



Georgia Sky Watch

Number 19

MUFON of Georgia news and research

Fall 2001

State Director's Message

All Hands,

I hope everyone is faring well in these troubled times. Our Chapter has not done too badly for 2001. Several cases were investigated that turned out to be IFOs, two others in which the witnesses got cold feet and would not do a 'sit-down' with our investigators, and several that were just not worth the effort (very distant nocturnal lights). Of the four solid and legitimate cases thus far in 2001, two involved MUFON personnel as primary witnesses (another case from late 2000 also involved our personnel as well). Is that synchronicity or what?

You will find these four cases recapped in this issue of the GSW; #1- the January 3, 2001 glowing object over Fayetteville; #2&3- the March 26, 2001 cylinder shaped objects over Wray, Georgia and Roswell, Georgia; #4- the mid-June multiple oblong objects over Whitesburg, Georgia. Please note that I have tried to encourage each member that is on-line to provide me with an e-mail address so that you receive our MUFONGA Update via e-mail anytime there is a possible UFO report to relate or other urgent information I feel you should know about. These GSW case recaps are taken from the MUFONGA Update, of which there have been perhaps about 75 or more since 1998. I don't keep an exact count. Also note that if you have given me your e-mail address and still don't receive these Updates, I may have written it wrong, so send me an e-mail and a nasty note. I won't get it wrong then!

The Roswell-Wray cylinder case is now posted on WUFOD, case numbers 1-313 and 1-314, for those

Continued on page 2

Georgia Cases

January 3, 2001 - Fayetteville, GA - Glowing Silver Acorn/Disc

On January 3, 2001, MUFON of Georgia FITs Carl and Helen of Fayetteville, Georgia were driving west on Hwy 54 just outside of Fayetteville proper. At 5:32PM, in twilight conditions, Helen noticed a glowing object in the sky about 30 degrees off of the SW horizon. Closer observation revealed the object to be acorn shaped with a rounded top, about thumbnail size at arm's length, glowing with a yellowish light, and appearing to have a mist like vapor at the top. As they continued westbound in traffic, she observed it to begin a slow descent of about 5 degrees, leaving what appeared to be

Continued on page 4

Calendar of Events



- November 9-11, 2001 .. Journeys Beyond 2001
Mobile, Alabama
(251) 626-6131
- November 10, 2001..... MUFON of Georgia Dinner Forum
Norcross, Georgia.
See Page 8 for details.
- November 17-18, 2001 MUFON of Georgia sky watch
Fort Mountain, near Dalton
(770) 460-8447 -- See Page 3

The *Georgia Sky Watch* newsletter is an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information concerning UFOs and related phenomena. Opinions expressed by contributing writers are those of the particular author and do not necessarily reflect the views of MUFON of Georgia, *Georgia Sky Watch*, its editors or publishers.

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Your articles, letters, comments and criticisms for the *Georgia Sky Watch* newsletter are greatly appreciated.

State Director's Message -- Continued from page 1

that might wish to review those reports. I urge all FITs to read our completed reports at WUFOD. They are a ready primer on investigative procedure for those actively pursuing full FI credentials. (Yes, I realize that there are never enough good cases for every FIT to get in lots of OJT field work with a senior FI, but that's what the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual, the GSW, and our meetings and communiqués are for - to assist in advancing your knowledge.)

Other recent WUFOD reports worthy of review; # 1-090, Walton County *String of Pearls* case (MUFONGA/FPR witnesses); #919, Wrightsville Triangle (over a state prison); #1-033, Douglas Georgia Multiple Orbs (witnessed by a reporter and retired law enforcement officer); # 1-078, Polk County Cone Shaped Object (witnessed by a patrolling law enforcement officer).

