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**October 2018**

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**Editor's Notes**

**By Phyllis Budinger**



About 85 to 90 people attended the Ohio MUFON conference in August. The new venue in at the Quality Inn Conference Center, Bellville Ohio, worked very well. We have already made arrangements for the location for next year's conference which will be in August 18, 2019. An overview of the presentations and photographs of the meeting can be found scattered in this newsletter.

Many thanks to all the people who helped make this conference a success. These include: Tom Wertman, Terry Hamilton, Paul and Terry Althouse, Pete Hartinger, Chris Parsons, Ron McGlone and Bruce Budinger.

Cathy Richards, our former State Director, is now living in Florida. She tried to attend our conference this year, but other commitments interfered. She missed Ohio MUFON, and sends her best to all.

At the conference one member requested that more book reviews be added to our newsletter. So your editor would like to request more contributions, as well as other items you would like to see.

Four of us (Bruce and Phyllis Budinger, Tom and Mary Ann Wertman) attended the national Symposium, July 27-29 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Approximately 500 were in attendance. We noted a lot of new faces at this conference. Luis Elizondo (the Government whistle blower) was the keynote speaker. I found the most interesting paper at the conference was a talk regarding possible nuclear detonations on Mars eons ago. I have written a synopsis of this, and hope you find it as interesting as I did.

Thanks, as always, to Rick Hilberg for his Ohio Retro articles.



Ohio MUFON Conference Audience

**2018 Ohio MUFON Conference  
Presentations  
By Phyllis Budinger**

**Linda Miller Costa and Cheryl Costa**



A dual presentation by Cheryl and Linda Costa describing their statistical research on UFO's was fascinating. This study encompassed sightings of UFOs in the United States of America between the years 2001-2015. The databases used for the study were from two sources, i.e. MUFON and NUFOC (National UFO Center). Various aspects (E.G. frequency, distribution and shapes) were discussed. Charts were presented of sightings by month, state, county, day of the week. Data are presented on states and even counties. They focused on Ohio statistics for our benefit. Ohio is currently number 9 in frequency of sightings. It is interesting that states bordering the Great Lakes have more sightings than other states. We have seen reports published by other researchers that UFOs tend to concentrate along the 37 parallel. Cheryl says their data show that this is 'baloney'. They noted 'fireballs' of all sizes are decreasing. They believe these are dimensional probes.

Many UFO shapes were described. Linda Costa said "The Truth is in the Shapes!" And there is a wide diversity which indicates there is quite a variety of species and builders. Egg-shapes and teardrop-shapes and Saturn-shapes sightings are increasing. This indicates to Cheryl and Linda that, "There is a new player (species) on the field."

All data can be found in their 359 page book "UFO Sightings Desk Reference United States of America 2001-2015" published in 2017. This is an excellent reference for serious UFO Researchers.

**Jeff Wilson**



Jeff presented his most recent research into crop circles. He described the tell-tail indicators of an authentic crop circle. These include increased radiation, elongated nodes in plants, and electromagnetic effects (changes in volt readings).

He discussed an interesting event which occurred in Dale, Indiana on June 14, 1964. An 18-year-old young man (Charlie Englebrecht) was home alone. His parents were visiting a neighbor. Suddenly all the lights went out, whereupon he witnessed a basketball size ball-of-light about 3' to 4' above the ground. After he stepped out of the house something prevented him from getting closer to the object. All metal objects in the yard moved toward the object (lawn mower etc.). When the ball-of-light took off it left a circle. There was a smell of sulfur ("like a zillion matches"). When his parents came home they smelled sulfur and noted Charlie appeared sunburned. He later had other physical effects like loss of weight and appetite. The cows produced more milk and the chickens more eggs. The plants were also affected.

A Bluebook investigator (William Powers) was there within 24 hours. Powers was a private contractor for Bluebook located at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He collected grass, soils and an unusual stone found in the center of the circle. All of this physical evidence and information has vanished. Powers explained the event by saying Charlie saw a burning sheet of paper soaked in coal oil. NICAP also investigated the case a day after Bluebook, but has no record of it. Other witnesses came forth after Charlie's story came out. They reported that they observed balls-of-light in Indiana over the years, dating as far back as the 1880s.

Ohio's Rob Mercer, who stumbled on Bluebook files at a garage sale, found slides of crop circles. Some slides showed crop circles which came from a South Dakota formation which had 27 circles to it. This could be dated to 1965. Project Blue Book's conclusion was they were due to "dust devils".

Of course, no crop circle presentation is complete without the discussion of the "Doug and Dave" proclamation in England. Doug and Dave claimed they started making them in 1976. Jeff clearly showed crop circles appeared before that year. There were examples of 27 circles with complex geometry prior to "Doug and Dave". This also disputed the claim by crop circle investigators that complex geometry evolved over time. It did not.

Jeff noted there is a marked decrease in crop circle formations in the last 5 years with only one reported in North America (Quebec).

