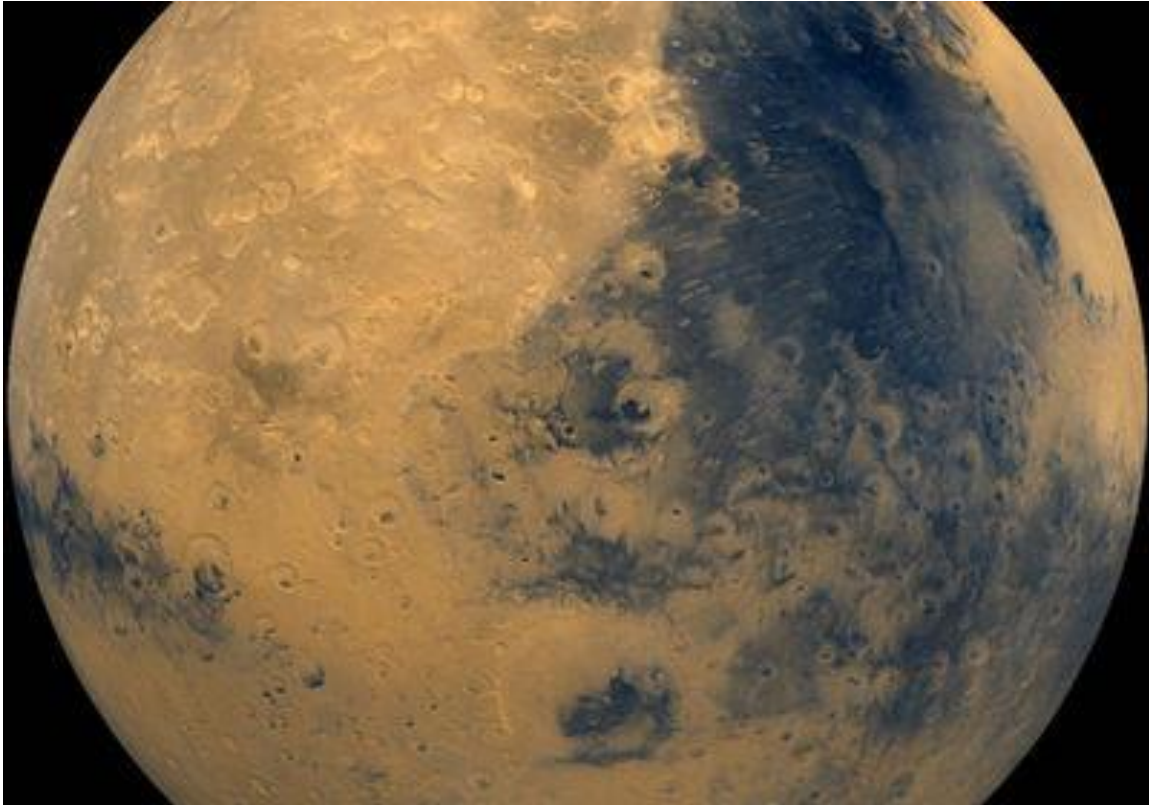


7 Biggest Mysteries of Mars

By Charles Q. Choi, Space.com Contributor | May 18, 2016 05:14am ET



Credit: The Viking Project/NASA

Mysteries of Mars

Mars was known as the "fire star" to ancient Chinese astronomers, and scientists are still burning with questions regarding the Red Planet. Even after dozens of spacecraft have been sent to Mars, much remains unknown about that world. Here are some of the biggest unsolved mysteries we have about Mars.



Mars Northern Polar Region

Credit: ESA/DLR/FU Berlin (G. Neukum)

Why Does Mars Have Two Faces?

Scientists have been puzzling over the differences between the two sides of Mars for decades. The northern hemisphere of the planet is smooth and low — it is among the flattest, smoothest places in the solar system, potentially created by water that once flowed across the Martian surface. [A Great Telescope for Mars: The Celestron NexStar 130SLT]

Meanwhile, the southern half of the Martian surface is rough and heavily cratered, and about 2.5 miles to 5 miles (4 km to 8 km) higher in elevation than the northern basin. Recent evidence suggests the vast disparity seen between the northern and southern halves of the planet was caused by a giant space rock smacking into Mars long ago.

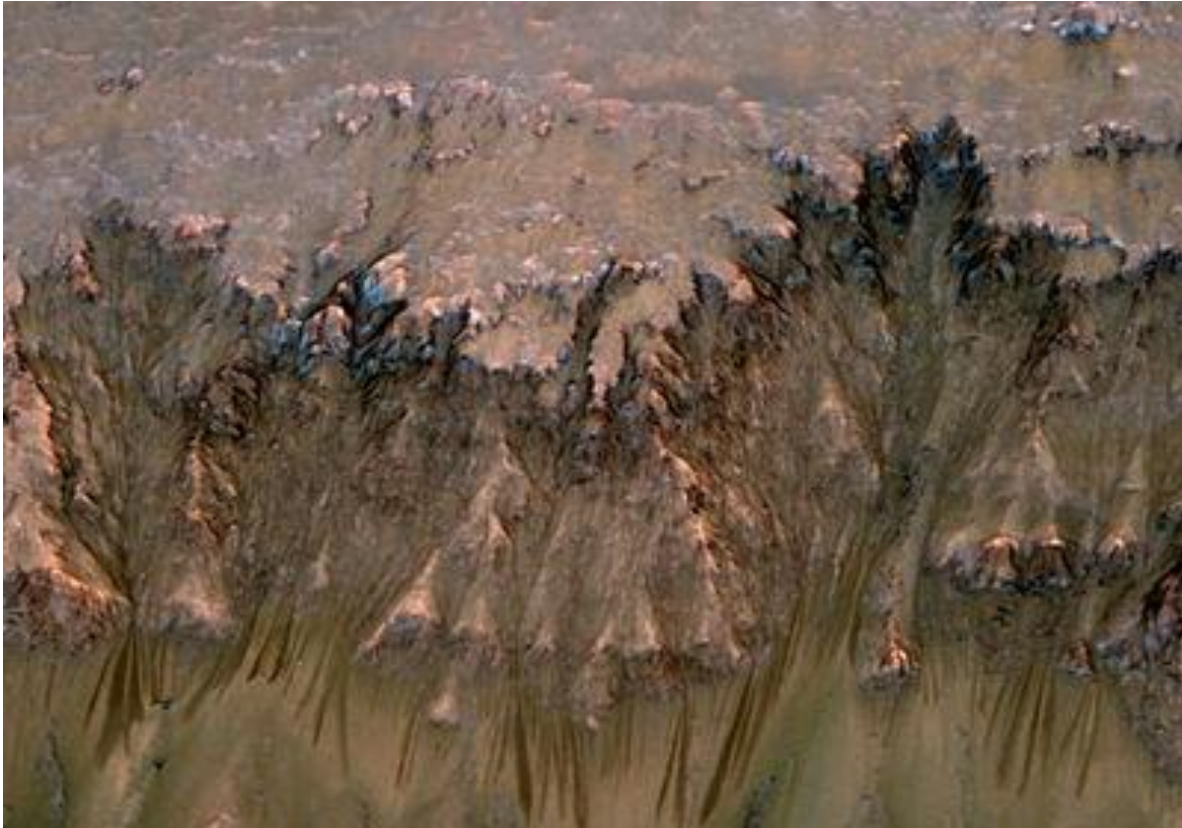


Credit: ESA

A Mars Methane Mystery

Methane — the simplest organic molecule — was first discovered in the Martian atmosphere by the European Space Agency's Mars Express spacecraft in 2003. On Earth, much of the atmospheric methane is produced by life, such as cattle digesting food. Methane is suspected to be stable in the Martian atmosphere for only about 300 years, so whatever is generating this gas did so recently.

Still, there are ways to produce methane without life, such as volcanic activity. ESA's ExoMars spacecraft planned for launch in 2016 will study the chemical composition of Mars' atmosphere to learn more about this methane.



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Univ. of Arizona

Does Water Flow?

Although large amounts of evidence suggest that liquid water once ran on the surface of Mars, it remains an open question as to whether or not it occasionally flows on the face of the Red Planet now. The planet's atmospheric pressure is too low, at about 1/100th of Earth's, for liquid water to last on the surface. However, dark, narrow lines seen on Martian slopes hint that saltwater could be running down them every spring.



Credit: G. Di Achille

Did Mars Have Oceans?

Numerous missions to Mars have revealed a host of features on the Red Planet that suggest it was once warm enough for liquid water to run across its surface. These features include what appear to be vast oceans, valley networks, river deltas and minerals that required water to form.

However, current models of early Mars' climate cannot explain how such warm temperatures could have existed, as the sun was much weaker back then, leading some to ask whether these features might have been created by winds or other mechanisms. Still, there is evidence suggesting that ancient Mars was warm enough to support liquid water in at least one site on its surface. Other findings hint that ancient Mars was once cold and wet, not cold and dry nor warm and wet, as is often argued.