You've surely noticed that there has been no large general meeting in the Metro/North Georgia area in 2001. The years 1997-2000 saw our Metro meetings attended by over 100 persons, then 80-90 persons, then 70-80 persons, then 50-60 persons, then 40 or so. Then we were stunned by attendance at our last 2000 Metro meeting. We reserved the Gwinnett County Criminal Justice Center auditorium, a state of the art high-tech meeting facility. We had a great agenda;

MUFON of Georgia DD for Science, Geologist Ralph Howard on 'Scientific Ufology'; Officer/SSD Michael Hitt regarding his on-going investigations and book; John Bodin Jr., MUFON of Georgia's DD for south Georgia was up from Wray; and SSD Olivia Newton added a touch of class with wonderful refreshments. The turn out from the public bordered on miserable, perhaps 35 persons, which were mostly our personnel and some reporters. Like previous general meetings, we advertised heavily in the Atlanta Journal, a Fox-5 TV announcement, WGST News Radio, Creative Loafing, regional newspapers and cable TV community channels. I feel that the proliferation of UFO web sites on the Internet is partly responsible for this steadily decreasing attendance. Why drive a few miles to a meeting when one can go on-line and read all about it? Most just don't realize they're reading horrible garbage on a lot of these sites. Anyhow, that's the reason we have been holding smaller regional meetings and our Dinner Forums. These seem to bring in the few folks who really want to know the insiders 'true gen' as Hemingway used to call it.

We have been discussing a meeting in Blue Ridge, Georgia for about a year, but a suitable meeting location has not yet been secured in that mountain community. DDSG John Bodin Jr. and I have also discussed an east Georgia/coastal Georgia meeting for the future. It's perfectly permissible to hold these regional meetings in the manner of our Metro area Dinner Forums - a small group of truly INTERESTED persons. Further developments will be posted in the GSW and the MUFONGA Updates.

We plan to close the year out with a Dinner Forum on Saturday, November 10, 2001. Besides our case discussions, we had tentatively scheduled Frank Richards, British ufologist and associate of UK researcher/author Tony Dodd, to speak before our group. Frank is also a world renowned body builder and physical trainer and had planned to be in the USA through the end of the year. Frank had planned to discuss ufology operations in the UK and other items he felt we 'colonials' should know about, but was notified a few days ago that he must return to England on November 6th. Frank has no choice but to return due to their socialized national medical program in the UK. Due to some scheduling problems, a serious leg

surgery he needs was moved forward to November, and this is the only time he can have it done. I've promised him a return engagement before our group if he can visit the USA in 2002, as he is a frequent visitor to our shores. We were intent on presenting a special program to close out our MUFON year, and since Frank's program is delayed, we were caught short at the last minute. We've decided on a radical change of pace for a UFO research group such as ours. Due to the potential difficulties that might face the American public in the next few years, we will present an overview on personal security. From 1980 until retirement in December of 1995 I ran a similar course via the College Park Police Department, titled 'Rape Awareness and Self Defense'. This was a four day course devoted to teaching the philosophy of self defense, firearms use and safety, pistol range firing exercises, 'on the mat' defensive tactics and the use of weapons at hand. Many hundreds of men and women underwent this basic course through the years and we received numerous later reports of how a few women used these tactics to defend themselves. This will be a down and dirty quick overview of easy to remember techniques that a man or woman can use in a last ditch defensive effort - an effort forced on you because, for whatever reason, your strategic defensive 'assault avoidance conduct' did not work. (After all, avoidance is the best self defense). You will hear and see a few things in this lecture that are not heard or shown in the typical 'soccer mom' self defense courses you see on the 6 o'clock news. As most of you know, I'm not politically correct now, and was not that way during my earlier career and in those past courses. Our course staff consisted of 6 assistant instructors, of which I will include a bit of information from each in this presentation. If you have an aversion to reality, do not attend this meeting. (See MDF agenda and directions on page 8 of this GSW).

Additionally, indications are that the Leonids meteor shower (Saturday night-Sunday morning, November 17-18) will be a REAL storm this year with the potential for 2500 meteors an hour at it's peak in North America. We have discussed several different locations for this sky watch, but decided on returning to Fort Mountain due to the clear skies of a slightly higher altitude. The moon will not be visible on this night making viewing exceptional. Join us and bring

someone warm. We will hope that the weather holds fair. Wear or bring Arctic and Eskimo clothing!

(Note- We hope to hold a very informal supper Saturday evening either at the Cohutta Lodge or another nearby restaurant. The Foundation for Paranormal Research may also be on Fort Mountain earlier in the day for some research and will hopefully join us that night. See page 4 for directions).

