves.”

Lindemann added that “Bill McDonald received the above information from Andrews from 1994 until their last phone call near Christmas in 1998.” Lindemann also noted “It should also be known that Dr. Ben R. Rich attended a public aerospace designers and engineers conference in 1993 before his illness overwhelmed him in which he stated — in the presence of MUFON Orange County Section Director Jan Harzan and many others that – ‘We’ (i.e., the U.S. aerospace community/military industrial complex) had in its possession the technology to “take us to the stars”.

See the complete letter in May, 2010 MUFON UFO Journal from John Andrews and the hand written reply from Dr. Ben Rich. Hear more revealing testimony from Disclosure Project whistleblowers. NASA cannot deny secrets discovered by UK hacker Gary McKinnon and many astronauts if it expects full funding from the Obama White House administration.

Lockheed Skunkworks Engineer USAF, and CIA Contractor Admitted : UFO Are Real Don Phillips, “These UFOs were huge and they would just come to a stop and do a 60 degree, 45 degree, 10 degree turn, and then immediately reverse this action”. During the Apollo landing, Neil Armstrong says, “They’re here. They are right over there and looking at the size of those ships., it is obvious they don’t like us being here”. When I was working with the Skunkworks with Kelly Johnson, we signed an agreement with the government to keep very quiet about this. Anti-gravitational research was going on. We know that there were some captured craft from 1947 in Roswell, they were real. And, yes, we really did get

some technology from them. And, yes, we really did put it to work. We knew each other from what we call an unseen industry. We can term it black, deep black, or hidden.

The knowledge I have of these technologies came from the craft that were captured here. I didn’t see the craft, nor did I see the bodies, but I certainly know some of the people that did. There was no question that there were beings from outside the planet.

Are these ET people hostile? Well, if they were hostile, with their weaponry they could have destroyed us a long time ago. We got these things that are handheld scanners that scan the body and determine what the condition is. We can also treat from the same scanner.

I can tell you personally that we’ve been working on them. And we have ones that can diagnose and cure cancer. One of the purposes I had for founding my technology corporation in 1998 was to bring forth these technologies that can clean the air and can help get rid of the toxins, and help reduce the need for so much fossil fuel. Yes, it is time. I can tell you personally that it has already started.



'Space guests': Russian cosmonaut shares video showing apparent UFOs

Jackie Dunham CTVNews.ca Writer

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(<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/space-guests-russian-cosmonaut-shares-video-showing-apparent-ufos-1.5073744>)

TORONTO -- A Russian cosmonaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS) has shared footage of what he describes as “space guests,” or UFOs, that made an unexpected appearance in a time-lapse video he captured of the southern lights.

On Wednesday, Ivan Vagner posted a one-minute video on Twitter showing the “peak” of the Aurora Australis as it moved between the Antarctic and Australia. (*The video may be seen on the website*

noted above. Following is the frame showing the UFOs. Ed.)



“In the video, you will see something else, not only the aurora,” he teased in the post.

In a follow-up tweet, Vagner directs his audience to look closely at the nine to 12 second-mark in the video to spot the unidentified flying objects.

“5 objects appear flying alongside with the same distance. What do you think those are? Meteors, satellites or...?” he wrote.

Those five bright objects appear in a straight line just above the curve of the Earth in the night sky for what seems like only a brief instant in the time-lapse video; however, they were actually visible for 52 seconds, Vagner explained.

“The frames were captured 1 per sec and later assembled in a video with 25 frames per sec rate. Meaning, the real observation time is 52 sec,” he wrote.

It’s unclear when exactly the footage was captured and if Vagner saw the UFOs when they appeared or later on the video.

While there has been no public comment from NASA about Vagner’s video, Russia’s space agency, Roscosmos, retweeted the post with the accompanying caption: “An interesting and at the same time mysterious video made by the cosmonaut of Roscosmos Ivan Vagner from the International Space Station.”

In another tweet, Vagner said he sent the video to Roscosmos management, Central Research

Institute of Machine Building (TsNIIMash), and the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences for further analysis.

A spokesperson for Roscosmos was quoted by the Russian news agency TASS as saying that experts were studying the video to determine what the objects in it might be.

“It is too early to make conclusions until our Roscosmos researchers and scientists at the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences tell us what they think,” Vladimir Ustimenko said. “It was decided to hand over those materials to experts, who will tell us what that was in their opinion.”

