

COLORADO
MUFON®
Mutual UFO Network
— est. 1969 —

Newsletter

Year End Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for being a part of our great COMUFON community. Your enthusiasm for our newsletter has driven our continued commitment to delivering insightful and engaging content. In 2024, we look forward to exploring new topics, sharing inspiring stories, and fostering connections that enrich our collective journey.

We invite you to join us in keeping COMUFON a dynamic and effective organization! We are looking for volunteers with relevant expertise to help with the 2024 COMUFON summer bootcamp, and a social media expert to assist with COMUFON's outward-facing public sites. Finally, the Host/Hostess Committee needs new members! This is your chance to meet and greet our celebrity guests at the airport, ensure their comfort and safety while in the Denver area, and of course make them feel at home. A great opportunity to become personally acquainted with some of the leaders in the field!

Thank you for your unwavering support, and may the coming year bring you joy, success, and countless moments of inspiration. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a fantastic start to the New Year!



COMUFON's Christmas Party is December 9, 2023

- **Calling for donations** of ufologically associated items to donate for the Christmas Party Silent Auction -a fun but powerful fundraiser for COMUFON!!
- **RSVP to membership@comufon.org** if you plan to attend or can donate for the auction



Colorado MUFON's Annual 2023 Holiday Party

& SILENT AUCTION

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH, 2023
7272 S EAGLE ST, CENTENNIAL, CO 80112**

1:00PM - 4:00PM

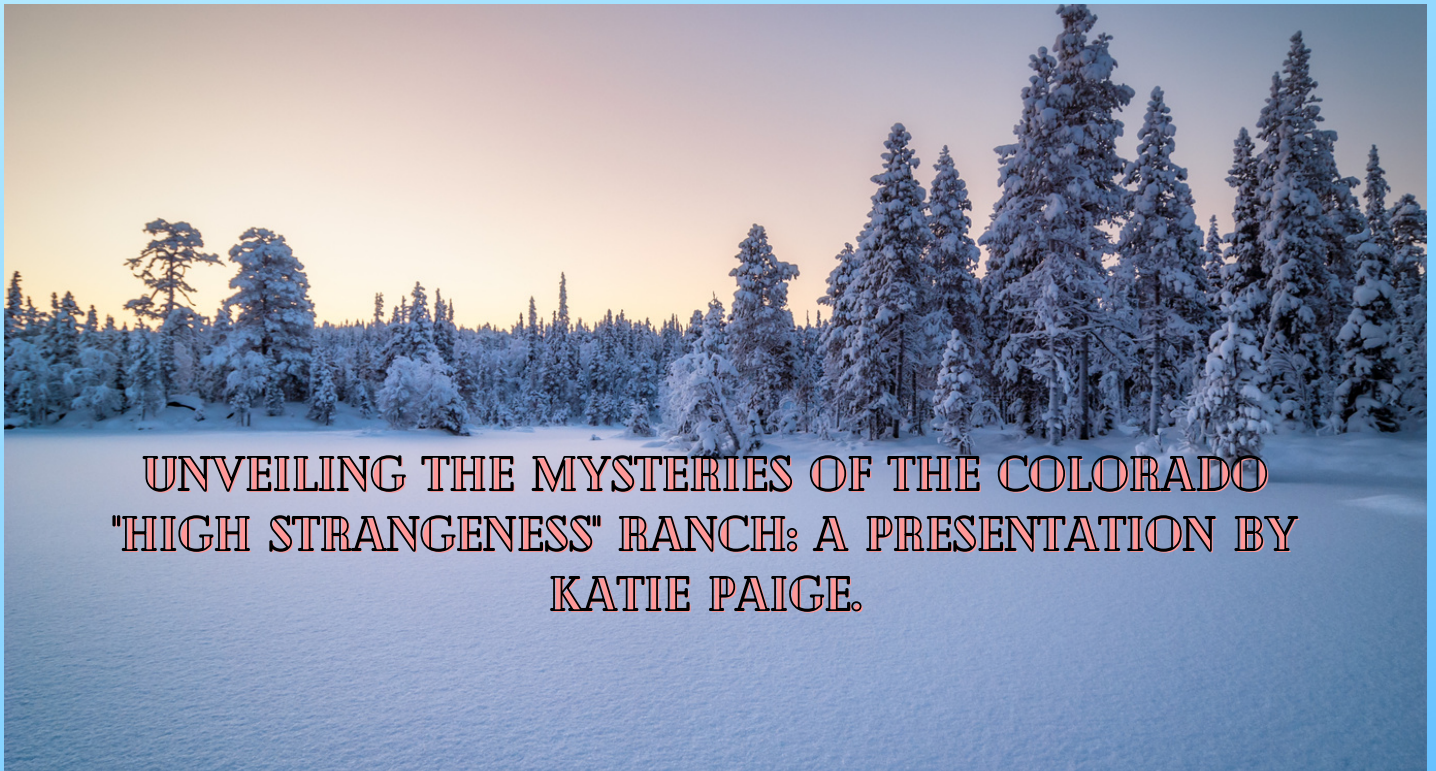
POTLUCK

**EVERYONE BRINGS SOMETHING TO SHARE
HORS D'OEUVRES, MAIN DISH, SIDE DISH OR DESSERT**

**WATER, COFFEE, TEA, AND SODA PROVIDED
AS WELL AS PLATES, SILVERWARE, CUPS & NAPKINS
ALL PROCEEDS OF THE SILENT AUCTION WILL GO TO COLORADO MUFON
THIS WILL HELP BRING IN OUR WONDERFUL SPEAKERS FOR 2024
THIS WILL BE A WONDERFUL TIME, TO EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY!**

AND OF COURSE, DISCUSS OUR FAVORITE TOPIC!

