

Speaker 1 00:00

The key to good science is good research. At the heart of good research is a good data set. With the field observation and encounter log from Curious Research, you can easily keep track of your investigative information all in one place, making it easier to review cases and readily see comparisons and contrasts between them. Whether out in the woods squatching, in a back room gathering EVPs, or using high-tech gear to track UFO UAP activity, this easy-to-carry pocket-sized scientific data log is the perfect companion for any field researcher. You can find your copy of the Curious Research Field Observation and Encounter log at Amazon.com, or visit the official Curious Realm store at [curiousrealm.com/store](https://curiousrealm.com/store) to reserve your copy for yourself, your family, or a mine that you want to open, that website again is [curiousrealm.com](https://curiousrealm.com) forward slash store. Well, hello everybody, and welcome back to the Curious Room's continuing coverage of the MUFON Symposium 2026 right here in Covington, Kentucky. We have the great pleasure of being joined by Steve Foss, founder of Techno Signature Intercept Grid (T-Sig) Let's let's get right into it because this is a fantastic concept of device that gives real-time data for techno-signatures of anomalies in the sky. So let let's start ironing out. How did you get involved in this kind of research to begin with. What brought you to creating T-SIG, and what is it all about?

Speaker 2 02:08

The Techno Signature Intercept Grid is a device that is tried and true. Although this is a new platform, it is essentially Fran Ridge's idea of the Madar device, and I worked with Fran Ridge for a number of years, Chris, and I'm kind of the face of the company at that point. I was the one coaching owners, operators on how to read data, how to find data, such as yourself, number 256, correct? Yeah. So I've I've been in communication with all these people over the years, and I just was so fascinated with the people and the concept. And as a chief investigator for MUFON for the state of Florida for years, and regional director of the Middle East, and CMS coordinator, ERT team, CAG. Briefly, I learned an awful lot about how the MUFON system works. I probably know just about as much about CMS as anybody that ever did it, and I see a correlation between what happens with investigators. They they there's two types: ones that dive into a case immediately, and ones that kind of you know meet the deadline. But essentially, what I saw with investigators is that the first thing we're trying to do is debunk cases.

Speaker 1 03:27

Yeah,

Speaker 2 03:27

and I'm not disparaging anything about the system, but the first thing we have to do is look at the weather and anything related to the case. If it's they're saying it's a light in the sky, we're looking at aircraft and satellites and you know celestial events and stuff like that. So the first thing we're always looking at is prosaic explanations, and then they get to interviewing people. But what what I have learned with the Madar system and now the TSIG system and our intercept device is it's capturing real time data every minute of the day and recording this, and it's submitting it. It never forgets the data. And for instance, the Mufon or the Madar system already has 600 million lines of data that can be researched from past.

Speaker 1 04:12

Wow!

Speaker 2 04:13

But you know every device is sending data once a minute from all the sensors, and there's five sensors. But you can hook up a Geiger counter, and it has a relay that can trigger cameras at the same time. So, anyhow, what I saw is a problem: is that this data is real time, and investigators aren't jumping on it at the first minute. So, if this is being fed into the Andrus system, I think that the Andrus system should be able to immediately identify any devices the the closest three they may be 300 miles away which isn't significant but it may be 17 miles it may be three miles so so if the Andrew system can immediately inject into the case the closest three units and if two. Of them are within a 50-mile radius. It could escalate a case to a case of interest immediately and alert the state director that we have something going on that may have real-time anomalistic data recorded. And so the system has five sensors, and if more than one is triggered, it's what we call a multi-sensor validation. You've probably heard that phrase through the Madar and Fran and myself talking with us over the years. And if we have a multi-sensor validation, that's what we call a case of interest in in our field. MUFON has their case of interest classifications. So if the if it detects something that is anomalistic, it sets off an alarm. Number one, it goes into a code blue. The light lights up. It's if you have a speaker attached, which you can buy one on Amazon. It would alert you through audio. Yeah. And then if you're registered, if you are a registered owner, it's going to send you a text and an email. It's going to send all your data to

my website, which it's already doing. But immediately, when an alert is triggered, it starts recording once a second for three minutes. If the stimulus goes away, it goes back to once a minute. But if the stimulus remains, it continues to record once a second and send that data. So it's very detailed in its fact-finding mission, and then so that data is stored and sent. The alerts go to MUFON. So my ambition is that when a case gets submitted into Andris, that it identifies the closest three, it escalates it to a case of interest, and the iron is hot right then, and people are alerted to get on that case. The state director is now invested in seeing that the investigator isn't waiting for it. He's like, get on this one immediately. And these cases happen, but they often the time goes by and the evidence gets cold. You know.