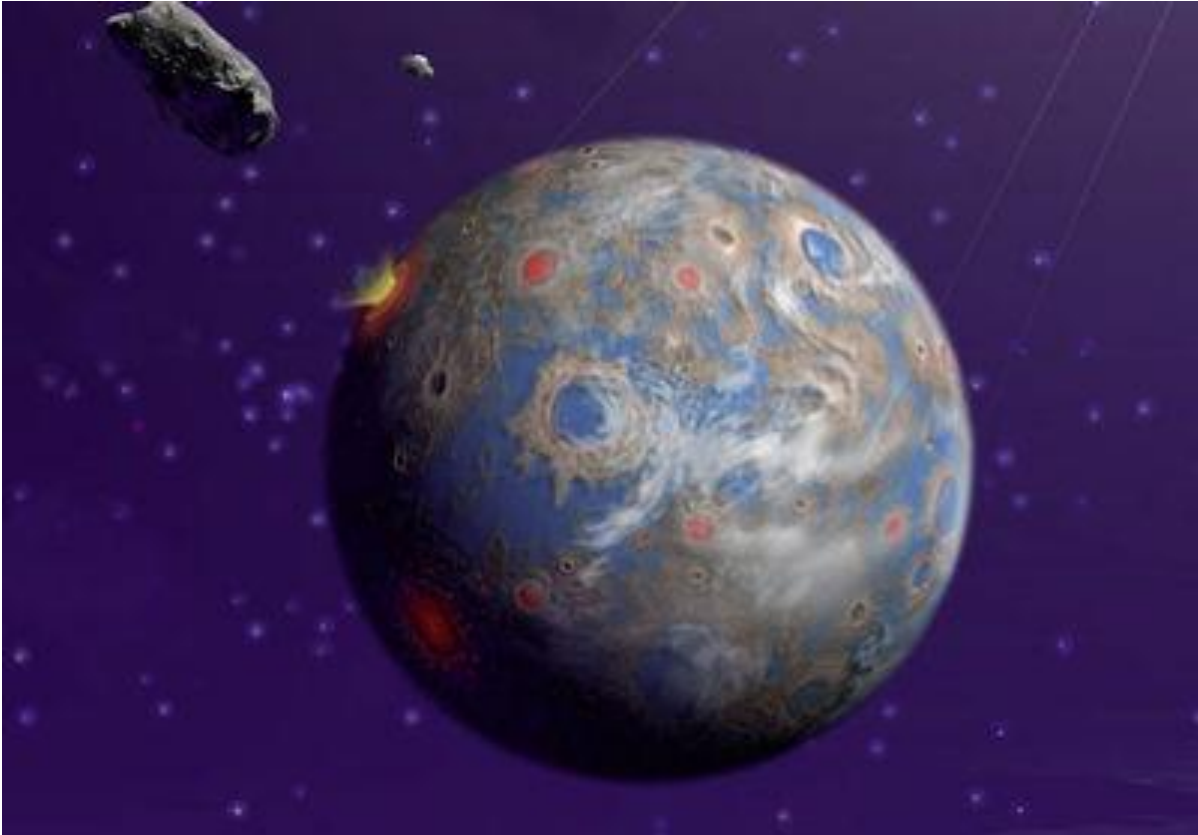
Credit: NASA/JPL/Cornell

Is There Life on Mars?

The first spacecraft to successfully land on Mars, NASA's Viking 1, began a mystery that remains tantalizingly unsolved: Is there evidence of life on Mars? Viking represented the first and so far only attempt to search for life on Mars, and its findings are hotly debated today. Viking had detected organic molecules such as methyl chloride and dichloromethane. However, these compounds were dismissed as terrestrial contamination — namely, cleaning fluids used to prepare the spacecraft when it was still on Earth.

The surface of Mars is very hostile to life as we know it, in terms of cold, radiation, hyper-aridity and other factors. Still, there are numerous examples of life surviving in extreme environments on Earth, such as the cold, dry soils of the Antarctic Dry Valleys and the hyper-arid Atacama Desert in Chile.

There is life virtually wherever there is liquid water on Earth, and the possibility that there were once oceans on Mars leads many to wonder if life ever evolved on Mars and, if so, whether it might be extant. Answering these questions might help shed light on how common life may or may not be in the rest of the universe.



Credit: NASA/JPL

Is Earth's Life from Mars?

Meteorites discovered in Antarctica that came from Mars — blasted off the Red Planet by cosmic impacts — have structures that resemble ones made by microbes on Earth. Although much research since then suggests chemical rather than biological explanations for these structures, the debate continues. These findings do raise the tantalizing possibility that life on Earth actually originated on Mars long ago, carried here on meteorites.



Credit: ESA/IPMB

Can Humans Live on Mars?

To answer whether or not life did or does exist on Mars, people might actually have to go there and find out.

NASA's plan as of 1969 was to have a human Mars mission by 1981 and a permanent Mars base in 1988. However, interplanetary human voyages pose definite scientific and technological challenges. One would have to deal with the rigors of travel — issues of food, water and oxygen, the deleterious effects of microgravity, potential hazards such as fire and radiation and the fact that any such astronauts would be millions of miles away from help and confined together for years at a time. Landing, working, living on another planet and returning from it would offer a host of challenges as well.

Nevertheless, astronauts seem eager to find out. For example, this year six volunteers lived in a pretend spacecraft for nearly a year and a half in the so-called

Mars500 project, the longest spaceflight simulation ever conducted, aimed at replicating a manned mission to Mars from beginning to end. There are even numerous volunteers for a one-way trip to the Red Planet. Tiny rock-eating microbes could mine precious extraterrestrial resources from Mars and pave the way for the first human colonists, and farmers could grow crops on its surface. The mystery as to whether or not humans will ever go to Mars may rest largely on whether or not the powers-that-be can be convinced to go there.

Army's new recruitment drive: Sign up, maybe fight aliens

By Kevin Lilly, Army Times - May 18, 2016



The Army's latest recruiting effort dips into a parallel universe, attempting to engage young sci-fi fans who may not be aware of the service's high-tech career paths.

The partnership with Twentieth Century Fox puts Army recruiters on the front lines of the promotional push behind "Independence Day: Resurgence," the sequel set to hit theaters June 24. In the movie universe, the forces of a united Earth prepare for the return of aliens that laid waste to much of the planet in 1996, before being dramatically defeated at the last minute by heroes who looked remarkably like Will Smith and Jeff Goldblum.

The Army's involvement – which includes both Army- and film studio-produced commercials, as well as a website with interactive games for potential recruits – came about as movie marketers attempted to bridge the gap between the two films.

"They were at a loss to explain to America that how is it, 20 years later, that the Earth is in a better place to defend itself against an alien invasion than they were before," said James Ortiz, director of marketing for the Army Marketing and Research Group. "If you recall the end of the last movie, the Earth was pretty well devastated. What happened in the last 20 years that they can automatically pick up with now in 2016?"

"When they looked around, and rightfully so, it was their belief that it took an institution like the United States Army to do one of two things: One was to advance the technology to a state where we were able to defend another attack ... and the second was, who put the world together – if you look at [the movie's Earth Space Defense force], ESD is a multicultural, multi-nation force."

From the partnership sprang JoinESD.com, a website that offers mini-games that can unlock exclusive "Resurgence" content for movie fans and details on related Army careers: Pilot an unmanned aerial vehicle past some alien ships and learn about becoming an unmanned systems operator, or crack an alien code and find out more about Army cryptology.

You'll also get promoted along the way – one click and you're an ESD private (no medicine ball throws necessary), and completing all the games makes you a full-bird ESD colonel. Sharing the experience on social media can unlock further exclusive "Resurgence" clips.

Cross-platform play

The Army hopes to double traffic to GoArmy.com with the promotion, Ortiz said, pushing visitors past the 3 million mark. He said the clicks so far have met expectations, “although the data points are very early.”

The campaign launched last week with an Army-produced television commercial featuring the proud father of an ESD soldier. A veteran of the first alien encounter, he explains over soft music that the “planet is safer because she’s defending it” before viewers are directed to JoinESD.com.

The video is featured on the movie’s official YouTube channel, alongside an Earth Day spot from Goldblum’s character – ESD Director David Levinson, the movie universe’s answer to Ash Carter – trailers and a 90-second ESD recruiting spot entitled “United We Survive.”

That clip, which has more than 110,000 YouTube views, was put together by Roland Emmerich, director of both films in the franchise. Viewers are directed to JoinESD.com as a flight suit-wearing William Fichtner (“Armageddon,” “Black Hawk Down,” “The Longest Yard,”) looks at the camera to say, “When the world was brought to its knees, the Army was there to fight back.”

The Army paid about \$2.4 million in production costs to attach themselves to the “Resurgence” marketing machine, an AMRG spokeswoman said, not including pre-existing ad-time purchases that were redirected to the program.

Along with traditional advertising and the Army’s website, the studio has created WarOf1996.com, a “fictional experience” that includes a timeline to get moviegoers up to speed since the first film. A sample 2003 entry: “Applying new data from recovered alien weaponry, U.S. Army scientists make dramatic advances in applying their findings to military applications.”



Want to join Liam Hemsworth in the Earth Space Defense? There's a website for that ... and it links to the Army's recruiting efforts. (Photo: Claudette Barius/Twentieth Century Fox)

Next month, the Army plans another video release that will incorporate movie footage with that of real soldiers, showing how Hollywood's portrayal of ESD heroes has its roots in those now in uniform.

Its part of an ongoing effort to correct what Ortiz called "misperceptions" about the Army by the general public.

"We constantly hear America talk about the Army in a very detrimental way, in that we are low-tech, we are low-skill, and for the most part, because of those first two, we are the institution of last resort," he said, adding that the responses from the public became so familiar that "two years ago, we stopped asking."

Australian Aerial Phenomena Investigator, Minto's Eugene Herrera, scans the skies for UFOs

May 18, 2016 1:17am

Tarik Elmerhebe - Macarthur Chronicle Campbelltown

MINTO resident Eugene Herrera has been peering out into the sky regularly over the past three years and the strange phenomena he's witnessed has him convinced something bizarre is out there.

Many nights you'll find the 48-year-old set up at his spot in Eagleview Rd, Minto where he has captured dozens of strange images later uploaded to his YouTube channel "j sparrow".