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



UNVEILING THE MYSTERIES OF THE COLORADO
"HIGH STRANGENESS" RANCH: A PRESENTATION BY
KATIE PAIGE.



COMUFON members and guests were offered a rare glimpse into the world of *Beyond Skinwalker Ranch* as Katie Paige, COMUFON State Director and featured personality on the History Channel's Season 1 Episode 3: "Rocky Mountain Ranch," talked about the events that occurred while she was staying there. Paige spoke about participating in the filming but focused on the long paranormal history of the region, her research into possible scientific explanations, the experts she consulted while conducting this research, and how the "forces" she encountered still affect her many years later. The audience had the opportunity to ask questions and talk to her after the presentation when she did a brief book-signing for her book *Letters of Love & Light: Four Decades of UFO Encounters, Experiences and Sightings Shared with Ufologist R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D. (2021)*.

BOOK REVIEW

TRUTH, LIES, AND ETs *How We Stumbled Into the Universe* by Don Donderi Ph.D

Reviewed by Anniversary Feinstein

Dr. Donderi entered the University of Chicago in 1953 at 15 and graduated with a BA in 1955 and a BSc in biological psychology in 1957. He graduated from Cornell University with a PhD in experimental psychology in 1963. He has been studying the psychological aspects of the UFO and ET Evidence since 1965. Donderi is a human factors and ergonomics consultant, a retired McGill University psychology professor, and a former McGill graduate faculty associate dean. His consulting and research expertise is about human visual perception and memory – two channels by which he says we experience reality, including the reality of the extraterrestrial presence. He is a dual American-Canadian citizen and currently resides in Montreal, Canada. He is the author of two psychology textbooks and many research publications. Aside from this book, he also wrote *UFOs, ETs, and Alien Abductions: A Scientist Looks at the Evidence*, published by Hampton Roads Press in 2013.

Dr. Donderi is an excellent researcher and writer. In this book, he covers seventy-five years of the Evidence of extraterrestrials (ETs) being part of life on earth. He refers to UFOs as Extraterrestrial Vehicles (ETVs). He divides his presentation into three parts:

1. The truth continually changes as we learn more.
2. Lies cover disinformation and the hard work done to document the truth despite the lies.
3. ETs cover how they interfere with us, the challenges we face regarding our future, and what we must do.

He also gives the reader a clear picture of his background and qualifications regarding ETs and ETVs.

This book contains information he has amassed over the years through research and feedback from other prominent researchers in the field of Ufology. He presents his point of view, supported by facts. He believes that ETs communicate with human beings, not to help them but to control them. It is a very interesting read. It kept my attention the entire time. He writes in a way that is easy for anyone to understand. He covers well-known contact cases and some that could be more well-known.

Donderi writes with purpose and supports his point of view. He believes we need to discuss the ET challenge to the human species: a problem we did not create but must solve to survive. I recommend this book to anyone who has already formed their own beliefs and wants exposure to another point of view. I do not necessarily agree with the conclusion that the author supports. However, it provides food for thought. On a scale of 1-5, I rate this book at 4.50.

Available for purchase on AMAZON.



DO WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO FLY INTERSTELLAR SPACECRAFT?

By

Seth H. Feinstein ASD CO, FI, PAT, CMS Coordinator team lead

Do we have the technology to fly interstellar spacecraft?

Louis Elizondo, a former Pentagon official, documents the five observables for UAP. These conditions are both logical and have gained acceptance:

1. Anti-gravity lift: UAPs have been sighted overcoming the Earth's gravity with no visible means of propulsion. They also lack any flight surfaces, such as wings.
2. Sudden and instantaneous acceleration: UAPs may accelerate or change direction so quickly that no human pilot could survive the g-forces.
3. Hypersonic velocity: UAPs can exceed Mach 5.
4. Low observability: UAPs can dodge radar.
5. Trans-medium travel: UAPs can fly in our atmosphere, low and high altitudes, and potentially in a vacuum environment like space and even underwater.

Whistleblowers, investigators, the news media, and members of the public are quick to make claims that our government has captured ET spacecraft technologies. They say we have captured intact UFOs, which have been reverse-engineered. When one conducts a Google search to find any information that would help determine if any of the UFOs flying around here are ours, there is no data viewable to the public. Would there be any data on this available to the government authorities? I doubt it, but I don't know. This type of search results mostly in articles on how we have captured intact ET vehicles. Headlines include,

- **Congress holds hearings on claims the us government has UFO Evidence**
- **Whistleblower claims US government has been discovering spacecraft for decades.**
- **The Pentagon has off-world vehicles not made on this Earth.**
- **Harvard professor declares we may have discovered alien technology** (Avi Loeb discovered a rock deep in the ocean).
-

Not one article on the internet helps us to determine if ours or any other government of Earth have mastered the propulsion sciences to duplicate Interstellar flight without using jet engines or mechanical propulsion systems. Forget about it. If we see a flying object that appears to be intelligently guided, that isn't a drone or balloon, plane, helicopter, rocket, blimp, or Chinese lantern, it is not flown by an earth human. Travel in discs, triangles, cylinders, plasma, or any other multi-dimensional shaped objects is not ours. Stop guessing, and stop spreading disinformation with biased assumptions. All this does is support the goals of the counterintelligence community. Even the infamous whistleblowers talk about the government having intact UFO Craft technologies. These insiders say nothing about anyone being able to fly them.