Vagner has been working aboard the ISS with fellow Russian Anatoli Ivanishin and American commander Chris Cassidy since April.

According to a recent NASA blog post, Vagner was “exploring ways to improve Earth photography techniques” on Wednesday before he posted the time-lapse video. A subsequent blog post from the space agency did not make any mention of the footage and the apparent UFOs.

Experts will study footage of five UFOs taken from the ISS by a Russian astronaut. (Ivan Vagner/Twitter)



The Pentagon's U.F.O. Unit Prepares to Go Public

They come in peace. Hopefully.

By Jordan Hoffman
July 24, 2020



By Columbia/Kobal/Shutterstock

What with a contentious presidential election, a global pandemic, and the postponed release of the *Top Gun* sequel, you'd think there'd be just no room for news about U.F.O.s right now. But never count 2020 out!

The New York Times is reporting that the Pentagon will soon become more transparent concerning its Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force, which is a department within the Office of Naval Intelligence. They had previously denied the existence of such a group. A Senate commission report from last month which itemizes spending stated that the program will standardize its collection and reporting of unexplained aerial vehicles within 180 days, and also report some of its findings.

In April, the Pentagon released some perplexing videos of, well ... something. Truth is nobody *exactly* knows what the videos, captured by naval pilots, show. They could be atmospheric effects, reflections, or bugs in imaging code, according to astrophysicists quoted at the time. Or they could be visitors from a distant star who somehow folded spacetime to travel faster-than-light. (Even more confounding is how Tom DeLonge of Blink-182 was instrumental in getting the footage officially released.)

Senator Marco Rubio was first to throw cold water on any dreams of interplanetary well-wishers, saying that his primary concern is that of military security, and determining if China or Russia had made some sort of undeclared technological leap. "Maybe there is a completely, sort of, boring explanation for it. But we need to find out," he said. Of course, anyone who ever tussled with a night of insomnia tuning in to Art Bell knows that this the sort of thing someone says while keeping the lid on a true extraterrestrial conspiracy!

Former Senator Harry Reid of Nevada (got that, Nevada, okay?) is said to "hope the program will seek evidence of vehicles from other worlds," according to the *Times* report.

The paper also quotes one Luis Elizondo, a retired military intelligence official of 10 years, who is "among a small group" that is "convinced that objects of undetermined origin have crashed on earth with materials retrieved for study."

An astrophysicist named Eric W. Davis, who worked as a consultant to the Pentagon's heretofore hush-hush U.F.O. division, said that some of the found materials were from sources that "we couldn't make ourselves."

Faster than you could say *klaatu berate nikto*, Twitter was all over this one.



Mach 10 UFOs Are Spying On Iranian Nuclear Sites (Maybe?) And one might have shot down an Iranian F-14.

by David Axe Follow @daxe on Twitter L
(<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/mach-10-ufos-are-spying-iranian-nuclear-sites-maybe-144322>)

Here's What You Need To Remember: Rumors abound that the Air Force and CIA operate a stealthy new drone that has not been disclosed to the public. Even if they do, it's unlikely that the new UAV is capable of Mach-10 hypersonic flight—the Pentagon is still struggling to reach Mach five.

Iran is the only other country besides the United States to operate arguably history's most powerful interceptor aircraft, the F-14 Tomcat. And the Islamic republic has worked the twin-engine, swing-wing fighters *hard*.



The F-14s played a major role in Iran's war with Iraq from 1980 to 1988. Iranian Tomcat pilots were the only ones to successfully employ the F-14's

long-range, heavyweight AIM-54 Phoenix missile to shoot down enemy planes.

In the decades after the war, Tehran repaired and upgraded the surviving F-14s, scouring the globe for parts in defiance of a U.S. government embargo.

The Americans retired their F-14s in 2006, but around 40 of Iran's Tomcats remain active. Their main role is defending Iran's nuclear sites. It's a mission that has brought the interceptors in close contact with some very mysterious aircraft, according to a bizarre and fascinating 2013 story in "*Combat Aircraft*" magazine by reporter Babak Taghvaei.

The Iranians believed the objects were spy drones belonging to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, sent to sniff out Tehran's suspected atomic weapons program. But they attribute to these alleged unmanned aerial vehicles flight characteristics and capabilities far beyond what any known drone can achieve.