### **Bill Konkoleski**

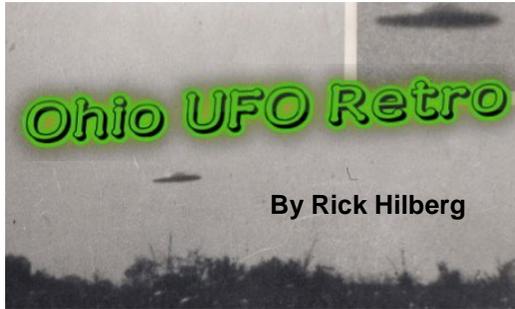


Bill's, often subtle, humorous, description of his abduction experiences had us chuckling. Members of his family on his mother's side have also been abducted. He has: seen UFOs many times, has been on board a UFO, observed a variety of non-humans. He has had premonitions, out-of-body experiences, poltergeist activity, ghosts, and experienced time anomalies.

Some specific abduction events were presented. His first recollection of interaction with ET was when he was two years old. A 'gray' was standing at the end of his crib. After a while it just walked out of his room. As a 7 year old he saw a black circle appearing in the ceiling. In his conscious memory he saw a black hose coming out of it and swiping around. He wound up with a scar on his arm. The next day a white mist rolled through his yard. A 'gray' came through and asked (telepathically): "Are you okay." He said, "I am fine."

Bill decided he would go through a regression at the home of Shirley and George Coyne. As he was going through this he found the room got brighter, he couldn't focus and felt he was in white space. A voice said, "Keep away from the negative. We'll be coming year after year." After it was over. George thought Bill was out of ear shot when he told his wife that there were 3 grays there all during the regression. These were just a few of the experiences he described. For more, I recommend you purchase his book "Experienter Raised in Two Worlds". It's a good read.

He feels the beings are both physical and not physical. In other words, they can go back and forth from physical to conscience. He's taken a good philosophical attitude toward his experiences. He does not permit it to disrupt his life.



The following UFO report from the late 1930s proves that good reports are far from recent in origin. This account is by my (Rick Hilberg) late Grandmother, Mrs. Marie Friedel:

"On a Sunday evening in August about the year of 1938, we decided to take a ride out Lorain Road [Cleveland, Ohio]. Near Elyria, west of Cleveland, we spotted about 30 cars stopping along the road on both sides. My sister and her husband, who were in the car with us, discovered two objects coming from the northwestern sky. They appeared to be faint, round, grayish-blue objects. They were not airplanes or anything else anyone had seen before.

"I shall never forget the sight of it, or the feeling that came over me when the strange objects continued overhead and faded out in the distance in eerie silence."

Source: *UFO Magazine* Spring 1968.



Ohio MUFON Conference: Richard Lee and Jeff Wilson

## Alien sighting north of Mount Vernon

Originally published August 10, 2018

Updated: August 10, 2018

By Nick Sabo

Mount Vernon News

The News acquired permission to publish this sketch of a creature sighted July 31 on Ohio 13 north of Mount Vernon. The incident was investigated by national UFO group Mutual UFO Network.



MOUNT VERNON — A report of a tall, brown-skinned creature sighted in Knox County is being investigated by a national UFO group.

Ohio Investigator Ron McGlone, with the Mutual UFO Network, Ohio, said his office received a report of a tall, brown-skinned creature spotted on Ohio 13 "a couple miles" north of Mount Vernon. The sighting, reported by a motorist, occurred July 31.

According to a description provided by the reportee, the creature was bipedal, 7 to 8 feet tall with dark tan to light brown skin and had no body hair. The description states the creature as having a "tall slender body, arms and legs small in diameter, hands and feet looked oversized for its body proportion, small neck with oval elongated head." The creature's eyes were black, the reportee said.

The creature came out of a cornfield and crossed the highway "at a tremendous rate of speed," the reportee said, taking only two or three steps to get across the road.

The reportee said they thought, at first, the creature was a deer, until they realized it was walking upright.

The report was filed through the MUFON website, McGlone said. The reportee, described as a credible witness, has asked to remain anonymous at this time, McGlone said.

McGlone said he interviewed the reportee and obtained a sketch of the creature. He and the reportee walked the area where the sighting occurred, McGlone said, but no corroborating evidence was discovered. McGlone declined to give the exact location of the sighting, out of respect for the landowner.

Knox County Sheriff David Shaffer said his office has not received any reports regarding creature sightings from the same area July 30-31.

Anyone who has had a similar sighting should e-mail their contact information to MUFON at [mufonohio@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mufonohio@columbus.rr.com).

MUFON is a national organization which collects reports from across the U.S. It assigns these reports to regional investigators. The organization has more than 3,000 members, according to its website.



Ohio MUFON Conference: Ron McGlone reporting on his Mount Vernon alien investigation.

