

We are not alone

By Pete Hartinger, Director, Roundtown UFO Society
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For the past several decades, UFO sightings have been reported from around the world. In fact, some governments are now acknowledging them. Some of these have made local newspapers and a few in the national news.

It has always been felt by ufologists that many go unreported and perhaps less than one in ten are ever reported to any agencies. UFO organizations receive a lot of these reports. The largest of these is the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

I have been a member of MUFON since 1988. In 2011, MUFON averaged over 500 UFO sighting reports per month. The monthly MUFON Journal is displayed at the local Circleville library.

From the 1950s through the 1980s, there were two major UFO organizations: The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon (NICAP) stationed in Washington D.C. and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) in Albuquerque, N.M.. Both collected large amounts of sighting reports.

I was a member of NICAP during this time, and Donald Keyhoe was our director and had served in the Marines as a major. Several other retired military officials were involved. One of our directors was retired Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter. He was our country's first CIA director. They all agreed that UFOs were real. Hillenkoetter was appointed by President Truman in 1947 when the National Security Act was created.

There are presently several other smaller UFO groups in the United States. The oldest continuous group is the Cleveland Ufology Project (CUP) established in 1952. Our group, The Roundtown UFO Society, was founded in January 1989. All of these groups have received UFO sighting reports over the years. Until recently, many of the witnesses would request to remain anonymous.

Times have changed, because many are now allowing their names to be used. They know that many more of the public are realizing the subject of UFOs is a reality. Even now, UFO witnesses from years past are willing to reveal their UFO sightings. If the trend continues, you will have many more people talking about their experiences. I am calling this "The UFO Talk Across America."

To check on some local sightings, you can go to the Pickaway County Historical Society and Genealogical Library and for \$5 purchase the recently published spring Pickaway Quarterly. I wrote an article that is titled "The History of UFO Sightings in Pickaway County." These are some of the ones that have been researched over the years.

I have had three sightings in my lifetime. They are all listed there with more than 20 others. For years, many of the sightings have been treated like family secrets. A few of these sightings were published in the local newspaper. Some are listed in the National UFO Reporting Center (nuforc.com).

I want to commend the living UFO witnesses for being willing to let their sightings and names become public. No longer will UFO witnesses have to be embarrassed or feel uncomfortable about their experiences. When you observe sightings like these you never forget.

The Bruce Stevenson UFO sighting of 1948 is in a binder of information at the Pickaway County Visitor's Center, along with a copy of the Historical Society's Quarterly.

In conclusion, I can confidently say, "We are not alone and probably never have been."

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