And in 2012 one of the alleged flying robots reportedly also shot down an F-14 attempting to intercept it. Or at least some Iranians seem genuinely to believe so.

Over the decades Tehran has built three major nuclear facilities that could, in theory, be used to assemble atomic weapons: reactors at Bushehr and Arak and an enrichment plant at Natanz.

This infrastructure became public knowledge in 2002. No doubt the CIA took a strong interest, potentially long before that date. "A number of reconnaissance UAVs were sent to collect intelligence to prepare for a possible attack" by Western forces, Taghvaei wrote.

To protect the nuke facilities, in 2004 Iran deployed a task force composed of eight F-4E fighters and eight F-14s plus a former 707 airliner and a C-130 cargo plane outfitted with sensors and radios for command and control. The task force encountered what it believed were CIA drones with "astonishing flight characteristics."

The UAVs could jam radars and disrupt interceptors' navigation systems. They flew "outside the atmosphere" at speeds of up to Mach 10. They

could hover. Flying at night, they emitted a telltale blue light that led to their nickname: "luminous objects."

"In several cases ... F-14s faced them but were unable to operate their armament systems properly," Taghvaei wrote. One Tomcat taking off to intercept a luminous object on Jan. 26, 2012 mysteriously exploded, killing both crewmen. Taghvaei implies the alleged UAV was somehow responsible, as the F-14 in question was "one of the fittest" of the 40 or so Tomcats then in service.

It should go without saying that the CIA and the Pentagon most likely fly reconnaissance aircraft near—and even over—Iranian nuclear sites. In 2012 and 2013, Iranian fighters tried to intercept American Predator drones outside Tehran's airspace. In the 2013 incident, a U.S. Air Force F-22 stealth fighter blocked the intercept with some *Top Gun*-style theatrics.

In 2009, the Air Force copped to the existence of a new, previously secret drone operated in conjunction with the intelligence agency. The RQ-170 Sentinel was based in southern Afghanistan within short flying distance of Iran. In December 2011, a Sentinel crashed on the Afghanistan-Iran border and was captured by Iranian troops.

Neither the Predator nor the Sentinel is particularly high-flying nor can hover or glow blue. And neither has the electrical power to scramble radars and navigation gear.

Rumors abound that the Air Force and CIA operate a stealthy new drone that has not been disclosed to the public. Even if they do, it's unlikely that the new UAV is capable of Mach-10 hypersonic flight—the Pentagon is still struggling to reach Mach five.

So if Iranian F-14s truly *are* chasing around super-fast, super-high-flying and lethal UFOs, what exactly are they? Who knows.

David Axe serves as Defense Editor of the National Interest. He is the author of the graphic novels "*War Fix*", "*War Is Boring*" and "*Machete Squad*". This first appeared in 2019 and is being reposted due to reader interest.



Neapolis, Ohio - July 5, 1947

While ferrying an empty airliner from the east coast to Chicago, TWA pilot Captain John L Dobberteen and co-pilot Frank Corwin, both based out of Washington, reported that they saw a strange-looking object flying below their aircraft when they were 20 miles east of Archbold at approximately 7:00 p.m.

They were flying westbound at 4,000 feet. The pilots said the object that they saw had "the appearance of a whirling fan blade and was about the size of a Piper Cup airplane, with no sign of a body, fuselage or engine. Just a propeller-like whatsit - wings without a bird," as they put it. The object was slowly revolving as it moved forward at an estimated speed of 200 m.p.h.

The pilots flew slightly off course in an effort to see where the strange object was going. They watched it make two complete revolutions below them before it disappeared from view. Captain Dobberteen said he was certain that the object could not have been any sort of autogyro or helicopter. He added that it might have had the appearance of a disk-like object as seen from the ground.

"We thought it was a souped-up Fourth of July spinwheel when we first saw it," he stated. "But we know it couldn't have been fireworks." The TWA men continued on to Chicago and reported the strange object to the air traffic control authorities because it had been flying in a commercial air lane and was thus a potential hazard to other aircraft.

Source: *Kansas City Star*, July 6, 1947.

(Note: The following article was edited for clarity. Ed.)

