

Visitors

Newsletter of Illinois MUFON NFP • May 2008

Symposium Draws Overflow Crowd



Symposium Q&A panel: (left to right) Barker, Maranto, Rodeghier, and Schmitt
(Connor not pictured)

On Saturday, March 29th, the first UFO mini-symposium of 2008 was held in Tinley Park, Illinois drawing an unexpected number of attendees. The symposium, advertised with limited exposure, drew over 150 people to listen to the latest on ufology from well-known speakers and authors.

Illinois MUFON was joined in sponsoring the day's event by the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS). The scientific director of CUFOS, Dr. Mark Rodeghier, was instrumental in obtaining the key speaker of the event, Don Schmitt. Schmitt, a renowned expert on the Roswell UFO crash incident and co-author of a number of books, headlined the symposium with his talk "Witness to Roswell—New Evidence and Death Bed Confessions". Sam Maranto, State Director of Illinois MUFON, talked about the Tinley Lights and Rockford sightings, and other similar phenomena and was joined by Vic Connor, Assistant State Director of Illinois MUFON. Connor gave a presentation titled "A Brief History of Ufology from the Beginning" about not only the history of UFOs but also the progression of theories over the last sixty years. Mark Rodeghier spoke on the "State of Ufology Today" and gave an update on the O'Hare UFO sighting. Darryl Barker, film producer, rounded out the presentations with an in-depth multimedia show entitled "Edge of Reality: Illinois UFO January 5th, 2000 and Case Updates" that featured a well documented investigation into a classic sighting in Illinois. *(continued on page 4)*

7 Wonders of Illinois Link

To encourage new membership and promote the concepts of ufology, Sam Maranto, State Director, is currently looking into having regional meetings at tourist sights designated by the Illinois Department of Tourism. The Seven Wonders of Illinois were nominated and voted on by residents and state visitors as the state's most historic, notable, or scenic locations. By combining Illinois MUFON's efforts with the Department of Tourism, a larger membership population can be reached in all corners of the state in an enjoyable location.

Already scheduled for September 12th, 13th, and 14th will be a meeting at Rend Lake in southern Illinois. Also in consideration for future dates that are part of the Seven Wonders are: Wrigley Field in Chicago, the Ba'hai Temple in Wilmette, Allerton Park (the mansion and garden are property of the University of Illinois) near Monticello, Blackhawk State Park near the Quad Cities, and the Great Rivers Byway area near Alton. Starved Rock State Park, one of the Seven Wonders, has been the site of numerous MUFON meetings in the past and is the "home" of Illinois MUFON. More information about each location and the meetings will be given to members in the future. ■

Coming Events:

- May 31st — Starved Rock State Park: Public Illinois MUFON meeting (see page 3)
- June 22nd — Tinley Park: Truth If You Dare Symposium (see page 2)
- July 12th — Orland Park Public Library Public Illinois MUFON Meeting
9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
14921 S. Ravinia Ave., Orland Park, IL
First floor in the large classroom. Note: The

- Orland Park Public Library is not a sponsor of this organization and its program. Register on line at www.orlandparklibrary.org (No calls)
- July 15th — Blue Island Public Library Presentation (Maranto): "Ufology 101"
7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
2433 York St., Blue Island, IL
Call the library to register. (708) 388-1078
- August 9th — Orland Park Public Library Public Illinois MUFON Meeting

- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
14921 S. Ravinia Ave., Orland Park, IL
First floor in the large classroom. Note: The Orland Park Public Library is not a sponsor of this organization and its program. Register on line at www.orlandparklibrary.org (No calls)
- September 12th, 13th, 14th — Rend Lake: Illinois MUFON Regional Meeting (see page 7)
- October 23rd — Lockport Public Library Presentation (Maranto): "Seminar on UFO's"

- 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
121 East Eighth St., Lockport, IL
Contact: Kristin Nimmo (815) 838-0755
Email: knimmo@dpvlib.org
- October 30th — Crest Hill Public Library Presentation (Maranto): "Seminar on UFO's"
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
1298 Theodore St., Crest Hill, IL
Contact: Kristin Nimmo (815) 725-0234
Email: knimmo@dpvlib.org



2nd Symposium Planned For Tinley Park in June

Illinois MUFON, NFP and CUFOs (the Center for UFO Studies) will be sponsoring Truth...If You Dare UFO Symposium 2 on Sunday, June 22 from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Convention Center at 18501 South Harlem Avenue in Tinley Park. The one-day symposium will be held in the large Convention Center adjacent to the Holiday Inn motel. To date the presenters include the renowned speaker, author, documentary and television cohost, Richard M. Dolan. Dolan's book *UFOs and the National Security State* is a best seller and a prerequisite in the subject of UFOs. It is hailed as the best detailed research in a chronological format to date. Attendees will hear this eloquent speaker and also have an opportunity to get an autographed copy of his work. Other speakers, yet to be determined, will present along with dramatic video evidence.