If you wish to find out more about the FPR, please visit:

www.paranormalresearchonline.com/fpr.html

For those unaware, the FPR was co-founded by some of our MUFON of Georgia personnel and that group is coming along nicely.

Semper Fi!

Tom Sheets, SD MUFONGA, ISUR Board



Keeping warm on a cold Winter sky watch

Dress in layers trapping your body's heat. Layers are more important than the type of material used. Wear a hat with a face-mask, and a scarf - most of the body's heat is lost through the head. Also consider wearing snow boots because regular shoes transmit the warmth of your feet to the ground. Gloves are another necessity. Chemical heat packs which last for several hours are cheap. Experts advise to dress for temperatures 20-30 degrees colder than what the thermometer actually reads.

Investigated Georgia UFO cases can be found at:

<http://www.isur.com>

as well as links to many MUFON sites

Visit the MUFON of Georgia website at:

www.geocities.com/mufonga/

Sky Watch

November 17-18, 2001

Location: Forestry Overlook on Hwy. 52, Fort Mountain, Chatsworth, Georgia.

Date: Saturday night - Sunday morning November 17-18, 2001; Peak activity (estimated 2500 per hour) around 4:30AM - 5:30AM Sunday morning, but should begin getting consistent after midnight.

Directions: Proceed east on Hwy 52 from it's intersection with Hwy 411 in Chatsworth proper. Go several miles up the mountain on a long curvy road to the Lodge. The Overlook is 2.3 miles past (east) of the Cohutta Lodge sign. The driveway is on the left side of road just past a medium sized Forestry Overlook sign which is on the right and reads "NATIONAL FOREST OVERLOOK AHEAD ON LEFT". Turn left, go about 75-100 yards, see trash receptacle on left. The trail to top is right there, 300 feet up to summit, easy walk up. Bring a red lens flashlight if available. There is a stone edifice on the peak where everyone will be observing from.

Those attending should call or e-mail Tom Sheets the week before November 17th to get details on time and location of a possible Saturday evening casual supper for MUFON of Georgia members and ISUR, FPR personnel. Those wanting rooms can inquire with the Cohutta Lodge at 706-695-9601, or at

www.cohuttalodge.com

Facilities are 2.3 miles back, in the lobby of the Lodge. More reasonably priced rooms can probably be found in Chatsworth or nearby Dalton at I-75.

For more details on the Leonids, visit the following web-sites:

<http://www.arm.ac.uk/leonid/encounters.html>

<http://leonid.arc.nasa.gov/1998.html>



Georgia Cases -- Continued from page 1

a misty trail tracing the descent. She pointed this out to her husband Carl who was trying to drive and observe. When they reached the central area of town they noticed 2 jet-like contrails in the sky near the object. These contrails appeared to circle in the sky as if in reaction to what was being observed, but no aircraft were seen. About the same time an unknown model of helicopter was observed flying north away from Fayetteville. Helen added that before their visual was lost, the object did a zig-zag maneuver in the sky. Upon arriving home, she phoned the Fayette County Sheriff's Department and spoke to Sheriff Randall Johnson. He advised that their agency had received no other calls regarding the object. They were later perplexed when comparing notes on what they had observed. Carl, although driving, got a pretty good look at the object and his account agreed with Helen's except for one peculiar aspect - Carl observed the object to be of a definite disc configuration (silver).

January 29, 2001 - Heard County, GA - Gray Triangle

(From Filer's Files #9 - 2001)

On Monday January 29, 2001, just after dawn, the Randolph, Alabama witness said he saw a large Flying Triangle moving towards Heard County, Georgia. The slab-like triangle was of "weathered gray" color on its sides, with its back being of a darker color and possibly concave. Its thickness or height was

MUFONGA Updates and e-mail addresses

If you are on the internet and are not receiving the MUFONGA Updates on-line, please send an e-mail message to:

mufonga@webtv.net

This will ensure that you get up to the minute news from MUFON of Georgia HQ as it happens.

approximately a quarter of its total length. The witness said that the best way to picture what the Flying Triangle craft looked like is to imagine taking the pyramid on the back of a dollar bill and slicing a thick lateral wedge from that pyramid. It had non-blinking red, yellow and blue lights on its back.

