

UFO

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UFOs OVER TEXAS

STEPHENVILLE RESIDENTS REPORT SIGHTINGS UP FRONT, 3A

Notice: An in depth news report of the Stephenville, Texas sightings are in our next issue !

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS
San Antonio, Texas
January 19, 2008
Credit: Walt Andrus

Stephenville rides wave of publicity after UFOs

Recent sightings bring
media, investigators,
T-shirts.

BY LISA SANDBERG
AUSTIN BUREAU

STEPHENVILLE — All hype aside, space aliens have not invaded the streets of this rodeo town southwest of Fort Worth — though nearly everyone here is keeping at least a playful eye out for them.

And maybe no one here has encountered any little green men in the week after dozens of residents reported seeing a strobe light-flashing object zipping through the night sky because they don't exist.

Sightings from around the country suggest extraterrestrial beings are actually gray, not green, says Dennis Balthaser, a UFO researcher and former investigator with the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M.

"They're somewhat humanoid looking," Balthaser says of such accounts nationally. "They have a big head, a small-frame body, anywhere between three and five fingers, no hair ... no ears as such. A slit for the mouth."

But even if there's been no space invasion of Stephenville, the recent obsession with them has been out of this world in the town of 15,400 — and far beyond.

Ken Cherry, the Texas director of the Colorado-based Mutual UFO Network, or MUFON,

which describes itself as devoted to research on the topic, says the multiple sightings on the night of Jan. 8 could turn Stephenville into a mini-Roswell.

"Dozens of people are coming forward, responsible people, saying they saw something," Cherry said. "We're talking shop owners, ranch owners, oil field workers, just about every demographic imaginable."

Forget being the Cowboy Capital of the World. Folks in town

are calling Stephenville the UFO Capital of the World.

Angela Joiner, the only full-time reporter at the Stephenville Empire-Tribune, can hardly put out a paper. Ever since breaking the story last week, she's been swamped with calls and e-mails from around the world — from people who either want to tell her about their UFO sightings or from international media types assigned to cover the story.

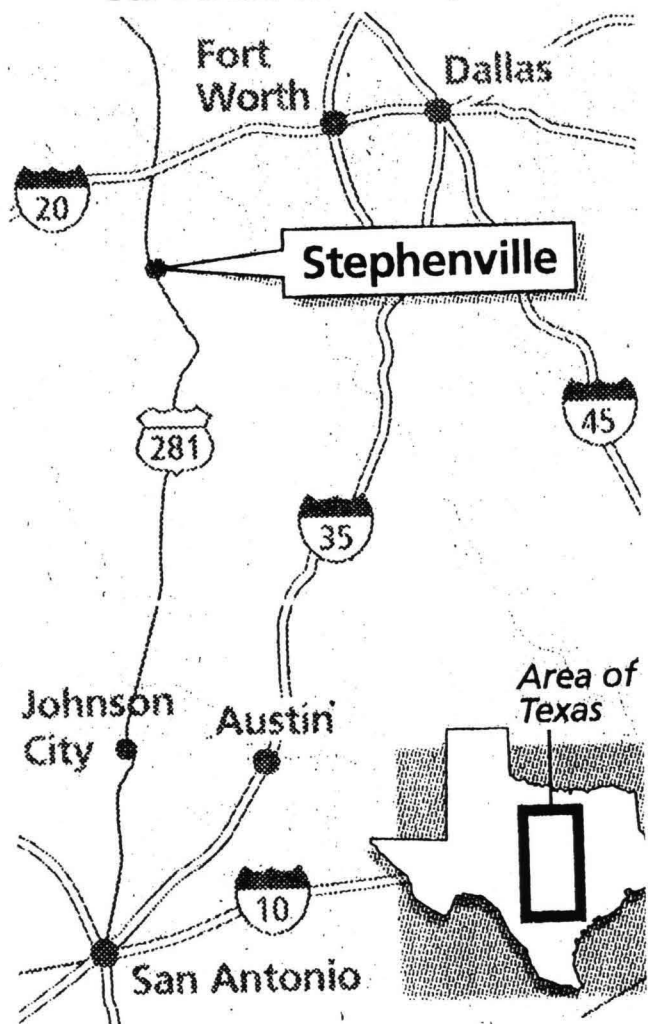
"I'm not accustomed to this. I don't do this!" Joiner, who's been on the job 18 months, said with a laugh.

Perhaps the only person who gets less work done these days is the local constable, LeeRoy Gaitan. He's in demand as the only elected official who can corroborate what dozens of others saw: something spooky in the sky over Erath County that evening.

He was on foot approaching his home when in the distance he saw a red glow, not as big as a hot air balloon but big. It didn't appear to be attached to anything. He watched it awhile before it burned itself out. Then it reappeared.

"I knew this wasn't right," he said. So he went inside to summon his family. His wife gave him this "get real" look, Gaitan said, but his young son came running.

Continued On Next Page >>



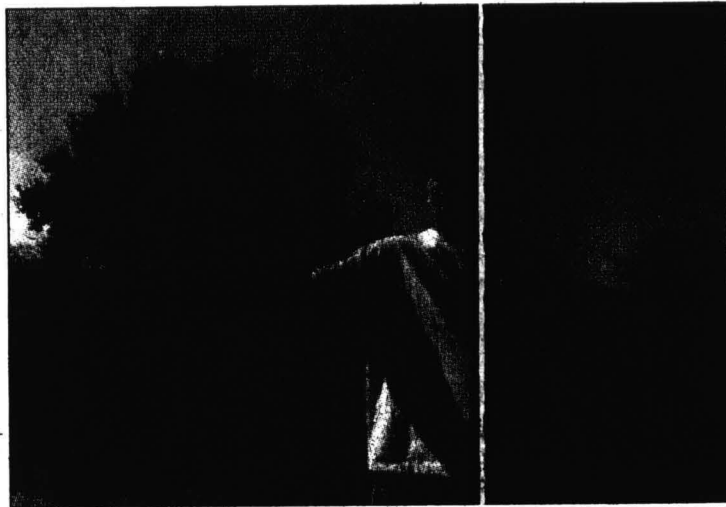
EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS
San Antonio, Texas
January 19, 2008
Credit: Walt Andrus

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DONNA MCWILLIAM/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Standing near the area where he saw a large silent object in the sky, Ricky Sorrells talks about the sighting in Dublin, near Stephenville.



JESSICA HORTON/STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

Steve Allen (left) points to the spot in the sky where he first saw what he believes was a UFO to Mike Von Fremd of ABC News during an interview Tuesday in Stephenville. Allen, a freight company owner and pilot, said the object he saw last week was a mile long and half a mile wide.

"Dozens of people are coming forward, responsible people, saying they saw something."

KEN CHERRY, TEXAS DIRECTOR OF THE MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

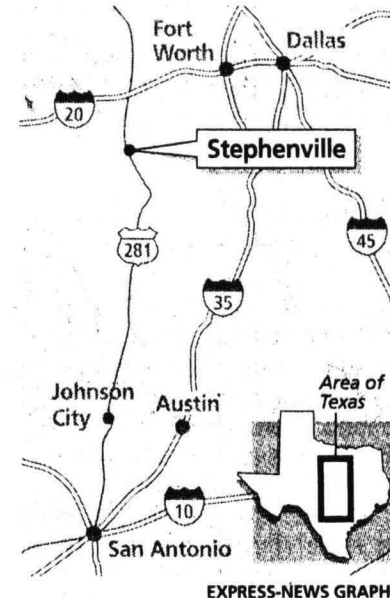
Father and son saw what looked like really bright white

strobe lights, nine or 10 of them. They flashed as the minutes passed. "All of a sudden, they shot off, they traveled northeast at a real high rate of speed," Gaitan said.

Though he doesn't believe it was a spaceship, he's had to answer calls from hundreds of people from around the country who do. His solution: "I've started screening my calls," he said.

Military officials have said they had no aircraft in the area at the time of the sightings.

And the military doesn't investigate UFO sightings. So that leaves Cherry's MUFON group. Five of its investigators will descend on the area today to begin



EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

interviewing witnesses.

It won't be a quick investigation, Cherry cautions. Interviews will be conducted one on one. And even after all the anecdotes have been gathered and sifted through — don't expect physical evidence — the researchers will hedge their bets.

"We could say we eliminated every other possibility. But we never say, 'This is alien technology' or 'This is a spacecraft,'" Cherry said.

For now, people around town

>> MYSA.COM

Keyword: Strange News

Stories that go beyond the ordinary. are having a ball.

City Secretary Cindy Stafford wore a space alien mask to the City Council this week. It was fun, she said.

Because he hasn't done the research, Roswell's Balthaser isn't ready to make any educated guesses about what might have crossed the sky in Texas. But, if the lights were a mile long and half a mile across, as some have suggested, that would be the size of a "mother ship," which is much bigger than a flying saucer, he said.

Balthaser, a retired engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation, takes his research seriously and hates when other people don't.

He probably wouldn't appreciate the T-shirts produced by the high school science club here that proclaim: 'Erath County: The New Roswell' and depict a spaceship leaving earth and towing a dairy cow.

By Friday, the club had sold 400 of them.

lsandberg@express-news.net

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 10, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Possible UFO sighting

Four area residents witness mysterious
object, lights in Selden sky

Steve Allen, Mike Odom and Lance Jones were out admiring a beautiful Texas sunset Tuesday evening when they saw something none of them can explain.

Allen called it an unidentified flying object. And, because he's been a private pilot for more than 30 years, he has a little more experience judging air speeds and distances than most.

"We all flipped out," Allen said. "I didn't sleep a wink last night."

Allen was at the home of Mike Odom in Selden about 6:15 p.m. when they suddenly noticed flashing lights about "3,500 feet above ground level," he said.

"The ship wasn't really visible and was totally silent, but the lights spanned about a mile long and a half mile wide," Allen said. "The lights went from corner to corner. It was directly above Highway 67 traveling towards Stephenville at a high rate of speed - about 3,000 miles per hour is what I would estimate."

Allen said the lights were not those of a normal aircraft. He said they were more like strobe lights, and while they were all watching, the lights reconfigured themselves from a single horizontal line into two sets of vertical lights.

"The two sets were approximately one-quarter of a mile apart," Allen said. "Then they turned into dirty burning flames. The flames were not blue. They were white in color. About two seconds later it disappeared completely."

Allen said they were all scratching their heads and talking about what it could have been, when approximately 10 minutes later, the object flew overhead again.

"This time it came from the west traveling east towards Glen Rose," Allen said. "And it was about two or three miles south of 67, and two military jets, possibly F-16s, were in pursuit."

"I was asking, 'Are you guys seeing that?'" Allen said.

Mike Odom said he didn't have trouble sleeping but it was a "wild experience."

"It's unexplainable," Odom said. "It was something not natural; it was moving way too fast."

Odom said he saw one other unexplainable object in the sky in 1978 when he was in Arizona.

"Back then something flew over with lights all around," Odom said. "I think this thing bothered all of us, but it probably bothered Steve more because he's a pilot and he flies a lot."

"It was neat," Lance Jones said. "It was something. I've never seen anything like it before but it didn't scare me. I just figured it was military."

Odom's wife, Claudette, said she was previously employed as a flight attendant.

"Lights were going up and down the side," she said. "There was no sound, just the lights. It was moving so fast. It wasn't a plane. I know how planes move. Honestly, I think it was a UFO. It was so fast you couldn't have put your finger on it and move it fast enough to follow it."

Allen said he has never seen a UFO until now, but he did suspect there was something to UFO stories all along.

"I was very surprised to finally get my eyes on one," Allen said. "If anybody else saw this and got pictures I hope they will contact me."

Allen said he has already reported the sighting to Washington, and is in the process of writing a report on the event.

Allen is the owner of L & S Enterprises and Texas Freight in Glen Rose. He can be contacted at 254-898-1117.

The group plans to return to Odom's house and keep an eye on the sky in the near future, hoping to see it again.

SEGUIN GAZETTE-ENTERPRISE
Seguin, Texas
January 15, 2008
[Credit: Walt Andrus]

SEGUIN GAZETTE-ENTERPRISE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

Small Texas town abuzz over reported UFO sightings

By ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press Writer

STEPHENVILLE (AP) — In this farming community where nightfall usually brings clear, starry skies, residents are abuzz over reported sightings of what many believe is a UFO.

Several dozen people — including a pilot, county constable and business owners — insist they have seen a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some reported seeing fighter jets chasing it.

"People wonder what in the world it is because this is the Bible Belt, and everyone is afraid it's the end of times," said Steve Allen, a freight company owner and pilot who said the object he saw last week was a mile long and half a mile wide. "It was positively, absolutely nothing from these parts."

While federal officials insist there's a logical explanation, locals swear that it was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane. They also said the object's lights changed configuration, unlike those of a plane. People in several towns who reported seeing it over several weeks have offered similar descriptions of the object.

Machinist Ricky Sorrells said friends made fun of him when he

told them he saw a flat, metallic object hovering about 300 feet over a pasture behind his Dublin home. But he decided to come forward after reading similar accounts in the Stephenville Empire-Tribune.

"You hear about big bass or big buck in the area, but this is a different deal," Sorrells said. "It feels good to hear that other people saw something, because that means I'm not crazy."

Sorrells said he's seen the object several times. He said he watched it through his rifle's telescopic lens and described it as very large and without seams, nuts or bolts.

Maj. Karl Lewis, a spokesman for the 301st Fighter Wing at the Joint Reserve Base Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, said no F-16s or other aircraft from his base were in the area the night of Jan. 8, when many sightings were reported.

Lewis said the object may have been an illusion caused by two commercial airplanes. Lights from the aircraft would seem unusually bright and may appear orange due to the setting sun.

"I'm 90 percent sure this was an airliner," Lewis said. "With the sun's angle, it can play tricks on you."

Officials at the region's two Air Force bases — Dyess in

Abilene and Sheppard in Wichita Falls — also said none of their aircraft were in the area last week. The Air Force no longer investigates UFOs.

About 200 UFO sightings are reported each month, mostly in California, Colorado and Texas, according to the Mutual UFO Network, which plans to go to the 17,000-resident town of Stephenville to investigate.

Fourteen percent of Americans polled last year by The Associated Press and Ipsos say they have seen a UFO.

UFO sightings have been reported all over the world for centuries, including the infamous 1897 crash of a cigar-shaped object near the tiny Texas town of Aurora. While some thought it was a hoax, decades later investigators from UFO groups said evidence suggests the disfigured pilot's body buried that day was an alien.

In Chicago in late 2006, some United Airlines pilots and other employees reported seeing a saucer-shaped craft hovering over O'Hare Airport before shooting up through the clouds. But federal officials said nothing showed up on the radar and explained it as some type of weather phenomenon.

In 1997, dozens of people saw lights in a V-formation over Phoenix, a mystery that was cap-

tured on videotape and spurred calls for a government investigation. A few months later people reported a similar sight over Las Vegas.

One of the most famous cases was the 1947 crash on a ranch near Roswell, N.M. Although the government said it was a top-secret weather balloon, an Army officer who helped recover the debris came forward 30 years later claiming a cover-up, asserting that an alien spacecraft had crashed. Reports later surfaced that a base nurse told someone that autopsies were performed on aliens from the wreckage.

A few months after the New Mexico incident the U.S. Air Force started Project Blue Book, which investigated more than 12,600 reported UFO sightings — including 700 that were never explained — before the program ended in 1969.

Erath County Constable Lee Roy Gaitan, who said he isn't sure about the existence of UFOs, said one night last week he first saw red glowing lights and then white flashing lights moving rapidly across the sky.

"I didn't see a flying saucer and I don't know what it was, but it wasn't an airplane and I've never seen anything like it," Gaitan said. "I think it must be some kind of military craft — at least I hope it was."

