



Reviving UFOlogy for the 21st Century

Aerial-phenomeonon.org

Aerial Phenomena Newsletter Issue 2

Director's Log: Space Science

About a year and a half ago I decided to write a book on planetary science to address the common questions that keep coming up regarding the so-called ET hypothesis and the alleged alien presence here on Earth. The main purpose of *Space Science: Challenges for the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis of UFO Phenomena* is *not to debunk* the study of UFOs; rather, I wrote it to raise intelligent questions about the minutia of requirements involved in space travel—regardless of who the space traveler is: space physics, radiation, time dilation, micro-meteors, the immense energy requirements for interstellar travel, the types of propulsion systems that would be required, etc. As someone interested in UFOs, I put forth the challenges facing the study of UFOs today. At this time, UFOlogy is mainly an unscientific approach, littered with too much speculation and, too often, completely unfounded claims. We can't go forward on what we DON'T know; but we CAN progress on what we DO know. My main goal for *Space Science* is to help shape and force the UFO community to come up with better arguments for the hypothesis that some of these UFOs are extraterrestrial. There are SO MANY aspects of the ET hypothesis that do NOT fit the science. Having said that, however, I will be the first to admit that there ARE good cases that defy explanation at this time. But hanging everything on the idea that beings who, somehow, look very much as we do...having been created in an entirely different environment, traveling the vast reaches of space through inhospitable environs is too much of a stretch *when based on known scientific facts*. I can't say that *isn't* happening. But I *can* say that readers interested in this question, and in space science in general, will find sound scientific principles in my book sufficient to challenge the status quo. If *you're* interested in this challenge, I encourage you to order the book. I think you'll enjoy delving into the facts!



Antonio Paris
API Founder & Director



★★★★★ Put away your tin foil hats; *Space Science* is a mind opener.

By JBT419 on May 8, 2014

As a long-time follower of NASA projects and the urban legend of UFOs, I've been searching for years for a quality filter to help me separate scientific fact from science fiction and absurdity. Enter Antonio Paris. His pedigree gives him the credibility that is so lacking in most others' compilations in the marketplace. His military disciplines carry over well into his civilian endeavors.

★★★★★ Antonio Paris is a Genius!

By Elizabeth M. Parks on April 16, 2014

After reading Antonio's first book *Aerial Phenomena*, which I gave 5 stars, buying *Space Science* was a no brainer! When I heard his presentation at the Ozark UFO Conference, I bought both of his books. Antonio is leading up to be an international sensation and a breath of fresh air in UFOlogy. For example, he explains interstellar travel, the Big Bang, and misconceptions about space before he even mentions extraterrestrials and UFOs.

★★★★★ Clear, Concise, and Informative

By John Keegan on April 8, 2014

This is the second book I have read written by Antonio Paris and I have to give him 5 stars for another great book. *Space Science* is very clear and concise and I have to applaud him for not dumbing down the science. Additionally, the book begins with an overview of the cosmos and then moves towards more technical aspects of space.



Deputy Director: The Memory Trap

There is a big problem in unidentified aerial phenomena research that needs to be addressed before we can make any claim of being a scientific enterprise. The problem is that much—in fact nearly all—of our database is *eyewitness testimony*. While our research has kept pretty much the same approach as always, science has



Paul Carr
API Deputy Director

marched on, and this includes the studies of human perception and memory. One assumption we make is that human perception is transparent, and that we can accurately assess unfamiliar things primarily with our vision. We think we see a thing directly, but in fact layers of complex brain processes intervene to create and update the phenomenal “world model” in our minds. Another assumption is that human memory is a kind of recording device, and if someone is certain enough of their recall and feels the memory vividly enough, then it *must* be mostly accurate. Eyewitness testimony relies on both perception and memory. Many scientists now flatly refuse to accept any eyewitness testimony as evidence because of the known problems. I support an approach that accounts for eyewitness testimony—exploiting the strengths of human perception for feature extraction—but requiring rapid documentation and corroborating evidence.