The UFO encounter that tore a US community apart

By Raffaella Ciccarelli • Producer

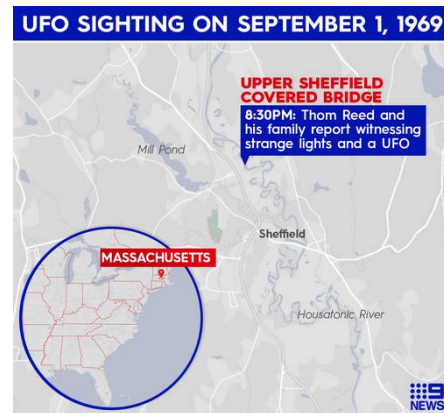
11:25am Jul 20, 2020

(<https://www.9news.com.au/world/berkshire-ufo-sighting-how-unexplained-encounte>)

As a US family were driving home on a still, warm evening 50-years ago, they had no idea their lives were about to be changed forever.

On September 1, 1969, the Reed family claimed they had an encounter with an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) as they took a shortcut home over the Sheffield covered bridge in Massachusetts around 8.30pm.

Thom Reed, who was nine at the time, still remembers what he saw in vivid detail.



The family was driving home after enjoying a meal at their diner.



The covered bridge was about 10 kilometers from the Reed's diner. Cars are not allowed to drive over the covered bridge anymore.

His mother Nancy Reed was driving and his grandmother was in the passenger seat, he told 9news.com.au.

Next to him was his younger brother Matthew - the pair had been sharing lollies.

"There was light coming through the bottom boards of the bridge," he said.

"As we left the bridge and came out the other side we saw what looked like a self-contained sphere of white light, and as it rose up maybe two stories there were some rods of light. They fired several thin directional laser-like poles of light from one side to the other.

"The light then retracted into it, and the sphere slowly moved around the line of trees going in the same direction we were.

"My brother then happened to notice a second round sphere off to the right of the car that looked like it was sitting underwater.

"At that point everything felt odd to us. It was almost like being underwater and as the car slowed - you know the tapping sound you get from being in a pool - the sound was stones tapping under the fender of the car."

Mr. Reed said everything then became still and quiet and that's when the family claims they saw it - a turtle shell-shaped disk hovering over the fields to their left.



A depiction of what Mr Reed and his family claim to have seen that night.

He claims the disk was "silently hovering".

The three objects – the two spheres of light and the shell - made a triangle with the Reeds' car bang in the middle of it.

The car suddenly exploded with light, Mr. Reed said, almost like floodlights had been shone on it.

He explained to 9news.com.au everything was illuminated in glaring detail. A cacophony of noise erupted as crickets and frogs burst into frantic activity on the banks of the Housatonic River.



A detailed representation of the UFO the Reeds claim to have seen.

That was the last thing Mr. Reed and his family remember for three hours, baring vague visions of what resembled an airplane hangar – describing it as a large open area that was much larger than the craft itself.

When the family finally came to, Nancy Reed and her mother had mysteriously switched positions in the car.

"The car ignition was off and the lights were off," Mr. Reed said.

A community fractured and faith lost

That night across Berkshire County, about 40 residents from multiple towns reported seeing a UFO – but instead of bringing the community together, it tore it apart.

The sightings are the focus of an episode from Netflix's new series *Unsolved Mysteries*, which details the encounters of Tommy Warner, Melanie Kirchdorfer, Jane Green and the Reed family.

Mr. Reed told 9news.com.au he never felt like he belonged in the small town. The family came from New York City.



After speaking out Mr. Reed said he experienced rampant bullying in the small town.

Mr. Reed was the most vocal of the family after the encounter, and claimed he had seen UFOs several times in Sheffield throughout the 1960s.



Some locals had trouble accepting what the family said they saw that night.

His family was also harassed, and at one point, Mr. Reed said they were regularly followed by a white pick-up truck.

"There were a lot of fights," he said.

"The cops had to eat in our diner to keep the peace...it divided the community.

"We went through a lot. There were a lot of struggles. The pain and hardship came from some of the locals.

"What I saw changed my life. I used to be an altar boy... I don't have my faith anymore. It's gone. You start to think why are we here, and what all this means."