February 12, 2001 - Buford, GA - 2 Dark Disc-Shaped Objects

(From Filer's Files #8 - 2001)

At 5:20 PM about 45 miles Northeast of Atlanta near the tip of Lake Sydney Lanier a man was leaving work and noticed an aircraft coming from the East, traveling in a Westerly direction. The aircraft was creating a thick double vapor trail which the witness said looked odd. While the witness observed the aircraft's details such as wings, suddenly, something else moving in the sky caught the witness's attention. The witness observed two dark "disk" shaped objects moving towards the southwest, at a very slow speed. The disks were the size of a pencil eraser at arm's length and about 2 inches apart. One slightly above the other. The witness reported no sound, no lights, no wings or other protuberances. The objects were observed for about 1-1/2 minutes. Weather conditions were mostly clear with a nice blue sky, and the sun was starting down. The witness reported that the things flew practically right over his head and he didn't see them until he noticed the movement against the sky. The witness reported that the sun clearly reflected off of the airplane, but that the UFOs were dark - no reflection at all!

March 26, 2001 - Wray & Roswell, GA - Contrail/Disappearing Craft

John Bodin Sr., MUFON of Georgia's DD for South Georgia, living in Wray, indicated that he had gone out right after dawn for his normal morning walk. The weather was crisp and clear with a crystal blue sky. Off to the SE he noticed an aircraft's contrail similar to those he had noticed during the past weekend. He also observed that the aircraft appeared to be lower in altitude than when such vapor trails are normally formed. The metallic aircraft color was readily apparent in the sunlight, and the contrail was white against the blue sky. Suddenly the contrail stopped, and at this point the aircraft appeared to be about the size of a pencil eraser head at arm's length,

but incredibly, the aircraft seemed to have almost halted in the sky. John watched as the contrail dissipated right up toward the back of the aircraft. He also noticed that the body of the aircraft seemed a little too long as compared to others he had observed. At that point, he realized there were no wings attached to the fuselage. He continued his observation for 6 to 7 minutes until the object, moving very slowly, was lost from view with no change in it's appearance.

Later that afternoon John Bodin was in contact with MUFON of Georgia SSD/FI Michael D. Hitt of Roswell, Georgia (north Atlanta suburban area) regarding a separate long term investigation that is underway. Michael, a Roswell, Georgia police officer, then indicated that he had observed something very similar to John's event earlier in the day while on patrol duty.

Officer Hitt indicated that at around 11:45AM he had been called to Roswell Police HQs. Enroute he noticed an aircraft slowly flying S to N a little lower than is normal for that area, the aircraft being clearly visible in the bright sun. As he watched, he noticed that it appeared to have no wings or tail structures, and that another unusual effect was noticed - there appeared to be a 'heat-like' emanation given off from the fuselage - then the aircraft vanished from the sky! Michael indicated that he became aggravated that there was no way he could have turned his dash mounted police videocam onto the craft. The skies over Roswell were also clear at that time, as in the rest of Georgia, with a mild to moderate wind from the NW.

Please note that these events are similar to that observed and reported by MUFON of Georgia's HQ personnel on July 17, 2000, 81 road miles NW of Chattanooga, Tennessee on I-24. (See MUFON UFO Journal Sept. 2000 and Filer's Files).

April 30, 2001- Marietta, GA - Triangle

MARIETTA -- Two witnesses were driving up a road near their home when they saw what first appeared to be a helicopter flying very low on April 30, 2001. At 3:47 PM, the witnesses observed that the craft was only a few feet above the trees. It had a triangular shape and there was no evidence of blades on the craft.

The witness stated, "One thing I am certain, it was not any type of helicopter" mainly for two reasons; it made no sound, and there would have been some type of physical blade activity in the general area of the craft since it was so low in altitude. Branches did not sway even though it passed just above them. There was not a cloud in the sky, and you could see the metallic sheen of the craft. After noticing the craft, it seemed to have had a 'sense' of something and it darted back behind the tall pines trees. It did not take more than three seconds to drive to where we could see behind the trees and the full sky. Any normal object would clearly be in view, but it was gone - there was nothing.