Since genuine UFOs are such fleeting, rare, usually distant and non-repeating phenomena, getting scientific instruments that can perform detailed observations deployed in time is unlikely—at least until we understand the phenomena much better than we do now. If you see a UFO, please bring it to the attention of everyone around you while observing the phenomena. Whether you manage to get a good video or not, write down your experience immediately and make a sketch of what you witnessed at each phase of the sighting, *before* you talk to any other witnesses about the details. After a sighting or encounter, I strongly encourage you to contact API and make a report.

Chief of Investigations: Empowered with Facts vs Manipulated by Fiction

As Mark Twain famously said, “It’s easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled.” I, sadly, tend to agree. I’ve been troubled by people’s seeming lack of discernment when it comes to UFO/high strangeness reports and videos or pictures. And more importantly, their hostility to having a perpetrated fraud pointed out to them. As someone who has had anomalous, unexplained experiences, I understand how easy it is to give over to the mindset of “if this weird thing actually happened to **me**, then **ANY** weird thing is **possible**.” Well, yes, on the face of it—anything IS possible! But genuine, unexplained phenomena *is highly unusual and exceedingly rare*.

Of course, you wouldn’t know that by watching YouTube, for example. There is a multitude of faked videos masquerading as real sightings. In fact, check out this video which shows how easy it is to fake a “real” UFO.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ-6LDsc3Ho&feature=youtu.be>



Marsha Barnhart
Chief of Investigations



Empowered with Facts vs Manipulated by Fiction (continued)

If you make a habit of critically viewing these videos and exercising discernment, you can detect the plethora of hoaxes and fakes. And usually, you don't have to look very hard. Take for example the recently aired long-version of Animal Planet's "documentary" *Mermaids: The Body Found*. Didn't all those "scientists" look like Hollywood actors playing scientists? Wasn't that "surreptitiously" videotaped "actual footage" of the mermaid darn high quality, perfectly composed video? These things *should* have nudged your BS meter *slightly*. A quick Google search reveals *Mermaids* was labeled science fiction *by its own producers*, albeit in the closing credits! Yet there are no doubt thousands of people now convinced that NOAA is complicit in a cover up to hide the existence of mermaids. If you were one of those people, let this be your wake-up call. When it comes to the UFO question and consideration of "high strangeness" cases, hoax and fraud are the two biggest problems. True investigation into anomalous phenomena *first* requires sorting out signal from noise. Therefore, it's incumbent upon all truth seekers to guard against being used and manipulated by the sociopaths who commit hoax and fraud. Don't be manipulated! Don't be part of the problem. Be *empowered* by using critical thought and discerning judgment. This habit will make you part of the *solution*.

A Few Current Cases: Lead investigators report

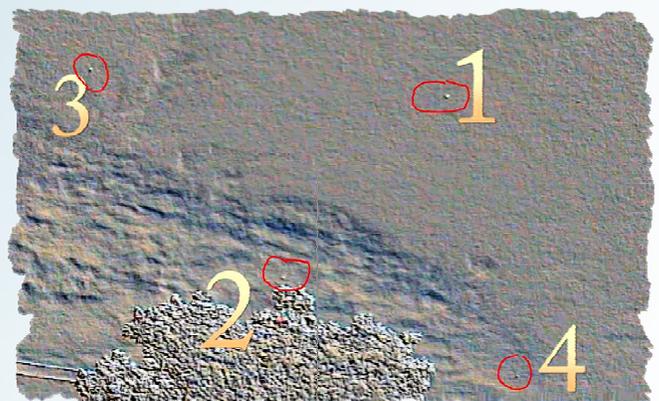
API is all about investigating alleged UFO sightings and associated phenomena...and there have been some pretty exciting cases in the last few months. By mid-June API received over 50 cases. Of those, nearly half did not wish an investigation. Twenty-four cases were investigated. A quarter of those were closed because the witness did not respond. 14 of the cases were fully investigated and only four were closed as Unidentified. Five were determined to be misidentified man-made objects; some were known natural phenomenon and a couple turned out to be [Pareidolia](#).

