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Editor’s Note

By Phyllis Budinger



A regular feature by well-known Ufologist, Bill Murphy is introduced in this newsletter! His writing is as unique as he is. Each issue will include the latest happenings highlights in Ufology. He obtains this information from his reviews of UFO articles for the “The Anomolist.com”. He has generously offered to refine them for our newsletter. So we will be updated every issue on the current UFO events. His bio follows:

Bill Murphy is a Board Member of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies and an Assistant News Editor for *The Anomalist*, for which he focuses upon UFOs and Archaeology. Previously Bill was a Section and then State Director and Newsletter Editor for Michigan MUFON. His academic and business career includes 17 years as a College Instructor in History and Archaeology and 35 years in industry, largely in Quality and Data Analysis. Bill received B.A. and M.A. degrees and is a Ph.D. Candidate in Ancient History, and held four certifications from the American Society for Quality. He has designed, developed, and/or delivered more than 70 different courses in statistics, Quality principles, history and



archaeology, and has presented on these subjects and UFOs to audiences in several foreign countries and a number of states. Bill has edited corporate and professional association newsletters and has been published in the *International UFO Reporter*, *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, and three MUFON state newsletters.

Also there is a contribution by Scott Santa, an Ohio MUFON member from the Akron area, who had an incredible UFO experience in 1974. I thank him immensely for his article. I did not know about his event until I read Ryan Sprague's latest edition of his book "Somewhere in the Skies – A Human Approach to the UFO Phenomenon." I intend to do a review of his book in a future issue.

Again and again we thank Rick Hilberg, another regular contributor, for his numerous 'Ohio Retro' articles which he submits for every newsletter. Then I appreciated Irena Scott and John Fry for giving me a 'head's up' on a well-deserved recognition by the Columbus Dispatch, of the work Pete Hartinger has been doing. This is another example of news on UFOs now getting a lot more attention and being taken seriously.



*(This article includes relatively **few specific article links**, for space and "reading flow" considerations. Where the location of some articles can be gained by accessing a well-known site like *Open Minds* or *Mystery Wire*, I often just give the **date and site name**. If you would like a **Word document with the addresses of 115+ articles** I mention directly or indirectly here, plus some key earlier articles from the second half of 2020, so you can easily click on them and go directly to the internet piece, send me a request at MurphyBillufo@gmail.com. Bill Murphy)*

UFO Highlights August through November 2020

By Bill Murphy

Has Ufology Paused for a "Breather"?



Over at *The Anomalist.com* we review, comment upon, and link to worthy current online paranormal newspaper, journals, and blog articles, podcasts, and books, TV series, and movie reviews. Every day Editor and Webmaster Patrick Huyghe, who also edits the Society for Scientific Exploration's *Edge Science* journal and publishes *Anomalist Books*, and veteran writer Chris Savia, scan the internet for good stuff on ghosts, cryptids, time travel, psi in general, breaking science, archaeology, and UFOs. I get to review those last two subjects in paragraphs as (WM) on weekdays and sometimes on weekends, covering between 35 and 45 articles a week. In the course of more than 8,000 articles since September 2016 you get a sense of the ongoing themes as well as breaking news in, for our interests here, "ufology".

It's useful to pause occasionally, go over the articles I've covered during a given period, and distill out what some of those recurring themes are and how they've developed. Plus, calling to readers' attention important new stories and sources of information they might not hear about elsewhere. **So, let's look at what's happened since the August 31 deadline for the last (September) Ohio MUFON Newsletter.** Here we go.

The "Big Story"

Ufology has rather stepped back and taken a breath from major announcements, as the COVID-19 Pandemic and contentious elections have largely captured the overall news cycle. But continuing developments in "The Big UFO Story" since December of 2017 of a secret Pentagon UFO study program and at that time two F/A-18 UFO videos, plus new items like the public release of James Fox' UFO documentary *The Phenomenon*, have made it an interesting period. I'll also focus this time on some online sources frequently

appearing in our *The Anomalist* reviews as general tips on where to look for the details yourself.

Several articles provided useful context to that Big Story. George Knapp's *Mystery Wire* ran a piece on October 8th on *How a Rock Star Changed the UFO World*, with lots of content on how Tom DeLonge and *To The Stars...Academy of Arts & Science* started the ball rolling and have tried to keep momentum moving. Alejandro Rojas uploaded a study on October 23rd to *Open Minds* titled *How US Intelligence Insiders Got the Senate's Attention Regarding UFOs*. One of the best podcasts yet for background to the absolute core of the Big Story is Lex Fridman's David Fravor interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB8zcAttP1E&feature=youtu.be>.

Mainstream media wrestled with the Strange New Universe opened up in December 2017. *Space.com* ran a straightforward Leonard David article in mid-October that was influenced by the July 27th *Scientific American* opinion piece by scientists Ravi Kopparapu and Jacob Haqq-Misra as well as Navy UAP admissions. On November 2 *Mother Jones* ran a contribution from mainstream reporter AJ Vicens, who concisely runs down relevant Big Story events since before the last presidential election. His conclusions may not please, but given the history of Government public attention to UFOs, they are plausible.

Yet a September 18th *Business Insider* piece somewhat dismissively argued that *Most Scientists Don't Care about UFO Videos Because They Don't Indicate Extraterrestrial Life*. The June Senate Intelligence Committee mandate for an Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force (UAPTF) forced what seems like unwilling cooperation from official Pentagon sources to ufologists' resulting questions, as shown in a September 2nd post on *Blue Blurry Lines* by Roger Glassel. What has been coming out prompted Danny Silva to pen <https://silvarecord.com/2020/10/24/holding-secret-keepers-accountable/>. Silva offers evidence that any "disclosure" indicating that people within the government have not been fulfilling their duties to Congress might make them liable to legal prosecution. I admit I had somewhat pooh-pooed that idea when I reviewed Bryce Zabel's August 13th *Medium* opinion piece [\[the-trail-of-the-saucers/people-get-ready-772abcd2e970\]\(https://www.the-trail-of-the-saucers.com/people-get-ready-772abcd2e970\) *People Get Ready*.](https://medium.com/on-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

"Big Story" Sidelights

One sidelight to the Big Story is the Wilson/Davis notes, allegedly made by physicist Eric Davis in 2004 after a clandestine meeting with then-Admiral Thomas Wilson. Their gist: The Government through private industry possessed and was trying to reverse-engineer alien space technology. Kevin Randle panned Joe Murgia's massive investigation into those notes on September 17th and then 18th. Keith Basterfield's <https://ufos-scientificresearch.blogspot.com/2020/10/the-wilsondavis-notes-latest-data.html> is a great compilation of the latest debate on these very controversial and possibly game-changing notes.