We know that unidentified flying crafts exist that demonstrate the five observables because we have a database to prove it. MUFON has received thousands of sightings reported every year since 1969. Our field investigators have a disposition to choose as a conclusion called Unidentified UAV. This disposition, when selected, does not mean the object being investigated is a UFO. It means a person with investigative skills could not identify the object as something we know of. Not all unidentified UAV cases are UFOs, but many are.

All too often, people assume that the craft they saw was ours. How do they know it is ours? Did they meet the beings inside? Were they there to view the inhabitants? Is the source making that statement qualified to make that assumption? Come on, man, where's the proof? The only Ariel vehicles we have that look anything like a UFO with anti-gravity or vacuum technology would be triangles that fly using jet propulsion. These high-tech jets that look like UFO triangles are ours. Let's ask the disinformation counterintelligence officers to make up our minds for us. Do you want us to be more concerned with whether we have captured crafts? Or do we know how to fly them? Do we have the science to recreate and manufacture UFO flight technology? What do you want us to think? My guess is that if our science enabled us to fly UFOs and manufacture them, our government would first weaponize the technology. This hasn't happened or would be out there for everyone to see.

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Let's take a quiz. *Who flew these unknowns?*



The answer: We do not know who is flying these objects. We do not know if the people in them are biological. We do not know if they originate from this Earth or elsewhere. We do not know where they are going and what they are doing. No more guessing and disinformation. We need real answers that only the correct use of science can provide. You are either part of the solution or the problem. Your choice.

REPORTED IN THE ANOMALIST

by
Bill Murphy



This news cycle again largely continues developments from earlier major stories, but has some sharply elevated moments. Note: The following covers some Anomalist articles since October 20th. It reflects my opinions and not necessarily those of others at The Anomalist or other organizations to which I belong and/or contribute. For specific questions or informational requests contact me at my murphybillufo@gmail.com email.

Congress and the DoD and Intelligence Communities kept sparring. A SCIF (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility) meeting was held between the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoD IG) and Republican House members—Tim Burchett, Anna Paulina Luna, Matt Gaetz, and Democrat Jared Moskowitz—and others. As feared, the DoD apparently controlled the show. The meeting essentially was a “bust,” panned by Congressional attendees on both sides of the political aisle. Tim Burchett complained “I didn’t learn anything.” The long-institutionalized “siloes” Pentagon information structure and posture the Congresspersons derided reminds of Project Blue Book’s practice. A similar SCIF meeting was scheduled for November 16th between the Congresspersons and the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG). A Tim Burchett press release said this was “to discuss the office’s ongoing work on evaluating UAPs and its role in investigating UAP and retaliatory claims by personnel in the intelligence community.” This was a real hot-button issue, but I’ve not seen anything indicating that this meeting actually took place.

The end is approaching for All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) Sean Kirkpatrick’s Directorship. AARO head Kirkpatrick and uber-whistleblower David Grusch continued punching at each other. In a Halloween media-presser, Kirkpatrick reiterated his charge that David Grusch refused to testify to AARO. This last generated sharp blowback from Grusch and others in the UFO Community, and in the first week of November rumors became reality that Kirkpatrick would leave his AARO point-position by year’s end. On November 8th Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks announced that Kirkpatrick would “retire from federal service in December.” So far, Kirkpatrick has not gone softly into the night; “[D]uring what many have been his last public event,” Dr. Kirkpatrick said a “Volume One” of a two-volume AARO report will be published before he leaves. Sounds like it contains work from some of the near-forty interviews AARO has done with people other than Grusch. And as for Grusch himself, Congressman Eric Burlison tacked on an amendment to an appropriations bill providing for Grusch to get his security clearance back. And let’s face it: neither the new AARO website (appearing back on August 31st), nor the Independent NASA Study Team Report (September 14th), nor the ODNI/DoD FY 2023 Consolidated Annual Report (released October 17th) have been very satisfactory to serious UFO people and some Congresspersons, though the mainstream media seems to have been more positive.

Avi Loeb’s work on what was dredged up from the Pacific Ocean floor off of Papua New Guinea has received another major challenge. Last time we covered Loeb and a post-doc Harvard fellow’s paper concluding the 2014 “IM1” (Interstellar Meteor 1”) Beryllium-Lanthanum-Uranium (BeLaU) richness could be naturally explained. Loeb’s hopes to demonstrate possible technological creation suffered, though Loeb thought the interstellar possibility was strengthened. In mid-November an October academic paper was “splashed” into the scientific/technical waters with the headline “Harvard Astronomer’s ‘Alien Spheres’ Are Industrial Pollutants.” Patricio Gallardo’s paper basically says Loeb’s expedition probably found the remnants of a solar system meteor that were subsequently adulterated by coal ash contamination. The Gallardo paper seems a bit spare. But Loeb’s immediate retort itself seemed long on hyperbole and short on specifics.