We'll let the Lead Investigators provide the case synopsis for a few of the more interesting ones:

Case 14-007-CE1 California

Lead Investigator: Marsha Barnhart

Synopsis: On Saturday, July 19, 2013 at about 15:00 the Witness was walking home from a gym when he noticed a spherical object, just across the street from him, that was approximately 20 feet off the ground (just above the housetops). The object was flying from the backyard of a house located in Covina, CA. It was a blue metallic flying saucer with a slight dome on the top. The Witness could discern no door or openings on the craft or see any windows. He saw no beings in the dome area. There was a white translucent blinking light shining from the craft, constantly oriented towards the Witness, so from that he deduced it was not rotating.





The craft was essentially the size of the roof of the house over which it was floating. The craft began slowly moving east/north east away from the Witness. After some moments of observation, the Witness then remembered his phone and thought to pull it out and video record the craft.

But by that time, the craft was much smaller and located, in his estimation, over the town of San Dimas or Glendora, located north-northeast of his location. Eventually, the Witness gave chase down the street pointing his camera up into the sky. He could discern with his eyes looking at the sky a small dot which the object had become by that time, but could not see the dot through his phone camera lens and stopped recording at that point. The total time of the recorded event is 35 seconds. The Investigator examined the phone video and could see one small, metallic orb initially. However, an emboss effect was added that made immediately clear a total of four metallic looking orbs, all moving independently of one another. No fraud was detected and the Witness was unaware of how many objects were actually present. This case was closed as *Unidentified*.

Case 14-017-AN1 New York City

Lead Investigator: Eddie Germino

Synopsis: On January 28, 2014 at 09:40, the Witness was looking out of his living room window in midtown Manhattan when he sighted an unusual-looking aircraft. It was flying at low altitude over the Hudson River, heading north on a straight and level course. The witness had a clear view of the object's flight path for about 10 seconds of its flight since he lives in a high-rise condo building and his living room window faces

west towards the Hudson River. He said the aircraft did not make engine noises like a normal jet plane, it was smaller than the usual aircraft he sees flying in that area, and it did not have standard aircraft features like portholes, numbers or logos stenciled on the side, or navigation lights. The witness managed to photograph the aircraft once before it disappeared behind a tall building. A few minutes later, he saw a fighter jet (either an F-15 or F-16) fly along the same path, as if it were following the first aircraft. From his living room, the witness could hear the fighter jet making standard jet engine noises. The witness says he took the photo from a high-rise building located on 29th Avenue, NYC. This location very closely matches the GPS coordinates embedded in the digital



photograph (+40; 44; 51.510, -73; 59; 25.060). The black building at the right of the photograph is identifiable as One Penn Plaza, which is also located in Midtown Manhattan. The evidence therefore suggests that the photograph was indeed taken in the place the witness claimed. The aircraft shown in the photo is flying over the Hudson River, close to the Lincoln Tunnel and the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. Analysis of the photograph suggests the aircraft was around 22 meters long. Research shows the length and appearance of the aircraft is most consistent with a V-22 Osprey, gray in color and 17 meters long. This was determined to be a known man-made object and the case was closed as *Identified: Man-Made Object*.