Rising UFO Sightings

Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 Pandemic echoed through ufological articles during this period as it was permeating politics, the economy, and virtually all other aspects of life and news. Several articles made various claims about the rise in UFO sightings. The new availability of good older data on UFO reports was a noteworthy development during this period. The UK government's release of formerly classified Royal Air Force files from 1997 to 2009 had their media writing up stories on local UFO totals and cases, just as American outlets were doing the same kind of thing using information from the National UFO Reporting Center and others. Jack Brewer reported in <http://ufotrail.blogspot.com/2020/09/cia-serves-assist-to-researchers.html> that the CIA is making readily available a list of UFO-related documents generated from its internal "Requester Report" database. Read that article carefully to save money if interested! And Curt Collins publicized CUFOS Board Member George Eberhart's aggregation <http://www.nicap.org/Intel/UFOsandIntelligence.pdf> *UFOs and Intelligence: A Timeline*. It's a huge (679 page!) "comprehensive timeline of UFO history" from the 9th century CE to the present. And it's free!

Rising UFO Sightings Sidelight

A sidelight to UK and US media using UFO reporting data to gain clicks are fun articles melding

such sources as the National UFO Reporting Center numbers and their own property cost figures to show the best places to move to for UFO spotting. Other articles delve into the local history and social aspects of a place for travel purposes. *The Anomalist* and particularly Chris Savia extensively covered the possibility of life in the Venusian atmosphere, which hit the science world hard in mid-September. Two good articles I reviewed are listed and linked in my Word document, as are those UK and US media articles about “UFO places.”

“Jetpack Jockies” and Drones

“Jetpack jockey” incursions over Los Angeles’ International Airport hit the news on September 1st with most notably a Tyler Rogoway *The War Zone* article, followed by a Rogoway-Joseph Trevithick post on the 28th and an October 14th *Los Angeles Times* piece about yet another report of a jetpacker in the LAX flight path. Like drones and balloons, this technology is becoming more prevalent and has implications for UFO reporting—besides being downright dangerous at times. On the drone front, the quintessential mainstream media *Forbes* offered an article on September 7th revealing “dozens more mystery drone incursions over U.S. nuclear power plants,” while *The War Zone*’s Tyler Rogoway reported on September 25th about a huge new hangar at Area 51 that he feels indicates development of drone swarm technology. On October 26th podcaster Fahrusha talked drones with David Perkins, a researcher who argues a relationship between the recent Colorado (and other) drones and historic cattle mutilations, as well as fracking.

“The Phenomenon” Reviews (James Fox Production)

Probably the last big UFO-related phenomenon since the beginning of September is in fact *The Phenomenon*, the new James Fox UFO documentary. This garnered very positive reviews in such mainstream media sources as *CNN.com* (Brian Lowry, October 6), *The Guardian* (Adrian Horton, October 7), and *Huffington Post* (Ed Mazza, October 12th and 15th). *Rotten Tomatoes* gives the film (as of this November 7th writing, no Critics Consensus yet) an 86% Tomatometer score and 95% Audience rating. Billy Cox, the *Miami Herald-Tribune* reporter who’s been very open to

the UFO subject, has appreciations of the film. Robbie Graham’s review at <https://www.dailygrail.com/2020/10/review-the-phenomenon/> is fairly detailed and balanced. The *Paracast* interview with Producer/Director Fox <https://www.theparacast.com/podcast/now-playing-october-25-2020-james-fox/> speaks to some quibbles about little attention to the impact of UFOs upon people and additionally to the arduous process of bringing a quality low-budget mainstream blockbuster to light. On October 28th Kevin Randle interviewed Lee Spiegel, a producer and writer of James Fox’ new UFO documentary, while on the 31st Australian ufologist Bill Chalker called the documentary “an excellent primer for people to get a good understanding of the nature of the UFO mystery.” The venerable and thoughtful David Halperin tried, I think unsuccessfully, to explain away three iconic mass sightings as presented in *The Phenomenon* “in purely human terms” with two posts in October, another being promised in mid-November.

Other Good Sources of Information

The references above indicate some of the consistently good online sources of UFO information. I’d now like to suggest some of the others that were most useful to me from September 1st to the present, indicating why so that you may choose which might be worth checking out.

Nick Redfern at <https://mysteriousuniverse.org/> is worth at least a paragraph unto himself. His 30+ articles this news cycle demonstrate the gamut of his UFO-related interests. Here we go: Nick’s revisionist view that Roswell was a ghastly human experiment gone wrong; similarly, that the December 1980 Rendlesham Forest Incident was a completely human event involving mind-deception; his deep interest in Men-in-Black, Women-in-Black, and Black-Eyed Children; Majestic 12; Area 51; Governmental spying upon and “manipulating” the UFO community; the relationship between cryptozoology (especially “Bigfeet”) and ufology; and alien infiltration into human affairs. He’s even considered the question of “When and Where Aliens Might Eat You – So Some Say” (October 22).

Another strong source during this period is Micah Hanks, whose podcasts at <https://micahhanks.com/podcast/> demonstrate

considerable research and preparation. Each one begins with a look at the then-current week's events, then focuses upon one topic in more detail. Hanks often employs additional audio sources, and you'll always come away with several "Huh, I didn't know that's." Episodes we reported upon in this period included the 2006 O'Hare UFO incident; Maritime UFO encounters; the Coyne UFO/Helicopter near-miss; early Contactees; Soviet space program tragedies; MK Ultra; and the history of the ETH hypothesis.