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
Stephenville, Texas
January 11, 2008

By ANGELIA JOINER Staff Writer

Mysterious sightings keep locals guessing

A number of area residents have come forward saying they also saw the mysterious lights witnessed by Steve Allen and friends Tuesday night in Selden.

"It was like nothing I've ever seen before," comes up over and over in their descriptions of bright lights in the sky. Accounts have come in from various locations and a few of those brave enough to come forward are listed below with stories of their own. Major Karl Lewis of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (Carswell Field) believes he might be able to solve the mystery in a couple of days.

Allen said his phone rang all day Wednesday with people reporting to him that they had seen the strange lights in the sky.

David Jaquess

"I live 4.6 miles out on Hwy. 67. About 6:15 p.m. I saw something as I was turning in my driveway. I won't say it was a UFO but I will say it was UFL, meaning it was unidentified flying lights. They were real bright yellow and I thought I must be seeing the sun reflecting off a plane. I'm guessing they were five miles away from me. But, they were unusually bright like a welding arc being struck - it was that bright. I don't discount UFOs but I don't necessarily believe in them either. I got a call this morning saying there was story about a UFO in today's paper and it was out where I live. I immediately said, 'Yeah, I saw it.' I was looking west/southwest."

Dublin Constable Lee Roy Gaitan

"I was outside with my eight-year-old son, Ryan, when I saw lights. It was like nothing I've ever seen before. It was dark already. At first it was two red burning glows that went away and then came back on. I went inside to tell my wife. When I came back out I saw something like lights you'd see in a bar. My little boy and I counted and we came up with nine flashes and they were real spread out. But I couldn't see them attached to anything, just the lights. So I went to my pickup and got my binoculars to see if I could see a plane or something. Even with the binoculars there was no outline. It started moving towards Stephenville and moving so fast I had trouble following it with my binoculars. It covered a big area. It sounds crazy but we

really saw what we saw. As a matter of fact I mentioned it to an officer in Stephenville and he called me up and said to get the Stephenville paper because I wasn't going to believe what was in it. I also went to the Dublin paper but they had no other reports on it so I just dropped it. But my little boy went to school the next day and told everybody all about what we'd seen."

Anne Frazor

"I had just left the nursing home from seeing my husband. I was going down 914 towards Alexander. Just as I got to the hill at Alexander where Hwy. 6 crosses I saw them - the lights. It scared me. I thought two planes were about to collide. The lights were as bright as a school bus ahead of you but up in the air. They were certainly much closer to the ground than I would appreciate them to be. I looked in my mirrors and there were no reflections. Just as I got up to the top of the hill they were gone. It was about 6:40 p.m."

James Hughes

"I was a navigational specialist in the Air Force and I don't know what it was that I saw while I was walking two friends to their car at

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE
San Diego, California
January 1, 2008

New Year's Eve lights

by Susan Shroder

It was New Year's Eve, after all, and people may be in altered states where they see lots of strange things.

But three groups of San Diegans swear they were sober enough to report seeing strange orange-yellow lights in the sky about 30 minutes after midnight. And the National UFO Reporting Center said Tuesday it got enough "similar reports from across the country" to warrant a follow-up investigation.

Ryan Keegan and his wife, Rachael, were leaving a friend's party at their apartment complex in Bay Park about 12:30 a.m. when they saw the unidentified objects. They went in and got their friends and took pictures with a cell-phone camera.

"We saw four orange lights in a square and right behind there were three orange lights in a triangle," said Keegan, who is in the home-financing business and whose wife is a kindergarten teacher. "There was no sound, no flashing lights, no vapor trail, just solid lights."

They continued to watch the sky and Keegan said the group saw four more lights appear about 12:45 a.m. The lights traveled east to west, then disappeared in the sky over La Jolla.

Keegan said he and his friends had been drinking, "but we weren't drunk being that it was New Year's."

About the time same in Pacific Beach, Dustin Gannon, an amateur astronomer, said he and about a dozen friends saw the lights from the backyard of his home. Gannon described them as nine red dots that traveled across the sky for about seven minutes. About a half-hour later, the group saw four red dots. They captured the images on video.

"We're still a little freaked out," he said. "It was really crazy. It wasn't fireworks."

Reached at the National UFO Reporting Center in Harrington, Wash., about 50 miles west of Spokane, center director Peter B. Davenport said a woman he knows in the UFO field made a similar report. She and five people saw the lights traveling in formation heading west toward Del Mar. She described it as one single unit with seven

lights in total followed by an orange triangle formation; both disappeared into the marine layer over the ocean.

"Based on the fact that I actually know the witness who submitted this report, and based on the other seemingly similar reports from across the country last night, I would categorize this sighting over San Diego as of interest to us," Davenport said.

San Diego police said Tuesday they did not receive any calls about New Year's Eve UFO sightings.

The National UFO Reporting Center also received reports of similar sightings in Santa Monica, the San Francisco Bay area and Canada.

my home. But as soon as I saw it I jokingly said to them, 'Hey look - a UFO.' I saw two red lights acting unusual. There were two very bright red lights traveling in formation. By formation I mean they kept their positions respective to each other. They were so intensely bright that I realized they must be at a low altitude. But, there was no noise. The lights were not like a helicopter or a plane. I live near the courthouse, actually two blocks from it, towards the river. I was looking north. It was unusual."

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE
San Diego, California
December 23, 2007

Strange lights seen in night sky

Residents in Oceanside and Point Loma called to ask about mysterious lights that appeared in the sky at sunset Saturday. Both men reported two parallel orange lights that appeared for three or four minutes. One said the lights moved from north to west, then went straight up and disappeared.

San Diego police weren't aware of the incident. Neither were spokesmen for the Navy Region Southwest office, the Coast Guard or Harbor Police. The Federal Aviation Administration referred a call to the National UFO Reporting Center in Washington state.

Peter Davenport, director of the UFO-spotting organization, said Sunday that based on limited information provided by a reporter, he believed the lights were "almost certainly not a UFO." Davenport said the lights were likely contrails - vapor and condensation trails - behind a high-altitude jet, illuminated at an angle by the setting sun. But "it's one of about 10 million possibilities," he said.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
Richmond, Virginia
December 24, 2007

After 60 Years Aliens Are Still a Mystery

EDITOR, TIMES-DISPATCH:

In response to Edward Taylor's letter, "Right-Wing Paper Disrespects UFOs": This past summer, Roswell, N.M. celebrated its 50th anniversary of the alleged UFO crash landing on Mac Brazel's farm. Sixty years have passed and still not one alien to show for it. Sixty years and still not one UFO sighting has been identified as being of extraterrestrial origin. Sixty years and the UFO phenomenon is still considered science fiction.

Renowned scientist Arthur C. Clark said, "If you've never seen a UFO, you're not very observant. And if you've seen as many as I have, you won't believe in them."

CHUCK FARIS.
MECHANICSVILLE.

SEATTLE TIMES
Seattle, Washington
January 3, 2008

A surprise in the sky

Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich says he saw a UFO in 1982 while staying at actress Shirley MacLaine's former estate in Graham, Pierce County.



Political spotlight brings UFO group in from the fringe

BY JEFFREY WEISS
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Anyone who takes the topic seriously knows about what they call the "giggle factor."

So when Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich was asked in a recent debate about his belief in unidentified flying objects, the North Texas members of Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) weren't surprised when it turned into a political punch line.

On the other hand, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson also has addressed UFOs — seriously — on the campaign trail. And in November, a group of highly credentialed aviation experts from around the world called for more official investigations of UFOs.

Getting their cause into the news — and not just as a joke — is welcome to people who have felt pushed to the fringes for a long time.

"There is a growing awareness and willingness on the part of the public to take this seriously," said Ken Cherry, the Texas MUFON director.

Is the secret that the ufologists of MUFON have been chasing for decades about to come out?

"We don't think it's a secret. Just some people don't believe it," said Terry Groff, Web master for the local MUFON group and a trained UFO investigator.

He was one of about two dozen members who assembled for a regular meeting last month at an Irving, Texas, public library. Organizers say they've filled a hall with more than 100 people for meetings where a particularly popular speaker appears.

"I don't think we've ever had a bad experience where someone that everyone thought was off-the-wall came and they didn't go away feeling good."

KEN CHERRY
Texas director of the
Mutual UFO Network

Outsiders often misunderstand the purpose of the organization, Cherry said.

"People want us to confirm their claims," he said. "That is not our job."

Most UFO sightings quickly become IFCs after a little investigation, he said. Air planes, satellites, model rockets, helicopters — all of these can fool an untrained eye. But all of those valid explanations still leave a few unexplainables.

Those few are what the ufologists say make them think there's more to know — but they aren't necessarily sure what the "more" is.

"I really haven't made my mind up," said MUFON regional director James Shatley. "The preponderance of evidence is that either we have discovered incredible technology, or there are some other races that have conquered time and space and figured out how to get here."

For all the scientific aspirations of MUFON, it's a mash-up of a serious amateur investigation club and a support group for people who say there is Something — or Someone — Out There.



JOHN F. RHODES / THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

At a recent meeting of the Mutual UFO Network in Irving, Texas, attendees watch a decade-old video of Jim Marrs, author of "Alien Agenda." Marrs later answered questions via cellphone.

"We have had people come to our meetings who literally wear a protective hat to protect themselves from aliens invading their thoughts," Cherry said.

The members of his group try to be welcoming and not dismissive of them, he said. After all, they all know what it's like to be ridiculed for their ideas.

"I don't think we've ever had a bad experience where someone that everyone thought was off-the-wall came and they didn't go away feeling good," Cherry said.

On this afternoon, nobody was wearing an odd hat. After a bit of business,

they settled in to watch a decade-old video of a speech made at a previous meeting. The speaker was Jim Marrs, the Texan author of "Crossfire" — a book Oliver Stone drew on for the conspiracy-filled plot of his movie "JFK" — and "Alien Agenda," Marrs' account of government suppression of information about UFOs.

It's safe to say Marrs' views about UFOs are as accepted by most scientists as his ideas about the Kennedy assassination are by most historians. But this was his home crowd, and they listened attentively as he recounted tales of the supposed UFO crash at Roswell, N.M.,

the odd crop circles and other stories ufologists say have never been explained.

After the video, Marrs "appeared" live via a cellphone held up to a microphone and took questions.

"There may be more breathtaking discoveries coming out in the coming months," he said.

The recent mainstream news about UFOs did not seem likely to produce a revelation any time soon.

Kucinich said he saw a UFO 25 years ago while visiting Shirley MacLaine's home in Washington state. Richardson pledged to reopen the famous case of aliens reportedly crashing at Roswell in 1947.

The aviation experts calling for more investigation included a deputy chief of staff from the Belgian air force, the retired chief of Accidents and Investigations for the Federal Aviation Administration, a pilot with the Chilean Aviation Army, an Air France captain, a general in the Iranian air force and a representative from the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense.

The group spoke in support of a petition that said, in part: "We maintain that a restive, concerned public has the right to be informed of the facts about UFO incidents that are well-documented and involve multiple witnesses."

Not all the MUFON members claim to have seen UFOs. But some do have their stories.

Lucy Jane Mock, whose husband was in the Air Force, believes she has seen several unexplainable things in the sky.

"I hope you get to see one," she told a visitor to the meeting. "Thrilling!"

SEATTLE TIMES
Seattle, Washington
January 3, 2008
Page A3

Close Up
The Seattle Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008 | The Seattle Times | News A3

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

A UFO IN PIERCE COUNTY? | The Democratic presidential candidate acknowledged a 1982 sighting, but has clammed up about the subject on the campaign trail. But two people who shared the experience are more forthcoming with details.

BY MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS
The Wall Street Journal

The 2008 presidential race has raised many questions about the candidates' personal histories. Will Barack Obama's past drug use preclude a White House future? Will Christian conservatives forgive Rudy Giuliani for his two divorces? Will voters forgive Hillary Rodham Clinton for forgiving Bill?

And what exactly did Democratic candidate Dennis Kucinich see hovering above actress Shirley MacLaine's house 25 years ago?

This fall, MacLaine revealed in her new book that the Ohio congressman had seen a UFO and felt "a connection in his heart and heard directions in his mind." In a Democratic presidential debate in late October, Kucinich acknowledged seeing something airborne that he couldn't identify and then defused the issue with a joke about opening a campaign office in Roswell, N.M., the capital of unexplained sightings.

Since then, the longshot candidate has refused to elaborate on the experience.

Now, after keeping quiet about the incident for a quarter of a century, the two people who say they were at Kucinich's

side that evening have come forward to describe an event they say left them convinced that there's intelligent life in outer space.

"At no time did I feel afraid, even though I felt very small," said one witness, Paul Costanzo. "I sensed that I was in the presence of a greater technology and intelligence."

The close encounter, Costanzo said, took place in September 1982 at MacLaine's former home in Graham, Pierce County — an expansive estate on a ridge above the Puyallup River, with a view of Mount Rainier.

Kucinich, 61, who declined several requests to comment for this article, had been the wunderkind mayor of Cleveland in the late 1970s and had met MacLaine through Bella Abzug, the late New York congresswoman and feminist. The actress says she quickly realized she and Kucinich were kindred spirits. Years later, he asked MacLaine to be the godmother of his daughter.

"We just thought the same," MacLaine said in an interview. "We have the same political points of view."

When Cleveland voters ousted Kucinich after one tumultuous term, MacLaine offered him her home as a sanc-

"He said it was beautiful, serene, and it moved him. He was not afraid of it, let's put it that way. Seeing something that close and sophisticated and gentle."

SHIRLEY MACLAINE
Describing Dennis Kucinich's
UFO sighting



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 2000

tuary where he could write his memoirs. He lived there for the better part of a year.

Also in residence was Costanzo, a Juilliard-trained trumpet player and jujitsu black belt, who worked as MacLaine's assistant, personal trainer and bodyguard. He and Kucinich became good friends, and Costanzo, now 55, served as deputy campaign director and security chief for the congressman's unsuccessful 2004 presidential run.

MacLaine — well-known for her fascination with things mystical and extraterrestrial — was in Canada that weekend in 1982, performing her one-woman show. But Costanzo's girlfriend at the time, a model and actress, was visiting when

the UFO incident took place. She spoke after Costanzo requested she do so, and on condition that her name not be published.

Here's what happened, according to separate interviews with Costanzo and his former girlfriend:

The day was strange from the start. For hours, Kucinich, Costanzo and his companion noticed a high-pitched sound. "There was a sense that something extraordinary was happening all day," the girlfriend said. She and Costanzo said none of the three consumed alcohol or drugs.

As they sat down to a dinner, Kucinich spotted a light in the distance, to the left of Mount Rainier. Costanzo thought it

was a helicopter.

But Kucinich walked outside to the deck to look through the telescope that he had bought MacLaine as a gift. After a few minutes, Kucinich summoned the other two: "Guys, come on out here and look at this."

Costanzo and his girlfriend joined Kucinich, where they took turns peering through the telescope. What they saw in the far distance, according to both witnesses, was a hovering light, which soon divided into two, and then three.

After a few minutes, the lights moved closer and it became apparent that they were actually three charcoal-gray, triangular craft, flying in a tight wedge. The girlfriend said she remembers each triangle having red and green lights running down the edges, with a laserlike red light at the tail. Costanzo said he recalls white lights, but no tail.

Costanzo said each triangle was roughly the size of a large van, while his former girlfriend compares it to a "larger Cessna, smaller than a jet certainly." Neither recalls seeing any markings, landing gear, engines, windows or cockpits.

The craft approached to within 200 yards, suspended over the field just beyond the swimming pool. Both witnesses say it emitted a quiet, throbbing sound — nothing like an airplane engine.

"There was a feeling of wanting to communicate something, but I didn't know what," Costanzo said.