June 11, 2001 - LaGrange, GA - Firey Hoax

John Thompson reported a hoaxed event in LaGrange on Monday June 11th. Troup County authorities received reports of a possible aircraft going down. A search located a large piece of flimsy plastic with a light wooden frame at the bottom and signs of a heat source for lift 40 feet up in a tree. A local witness reported a "long tube shaped object with smoke and flames going down behind some trees". This is an easily made device, usually consisting of a dry cleaner's plastic clothes bag (cover), balsa wood at the bottom, scotch tape, and small candles along the balsa wood frame. The bags that are tinted light blue can look very colorful when sent aloft.

June 17, 2001 - Norcross, GA - Silver Acorn/Disc

MUFON of Georgia member Tony Richards reports that on June 17, 2001 at about 7:35PM, he, his wife, and mother, were driving down Hwy 141 North at Medlock Bridge Rd. just north of Norcross proper (Gwinnett County). They observed an object which appeared to be hovering over the tree tops off toward the horizon. The object appeared to be silver or gray in color, round to acorn shaped and about thumbnail size at arm's length. Estimated distance was about 3 miles. Tony stated that due to the terrain, they were able to observe the object for about 35 seconds until trees obscured their view. Shortly thereafter, their view of that area returned through a break in the trees and it was gone. They continued to drive and search, but it was never relocated. Tony indicated that he was sure it was not an airplane or helicopter, but considered that it might be some sort of balloon,

perhaps a hot air balloon. In his opinion, it disappeared much too quickly for a slow moving craft.

June 17, 2001 - Lawrenceville, GA - Large Green Meteor

A blue light was reported in Lawrenceville on Sunday night, June 17, 2001 at about 10:30PM. By luck, DDI Jim Clifford and his wife, who also live in Lawrenceville, were out at that time and also observed this event. Jim indicated that it was definitely a large meteor. Peter Davenport at NUFORC stated that he had received similar reports of a blue light for the same time period.

June 17, 2001 - LaGrange, GA - Reddish-White Light

MUFON of Georgia's former SD, John Thompson, noticed an unusual light in La Grange at about 10:30PM. It was a reddish light with white around it, appearing to bounce a wee bit. John thought it might be an aircraft light, but it disappeared before he could get a good fix on it.

Mid-June, 2001 - Whitesburg, GA - Multiple Oblong Craft with Red and White Lights

A man which lives on a large farm of 500+ acres with his wife and several children reported that one night in mid-June, at about 10:30 PM, the witness' son came in from outside and remarked on a strange aircraft over their property. The witness and family members proceeded outside to find an oblong craft with white and red lights (thicker in the middle) hovering over an adjacent field. The primary witness stated that it appeared to be about 500 yards away and about 150 feet in altitude, because the lights seemed to illuminate the tops of some nearby trees. It was estimated that the object was about the size of a quarter held at arm's length, adding that his thumb end would not have covered it. He looked at it through binoculars and noticed that there were steady white lights around it's mid-line, with red lights seeming to move along the mid-line between the white lights, as if in sequence. The actual structure seemed to be metallic in tone, comparing it to the color of a Greyhound bus, or a DeLorean automobile (dull stainless steel body). The witness then took an extremely powerful hand-held spotlight used for night fishing and spotted the craft. The object moved from a 2 o'clock position to a 10

o'clock position with unbelievable speed (in a blink of an eye), once again hovering over a different part of the field at about the same altitude. At that time, additional similar objects appeared over the field, and at one point, three were hovering over one another. The whole family observed the seven objects for thirty minutes. The objects then simultaneously vanished from view.

The witness added another unusual aspect to this occurrence. Several weeks before this event, one of his friends was using a remote part of the property to camp. The next morning as the friend departed, he asked if the witness had sneaked down to the campsite during the night to shine his night fishing spotlight through his tent wall. He had not done so.

MUFON State Director Tom Sheets and George Lainhart met with the witness who turned over several good sketches of the UFOs and reconfirmed his personal account as being correct. During further inspection of the surrounding property, the witness pointed out the treetops that were illuminated by the hovering craft. George, using a laser range finder, ascertained the trees which were illuminated were 336 yards away. The second tree to which the object moved was only 74 yards away.