Rooms are available at an Illinois MUFON group rate by calling Holiday Inn at 708 444-1100. The motel website is www.hiselect.com/chitinleypark and lists features with photos.

Through May 20th an Early Bird Special registration fee to the symposium is \$10 per person when paid using a credit card through Paypal on the Illinois MUFON web site at www.illinoisMUFON.com or \$10.88 if using a Paypal account. Checks are also accepted at the Early Bird Special rate when made out to Illinois MUFON NFP and mailed to Illinois MUFON, PO Box 2105, Orland Park, IL 60462. After May 20th the fee increases to \$20 per person on the web site and by mail. The fee at the door on June 22 will be \$30. For additional information about the symposium call 708 460-7606. ■

Getting the Word Out

Sam Maranto, Julie Maranto, and Mike Ganster were busy over the last few months in sparring with debunkers for the television media and presenting to local colleges.

In early April, Sam Maranto was interviewed in New York by NBC's Mike Nardi of Dateline for a segment called "UFO Photographic Evidence" aired May 18th. The studio, as described by Maranto, was a 140-year-old textile warehouse with just a very limited number of film crew present. The segment, which covered the ten best video and photographed cases, also included Thomas Japcon, an eyewitness to the Tinley Park Lights incident.



Julie Maranto with the DePaul University English class

On April 25th, Sam and Julie Maranto provided fuel for a debate assignment in an English class at DePaul University in Chicago. The students, from China, Japan, Brazil, and Belarus, were assigned to write papers for and against a topic by their instructor, Professor Low. Interestingly, Professor Low attended school in Stephenville, Texas, sight of a major UFO case in recent months. At the end of the class, Sam donated three MUFON International Symposium books for the best papers to be written.

May 15th, Sam Maranto and Mike Ganster gave a talk on ufology at Roosevelt University to an adult education class. Many questions that the students asked were well thought out and one outspoken cynic in the class kept the two of them on their toes. They have been asked to return to give another presentation.

The History Channel's "UFO Hunters" and two Discovery Channel pilot producers have also been keeping Sam Maranto occupied over the last few months with interviews, visiting with Tinley Park Lights witnesses, requesting information and videos, and interacting with the local news media. All of the footage will be aired at a later date and covered in a later newsletter. ■

STATE SIGHTINGS BEING REVIEWED

San Jose, IL, July 4th, 6:10 p.m., 2007

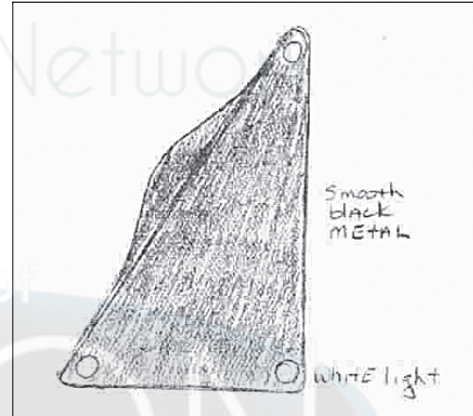
Investigators: Debbie Lowery and Paul Russell

A wife and husband and their neighbor witnessed an unidentified object for approximately five minutes in a sunny, clear blue sky. The object moved faster than normal aircraft at approximately 10,000 feet in altitude with no sound or contrails and was triangular in shape. The craft traveled in the southwest section of the sky and the witnesses observed dark lines along the sides of the object that resembled heat waves on a hot road. It disappeared from view quickly and was unlike any other aircraft they have observed flying overhead.

This old case is being reopened although it was officially closed when another sighting by the same couple in February of this year was reported to the CMS as well as an earlier incident in November of 1998 by the wife. In both cases the object was a flying

triangle. In the more recent sighting, the couple observed the object near Pekin, Illinois from their car. In the 1998 incident, the wife observed it from her home in Manito, Illinois.

The couple have also had suspicions about being watched from the corn fields around their house. On one occasion the wife remembered waking up at night and seeing a black-hooded entity with red eyes looking into their window. The window, eight to nine feet off of the ground, is not normally accessible by people.



Witness' drawing of the triangular UFO over San Jose, Illinois

THE FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S NOTEPAD

Thoughts: **In Support of Eyewitness Cases**

by Guy Richards

As a MUFON field investigator I find that I am fascinated by eyewitness cases. There are only a few possibilities regarding an eyewitness' story: 1. They are crazy; 2. They are lying for their own purposes; 3. They really saw something. It's not always obvious where a witness falls in the three categories but statistically if you have a large number of total cases where a witness' credibility and background can be verified, you will have a number of category 3 cases that then can be separated into various categories of natural phenomenon, unknown natural phenomenon, military, and extraterrestrial.