The craft held steady in mid-air, for perhaps a minute, then sped away, Costanzo said. "Nothing had landed," he said. "No strange beings had disembarked. No obvious messages were beamed down. When they were completely out of sight, we all looked at each other disbelieving what we had seen."

At Kucinich's suggestion, they jotted down their impressions and drew pictures to memorialize the event. Kucinich kept the notes, according to MacLaine, who said he promised her recently that he would try to find them.

"It was proof to me that we're obviously not alone," the girlfriend said.

The next day, the group spotted what they thought to be military helicopters buzzing around the valley where they had made the sighting. And the high-pitched sound remained.

Kucinich called MacLaine in Canada to tell her what had happened. "He said it was beautiful, serene, and it moved him," said MacLaine, who is supporting Kucinich's candidacy. "He was not afraid of it, let's put it that way. Seeing something that close and sophisticated and gentle."

MacLaine said she has seen UFOs from a distance in New Mexico and Peru, but never up close. She was envious.

"I'm the one who reports them, but they never make close visitation," she said. "What am I doing wrong?"

None of the three reported the incident to authorities. And over the years that followed, they shared the story with few people. "Unfortunately, people are ridiculed when they say they've had these kinds of experiences, which is why I never came forward with it," the girlfriend said.

MacLaine said she called Kucinich before she included his UFO sighting in her book, "Sage-ing while Age-ing," a recounting of her spiritual and professional journeys. "I can handle it," she said he told her.

More recently, Kucinich has dodged it. Approached by The Wall Street Journal for comment in December — moments after he voted for a House resolution praising Christmas and Christianity — Kucinich looked unblinkingly ahead: "I don't have any comment," he said.



Telegraph

KETTERING EVENING TELEGRAPH
Kettering, Northants, England
January 2, 2008

By Nick Tite, Assistant Editor

Amazing UFO footage

Corby reader spots UFO



UFO over Westminister Abbey

"Does anyone know what it is?"
UFO enthusiast Krzysztof Dreczkowski

OUR reader Krzysztof Dreczkowski has filmed this remarkable footage.

Krzysztof has already sent us pictures of a UFO he spotted over Corby Boating Lakes.

And he also sent us pictures of a mystery object spotted over fields in Lincolnshire.

This time he spotted this strange UFO over Westminister Abbey in London at the end of December. Look to the left of the video near the trees for the mysterious white light.

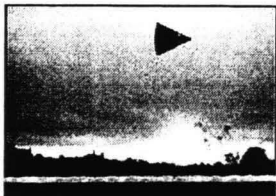
UFOs hold special interest for Krzysztof because he is part of a UFO organisation in Poland, his homeland.

Express & Star

EXPRESS & STAR
Wolverhampton, England
January 3, 2008

Mystery 'arrowhead' UFO spotted

A mysterious "flying Dorito-shaped" object which was seen by dozens of people just before Christmas has been spotted again — this time in the skies above Lower Gornal.



The strange unexplained flying object was seen by residents in Wallows Wood, off The Straits, at around 6.15pm on Tuesday.

Householders described the object as looking like an "arrowhead" with three orange lights arranged in the shape of an isosceles triangle.

Residents watched it move slowly across the sky before it disappeared from view in the direction of Wolverhampton.

It is the second time the triangular object has been spotted flying over the Black Country in recent weeks.

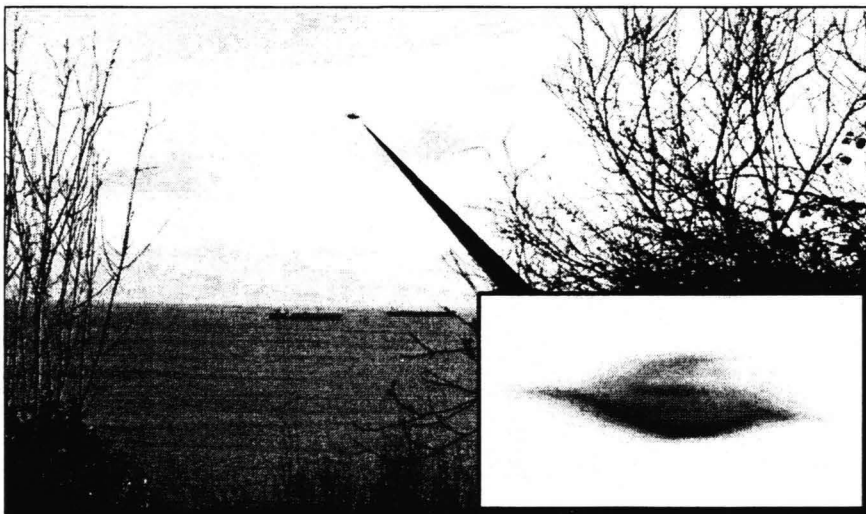
Scores of people contacted the Express & Star after seeing a UFO in the skies above

THE Sun

THE SUN
London, England
January 1, 2008

by John Coles

Oooh arrrr not alone anymore

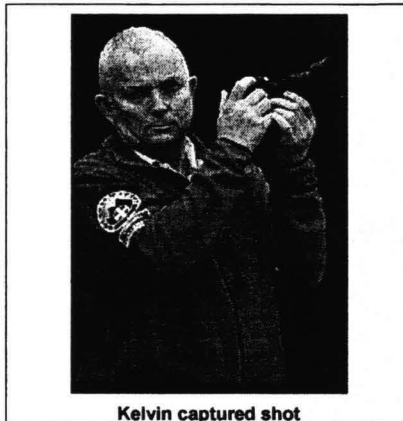


Kelvin's photo and, inset, enlarged view of 'flying saucer'

THIS stunning photo of a UFO over Cornwall was last night hailed by experts as one of the best ever taken in Britain.

The classic flying saucer shape is seen above two ships.

And UFO watchers believe it could be proof we are NOT alone.



Kelvin captured shot

Kelvin Barbary snapped the mystery object from a coastal path between Swanpool and Maenporth, near Falmouth.

In a weird twist, Kelvin, 55, did not even see the UFO at the time.

He thought he was just taking a sea view — but when he loaded the digital camera card on to his computer, the round metallic "craft"

was in the centre of the shot, about two miles away.

Kelvin, a facilities manager for schools, said: "There were a couple of tankers out in the bay and I thought that it made a nice shot."

"There was nothing in view and certainly no fault on the camera."

"When I got home I couldn't believe what I had. I thought, 'Wow, where did that come from?' I'm not the sort to believe in UFOs — now I'm not so sure."

Nick Pope, one of Britain's foremost UFO experts, said the photo was one of the best he had seen.

Nick, formerly the official Ministry of Defence UFO analyst, said: "If I was still there I'd be looking at this very closely. The object looks structured, symmetrical and metallic. This man has caught something very interesting indeed."

Michael Soper, of the Contact International UFO group, agreed: "This does appear genuine. Digital photos can be doctored but everything about it appears consistent."

KELVIN took his picture at 3.31pm on December 29, with a Nikon D80 Digital SLR on automatic.

Wednesfield and Dudley in December and Stourbridge-based UFO Research Midlands was deluged with calls and emails from onlookers who witnessed the object.

Lower Gornal resident Peter Wasdell, aged 57, said he could not believe his eyes when he saw the object.

"The dog started barking and when my wife went outside to find out what was going on she saw the object in the sky and called me out to have a look," he said.

"There were three orangey lights in a triangle formation. They weren't shaped like an equilateral triangle, more like an isosceles triangle, and shaped like an old fashioned arrow head. I don't think it was a plane because we didn't hear any noise."

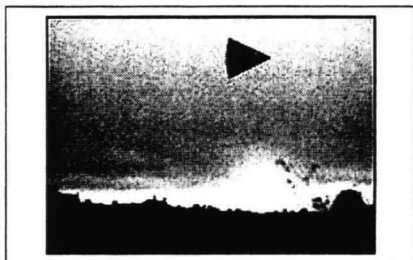
"My daughter and her boyfriend and the next door neighbours all saw them and we watched them for about 15 minutes before they disappeared behind the trees."

Paranormal enthusiast Craig Lowe, who is a member of the Birmingham UFO group, said the area was a "hotspot" for unexplained activity. Mr Lowe, who captured December's sighting on videotape, said he believed the object could be some sort of military aircraft.

Birmingham International Airport spokesman John Morris said the airport took all reports of UFOs seriously. "We had a couple of inquiries before Christmas following the first sightings over Halesowen," he revealed.

EXPRESS & STAR
Wolverhampton, England
January 16, 2008

Is there plane truth behind the UFOs?



They're here - and they've been spotted by dozens of folk across the Black Country in the past few weeks.

Mysterious triangular unidentified flying objects with sinister flaming orange lights have been seen above Dudley, Halesowen and Lower Gornal in the last month.

Spotted in the early evening and flying in a westerly direction, the strange craft have been seen by schoolchildren, pensioners and paranormal enthusiasts.

Dubbed the 'Dudley Doritos', the UFOs have raised fears that extraterrestrial beings are about to invade the area.

But a sonic boom over Shropshire this week could have solved the mystery of the "spacecraft" sightings.

The incident involving Britain's newest fighter jet has offered a clue to the Black Country space invaders.

A malfunction to a Typhoon Eurofighter forced the pilot to plunge 30,000ft causing a sonic boom which shook the county.

The plane - which when viewed from underneath looks like a triangle with lights at the tips of both wings and on the nose cone - performed an emergency descent above Shrewsbury, breaking the sound barrier.

Police were inundated with calls from concerned residents wondering what they had seen and fearing there had been an earthquake or an explosion.

The Eurofighter had been flying on a training sortie from RAF Coningsby when the malfunction happened, although, not surprisingly, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) refused to confirm whether the plane had been flying over the Black Country in recent weeks.

Spokesman for the MOD, Mervyn Wynne Jones, would only say: "The MOD only investigates UFO sightings to see if it believes there may be airspace integrity issues.

"The MOD examines reports to establish whether the UK's airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity.

"If required, sightings reported are examined with the assistance of the department's air defence experts.

"Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported." Drawings by two schoolgirls of a UFO they saw over Dudley have similarities to the shape of the new Eurofighter.

Chelsea and Casey Bridges, aged seven and nine, were drifting off to sleep at their grandmother's house in Chestnut Avenue, in Dudley, when they saw the UFO flying over Dudley Castle last week.

They pair were so afraid they ran crying downstairs to tell their grandmother what they had seen and proceeded to draw identical pictures of the strange craft.

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN
Ottawa, Ontario
January 4, 2008

'Definitely unidentified'

P.E.I. couple capture on videotape mystery object hurtling toward Earth

Charles Mandel, The Ottawa Citizen

A video of what appears to be an object trailing a dark spiralling plume behind it and plummeting toward Prince Edward Island's Northumberland Strait is the focus of intense speculation.

A P.E.I. couple captured the strange event on video on Dec. 26, but witnesses and experts alike aren't certain what they're observing.

"We were kind of dumbfounded," said Tony Quigley, the P.E.I. farmer who videotaped the apparent unidentified flying object with his wife, Marie Ford-Quigley.



Environment Canada and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada can't explain just what it was a P.E.I. couple filmed in the island skies on Wednesday evening. When Tony Quigley and his wife Marie of North Tryon, just east of the Confederation Bridge, saw a dark spiral in the sky they went for the video camera.

The couple was out walking late in the afternoon near North Tryon on the island's west end when Mr. Quigley spotted the mysterious object. "I said to Marie, 'Look, there's a plane in trouble there.' It looked like smoke coming from it."

Diamond-shaped with orange lights in the corners, their drawings matched descriptions of sightings seen since last December. Earlier last month, dozens of people saw a huge orange "Dorito-shaped craft" with three lights flying over Halesowen and a similar object was seen by people living in Lower Gornal on New Year's Day.

Householders in Wallows Wood described the object as looking like an "arrowhead" with three orange lights arranged in the shape of an isosceles triangle.

The Express & Star has been bombarded with messages speculating what it could be. The girls' grandmother, Mrs Marie Bridges says it was the girls' "spooked" reaction which made her realise something was not right.

"I was sat watching the TV and the girls were sleeping in my bed when they ran into the lounge looking scared," she says. "They were both frightened and said they were scared something was coming to get them and asked if they could stay downstairs with me because they didn't want to go back upstairs.

"I made them both draw a picture of what they saw.

The couple taped the strange scene for nearly six minutes. Mr. Quigley estimates the object they saw was more than three kilometres high and is convinced that the UFO must have crashed in the strait or in New Brunswick.

They watched the spectacle for close to 30 minutes and received calls from neighbours who also witnessed it.

"I really didn't want to be looking forward to hearing that there was a plane crashing around the area and people losing their lives on Boxing Day," Mr. Quigley said.

But calls the next day to the area's airport, Summerside RCMP and the federal Transportation Safety Board came up with no reports of plane crashes.

Ms. Ford-Quigley speculates it might have been a fighter jet dumping fuel and in trouble. One thing's for sure: her husband isn't buying any stories about crashing flying saucers.

"This is definitely unidentified," Mr. Quigley said. "But if you're talking Martians or anything like that, I haven't seen any to date, so I can't say I really believe in them."

That's not the case with Gertrude Campbell. The Quigleys' neighbour also saw the UFO, along with four other people. Ms. Campbell, 65, firmly believes in UFOs.

"I swear when I come (home) at night time and I look at some of those stars and they're pretty big, I'd say that's what's looking over us," she said. But if the P.E.I. object was a saucer, then according to Ms. Campbell: "It broke up coming down."

Don Ledger, a UFO researcher and author who lives in Bridgewater, N.S., believes the object was space junk. He cites the launch in mid-December of a NASA Atlas rocket carrying a satellite for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office, the agency that co-ordinates spy satellites south of the border.

"Supposedly the booster came down around southwestern Nova Scotia," said Mr. Ledger, who co-wrote with Chris Styles, Dark Object, a book about a purported UFO crash at Shag Harbour, N.S., in 1967.

"That (NASA booster) didn't make orbit the way it was supposed to, but I can't prove it.

"After a certain point in its launch, everything goes what they call dark at NASA and it turns over to the spooks down there in the U.S. who handle the satellites. So if indeed it did come down, you're not going to hear about it."

The Quigleys are sending their video to Ufology Research of Manitoba in Winnipeg, in hopes that the private, non-profit group can help solve the mystery.

"They both drew what looked like a diamond shape with lights, although Casey said it only had lights in each corner and Chelsea said it had lights all around it.

"They're used to seeing planes and helicopters and they never bother them, so it can't have been something like that.

"I joked to them that it was ET going home,

but it didn't make them laugh. I really believe it could be something from another planet." The truth, though, could be a little bit more mundane.

Paranormal enthusiast Craig Lowe, who is a member of the Birmingham UFO group, says he had suspected the strange craft spotted over the Black Country could be of military origin after reading witnesses' reports in the Express & Star.

"The description seems to fit in with the profile of a Typhoon Eurofighter and I'm of the opinion the craft is of military origin," he says. "Unfortunately, we can't know for sure because the Ministry of Defence won't confirm anything - maybe they're flying over populated areas to see how the public react."

So for now, at least, the sightings remain a mystery.

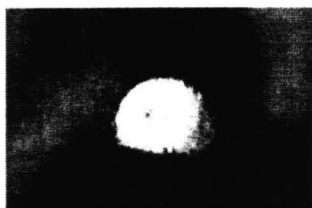
Evening Leader

EVENING LEADER (Wrexham & Flintshire Edition)
Chester, UK
January 10, 2008

By Kate Forrester

More mystery sightings after Christmas Day UFO report

REPORTS of UFO sightings across the region are continuing to flood in.



More UFO sightings over the region are being reported to the Leader.