The Paracast produced interviews at <https://www.theparacast.com/podcast/> with Stan Gordon; Dr. Roberto Pinotti on an array of Italian subjects, including "Fascist UFOs"; Illinois MUFON State Director Sam Maranto; Dr. Bruce Maccabee; and James Fox. *The War Zone* had another mind-boggling article about military developments in <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/33859/blasting-the-air-in-front-of-hypersonic-vehicles-with-lasers-could-unlock-unprecedented-speeds>. Kevin Randle at <http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/> interviewed Virginia MUFON State Director Sue Swiatek, and Kevin's recent work reviewing, amplifying, and where necessary correcting UFO history has included three November 1957 Levelland, Texas CELlem (electromagnetic effects) articles and an article on Calvin Parker.

Curt Collins has two websites of consistently good and well-illustrated articles on UFO history in *Blue Blurry Lines* and *The Saucers That Time Forgot*. In particular, Curt ran a three-parter on November 5th in *The Saucers* about a famous UFO fraudster named Otis T. Carr. Collins notes "What's most interesting about the Otis T. Carr story is not so much his failed saucer, but how and why people believed in him." A remarkable cautionary tale, a worthy study, and an absorbing read. November 9 Update: Over at *Blue Blurry Lines*, Curt's November 6th entry has noted and offers links to three other "Flying Saucer Swindlers" which are also at *The Saucers That Time Forgot*.

News on Two Well-known Ufologists

A melancholy note: Sweden's Hakan Blomqvist is scaling back/ending his blog articles. Hakan's been a proponent of the Esoteric Tradition regarding UFO Contactee encounters; his farewell blog <https://ufoarchives.blogspot.com/2020/10/fifty->

[years-of-ufo-research-and-study.html](#) contains references to more detailed expositions of this particular approach, and accompanies a free downloadable .pdf of his book *Esotericism and UFO Research*. Of especial sadness is the passing of Larry W. Bryant on October 12th. My boss Patrick Huyghe was a long-time friend of Bryant, who was one of the pioneers in Freedom of Information Act requests, as well as the Director of the Washington D.C. office of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. Bryant maintained a blog, wrote numerous articles on UFOs for a wide range of magazines, and authored several books.

I've also included in my Word document several additional articles from this news cycle that you might enjoy or be mystified by.



Encounter at Ascot Park—1974.

By Scott Santa (with Alfred Lehmborg)



The exact date is not recalled, but on one day in August 1974, a pseudonym friend, "Mike," and I had nothing going on. Bored, we idly elected to go to the drive-in movies.

I must add here that I only seem to recall, at this point, that I was with someone at all... I likely was, I think I was, ...but I am just not sure.

I could have been alone. This speaks directly, reader, only to the high strangeness of the evening's whole affair.

It was a beautiful summer evening; that much is clearly remembered! There was not a cloud in the sky—stars were everywhere and so thick they looked like they could even be reached up to and touched—real Starry Night stuff! We paid for our tickets, drove in, and parked... in the back, of

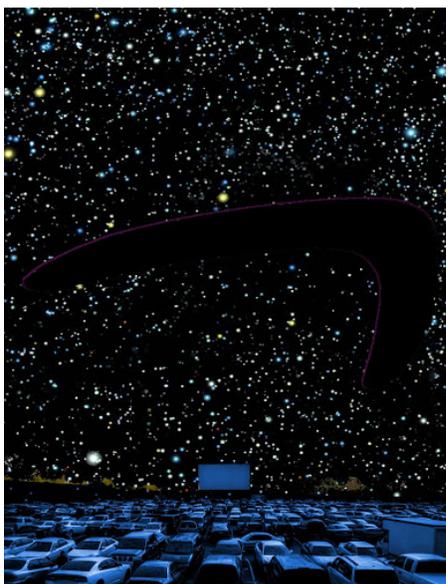
course! We're 19 in 1974 and always hoping to find that mythic car full of like-minded ladies!

It was not quite a full house that night, but it was adequately packed. There was a gang of noisy kids playing at that obligatory playground always just under and in front of the screen... everyone was settled in and ready to watch a couple of the now unremembered movies...

This was a "normal" night as normal and mundane as ever there was one observed as normalized, ok? Too, there was no foreboding tenseness... no unsettling portends or eerie foreshadowing... neck hair was decidedly down.

We got some food and drinks and settled in to watch the cartoons. We'd sit quietly munching for a few minutes, watching the silliness and waiting for the movie... then, annoyed, I would become distracted by this bizarre movement peripheral to the screen, a movement where movement just should not be (!)

...I could just begin to make out this creeping sharp-edged "something" approaching the movie screen from behind and above... then, just like that! ...A HUGE, and I do mean MONSTROUS... a gargantuan "object" (!!!), reader, was suddenly resolved in my perception... a boomerang-like chevron ...thing... loomed into view! It towered over the top and above the screen! It dwarfed the parking area! It's like it was all the eye could see as far as the eye could see!



I shouted to Mike, asking if he could see it, too, and yes, "...what the hell is that!" was his reply. ...That reply was to be near our last on the subject... ...ever! Flag down, reader (you'll see!)! ...Then the object moved!

Its speed of advance was an awesome languidness; my best guess is that it is no more than 10-15 mph! Too, it seemed to float, rather dirigible-like, than fly.

It had no lights; there was no illumination of any kind! Indeed, it could only be seen at all because the object was so coalsack black and unreflective that it blotted out the brilliant starfield in the sky behind it! It was, and utterly, reader... silent.



"Mike" and I got boiled out of our car at some point! Then, We'd just stand and stare at this fulsome and inexplicable impossibility!

Again, the size of this "craft" (for want of a better term?) was nothing short of enormous! From wingtip to wingtip it overlapped the drive-in enclosure, in fact... it dwarfed it! It "dwarfed" it by the proverbial 3-4 football fields as can be seen in the illustration below! Ominously, then, it proceeded in a straight line to waft right over the top of the first row of cars and heading right towards me!