Speaker 1 06:59

Well, and you know, honestly, that's a huge reason why, as Curious Research I authored, the observation log is based on the concept of the first 48 hours on on A and E. And if you've ever known a murder investigator, if you've ever known a detective, it's the fact that beyond 48 hours, everything begins deprecating. Right, the the strands and the strings start fraying and they start getting looser and and you're losing. You're literally you're literally losing data. The memory of the people who witnessed something is changing, and not that a witness is 100% to begin with, but when you're talking about data like this, like what you're gathering, you know, real metric data in that kind of way, to show something because that's always, I always say, report, report often, report everywhere, report to everybody, not just MUFON. Go to every system and report it, because the more eyes we have on something, the better. And much like any case in the MUFON database or anywhere else. When they get two about the same thing, something keys in and a different investigation begins because now you have corroboration of the event. And if you can triangulate that with a third person, right now you've got a totally great data set that you can begin looking at in a different way,

Speaker 2 08:21

absolutely, 100% and and in reinforcing that is what if we have a multi sensor validation and you get the alert and can go out. The alert says, Chris, go out and look up.

Speaker 1 08:33

Yep,

Speaker 2 08:33

look up for 10 minutes. UAP, you have a way of appearing, disappearing, coming in.

Speaker 1 08:40

Yep, not being

Speaker 2 08:41

visible, then becoming visible and leaving. So there's there's a time trail there as well. It's not just a one time thing, but the alert says go outside and look up. Okay, so if we can have captured scientific data measurements of the environment, and we have an eyewitness, and it can trigger you to take a camera or to turn on your camera system. Then we can have both a multi-sensor validation on the T-SIG system, an eyewitness report, digital evidence, and Steven Spielberg's knocking on your door. Yeah, that's what we're after here.

Speaker 1 09:18

Absolutely, and you know, especially that idea once again of multi-sensor data. That's something that I get into my presentation tomorrow on. Is the idea that even even when NASA recently came in and started doing the panels, things like that, they asked like, "Hey, National Weather Service, like all of these different agencies, you have sensors that we don't have. You have access to things that we don't have, and even Arrow asked the same thing, like, please, if if we have a time and a date and a location, if you have data on that from a weather satellite, whatever, all of that makes a difference. All. All of that helps coax information out in a totally different way.

Speaker 2 10:04

Absolutely, yeah. So the wonderful thing about the mufology ufology community is how cooperative the people in Mufon are, and the other people who are the vendors, and just creating and sharing. You don't find it in other disciplines, you know, this is a very open, sharing community, and it's fantastic. And I've just just been in awe of all the people that

I've encountered over the time, which is why I want to continue to see this as being a helpful tool.

Speaker 1 10:34

Well, and you know, once again, the idea of building a community of researchers, even if it's the fact, because hey, we don't all have time to go out and hit the field. We don't all have time to go out and observe all the time. But what you do have time to do is literally five minutes to plug in a device and connect it to the internet, and it doesn't forget all it does. It's

Speaker 2 10:56

always it's just sitting silently recording. And

Speaker 1 10:59

I've had I've had the original Madar Madar device. I want to say since about six months after it was released. Yours was

Speaker 2 11:06

yours was installed six after mine. Yeah, I was 249. You're 256. So so

Speaker 1 11:11

yeah, you know, it's one of those. It's a it's an amazing piece of device. It's an amazing piece of kit, and to see the data that comes from it, I know I've gotten a few anomalous hits on mine, things like that, that have registered into the system, and it's one of those like, it's wicked cool for the fact that it's there doing things while I'm out traveling the country. It's still observing in my locality in that kind of way, and to build a community of nodes in that kind of way to once again be able to verifiably get data that it's not just from one point source. You have other localized nodes that can pick up that data as well. How? What is the reach of a node? That's usually the first

Speaker 2 11:50

question that everybody asks, and the and the technical answer is that there is no reach because it doesn't reach. It accepts. Sure, it's a passive system that intercepts signals. So it's not the strength of the unit itself; it's the strength of the