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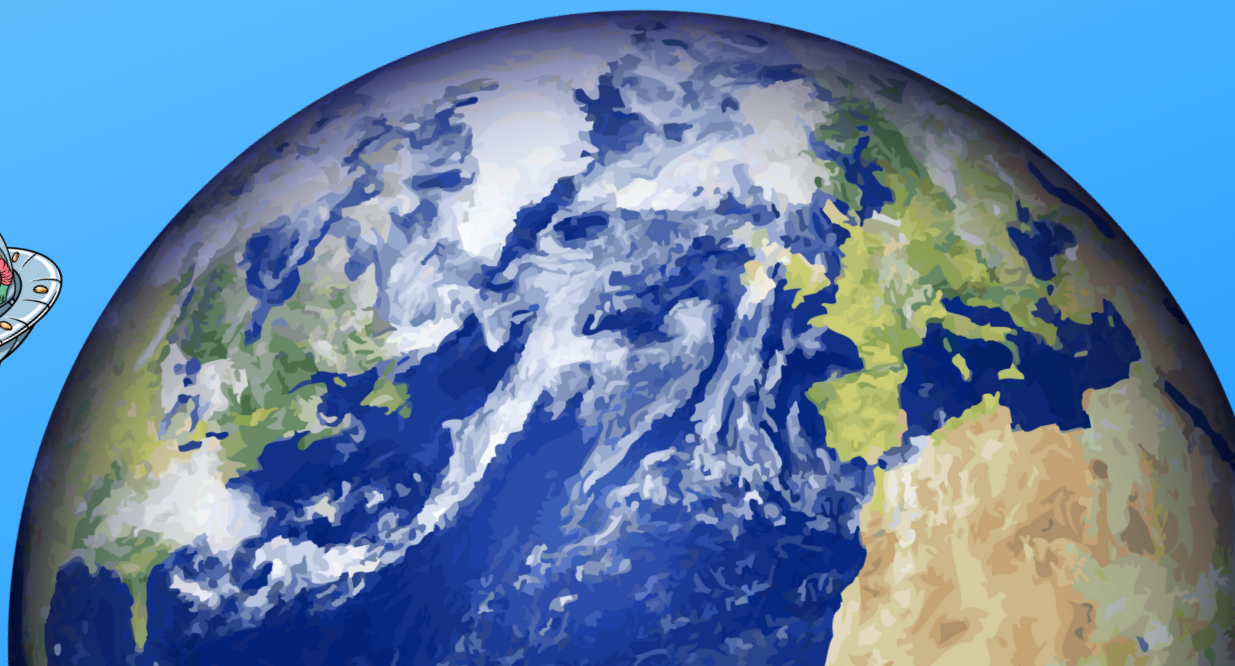
The Jaime Maussan mummy story resurfaced in a rather weird way. By October 25th the mummies mayhem of Maussan's Mexican Congress lower house presentation had led to, among other things, a viral video "proving" the pair of "Peruvian mummies" Maussan had shown September 12th were actually edible cake! But on November 7th Maussan was back but with "a string of doctors who all said the bodies were those of real, once-living organisms." It gets weirder, too. Anthropologist Roger Zuniga said five similar specimens were "real," but other claimant corpse "specimens were probably fake." I couldn't see anything proving the two corpses from the September Showing were actually what Maussan had specifically claimed they were, which itself was confusing—not "human," but most thought that meant "ET."

Observing its 50th anniversary of existence, the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) has just created a new website. This knowledge and research base for the UFO-interested of all levels has vast collections of primary and free secondary sources, including hard-to-find and important Center book publications, Frequently Asked Questions, "So You Want to be a Ufologist?" suggestions, and how to "Report a Sighting" to the organization. The "About Us" drop-down profiles Board Members, Consultants, and "Friends of CUFOS," numbering many of the important leaders in ufology, whose work is routinely reviewed here. The site is at <https://cufos.org/>.

The James Lacatski, Colm Kelleher, and George Knapp book: **"Inside the US Government Covert UFO Program: Initial Revelations"** has caused a minor stir, at least. That's for the claims of former Advanced Aerospace Weapon Systems Application Program Director Dr. Lacatski that "a craft of unknown origin" was in U.S. hands back then. Diana Walsh Pasulka has a new book called "Encounters: Experiences with Nonhuman Intelligence," which sounds interesting, while the pre-publication promo for Luis Elizondo's upcoming "Disclosure," if that's what the name will be, does not make it sound exciting.

In other news, a new academic "think tank" called The Sol Foundation held an invitation-only event on November 17th and 18th, with an impressive array of speakers and indications recordings of the proceedings would be available. The "ECHO European Congress for UAP Studies and Research" held a conference in Paris, France, on November 4th and 5th, illustrating an increasingly strong European role in UFO studies. The Society for UAP Studies held its inaugural "J. Allen Hynek Lecture" on November 11th. By Zoom we listened to Dr. Massimo Teodorani cover a variety of interesting topics in this first homage to the former Air Force consultant on UFOs and founder of CUFOS. A spirited attempt to locate a supposed "Ghost Rocket" from 1947 on the bottom of a Norwegian lake apparently failed. And the newly-formed UFO Disclosure Alliance is a combination of powerful entertainment industry folks and UFO advocates to "provide a more unified voice in the media leading up to and following what researchers have long been waiting for – disclosure of the presence of extraterrestrial life by the U.S. President."