"I saw my first UAP (unidentified aerial phenomena) in 1986 in Campbelltown when I was 19. It was flying and then suddenly changed direction," he said.

"I left it alone until I saw something similar three years ago and ever since then I've been spotting them all the time."



Eugene Herrera sets up his camera, hoping to capture something interesting. Picture: Robert Pozo

Mr. Herrera gave a talk at the Campbelltown Arts Centre this month, showing footage of what he has captured at an event by the Campbelltown-based UFO & Paranormal Research Society of Australia.

Noticed for his work, he was recently appointed an investigator with Australian Aerial Phenomena Investigations (AAPI).

He also set up the Sydney UFO Hunters Facebook group where almost 500 members share the strange images they have captured.



Picture: Eugene Herrera

Mr. Herrera said he was always a logical thinker and still remains one. He said he felt many people had preconceptions about those with an interest in UFOs and that they couldn't be further from the truth.

"I try to bring some science to it all the time. I'm not saying it's necessarily extraterrestrial life. We don't know. It could be military aircraft that we haven't been told about," he said.

"The one thing I do know, and what my videos show, is there is something we don't know about going on."



Picture: Eugene Herrera

A documentary team from the United States is flying over in late August to meet Mr. Herrera at his spot.

He describes some of the things he has witnessed as “orbs” and “aircraft with unconventional behaviour”.

“Unfortunately, the videos don’t seem to offer answers. The more evidence we collect, the more questions it raises,” he said.

“But I think bringing forward these questions and having a discussion is important.”



Picture: Eugene Herrera

In the past, residents have reported UFO sightings in the skies over several Macarthur region suburbs including Mt Annan, Minto and Elderslie.

In 2009, UFO and Paranormal Research Society of Australia member Lorraine Cilia told the Macarthur Chronicle The Oaks, Cawdor and Razorback were the Macarthur region's "hotbed" of unexplained sightings.



Picture: Eugene Herrera

The society shot a six-part series entirely in the Macarthur region called Eerie Encounters which aired on TVS in 2012.

In 2006, Campbelltown Catholic Club hosted the National UFO Conference where Australian and international experts exchanged ideas and presented evidence on the extraterrestrial.

Boy Remembers His Past As An Extraterrestrial Being & Provides Startling Details

May 16, 2016 by Arjun Walia.



You might not know it, but children remembering their past lives is nothing new. Reincarnation is no doubt a fascinating subject, even within the scientific community. Carl Sagan, American astronomer and astrobiologist, even acknowledged the fact that reincarnation deserves serious study, stating that “children sometimes report details of a previous life, which, upon checking, turn out to be accurate and which they could not have known about in any other way than reincarnation.”

There are some great examples, many of which have been uncovered by University of Virginia psychiatrist Jim Tucker, who is arguably the world’s leading researcher on this topic. In 2008, he published a review of cases that were suggestive of reincarnation in the journal *Explore*.

A typical reincarnation case, described by Jim, includes subjects reporting a past life experience. The interesting thing is that 100 percent of subjects who report past life remembrance are children. The average age when they start remembering their past life is at 35 months, and their descriptions of events and experiences from their past life are often extensive and remarkably detailed. These children

remember things that would be impossible to know about the person they claim that they were. They've been taken to their families, confirmed addresses, professions, and various other details of the lives of the people that they used to be.

We recently published an article of 6 great examples that go into more detail; you can read that article [HERE](#). Again, these are truly astounding, and there would be no other way for these children to know these details.

I personally believe that reincarnation is real, but I don't think it's the only option for what takes place after death. I believe it is one of many possible paths for the soul. I believe some souls can reincarnate, as we've seen above, into another life. I also believe some can reincarnate onto other planets, as beings we would consider to be alien. Furthermore, I believe reincarnation is just one option for a soul. Other possibilities include the option to travel to other dimensions and experience a life there, or to completely forgo reincarnation and experience life in the non-physical realm, free from a physical body. Perhaps a soul must continue to reincarnate until certain lessons are learned to move to another 'level?' Who knows? Perhaps there is an origin from which all souls stem from? So many questions, so many possibilities, and reincarnation could be one of many.

Below is a video of Boriska in an interview conducted by Kerry Cassidy of Project Camelot. If you went through the cases in the link above, this one is very different, as this one involves a previous life on the planet Mars. This is no ordinary boy. His mother states that he began speaking at just four months, and pronouncing full words shortly after. At eight months he was speaking in sentences, and at the age of two he could read. He became a local celebrity for being so intelligent, and when he turned three he could name all of the planets in the Solar System, how many galaxies there were, and a lot more. He knew so much about astronomy that would be impossible for a child of his age.

He also remembers one of his past lives on Mars, where his incarnation apparently took place millions of years ago. In the interview, he made a number of statements such as:

“People from Mars traveled in many galaxies and planetary systems.”

“There were ships of an airplane type. They were triangular. There were ships like a drop.”

He said that these ships used “plasma power, ion power. If they used gasoline the fuel ran out too fast, the engines were too powerful.”

He also talked about teleportation, saying that “portal is the same like teleport. It slows down time and opens a kind of a portal where time is speeding up fast...I can't say exactly. I don't remember. It opens on one side and in a few seconds or even minutes if the transfer is far away it opens another area of space.”

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“Each race had its own technology and innovations. For example, if we had plasma and ion engines others had energy engines.”

He spoke about other people from other planets, planetary cooperation, and wars as well. He also spoke on people that still live on Mars, but who live beneath the surface and inside of the planet. According to him, they breathe CO₂.

The interview is very detailed and if this interests you, you can watch the whole interview below.

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arid and rocky desert of a planet is actually seasonal, not unlike our own planet Earth.

Lujendra Ojha, a planetary scientist at the Georgia Institute of Technology, made the discovery by using images from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

The quotes below are from this press conference if not otherwise sourced.

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Obviously, with the announcement that there is water on Mars, the possibility of life near the surface becomes ever more plausible. The press conference also goes into more details about the atmosphere and condition of Mars, and how the planet could have supported life in the past.

"We are going to Mars, our journey to Mars is a science led expedition right now, but soon I hope we'll be sending humans to the red planet to explore and science will lead the way. And today's announcement of a really fascinating result about current water on Mars is one of the reasons why I feel it's even more imperative that we send astrobiologists and planetary scientists to Mars to explore the question of, 'Is there current life on Mars?'"
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Here is an interesting quote, given that Boriska said even today, people are living underneath the planet.

"The possibility of life in the interior of Mars has always been very high. There's certainly water somewhere in the crust of Mars ... It's very likely, I think, that there is life somewhere in the crust of Mars." – Alfred McEwen, Principal Investigator, HiRISE, University of Arizona

Below are some more interesting quotes, because the boy also said that the planet went through some massive climate shifts.

“The more we observe Mars, the more information we’re getting that it really is a fascinating planet, from the Curiosity Rover we now know that Mars once was like a planet very much like Earth, with long salty seas, with fresh water lakes, probably with snowcapped peaks and clouds and a water cycle just like we’re studying here on Earth... Something has happened to Mars, it lost its water.”– John Grunsfeld, five time space flown astronaut, Associate Administrator Head of NASA Science Mission Directorate

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“Mars is the planet most like Earth ... [and in the past,] Mars was a very different planet, it had an extensive atmosphere, and in fact it had what we believe was a huge ocean, perhaps as large as two thirds the Northern Hemisphere. And that ocean may have been as much as a mile deep. So Mars indeed three billion years ago had extensive water resources. But something happened. Mars suffered a major climate change and lost its surface water.” – James Green, NASA director of planetary physics

These scientists emphasized the fact that something happened to cause major climate change. In the interview above, the boy also speaks to that.

According to Dr. John Brandenburg, PhD, and plasma physicist, life on Mars was eradicated by nuclear war. He believes that a couple of intelligent civilizations from ancient history were responsible for this, and in his published works, argues that the coloration and composition of Martian soil points to a series of “mixed-fission explosions” that led to nuclear fallout on the planet.

Like the astronauts quoted above, Brandenburg is no crackpot. He was involved in the Clementine Mission to the Moon, which was part of a joint space project between the Ballistic Missile Defence Organization (BMDO) and NASA. The mission discovered water at the Moon’s poles in 1994. He was the deputy manager of that mission.

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Bright UFO described by rural Indiana witness

Posted by: Roger Marsh May 5, 2016

An Indiana witness at New Pekin reported watching "a large ship" over his country property that emitted bright lights, according to testimony in Case 75938 from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) witness reporting database.

The witness was outside observing the sky at 11:26 p.m. on April 18, 2016, when the object was first seen.

"Out of nowhere an appearance of a large craft appeared at the south of my woods," the witness stated, "and I only observed the back of the craft. It initiated

lights on very bright on the back of the craft and initiated forward lights on both sides, but they did not light up the ground or woods below, just brightness on the craft and then from right to left red light back and forth.”



The witness said the craft appeared out of nowhere on April 18, 2016.

Pictured: New Pekin, Indiana. (Credit: Google)

The witness described the lights.

“The lights were white with a tinge of yellow. The craft was heading south toward the knobs, and then blipped out and was gone. I want to point out that the lights were very bright and it made it hard to adjust my vision to see the rest of the craft. The length of the rear end of the craft of what I could see was in the measurement of 90 to 100 feet across.”

Indiana MUFON Chief Investigator Philip Leech investigated and closed this case as an Unknown.

“The object was described as 90 to 100 feet across the rear of the craft, lights were white/yellow/red, no sound, no emission,” Leech wrote in his report. “Light coming from object was extremely bright, making it hard for the witness to observe the shape and exact size of the craft.”