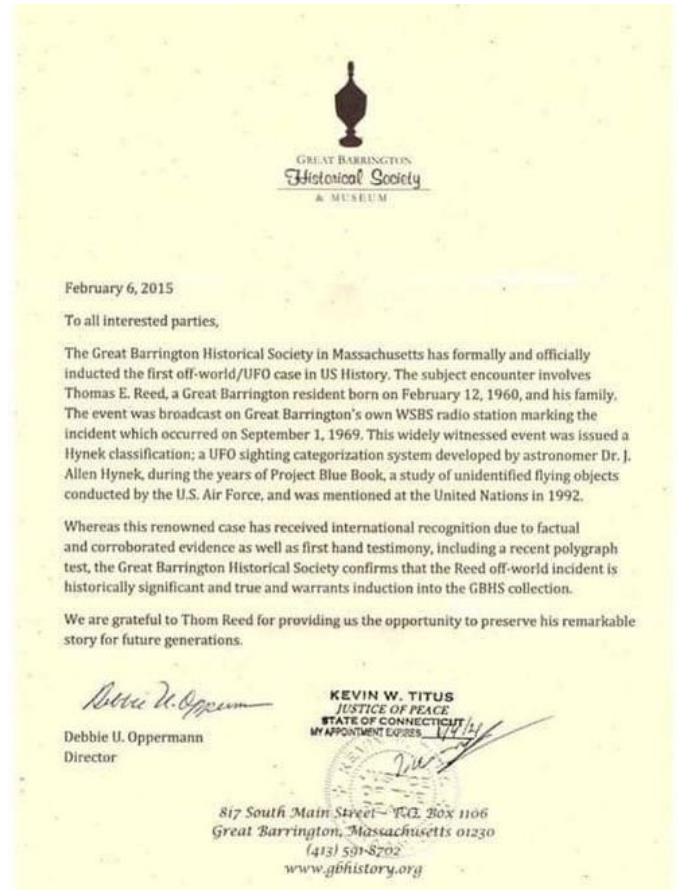
The family diner "The Village on the Green"

Less than a year after the encounter Mr. Reed's mother sold the family diner "The Village on the Green" and relocated the family to Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

The first 'historically true' UFO encounter

In February 2015, the Great Barrington Historical Society and Museum confirmed the Reed sighting and officially inducted the case into US history.

In doing so, Mr. Reed, who had sat a polygraph and passed, was finally vindicated.



Mr. Reed supplied letters confirming his sighting had been inducted into US history.

Mr. Reed now manages the Thom Reed UFO Monument Park. It's a feat he couldn't do without the support of sponsors - something he is extremely grateful for.



Mr. Reed is thankful for the support he receives today.

Mr. Reed still doesn't know what his family saw that night, but he has his theories.



A monument was erected near the bridge to commemorate the sighting.

"Do I think there was an off-world presence that caused us to be removed from the car? Absolutely 100 per cent," he said.

"I can tell you I saw something extraordinary and we were surrounded. The spheres were certainly working in conjunction with the craft – and both of these spheres were over water.

"Do I think there was also a military or governmental aspect also involved? More than likely.

"At the end of the day, do aliens know how to shut our car off?"

However, Mr. Reed said he is open to the fact there could be an environmental explanation.



He claims the bridge sits over some of the most polluted water in America.

"The magnesium that was mined for the atom bomb [in World War II] was mined three miles (five kilometers) from our restaurant over in Connecticut," he said.

"There was also a lot of military. We also had command aerospace, Electric Boat which made the nuclear submarines, and General Electric.

"You had some of the most polluted water in the entire country in the Housatonic River. It's so bad you can't eat fish out of it. There's toxic waste in that waterway.

"Who knows what happened".



1979 ENCOUNTER ON I-71

A family of three was driving home after a visit with relatives in a southwestern Cleveland suburb at about 12:50 a.m. on December 9, 1979, and were northbound on I-71 just inside the Cleveland city limits. The wife was sitting in the passenger seat looking up at the many stars visible, and also taking note of several airplanes that were flying in the approach to Hopkins Airport, several miles south.

One light in particular caught her attention, as it appeared to be flying much slower than any normal aircraft she had ever seen, and also because it was flying in a north to south direction far from any glide path inbound to Hopkins.

At this time, she alerted her husband and daughter to the unusual object, and the husband drove the car off the freeway onto the Bellaire Road exit, and slowed his speed to have a better look.