After Harry Hughes of Mynydd Isa first reported seeing five orange lights in the sky on Christmas Day, the Leader has received reports of more sightings on a daily basis.

Ten-year-old James Holmes, of Rhydymwyn, said: "On the night of Sunday, January 6, at around 1am, I was woken up by some strange white lights spiralling across my bedroom ceiling.

"I wasn't frightened because I live near a football club and the Rhydymwyn Institute which has a very bright light at night. I knew it wasn't them because I was used to them.

"When I got up in the morning, I heard my mum talking about lights so I guess she saw them too.

"My mum thought it was the wind moving a tree so that the light of a lamppost behind the tree would move, but I don't think it was because my bedroom is on the other side of the house to hers.

"We then thought it may have been a search helicopter but there wasn't any noise. She said there were several of them in quick succession a few times that night."

After the Leader featured a number of incidents yesterday, including the famous Berwyn Mountain sighting in the 1970s, Gerard Coughlan, of Coed Onn Road, Flint, was prompted to recall an incident from the

past.

He said: "I saw several disc-shaped objects flying at very high altitude and at great speed about 15 years ago from my outside my house.

"I looked up and thought it must be the Red Arrows, but then realised there was no sound at all and I could see very clearly that they were perfectly round in shape, and pale grey in colour.

"The other interesting thing was that they all kept changing positions at lightning speed, as if they were 'playing about'.

"They were travelling in a northerly direction and went from above my head to out of sight in about 30 seconds. I watched them the whole time but have never been able explain what they were.

"As an engineer, I am fully aware of what things look like, but cannot give any explanation as to what these 'saucers' were."

Evening Leader

EVENING LEADER (Wrexham & Flintshire Edition)
Chester, UK
January 7, 2008

by Petra Barnby

Residents line up to confirm UFO sightings

Last week, the Leader reported on the sighting, made by Harry Hughes, of Mynydd Isa, as he was going out to his shed on Christmas Day.

Mr Hughes saw several orange-red orbs moving "faster than a plane" through the air, and glowing in the night sky. The incident matched a sighting over Wrexham last year.

Now, three more reports have come in from people saying they saw the same objects on the same day.

David Clark, of Elwy Close in Bryn y Baal, says he can confirm that everything Mr Hughes says is correct.

He said: "It is absolutely true what he says. There were three very bright lights which suddenly separated and one looked like it shot straight up at high speed.

"At first we thought they were balloons or planes but they were going too fast and they didn't look like planes.

"There was no noise whatsoever and they were going so fast. I have never seen anything like it before."

We published the story of the latest incident on our website, and users have flocked to view the details.

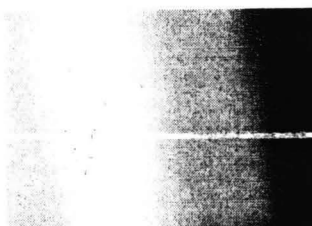
A Mrs Coulton, from Mold, described how her family were left perplexed after seeing orange coloured lights.

She said: "The light was a fair way off, it was coming towards us then stopped went backwards, stayed still for about four or five minutes, then faded away. It was really strange. It was definitely there, was not a firework, star, helicopter, or plane. We really don't know what it was."

Marie Davies, of Chester Road in Mold, was driving from Holywell to Halykn on Christmas day when she spotted a red light low in the sky at 7pm.

She said: "At first I thought it was the moon but it was too low in the sky. It was flame red and was standing still over the Dee Estuary way.

"I couldn't believe my eyes. I would like to see it again. I don't drink so it wasn't that. There was no way it was an aeroplane. It was very weird."



Unexplained objects spotted above Mold by eight-year-old Demi-Lee. The youngster captured this photograph herself.

Evening Leader

EVENING LEADER (Wrexham & Flintshire Edition)
Chester, UK
January 4, 2008

by Kate Forrester

More people report seeing 'UFOs' flying over county

Unexplained lights seen in the sky over Flintshire on Christmas Day have prompted reports from other people of similar sightings.

Harry Hughes, of Mynydd Isa, reported seeing five round orange lights in the sky above his house in Grays Road on Christmas Day at about 7.20pm.

He said: "I looked up and saw what looked like five bright orange-red fireballs flying through the sky, coming from the Bodfari direction.

"They were travelling quite fast, about 10-12 seconds apart and were revolving. They were travelling too fast to be aircraft and were completely silent."

Harry called to his wife Pam to look at the objects before they disappeared and as she followed him out to the garden, they began to change direction.

Harry's description of the unexplained objects matched that of Leigh and Lynn Williams, of Borrass, Wrexham, who caught sight of several strange orange orbs in the sky in July. The couple managed to take pictures and these were posted on the Evening Leader website.

The latest report prompted two more Flintshire residents to speak out about their own strange sightings, both of which match the descriptions of the infamous orange orbs.

Mike Jones, of Sychdyn, was sitting outside his house in the early hours of New Year's Day, when he caught sight of two lights in the sky.

He said: "It was about 1.10am and I saw two orange lights in the sky, both travelling at the same speed, with no sound at all. Then they just disappeared.

"They definitely weren't planes or helicopters. They were something very strange."

Jenny May, from Sandycroft, also reported seeing strange objects in the sky above her home in July.

She added: "We were sitting out in the back garden in July with our next door neighbours and at about 11pm we saw four bright orange lights that came from the west and shot up into the sky, then shot off in different directions towards the north.

"They danced before they shot off and even my neighbour, who doesn't believe in that sort of thing, saw them. He was gobsmacked and didn't talk for the rest of the night!

"About two months later my brother, who is another non-believer, saw three bright orange lights in the sky. They then formed a line and shot off. They seemed to be above Airbus in Broughton. We don't know if they are from there."

There have been reports of sightings posted on the Evening Leader website from as far afield as San Diego, California, where a couple claimed they saw four similar glowing orange lights.

Explanations have been offered that the objects were in fact "UFO balloons" or Chinese lanterns, and the issue has been the subject of an ongoing public debate in Flintshire and Wrexham.

Evening Leader

EVENING LEADER (Wrexham & Flintshire Edition)
Chester, UK
January 11, 2008

By Kate Forrester

Are these lights a UFO?

SPECULATION continues to mount as more people across the region report UFO sightings.

Nina Griffiths, of Mold, says her eight-year-old daughter Demi-Lee caught sight of strange orange lights in the sky when she was playing in her bedroom on December 23.

Demi-Lee managed to take pictures of the mysterious objects on her camera.

Nina said: "Demi-Lee was in her bedroom playing and decided to take the pictures of her own accord. She came down to show me and I did think it was a bit strange, but then I forgot about it until I read the articles in the Evening Leader.

"When I showed Demi-Lee, she got quite excited and said 'I told you so!' I really can't explain what these objects were."

David Allman, of Durham Road, Blacon, was with friends at St Theresa's Social Club on Boxing Day when he also saw some unusual lights.

He said: "Someone was outside having a cigarette when they saw some little fiery balls in the sky. I went out and there was about 14 of us who saw it and it was so odd. There was a straight line of about three in the sky and they weren't falling like fireworks would.

"Three came fairly close together and then there was a space and two more.

"When we told people they joked and said we'd been drinking, but we all saw it and it was strange."

Steve and Anna Jones, of Upton, also caught sight of something strange on New Year's Eve.

Steve said: "I was leaning out of an upstairs window in our house smoking at about 9.30pm. I happened to look to the east and saw four orange lights, that were travelling between one and two minutes apart.

"They were moving west and looked like they were travelling too slow to be aircraft. There were no flashing lights and no sound at all. I have no idea what they were."

Anna added: "My 14 year old son had been out with his friends in Kingsway, Chester, at about the same time as Steve saw the lights. He came home and said that he and his friends had seen seven orange lights in the sky that were travelling very fast, about one minute apart.

"He said they were completely silent and then slowed down, before shooting off quickly

"My son is quite cynical and doesn't believe in that sort of thing usually, but he said he definitely saw something.

"It is quite worrying that so many people have reported seeing these things and that nobody knows what they are."

Paula Norgrove, also of Upton, said: "I saw three gold lights in the sky in Hoole on New Year's Eve. They moved very fast but made no noise at all.

"I also saw another similar gold light a few days later at about 3am in Upton. This one didn't move at all, it just stayed still and I watched it for about 10 minutes."

Evening Leader

EVENING LEADER (Wrexham & Flintshire Edition)
Chester, UK
January 8, 2008

UFO mystery deepens as sightings increase



FURTHER reports of UFO activity in the skies above the region have been flooding in.

Harry Hughes' sighting of five orange orbs in the sky above his house in Mynydd Isa on Christmas Day has prompted numerous reports from other residents of similar sightings across Flintshire, Wrexham and Chester.

David Clark, of Elwy Close, Bryn y Baal, agreed with Mr Hughes' description of the strange objects.

He said: "It is absolutely true what he says. There were three very bright lights which suddenly separated and one looked like it shot straight up at high speed.

"At first we thought they were balloons or planes but they were going too fast and they didn't look like planes.

"There was no noise whatsoever and they were going so fast. I have never seen anything like it before."

The mysterious orange orbs have also been spotted by residents in Chester, and last week the Leader received a report via the website of two sightings of them in San Diego, California.

User rduke222, from California, wrote: "My wife and I saw four orange glowing objects just after midnight on New Year's Eve, which had the same characteristics described in this article.

"They approached from the east and departed to the west. My impression was that they were the exhaust from propulsion. These objects were at great altitude and appeared to follow a flight test corridor that

passes over San Diego from the Edwards AFB area.

"These objects were not meteors or falling 'space junk'. It is likely they were 'Black Project' aircraft that had just taken off from the Edwards AFB (or Area 51) area and were already very high and going very fast.

"We could not hear any sound from these objects but that is not surprising if they were as high up and moving as fast as I believe they were."

Online user Waylon, also of California, added: "A day or two after Christmas I was standing outside in northern California and noticed what looked like an airline jet moving across the sky in a south to north direction.

"What caught my attention was that it was glowing orange. At first I thought it might be on fire, but I didn't see any smoke or hear any noise.

"As I watched it coming overhead it slowed down and seemed to stop and hover in the night sky. At this point my curiosity would not let me take my eyes off of it.

"After probably 45 seconds there seemed to be burning debris falling from it. And then after another 20 seconds the light went out.

"It wasn't a meteor, nor a falling star. I have to admit I have never seen anything like it in my life."

Closer to home, John Smith of Sychdyn, said: "My girlfriend and I also saw two orange lights on New Year's day around about 1.10am.

"My girlfriend had just gone to the back garden to let the dog out when she saw them. She called me over and we could not believe our eyes. The two lights were travelling through the sky together. There was no sound and they were too low to be a plane or helicopter."

Mike Jones, also of Sychdyn, was sitting outside his house in the early hours of New Year's Day, when he caught sight of two lights in the sky.

He said: "It was about 1.10am and I saw two orange lights in the sky, both travelling at the same speed, with no sound at all. Then they just disappeared.

"They definitely weren't planes or helicopters. They were something very strange."

Marie Davies, of Chester Road, Mold was driving from Holywell to Halkyn on Christmas Day when she spotted a red light low in the sky at 7pm.

She said: "At first I thought it was the moon but it was too low in the sky. It was flame red and was standing still over the Dee Estuary way.

"I couldn't believe my eyes. I would like to see it again. There was no way it was an aeroplane. It was very weird."

Another resident in the Mold area added: "The light was a fair way off, it was coming towards us then stopped went backwards, stayed still for about four or five mins, then faded away.

"It was really strange. It was definitely there, was not a firework, star, helicopter, or plane. We really don't know what it was."

Jenny May, from Sandycroft, also reported seeing strange objects in the sky above her home.

She said: "We were sitting in the back garden in July with our next door neighbours and at about 11pm we saw four bright orange lights that came from the west and shot up into the sky, then shot off in different directions towards the north.

"They danced before they shot off and even my neighbour, who didn't believe in that sort of thing, saw them.

"He was gobsmacked and didn't talk for the rest of the night.

"About two months later my brother, who is another non-believer, saw another three bright orange lights playing in the sky. They then all formed a line and shot off.

"They seemed to be above Airbus in Broughton. We don't know if they are something from there."

Jed Price, of Chester, said: "My wife and I saw the orange UFOs too. It was on New Year's Eve at 10.25pm in the Narrows Park, Hoole.

"There were four lights flying in a line from south to north. The first three were about 30 seconds apart and the fourth was a minute later.

"It was the silence and speed that led us to believe they were UFOs." Most of the recent sightings have been reported in the Mold and Sychdyn area and across Chester.

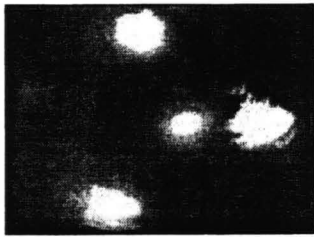
The first sighting of the orange orbs came from Leigh and Lynn Williams, of Borras, Wrexham, in July of last year, and explanations offered have included "UFO balloons" and Chinese lanterns.

The debate continues across the region with more and more sightings being reported every day.

Express & Star

EXPRESS & STAR
Wolverhampton, England
November 30, 2007

'Dorito UFO' seen in skies



A UFO, described by witnesses as looking like a huge "Dorito" crisp has been filmed over the skies of the Black Country, according to a paranormal group.

A flurry of calls has been made to Stourbridge-based UFO Research Midlands (UFORM) from those claiming to have witnessed the flying object in the sky. Witnesses say they spotted it in Halesowen heading towards Stourbridge on Wednesday at around 7pm.

UFORM is now appealing for anyone else who saw it to get in touch to help it compile its X-files. Steve Poole, UFORM chairman, said one man filmed more than 30 seconds of footage of the craft travelling in a westerly direction from Halesowen to Stourbridge. He said: "The object has been described as looking like a huge Dorito and had distinctive red lights on its underside, which moved position while the craft was flying."

Another witness reported seeing it while looking out from the Lickey Hills towards the Sutton area of Birmingham.

The witness says he watched the UFO through binoculars as it moved "very quickly" across the skyline. Two other independent collaborators came forward within hours of the sighting, according to UFORM.

UFORM operates a 24-hour hotline for the public to report UFO incidents. Steve Poole said: "This could turn out to be a pretty substantial sighting, especially given that one of the witnesses has filmed the event. We would like to hear from anyone else who may have seen this object. They can remain anonymous if they like."

UFORM was set up in 1995 by Steve Poole to coincide with the massive increase in UFO sightings in the West Midlands. Now with dozens of members, the group holds monthly meetings in Stourbridge with internationally renowned guest speakers, hosts sky-watches and acts as the leading

research organisation in the area for anyone interested in the UFO phenomenon.

Express & Star

EXPRESS & STAR
Wolverhampton, England
December 3, 2007

By Richard Williams

UFO fan tells of Dorito sighting

A car dealer who claims to have spotted a "Dorito shape" flying over the Black Country has told of the moment he spotted the unexplained object.

Paranormal enthusiast Craig Lowe, filmed what he says was a triangular shaped UFO in the skies over his home.

The 32-year-old from Quinton works at All Electrics on the Forge trading estate, Halesowen.

Express & Star

EXPRESS & STAR
Wolverhampton, England
December 1, 2007

Readers call in on Dorito UFO

Readers have been calling in their droves to tell us they saw the huge "Dorito" UFO in the skies over the Black Country.

The orange triangle with its three lights was seen over Wednesfield and Dudley by scores of people who phoned the newspaper after an appeal for information.

A flurry of calls was made to Stourbridge based UFO Research Midlands, UFORM, from those claiming to have witnessed an unexplained aircraft in the sky.