By this time I could observe that almost everyone was out of their vehicles like ourselves, pointing to the sky, and looking around—quite possibly to make sure everyone else was seeing the same thing! There were plenty of witnesses! ...Everyone in the bleeding park saw this thing!

As the object continued on—not quite immediately over my head, yet, but on its way—ALL of the lights in the drive-in, and abruptly as if thrown on a single switch, went out! The movie stopped; the concession stand went black! Running cars died... I noticed that several people were trying to start their cars and leave! Their cars were dead, too.

As difficult as this is to explain—I was aware of all of this occurring around me! Though my recollection is that I never really took my eyes off of the object, overhead, ever! I add that there wasn't any panic expressed around me! I didn't feel any myself! "Mike" seemed OK given circumstances...

I could tell some of the folks were completely terrified, yet all were zombified into rigidity, if the reader will, into some strange and unusual immobility! Mesmerized? Glamoured? Enchanted?

Mike and I weren't speaking by this time. I do not recollect us ever speaking again. At this juncture, I felt as if I might be by myself (though I wasn't, I seem to recall...)... so my over-riding recollection is that my senses and extreme focus of concentration were employed staring at this wafting yet monstrous "thing" as it continued on its way!

By the time it arrived right over the top of us, strangeness starting to ramp up unsettlingly! I could feel that something wasn't quite right with my perceptions! The air started to feel thick and gooey!

I could even see and feel that the air around us was shimmering thickly as if it were... well, similar to what one sees on top of egg-cooking asphalt or cement on a hot summer day at noon... but minus the heat, reader, at night—just the blurringly wavy distortions of it. It was like the air had an unnatural weight and density to it, too! The air "felt" like honey or molasses! We both perceived that it was somewhat difficult to move in it!

I remember my ears popping, even, though it was completely silent around us, otherwise. Quiet like a tomb! I could hear Mike, I think, if he'd spoken, but we could not hear anything else. It was not deafness; it was just that quiet. The other people around were not talking or yelling... nothing!

Astonished immobility like headlight frozen deer?
No clue!

I add that the shimmering air had the effect of making one feel as if they were walking underwater! One can read where this is now understood as the "OZ" effect. As an aside, I felt that were I to have reached down and picked up a larger piece of the gravel, I could have thrown it up and hit this thing slowly hovering over us. That's how close it appeared to be! I was struck again by the complete and utter silence around me...

Oddly, everyone seemed to be in a funk and just standing around looking at this foreboding and psychotic thing. As to that, it never veered or changed direction and hovered over top of the park for what seemed like 10 minutes. Though, I cannot be sure of this length of time. Time got "funny." Time may have even gotten lost, reader! I say lost in that current sense...

The object was traveling from the west and proceeding languidly on its easterly track. Finally, when it cleared a vacant property and was over a vast field of undeveloped acreage behind the drive-in, the "OZ" effect ceased and just disappeared! ...Another switch thrown!

I felt as if a weight had been lifted off of me, the air abruptly thinned out to lose its shimmer, and "normal time" returned! I think we all felt that!

...Startlingly, ALL of the lights flicked back on! Everyone must have jumped. I know I did! The cartoon started and the snack stand lit back up... just like that, reader! It was like that aforementioned lightswitch had been re-flipped!

I continued to watch this object until it disappeared from my view in the distance to our east. It never changed course and "flew" or floated in a straight line. It was the most incredible thing this person has ever seen... ..Then stuff got really weird...

Once I lost sight of it I got back in my car, almost robotic-like, and then just completely forgot all about the whole strange affair! ...Just... forgot! What I had just witnessed was just dropped from my mind... dropped like what color socks I had on that day in 1962!

"Mike" and I did not speak to each other about it... ever! We just carried on with watching the movie as if nothing had happened. Apparently, so did everyone else in the park. At least, this is my recollection.

No one, I mean nobody, was running around asking questions or doing anything but watching the movie and acting normally. I recall having to go to the bathroom sometime afterward and as usual, there was a bit of a line to get in... only, no one talked about it! No one said a word about what just happened! That should be a flag thrown with a reflecting person!

Moreover, when the movie was over, I don't remember leaving or what happened afterward. All that is a complete and utter blank!

...But obviously, I dropped Mike off and went home completely forgetting what had just happened. I mean, I put it out of my mind altogether! Another flag down!

I have no idea what time I got home that night or even what time we left each other, another complete blank! I never told my brother or my parents what had occurred! There were no news stories later on! In fact, I had a bit of a black hole in my memory from that point on, and until some years later!

I was in a bookstore and happened upon a paperback edition of Edward Ruppelt's *The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects*, and BANG! The experience flooded back in upon me as if a software gate had been installed and abruptly opened! Recalled Memory download! It was bizarre!

Well, truly, and strangely compelled, I had to sit down and absorb this book! I was almost overwhelmed by it and the memories it provoked! I had lost contact with "Mike" by this time, years later, so was unable to verify the experience with him... but in my mind's eye? It was as clear as any day can be as long...

...And not to put the reader off? I confess I have my suspicions, now, about the aforementioned "missing (weirded) time," alluded to and described above, too. After years of reflection, it seems obvious that something other than just a Close

Encounter sighting may have happened... only, I have never explored that aspect. That seems a beast best not poked...

Still, I highly suspect that "something else" may have happened, to me personally, and maybe to everyone else in the park, as well! I do not know, I cannot recall anything like that, but there is that gut instinct nagging at me continuously that there was something, some further interaction, something else I was supposed to do or remember... something...

This is an inexplicable and unrequited itch that has never gone away after that chance encounter with Edward Ruppelt's book. ...But why did I forget it until then? All those thrown flags above come due for the reasonable person...

I was, without question, confronted with "something" that was distinctly impossible! I add that it happened as I have described it, despite the fantastic scenario that is manifested in a reader's imagination. ...I've never had the luxury of disbelief, myself.