At this point in time the object was almost directly overhead and appeared to them all to be a long cigar-shaped thing with very short and stubby wings. They all agreed that there were no running lights that all normal aircraft carry, but they did see a band of "window lights" on the side of the object. The witnesses were sure that they saw no sign of a tail assembly on what they took to be the back of the thing, but did make note of a "dark band" on the body of the object where the tail would have been on a conventional aircraft. Since the object was at a very low altitude, it was illuminated by the many ground lights from both the freeway and the city streets in the area, so all three witnesses are certain of their descriptions of the object. No sound was heard by them at any time.

After watching for several minutes, the wife became uneasy and asked her husband to leave the area at once and drive directly home.

I was able to personally interview this family on several occasions, and their individual recollections of the incident never varied. I consider it one of the best cases that I have ever investigated for this reason.

Source: "Northern Ohio UFO Casebook", Rick Hilberg 1997, 2018.



Binge Watching the Current Crop of UFO Shows

By Tom Wertman

As mentioned in my Director's Message, the pandemic has created a number of changes in

people's lives. No longer does the spousal unit dine out multiple times a week. Rather than making every other day trips to the grocery, shopping trips are combined for efficiency. Add to that retiring and having a minimum of forty extra hours a week. The reason I say a minimum of forty hours is time I have added to complain about occurrences during the work week. Needless to say, after retiring my stress level dropped significantly, along with my blood pressure.

You would think after retiring I would sleep in, but not me. I begin my list of daily chores at 6am so I can kick back, prop my feet up, and have a cold beverage or two in the evening. The television remote control then becomes an appendage, and channel surfing is the norm. I like to DVR my favorite shows so I can fast forward through commercials. Currently there are several series recorded for binge watching. For this newsletter I thought, "Why not give my own personal opinion." So, with beer in hand here we go.

Project Blue Book

Project Blue Book Season 2 is a historical drama based around the character of J. Allen Hynek. When I heard the Project Blue Book was going to be made into a television series I was excited, yet concerned, since it was described as a dramatization. Aiden Gillen was to play Hynek. Gillen was in Game of Thrones and with the proper makeup has the look of Hynek. The word dramatization allows the producers a lot of liberty since it implies situations that could have involved Hynek.

Season 1 roughly recreated the Gorman dogfight, the Flatwoods monster, Kelly-Hopkinsville alien encounter, Foo fighters, among other historical cases. From an individual who's very much into the subject of ufology I had a number of expectations. The first was historical accuracy combined with a true depiction of the incidents. Second, since Hynek is a featured character, portray Hynek as the true Hynek. A man, who was a skeptic, then became a believer in that they may be of extraterrestrial origin. Third, show Project Blue Book as it actually was. That is an undermanned government project that was trying to do a vaunting task. Case outcomes would be affected by who was in charge of the program at the time.

The problem with all of my above expectations is that producers see fitting an hour story into about 47 minutes. It must keep the general public entertained, not just UFO buffs. Historical accuracy loses to making the storyline more interesting. In the process the show became a cross between Project Blue Book meets the X-Files.

Season 2 centered on the characters of J. Allen Hynek and his wife Mimi. The more I watched the show it appeared as though they were Scully and Mulder. The special effects were above par for a television series. Acting, especially that of Gillen as Hynek, was excellent. Unfortunately, from my belief the storylines are *too far* from fact. Even though History Channel posted the true story on their website, individuals need to have the desire to check out the original story. I see many viewers not being able to determine fact from fiction. It's not the viewer's fault, but the association of the story with an actual individual. There is no plan for a season three.

Unidentified

Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation, Season 2 is based around Luis Elizondo, Tom DeLonge, Chris Mellon, Steve Justice and others mainly associated with To the Stars Academy (TTSA). I first heard of TTSA being founded by Tom DeLonge through the Leslie Keane article in the New York Times. Videos were released featuring naval encounters with UFOs or as they are now termed UAP's, emblazoned with the TTSA logo. Without a doubt DeLonge has a passion for the subject. Is he an investigator? He doesn't have to be with the right people in his organization. I can have a passion for baseball, but that won't win a world series. Hiring the right management who can create a winning team will.