The flying object was spotted over Halesowen heading towards Stourbridge on Wednesday at around 7pm. Katherine Hemmings, aged 13, of Beechwood Avenue, saw it at 4pm over Wednesfield High School in Lichfield Road. She was walking home with friends Tasmin Jones and Chelsea Smith when the three felt compelled to turn around. "It was weird because it wasn't making any noise but for some reason we turned around", Katherine said. "We all saw this big thing with lights in the sky."

"We didn't tell anyone other than our families at first because we thought everyone would laugh at us. Our families didn't know what to think until they saw it in the paper. I have never really believed something like that would be real. I always just thought people who say they have seen a UFO are seeing aeroplanes or birds." Pat Scotford and her husband Mick saw the UFO when they were in their garden in Devon Road, Wollaston at around 7.30pm.

Mrs Scotford, aged 61, said she too saw three orange lights in the sky. "It looked like it was heading towards Kinver", she said. "At first I thought it was three planes flying in formation but the lights were far too close together. I'm sure we're not alone in the universe."

Steve Poole, chairman of UFORM, said one man filmed over 30 seconds of footage of the craft.

Driver Lisa Timmins, aged 38, saw the object while at her boyfriend's house in Whitgreave Avenue, Bushbury, some time between 6.15pm and 6.40pm.

She said: "I haven't got a clue what it was, but it was quite big."

He was in his back garden one evening last week when he said he saw three red lights in the sky and an object he claims was about three times the size of a football pitch.

"It was absolutely enormous. At first I noticed a plane on the horizon and then I could see some faint red lights," said Mr Lowe, who is a member of Birmingham UFO. "I knew they were not the strobe lights of an aircraft and they seem to be travelling towards me quite slowly."

"I rushed inside to get my video camera. It was huge because it blacked out the stars and it must have been about 35,000ft high."

"The footage is inconclusive. The problem is I was filming a black object against a black sky and my video camera is not great quality."

For more information, log on to the group's website at bufog.com. Mr Lowe has been interested in the paranormal for 11 years and the sighting last week is his third since July.

Express & Star

EXPRESS & STAR
Wolverhampton, England
January 11, 2008

Shape of things to come?

Two young Black Country girls have become the latest people to sight the mysterious unidentified flying object which has been dubbed the Dudley Dorito.

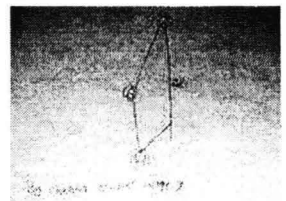


Chelsea and Casey Bridges drew sketches of the UFO after spotting it while lying in bed at their grandmother's house in Chestnut Avenue, on the Priory estate, in Dudley, at about 9pm on Tuesday.

Chelsea, aged seven, and Casey, aged nine, were drifting off to sleep when they saw the object flying over Dudley Castle.

The pair ran crying downstairs to tell their grandmother, Mrs Marie Bridges, aged 61, what they had seen and drew identical pictures of the strange craft.

The sighting is the third time the mysterious object had been seen in the skies over the Black Country in the space of a month.



In early December, dozens of people saw a huge orange "Dorito" with three lights flying over Halesowen and a similar object was seen by people living in Lower Gornal on New Year's Day. Householders in Wallows Wood described the object as looking like an "arrowhead" with three orange lights arranged in the shape of an isosceles triangle.

The Express & Star has been bombarded with messages speculating what it could be.

Mrs Bridges said it was the girls' "spooked" reaction which made her realise something was not right.

"I was sat watching the TV and the girls were

sleeping in my bed when they ran into the lounge looking scared," she said.

"They were both frightened and said they were scared something was coming to get them and asked if they could stay downstairs with me because they didn't want to go back upstairs."

"I made them both draw a picture of what they saw."

"They both drew what looked like a diamond shape with lights, although Casey said it only had lights in each corner and Chelsea said it had lights all around it."

"They're used to seeing planes and helicopters and they never bother them so it can't have been something like that."

"I joked to them that it was ET going home, but it didn't make them laugh. I really believe it could be something from another planet."

SHIELDS GAZETTE
South Shields, England
January 9, 2008

By Mike Hallowell

Why is Sunderland a UFO hotspot?

RECENTLY there has been a flurry of UFO sightings over the Sunderland area.

To some, this may be disturbing. After all, no one likes to entertain the idea that our skies are being filled with alien invaders from a distant solar system.

Personally, however, I quite like the notion that we are entertaining visitors from beyond.

Overall there has been a decline in flying saucer activity in the UK, and if our friends from the other side of the galaxy suddenly got bored with us and stopped coming, then we may never find out who (or what) they are, and why they found planet earth so fascinating in the first place.

One of the big problems with the concept that we are being visited by alien life forms is the distance they would have to travel to reach us.

The nearest star to us is more than four light years away, and this means that even if aliens could travel at the speed of light, it would still take them over four years to get here.

Some researchers have postulated that there may be "worm holes" in space, which could act as portals between one solar system and another.

The idea is that you pop into one worm hole and hey, presto, before you know it, you pop out of another millions of light years away, without having to travel the distance in between.

Of course, this notion is still but a theory. Personally, I believe that UFOs probably have their origins much closer to home.

It seems unlikely that they originate on another planet in our own solar system, as there are no signs of alien civilisations on Mars, Venus or the other worlds in our vicinity.

Another problem is that life as we know it would probably find it difficult to survive in the hostile conditions those planets present.

Is it possible, though, that UFOs could have their origin right here on planet earth? This may not be as strange an idea as one might imagine.

For years there have been rumours that there are subterranean worlds hidden under the north and south poles that could house civilisations whose existence we are unaware of.

If such civilisations do indeed exist, they could, theoretically speaking, be in possession of advanced technologies that enable them to build aircraft far beyond our own understanding, and using propulsion systems we can only dream of.

Another reason for thinking that the "aliens" may be related to us is the biological similarities between UFO occupants and human beings.

Put aside their strange skin colour, large eyes and antennae, aliens are normally described as having a head, torso, two legs, two arms and facial features pretty much the same as our own.

If aliens are similar to us, if not identical, then we can probably assume that they are related to us in the same way that horses and pigs, although not identical, are both mammals and occupy places reasonably close to each other on the evolutionary tree.

SOUTH WALES ECHO
Cardiff, Wales
December 29, 2007

UFO CASEBOOK

by Laura Wright, South Wales Echo

SOME of the sightings in South Wales reported to the Ministry of Defence and to UFO websites:

A strange bright light was seen coming straight across the sky in Lisvane, Cardiff, at 5pm on Tuesday, December 11.

A UFO was spotted on September 9 in the St Mellons area of Cardiff at 4am. What the witness thought was the brightest star in the sky suddenly started moving up and down and side to side swiftly and then flashing lights appeared around it like camera flashes.

A silent bright orange globe-shaped light was seen by a 41-year-old in Wildmill, Bridgend, on February 2. The woman said: "It just glided slowly over my mother's house. I've never seen anything like it before ever. I can't explain it at all. It gave me a weird feeling witnessing it."

Lights were seen dancing around the sky in Cardiff on April 3, 2006, at 11.45pm. One light sharply changed direction and was then joined by two more blurry orange lights which danced around each other before flying off.

A pensioner and two others saw around 40 lights in a cigar shape in the sky moving down the Garth Mountain at speed for 30 minutes in March 2006. They disappeared then reappeared.

A bright blue object that broke into three to four segments and then disappeared above Cardiff, on February 20, 2005, at 9.50am.

Two UFOs were seen in Cardiff in July 2005. The female witness said she was not mad, the two UFOs were not planes and she knew what she had seen. Another UFO was seen in Tyla Garw, Pontyclun, and in Cardiff in the same month.

More than 16 drivers stopped their cars to look at a UFO above a busy road to the west of Cardiff on October 14, 2004, at 10pm. It was extremely large, silent, and was flying thousands of feet up across the sky.

A large flash of light which turned into a grey object descending over Cardiff Bay with trailing smoke behind it, travelling fast, on September 8, 2004.

A silent object was seen in the sky by a couple in their garden in Barry. The bright, star-like object started coming towards them and looked like a box kite with no fuselage. It flew west towards Cardiff Airport and was 2,000 to 3,000 feet above them and going quite fast overhead at 3.20pm on September 5, 2004. Cardiff Airport told the man that nothing had been seen at the airport or on radar.

If you're ever lucky enough to see the occupant of a UFO, it's a fascinating thought that you may not be staring at an alien from outer space, but a long-lost cousin.

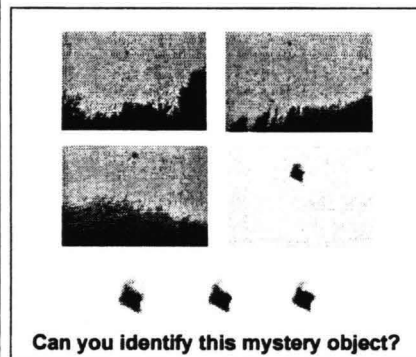
Why haven't our ethereal visitors contacted us formally and announced their existence officially to the world?

Well, look at it this way: if you had the chance of making friends with a bunch of people who behave as badly as we humans do, wouldn't you think twice about it?

KETTERING EVENING TELEGRAPH
Kettering, Northants, England
December 12, 2007

Evening Telegraph opens the X Files

Appeal to our readers to identify mystery object



OUR reader Krzysztof Dreczkowski, of Corby, spotted this mystery object high in the skies over Spalding, Lincolnshire. Krzysztof sent in this picture to our Readers' Champion Nick Tite.

It holds special interest for Krzysztof because he is part of a UFO organisation in Poland, his homeland.

If you have any idea what the picture is be sure to register on our site and us know.

SUSSEX EXPRESS
Lewes, United Kingdom
January 16, 2008

By Angela Gallen

More reaction to UFO spotted in Hastings

MORE reaction has come in to a UFO sighting reported by an Observer reader. Mason Woodhams described seeing a "green fireball track across the sky" at about 11.05pm last night (Tuesday).

"The head of the fireball was white-yellowish-orange with a bright green fire trail. The whole thing lasted no more than five seconds or so.

"It was quite low and slow in the sky between 15,000 and 20,000 feet, quicker than an aeroplane but slower than a shooting star and it traveled from east to west.

"This was obviously a meteor of some sort burning up, but the fact that it was so low in the sky and a brilliant green colour made this so unusual.

"I spoke to a science teacher this morning about this and he said that either copper or barium gives off a green flame when burnt. As most meteors are made from iron/nickel, I guess this makes this quite a rare phenomenon."

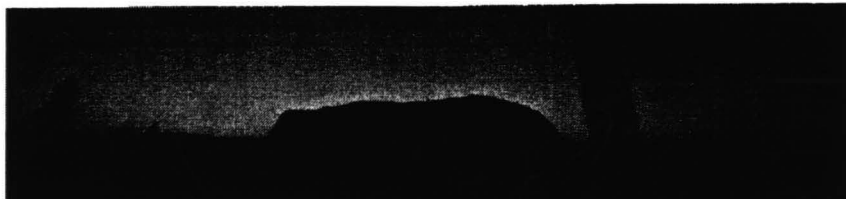
Now we have had an email from Mr Fairhall who said:

After reading the article about the UFO sighting I had to reply to your request! I saw it also but put it down to a flare!! live in School Road, Ore and as I was settling down to go to bed saw a bright green light travelling from left to right outside my window! As your article rightly said, it was going too slow to be a shooting star. I didn't think much more about it until just reading the paper! I can't see it being a 'UFO', probably something burning up in the atmosphere! Very intriguing though!!

SUNDAY TERRITORIAN
Darwin, NT, Australia
January 10, 2008

by BEN LANGFORD

Astronauts landed at Uluru: it's true?



SPACE ROCK: It's claimed Uluru is where ancient astronauts landed. Picture: GEMMA PITCHER

ANCIENT astronauts landed at Uluru and proceeded to create humankind, according to UFO enthusiasts in America.

The UFO Area website says the astronauts are represented in rock paintings in Central Australia.

"Once upon a time, in a distant past, a huge red 'egg' had difficulties to safely reach the ground and crashed," the story reads, under a picture of Uluru.

"Out of the 'egg' emerged white-skinned beings, followed by their children," it says. "The adults had problems adapting to the Earth's atmosphere and died. The children managed to survive.

"Later they painted drawings of the adults in honour of their parents.

"Uluru is filled with the legends and myths of Aboriginal 'Dreamtime' when their ancient god-like ancestors moved through the landscape.

"These gods - who were ancient astronauts - came from the sky with a mission. This mission was to create life on Earth."

Parks Australia spokeswoman Mali Stanton said there was not anyone at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park who could comment on the bizarre story.

The complex Aboriginal system of law and beliefs known as Tjukurpa is referred to in the national park plan of management.

The plan refers in part to the creation stories represented in rock art - without astronauts.

"According to Tjukurpa, there was a time when ancestral beings in the form of humans, animals, and plants travelled widely across the land and performed remarkable feats of creation and destruction," it says.

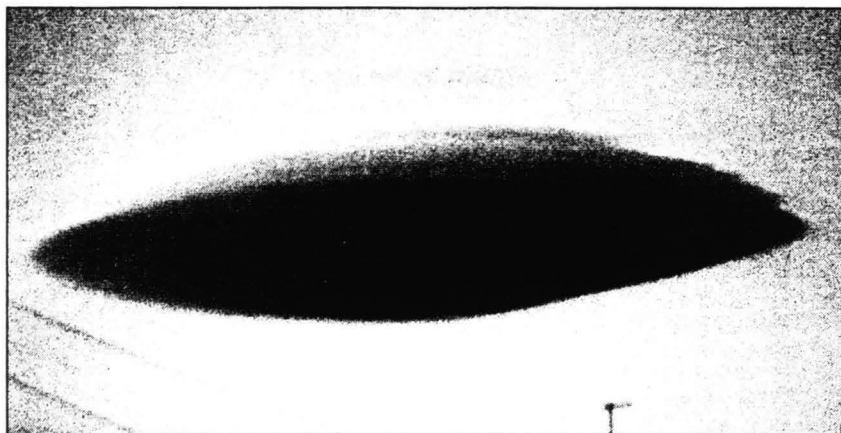
"The journeys of these beings are remembered and celebrated and the record of their activities exists today in aspects and features of the land."

THE SUN
London, England
December 26, 2007

By PAUL SUTHERLAND
Sun Spaceman



Truth is in there for 'ufologists'



UFOs ... are they out there?

THE Ministry of Defence is to publish all its 160 "X Files" on UFOs.

It will declassify dossiers dating to the late 60s after pressure from flying saucer spotters.

The 'ufologists' are now hoping to get to the truth behind some of Britain's most baffling UFO mysteries.

They include The Cosford Incident - dozens of UFO 'sightings' in western Britain in 1993, The Berwyn Mountain Incident when a UFO 'crashed' in North Wales in 1974 and The Flying Cross Incident in Devon in 1967 when two cops in a car 'chased' a UFO.

It is also hoped they will clear up The

Manchester Incident when, in 1995, a BA Boeing 737 was 'buzzed by a UFO' and The Rendlesham Incident when a brilliant light plunged into a Suffolk forest on Boxing Day, 1980.

The MoD is releasing the files because Freedom of Information Act data requests by ufologists are taking up too much staff time.

It said it hoped to "counter the maze of rumour... over its role in UFO phenomena".

The files will be available for a fee through the National Archives in Kew.

France put its X Files on the web last year. They can be studied free.

NORTH WALES DAILY POST
Llandudno Junction, Conwy, Wales
December 29, 2007

Berwyn UFO puzzle to be solved at last

by Steve Bagnall, Daily Post

MINISTRY of Defence files on what conspiracy theory fans believe may have been a UFO crash in North Wales are expected to be released next year.

The Berwyn Mountains incident sparked mystery in 1974 with unexplained lights in the sky, an earthquake and secretive men in suits.