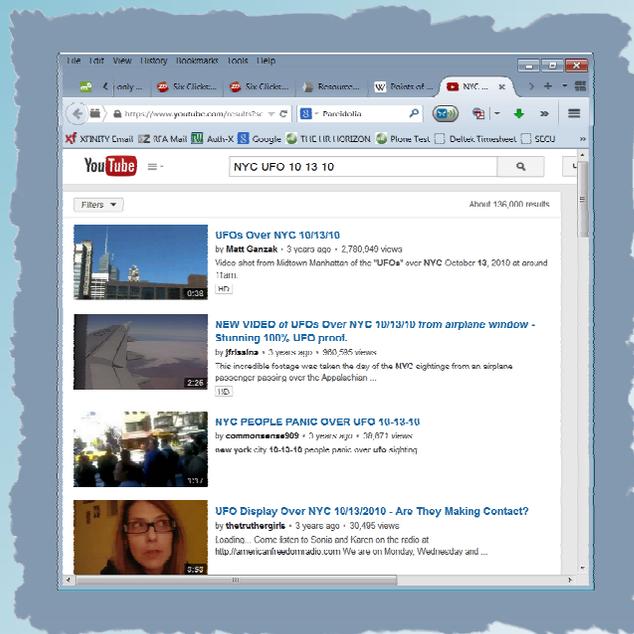


Case 14-021-MA4 New York City

Lead Investigator: Antonio Paris

Synopsis: Witness contacted API to report a series of UFO events that occurred over New York City on October 13, 2010. Witness claimed a crowd of 40-60 people were loitering in the area and observing the object. Witness also claimed news trucks from ABC news 7 and NY1 were present and observing the UFO too. Object was large, stationary and “fading in and out”. Witness then noticed a very bright silver orb that was flying low bobbing up and down and wobbling. It stopped for a few seconds and hovered then shot straight up. During the sighting there were people saying that they saw a military jet fly over at high altitude. All investigative efforts were completed. Although the investigator found multiple witnesses to corroborate the sighting, witness accounts differed from each other.

Moreover, there were several accounts of celebration balloons released during the same time witnesses observed the sighting. It is possible this could account for some of the witness sightings. After a thorough investigation, the investigator speculates a man-made object is the object reported by the witnesses. However, investigator cannot identify the object with 100 percent certainty. This case was closed as *Unidentified*.



Case 14-033-AN1 California

Lead Investigator: John Helton

Synopsis: The Witness indicated that on Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 18:00 she was on a beach at Point Dume, Los Angeles, California taking pictures of the sunset and the unusual cloud formation.



This scene looked like a bright light shining through the clouds. The Witness took seven photographs of the scene with her cell phone and her Sony digital camera. This bright light was only visible in four of her photographs, however. The Witness noted that three other persons were also on the beach as well and taking photographs of the sunset. During the course of the investigation, the Witness contacted the investigator by email on April 08, 2014 and stated “I have been looking on Santa Barbara Island and I have found similar pictures to the one I took. Apparently this is a rare occurrence called a Superior Mirage. The case was closed as *Identified: Known Natural Phenomenon*.”



Investigator’s Toolbox: Flightradar24

Antonio Paris

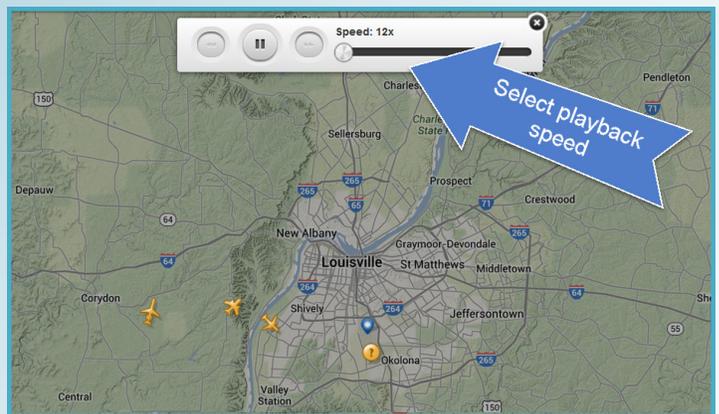
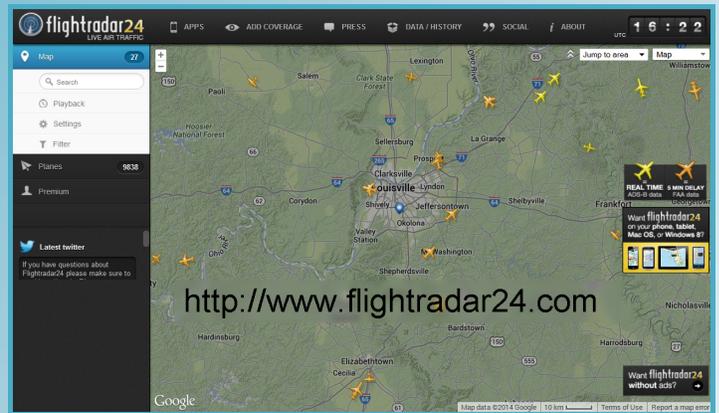
One of API’s best on-line investigative tools is the flightradar24.com website. An interactive map shows most current air traffic over most of the globe. Even better, it can playback past traffic in a particular area. Using the info from flightradar24 enables us to check *if* aircraft traffic might have been in the area at the given time of the sighting.