Speaker 1 12:04

incoming signal. Of the

Speaker 2 12:05

incoming signal, or so, for instance, if you had a 30-foot triangle eight miles away, yeah, it might not get anything. If you had a 300 foot one eight miles away, it could register all sorts of things. It's not picking up. It's it's the unit primarily could be considered as a CE two CE three sort of device. It's looking for nuts and bolts, crafts that could have occupants. Yeah, it doesn't it it doesn't focus entirely on anomalistic lights, orbs, and stuff like that. Yeah, they don't put off the same signals as a electromagnetic, you know, anti-gravitic travel propulsion system. Those are the things that are leaving evidence, forensic evidence. Yeah, everything leaves it. The dog running through the room. You've seen all the crime shows. Yeah, yeah. Everything leaves evidence behind, Including UAP, how we detect those? We have five different sensors that are trying to, you know, rule out false positives, like the truck rumbling down a street. They don't pick up airplanes. They're not picking up, you know, SpaceX rockets and stuff like that. But they do have sensors that can pick up things in your local airspace, and so you know the more we can have out there and cross-reference and triangulate. Yeah. But you know there have been a lot of correlated cases where you have a sighting that is reported to Mufon or Newforce, yeah, and a Madar or T-SG unit that records data, and sometimes they don't come together. They don't converge together until the report gets made, and an investigator looks it up and goes, "Oh wow! But we did have, you know, in Florida, Rusty Hester, the assistant state director, she's fantastic. She was assigned a case by me, and it was a sighting of a woman who was on her balcony, and she saw this thing gyrating in the sky. And she backed inside her screen, her sliding door, grabbed her camera, and started filming. And the you know the films never capture good stuff, but you could see these lights flickering and whatnot. And so she sent the stuff to Mufon. Rusty worked the case, and she owns number 270, which was installed shortly after yours, and she went in and looked at the data and said, "Oh my gosh, I have a hit on my Madar device at the exact same time. Of course, you know UFO investigators need to be cognizant of the UTC time differentials and stuff like that. And Rusty would always reach

out to me and said, "Just verified us for me, and sure enough, she had made our hit on on a sighting that she was working. Wow! Yeah, fantastic. And then there was Reef Station in California, a military craft that I witnessed a football shape UFO go by their airplane, and two units in California had detected it. It was fantastic stuff. Now, getting the you know the people in the military to convert that this happened was you know a little bit more difficult. But the investigators did a good job working it, and you know got some factual stories out of it. And you'd

Speaker 1 15:13

have to you'd have to you know of course make your FOIA requests for radars, radar data, you know sensor platform trying to get the

Speaker 2 15:20

pilot to actually admit to admit to anything,

Speaker 1 15:23

and you know, with with that in mind, when it comes to the way that this data integrates into investigation, how does the average person, the person who's not a field investor enthusiast, the person who is yeah yeah just at home has this. How can they begin to utilize that data in an investigative way? How can that's an excellent question? And

Speaker 2 15:48

you know, across the spectrum, I I can't tell you that there's any one specific type of person. Everybody has their own interest level in this. Some just want to have it just to provide data. That others that was me. That's where I. That's where I started. Yeah,

Speaker 2 16:04

but there are others who want it so they can evaluate their data. One, for instance, is a man named Tom Johnson, Raven Consultants, and Tom is emails out almost every week saying, "Hey, what about you know? I saw this, I recorded that, you know, this data, and he's he's

constantly reading it. So the data is available, and I have taken time with many individuals and given specific one-on-one online training how to read the data.

Speaker 1 16:32

Yeah.

Speaker 2 16:33

Now the new system, the website will be more robust. It actually gives graphs where you can look for spikes in the last 24 hours on your magnetometer, your accelerometer, your compass,

Speaker 1 16:44

yeah,

Speaker 2 16:44

you know, has those graphs and it'll have an alert graph. But you can look at the last 24 hours, seven days, 30 days, last year. You can look on a specific date, so it's more searchable and visual than the previous system on Madar, which was really difficult to read. But it

Speaker 1 17:00

was a little tough, but different people. Yeah,

Speaker 2 17:01

and and so you know, I'll be doing. I will be totally available to every state who wants to have a Zoom call for their investigators and for state director meetings. But any individual who owns one, yeah, I'm reachable and approachable, and and I would be happy to you know take the time. That's one thing to say when you have 250, but if you know if we can get 1000s of these things going, absolutely, you know we'll have to do more recordings that

people can view than the one-on-one that I've done for so many years. But yeah, so everybody's different in how they want to utilize the thing. We have actually you know some MUFON investigative teams that have purchased seven of them and give them to their investigators. Yeah, I have people who have purchased four of them and put one in their brother's house, one in their summer house, one in their uncle's house.