It has been suggested to me that I put an ad in the local paper to see if there was anyone else who happened to have recalled the affair. After mulling that option over I decided it would not be such a great idea. I can only imagine the responses I would get. But I'm okay with that at this point.

Like I stated previously I don't have the luxury of disbelief, nor do I need validation from anyone. It's like the sentiment expressed best in the James Fox documentary, *I Know What I Saw*. Reader... I know what I saw.

I just don't know what it did to me... if anything, except to provoke an undying interest in the subject. It is a most confusing event for which I wish there was some explanation, but that's where it must be left. There's throwing everything away chasing an ephemeral unknown, reader... or there is trying to live a normal life. Remains? I know what I saw.





In Zanesville on July 5, 1947, Weather observer and CAA Communications Operator Miss Barry Peruzzo, at the Zanesville Airport control tower, said that she had seen two disk-like objects flying over the field at about ten minutes apart.

She said that she spotted the first "fairly oval" object at 8:55 p.m., while she was checking the ceiling visibility, one of her many duties.

"I had just stepped outside when the first object came over at about 5,000 feet ," she said; it was flying under the ceiling of clouds. The second disk followed it five or ten minutes later.

"They went very fast, headed in a northeasterly direction, " she added. The witness declined to estimate the speed of the objects , as she was uncertain of their actual size. "I saw them for only about 15 seconds at a time," she said. She reported hearing no noise associated with the disks.

Source: The Columbus *Dispatch* July 6, 1947.

UFO believers in Circleville having their moment

By Holly Zachariah
The Columbus Dispatch
Posted Sep 2, 2020 at 6:04 AM

Unidentified flying objects have been in the news a lot this year, with newly released videos from Navy pilots and with stories about a government program that tracks sightings. But the Roundtown UFO Society in Circleville is way ahead of the game, having studied the topic for more than 30 years.

CIRCLEVILLE — The first sign that something was amiss at the Hartinger home about 1 a.m. on that long-ago February night was that Pal, the family's beloved collie, just wouldn't stop barking.

The next thing Pete Hartinger knew, his brother had shaken him awake, dragged him from his bed and pulled him toward a second-floor window. And there it was: the brightest light he had ever seen in the sky, holding steady maybe 1,000 feet up. Hartinger — a 17-year-old high school junior back on that Feb. 27 in 1958 — watched in wonder as the saucer-shaped object floated over the local feed mill before drifting out of sight.

But his life-changing moment wasn't yet over.

Hartinger recalled what happened just seconds later. "A totally different object came back. It was a reddish-orange object, a circle just like the setting sun. It stopped and hovered in midair ... and the top half folded down onto itself."



L to R: John Fry, Pete Hartinger, Cameron Jones

Then it tilted toward the ground and was simply gone.

"That just blew my mind," said Hartinger, now 79. "That, to me, was a no-doubter. People ask me all the time, 'Do you believe UFOs exist?' No, I don't believe. I know."

That was one of four sightings that Hartinger has had, the first having occurred just five days prior when he and a buddy were headed to a high school basketball tournament at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds.

By the time he graduated from high school in 1959, Hartinger had joined a national UFO

research group, and he hasn't stopped studying unidentified flying objects since.

By January 1989, he was fully embedded in the culture and had found two other men in Pickaway County — Jon Fry and Delbert Anderson — who shared his interest. Together, the three friends founded the Roundtown UFO Society (RUFOS), which still meets on the second Thursday of every month.

In 31 years, only six meetings have been canceled, and a meager \$10 will buy you a lifetime membership.

These days, the research and work that the society does is in high demand because UFOs are, shall we say, having a moment.

The Department of Defense in April authorized the release of three videos of sightings by Navy pilots — one from 2004 and two from 2015. In one of the videos, as the object is shown on the screen, a pilot can be heard saying: "There's a whole fleet of them," before continuing, "My gosh. Look at that thing, dude."

Then The New York Times and The Washington Post wrote high-profile stories about once-covert government programs that studied such craft. In July, the Times spelled out that the government's Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force still exists under the Office of Naval Intelligence. At least some of the government's findings from over the years are expected to be released publicly sooner rather than later.

All this is a long way of saying that the members of the Roundtown UFO Society are enjoying their own kind of moment as well.

"I think this is the biggest story of our lifetime," said Hartinger, who after a stint in the Army spent 20 years with the Ohio Air National Guard and retired after 33 years with the DuPont chemical plant in Circleville, the city he's called home for most of his life. "Our goal is to condition the public to not be skeptical."

And people these days are most assuredly hungry for information.

At 35, Cameron Jones is among the younger members of the society (there are about 70) and runs its social-media accounts. In the four weeks between the July and August meetings, the reach of RUFOS' tweets almost doubled, and the group had 65 new followers in that time, a record.

"The news about a classified briefing used the term 'off world vehicles not made of this earth,' and it set the world ablaze," said Jones, a writer and part-time restaurant server from Circleville. "It's not just a funny and silly topic anymore to be made fun of. The news coming out of the government is legitimizing, and it means more people are curious."

Ohio is almost always in the top 10 in an annual ranking of states based on the number of UFO sightings, and the number is up even more this year. There are two national clearinghouses for people to report sightings: the National UFO Reporting Center, which anyone can access, and the member-based Mutual UFO Network. Between the two, there were 405 sightings reported in Ohio in 2019. This year through July, there already had been 252.

The RUFOS members speak in acronyms and have encyclopedic knowledge of sightings, encounters and contactees (those who claim contact with extraterrestrials), with each person able to remarkably tick off names and dates and locations going back decades.

At the group's most recent gathering, held at the shelter house of Circleville's Canal Park instead of the local library because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hartinger sat on a wooden folding chair with his briefcase full of files and clippings on a small card table in front of him as he led the meeting.

He and the 12 members who attended discussed recent television programs and news stories (a new paranormal show in July used a tweet from RUFOS, which was exciting); reviewed the latest published books ("Roswell: The Ultimate Cold Case" was a hit); debated recent research (MADAR units, anyone? They track magnetic anomalies) and heard a treasurer's report (About \$127 is in the account and will help cover monthly fees for the post office box and a subscription to a professional journal.)