For example, let’s say we’re working a case from two weeks ago where the witness saw unexplained lights moving over a distant hillside. To do this, first we’d set the interface to show the geographic area of the sighting, then using the Playback functionality, we’d dial in the exact date and time of the sighting. This will usually provide a very accurate reading on air traffic under the time-frame in question.

There are two caveats to remember when using the “Playback” function:
(1) be sure to put in UTC time, *not local time* where the sighting took place, and (2) the website database only goes back 30 days. So if a sighting report is older than that, you won’t be able to conduct a past search.

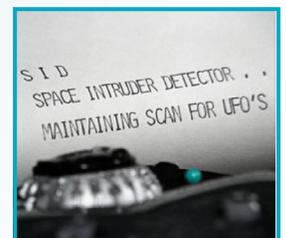
Play around with the website and see how useful it can be for this type of information gathering during investigations.

<http://www.flightradar24.com/>



Aerial Phenomena is seeking compelling UFO sightings for an upcoming documentary to air on national TV in 2015. However, because the UFO phenomena is broad, we are only investigating UFO sightings that fall within the scope of our triage system:

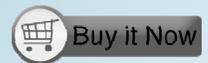
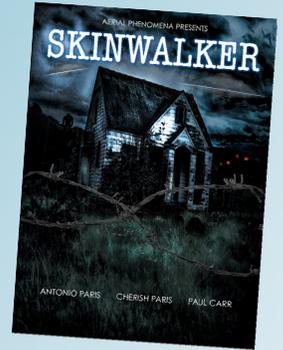
- Sighting occurred within the last five years
- Multiple credible and reliable witnesses (must participate in the investigation)
- Daytime sighting
- Photo, video, or other physical evidence submitted
- Sighting didn’t occur near a military or defense contractor installation, or combat zone.





Miscellaneous: Cool stuff

Skinwalker Ranch, much like Area 51, has its share of bizarre UFO lore and legend. The Aerial Phenomena Investigations Team investigates tales of inter-dimensional portals, alien abductions on the property, and even bulletproof werewolves that have attracted both seasoned and arm-chair UFO/Paranormal investigators. Dubbed the “UFO ranch,” it was once (and perhaps still is) leased by billionaire Robert Bigelow under the auspices of the National Institute for Discovery Science – a now-defunct fringe-science exploratory organization that attempted to study/obtain UFO/Paranormal evidence consistent with scientific publication. If you enjoy the paranormal then this documentary is a must for your library!



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Get your Aerial Phenomena podcasts here

API Case Files podcasts feature API Lead Investigators discussing interesting recent cases, interviews with various authors, and talks with subject matter experts, and recurring features such as Paul Carr’s “Unidentified Science” and Antonio Paris’ “Investigator’s Toolbox.” Podcasts are produced every other month and typically 70 minutes long. API Case Files appeals to anyone interested in UFOlogical studies and science discussions surrounding the subject of UFO’s and accompanying phenomena.



 <http://apicasefiles.libsyn.com/>



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We want your feedback! Let us know how we’re doing. Tell your friends about us and be sure to follow us on Twitter and Facebook!



API is a worldwide UFO investigations team networking and cooperating with others towards a common goal: to solve the UFO phenomena.

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