Speaker 1 17:53

And and just as a circuit design, granted, I've never designed anything like that. I do web design, though. I do integration with things. I do circuit design for guitar pedals and synths, all kinds of stuff. But a couple of use case scenarios. One, this is a very small device. It is not big. About the pack of cigarettes. I was

Speaker 3 18:15

just about to pull out a pack of cigarettes and literally be. I quit. No,

Speaker 1 18:19

no name brand, but it's this big. But yeah, literally about the size of two packs of smokes put together. You know, a standard index card. But can it be used offline? Is there a way for it to be able to store the data? Basically, be able to be a handheld device that you could take out in the field.

Speaker 2 18:40

That's an excellent. Store the

Speaker 1 18:41

data, then plug it in once you're back to civilization. Because if you're out in the middle of the field doing, let's say, a week long investigation on a property out in the middle of the desert, something like that, you may not have access to Starlink. You may not have access to the internet. Right. But if you have this device, is there an offline fashion where either you can plug it into your computer, and and it works. The answer

Speaker 2 19:04

is yes.

Speaker 1 19:05

Okay, but

Speaker 2 19:06

not yet.

Speaker 1 19:06

Okay,

Speaker 2 19:07

cool. We have every intention of making a mobile field unit.

Speaker 1 19:10

Yeah.

Speaker 2 19:10

So the the difference is this, and this is what's really important to investigations.

Speaker 1 19:15

Yes.

Speaker 2 19:16

Now, for the average enthusiast, that would be cool for them to be able to do that, and they're not giving the data for investigators, and we want that. But the purpose here is that you get your device, you bolt it down, and you don't touch it because it's with the the accelerometer and the gyroscope. You know, even a little tin on it like that. You know, cat playing with the cord could move the device and it's going to trigger an alert, and you don't want that. So we've made a new, you know, device that can screw down to the table, slide it in there, and it's locked in place. Love it. And the reason for this is super, super important. Let's just say you've got your 256 in your city in your neighborhood, yeah, and it's recording device that. Is related to that geographic longitude, latitude, and so a year from now, somebody records or submits a case to MUFON and says, "Hey, I saw this a year ago.

Speaker 1 20:12

Yeah,

Speaker 2 20:12

we can go back and look at the data on that device. Know that it was at that location a year ago. But if you're moving it around and changing locations, then it can't be correlated to a case specifically.

Speaker 1 20:25

At least not within that. And that-that's what I was going to ask to follow up because the whole idea, like you can use a home Starlink, for example, but I could take that to my aunt's house in Poughkeepsie. All I have to do is go into the Starlink app and re-register the address of where I'm going to be, and for the amount of time that it's going to be there,

Speaker 2 20:44

and we should be able to pick up an IP address and know its location. But to answer your other question about can I take it remotely and record, it's already recording everything inside it. If you have it powered up, it's recording. So once you hook it up to the internet, it's going to download all that data. Okay, so and we don't currently have a separate map to say these are mobile devices and how we're going to do that, but we'll work towards that in the foreseeable future. But

Speaker 1 21:09

even right now, the the use case is the fact of you do not have to plug it into a laptop to use it remotely. You don't have to walk around with it in your hand with the battery. But as soon as it sees power, it's going to power up, get a location, and start gathering data. Right, and whenever you connect to the internet, that's going to upload.

Speaker 2 21:29

Yeah, and with a GPS, and it, it, it, the GPS can not only just tell you where it is, it tells you when it

Speaker 1 21:36

is. Yes, exactly, exactly, giving you that. That's

Speaker 2 21:39

that's the more important part of a GPS unit is giving the UTC timestamps. Exactly, that is irrevocably true. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Speaker 1 21:47

But but that's just and just use casing. Just the idea of like yeah, being able to take it into the field, being able to once again tell the system like, hey, this date to this date, I'm going to be at a different location. Right. You know, and like this is the address of where I'm going to be, so that at least you have a proximity in which to until it gets a GPS location, something like that. So that data

Speaker 2 22:11

won't be stored on a static site on the a live map. You know, it would be a separate compartmentalized set of information that's available to certain people for certain reasons.

Speaker 1 22:21

Now, as far as searchability, personal researcher-wise, how far back into my data can I dig, and how do I do that?

Speaker 2 22:30

Absolutely, a perfect question. So it never forgets data. It's stored, like I said, 600 million lines of data on the existing Madar nodes.