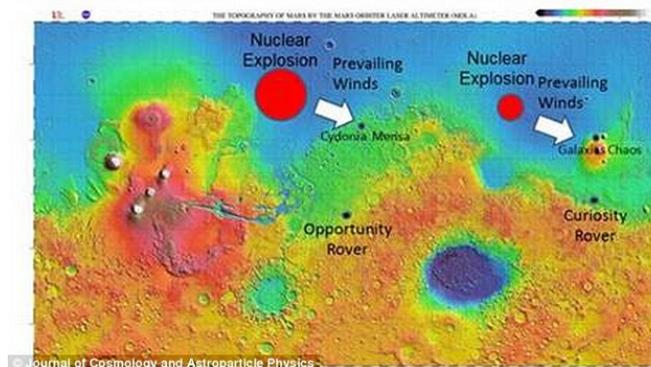


## John Brandenburg Ph.D. Presents Evidence of a Massive Thermonuclear Explosion on Mars Ages Ago (2018 National MUFON Symposium) Reported by Phyllis Budinger

A paper given at the National MUFON Conference this year was a stunning one to me. It was given by Dr. John Brandenburg who is a plasma physicist with an impressive background. He has studied Mars for 40 years and came up with some astounding conclusions considering a past civilization that was destroyed by a nuclear war about 180 million years ago. It is based on the results of what appears to be sound scientific analyses performed on various Martian samples and new enhanced imaging of Martian sites which bear a resemblance to artifacts of civilization. It seems in the distant past this Martian civilization existed in a climate much like Earth.

Brandenburg found evidence for two nuclear detonations in areas of the northern hemisphere of Mars, specifically in the northern plains in Mare Acidaliuum at approximately 50N, 30W, near Cydonia Mensa and in Utopia Planum at approximately 50N, 120W.

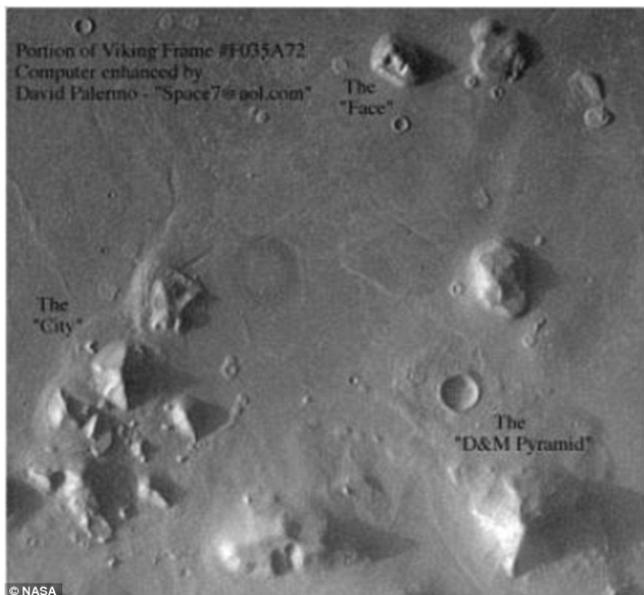
### Approximate Locations of Centers of Nuclear Explosions



He presented evidence that the Martian surface is covered with a thin layer of radioactive substances. These include uranium, thorium and radioactive potassium. The above two mentioned locations are the 'hot' spots which pinpoint the detonation sites because the radiation pattern emanates from them. Glass has also been identified at these sites resembling "trinitite", which we find after nuclear detonations on Earth. Furthermore, the Martian atmosphere contains a high concentration of Xenon-129 which is a fission

product of a nuclear explosion. It is significantly higher than found on Earth.

Further support is provided by new enhanced images from Odyssey, MRO and Mars Express orbiters of the 'target areas'. The images strongly suggest eroded archeological objects. That is, there must have been a significant concentration of people living in this region. One Viking image (as well as others) of the well-known 'Face on Mars' near an apparent cluster of pyramids is convincing evidence. It follows.



An estimate of the power of the detonations was made by Brandenburg. He approximated the amount of Xenon-129 in the Martian atmosphere. Then he assumed that all of Xenon-129 was the product of a nuclear detonation. With these estimations he postulated the energy released from the detonations was 10 billion Megatons. Clearly enough "BOOM" to create a planetary scale catastrophe.

Blasts of this size would be expected to produce huge craters which would be visible from space. None are observed. However, such craters would have been filled in with sand over 180 million years. Another possibility is the detonations occurred in mid-air such as the Tunguska explosion (thought to be a comet) in Russia in 1909. No crater was made.

Brandenburg did not go into detail how he estimated the date of the nuclear holocaust at 180 million years. However, as I understand it was from Martian meteorites that have landed on Earth. There are ways of dating these meteorites. Isotopic measurements were done on them. The measurements detect isotopes typical of nuclear detonation only on those younger than 180 million years old.

Brandenburg kept referring to the Fermi Paradox throughout his presentation. Enrico Fermi determined with many calculations there was a high probability of extraterrestrial life in the universe, and ET should have visited Earth by now. So he reasoned, "Where is everybody"? Fermi thought we should have been visited long ago and many times over. Brandenburg felt the answer is on Mars. It was suggested civilizations lifetimes were cut by older predatory civilizations who would wipe out younger ones to avoid later competition. Or, in other words, in our interstellar neighborhood there are dark forces hostile to young, noisy, civilizations like ours. So Mars with a young civilization was a target. For this reason he believes it is imperative to visit Mars as soon as possible and study what happened there. That way we can be prepared for attack.

I really don't buy his theory, but the possible nuclear destruction on Mars does lead me to ponder, "Are we the progeny of a 'rag-tag' group of fugitives that escaped a Martian holocaust?"