DeLonge created contacts within the government and defense contractors through unusual means. He also assembled an interesting team with unique backgrounds. Luiz Elizondo was reportedly in charge of the Advanced Aerial Threat Identification Program (AATIP) for the Pentagon. Chris Mellon was the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence. Steve Justice worked for the Lockheed Skunk Works who have developed some of our best top-secret aircraft. So, it appears the right players are also there for his team.

To DeLonge's credit, he has brought a lot of main stream media attention to the subject. His organization has also been awarded government contracts. An example, the organization was awarded a \$750,000 cooperative research and development agreement with the United States Army Combat Capabilities Development Command. The goal is to develop enhanced capabilities for Army ground vehicles.

Watching the episodes, the question is whether TTSA is really presenting any ground breaking finds. There are a number of excellent researchers outside of TTSA. Some have interviewed the same people involved with the naval encounters as TTSA. The difference is their findings are not hitting main stream media via a television series or news broadcasts. For the researcher, the program is presenting what researchers already know. The researcher will find some interesting facts, but not many.

This show appears to be designed for the average person with an interest in UFOs. It presents stories through people with military and government backgrounds. This lends credibility to their stories. The question is do they have much more information than they are saying, but limited by nondisclosure agreements. While I watch the show, it doesn't leave me looking forward to the next episode.

The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch

This last one is short. The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch has great possibilities. I would gladly volunteer to go to the ranch to assist with research. Robert Bigelow owned the ranch for a number of years, but hasn't released any findings of what his organization may have discovered. The new owner, Brandon Frugal, has put together his own research team to look for answers to unusual occurrences. The show attempts to build around mysterious happenings. These include: animals being attacked by unknown predators, objects seen hovering over regions of reported cattle mutilations, and mystery lights that appear to be like laser beams.

One area I would like to see more about are the unusual radio frequencies being picked up. They are supposedly being tracked to a location above

the ranch. It's suggested that the signals may be coming from a portal or another dimension. The researchers, which include an aerospace engineer, launch model rockets with sensors into the zone in an attempt to find an answer. Just a thought, but why not fly Frugal's personal helicopter into the same area?

These are some quick thoughts based on binge watching the recent batch of UFO shows. The shows are designed as entertainment for the average person. Researchers and investigators may be disappointed. As the general public becomes more aware of happenings in the field of ufology, producers should consider raising the bar.



A Madison Township police officer claimed that he and a group made up of other officers and assorted citizens chased a strange UFO with red and green flashing lights for twenty minutes on November 11, 1975.

Patrolman Zachary G. Space said a township resident, Kenneth Ohtola, had telephoned police at 3:34 a.m. to report the UFO. Space then went to the police station on West Main Street to see what other information would come in on the early morning visitor.

Police dispatcher Gerri Bowers was giving him the particulars, he said, when he saw the UFO heading towards Painesville. Space said that he followed the object, and when it made a turn to the east he was joined in the chase by Ohtola and his passenger Mike Davirro.

The UFO continued east and the chase was then joined by a Lake County deputy sheriff and Patrolman Lester Nagle of Madison, Space said. The UFO reportedly hovered over high tension wires at Chapel Road near the Ashtabula County

line. All got out of their vehicles at that time to have a good look. Space described the scene:

"It came down above the wires for maybe 15 or 20 seconds, then would rise up slowly and out of sight. Then it would reappear again. When it stopped to hover, all I could see was a big, bright light. When it started moving it was red and green."

Space, who was an Air Force mechanic for five years, said, "It did not resemble a plane or a helicopter. It went up and back too quick. As far as speed, it left in a flash."

When the UFO rose, Space said, it had "three dominant white lights with a glow around it. They weren't steady lights."

The strange object finally headed east toward Ashtabula County making no noise as it departed.

Source: *Northern Ohio UFO Casebook*, Rick Hilberg 1997, 2018.



On June 28, 1978 at 11:00 p.m. fourteen residents on Franklin Church Road in Richland County saw a bright yellow light hovering for about 30 minutes. The unusual light then dropped below the skyline for a few seconds, and then it raised back up and dimmed, as if taking off. Officials at the Mansfield airport could offer no explanation for the light. Richland County was also being plagued at that time by reports of a seven to nine foot tall creature seen in the hilly wooded area around Mohican State Park. Called "Bighead", the creature was reported to have red bulging eyes and a head as wide as a tractor tire.

Source: *Northern Ohio UFO Casebook*, Rick Hilberg 1997, 2018.