Although it is rare, sometimes nonmembers bring their own stories of encounters or sightings to the meetings. Jones, who also serves as RUFOS' chief investigator, hopes that more people will come forward now as the stigma from what he called "the old flying saucer days" is reduced. No one had a tale to tell in the August meeting.

And once a year, the group meets on what is considered hallowed UFO ground in Pickaway County: the farm northwest of Circleville that used to belong to Bruce Stevenson.

It was about 2 o'clock on a February morning in 1948 when Stevenson walked out the back door of his farmhouse on Route 56 and headed to his barn to check on farrowing sows. Then he saw it.

"I hadn't gone very far when I noticed this thing — this saucer or whatever you want to call it. It was near the roof of the hog house," he told the Circleville Herald in 1952 when recounting the details publicly for the first time. He said the craft was silver, with a glowing bright-amber light.

"There's no use saying now why I didn't run and call others," he recounted for the Herald. "Somehow I just stood spellbound, almost in a daze."

Hartinger speaks more quickly with excitement and grows animated when he recalls the conversations he had with Stevenson over the years. Too often, he said, people don't just focus on the amazement of the sightings and instead get worked up over whether UFOs equal extraterrestrials. They shouldn't, he said.

"The truth is, we don't know what they are," Hartinger said. His preferred theory? Time travelers.

Alexander Wendt is a professor in the Department of Political Science at Ohio State University who has long studied and written about UFOs. He knows the Roundtown society members and said their excitement and enthusiasm over all these latest developments is not an over-exaggeration.

"There is a certain sense of growing vindication as this stuff comes out," he said. "It's 'Oh, look, holy moly! This is what I have been saying all along!'"

You can't just write everyone off as fantasy-prone individuals anymore. The world is looking at UFO research in a whole new way."

For more information on RUFOS, visit www.roundtownufosociety.com



In Zanesville on July 5, Since the 1990s, much space in UFO and paranormal publications, not to mention television programs devoted to those topics, has been given about the sudden "explosion" of crop circles that seemed to be centered in England, but subsequently appeared to pop up literally all over the globe. Historical research has shown that indeed these circular markings were not a new manifestation, but had been reported literally for centuries.

In fact, many point to the "saucer nests" discovered in Australia in the early months of 1966 as the real beginning of modern circle reports. However, there were indeed several cases from scattered localities reported prior to Australian ones. In fact, one such case that is now mostly forgotten happened right here in Ohio.

Farmer John Stavano of Delroy reported hearing a series of loud explosions somewhere on his acreage on June 28, 1965. It was two days later that came upon a curious formation in one of his fields. Wheat plants seemed to have been literally sucked out of the ground. Stavano contacted local authorities, and news of his discovery soon were reported in area news outlets.

Hearing of the incident, a team of investigators (whom I all knew and worked with in the past) from Akron's Flying Saucer Investigating Committee went to investigate shortly after the incident occurred.

They found the strange circular formation of the farm to be quite baffling to them. It was located on a high point of the farm, and at the center of the ring there was a circular depression about twenty-eight inches in diameter . Probing the depression with a heavy bar, they only found loose soil to a depth of nine inches or so. In addition, much of the wheat had been removed, roots and all, and chunks of soil a few inches long had been disturbed.

The wheat was laid down something like the spokes of a wheel with so swirling effects noted. The soil and wheat samples that they took all showed under analysis that absolutely no explosives were used on them, so the explosions heard by the farmer remain part of the mystery. Needless to say, the FSIC investigators were left scratching their collective heads over this one.

Source: My personal files.



8 Alien Abductions That Suggest Underwater Alien Activity

Marcus Lowth

(<https://listverse.com/2020/08/13/8-alien-abductions-that-suggest-underwater-alien-activity>)

Most of us, whether we believe in the accounts or not, are aware of claims of alien abductions. Strange and bizarre tales of strange entities taking people from their cars, lonely roads, and even their own beds in order to perform experiments in strange locations, usually assumed to be a spacecraft somewhere in outer space.

However, as strange as those accounts might be, one intriguing detail that surfaces in regression sessions more than we might think is of going “under the water”. What’s more, many apparent abductees also speak of being taken not to a spaceship in outer space, but to a secret facility somewhere deep beneath the waters of our very own planet.

8 Betty Hill Recalls “Going Underwater”

Husband and wife Betty and Barney Hill claimed to have been abducted on a lonely road in New Hampshire in September 1961. And their claims were met with intrigue from some and outright ridicule from others. There were several investigations of the case, though. As well as a string of hypnotic regression sessions. Opinion remains divided as to the credibility of the account still today.

Under one of these regression sessions – and of interest to us here—Betty makes reference to the strange craft she and her husband had just boarded “entering the water”. She even asks herself out loud (while under hypnosis) if these strange objects actually went underwater.

It is a detail that has largely been missed aside from some several eagle-eyed UFO researchers. If Betty, and her husband, were taken under the water after entering the strange otherworldly craft, then it changes, if only slightly, the nature of the encounter.

7 Betty Andreasson Taken To A “Museum Of Time” Under The Water!

Betty Andreasson claimed she had not only been abducted on one occasion but on several. And what’s more, these encounters went back to when she was a young child. One of these early encounters took place in 1950 when Andreasson was taken from her home. She would soon, though, find herself placed on a wheel-like vehicle that seemed to fly of its own accord. The next thing she knew it entered the waters somewhere off the coast of the United States.

Even stranger, this underwater vehicle took her to a large aquatic base. One there, she was taken through what she would later describe as a “museum of life”. She would claim this held examples of human beings in strange glass containers from all different eras of history.

As we might imagine, this encounter as well as others made by Andreasson are treated with a pinch of salt by many. However, several notable UFO researchers have examined and investigated her claims, which remain some of the most debated in the UFO community.

