

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014 A non-profit corporation since 1956

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A VERY IMPORTANT NEW BOOK FOR UFO BUFFS

Most books about UFOs are descriptive and anecdotal. They tell stories about sightings and strange experiences that people have undergone. There is nothing wrong with this. It is one way that people who are interested in UFOs stay in touch with each other.

This book goes far beyond earlier ones. It is systematic, analytical and full of statistics as well as pictures and drawings. It is very easy to read. It does not use technical terms. It describes specific sightings and draws specific conclusions about them. No, it does not come up with a final answer, or even a suggestion, as to what UFOs are. But it does come up with some very impressive information showing that a large number of sightings are Identifiable Flying Objects.

The author believes that if the public were armed with a practical, pictorial handbook (which is what he has tried to do in this book) "anyone can identify 90 percent of all UFO reports."

The book is The UFO Handbook, by Allen Hendry, Doubleday & Company, Garden City, New York, 1979. \$8.95. Paperback.

Hendry says he is not an expert on UFOs, but he certainly knows a lot about what they are not. In the mid-1970s he worked for 15 months with CUFOS in Chicago. During this period he personally investigated 1,307 sightings that were referred to CUFOS. In the largest number of cases he talked by phone to the people who reported the sightings in order to get the details while their impressions were still fresh. But in the course of his investigations he also phoned police stations, airport towers, air route control centers, balloon launch sites, missile launch ranges, weather bureaus, advertising airplane companies, observatories, Air Force bases, and NORAD.

The results will not surprise those with experience in the UFO field: something around 93 percent of all the sightings Hendry investigated can be explained as conventional phenomena, that is, Identified Flying Objects.

Advertising airplanes (not the Goodyear blimps) are a case in point. They have an array of electric lights on their sides or under their wings which spell out advertising messages. When seen from a distance some people think they are "pulsing." And when they turn away from the observer so that neither the lights under the wing or on the bottom of the fuselage can be seen, the observer may feel that the object has suddenly vanished. Unless they are almost overhead, no sound of engines is heard.

Stars are often thought to be UFOs. But don't laugh and think that it is just unsophisticated people who report them. Hendry quotes a control tower operator at a large metropolitan airport (presumably a very experienced person) who told him: "Do you have any idea how many times we have cleared Venus to land?" In another case, a person reported UFO lights in a certain direction from her home. The next day she realized that what she saw was the lights in a house on the other side of the valley. Although the house had been there for a number of years, she had not noticed it before!

These are good examples to cite because they both involve nocturnal lights. In Hendry's examination of the 1,307 flying object cases he found that by far the largest number of them fell into the category of nocturnal lights, 88 percent of all the IFOs. Within the category of nocturnal lights, he broke the sightings down into 20 headings. What is interesting is that just four headings alone account for nine out of ten of all nocturnal light IFOs. These four headings are: 1. Stars and planets, 2. Advertising planes, 3. Aircraft, including helicopters, and 4. Meteors and reentries of manmade objects from space. This means that about 84 percent of all of the sightings Hendry investigated, both UFOs and IFOs, come under these four headings of nocturnal lights.

Hendry presents some suggestions about conducting the investigations themselves, based on his own experience. There are many suggestions, but these are among the more interesting. First, start the investigation as soon as possible after the sighting, within hours if possible. A prompt follow up means that the recollection of the observer will be fresh in his mind, not to mention that the observer's mind will not be cluttered up with media reports of his sighting which may be garbled, given to misquotation, or even introduce extraneous material not related to the case. Also, the records of the weather bureau, control towers, radar stations, etc. will be on hand and do not have to be dug out of archives. Hendry acknowledges that the unlimited use of a free telephone was a great help in his making rapid follow ups.

Second, be very careful not to "lead" the observer by putting words in his mouth. Listen, and ask questions to clarify, but don't suggest to him what you the investigator want to hear.

Third, he considers statements about the size and distance of the object to be almost worthless (although he does not tell this to the observer). If you don't know the distance of the object it is almost impossible to know its size. And if you don't know its size it is almost impossible to know its distance. For example, almost nobody realized that an aspirin tablet held between the fingers at arm's length is larger than the full moon! However, observer comments about angular velocity (how fast it moves from one part of the sky to another) and height above the horizon are useful and more reliably reported.

(Because of length, the final part of this review will appear in the next issue)

NICAP FINANCIAL REPORT

The following figures have been provided to us by the former management. They cover income and expenses for the period 1 January 1978 through 31 December 1978. Members may want to compare these figures with those of the financial report for 1977, which were reported in the September 1978 issue of the UFO Investigator.

INCOME

Membership Dues (new and renewals)	\$20,545.
Back issues of newsletter and other publications	680.
Contributions	1,876.
Miscellaneous	0.
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,101.

EXPENSES

Newsletter (postage & handling, not printing)	\$ 1,827.
Book refund	0.
Advertising	0.
Publicity and promotion	0.
Accounting fees	0.
General postage (not for newsletter)	0.
Telephone	969.
General printing (envelopes, letterheads, etc.)	271.
Contracting services	19,285.
Miscellaneous	871.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,223.
NET	(\$ 122)

These figures do not, however, reflect the overall picture of NICAP finances. The former management has provided us with a schedule of unpaid debt claims against NICAP. It covers only the first seven months of 1978 and comes to about \$21,000. as of 31 July 1978. We are attempting to get a list of claims against NICAP for the full year of 1978 in order to see just where we stand.

MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION

NICAP * 5012 Del Ray Avenue * Washington, DC 20014 * (301) 654-8091

Please enter my name () or renew my standing () as a member of NICAP. I understand that I will receive the monthly newsletter, have access to the NICAP files, receive information on sightings, and other benefits.

Dues Payment Enclosed

Name _____	Annual Dues
Street* _____	Effective 1 September 1979
City & State _____ Zip _____	U.S. \$15.00
	Foreign \$20.00
	Foreign Air Mail \$27.50

SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE

It was mentioned in the last issue that subscriptions would be updated, at no extra charge, to make up for the issues of the Investigator that have been missed. There have been so many letters about this matter that we are repeating the announcement in this issue. Yes, they will be updated, and some already have been. But it may take another two or three issues before all the updates have been entered in the master mailing file. If, after the next couple of issues your subscription has not been updated, and you feel it should, please drop us a post card and we will see that it is.

RENEWALS

As you know, we have temporarily discontinued the use of window envelopes with its enclosed reminder of renewal date, in order to bring operating costs down to an absolute minimum. Nonetheless, the number of members who have looked at the six digits on the top right side of the address label and have sent in their renewals has been wonderful and encouraging. Thank you all very much and please keep up the good work.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Do you remember what you paid for steak or gasoline in 1969? NICAP's costs have been rising too, although there has been no change in the membership rate in the past ten years. Nobody likes to increase his price and neither do we. But we sell no advertising. Our only source of income is members' dues. We have cut costs drastically. But after five months' experience, we see that it is not realistic to expect to be able to publish the newsletter or to hope to expand service to members at the present level of dues. Therefore, a new rate schedule will come into effect starting September 1979. Details are on the application form on page 3.

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