Look in our Anomalist.com reviews for more on these developing stories, as well as Chris Savia's ET and other articles, and our other writers' paranormal fare!





COMUFON FIELD INVESTIGATOR CORNER

Case # 132382 Event Date: July 16, 2023

FROM FORM 1: On July 16, 2023, at 9:30 PM, MDT witness observed a circular object that appeared solid. It was starlike in size and had no visible exterior structural features or emissions. The light was white and did not vary or pulse, and was first observed in the NW moving in a NE direction.

VIDEO ANALYSIS: This video metadata is 6 hours off the reported time and date of the sighting. Because the time doesn't line up, the video is not admissible as evidence of the event.

DISPOSITION: The witness reported the time of the sighting was approximately 9:30 pm on July 15, yet the video metadata shows the time as 3:24 am on the following day. The FI followed up through email to confirm the time of the sighting and asked again during the interview. The witness restated that his sighting occurred around 9:30 pm. The FI was not able to reconcile this discrepancy, and the video submitted is not eligible to be included as evidence. This investigation was based on the 9:30 pm sighting reported initially.

There are several possible explanations for the sighting, such as an astronomical object, balloon, drone, or airplane. In reviewing the video, the object appeared at approximately 20 degrees elevation. The moon was waning crescent and was barely visible. The moon did not create enough light that would interfere with the observation or confuse the witness.

The object could have been a weather balloon, as they can be red, white, or yellow. Locally, many balloons are launched at noon and midnight and can drift over 125 miles during a 2-hour flight. The FI was unable to confirm other launch times of weather balloons. Sunset on July 15 was at 8:27 pm, which would still provide enough light to reflect off a weather balloon and be visible from the ground. However, a weather balloon continually ascends to the programmed height and the witness described it as moving steadily to the northeast. It doesn't appear the sighting can be explained as a weather balloon.

The witness had no visual cues to help him correctly estimate the height or distance of the object. He guessed the object was 1,000'-3,000' above the ground, which exceeds the 400' limitation that drones are allowed to fly. He did not see any indication of telemetry hanging below the object as it was too far away. The light observed was yellowish, solid and steady without any indication of strobing or anti-collision lights. It's unlikely the witness saw a drone.

Venus was visible in the western sky at approximately 45-degrees at about 20:00 until it sank below the horizon at 22:00. However, the trajectory of Venus doesn't match the elevation or witness description of the object moving northwest to northeast. Venus doesn't explain the sighting.

The object was not as bright as a street light, and somewhat similar to a plane. He reported two planes in the sky at the same time, which had flashing green and red lights. In reviewing Flightradar24 data at the reported time of the sighting, there was no time when 2-3 craft would have been observed by the witness in the northwest or northeast part of the sky at the same time. It is possible that a military, law enforcement or rescue flight could've been responsible for one or more of the objects he observed.

On the evening of the report, very few aircraft are seen on flightradar24 traversing within a 5-10-miles of the sighting location from the north west to the northeast. One flight may be partially responsible for the sighting: United Express SKW5077 left GCC Gillette at 8:37pm and landed at DIA at 9:41pm. It's unlikely that this plane could account for the object he reported, but it may explain one of the other lights he saw flashing in the sky at about the same time.

The International Space Station (ISS) was visible at a magnitude of -1.9 on July 15 from 21:18:44 to 21:24:56 at 10-degrees, moving from the west to the northeast. Because this data coincides with the witnesses reported sighting date and time, the FI concludes with 80%-85% confidence that the object was most likely the ISS, and the disposition is IFO man-made.

THE BEMIDJI MYSTERY OBJECT

by

John Craig, Field Investigator, Science Board member

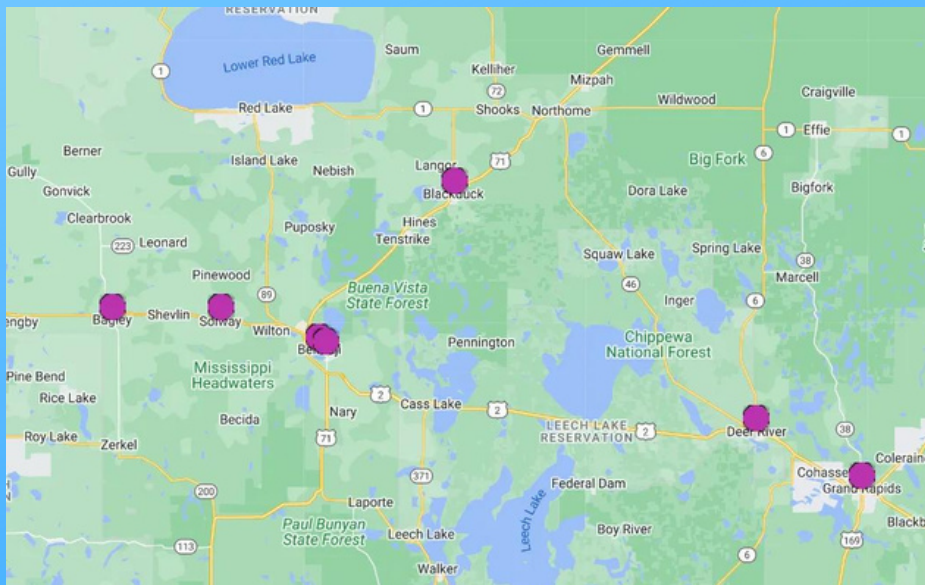
Even NASA investigators are at a loss figuring out what flew over Minnesota recently. The clues just don't add up!