Ohio MUFON Conference: Terry and Paul Althouse



One of the finest early UFO sightings in the Cleveland area occurred in November of 1955 on Cleveland's east side to Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth R. Hoffman of the Grace Lutheran Church while they were driving to the airport.

Their attention was attracted to a row of bright lights in the sky directly ahead and over the road. Shortly after, they could discern that the lights were coming from a huge oval-shaped object, similar in appearance to two saucers, the uppermost inverted upon the lower one.

Around the portion of its perimeter visible to them were eight large windows from which shown an intense white light. The strange object appeared to be hovering almost directly over an intersection at an estimated five hundred feet. Its diameter must have been close to one hundred feet.

Mrs. Huffman remarked that the craft was a pearly aluminum color. They believed the windows were at least eight feet by ten feet in size. An intensely white light shown steadily downward from each window. The light rays were so bright that they could see the dust particles in them. They sat and watched the UFO for about ten minutes, then started the car and drove south on Lee Road hoping to get under it, but the object began to slip westward over the tree tops. It moved slowly and noiselessly and did not appear to rotate.

Source: *UFO* Earl J. Neff, privately published 1966.

### **Objects Mistaken for a UFO**

**By Isolde Walters, The Sun  
July 30, 2018**

(<https://nypost.com/2018/07/30/consult-this-scale-before-announcing-youve-seen-a-ufo/?hl=1&noRedirect=1>)

Have you ever been certain you've seen a UFO...only to be devastated to find out it was a Chinese lantern?

Academics are seeking to end such humiliation with a scale that ranks the likeliness of sightings or signals from space being real.

The Rio.2 scale runs from zero, where the odds of alien involvement are "none," to 10, where the proof is "extraordinary."

Scores are based on a questionnaire about witnesses, expert opinion and the possibility of a hoax, which University of St. Andrews researchers hope could be an app.

In the meantime, Isolde Walters uses the system to rate these 11 potential sightings.

### **Frisbee**

Shaped like a flying saucer, the toy is most commonly associated with bogus UFO sightings. But you are more likely to find this plastic disc hurtling toward the grass at a park than drifting spookily through space.

### **Moon**



In 2007 a woman called South Wales Police to report a "bright stationary object" that had been floating in the air for half an hour. An officer went to investigate and soon radioed back: "It's the moon. Over."

### **Plane**

Top-secret, high-flying spy planes were often mistaken for UFOs during the Cold War. The outlandish aircrafts seen sweeping through the clouds terrified and fascinated UFO spotters in the 1950s and '60s.

## Chinese Lanterns



UFO sightings soared in the UK in 2009 with the popularity of Chinese lanterns. The Ministry of Defense said at the time that “99 percent of UFO reports involving orange lights in the sky” were just the paper balloons.

## Shooting Stars

So commonly mistaken for spaceships that the British UFO Research Association estimated that more than a third of all UFO sightings were simply down to seeing stars and planets clearer than usual.

## Blimp



Signs of alien life? Or just a balloon or drone? UFO-spotters must have been truly terrified when they caught sight of that orange, diaper-wearing baby “blimp” during US President Donald Trump’s visit to the UK this month.

## Clouds

Surely it’s forgivable to mistake a lenticular cloud for a UFO? They form at high altitudes and close to mountain tops and, spookily, stay still even when winds are strong...plus they look just like flying saucers.

## Rocket



The trail that formed after SpaceX launched its Falcon 9 rocket in December Getty Images When the SpaceX Falcon 9 launched in California last December, many LA locals took to social media, convinced the object flying through the sky surrounded by a white plume was an alien spaceship.

*(Following are some photos that have never been explained. Ed.)*

## Saucers over Sheffield England



Photos like that of the above these are considered “far-reaching” on the scale since they haven’t been explained. CIA

Alien-hunters rubbed their hands in glee when the CIA released this 1962 photograph of vessels passing over England. The still-unexplained photo surely deserves a pretty high score.

## Washington, D.C., 1952

The FBI was inundated with reports of UFO sightings in 1952. Even President Truman demanded answers. The Air Force said it was stars or meteors, while radar signals were down to the weather. Images from these sightings receive an “outstanding” on the scientist’s scale.

### Mystery Craft

This photograph, found in an attic, was taken somewhere in the United States on June 10, 1964. No experts have ever been able to explain what it is. We say it’s a perfect candidate for the top spot on the scale.

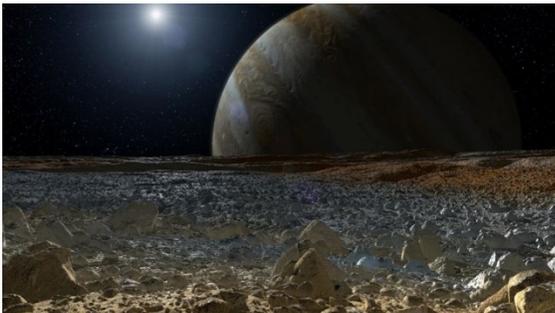


## We Need to Keep Looking for Aliens, Scientists tell Senators

By Meghan Bartels, [Space.com Senior Writer](#) |  
[Space.com](#)

(<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2018/08/03/need-to-keep-looking-for-aliens-scientists-tell-senators.html>)

Original article on [Space.com](#).