Leech asked the witness to use other cases for lighting comparison.



The lights on the craft were very bright and it was hard to see the exact size and shape. Pictured: New Pekin, Indiana. (Credit: Google)

“My observation last night was the lights were stationary on the craft, but similar in brightness, on the sides, but the lights on the back were somewhat brighter, which for them worked out that an individual on the ground observing, the brightness would block their vision and that was done,” the witness stated.

Leech wrote that the witness stated that the object was there one minute and gone the next, best described as if the craft went through another dimension quickly.

“This area has had numerous different types of events, with the witness stating it was somewhat of a ‘UFO hot spot.’ The following day the witness made contact with a couple of neighbors and asked if they had observed anything. Both stated that they had retired for the evening and didn’t see or hear anything. The witness did return to the event area to get a better measurement of the size of the rear of the craft, stating it was between 80-100 feet across the rear of the craft. The object was 500 feet to one mile away from the witness.”

Weather Conditions: Temp. 45 degree, Dew 44%, humidity 50%, Precip. 0, Wind 1 M.P.H. West, Wind gust 12 M.P.H., Visibility clear skies 10 mile unlimited ceiling, Barometer 30.2



The witness believes the area might be a hotbed of UFO activity.

Pictured: New Pekin, Indiana. (Credit: Google)

Leech closed out the case.

“Witness is credible. Description of the object with the light pattern described by the witness does not conform with any known commercial or publicly known military aircraft. This object appeared, with no sound, no emission, hovering, and then disappearing quickly as if it jumped into a different time. Object was only visible to the witness for approximately 40 seconds. The object was under one mile away from the witness which would have let the witness identify a known aircraft or natural occurrence.”

Leech references MUFON Case 74282 with witness testimony where the lighting configuration and description of brightness is similar.

New Pekin is a town in Pierce and Polk townships, Washington County, Indiana, population 1,401. Please remember that most UFO sightings can be explained as something natural or man-made. The above quotes were edited for clarity. Please report UFO activity to MUFON.com.

Conspiracy Theorists Suggest Super volcano Eruption Is near as Alien Activity Increases

Posted on May 19, 2016 by LUFOS



UFO believers raised alarm after an increase in number of mysterious activities involving UFOs near the Yellowstone Super volcano at Wyoming National Park. They predicted that a major eruption of it will soon to happen as aliens are preparing for it.

Kat Martin2016 uploaded a video to YouTube on April 28, Thursday that seemed to show a UFO for a few minutes as it passed in front of a live cam at the Elk Refuge near Yellowstone.

According to the uploader, she noticed a mysterious light at live cams travelling over the Elk Refuge in the middle of the night. Kat Martin2016 thought that it might have been the headlights of a vehicle near the area that caused a reflection. However, she gave a hint in the description that one might think it was alien, and the reflection was a small spaceship.

Some members of the UFO community who saw the footage suggested that the light might also be an alien UFO drone performing surveillance flight over Yellowstone for the volcano's activity.

According to them, UFOs are common on live wildlife cams, so Kat Martin2016 was wrong in her assumption that it was just a light reflection.

Some observers spotted shadows on the side of the alleged object in the latest sighting at Yellowstone National Park, so they argued it was a three-dimensional object, and not a reflection.

Another speculation about the sighting is that aliens are monitoring the Yellowstone Super volcano because they are worried about its impending eruption.

Active volcanoes are considered UFO hotspots because, according to conspiracy theorists, aliens often build bases beneath as it is inaccessible to humans.

Did first humans to reach the moon see an alien spaceship? Recently discovered

Apollo 8 image appears to show mysterious object on lunar surface

- A film clip from the famous NASA mission shows a large triangular object
- Shape looks three-dimensional, prompting speculation it could be a UFO
- Apollo 8 took off from Florida in 1968 and reached moon on Christmas Eve

By Rory Tingle for MailOnline

Published: 09:40 EST, 8 May 2016 | Updated: 04:18 EST, 9 May 2016

Apollo 8 is famous for being the first time humans travelled to the moon - but the astronauts might not have been alone in space, if this image is to be believed.

Found at the end of a reel of film taken during the mission in December 1968, it appears to show a large triangular object sitting on, or above, the lunar surface.

The shape is three-dimensional, and seems to be creating its own shadow, prompting speculation that it could be a UFO.



Apollo 8 is famous for being the first time humans travelled to the moon - but the astronauts might not have been alone in outer space, if this image is to be believed

The black and white image, shot on a 70mm camera, was the only part of the surviving sequence of film from the mission that includes the object.

It came to light after an unnamed source sent it Tyler Glockner, who runs the SecureTeam YouTube channel, which reports on UFO sightings.

Florida man says he and daughter saw UFO

11:53 a.m. Thursday, May 19, 2016 | Filed in: News

Is extraterrestrial life coming into Florida or is the government watching us? Both are possibilities after a Florida man noticed a weird aircraft in the sky near his home.

The witness, who lives in Merritt Island, told The Inquisitr that his daughter noticed a black, aerial triangle hovering above his home around 4 p.m. on Feb. 10, 2015, which is believed to either be a UFO or government surveillance aircraft. The witness said he reported the incident to MUFON, or Mutual UFO Network, last month.

“My four kids were riding their bicycles. One of my daughters, age 7, rode her bike up to me,” the witness told The Inquisitr. He said she then asked what the black speck in the sky was. When he looked, he first thought it was a helicopter, but his daughter pointed out the object again and said it was “a triangular object with rounded edges and black color.”



File Photo of a UFO – Credit: Creative Commons

According to the witness, each edge had a white light with what he believed was a thruster in the middle and a traveling pattern that included hovering in a straight

line while rotating slowly. The witness told The Inquisitr that he had his daughter watch the device while he went to fetch his binoculars and got a better look at the craft, which he said had “no markings, numbers, or letters on it.”

The witness said the device began to rotate faster and then disappeared, saying the whole experience was “dreamlike.” “I would say that it had to be approximately 8 feet high and 40 to 50 feet wide,” he said. “And maybe even the size of a two- or three-bedroom home. My daughter and I saw this object for approximately two minutes.”

It isn't so shocking that someone in Florida allegedly saw a UFO; the state was second in the country in sightings last year.

UFOs have been in the news lately with reports on them by the CIA being released earlier this year and a set of tweets by astronaut Scott Kelly sending fanatics into a frenzy.

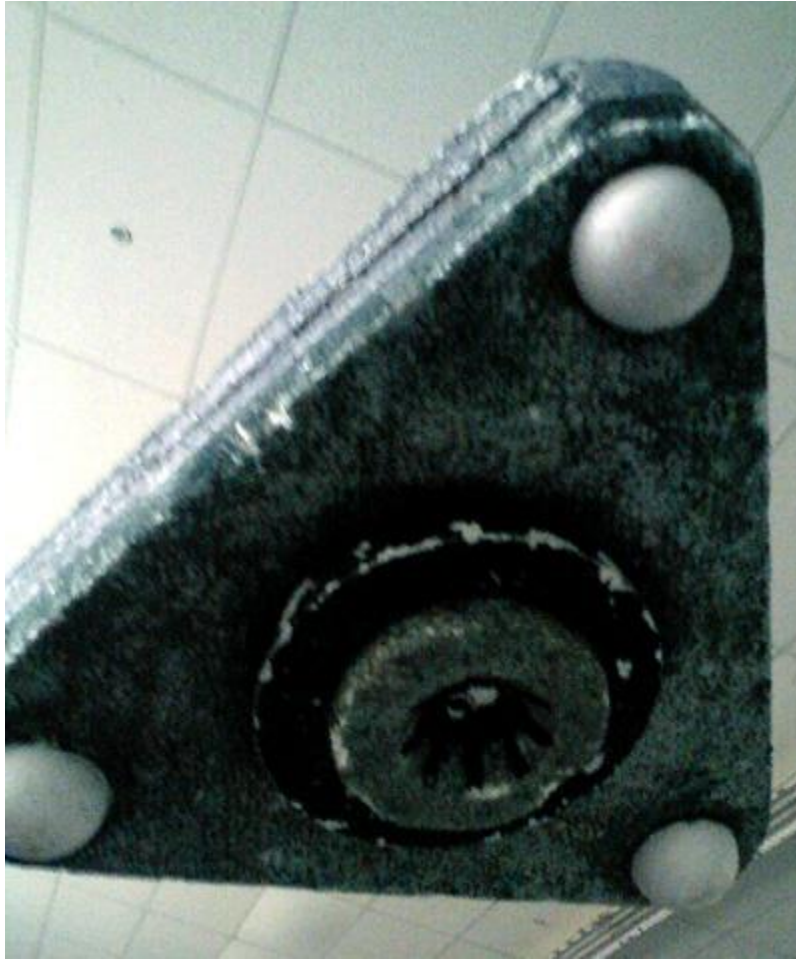
Florida witness creates model of Triangle UFO

Posted by: Roger Marsh May 16, 2016



A Florida witness at Merritt Island reported watching a triangle UFO with rounded edges that moved and hovered as he and his children watched, according to testimony in Case 75839 from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) witness reporting database.

The witness felt compelled to create a model of the object after the 4 p.m. sighting on February 10, 2015. The case was reported to MUFON on April 15, 2016, and was investigated by Florida MUFON Chief Investigator John A. Gagnon and Field Investigator Diane Law, and closed as an Unknown.



Witness model of the UFO reported. (Credit: MUFON)

“It was an overcast and cloudy day with a chance of showers,” the witness stated, “My four kids just got home from school and they were riding their bicycles as I was watching them and doing yard work. I stopped yard work, facing north, to watch the kids and one of my daughters, age 7, rode her bike up to me, stopped and asked me, ‘What’s that?’”