MoD chiefs confirmed yesterday they are publishing a raft of so-called UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) files stretching back to the 1960s.

This is because of the huge number of inquiries on UFOs.

The Berwyn Mountains incident happened on January 20, 1974.

The people of Llandderfel and Llandrillo villages in the Berwyn mountains near Bala, sat down to that evening's TV.

But the quiet was shattered by the rumbles of an earthquake, registering 3.5 on the Richter scale.

As people ran from their houses, fearing another tremor, they witnessed a blaze of light on the mountainside above.

A local nurse and her daughters claimed they watched as a huge egg-shaped craft lay on the ground with a pulsating orange and red glow.

Police and the military converged on the hills, expecting to discover a crashed passenger jet - but what they did find has never been divulged.

Some think it was an experimental man-made top secret military aircraft, possibly a prototype Stealth bomber.

Local farmer Hugh Lloyd was just 14 at the time.

He told the Daily Post: "It was pretty scary. I have never experienced anything like it.

"It was pretty dark. You could hardly see anything on the mountain and then all of a

sudden this incredibly bright light lit up the sky, like an arc welder, two or three miles away, lasting for about 20-30 seconds. You could make out details in the countryside around."

In the days following, scientists and investigators, some of whom could have been from official departments, combed the area.

Mr Lloyd was questioned about the incident, the light and asked exactly what it looked like. "I do not believe that it was a UFO but I would like to find out exactly what it was."

Although the MoD would not confirm categorically the incident - widely dubbed the "Welsh Roswell" - would be in the documents, it said a large amount of material would be released.

An MoD spokeswoman said: "There is no date set but it will be published next year.

"It is going to take time because there are a lot of handwritten documents."

SOUTH WALES ECHO
Cardiff, Wales
December 29, 2007

'UFOs are seen as a joke but it's almost an absolute certainty they exist'

by Laura Wright, South Wales Echo

If reports of UFO sightings are to be believed, we are not alone. Echo reporter LAURA WRIGHT delves into South Wales' very own X Files...



SIGHTINGS of unidentified flying objects have soared in the last month, with at least two a week seen by airline pilots in South Wales.

Dancing lights, large craft and mysterious flashes are among dozens of UFOs sighted above Cardiff and the South Wales Valleys in the last few years.

And only four days ago, on the night of Christmas Day, a couple saw spherical orange lights in the sky above their home in the capital.

According to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act, the Ministry of Defence has looked into 13 reports of UFOs in South Wales in the past three years. Several other sightings have been posted on UFO websites but it is thought that many more go unreported.

David Coggins has been a UFO investigator for 30 years and says there has been a spate of sightings in recent months.

He said: "There have been lots of reports by airline pilots flying in and out of South Wales who are seeing a lot of unidentified craft on a frequent basis, one or two a week.

"Generally speaking, they are large triangular shaped objects. It's not just during the night but in daylight as well.

"I've come across people who have seen UFOs very close up, from a distance of 12 feet."

Just three weeks ago, Martin Dupres and two friends had a close encounter when they saw a strange light in the sky in Lisvane at 5pm on Tuesday, December 11.

Martin, 43, of Riverside, Cardiff, said: "I saw an extremely bright light come straight across the sky. Then it faded out but it might have sped

up.

"It wasn't a satellite or an aeroplane. This thing was not like that. The light shone towards my eyes then carried on. I'm curious, I've never seen anything like it before."

There was another sighting of a UFO at 4am on September 9 in St Mellons, Cardiff. The witness saw an incredibly bright star but it suddenly started moving up and down and side to side swiftly and then flashing lights appeared around it like cameras.

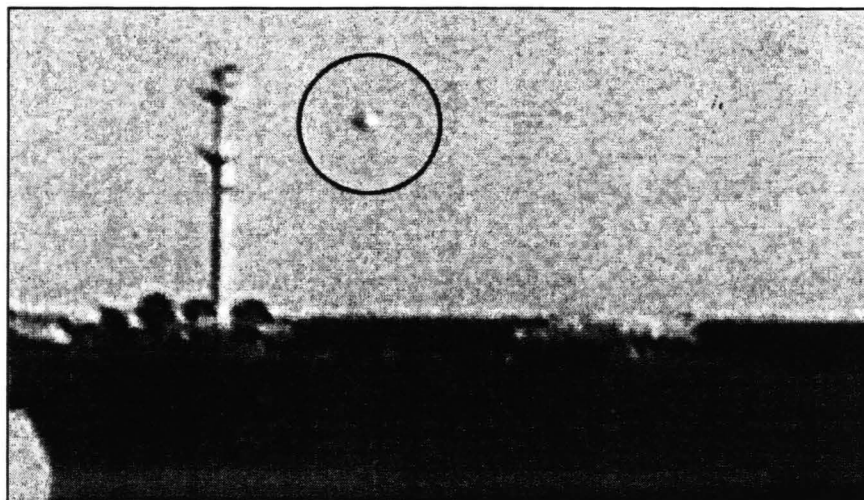
One account comes from a Cardiff man left shaken after he saw three lights dancing around each other before flying away in April 2006.

He said: "I saw something that I never believed I would. I saw what at first I thought was a plane, until it changed direction at such an acute angle. At this point it was by two more lights - they were very blurry, orange in colour. They danced around each other and then moved off.

"I don't make silly claims. Quite frankly this has shaken me considerably."

THE SUN
London, England
January 4, 2008
By ANTONELLA LAZZERI

New Cornish UFO sighting pic



New pic ... UFO is spotted above ship in Cornwall
'It didn't look like any normal aircraft so I am sure it is a UFO' - EYEWITNESS

BRITAIN is turning into an alien nation according to Sun readers who have flooded us with reports of UFO sightings.

Following our story of a UFO seen off Cornwall on December 29 we were inundated by calls from people who had similar things all over the country.

Some claimed they had seen alien spacecraft off the same bay in Cornwall where our original UFO was snapped.

A man who asked just to be called Edward snapped a strange shaped object which appeared to be 'buzzing' a Navy ship.

He said: "I was taking photos of the ship when a helicopter from it took off, flew west then landed back on board just a few minutes later

"It was only when I blew up the photos on my computer that I realised what the helicopter had gone off to take a look at.

"It was in the exact same bay as the one featured in The Sun earlier this week." American holidaymaker Ian Mulford also believes he snapped a UFO at virtually the same spot as Edward.

Ian said: "I was taking photographs and did not see anything unusual at the time, but after reviewing the pictures I found something very unusual in the background of

a picture of one of the family.

Partygoer Rodga Harvey claims he snapped a UFO as he made his way home from a party on New Year's eve. Rodga, from St Ives, said: "It was only when I looked at the photo later that I realised there was this weird flying object in the sky.

"It didn't look like any normal aircraft so I am

sure it is a UFO."

Mum of one Rachel Clarke, 25, is totally convinced that she filmed two UFOs flying above the skies above Borehamwood on New Year's Day.

Rachel said: "I was standing on the balcony of a neighbour's house celebrating.

"We suddenly saw a bright light appear in the sky, then another one joined it.

"They both started darting about really fast. They weren't flying around like normal planes, or helicopters.

"Everyone who saw them, and there were about 15 of us, were amazed. I didn't see any green men flying them, but I am sure they were UFOs.

Grandmother Mary Booth, 57, says she saw what she believes was a UFO in Bristol on New Year's Eve.

Mary was standing in her front garden with three other people when they noticed a bright orange, ball shaped object in the sky.

She said: "We live near Bristol airport so I often see planes and helicopters in the sky and this was totally different to them.

"It was standing still in the sky then it moved

off above our roof and then took off upwards, getting smaller and smaller.

"I have never believed in UFOs before but after seeing that I think there might be something in them.

"There was no way this was an airplane or something like that. It was really weird and we all saw it."

UFO investigator Mr Coggins, 67, of Pontypridd, hypnotises people who have seen UFOs and then experienced periods of missing time.

Mr Coggins, who is featured in the alien encounter book *Does It Rain In Other Dimensions*, said: "Strange as it may seem, people who had seen a UFO close up have ended up on the crafts and while they've been on, strange things happen to them such as medical examinations.

"They don't remember until they are hypnotised. One man in South Wales had lost one-and-a-half days. He recounted what had happened under hypnosis and when I played him back the

tape, he broke down in tears and said 'did that happen to me?'. It's impossible not to believe in it.

"UFOs are seen as a joke but it's almost an absolute certainty they exist and are visiting this earth on a regular basis."

The MoD examines UFO reports to establish whether what was seen has any defence significance.

A spokeswoman said: "We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose."

The Argus

THE ARGUS
Hollingbury, Brighton, England
January 3, 2008

UFO spotted 'zooming over downs'

Little
green
men may
have
been
spotted
once
again in
the skies
above
Sussex.



Michelle Huggett and son Jacob, five

Michelle Huggett, 31, was left gobsmacked by the UFO she says she saw zooming across the Downs near Lancing. The red and orange object was behaving unlike any conventional aircraft she had ever seen.

The mum of one, from Tower Road, Lancing, said: "I was walking through town when I spotted it. It was moving very fast east to west but then just suddenly stopping. There was absolutely no noise at all. It was spooky."

Mrs Huggett believes it may have been the same UFO that was spotted in Cornwall just before Christmas.

It is the latest in a series of sightings across the county.

In 2007, the Ministry of Defence revealed that 52 reports of UFOs were made in Sussex from 1998 to 2006.

Worthing Herald

WORTHING HERALD
Worthing, England
November 21, 2007

UFO report – RAF did send fighters up

A UFO spotter from Felpham has appealed to anyone else who saw the objects to contact him. Leo Lindsay and his wife, Rosie, watched the visitors from outer space from a bedroom window.

Mr Lindsay has since had unofficial confirmation from the Ministry of Defence that two RAF planes were sent up to investigate the phenomenon.

"The RAF don't do that unless there is a real reason," he stated. "I can't believe no one else saw the objects. I would estimate they were each about the size of a house."

"Anyone walking along Felpham seafront at that time would not have been able to miss them. I hope they will let me know on 01243 855728."

Mr Lindsay estimates the objects must have been above Felpham seafront in a beautiful light blue sky with white puffy clouds. He was looking out of a bedroom window in his home in Roundle Avenue at about 6pm on October 4 when he saw 'two round football-shaped objects' coming over the trees high in the sky.

He went downstairs to tell his wife. He watched as the objects changed to become 'multi-faceted diamond shaped discs which moved further apart'.

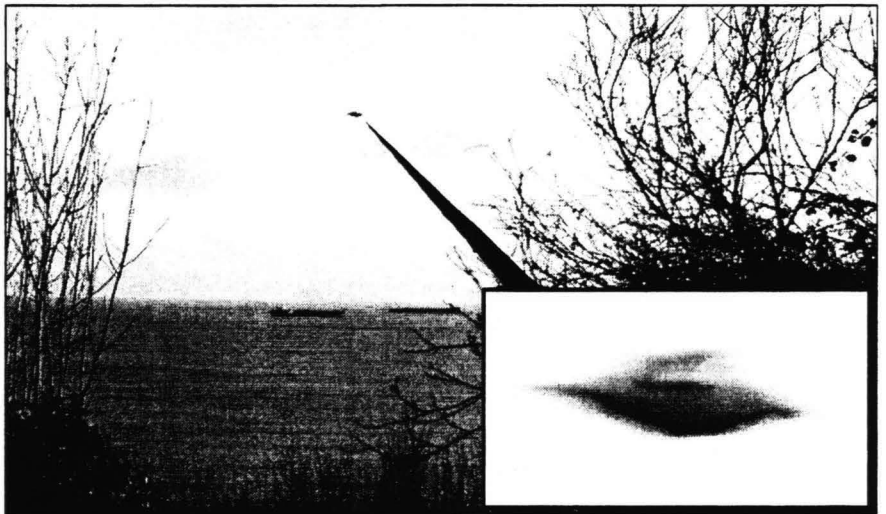
The fighter planes appeared on the scene ten minutes later. Two aunts staying with the couple also saw the incident.

THE Sun

THE SUN
London, England
January 1, 2008

by John Coles

Oooh arrrr not alone anymore

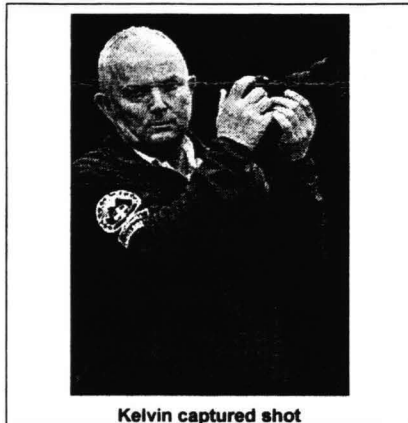


Kelvin's photo and, inset, enlarged view of 'flying saucer'

THIS stunning photo of a UFO over Cornwall was last night hailed by experts as one of the best ever taken in Britain.

The classic flying saucer shape is seen above two ships.

And UFO watchers believe it could be proof we are NOT alone.



Kelvin captured shot

Kelvin Barbary snapped the mystery object from a coastal path between Swanpool and Maenporth, near Falmouth.

In a weird twist, Kelvin, 55, did not even see the UFO at the time.

He thought he was just taking a sea view — but when he loaded the digital camera card on to his computer, the round metallic "craft"

was in the centre of the shot, about two miles away.

Kelvin, a facilities manager for schools, said: "There were a couple of tankers out in the bay and I thought that it made a nice shot."

"There was nothing in view and certainly no fault on the camera."

"When I got home I couldn't believe what I had. I thought, 'Wow, where did that come from?' I'm not the sort to believe in UFOs — now I'm not so sure."

Nick Pope, one of Britain's foremost UFO experts, said the photo was one of the best he had seen.

Nick, formerly the official Ministry of Defence UFO analyst, said: "If I was still there I'd be looking at this very closely. The object looks structured, symmetrical and metallic. This man has caught something very interesting indeed."

Michael Soper, of the Contact International UFO group, agreed: "This does appear genuine. Digital photos can be doctored but everything about it appears consistent."

KELVIN took his picture at 3.31pm on December 29, with a Nikon D80 Digital SLR on automatic.

The Bolton News

THE BOLTON NEWS
Bolton, Lancs., England
December 11, 2007

UFO sighting over Bolton?

By Staff Reporter

MEMBERS of the Bolton UFO Society are investigating a possible sighting of an unidentified flying object (UFO) above the town.

A caller telephoned the society's chairman, Phil Catterall, last Wednesday, saying he had seen a strange object in the sky, at around 8pm.

The man told Mr Catterall, of Pennine Road, Horwich, that he had been driving from Harwood to the centre of Bolton when he spotted a triangular silhouette in the night sky.

Mr Catterall said: "The man wanted to know if there had been any other reported sightings. He was convinced it was a UFO and was quite disturbed by it."

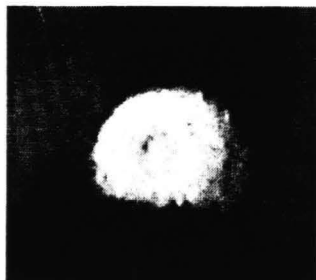
The chairman said there had been similar sightings in Birmingham and around Bristol.

Anyone who has spotted any unusual activity in the night sky should email Mr Catterall at catterap@aol.com or log on to the Bolton UFO society website at www.boltonufosociety.piczo.com.

FLINTSHIRE STANDARD
Mold, Flintshire, Wales
October 24, 2007

Did a UFO really crash land near Wrexham?

North East Wales has been something of a hot-spot for UFO sightings in recent years, we take a look at some of the best known encounters.



Was this an alien space craft? North East Wales has become a hotspot for UFO sightings

A UFO ENTHUSIAST is appealing for information from anyone who was watching the skies over Wrexham on one particular night in 1974 and who may have witnessed a very strange event.