6 Katharina Wilson Writes Of Aquatic Craft Taking Her To “Navy Vessel”

Perhaps one of the lesser-known claims of alien abduction is that of Katharina Wilson. She would speak in-depth of her experiences in the book *Alien Jigsaw*. When writing of one encounter, she makes claims such as heading “downward at a very steep angle” towards the water. The next thing she knew, there was “water all around us”.

She was, though, protected from it, and soon realized she was in a strange glass-like tunnel or tube. What’s more, this tunnel was heading downward deep under the sea.

Perhaps even stranger, she would further claim that on another very similar occasion when the strange object she was on board finally surfaced from the water, she was transferred to a military “navy vessel”. This would, if we assume the accounts to be authentic, suggest at least some partial involvement of the military in alien abduction cases.

What you might make of Wilson’s claims is, of course, up to you.

5 Orlando Jorge Ferraudi Taken To A “Giant Underwater Dome!”

Although there is a discrepancy on the dates of the incident (with some sources stating 1956 while others quote 1965), the alien abduction encounter of Orlando Jorge Ferraudi is one of the most intriguing on record.

According to Ferraudi, he was approached by a 7-foot humanoid figure in a shiny “tight-fitting overall” while night-fishing on a beach in Argentina. He was then taken on board a disc-shaped craft and flown under the surface of the water. He would eventually be taken under the Gulf of Mexico and to a “giant underwater dome”. Ferraudi would further state that this underwater facility looked like a “giant igloo”. It was, his hosts informed him, a “base to recondition our ships”.

They would also inform him that genetic experiments had been taking place with humans in such facilities for thousands of years. What’s more, the Earth was seen as a “zoo-like planet” to other alien races throughout the universe. Even more

bizarre, all life on Earth was, in some way, part of these genetic experiments, and all had their origins on other worlds.

4 Linda Cortile – Abducted And Taken Under The Water Of The East River

The alleged alien abduction of Linda Cortile is perhaps one of the more well-known of such cases, mainly as it was investigated by veteran UFO researcher, Budd Hopkins. However, it is one specific part of the abduction that is of interest to us here.

Unbeknown to Hopkins when he first took on the case of Linda Cortile – who claimed she was abducted from her high-rise New York apartment in November 1989 – was that several people had witnessed the incident from the ground below.

On the evening in question, two security guards—known as “Richard” and “Dan”—were driving near the Brooklyn Bridge. Their passenger was eventually revealed to be the security-general of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar. As they were driving, for no obvious reason, the car engine died. When they got out to investigate, they were shocked to see Cortile, along with three strange figures, floating through the air. What’s more, they were heading toward a disc-shaped object. Once inside, the craft made a sharp turn and crashed into the waters of the East River. In an instant it was out of sight below the surface.

Several months before the two security guards came forward with their information, Cortile (under hypnotic regression) had made some intriguing statements. She claimed to Hopkins that the UFO she was in had come to a sudden stop “under the water”. What’s more, she could see out through a window. She would recall seeing general garbage such as soft drinks bottles on the bed of the water. Was she recalling her journey to the depths of the East River?¹

3 Filiberto Cardenas – From A Lonely Miami Road To A “Large Hangar” Under The Sea

While driving with a friend and their family on the outskirts of Miami in 1979, Filiberto Cardenas was subject to one of the strangest abduction encounters on record. After exiting the vehicle to see why the car engine had suddenly stopped,

Cardenas noticed a huge disc-like craft overhead. The next thing he knew, a beam of light had struck him and was lifting him toward the craft. His friend and those in the car witnessed the entire thing and reported him missing.

After a two-hour search Cardenas was eventually found, dazed and confused in the middle of a busy highway around 10 miles from his car. Following a medical test, he was allowed to return home. However, when he sought hypnotic regression several months later, he would recall what had happened following his capture by the strange beam.

After several strange experiments by bizarre humanoid creatures on board the disc-shaped craft, he was placed inside a smaller vehicle. This then appeared to launch and guide itself. It would head toward the water, breaking the surface and entering an underwater tunnel. Cardenas would eventually find himself in a “large hangar” somewhere under the sea.

What perhaps makes Cardenas’ account even more intriguing is that he was given several predictions of upcoming world events by his hosts, some of which would prove to be eerily accurate.

2 Anna Jamerson Not Sure If Her Alien Abductors Took Her Under The Water

In her book *Connections*, Anna Jamerson would describe several apparent alien abduction encounters. And although they were not as direct as some on our list, the details she would offer are very suggestive of underwater activity.

For example, one encounter she writes of speaks of how she was in a strange craft when she noticed a “huge ocean liner coming at me, bow first”. The next thing she knew it appeared the ocean liner was above her. Or more to the point, she had been taken under the surface of the water below it.

Perhaps the most startling detail, though, is when she writes of being in such a craft before entering a “long tunnel with soft sides”. What’s more, there appeared to be green light at the end of it. Were the “soft sides” actually water around the tunnel, like the glass-like tunnels described by Katharina Wilson?

These revelations were made under hypnotic regression. However, at this crucial point, the therapist conducting the session directed her away from the green light. This means that Jamerson, like the rest of us, remains ignorant of what the encounter might have actually been, or where it took place.¹

1 Was Fred Valentich’s Vanishing A Case Of Aquatic Alien Abduction?

The disappearance of Fred Valentich in 1978 could fill an entire volume in its own right. Perhaps not least as it remains unsolved over 40 years later. There remains debate still today as to just what happened to the young pilot from the southeast of Australia. It is, though, a case that UFO researchers have long claimed to be one of alien abduction. And one that possibly involved an underwater base somewhere under the waters of the Bass Strait.

It was while Valentich was flying over this mysterious stretch of water that he radioed the control tower. He would state there was an unknown object flying over the top of him, and it was obvious he was panicked. Several minutes after the first transmission, he claimed that whatever the object was “it was not an airplane”. Then, he simply vanished. The last sound the control tower heard was a chilling screeching of metal-on-metal.