The witness said he looked westward and saw a black dot, just below the clouds heading eastward, and told her; ‘It’s a helicopter,’”

But as the witness went back to yard work, His daughter yelled out; ‘It’s a flying car!’”



Witness model of the UFO reported. (Credit: MUFON)

He finally asked her where the object was, and she pointed up.

“As I looked and saw this object get closer, I could see that it wasn’t a helicopter! The object looked black in color, with wear, like it did a lot of traveling, and was rectangular in shape with rounded edges. There was a light, white in color, at each corner of the triangle, with what looked like a thruster in the center. It was traveling in a straight line, as it was slowly rotating, and didn’t make a sound.”

The witness told his daughter to keep her eyes on it while he retrieved binoculars from his truck on the driveway.

“As I looked through the binoculars, I could see that it had no numbers or letters on it and this was not a helicopter nor a plane. We do live near a very small airport with Cessnas flying in and out all the time.

“But it wasn’t a good day to fly due to the weather. And this object wasn’t a drone either. It didn’t have any propellers and it was flying too high. It flew eastward and

suddenly changed direction and went back the other way! It flew then, westward, slowly rotating and then stopped, mid-point to where we first saw it. By then, I could see that it had a dome on top, as it had a smaller white light on top of it, too.”

The object hovered for a few seconds, while still rotating slowly, and then started spinning faster, just below the cloud line.

“As I looked at it, it started to look more like a saucer, as it was spinning. And then, there was like a flash, and the object shot straight up into the clouds!”



Witness model of the UFO reported. (Credit: MUFON)

The witness said he felt like he was in a dream while looking at this object.

“From the distance and the height of this object, I would say that it had to be approximately 8 feet high and 40 to 50 feet wide. And maybe even the size of a two or three-bedroom home. My daughter and I saw this object for approximately two minutes. I made a model of it, out of [®]Styrofoam, because I got a very good look at this object through my binoculars.”

“There have been a number of triangle sightings along the Space Coast for years,” Gagnon and Law wrote in their report, “The number of sightings seems to have

increased recently. Not sure if they're related to Patrick Air Force Base or maybe even Cape Canaveral. I believe the witnesses saw exactly what they claimed they saw – a triangle object moving slowly over their town, then spinning slowly. It then started spinning faster until it looked like a saucer. At that point there was a flash and the object shot straight up into the clouds and disappeared. This will have to show a case disposition of Unknown UAV.”



Aerial view of Merritt Island. (Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Merritt Island is in Brevard County, FL, population 34,743. Please remember that most UFO sightings can be explained as something natural or man-made. The above quotes were edited for clarity. Please report UFO activity to MUFON.com.

Move over, Roswell. Dulce is home to true UFO believers

Posted: Saturday, May 7, 2016 11:30 pm | Updated: 9:46 am, Mon May 9, 2016.

By Daniel J. Chacón - The New Mexican

DULCE — Something strange is happening in this tiny town on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in the far reaches of Northern New Mexico.

Residents claim they're seeing — even photographing — flying saucers and other unidentified flying objects over the community of about 2,600 people, many of whom also share stories of low-flying military helicopters and fast-moving lights darting back and forth in the sky.

One resident even claims to have tracked Bigfoot.

But it's the unexplained activity in the sky — and possibly underneath a neighboring mountain — that has captivated this community, the capital of the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Everyone knows about New Mexico's decades-long connection with UFOs, starting with the reported crash landing of an unidentified flying object on a ranch near Roswell in 1947.

Since then, New Mexicans have reported hundreds of sightings and encounters with UFOs. Roswell has built an industry around its fabled alien visitors with a museum and annual festival devoted to them.

But if Roswell is the capital of New Mexico's fascination with the unexplained, Dulce is the town of true believers.

“The whole town of Dulce, whoever you want to talk to, they’ll tell you what they’ve seen — a lot of them,” said 78-year-old Geraldine Julian, who claims to have seen multiple UFOs and other strange activity starting in the 1960s.

“It’s not just a fairy tale,” Julian insisted. “All the things are true, and I believe every last one of them, too, because I’ve seen it myself.”

Julian swears she saw “a big spaceship” hovering above her property just outside of town.

“The bottom part was flat ... but on top there was a dome,” she said while resting near a blocked-off bridge where the alleged UFO flew over. “There was movement inside.”

Talk of UFOs and other unexplained activity in and around this isolated community just south of the Colorado border is not new.

Legend has it that Dulce is ground zero for space aliens who are working in concert with the government in a not-so-secret facility underneath Archuleta Mesa, a steep, flat-topped mountain overlooking the town.

“In 1979, businessman Paul Bennewitz was convinced he was picking up electronic communications from alien spacecraft, and after further investigations, he claims he discovered a secret underground base near the town of Dulce where these signals were coming from,” according to the Top5s, a YouTube channel that ranked the Dulce Base the second most mysterious and highly forbidden place on the planet.

“His results excited the UFO community and by 1990, well-known ufologist John Lear also claims he had proof the base existed, and the theories have been going on ever since,” according to the report, which has received more than 1.5 million views on YouTube.

The so-called Dulce Base, which was featured on the History Channel’s UFO Hunters television show, purportedly contains multiple levels, including areas for

genetic and mind-control experiments and cryogenics storage. As the story goes, the Dulce Base serves as the hub of an underground transportation system linked to other alien bases, including one in Taos.

“I’m not a believer,” said one of the cooks at the Players Sports Bar & Grill a local gathering spot that sells a “Sasquatch Burger,” an enormous hamburger with 2 pounds of beef, six strips of bacon and four slices of cheese between bread in the shape of a big foot. Near the entrance of the bar is a poster with two green space aliens, one dressed as a cowboy and the other as an Indian with a headdress, and the words, “Where the locals hang out!”

Move over, Roswell. Dulce is home to true UFO believers

The Wild Horse Casino next door also is trying to capitalize on the alleged space alien activity. Among the T-shirts for sale in the casino’s gift shop is one featuring a green alien with big, blue eyes over the caption, “I got probed at Dulce Base.”

Chelse Anderson, 27, who works at the casino, said the hotel attracts visitors who are specifically in search of UFOs.

“They prefer rooms with a view of the mountain, that way they can see it,” she said. “We have some [guests] that wander around the building at night.”

The casino hotel is already booked for next weekend in anticipation of the Dulce Base UFO Conference, which a local nonprofit is hosting as a fundraiser. The nonprofit, Apache Indigenous Defenders Inc., is raising money to support organizations that work to keep local Native traditions alive.

Move over, Roswell. Dulce is home to true UFO believers

In an area with little economic activity, the president of the Jicarilla Apache Legislative Council has embraced the notion of a Dulce Base, partly in a push to stimulate tourism in a largely forgotten pocket of the state.

“We are a proud nation who remain steadfast to our way of life as Jicarilla Apaches,” council President Ty Vicenti wrote in a welcome message posted on the conference website.

“Our people have been blessed with an outstanding first of the year, as snow has given us hope for a prosperous 2016,” he wrote. “Please take the time to visit our many tribal businesses, enjoy a meal from local vendors located on Commercial Street, visit the Arts and Crafts Department and talk to the many tribal members who have firsthand contact with UFO sightings and stories.”

Dulce, which became the headquarters of the Jicarilla Apache Nation in 1887, is perhaps best known among Northern New Mexicans as the location of the annual Little Beaver Roundup Rodeo.

The former logging town has no traffic lights or Starbucks or McDonald’s. Rather, there are a handful of convenience stores and small mom-and-pop restaurants on either side of N.M. 64. One of the main economic drivers is the casino, which, unlike other Indian casinos in New Mexico, closes at night.

Anderson, a Dulce native, said she’s never seen an unidentified flying object but hopes she will one day.

“Numerous people have seen stuff,” she said. “I believe there’s something there.” She’s not alone.

In fact, one Dulce resident believes he captured UFOs on his camera.

“I took this picture about 3 o’clock in the morning,” a man who works in the tribal government’s Public Safety Division said Wednesday while displaying a grainy photo on his phone that shows several balls of light suspended in the air.

The man, who declined to give his name for fear of losing his job, also has two photos taken in broad daylight that appear to show one and then two UFOs floating in the clouds. The man declined to share his photos.

“The way the government is, the way things are, I don’t want [it] to come back on me,” he said. “Plus, I’m [a public safety employee]. I’m not even supposed to be talking about this because of my job.”

A former New Mexico State Police trooper, the late Gabe Valdez, documented unexplained cattle mutilations in the area in the mid-1970s, boosting speculation of alien activity.

But the evidence left behind didn't come from outer space, Valdez said in different interviews.

"The evidence that was left there, you know, predators don't leave gas masks, glow sticks, radar chaff. They don't leave that stuff. They don't have vitamin B-12," Valdez said in a radio interview.

In an interview with the History Channel's UFO Hunters, Valdez said the most anomalous evidence he came across while investigating cattle mutilations happened about 40 miles east of Dulce.

"We could tell where the aircraft came through," Valdez said. "They didn't do the whole process, and they left a fetus inside the animal."

"A fetus? A cow fetus," UFO researcher Pat Uskert asked Valdez.

"No," Valdez replied. "It looked like a human, a monkey and a frog. It didn't have any bones in the head. It was all full of water."

When asked if he was implying that the cow was being used as an "incubation chamber for a cloned creature," Valdez said that's "exactly" what he was saying.

In an interview with Open Minds Radio, Valdez said he found listening devices in his home after investigating the cattle mutilations. He also claimed to have seen "sophisticated aircraft," including an orb that looked like a hot air balloon.

"People have seen the helicopters. They're black and silent," Valdez said in the radio interview.