Russell Kellet, a writer for Flying Saucer Review, the world's longest running UFO magazine, is particularly interested in finding out what, if anything, happened on the Llandegla Moors on the night of February 7 1974.

According to Russell, the alleged incident occurred just 15 days after the famous 'Berwyn Mountains Incident', often referred to as the 'Welsh Roswell'.

The Berwyn Mountains incident is one of the most famous British "UFO sightings".

According to reports, on the evening of January 23, 1974, there were a number of calls made to police from across the North West of England, reporting a peculiar formation of green lights flying through the night sky.

Later, at about 8.30pm, an unidentified, disc-shaped object is alleged to have been seen falling from the sky and crashing into the Berwyn mountain range near Llandrillo.

At precisely 8.38pm, a minor earthquake, measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale, was recorded and was felt in Wrexham, Chester, Liverpool and even Manchester and the Isle of Man.

Police attended the scene of the "crash", apparently expecting to find a stricken aircraft.

What they did find remains a mystery.

The incident has become the subject of much debate over the decades that have followed.

According to some reports, a convoy of army trucks passed through Chester that night and made their way to the site, immediately putting a cordon around the area and warning the police and crash investigators to stay away.

On January 25, under the headline "Mystery Tremor", the Wrexham Leader reported that "Men catching hares on the mountainside above Llandrillo, near Corwen, may have triggered off the hunt for a meteorite that began in the village yesterday morning.

"For police and RAF rescue experts now believe that the tremors that shook the village and a 60 mile area of North Wales last night and the lights seen on the mountain seconds afterwards were a coincidence.

"One theory is that the lights were caused by men hunting hares.

"The RAF search team leader, Flt Sergeant H Oldham, aged 31, said that they were unlikely to resume the hunt unless military information suggested another reason for the lights.

"Dozens of calls from as far away as Cheshire and the Isle of Man jammed police switchboards, reporting tremors strong enough to 'shake' houses.

"There were no reports of damage and no aircraft were reported missing."

Some enthusiasts have pointed to the statement of a "witness", a nurse who lived in the area and allegedly described seeing a huge object crash land, causing non-human bodies and debris to be scattered across a vast area, before being told not to say anything further "in the interest of national security".

The incident that Russell is particularly interested in finding out about happened a couple of weeks later on February 7.

According to Russell, he has heard reports that a UFO was actually engaged and destroyed by another aircraft over Llandegla

He said that he was also privy to information that the military had, contemporaneously, set up a temporary hq in the area.

Russell is also interested in a more recent incident - near Llangollen - on December 17, 2000.

He claims that there was a report of an

aircraft crash-landing near the Horseshoe Pass made to police that day but later refuted as a hoax.

Russell, however, claims to have spoken to a man who, had been walking his dog on the pass that day and came across a "military blockade", and who was told he could not go any further.

Anyone who thinks they might have any information, regarding either "event", that could be interesting or useful to Russell, can contact him on 0560 2826901.

Other UFO sightings from across the region

ON July 24 of this year there was a massive debate over a UFO sighting near Borras.

A number of Wrexham residents had seen the strange flying objects, which were filmed by Leigh Williams and his girlfriend, Lynn Jones, of Borras.

A worker from Acton, who posted a comment on the Evening Leader website, said: "I am a patrol and response officer for the wrexham area and saw these lights while I was attending an alarm call at Acton school. These, to my belief, are unexplained.

"There is no way this was a hoax, as I would not have seen them from Acton area if they were.

"In addition, they were very high up in the air and there's no way anyone can control anything from that distance.

"There were several 'floating' in the sky in a pack, at first I thought they were helicopters or similar, however, there was no sound what so ever. Very strange and I would identify these as an unidentified flying objects. (Not saying they were aliens but definitely unexplainable)."

There were a number of explanations put forward, including the suggestion they were Chinese lanterns set off at a wedding or a party that night.

FLINTSHIRE STANDARD
Mold, Flintshire, Wales
December 31, 2007

Mystery over UFO sighting

A FLINTSHIRE man is looking for answers after seeing five unexplained lights in the sky on Christmas Day.

Harry Hughes, of Grays Road, Mynydd Isa, was returning some extra chairs to the shed after enjoying Christmas dinner with his family at about 7.20pm.

He said: "I looked up and saw what looked like five bright orange-red fireballs flying through the sky, coming from the Bodfari direction.

"They were travelling quite fast, about 10-12 seconds apart and were revolving. They were travelling too fast to be aircraft and they were completely silent."

Harry called to his wife Pam to look at the strange objects before they disappeared and as she followed him out to the garden, they began to change direction.

Harry said: "They had been travelling west, but then they began to change direction one by one and started heading north. They were travelling at a high speed when they began to go north and were slanting upwards.

"My wife saw the last two and she looked at them through binoculars. The last one, which was bigger than all the rest, stopped momentarily then shot upwards, following the others north.

"The police helicopter travelled past our house about 10 minutes later. If it had been a bit earlier, then I'm sure police would have noticed these objects."

Harry's description of the mysterious fireballs matches that of Leigh and Lynn Williams, of Borras, Wrexham, who caught sight of several strange orange orbs in the sky in July, and he said he believed they were similar.

The couple also managed to take a video of the strange sighting, which was posted on the Evening Leader website and was the subject of much public debate.

Some posters, and UFO experts who spoke to the Leader, felt the incident merited further investigation, while others dismissed the sighting as being the result of Chinese lanterns.

Speaking at the time, Lynn said: "There were seven lights flying fast over the house. Two of them were flying round each other. They were flying very close together, closer than planes. They were going so fast we couldn't focus on them.

Leigh added: "There was no noise whatsoever. Surely if they were aircraft there would have been lots of noise. My wife was panicking. We just want to know what it was. When they went over it happened so quick. They moved very smoothly and were glowing."

Harry said: "I have no idea what these lights were, but I am really glad that I have seen something like this and I am glad my wife is able to verify that they were totally unexplained. I'll be looking out for more over the next few days.

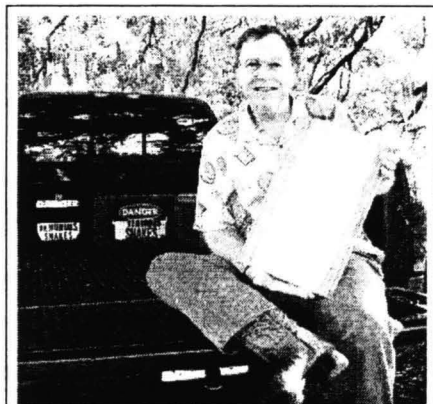
"I'm just sorry we weren't able to get a picture or a video of them, but there wasn't enough time."



DAILY SUN
The Villages, Florida
December 28, 2007

By GARY CORSAIR, DAILY SUN

Man recounts his meeting with Bigfoot



Dan Jackson, a venomous snake expert in Lithia, displays a plaster cast of a footprint he discovered while searching for Bigfoot in Collier County. The cast measures 19 1/2 inches long.

In the early-morning blackness, partially bathed in a Hollywood-weird glow of incandescent light and rolling fog, Dan Jackson slowly uncoiled from a half-hour crouch in his hiding place behind a garbage Dumpster.

What he saw — the very thing he had spent 20 years looking for — was so terrifying, Jackson would see it in his broken sleep for months.

A dark, hairy head. Glistening black eyes. A mouth full of bared teeth clenched in rage.

"He was huffing like a damn freight train," recalled Jackson, a venomous-snake expert from Lithia, who claims he came face to face with a fearsome creature he once didn't believe existed.

"In November 1983, if you had asked me whether I believed in Bigfoot or Sasquatch, I would have said, 'You mean that thing Hollywood made movies about? Are you crazy? No, of course not,'" says Jackson, an experienced outdoorsman who trapped alligators before he began extracting venom from snakes.

His opinion changed on a hog-hunting trip in a bayhead of sawgrass and cypress bog near Naples.

Jackson was tracking a "bunch of hogs" he had spooked when he became a believer.

"As I was looking into the sun, I saw a dark object about 150 yards away. I thought, 'Good, I'm going to have bear steaks tonight.' That's when what I thought was a bear, turned out wasn't a bear," Jackson recalls. "It had been bending over, then it turned at the waist and looked at me. It had a black face and black eyes. It stood up and turned and walked on two legs right into the bayhead."

Jackson was momentarily paralyzed with fear.

"It scared me so bad, I forgot I had a shotgun in my hands. It wasn't a gorilla, and it wasn't a chimpanzee," Jackson said. "It was like water pouring into a computer. My mind just short circuited. What transpired might have taken 10 seconds. It could have been 10 hours for all I know."

When Jackson regained his senses, he investigated where the creature had crouched.

"Where his head came up to the cypress trees, I estimated it was 6 1/2-to-7-foot tall," Jackson said. "The grass was matted down and there was a terrible smell. I equate it to someone who's been sleeping in a goat pen."

Back home, Jackson began spending long hours in libraries trying to learn all he could about what he saw. Even before the Internet was a household word, he found plenty of information.

"Everything I read indicated that it was peaceful, and never hurt a human," Jackson said. The more he read, the more he wanted to return to the Collier County bayhead.

"As often as I could, I went back down there. I wasn't trying to catch it or anything like that, it was just that I know I saw it, and I wanted to see it again."

Each time, Jackson tried something different. Night-vision goggles. Floating bait. Hiding in tree tops. He hung a tether ball off a tree limb in hopes of getting a handprint. He even mounted a mirror in the swamp, seven feet off the ground, because he had seen primates in a TV documentary lick mirrors. "Saliva contains DNA," Jackson reasoned.

"I admit, for the first two or three years it was probably comical the way I was doing things in the woods. But I started to get better and better. My techniques got better," Jackson said.

But he couldn't find what he calls the Florida Skunk Ape. Still, he was certain the creature was there, which made him only more determined.

"I can't look you in the eye and tell how I knew he was close, but I know there were times that he was," Jackson said. "I've been in the wild enough to know when something is wrong — times when it's like someone threw a switch and all the noise stops. You just knew that sucker was watching you."

Through years of searching, Jackson became convinced his prey was extremely clever.

"You're dealing with an intelligent creature, and he knows his environment better than you know your home," Jackson said. "I feel like he has a heightened sense of hearing, eyesight and smell. He knows you're there long before you know he's there."

If you believe Jackson on this point, then you'll probably believe his search encompassed 20 years.

"I'd go two to three times a month over a period of 20 years," Jackson said. "I was driven because I saw one of these things and I wanted to see it again."

Long after most people would have given up, he was finally rewarded.

"Eighteen years into my search, I found a footprint," Jackson said. "I found a group of smashed-down palmetto bushes, then a footprint, and then its next step was into a creek. It didn't come out on the other side. I would have seen where it came out because the other side was heavy brush. I went down the stream, but I didn't see any evidence where it left."

Jackson made a plaster cast of the 19 1/2-inch footprint, which he found "in the middle of the Everglades, 6.2 miles from the nearest road."

"I'm 6-foot, about 240. The impression my foot made where I found the footprint was barely a quarter-inch. Whatever made this track went down two inches," Jackson said. "You can't hoax this. Not where I found it. You'd put it where other people would find it."

An engineering professor Jackson consulted estimated whatever made the footprint weighed "a little better than 500 pounds."

Jackson figured something that large must do some serious eating, so he began concentrating on what the Skunk Ape likely ate.

"I got smart and started watching game trails. I figured if I could find game trails, then I could find him," Jackson said.

Jackson hit the jackpot when a friend with thermal-imaging equipment took him for a nighttime helicopter ride over the area he had been searching. Jackson didn't see the Skunk Ape, but he saw the mother of all game trails.

The next night, Jackson began following the trail. After 21 days (during a "six- to eight-week period) of meticulously "working the trail," he reached the edge of the woods. To his surprise, the trail ended near the rear of a new, small strip mall.

"At the back of the strip mall there were six brand-new dumpsters," Jackson said. "I thought, 'Hot damn, I hit the jackpot. This where I am going to set up.'"

On the third night of his stakeout, he saw the Skunk Ape approach the dumpsters.

Unfortunately, as Jackson moved from his hiding place at the edge of the woods, the creature ran away at a startling speed.

It was clear to Jackson that he couldn't sneak up on the creature. He would have to station himself closer to the dumpsters.

Jackson stayed away for "eight or 10 days." During that time, he worked out a plan. He decided to put "bait" — a half-gallon of orange juice with sugar and chloral hydrate (triple the dose that would "drop a 250-pound man" he says) — in the dumpster behind a pizza restaurant. He would place pop cans containing pebbles on the lids of the other dumpsters, which would alert him to the arrival of the Bigfoot.

He considered setting up a video camera, but rejected the idea because of the "weird" lighting behind the strip mall. Plus, he knew his video would be dismissed as fake. If people questioned Roger Patterson's famous Bigfoot footage from 1967, they would surely dismiss anything Jackson produced.

At about 2 a.m. on the foggy night described in the opening paragraph of this article, Jackson, armed with a magnaported .44-Magnum in case the encounter turned violent, was crouched between two dumpsters when he heard a pebble-filled can hit the pavement.

"You've heard of the 'pucker factor?' Well, my 'pucker factor' went up," Jackson said. "Another couple cans hit the ground. Now my 'pucker factor' went up into the red zone. As I raised up, and brought my head above the top of the dumpster, I saw a pair of eyes."

There was nothing friendly about the eyes just 10 feet away from Jackson's face.

"If he heard me, or smelled me, I don't know, but he had a hold of the dumpster he was in and he was glaring at me with a look of rage on his face," Jackson said.

For the first time in his 20-year search for the Skunk Ape, Jackson feared for his life.

"My instinct was self preservation. As I straightened up, he jumped out and landed; it was me and him. There's no way to describe the fear," Jackson said.

Jackson squeezed off a shot as the Skunk Ape leaped toward him; then, in a blink, it was gone.

"There's no way I would have been able to fire twice. He was gone that quick. He was

Continued On Next Page >>

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tremendously fast," Jackson said. "It was one, two, three, and then it was over."

And so was his search. Forever.

"I had been lulled into a false sense of security. I always thought they were peaceful creatures. You didn't see the look in his eyes. It was purely a look of rage on its face," Jackson said. "I told myself, 'Dan, you idiot, you might get another chance. You saw his strength, don't

push it.' Yeah, I had disturbed his supper, but it was more than that. What I'm going to tell you next, you're going to think I am crazy, but I think the rage was because I had outsmarted him."

Jackson created a stir in the Bigfoot research community when he posted his story on his Web site (Bigfoot, Skunk Ape & Me). Naturally, other seekers wanted to know where his frightening encounter took place.

"I have had requests from three who said they wanted to know the location and check it out. These people seemed too insincere and ill prepared, beside the fact that they were intending to spend only one night every other week to check things out," Jackson said. "Please excuse me here, but I worked on finding that location for a total of 21 days out of a month. It made me angry that they wanted to stand on my shoulders and try to do in one night what I had worked for and took the chances for so long to do. I've never told where it happened ... and I never will."

And Jackson, who is writing a book about his experience, remains adamant he is through searching for the Skunk Ape, Bigfoot, Sasquatch — whatever you want to call it.

"I made the same mistake others had made; I wanted to prove it existed. And it almost cost me," Jackson said. "I'm satisfied. I'm not running into any lightning storms."

Sasquatch sighting on Lake Chelan near Lucerne

A Texas man reported seeing a sasquatch on the shores of Lake Chelan near Lucerne this summer.

Brent McCay was riding the Lady of the Lake II on a family vacation to Stehekin Aug. 23, when he saw a dark-furred animal walking on two legs from the lake shore into the bushes, according to his report published on **BigfootResearch.com** Oct. 23.