On November 13th, at 6:41 pm, something happened in the sky over Bemidji that defies explanation. Here's what we do know so far:



The flash was quick, with shadows indicating the source to be high above the camera.
(Courtesy Beltrami County Emergency Management)

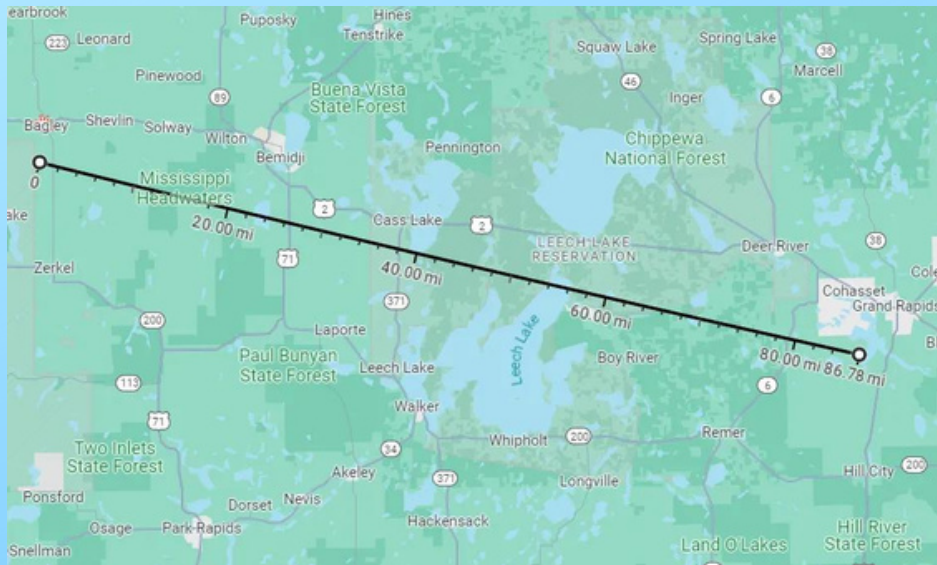
The weather was clear, air temperature 40 degrees Fahrenheit, with a light breeze of 9 miles per hour. The sun was already down in Minnesota. Suddenly, a bright flash in the sky cast steep shadows onto the ground beneath a parked vehicle, as recorded by a security camera in Nymore, Minnesota. A sudden loud explosion followed 2.95 seconds later, shaking houses and setting off car alarms. The light flash, and the boom, were both intense, but very short lived.



Reports of the flash and boom came in from several towns along the object's apparent path. (Courtesy Google Maps and Geo-Leads.com)

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The local sheriff's department reported that a lot of calls immediately started coming in, reporting the flash and explosion from locations along an 80 mile long stretch from near Bagley to Grand Rapids.



Witnesses were located up to 80 miles apart. (Courtesy Google Maps)

An amazing video from runway 31 at the Bemidji airport, located about 4 miles from Nymore, showed an object traveling horizontally at high speed at the same time as the flash and boom were reported.

Was it a Meteor?

It could have been a meteor, but there are some serious problems with that hypothesis. Meteors typically explode as they enter the upper atmosphere. Sound travels at about 1100 feet per second, so it takes a matter of minutes for the sound of these explosions to reach observers on the ground. The flash and boom in Nymore were separated by 2.95 seconds, so the flash occurred roughly half a mile above the camera. According to Professor Emeritus Calvin Alexander, with over 50 years studying such things, this timing rules out a meteor event.



Professor Emeritus Calvin Alexander of the University of Minnesota. (Courtesy KAXE — KBXE)

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Was it a Homemade Fireworks Experiment?

The flash and boom in the Nymore video did, in some ways, resemble a rather large aerial fireworks explosion. Large fireworks are typically launched up to about 1200 feet above the ground, perhaps a little higher in special cases. However, the Nymore flash with its steep shadow angles and the delayed timing of the boom indicate an altitude well over twice as high above the earth.

The second problem with the fireworks theory is that reports came in along an 80-mile track. Fireworks can be heard up to a few miles away, if you listen carefully, but this doesn't fit the reported experiences of the witnesses separated several dozens of miles apart in Minnesota.

Lightning Perhaps?

The sky was clear all day on November 13th, with no indication of any weather phenomenon that could support the possibility of lightning.

How about that Runway 31 Object?

The Bemidji Airport video was very interesting. The timestamp in the upper left corner shows that an apparently very fast-moving object was caught on this camera at the same time as the flash and boom in Nymore, several miles away



The runway 31 object zipped at high angular speed towards the camera. (Courtesy Bemidji Regional Airport)

Runway 31 lies at an angle of 314 degrees. The frame-by-frame analysis of the number of pixels the object traversed clearly demonstrates the object to be coming towards the camera at a steep angle, which works out to a roughly north-south trajectory. The ground path of the flash-boom event was more along an east-west trajectory. This isn't enough to rule out a correlation between the two videos, but there are some other issues to consider.