Tim Anderson, who is Navajo and married to an Apache, said stories of black helicopters and bright lights over Archuleta Mesa are commonplace in Dulce. He describes the town as the Roswell of Northern New Mexico.

“I don’t know what it is,” he said. “I can’t explain it.”

Anderson is more interested in what’s on the ground than in the air.

Specifically, he’s tracking Bigfoot.

“I do believe there is a mystical creature out there that nobody knows about,” said Anderson, who claims to have found two separate Bigfoot footprints that he made into casts.

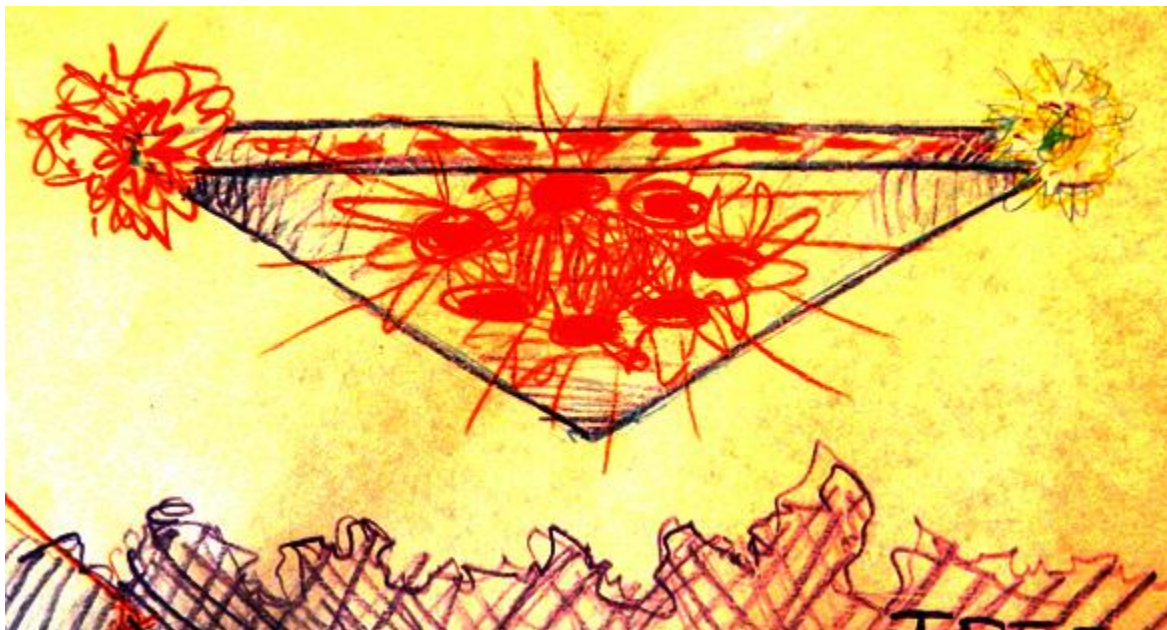
“I believe there is something out there,” he said. “One of these days, somebody will find something.”

Anderson, who was a police officer in Dulce for 14 years, said he saw a UFO in a canyon near Archuleta Mesa while working in the late 1990s.

“It lit up the whole valley and just disappeared into the rocks,” he said. “I just rubbed my eyes. ‘Did I really see that?’ ”

Ohio witness considers UFO wanted to be seen

Posted by: Roger Marsh May 10, 2016



Witness illustration. (Credit: MUFON)

An Ohio witness east of Westerville reported a close encounter with a triangle UFO after getting a psychic impression to go outside, according to testimony in Case 76141 from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) witness reporting database.

The incident occurred at 10:05 p.m., on September 14, 2015, and was reported to MUFON on May 1, 2016.



Witness illustration. (Credit: MUFON)

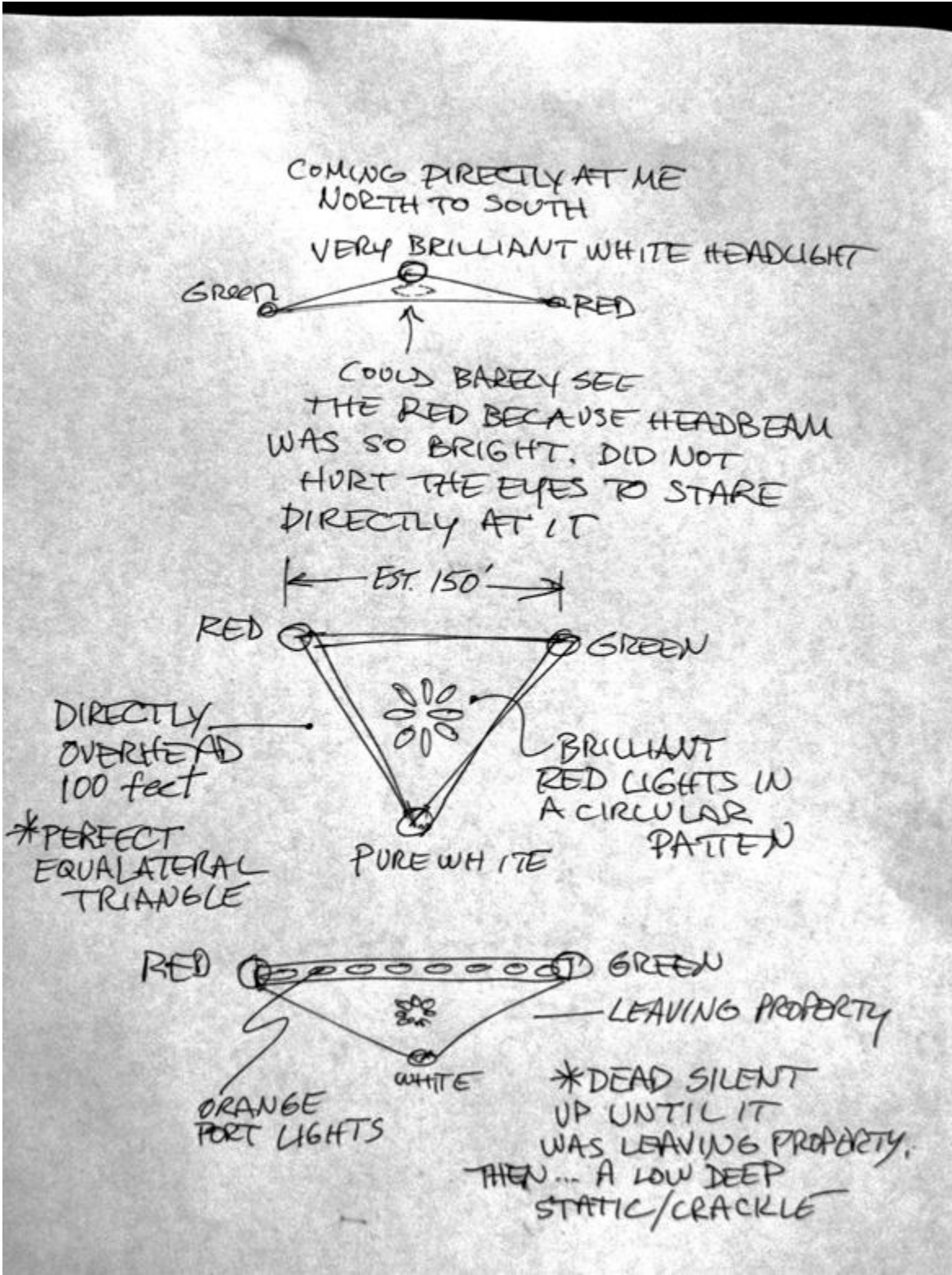
“I observed the same bright light approaching from the north that I had seen just a few nights prior and I had no camera with me,” the witness stated. “The craft entered my frame of vision from the west skimming the tree tops, turned 90 degrees on a dime, and the craft was moving directly at me.”

The witness described the craft’s lighting.

“The navigational lights were that of a jet, but the headlight was 10 times brighter than a typical jet headlight. I had just taken my camera in from my night of sky gazing, took the dog out, took her back in, and started to lock up the door for the night when I got a ‘psychic’ message to return outside and to stand by a particular tree, which I did. Very strange.”

But the idea to go outside to this particular location quickly paid off.

“Sure as the devil, that’s when I spotted the craft approaching from the west and just north of me. I backed away from the tree and boldly stood as the craft centered directly between my eyes and came overhead at an estimated 15 – 20 mph. or less.”



Witness illustration. (Credit: MUFON)

The craft was also very well lit.

“It presented what appeared to be a full display of lights, including a ring of brilliant, red, individual lights, dead center in the belly of the craft. It was lit like ‘Times Square’ and utterly silent. Another triangle, but this time, just over my head. This time, left light red and right, green; different from prior, higher slightly, higher altitude sightings of two triangles together, with red and white lights only, from days earlier. The head-beam was brighter than the moon and cast for a couple miles forward, at least, and came over at an estimated 100 feet – 125 feet at best. It was very low and slow.”

The object was also moving very slow.

“I know I said 15 – 20 mph. but in reality it may have been moving at 5 mph. for all I know. I was hypnotized by the green light and a feeling of peace and love that came over me. Again, very strange.”

The witness was amazed at the sighting.

“Whoever or whatever they are, allowed me to see the entire craft. I was in absolute awe. And I wasn’t the least bit frightened. I know the light mesmerized me as I stood smiling at the craft approaching me. If it were any lower, I could have hit it with a rock. As it passed overhead, I was dead center with the brilliant, red belly lights. If they wanted to abduct me, they could have. As it was about to exit our property, the only sound it made was a low crackling sound. The back edge was trimmed with yellow-orange oblong ports. I got a great look at the craft, but missed a sensational photo op. This struck me as a total anti-gravity craft, as the giant equilateral triangle barely moved through the air, with no wind or air disturbance being generated whatsoever.”