"As I got the camera out my wife exclaimed, 'Oh my gosh I see it, it looks kind of like an orangutan,'" McCay wrote. "She told me that it had stood up next to the bush looking out at the boat and then had turned around."

McCay snapped three pictures with his 35 millimeter digital camera, all wide shots of beach with a distant shadowy figure in the bushes.

Sasquatch experts say the sighting could be real. Photo expert Bill Appleton of Dream-

factory Software Inc. wrote on BigfootResearch.com "the photos appear untouched and genuine."

Investigator Derek Freel of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization wrote in a follow-up report the photo shows nothing more than a "blobsquatch," but, "I feel after talking with the individual several times over the phone he did see something he felt was a sasquatch."

Twelve sightings of sasquatches were reported in Chelan County, which ranks midlist in the state, according to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization. Skamania County ranks first with 51 reported sightings since 1950. Pierce and King counties rank second and third with 39 and 33 sightings. None were reported in Douglas or Grant counties.

WENATCHEE WORLD
Wenatchee, Washington
November 5, 2007

by Huang Shan

Shennongjia 'wild men' leave footprints

The investigation into the Shennongjia "wild men" made great progress when witnesses identified two footprints left along the Licha River where the two mysterious creatures had been spotted.

An investigative team consisting of journalists and officials from the local government and scientific investigators were sent out along the Licha River to conduct a thorough investigation on November 20. Two days later professionals from China Association for Scientific Expedition joined them.



The bigger footprint discovered was 30 centimeters long with a width of eight centimeters at the heel and 12 centimeters at the sole.

The team discovered a series of irregular footprints, averaging one meter apart, along the riverbank. They also found three branches believed to have been broken by the "wild men" in the shrubbery beside the footprints. Two barefoot prints of different sizes were discovered behind a stone.

Pointing in the same direction, these adjacent footprints were both identified belonging to left feet. The bigger one was 30 centimeters long with a width of eight centimeters at the heel and 12 centimeters at the sole. The smaller one was 18 centimeters long with an arch-like outside edge.

Veteran forest rangers rooted out the possibility that the footprints belonged to known animals such as bears, antelopes or deer.

The team then reached two of the witnesses, a local resident Wang and his friend Zhang from Xiangfan, Hubei Province. They recalled their encounter with the two mysterious creatures on the morning of November 18. Zhang, along with his guide

Wang and other friends, was driving along the Licha River, heading for Laojun Mountain. They were approaching a sharp curve in the mountain road when they spotted two giant, dark figures standing behind a tangled mass of shrubbery some 50 meters away from their car.

According to the witnesses, the two "wild men" were skinny and covered with black hair. The taller one was about 1.7 meters high and the other one was approximately 1.3 to 1.4 meters. Both were quite agile because they quickly fled into the dense forest as soon as they saw the car. The witnesses' testimony was in accordance with the investigation results. The investigation team has made a preliminary conclusion that the thrilling event was indeed a real life sighting of a group of upright human-shaped creatures.

According to Luo Yongbin, an official from the foreign affairs office of Shennongjia Nature Reserve government, all the investigation results and evidence, including two plaster models of the footprints, will be submitted soon to the central government. The whole investigation process has been videotaped. All suspicious evidence has been photographed for further analysis.

Everett, Washington

Herald

EVERETT HERALD
Everett, Washington
December 29, 2007

By Rachel Schleif

Man blames car wreck on prehistoric winged reptile

WENATCHEE -- A 29-year-old Wenatchee man told police a pterodactyl caused him to drive his car into a light pole about 11:30 p.m. Thursday.

Wenatchee police cited the man with first-degree negligent driving. A breathalyzer test showed "a minimal amount of alcohol," said Wenatchee police Sgt. Cherie Smith.

Witnesses told police the man was northbound on Wenatchee Avenue and drifted into a southbound lane for less than a block. Oncoming traffic stopped and waited for the man to pass, Smith said.

He then totaled his car on a light pole, Smith said.

When police asked the man what caused the accident, his one-word answer was "pterodactyl," Smith said. A pterodactyl was a giant winged reptile that lived more than 65 million years ago.

The man was treated and released at Central Washington Hospital, hospital officials said.

Daily Sun
The Villages, Florida
December 31, 2007

These people have no doubt they saw Bigfoot

By GARY CORSAIR, DAILY SUN

Those who say they saw Bigfoot are:

- a) liars
- b) crazy
- c) publicity-seekers
- d) hoaxsters
- e) profiteers
- f) sincere

When it comes to Bigfoot sightings, motive always must be considered. Are they seeking publicity? Have a book to sell? Get their kicks from fooling people?

Even believers admit that most people who claim to have seen Bigfoot are mistaken. The dark, hairy creature they saw from a distance at twilight was actually a bear. Or the terrifying howl they attribute to Bigfoot was actually a Florida scrub cow.

Simply put, the majority of so-called evidence of the existence of Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, or the Florida Skunk Ape, is ... there's no other way to say it — bogus.

"We had one sighting in the Ocala National Forest that turned out to be a dirty, naked, mentally deranged man," recalls Henry Cabbage, communications director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Some people who perpetuate the myth are bold-faced liars.

"There are many people who spread misinformation, mostly cryptozoologists. In an effort to make their books interesting, they fabricate, or outright exaggerate, details about the Sasquatch," says Bobbie Short, owner/editor of bigfootencounters.com. "Others fabricate tracks, and some go to ridiculous lengths, walking around in baggy, ill-fitting ape costumes."

But not everyone who claims to have seen Bigfoot is mistaken or a hoaxer.

Sorting out the fakes and flakes from the serious and sincere is the hard part.

There are dozens of reported sightings. In most cases, there is simply no way to gauge the credibility of each report because 30 or more years have passed. In other cases, the person making the report was anonymous. Other sightings proved to be hoaxes when closely scrutinized.

And then there were a handful of reports from apparently honest, credible people who are 100 percent sure they saw Bigfoot. Two of those accounts are presented here.

By the side of the road

"I actually saw it on the same road my high school is on," recalled Martha Calloway from her South Carolina home. "We went up over a little hill in the road, and as we came down I noticed something on the left-hand side of the road. My (future) stepmother was driving, and I actually had to look across her to see what it was."

Calloway, a 17-year-old high school student on the July 1977 evening when she became a believer, was returning home from a race in Daytona.

"As we got closer, and the headlights hit it, I couldn't speak. I was frozen. It was crouched down alongside the road, and one hand was picking up something and putting it in the other hand. It moved slower and slower as we got closer. And then it was like its eyes met mine. I doubt it could see me through the windshield, but that's what it seemed like. It was like our eyes just met and we were both frozen."

Calloway found her voice as the car, which she estimates was traveling at less than 30 miles per hour, passed the creature.

"It was like everything went into slow motion," Calloway said. "As we got past it, I finally said to my stepmother, 'Did you see that?' And she said, 'See what?' We were talking when I saw it. I just went silent in mid-sentence. To this day, I wish she had turned that way, but she was just looking at me, and the awkward look on my face."

The memory of what Calloway saw from about 12 feet away on a deserted two-lane road at 2 a.m. is still vivid.

"It's been 30 years, but it's still as clear in my memory as it was that night. It's about like a photo that stays in your mind," Calloway says. "I had read about Skunk Apes and Bigfoot, but I never expected to see one, especially in a weird place like that."

In 1977, there were no Web sites where people like Calloway could share stories. When she stumbled across one a few years ago, she posted her experience.

She's not a Bigfoot researcher, she's not writing a book, and she's not interested in publicity. She just hoped someone visiting the Web site might also have seen the creature in that area that summer.

"I've thought about it a lot over the years and about what it could have been," Calloway said. "There's just no possible way it could have been anything else. The way it was shaped, the way it looked, the hair, the life in its eyes. The color of its hair was like the color of an Irish setter's: reddish brown. Its arms were really long. I could tell. It was squatting down, but I kind of figured if it would have stood up it would be about 7 feet tall. But that's just a guess."

For the longest time, Calloway wished that her stepmother had seen the Bigfoot, or better yet, stopped the car so they could both observe the creature. Today, she just feels fortunate to witness something — even briefly — most people will never see.

"It's one of those mysteries, like the Loch Ness monster. I have no explanation, but I know what I saw," Calloway says.

Green Swamp surprise

Pat Rance looks very much like a successful owner of a Longwood business — until he dons night-vision goggles, turns on his ultra-sensitive audio recorder and steps into the woods in search of Bigfoot.

Rance's determination to prove Bigfoot exists has taken him to Mississippi, Oklahoma and throughout Florida. North Carolina is next. But it was right here in Central Florida, in the Green Swamp shared by Lake, Sumter and Polk counties, that he saw Bigfoot in April 2006.

"We were finding dozens of footprints, which isn't surprising because there's a long history of sightings down there," Rance says.

"I really didn't know what to think until I got into it and started finding different footprints — different sizes, different strides," Rance recalled. "I found some that looked like it was walking because they were about five feet apart. There were other prints where it looked like it was running. Those were nine feet apart and the dirt was pushed up on the sides of the print like it had come down hard. And then I found prints where it had jumped across a ditch. They were 26 feet apart."

Rance and his friends, who call themselves "bipedal primate researchers," measured and photographed the prints. They poured plaster in the most defined prints.

There were so many prints, the researchers staked out the area, leaving apples, pancakes and a jar of peanut butter as lures.

"We set up video cameras and watched areas at night. We'd hide in the woods and try to get video, trying to see something," Rance said. "The next morning, there would be tracks right where we had been looking."

Days passed without a sighting, so Rance changed tactics.

"I decided to go down a small trail, and set up

my tent down there and pretended I was going to camp. I put a camcorder and tripod in the tent, pointed it out of the opening and left."

On his third day at his "pretend" camp, something visited the main camp, ate the pancakes, took 10 apples (and smashed two), and absconded with the peanut butter jar, leaving only the lid. After investigating the scene, Rance retrieved his camcorder from the other tent.

"We got there, and packed it up," Rance said. "We didn't go 50 yards when something appeared on the trail in front of us. It went sideways into the palmetto and palm trees."

A startled Rance turned to see the creature watching him from the dense foliage at the edge of the trail.

"It was dark, but I could see the outline. Its shoulders were this wide," says Rance as he extends his arms about 18 inches from his sides. "It was in the palmetto leaves, 30 or 40 feet away. I started to raise up my night-vision goggles and it took off."

Did he really see Bigfoot?

"I saw it for five or six seconds. I know it wasn't a bear. It was upright, dark and shaggy looking," Rance said. "I know what I saw, and there's no doubt in my mind."

The unexplainable case

Lack of corroboration casts doubt on even the most believable account. Rarely does Bigfoot "appear" to a group of people, especially people who do not know one another and make reports independent of one another.

But he did at least once in Florida.

On Jan. 9, 1974, Richard Lee Smith was driving his Cadillac on U.S. Highway 27 near Hollywood Boulevard (outside Ft. Lauderdale) in the early morning when he struck a huge figure. According to a newspaper report, after Smith's accident police received calls from motorists who saw a large, hairy creature limping along the roadside. Police responded, and a patrolman reportedly saw a creature which was more than seven feet tall in the beam of his flashlight before it ran off.

A hoax? Mistaken identification? If so, several motorists were fooled.



Strange storms: Frogs, spiders, and fish

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In the emotionally charged 1999 P. T. Anderson movie "Magnolia," the characters witness an unusual event—the sky rains frogs. Perhaps referring to the biblical passage in which God casts down a rain of frogs on the Egyptians for their refusal to free the Israelites, the shower of frogs proves a bizarre, yet effective, plot device in a film that explores themes of forgiveness and redemption. "And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs," Exodus 8:1-15.

Since ancient times, mankind has recorded several strange sightings of animals—frogs, fish, or insects—that fall from the skies. While many might consider this biblical legend to be merely mythical meteorology, this mysterious phenomenon was actually documented earlier this year by Argentine photographer Christian Oneto Gaona.

During a visit to Argentina's Salta Province on April 6, Christian and his friends were hiking up San Bernardo Peak when they discovered that the ground around them was covered with spiders. As they looked up, they saw hundreds of spiders falling from the sky. Suddenly remembering that he had a camera, Christian snapped several shots of the falling arachnids. Although such occurrences have been noted for centuries, Christian's pictures represent the first documented evidence of this phenomenon.

A few years ago, strange rains of live frogs, fish, and many other animals were periodically reported throughout the country, but up to now nobody had the opportunity to photograph them. Because the past events happened so fast, and the rains were so heavy, photo documentation proved difficult to obtain. The conditions Christian experienced were different in that the spider rain occurred on a cloudless day, and involved a comparatively lighter subject—the spiders fell slowly enough to be captured on film.

Strange Rains in History

The majority of animal rains throughout history involve frogs. The first case recorded by the scientific community was in 1873, when Scientific American reported that Kansas City was covered with frogs after a storm. In July 1901, witnesses in Minneapolis recounted a similar story. After the storm, they discovered that four streets were covered almost three inches deep in frogs, making it impossible to walk.

The most recent case was on July



FALLING SPIDERS: Throughout history, many have witnessed showers of animals falling from the sky. This rain consisting of spiders in Argentina was captured on film earlier this year. CHRISTIAN ONETO GAONA/THE EPOCH TIMES

26, 2005, when a newspaper in Belgrade reported that millions of frogs fell in Odzaci, a village in northeast Serbia. After a strong wind, the sky was covered in clouds—as before any storm—but what fell was not water. Instead, a countless number of frogs not indigenous to that area fell across the entire village. "I don't know where the cloud came from, it had a strange color and shape," said villager Caja Jovanovic. "Just as I was looking at it, frogs started to fall. I thought that a plane carrying a cargo of frogs had exploded."

In May 1981, residents of Naphlion, Greece, woke up to a shower of small green frogs. The local weather service explained that frogs had merely been lifted by strong winds. They must have been quite severe since that type of frog is only found in North Africa!

Raining Fish

Aside from frogs, the most common animal rain involves fish—a frequent occurrence in both India and Australia. A study done by Australian zoologist Gilbert Whitley found that in 1972 it rained fish some 50 times.

The Honduran province of Yoro has a history of raining fish going back so far that it has become part of the culture of this region. Each year between May and July, witnesses see what starts out like a normal storm—black clouds, thunder, lightning, and hard rain—but when the rain stops, the ground is covered with live fish that the villagers cook and eat. Since 1998, the Yoro people have held an annual "Rain of the Fish" festival to mark this miraculous occurrence. On July 16, 2006, Honduran television gave a special report on this phenomenon since it now rains fish there up to two times per year.

In 1970, National Geographic sent specialists to Honduras to investigate this curious weather. They found that the falling fish were all the same size—less than 6 inches—and were all blind. Researchers identified the species but could not find record of it in the surrounding region. Finally, they proposed that these fish must have lived underground and were blind due to never having been exposed to light. Even so, actual proof of this theory has yet to materialize.

Scientific Explanation

When science does acknowledge this occurrence, the explanation often centers on a storm or hurricane lifting creatures out of the water and through the air where they finally fall in remote areas. However, it does not explain how such a powerful storm could be discriminating enough to select only animals of the same species, and careful enough not to touch surrounding plant life. Tornadoes and hurricanes are known to scatter and destroy everything in their wake. Evidence of their presence differs quite a bit from the vast majority of animal rains concentrated to relatively small areas.

Another problem with this theory is that the animals that fall are alive—suggesting that little time has passed between the moment the storm collected them and when they fell. How does this happen when there are no known bodies of water nearby? There are even occasions, like with the Salta spiders, in which the animals appear on clear days, without wind or precipitation.

So why do these animal rains occur? There have been several theories, but nothing has yet been suitably explained or proven. It appears that Mother Nature still holds some mysteries in this modern age.

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