Various police officials and local clerks in area stores advised they had no knowledge of similar reports for the first two weeks in June.

On September 10, the witness phoned Tom at 10:00 PM and indicated the objects may have returned, as he could see bizarre lights over the distant part of his property. Tom proceeded to Whitesburg, which took about one hour. The objects had already left the area upon his arrival.

June 27, 2001 - LaGrange, GA - White Pyramid
MUFON of Georgia's former SD, John Thompson of La Grange, received a recent report of a 'white pyramid' hovering in the sky for about 8 seconds, around 4PM on July 27th. A motorist on Hwy 219 just south of the Chattahoochee River observed it to the West at a 45-60 degree angle, estimating it was about 1 mile away. Upon reaching the next clearing, it was gone. The witness indicated that it seemed to be

much larger than an airliner, and that two sides of the pyramid were seen. There was scattered cloud cover at about 85 degrees. The La Grange Airport advised that there were no reported blimps or balloons in the area as far as they knew, and none of the pilots had reported anything unusual.

September 11, 2001 - Griffin, GA - Two Discs Change From Blue to Green

The witness was returning home from band practice on September 11, 2001, a night in which all non-military air-flight was banned across America due to the terrorist attacks which occurred earlier that day. He reportedly was "looking around" when he noticed two disks with lights on the edge through clouds to his north, at 8:45 PM. The discs had lights on them that changed in sync from blue to green. They darted around each other for about 10-15 seconds before the witness lost track of them.



Visit the MUFON HQ web page at:
<http://www.mufon.com>

Georgia Sky Watch Needs Your Help

The GSW depends on you. We need articles, UFO reports, book reviews, general comments or any assistance that you can provide. The Georgia group is comprised of many fascinating and talented members. Please, let us hear from you.

Instant UFO Library

I am clearing out duplicate books and have 70 paperback UFO books to sell as a lot. The first \$200 takes them. If interested, call or e-mail me at the contact info listed for the GSW on page 2. Shipping anywhere in US is an additional \$20. I can bring this huge box of books to our next meeting for anyone who might be interested. Also, I am looking for 1950s APRO Bulletins and other Saucer 'zines from that era if you have any that you want to sell. Thanks. -- Mark Ausmus

MUFON OF GEORGIA DINNER FORUM

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2001

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Norcross, Georgia
I-85/Indian Trail Exit
5125 Willow Oak Trail

Facility: Shoney's
(Private Dining Room)

Agenda:

- Case Discussions
- Open Discussions
- Security & Defense

You're up late one night when a shining blue saucer crashes into the tree in your back yard. Alien bodies and wreckage are everywhere! But before you can get to a phone to alert the local media - you find someone dressed in a black suit sticking a gun in your ribs exclaiming that "they'll be picking your bones out of the sand"! What can you possibly do? Or maybe you're just in the parking lot at the mall going for, or

returning from, your Christmas shopping when you are approached by someone with ill intent. What can you do? Come and listen to an expert on personal safety - our own SD Tom Sheets - as he gives invaluable information for survival in these strange days.

As usual this is a casual MUFON of Georgia and family members meeting, but please feel free to bring a guest if they are truly interested in UFOs or our group.

We wish to thank SSD Olivia Newton for making the meeting arrangements for us.

DIRECTIONS:

1. TAKE I-85 TO THE INDIAN TRAIL EXIT.
2. IF COMING FROM ATLANTA OR I-285 UP I-85 TURN RIGHT ONTO INDIAN TRAIL. IF TRAVELING FROM THE NORTH DOWN I-85 TOWARDS ATLANTA, TURN LEFT ON INDIAN TRAIL.
3. JUST A BLOCK OR SO DOWN ON THE RIGHT IS WILLOW OAK TRAIL. SHONEY'S IS OFF-SET BACK AWAY FROM INDIAN TRAIL A LITTLE WAYS. YOU CAN SEE IT ON THE RIGHT AS YOU COME DOWN INDIAN TRAIL FROM I-85. EASY TO GET THERE!

**Skeptics don't make great UFO investigators.
But great UFO investigators
have to be good skeptics.**