Where Did it Go?

The runway 31 object disappeared as it flew behind a pole in the foreground. Careful analysis of the original footage shows that the video wasn't clipped, as the periodically flashing lights near the airport and the timestamp progression were all smooth and continuous. But the object never reappeared to the left of the pole. The best explanation for this is that the object was a bug, and that it landed on the pole



The object disappeared behind the pole and didn't reappear to the left. (Courtesy Bemidji Regional Airport)

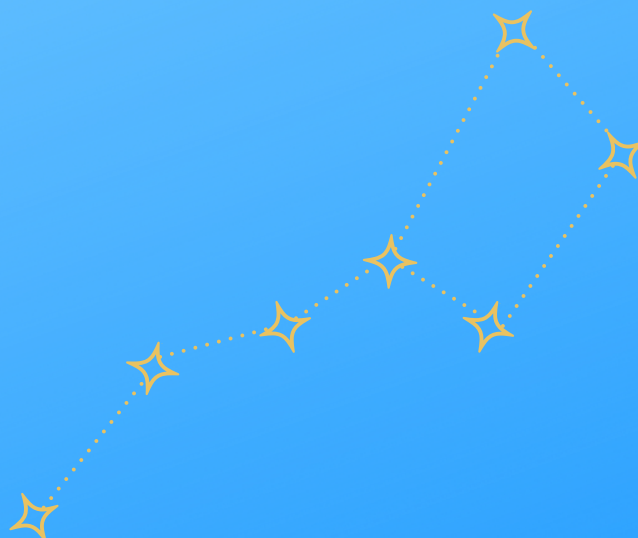
This object was either a bug at a few meters from the camera, flying at a reasonable bug-like velocity, or if it was a larger object above the runway or at an even further distance, its velocity was extreme.

It's worth noting that even though the Minnesota air temperature at the time was 40F, moths and other bugs were known to be out and about, showing up in other parts of the airport videos. Whatever the runway 31 object was, meteors don't fly horizontal to the ground, especially at low altitude, and there was no flash associated with this object in this video. All of these details tend to rule this video out as supporting the flash and boom reported elsewhere.

So What was the Flash-Boom?

The authorities have pretty well ruled out a meteor, lightning, or fireworks, and the airport video was likely just a bug. Where does that leave us? With a definite mystery! Perhaps it was a hypersonic domestic or foreign reconnaissance aircraft, or an extraterrestrial craft with operational characteristics we can only imagine. If any further evidence or research results show up I'll report it here, but until then we can only speculate and theorize, without drawing any absolute conclusions. Most importantly, we need to keep an open mind to all possibilities, no matter how bizarre they may be!

John has been passionate about discovering the truth about UFOs, ever since witnessing strange objects many years ago. As a UFO investigator, John authored the book [How to Investigate UFOs Using Your Smart Phone](#).



2023 EVENTS AND ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...



U of T undergrad develops AI tool to accelerate the search for alien life

Written by Meaghan MacSween for U of T News.

January 30, 2023-- Are we alone in the universe? With the help of artificial intelligence, scientists may be one step closer to finding the answer. Led by researchers at the University of Toronto, an international team of scientists has streamlined the search for extraterrestrial life by using a new algorithm to organize the data from their telescopes into categories to distinguish between real signals and interference. Through an AI process known as machine learning, the new approach allows the researchers to quickly sort through the information and find patterns.

Since the 1960s, astronomers working on “SETI” (the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) have used powerful radio telescopes to search thousands of stars and hundreds of galaxies for so-called “technosignatures,” or technologically-generated signals, on the assumption that an advanced extraterrestrial civilization would be sophisticated enough to emit such signals. Yet, despite the fact that the telescopes used for these searches are located in areas where there is minimal interference from technology like cell phones and TV stations, human disturbance still poses major challenges. “In many of our observations, there is a lot of interference,” says Peter Ma, a U of T undergraduate student studying math and physics in the Faculty of Arts & Science who is first author on a new research paper published in *Nature Astronomy* that explains the technique. We need to distinguish the exciting radio signals in space from the uninteresting radio signals from Earth.”

By simulating signals of both types, the team has trained their machine-learning tools to differentiate between extraterrestrial-like signals and human-generated interference. They compared a range of different machine-learning algorithms, studied their precision and false-positive rates and then used that information to settle on a powerful algorithm.

This new algorithm, created by Ma, has resulted in the discovery of eight new radio signals that could potentially be transmissions from extraterrestrial intelligence. The signals came from five different stars located 30 to 90 light years from Earth. The signals were overlooked in a previous analysis of the same data, which did not use machine learning. *(Excerpt of full article)*

SCU PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS 2023 AVIATION FORUM NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

August 11, 2023 – The Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies (SCU) released the following announcement: The SCU is pleased to announce the three papers from SCU scientists presented at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) 2023 Aviation Forum are now online and available for the public to read. Peter Reali, SCU Board Member: “The SCU is honored to publicly release the research papers presented at the AIAA 2023 Aviation Conference. The SCU is dedicated to an impartial scientifically-based investigation of UAP. We are pleased by AIAA’s recognition of our work and hope this will help move scientific efforts forward.”