Roadway just east of Westerville, Ohio. (Credit: Google)

Ohio MUFON Chief Investigator Ron McGlone is investigating. Westerville is a city in Delaware and Franklin counties Ohio, population 36,120. Please remember that most UFO sightings can be explained as something natural or man-made. The above quotes were edited for clarity. Please report UFO activity to MUFON.com.



Portuguese pilot reports UFO from ground level

Posted by: Roger Marsh May 17, 2016

A Portuguese witness at Faro who is a pilot reported a cross-shaped UFO crossing the sky, according to Case 74679 from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) witness reporting database.

The witness was outside near his home at 3 p.m. on September 13, 2015, when the incident occurred.

“The Algarve, Portugal, sighting was a clear UFO,” the witness stated. “I am using aviation phrases to describe conditions. I am flying for more than 15 years.”



A view of the skyline of the Algarvian capital of Faro. (Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

The witness described the object.

“No noise, no directional change, straight line path flying over the coastline on approximately track 270 magnetic course. The sun at the day in early September was shining bright conditions CAVOK. From the side where the sun lighted the object it was white and had a shape like a Katana micro plane – the school two-seater, but was built up in two levels. On the backside there raged out a hockey stick-like aileron which was not moving.”

The witness reviewed the object’s position and ground speed.

“The object was flying direction west parallel to the eastwards right-hand upwind of FAO airport (the usual commercial outbound) routing. This means against the

direction of commercial traffic and a bit above the route. The object was moving with approximately 250 KTS steadily.”



A boat stranded on the coast of Ria Formosa in Faro. (Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

The witness tried to keep the object in sight as it moved.

“As I ran behind the next building to follow it up, it was out of my sight at approximately 60 degrees angle from the horizon directly over the city center of Quarteira, Portugal, direction Albufeira.”

The witness is certain the object was nothing he has ever seen.

“Conclusion: We have a small house in the area which I have been visiting since 25 years. In this time there I have never witnessed such an object flying in the area. Also there was sure no educated pilot in charge, because flying an object in a departure area of an international airport would be suicidal.”

Monique Lessan for MUFON International investigated and closed this case as an Unknown. The case was reported to MUFON on February 23, 2016.

“The ceiling and visibility was okay,” Lessan wrote in her report. “This means that in a range of 10 nautical miles around the spot there wasn’t any clouds or cloud ceiling up to 10,000 feet/ground. According to the witness, the object came from the east and headed straight towards the west in steady altitude. No position lights, no noise, no glow— nothing. The witness stated that as it passed over the building to the left of the umbrella, he was running around the house, to follow it up, but he couldn’t find the object anymore in the sky. The witness was stunned! The witness said that the object was flying either really high or it wasn’t so large, but he could clearly see it with his eyes. If he wasn’t watching the sky or if his eyes were not good, he wouldn’t have accidentally seen the object. The witness also thought if it was the ISS, a Satellite or similar, but those kind of objects, you wouldn’t be able to see it in such bright daylight with naked eyes.”



A view along the narrow streets of the old quarter. (Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

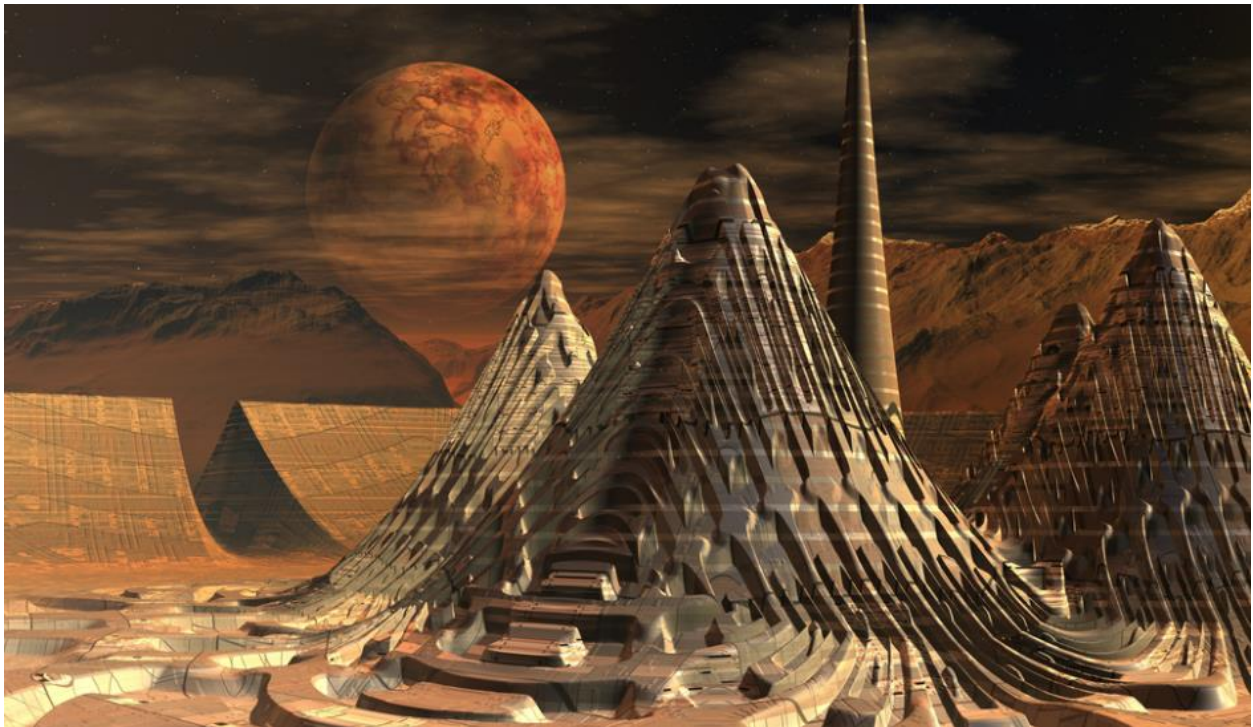
The investigator concluded the case.

“The witness appears to be professional and reliable. Having been a long time pilot – over 15 years – he is very specific with his calculation and conclusions. After my investigation I came to conclude the disposition of UAV.”

Faro is a municipality, southernmost city and seat of the district of the same name, in the Algarve region of southern Portugal, population 64,560.

Ten Billion Alien Civilizations Have Existed In The Universe, Study Estimates

May 7, 2016 by Norman Byrd



[Image via Shutterstock]

A new study suggests there have been at least 10 billion alien civilizations in the universe since the Big Bang, that Earth's human beings are not the only intelligent life form to have arisen in the universe. For those who are particularly hopeful that alien civilizations exist, the study lends encouragement that the ongoing search for

extraterrestrial life — and, by extension, for the even more difficult find, intelligent alien life — just might one day yield positive results. But, as with most aspects cosmological, the findings are relative...

Space.com reported May 5 that scientists have mathematically calculated two major probabilities: 1) It is extremely unlikely that Earth is the first habitable world to have developed a technological civilization and 2) there have been at least 10 billion alien civilizations that have existed over time within our universe. The study, authored by the University of Rochester in New York's Adam Frank and the University of Washington's Woodruff Sullivan, not only suggests that humans are not alone but that it is highly unlikely, at least when viewed through a mathematical probability lens, that the universe may be and has been teeming with life.

In fact, according to the study, there is a one in 10 billion trillion chance that humanity is the first technologically advanced species to arise in all the universe. Frank, a professor of physics and astronomy and the study's lead author, noted in a statement that the implication is that "other intelligent, technology-producing species very likely have evolved before us."

"Think of it this way: Before our result, you'd be considered a pessimist if you imagined the probability of evolving a civilization on a habitable planet was, say, one in a trillion. But even that guess — one chance in a trillion — implies that what has happened here on Earth with humanity has in fact happened about 10 billion other times over cosmic history." The number of possible alien civilizations — 10 billion — suggests that humanity has had plenty of company — but only relatively speaking. That immense number is somewhat misleading when it comes to actually searching and finding alien civilizations, given that the universe is an estimated 13.8 billion years old, is filled with an estimated 100 billion galaxies, and even the closest stellar body to Earth is more than four light years away.

Finding alien life, at least mathematically, should be an exponentially easier task, even if the parameters of said living organisms only exist as humans are able to perceive it. Alien civilizations, the outgrowth of alien life progressing to produce and manipulate technologies, would be far less likely.

In fact, Frank and Sullivan admit that, when considering the vast amount of space and the billions of years that have passed since the Big Bang, it could very well be that Earth just might be home to the only extant technological species. And even if humanity is not alone in the universe at present and there are younger or older alien civilizations currently in existence, there is no guarantee that those civilizations are anywhere near advanced enough to discover and/or contact anytime soon — given Earth's present technological state.

Frank also noted in the statement that “it is astonishingly likely that we are not the only time and place that an advanced civilization has evolved.” Sullivan concurred, stating pointedly that the universe is more than 13 billion years old.

“That means that even if there have been 1,000 civilizations in our own galaxy, if they live only as long as we have been around — roughly 10,000 years — then all of them are likely already extinct. And others won't evolve until we are long gone. For us to have much chance of success in finding another 'contemporary' active technological civilization, on average they must last much longer than our present lifetime.”

Space.com parenthetically highlighted the fact that Sullivan's reference to humanity's 10,000 years of civilized existence is qualified by the fact that humans have only been capable sending radio waves and other electromagnetic signals for barely more than a century. The implication is that humanity has had just a few years — again, relatively speaking — to transmit and receive signals to and from the universe, an extremely narrow window through which to detect — or possibly be detected by — alien civilizations that might exist.