Our focus is of course the extraterrestrial. If our MUFON data base has just ten of the category 3 that are both non-natural and non-military events, the statistical probability of the existence of extraterrestrials being real heads into the 90% range. Higher numbers lead to a dead certainty.

In the absence of any undisputed credible physical evidence of extraterrestrials eyewitness' are the next best thing. However we need to keep in mind that 95% of all reports can be reasonably explained and of those 5% unexplained at a guess 95% of those are military or unknown natural phenomenon. If your data base has 10,000 reported sightings that leaves 25 cases where a credible witness has seen extraterrestrial technology.

How many reports do we have in our data base anyway?

Although an explanation for the craft might be the stealth bomber, the lack of sound, lighting, body design, and quick disappearance are not characteristic of that particular aircraft.

Debbie Lowery and Paul Russell and possibly a few other investigators will soon be visiting the couple in San Jose. For more info, members can visit the CMS "Completed" and "In-Process" status sites and search under the investigators' names and sighting location. ■

May Meeting at Starved Rock

Saturday, May 31st at 10:00 A.M., Illinois MUFON will be holding a statewide meeting at Illinois Starved Rock State Park in the lodge's LaSalle Room. Members and non-members are invited for up-to-date information on the organization, current investigations, planned events, and news. Various presentations along with group discussions will be hosted in the scenic setting.

After the meeting at 3:00 P.M. a barbecue on the veranda will be offered to attendees. The meeting is open to the public but space is limited. E-mail to mufonsam@comcast.net for an advanced seat reservation. The cost, \$8.00 per person, will be collected at the beginning of the meeting. ■



Richard Dolan To Speak June 22nd

Noted author Richard M. Dolan will be the key presenter at the second Truth...If You Dare Symposium to be held Sunday, June 22nd at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn Convention Center. Dolan is the author of the seminal UFO investigative book, *UFOs and the National Security State* published in 2002 that exposes the depth of government involvement in covering up and confusing the UFO phenomenon. The level of investigative research and quantity of official documentation makes the book the cornerstone for full disclosure and is a must-read for everyone interested in the history of the UFO problem.

Whitney Strieber, author of *Communion*, stated that Dolan's book is "the best history ever written about UFOs," and that Dolan is "the leading UFO historian in the world right now."

Richard Dolan studied at Alfred University and Oxford University before completing his graduate work in history at the University of Rochester. He studied U.S. cold war strategy, German and Soviet history and culture, and international diplomacy.

In 2002 Dolan wrote that the unidentified triangle sightings, recently being seen in many parts of the U.S., could be both alien craft and also U.S. military aircraft. The "secret" Black Manta TR-3 aircraft, that is rumored in aeronautical circles, being the military version. His view on the full UFO disclosure by the government became controversial when he wrote in 2006, "The American system of government, as it has come to exist, and by extension American society, and by extension our current global civilization, is not compatible with true UFO disclosure. Disclosure would rip it all away."

Dolan, who is currently working on a follow-up volume to his best seller and recently cohosted the Sci-Fi/Investigates six part reality series on the Sci-Fi Channel, will be presenting along with other UFO speakers at the one day symposium. ■

Symposium Draws Crowd *continued*

The symposium, which was first advertised locally, was picked up by various media including five newspapers. Additionally, web sites that feature UFO news also began to advertise the event. The resulting spread of the announcement of the symposium took Maranto of Illinois MUFON and Rodeghier of CUFOS by surprise. The symposium planners, expecting about a hundred to attend, were rushed to find accommodations for the walk-in attendees who came to the event and paid at the door.

After an additional room was acquired, speaking schedules rearranged, and another registration table was set up, the additional people were seated.

Holiday Inn hotel, in whose convention center the symposium was hosted, began to turn away people who had come to hear the speakers, assuming the capacity had been reached but not informed that an additional room had been rented at the convention center. Although those turned away did not get to attend, the majority of people who came were admitted to the presentations.

Undoubtedly the inclusion of Don Schmitt was a big factor in the success of the symposium. "Schmitt is one of the best as far as experts on the Roswell case, and his new book was about new witnesses who are coming forward," Maranto said.



Don Schmitt

Following the various speakers was a question and answer session, where attendees were able to ask about the speakers' encounters and research, about their opinions, and about case specifics. Some of the questions came from school-aged children and young adults who were present. A number of members of the audience participated in discussions concerning their personal encounters and points of view on the subject. A brief "hands-up" survey indicated that more than half of the audience were witnesses to UFO encounters.

During the question and answer period a news team from Fox News filmed the proceedings and various newspapers, including the Herald and Star, reported on the meeting over the next week. With a raffle of door prizes the symposium ended around 5 P.M. ■



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