Robert Powell, SCU Executive Board Member: “The SCU has multiple projects directed at obtaining a better understanding of UAP. We are pleased to add these papers to the scientific understanding of this phenomenon.” The papers presented at the AIAA Aviation and Aeronautics Forum and Exposition, and now available to the public, are as follows:

FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Sighting Reports: A Preliminary Survey, by Ralph O. Howard, Jr.: A preliminary analysis of US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) sighting reports was performed by inspection and review of a subset of the 11,229 reports issued by the FAA between 2014 and March 2021. The purpose of this study was to enhance basic knowledge concerning the nature and presence of drones in U.S. airspace, explore the possibility that UAP are recorded in the FAA data, and contribute towards enhanced aircraft safety. *(Excerpt of full article).*

*** SCU promotes and encourages the rigorous scientific examination of UAP, commonly known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). SCU comprises scientists, engineers, members of the high-tech and defense industries, former military, and other professionals, utilizing scientific principles, methodologies, and practices to advance the study of UAP observed and reported around the globe. You can find the articles at <https://www.explorescu.org/post/announcement-scu-papers-presented-at-aiaa-2023-aviation-forum-now-available-to-the-public>

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RAND Report notes frequency of UAP sightings in close proximity to military sites

Synopsis: There is growing interest among U.S. government, defense, and intelligence organizations about unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs) flying in U.S. airspace. Public reporting of UAPs may help government officials identify potential threats. In this report, RAND researchers examine where UAPs are being reported to increase awareness of the types of activities that might be mistaken for unexplained phenomena or that point to potential threats.

Research Questions

1. Where are people likely to report sightings of UAPs in the United States?
2. What factors predict where people are more or less likely to report UAP sightings?

Key Findings

A review of 101,151 public reports of UAP sightings in the United States from 1998 to 2022 found an inconsistent relationship between the nearest military and weather installations and self-reports of UAP sightings.

The models used to conduct the analysis showed that reports of UAP sightings were less likely within 30 km of weather stations, 60 km of civilian airports, and in more-densely populated areas, while rural areas tended to have a higher rate of UAP reports.

The most consistent and statistically significant finding was that reports of UAP sightings were more likely to occur in areas within 30 km of military operations areas, where routine military training occurs. Recommendations

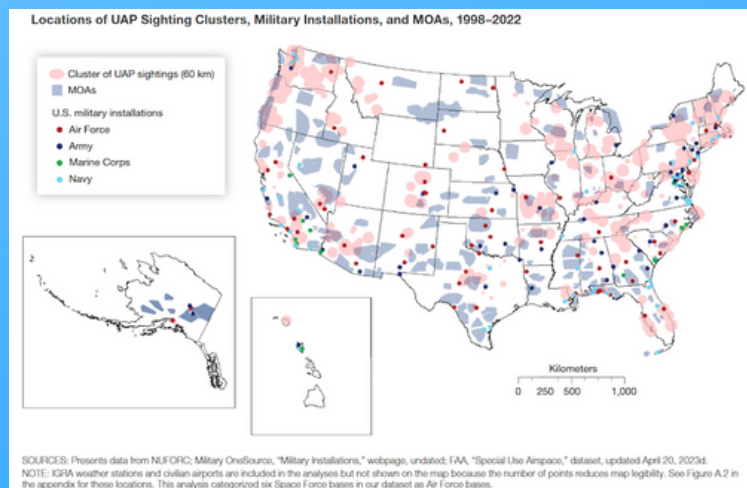
Government authorities should conduct outreach with civilians located near military operations areas. Many civilians may not be aware that they are located near areas where military operations occur. If the results of the analysis are correct — that is, if being located within 30 km of military operations areas is significantly associated with reports of UAPs, and if some of these reported objects are authorized aircraft — then communicating that such activities are being conducted nearby could reduce the likelihood that the public will report these aircraft as UAPs.

Government authorities should conduct additional outreach to notify nearby civilians when there is airspace activity near a military operations area. According to the FAA, not all military operations areas are in use by authorized aircraft. When appropriate, notifying local populations of activities in military operations areas could reduce the number of reported UAPs that are in fact authorized aircraft.

An evaluation should be conducted to inform the design of a detailed and robust system for public reporting of UAP sightings. Such an evaluation would inform the use of various technologies, reporting on location types, sighting features, criteria for validating these reports, and who is best equipped to independently manage such a reporting system. Such a system would be useful in minimizing hoaxes and reports of misidentified objects.

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Posard, Marek N. and Ashley Gromis and Mary Lee: "Not the X-Files: Mapping Public Reports of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Across America" Santa Monica, CA. 2023. doi:10.7249/RRA2475-1. RAND Corporation



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COMUFON Field Investigator meetings take place from 12:00 to 12:45 on the second Saturday of the month at 7272 S Eagle St, Centennial, CO. Field Investigators and anyone interested in becoming an FI is welcome!

The *COMUFON Newsletter* invites submissions from all members. Personal narratives of experiences, sightings, article reviews, book reviews, and such are welcome and will be evaluated for possible inclusion. We want our members to get to know each other, and invite you to share your background and experiences with us! Guidelines include

- Word count under 300, unless submission requires more to be complete (consult with the editor in that case)
- The author's name must be included
- All copyright laws must be adhered to: if you make claims based on a website/journal/book/video/interview, or any source other than your research, please attribute to the original author and cite your source.
- The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month.

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