An artist's conception of what the surface of Europa might look like. Credit: NASA

Four scientists made the case yesterday (Aug. 1) to a panel of senators that Congress should continue to fund NASA's search for life beyond Earth.

Only one of those scientists was affiliated directly with NASA, and the hearing touched on a broader range of scientific priorities for the agency and how to balance those with a limited budget. After opening statements, the hearing began with subcommittee chair Sen. Ted Cruz asking the panel flat out why we should search for life on other worlds.

"I believe it's one of the big questions of all of humanity. This is how great nations make a mark — it's by what they do for their citizens but also how they move history forward," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA, said. "This will be one of those questions, if answered, that will be remembered forever, because it will be a leap in not only understanding more about nature but a leap in understanding ourselves at a level we've never had in the past."

Other panelists echoed the emphasis on symbolism and inspiration rather than science directly. Sara Seager, a planetary scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, pointed out that most of the current senior researchers came of age during the moon landings. "Today, the equivalent of that is the search for life, and that public search and when we do discover it will inspire that next generation to go into technology," she said.

But she was also careful to point to more-tangible benefits that could come from searching for life, regardless of whether we ever find it. She didn't promise specific technologies, but asserted that the scientific research would inevitably lead to benefits not yet expected. "It takes a ton of pure science research to come up with anything practical, things you could never invent if you set out to find something practical," Seager said, pointing to GPS technology, which began as a way to track satellites and was only later used for ground navigation, as an example.

That emphasis on spin-off technology was a clear theme in the hearing, with senators pushing the scientists to explain how searching for life on other worlds could benefit humans on Earth. Meanwhile, the scientists offered an economic justification for the search as well as an intellectual one.

"When we try to do things that are really hard, like we did at the time of Apollo, when you push yourself to answer the really tough questions, that's when you really push technology forward," Ellen Stofan, director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and former chief scientist at NASA, said. "I would argue that when you push technology forward, you push your society forward, you push the economy forward."

The panel also tried to convince the senators that the United States, specifically, is in a position to tackle the search for life and to welcome that search. "Thanks to decades of NASA spacecraft missions, we know how to take the next steps in the search for life at Europa, Enceladus and of course Mars, and eventually Titan," Stofan said.

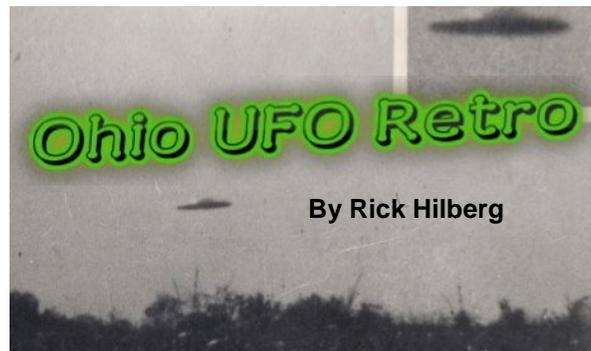
Seager quoted a passage by John Adams in which he expressed belief in life on other worlds — long before science could prove such worlds existed. "Although we don't have evidence for life beyond Earth, we are the first generation with the capability to find it," Seager said, describing how the new Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite and the much-delayed James Webb Space Telescope will work together to identify planets around small, faint M dwarf stars.

Even admitting that such technology was still in the works, Seager emphasized that NASA is on track to develop those tools and shouldn't be distracted from that effort. She was talking about technologies meant to help scientists find what she called "a true Earth twin," a planet with a bright sun and an environment like our own.

While most of the hearing's conversation focused on microbial life, the discussion did touch briefly on technologically advanced civilizations beyond our solar system. Senator Gary Peters of Michigan referenced the theoretical possibility of billion-year-old civilizations and asked whether we are even searching for life in the right

way. Stofan elegantly directed the conversation back to exoplanet science and surveying our own neighborhood first.

And, of course, the James Webb Space Telescope showed up in the discussion, with senators expressing the usual horror at the instrument's cost overruns and launch delays. The scientists all made the case, however, that the telescope was worth it.



On October 22, 1954 at 3:15 p.m. in Jerome, Ohio, sixty students, two teachers and the principal at the local school, were called outside by some students who were outside playing. They all witnessed a cigar-shaped object hanging motionless in the sky. Then "it took off quite rapidly, disappearing in a very short time." The UFO traveled horizontally, leaving a trail in its wake that floated to the ground. Part of the cobweb-like substance fell in long strands and part of it came down in balls similar to cotton. Trees, bushes and wires were covered by the so-called "angel hair."

Source: "UFO Chronology Map and Index Guide Book", Allan Manak and Rick Hilberg 1996.

## **Here's Why Aliens Will Probably Come in Peace**

**By S.C. Stuart**

**September 30, 2018**

(<https://www.pcmag.com/news/363726/heres-why-aliens-will-probably-come-in-peace>)

This article originally appeared on [PCMag.com](https://www.pcmag.com).