Frank and Sullivan used a modification of the old standard, the Drake Equation, to reach their conclusions. Astrophysicist Frank Drake himself told Space.com in a 2015 interview that via his equation, “one in every 10 million stars will have a detectable signal” that might suggest the presence of an alien civilization and that astronomers would likely need to study at least a million stars, each one for days, to actually detect alien life.

The scientists also used current astronomical observation data from instruments like the Kepler Space Telescope that suggests that about 20 percent of all stars play host to planets that orbit in the “habitable zone,” narrowing the output to worlds where liquid water is present.

The study was published in the journal *Astrobiology*. According to Adam Frank, the findings are the first time there has ever been an empirical answer provided for the question of whether or not alien civilizations have ever developed prior to civilization developing on Earth.

UFO Discovered In Medieval Wall Painting: Is This A Depiction of Alien Existence?

Posted on May 18, 2016 by LUFOS



UFO stands for Unidentified Flying Object. While it refers to any object hovering in the sky, people cannot easily identify it. It traditionally refers to alien vessel. Throughout history, UFOs have been reported to meteor sightings and comet. Many teams have set out to find conclusive evidence of alien life since all human sightings are highly controversial. According to the experts, there was not enough data to determine its origin. For every sighting, scientists have provided numerous explanations. Astronomical objects, like the planets, bright stars, and the moon have been confused for extraterrestrial vessels. People commonly mistake weather balloons and airplanes for aliens. Everyday objects have been confused for aliens, including birds, kites, and clouds. The argument still rages over UFOs and have never settled. So, now do you believe in aliens?

A certain tourist visiting the Medieval Citadel church in Transylvania has left puzzled by the mysterious object in a 400-year-old masterpiece. Does this medieval wall painting portray a flying saucer in Romanian church? The painting appeared during the 17th century at the church, located in the core of the Medieval Citadel. This place has burnt down twice since it was built. The art adorns the 13th-century monetary wall. However, manager Nicolae Tescula thinks that the strange unidentified object could be the perspective of the artist in connection with heaven's representation. According to Tescula, the image portrays a less representative or a secondary role, and the church is Evangelical. He believes that Elijah's presumption to Heaven can lead to a modern representation that people might think it is a UFO. He added that many people believe it is an alien, but in fact, it is an artist's vision.

According to Romania Insider, the interior decoration of the church includes some other artworks to prevent this from happening. According to the witness, before the object was lost, it moved for three to four minutes.

What I Learned by Watching Every 'Star Trek' Show and Movie

By Marshall Honorof, Space.com Contributor | May 17, 2016 12:01pm ET



The writer finds that when it comes to marathoning "Star Trek," resistance is futile.

Credit: Jeremy Lips / Tom's Guide

Back in 2012, after a difficult year at an unsatisfying job that ended with a disagreeable departure, my life was in rough shape. Freelancing was barely making ends meet. Sending out hundreds of applications was wearing me down. To add insult to injury, most nights, I simply couldn't sleep.

After a fruitless midnight circumnavigation of my entire neighborhood, I flopped down on the couch, still feeling restless and miserable. So I turned on Netflix and

found "Star Trek: Enterprise" first in my list of recommendations. (Read how to binge watch all 726 "Star Trek" episodes and 12 movies in this piece from Tom's Guide, our sister site.)

I've always been a moderate "Star Trek" fan. Even though my first exposure to the franchise was the decidedly mediocre "Insurrection," something about the mix of sci-fi action and mildly thoughtful philosophy made a powerful impression in my 11-year-old brain. From then on, my dad and I would gather in the living room every night after dinner to watch reruns of the original series. He explained what was happening in the world at the time each episode aired, and suddenly, I knew what "allegory" and "parable" meant. [How 'Star Trek' Technology Works (Infographic)]

Something about the show's optimistic message stuck with me. Technology can improve our lives. We can conquer our deeply held prejudices. There is other life out there, and it is willing to cooperate with us. And, importantly, no matter how far we come as a society, there will always be room for adventurers.

There's something uplifting about "Star Trek," even when you're at your lowest, so I turned it on and figured I would watch until I could fall asleep. The next night, I watched another episode, and sleep came a little easier. And so on and so forth, until I had completed "Enterprise," and procured a new job.

But why stop there, I thought? I was onto something, and something good. What if I kept going and watched every single episode and movie of "Star Trek" ever made? I turned on the original series, and the rest is history.

Three and a half years after I started the process, I finished it. Though I can't recommend it for everyone, people who have watched some "Star Trek" and enjoyed it should at least sit down and watch one of the five series start to finish.

What's the best thing about "Star Trek"?

While the answer to this question varies from person to person, to me, "Star Trek" succeeds because it combines everything that's entertaining into a single franchise. There are gunfights, fistfights and ship-to-ship combat for action aficionados. Most episodes feature allegorical stories that pose difficult questions about our everyday society, addressing issues such as racism, homophobia, civil liberties, religion, personhood and the rules of war.

Each series features an appealing mix of characters who play off of the others' foibles, like Mr. Spock's logic confounding Dr. McCoy's sense of wonder, or Constable Odo's hard-nosed investigations foiling Quark's get-rich-quick schemes.

Lots of sci-fi shows and movies include these factors, but few of them have the breadth and scope necessary to include all of them at once. I can laugh at a deluge of fuzzy tribbles burying Captain Kirk, or despair at Major Kira confronting a war criminal. I can think about how Captain Picard's questionable past shaped the man he is, or root for Captain Archer as he goes head-to-head with a Klingon battleship. There is no "one best" thing about "Star Trek," save for its variety. [USS Enterprise Evolution in Photos]

Here are my favorite episodes of each "Star Trek" series:

Star Trek: "A Taste of Armageddon" (Season 1)

The Animated Series: "How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth" (Season 2)

The Next Generation: "Tapestry" (Season 6)

Deep Space Nine: "Duet" (Season 1)

Voyager: "Year of Hell" (Season 4)

Enterprise: "Cogenitor" (Season 2)

Best Movies? "The Wrath of Khan," "The Undiscovered Country", and "First Contact"

What's the worst thing about Star Trek?

Simply put, considering the franchise comprises 726 episodes across 30 seasons of TV and 12 movies released between 1979 and 2013, it's not all going to be good. The show's worst sin, in my opinion, is that it's occasionally just boring. Not every TV show is going to be guns-blazing action all the time. But when "Star Trek" gets the pacing wrong, it's spectacularly wrong.

Some episodes, particularly of "The Next Generation" and "Enterprise," are about the most minor diplomatic infractions imaginable, with forced banter between underdeveloped characters to populate the almost invariably inconsequential B-story. The first "Star Trek" movie can be almost unbearable to watch. Prepare for two and a half hours of absolutely nothing happening until the almost-brilliant-

enough-to-justify-the-rest last five minutes. There's a reason they call it "The Motionless Picture."

You can't have a new set, a famous guest star, a pitched starship battle or a bizarre alien in every episode, or else you'd run out of money before the season finale. But let's just say that the stereotype of "Star Trek" being about a bunch of space diplomats talking at each other for 40 minutes, though mostly untrue, isn't without precedent. [The Restoration of Star Trek's USS Enterprise in Pictures]

Here are some episodes you'll definitely want to avoid:

Star Trek: "The Omega Glory" (Season 2)

The Animated Series: "The Terratin Incident" (Season 1)

The Next Generation: "Shades of Gray" (Season 2)

Deep Space Nine: "Profit and Lace" (Season 6)

Voyager: "Threshold" (Season 2)

Enterprise: "These Are The Voyages..." (Season 4)

Worst Movies? "The Final Frontier," "Insurrection," and "Into Darkness."

Kirk or Picard?

Archer. Yeah. I said it. Come at me, space bros.

What I Learned

Star Trek is an optimistic vision of our future, but it's also a cheesy space opera. It's a font of realistic, believable technology, but it's also a sci-fi series that leans heavily on fantastical elements. It's brilliant, overwrought, heartfelt, campy, profound and silly. Across so many episodes and films, it has time to be all of those contradictory things, and more.

But in spite of all its missteps, once I started "Enterprise," I never seriously entertained the notion of stopping until the end credits of "Into Darkness" rolled on my TV screen. "Star Trek" is more than just a story; it's an institution, and

there's a reason it's endured and grown stronger for the last half century. At its core, "Star Trek" is a story about our shared humanity and the wondrous destiny that awaits us if we can get our act together, give up our meaningless divisions and embrace our future in the stars. [Why We Still Love 'Star Trek']

That's the big secret of "Star Trek." It doesn't really have any alien races; it has metaphors. Vulcans represent our logic, Klingons our pugnacity, Romulans our secrecy, Ferengi our greed, Bajorans our spirituality, Betazoids our empathy and Borg our overreliance on technology. In each race, there is something admirable and something twisted, and humanity can embody both sides of the gold-pressed latinum coin.

While it's not a novel observation, the reason "Star Trek" feels unique, even in a world of more ambitious sci-fi properties like "Battlestar Galactica" and "Black Mirror," is because it alone asserts that technology will make our lives better, not worse. Space travel will bring about untold prosperity and limitless adventures, not the agonizing downfall of humanity. There will be challenges to face and enemies to fight, of course, but "Star Trek" has always been more about conflict resolution than the conflict itself. This is why it's such a valuable property; this is why it had the power to bring me out of the blackest period of my life.

If you choose to boldly go on your own "Star Trek" streaming adventure, get ready for some good times, some bad times and a lot of unforgettable sci-fi moments.

Engage.