A huge search of the region went ahead, but no sign of Valentich or his plane ever surfaced. Of even more interest, several witnesses in the region reported seeing a strange object around the same time as Valentich’s radio calls. One of the most intriguing was that of Roy Manifold, who would even capture a photo of the strange object. It was, though, the claims of his son, Jason, that were of most interest. He would state that after his father had returned inside, he remained where he was, listening to a plane somewhere in the distance. Then, “as if someone had turned it off” the plane went suddenly silent?

Was Valentich a victim of alien abduction? And if so, was he taken to one of the strange facilities that many researchers believe are deep under the surface of the Earth’s oceans?¹



The Connection Between The COVID Bill & UFOs Has Social Media Users Freaking Out

Megan Hatch
Writer

Entertainment And News
Dec 31, 2020, 10:45 EST

(<https://www.yourtango.com/2020339488/connection-between-covid-bil-ufos>)



Photo: Limbitech / Shutterstock

COVID-19 and UFO's are now being referred to in the same sentence?

You heard it right, In the new \$2.3 trillion COVID-19 relief and government funding bill that Trump signed on Sunday, includes an act that requires federal agencies to report on unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in less than 180 days.

So what's the connection between the COVID bill and UFOs?

It's been reported that the UFO addendum wasn't included in the text of the legislation but as a committee comment that was attached to the annual intelligence authorization act.

Part of the comment stated that, "the Committee supports the efforts of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force at the Office of Naval Intelligence to standardize collection and reporting on unidentified aerial phenomenon, any links they have to adversarial foreign governments, and the threat they pose to U.S. military assets and installations."

Not surprisingly, 2020 has brought us the weirdest news ever, and this is just another

example of the bizarre-ity of this year. This past summer, the *New York Times* reported that the Pentagon's U.F.O. unit will make some of their findings public.

Now that the 2020 intelligence authorization act has been passed since being included on the COVID-19 Relief Bill, the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force program will now standardize the collection and reporting on all sightings of UFO's and report its findings to the public.

Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who's also the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said that the federal agencies should have to provide detailed analysis of the unidentified phenomena data in restricted US airspace.

He has also said earlier this year he was concerned about UFO sightings because of the "reports of unidentified aircraft over American military bases," which could be a national security issue.

The committee also wanted it to include "data and intelligence collected or held by the Office of Naval Intelligence."

The reason why there's a sudden urgency for federal agencies to release data about UFO's is because of a recent uptake in UFO sightings. In September of this year, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that data collected this year from the nonprofit National UFO Reporting Center shows that sightings are up 51 percent compared to the same period in 2019.

Why are UFOs a national security threat?

The reason why newly-public exploration of the UFO phenomena is being prioritized isn't because a desire to explore the unknown — it's that UFOS are actually considered a national security threat.

Christopher Mellon, former staff Director of the United States Senate Intelligence Committee, believes that UFO's "signal a potential high-level strategic threat of unknown origin — one the nation would be foolish to ignore."

Mellon says this is an issue that, “people are not paying attention or not engaging, and the data is extremely compelling.”

In the late 1990s, there was a study that people who believed in UFOs were associated with “schizotypal personality disorder, a tendency toward social anxiety, paranoid ideas, and transient psychosis.”

However, now that we have a new act mandating that federal agencies are required to tell the public what they know of UFO's, we should hopefully see more significant data concerning UFOs throughout 2021 and beyond.

The Japanese Military Is Now Officially Tracking UFOs

Now that the Pentagon's own UFO task force is active, other countries are joining the search.

By Kyle Mizokami

Sep 18, 2020

(<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a34061578/japanese-military-tracking>)

Japan has created rules for military personnel that experience or investigate UFO sightings. The move comes just a month after the Pentagon officially set up a UFO task force. Tokyo urges anyone who sees UFOs to take photos or videos that could be later studied by experts.

Defense Minister has unveiled guidelines for Japanese defense personnel that experience UFO sightings. The guidelines state that members of the Japan Self Defense Forces should record any UFOs they observe so the Defense Ministry can study the evidence. The new rules come just a month after the U.S. Department of Defense issued similar protocols.

Japan's Defense Minister, Taro Kono, issued the instructions this week. According to NHK, the Self Defense Forces will make reports “...if anyone spots an unidentifiable object in the air that could affect the country's defense and security.” The guidelines also urge “all-out efforts to take photos or videos of the object to carry out necessary analysis.”

The Defense Ministry reportedly explained that the new guidelines were issued “due to an increase

in the use of drones and other objects that fly differently from conventional airplanes.” That said, Japan announced these guidelines shortly after the U.S. Department of Defense established a task force to investigate UFO sightings, following confirmed UFO sightings by U.S. Navy pilots between 2004 and 2014.

The Pentagon's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force (UAPTF) will investigate the sightings of UAPs, also known as UFOs. It's the first official U.S. government program affiliated with UFO research since a 2000s-era unit that analyzed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and other UAPs lost its funding in 2012, even though multiple sources confirmed with *Popular Mechanics* that the unit remained active in secrecy after its shuttering.

Japan, meanwhile, is constitutionally prohibited from possessing traditional military forces. Instead, Tokyo controls Air, Ground, and Maritime Self Defense Forces—armed forces incapable of offensive action and only trained to defend the country. Despite this, the Self Defense Forces, as they are collectively called, are some of the most technologically advanced in the world, fielding weapons such as the American F-15 Eagle fighter (below), the Aegis combat system for ballistic missile defense, and ground weapons like the new Type 10 main battle tank.

In 2018, the Japanese government issued a formal statement on UFOs, saying, “no confirmation has been made of their existence.” Tokyo also admitted to not spending much time thinking about UFOs: “The government has not considered in any specific manner what will be done should a UFO be spotted flying toward Japan.”

For his part, Defense Minister Kono has said he does not believe in UFOs. In 2007, Kono's predecessor, Shigeru Ishiba, said, “There are no grounds to deny that there are unidentified flying objects and some life-forms that control them.”

But dealing with UFOs could be a different matter, Ishiba said, as Japan's policy of strict self-defense meant the military could not attack them unless attacked first. Ishiba was widely considered to have been joking about UFOs, but serious about the legalities of shooting them down.