Ahead of World Space Week (World Space Week from Oct. 4-10), we talk to SETI Institute chief Bill Diamond about the search for extraterrestrial life and why the idea of aliens coming to Earth to destroy us is 'absurd.'



Humans have been looking to the stars for millennia wondering if we're the only intelligent beings in the universe. Statistically, it's highly illogical (as Spock would say) we're alone. Stretching out from this planet of 7 billion people there are 46 billion light years between us and the edge of the knowable universe. There must be someone or *something*.

Sometimes it's best not to dwell on this, unless you enjoy having an existential crisis. Leave that to the SETI Institute and those like Dr. Frank Drake, who in 1961 developed the Drake Equation, which seeks to calculate the number of detectable civilizations in the Milky Way Galaxy.

During a recent visit to Mountain View, I stopped by the Institute to talk with President and CEO Bill Diamond ahead of World Space Week to learn more about its current research and what he thinks (or hopes) might happen in his lifetime.

Just to clear up a couple of misconceptions. The SETI Institute is a non-profit research facility, contracted to several space and scientific agencies, including NASA, NSF, and USGS. It *isn't* affiliated with the protocols you may have downloaded to run in your browser during idle time (that's SETI@home, based at Berkeley). Nor does its HQ sit within the Allen Telescope Array of 42 dishes (that's out at Hat Creek, California) sweeping the sky for signals. But that *is* a radio telescope owned and operated by the Institute and is one of the locations Institute scientists use for ongoing research projects.

*Here are edited and condensed excerpts of our conversation.*

Bill, can you outline the mission for SETI?

The mission of the SETI Institute is to explore, understand, and explain the origin and nature of life in the universe and the evolution of intelligence. We are a key research contractor to NASA and the National Science Foundation, and we collaborate with industry partners throughout Silicon Valley and beyond. Founded in 1984, the SETI Institute employs more than 130 scientists, educators, and administrative staff. Work at the SETI Institute is anchored by three centers: the Carl Sagan Center for the Study of Life in the Universe (research), the Center for Education and the Center for Outreach.

What made you decide to come onboard and lead the organization?

Like a lot of people from my generation, I grew up with the Gemini and Mercury space programs; those endeavors by NASA were very exciting and compelling to me. I also devoured a lot of science-fiction, which inspired me, and I went on to study physics at the university level, where astronomy and astrophysics were a part of that curriculum. So I always had a deep fascination with the subject.

I want to make sure the next generation is equally enthused with the subject. So, through a number of education and outreach programs, including Big Picture Science, our weekly radio show and podcast, we aim to bring our science research to the public with lively and intelligent storytelling. We also have a monthly public lecture series and YouTube channel called SETI Talks.

Is it true Dr. Frank Drake still comes to work at SETI several times a week at the age of 88?

Yes, he does. And he drives himself, coming in over the Santa Cruz Mountains after Bay Area traffic subsides and leaving before it gets bad again.



That's inspiring. Let's talk about his Drake Equation.

The Drake equation identifies the 40 or so billion planets within our galaxy that at least have the potential to have developed technological civilizations. It does this by trying to understand the birth rates of stars; the percentage of stars with planets, the number of planets that are in the habitable zone and have the right orbital position for liquid water to be maintained. Then it examines what fraction of those planets might go on to develop life, then what fraction of those might develop complex organisms and intelligence, and finally, what fraction of those might have developed technological civilizations.

In 1961, what level of technological complexity was Dr. Drake expecting?

Frank defined a "technological civilization" as one which had developed radio technology and the ability to manipulate the electromagnetic spectrum.

Then he also calculated how long those technological civilizations might last, a sobering thought.

Indeed. This is the last variable in the Drake equation—the "L" variable. It is my favorite and the most provocative element of the equation, in my opinion. Humans are [now] about a hundred years into the technological stage of evolution, so we are very early in the time horizon of the L variable, which Frank suggested might be 10,000 years. Considering the challenges humanity faces in the next 100 years—let alone the next 10,000—Frank's prediction may be optimistic!

Until something catastrophic happens to that species and their habitat?

Yes, things like overpopulation, a major asteroid impact (remember the dinosaurs), nuclear war, a pandemic or other such event, might all impact humanity's "L value." But Frank was more broadly focused on the time during which a technological civilization might remain detectable—i.e. until they were no longer emitting information in the electromagnetic spectrum, or may have evolved to a point where technology, as we know it, isn't

required for their sustained existence. Essentially, where they "go dark," Interestingly, we are largely going dark now.

How are we going dark?

We are actually going dark in the extent to which we now listen to music, watch television, and even listen to the radio through a closed network of fiber optics, essentially on the internet. This means that we're doing much less broadcasting out into space. We still emit radio waves for radar from airports, for example, and right now those are the most powerful signals we transmit. Nevertheless, it is precisely these kinds of signals we are looking for, out there. Indeed SETI research is all about listening and looking for so-called "techno signatures" such as laser pulses, radio waves, and other phenomena we perhaps haven't yet imagined.



SETI radar array

Good point. Take us back, what were the SETI Institute's earliest experiments?