Speaker 1 22:38

Yeah,

Speaker 2 22:38

and so this is going back to the minute each one was installed, so the data is there, and you can go back and search all back to day one. And I have tracked for the past three years the exact date that yours was installed, and I had I looked at them every day, every one that was live every day, every morning, I would get up and I would see which ones are offline and contact them and say you're offline. But I track every. I can tell you what days yours was online and offline by looking at my records. Yeah, you've

Speaker 1 23:13

literally emailed me and been like, "Hey, your system's offline. I'm like, "Dude, I'm so sorry. My wife doesn't know what to do with that thing. I am on the road for another five days. I'll unplug it and plug it back. So historically speaking,

Speaker 2 23:24

your data is available all the time. Is from the minute it started recording. When it goes offline, sorry, it's not there. But I had tracked that over the years, and I can tell you it was offline from this day to this day. Yeah. And how many times I emailed you in between to tell you it's offline, and how many times I texted you or hand wrote you a letter, but so to access the data, all you have to do is you know if you have a registered device, you have access to

the data full time to all devices. It's free, comes with the purchase. You have permanent access to data as long as that unit is online and recording, and you're active in the system. You don't have to pay a monthly subscription for that. However, and you get live alerts as well. Yeah. But if you don't want to own a device, you can. We're going to make it so you can subscribe to access to all data, and we also want to make it so a person who's in a hot zone with many devices near them, within 100 miles, that they could get a subscription for real-time alerts as well.

Speaker 1 24:29

Yeah.

Speaker 2 24:29

So a guy in Indiana or Southern California or Hudson Valley, wherever they are, where the hot spots are, doesn't have to own one, but he can get a real-time alert to go outside and look up because there was a an active sighting within 50 miles of him, and a item moving at the speeds these things are known to move in. 50 miles is nothing.

Speaker 1 24:51

Yeah, such

Speaker 2 24:52

as the you know the Nimitz sighting of the Tic Tacs dropping from 60,000 feet to the and being back over to the aircraft carrier. Three seconds, 60 miles away. Yeah, 50 miles is a decent radius to be alerted within.

Speaker 1 25:06

Yeah, yeah, no, that is a fantastic radius. And once again, once you start getting numerous nodes connected together, that 50 miles expands rapidly. Yeah, it

Speaker 2 25:15

does. So you know, the ambition is to have as many as we possibly can to create that grid and the triangulation opportunities and whatnot, and you know, so I think it was Robert Bigelow said back in 2008, "What we need is not disclosure, what we need is confirmation. That's

Speaker 1 25:33

right. Yeah,

Speaker 2 25:34

I hope I quoted you right, Robert. And and

Speaker 1 25:35

that only comes through data. That confirmation only comes through data. Alex Dietrich is in there right now talking about her experience. Pleasure meeting her last night. Yeah, it was great sitting and having dinner, and even hearing her talk about her experience and everything else, but saying the very important fact that what I saw was unknown. That means it's not extraterrestrial; it's unknown. Exactly, and to make a leap, we don't know that it's to make a leap to that statement is a huge leap. It is like I can't even get behind that. In between those statements is where the science is supposed to be. In between those points is where the science and the data is supposed to happen, and that that's a huge effort on my part, honestly, is to get all these communities, man, even beyond what you do-paranormal, cryptozoology, all of them-to understand that it is not evidence; it's data. Evidence frees data

Speaker 2 26:33

point.

Speaker 1 26:33

Evidence frees you in court from murder, things like that. Never let it be less than that. Never let the bar for the word evidence, be less than what you would give a lawyer to free you from prison.

Speaker 2 26:44

Well said.

Speaker 1 26:45

Because other than that, good lord, what they'll call evidence against you, if that's the case, you know what I mean. Aside from that, it's data. We have data. We have anomalous data within a data set, and that 5% 8% anomaly bears a lot of investigation and needs a lot of investigation because it's the anomaly that science is supposed to remove from the data set. You know, that's literally the job of science is to get rid of the anomaly, and it's people like you that are giving investigators the tools to identify anomaly, to say definitely beyond beyond what anybody saw in the sky, beyond any account, beyond any sensor platform known as a camera-that's not a camera. It's just a sensor platform. That that these are points of data, and that this is how you gather it. And it's fantastic to see that you are helping to continue this passive data gathering system in that kind of way.