Dr. Jill Tarter, SETI Institute co-founder and SETI pioneer, performed early experiments at the Arecibo radio telescope [in Puerto Rico]. She was a key participant in the Institute's Project Phoenix [from 1995 to 2004] and then led the effort to build the Allen Telescope Array [commissioned in 2007 and operated by the SETI Institute as the world's only dedicated and purpose-built SETI radio telescope].

Jill is still with us, as a trustee, and heavily involved to this day—34 years later. Frank Drake is of course another SETI pioneer, having conducted the very first SETI experiments at the National Astronomical Radio Observatory in Green Bank,

West Virginia, back in the 1960s. It was in preparation for a first-ever meeting of astronomers and astrophysicists—called for by NASA to explore the merits of SETI programs, that included such luminaries as Carl Sagan—that Frank derived the now-famous Drake Equation.

Your background in optics has proven instrumental with the Laser SETI project. Can you talk about that?

Yes, we are adding optical technologies for the detection of laser pulses and the Laser SETI project is aimed at deploying specialized cameras around the globe for an all-sky, all-the-time observatory to search for laser flashes from deep space. Laser pulses might be used for communications and/or advanced propulsion systems and their characteristics would be easily differentiated from starlight or other natural phenomena.



How do you collaborate with NASA?

The SETI Institute has a long history with NASA, starting from early SETI Experiments when NASA was funding those efforts. The Institute and its founders have been involved in every Mars mission since Viking, as contributing to the science of missions like Voyager, Galileo, Cassini, OSIRIS-REx, and New Horizons.

Nathalie Cabrol, Janice Bishop, Pascal Lee, and Ross Beyer have helped identify landing sites for Mars missions; Philippe Sarrazin developed the XRD/SRF CheMin X-ray diffraction system on the Curiosity Rover; and Pablo Sabron is developing a revolutionary Raman spectrometer for NASA missions to Enceladus and Europa. Mark Showalter is discovering new planets and moons around the gas giants and Pluto, and Franck Marchis is

detecting them around asteroids. The SETI Institute's Kepler/TESS team is developing new algorithms to find new exoplanets from the Kepler and TESS mission datasets. We are also collaborating with NASA on the Frontier Development Lab, which is an AI research accelerator for NASA Space Science.

This is bringing AI experts to the SETI Institute, many for the first time?

Yes, coming from industry, academia, and other research centers the FDL program is a research accelerator for early career PhDs in AI and machine learning, and their counterparts in deep science domains, such as planetary science. We put together interdisciplinary teams, where we pair off computer scientists with research scientists to tackle major research challenges where advanced AI/ML techniques can be effectively deployed to accelerate discovery and understanding.

FDL is not only about applying AI to basic research, but it's also about the power of interdisciplinary teams. Scientists often work in isolation, or in somewhat homogeneous collaborations. FDL is about building research teams with individuals from diverse backgrounds and leveraging the power of AI to do impactful science. It also involves industry partners—such as Intel, Google, IBM, Lockheed, and Nvidia—and these companies provide technology, expertise, and funding to support the research teams. The results have been extraordinary in the first three years of the program, and we're already in the planning phase for FDL 2019.

What do you think of Hollywood's attempts to portray SETI type discoveries?

Hollywood space movies at least generate interest and excitement about space exploration. *2001, A Space Odyssey* is one of the great movies of all time! I [also] thought the movie *Arrival* was particularly compelling because—for the first time, I believe—in a Hollywood movie, the extraterrestrial experience was explored in a positive light.

Finally, I have to ask this. If a craft from outer space came down and a door opened, are you so curious that you would get onboard?

Yes, I would.

Me too.

The reason I would, is that I think we'd have some understanding of intention long before the opportunity came to get on board the craft. Any civilization that has the technology to travel across interstellar space, with biology on board—as traveling that distance is hard for biological beings to survive—by default, is vastly more advanced than we are. So the likelihood they traveled across interstellar space just to drop by Earth to “have us for dinner” is a rather absurd notion. So, yes I'd be curious to meet them.



Ohio MUFON Conference: Mary Ann Wertman and Pete Hartinger

**Two of the earliest Earth-ish exoplanet finds are now more exciting targets in the search for habitable worlds beyond this rock.**

**BY ERIC MACK  
JUNE 29, 2018**

(<https://www.cnet.com/news/earth-size-planets-kepler-186f-62f-now-even-better-spots-to-look-for-life/>)



Kepler 186f was one of the first Earth-size, potentially habitable exoplanets ever discovered.

NASA/JPL-Caltech/T. Pyle

Kepler 186f ignited the imaginations of space nerds everywhere four years ago when NASA announced it as the first potentially habitable, Earth-size planet confirmed beyond our solar system. A new study indicates the exoplanet 500 light-years away may also have seasons and a climate similar to our own.

So far scientists believe they know Kepler 186f orbits in the so-called goldilocks zone around a dwarf star in the direction of the constellation Cygnus. That means temperatures are right for water to pool on the surface. The planet's size and mass also indicate it has a rocky surface like that of our planet.

Now, new research out of Georgia Tech University has analyzed the planet's spin and axial tilt and found that its tilt is stable like Earth's, which makes it likely Kepler 186f also has regular seasons and a stable climate.

This is no trivial thing when it comes to determining how friendly a planet might be to the development of life. As study co-author and Georgia Tech Assistant Professor Gongjie Li explains, large fluctuations in Mars' tilt could be part of why it dried up into the barren world it is today.

Over the eons, Mars has had an unstable tilt that varies by as much as 60 degrees. "That instability probably contributed to the decay of the Martian atmosphere and the evaporation of surface water," Li said in a statement. The research was published in the 'The Astronomical Journal' in May, but Georgia Tech shared more information on it this week.

The team says Kepler 62f, a slightly more distant but potentially habitable exoplanet, also has a stable tilt.

Earth's tilt is stabilized in part by other planets and our single large moon, something Mars lacks. It's not yet clear what's helping to keep the tilt of the two exoplanets steady, or if they even require any assistance.

"We don't know whether they possess moons, but our calculations show that even without

satellites, the spin axes of Kepler-186f and 62f would have remained constant over tens of millions of years," Li explains.

There's still not enough information to say for sure that either planet has liquid water or life, but as the years go on, both seem to become more worthy of a closer look.

Just when we'll get that follow-up glance is a bit up in the air at the moment. NASA's next-generation observatory, the James Webb Space Telescope, is running a few years behind schedule and its launch date keeps slipping. It's currently set to blast off in early 2021, so we may begin to get a better idea of what a sunset on Kepler 186f really looks like within five years.



A Kepler-186f sunset likely appears dimmer, but the sun is larger.

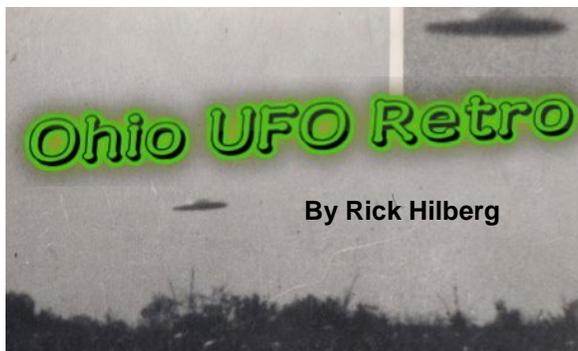
University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo / PHL



Ohio MUFON Conference: "Cosmic" Ray Keller



Ohio MUFON Conference: The panel: Linda Costa, Cheryl Costa, Bill Konkolesky, Jeff Wilson and Tom Wertman.



A Salesville, Ohio area man believed that his car may have been the victim of some sort of electromagnetic effect on the morning of November 23, 1988.

At 2:05 a.m., the man called deputies of the Guernsey County Sheriff's Department to report sighting a UFO near the Salesville cemetery.

The man said a huge ball, about the size "of 100 cars", was traveling in a north-south direction. He said that the thing had "super bright lights" and was blue and silver in color.

The object, when it flew over his car at a high rate of speed, "killed my car and made it stop running for fifteen minutes", he said. Deputies reported that they received no other calls regarding the strange object that morning, but said that the single witness seemed sincere.

Source: "Rick Hilberg's Book of Weirdology" (revised edition) , 2015.

*(At this time of year it seems an article on Halloween UFOs is appropriate. What better time to reflect on how ghosts and goblins relate to aliens. Ed.)*



## **UFOs on Halloween – What does it mean?**

(<http://theghostdiaries.com/ufos-on-halloween-what-does-it-mean>)

Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, evolved from the eerie Celtic tradition of the Druids, who long ago believed October 31st represented the opening of a gateway between our world and the dark spirit domain of Samhain, Lord of Darkness. Even today, many people believe Halloween night represents the opening of a portal for undead spirits.

But what if this gateway is not between the realms of the living and dead, but rather humans and aliens? Indeed, there is a rich history of UFO sightings on Halloween and, if you think about it, with all the lights and helicopters and general tomfoolery, strategically speaking this would be the perfect evening for an alien vessel to avoid scrutiny and engage in otherworldly ethnographic research. After all, as a race we probably appear pretty peculiar on Halloween night.



But if Halloween represents the opening of a portal, what portal could be opening? A wormhole connecting us to some distant galaxy? A portal to a

different dimension which houses different forms of life, matter, and consciousness? How about a portal to a different universe altogether, one constructed from entirely different laws of nature? Maybe beings from these dimensions and worlds 'feed' on energy, exotic matter, and consciousness itself.

We're just now beginning to understand the full scope of the infinitely complex reality we live in. Indeed, 96% of our universe is comprised of dark matter and dark energy, which continues to baffle scientists. Who's to say this isn't the detritus of quantum entanglement with an advanced alien consciousness? An encounter with a species like this could result in a collapse of the physical laws of our own universe, something akin to Stephen King's *The Mist*.

This is why when Halloween night rolls around we here at The Ghost Diaries start thinking about more than just ghosts and ghouls—we think about how massive and creepy the universe is and what else could truly be out there, represented by the strange traditions of the Druids and UFOs in our Halloween night skies....



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