Speaker 2 27:48

Well, I'm also honored that Mufana respected the product well enough to try and incorporate it into their system as well. Well, it's it's it's not going to be without challenge. We'll get it worked out, but we know it's already recording and posting on the map, and so you know, I'm not technologically savvy enough to describe exactly how it does what it does. And I'll be honest with you, I'm a restaurant tour by trade. I've done this forever, but I've immersed myself in the system deep enough that I understand what the sensors are, what they are supposed to do how to read the data, what

Speaker 1 28:23

their tolerances are,

Speaker 2 28:24

and in in my history, I've surrounded myself with the people who could do the things that I couldn't do, and that's how I became successful all my life. Just having people do the work

for me, just giving them the liberty to do it and paying them well to do it. And I have two partners, exactly. You know, I mean, with 1200 employees, I always tell them, "Hey, do something where you can make money while you sleep. You know, put people to work for you, and that's great advice from me. But I'm surrounding myself right now with people who can help us get the technology together to advance this beyond a five sensor unit, doing what it does for MUFON, we have ambitions of doing the Intercept Seven, and I've spoken to many of the Madar people already, including Armando Landryan, who gave me so much input on other sensors that can be added. Tom Johnson and many others have just said, "Hey, wow, this is great! What you're doing? Yeah, thank you. I've had thanks from so many Madar people for continuing this project and keeping the the Fran Ridge dream alive.

Speaker 1 29:32

Yeah,

Speaker 2 29:33

and before he did pass, he I was I didn't know what to think of it at the time, but he sent an email to his trusted advisors and said, "In the unfortunate event of my demise, Steve will be the director of Madar. And I, I laughed about it at the moment. I was like, "Yeah, right, as if, and and I had no. I forgot that he had written that until it was about a. Month ago, Phil Leach sent me the email saying, "Steve, remember what Fran

Speaker 1 30:04

said? Yeah,

Speaker 2 30:05

it's like, yeah, yeah. Well, here we go, and and my heart's in this to see to it that is obvious. Community is getting what it deserves from Fran's work for all these

Speaker 1 30:16

years. Well, and that's just it. It's a how do you how do you pass on that passion and verve for something, and I think that he truly found somebody that could.

Speaker 2 30:25

Yeah, there's one little known thing about Fran Ridge that just came to light in the past couple years before he's passing, and nobody knows this, but one of his early Madar systems actually, this was like an ENIAC computer system in his office-it was huge. I mean, we didn't have the components that we have today to build these things. He had this massive system he built in there, and he discovered recently that he actually captured the Wow signal. Awesome! He has evidence of it in his office currently. I shouldn't be telling everybody because I want to go get that. That's epic. It is epic. Wow! It's just fascinating that he did that, and so that's the history of this system and what it's capable of doing.

Speaker 1 31:12

Well, I want to thank you so much for your time today. It's been a very pleasure is all mine,

Speaker 2 31:16

and it's so well received here. I'm just in awe. Well,

Speaker 1 31:20

I would love to have you on every few months to get updates, things like that. Technology like this is what we love exposing our audience to because it's it's not like. And don't get me wrong, folks. All right, I understand, especially in the world of paranormal, the want of use of a spirit box. But but as an audio engineer and somebody that does RF coordination. Yeah, there's something about scanning through white noise of broadcast and finding signals that there should be a scientific problem with. That's just me. If you're talking scientific data, that will immediately be smacked down because all you're doing is scanning a radio band and finding some paradolia inside of it, and and Staticom is a great example of technologies that are moving forward in that kind of realm. But instead of using the white noise of broadcast, they are using like their own private white noise generator that they have created, so that you aren't picking it up off broadcast. You aren't just like this is a generated white noise. So if something is happening, it's happening inside of that circuit. It's not. It's not being. You aren't just catching radio waves and like moving the radio dial left and right, left and right. You know to to pick things up. So people like you who are bringing this kind of stuff to a different level, that are bringing this passive technology, that are

bringing scientific means to gather data, I think is massively important. So thank you so much for everything you're doing. A

Speaker 2 32:57

real pleasure, and I look forward to talking with you again soon. Again

Speaker 1 32:59

and again and again. Thanks for

Speaker 2 33:00

your support and the Madar system, and now the T-Sig Intercept Five, I

Speaker 1 33:05

am so happy to see that it's moving forward. Let everybody know where they can go to find out more about T-Sig. Yeah, where they can go to get there.

Speaker 2 33:12

tsigpro.com is the website we have created. It's this is all brand new because Fran passed away just months ago and didn't leave us any blueprints for anything. I had to track down one of the Madar operators. I did not know who he was. I knew his name because I email and text. Yeah, yeah. I mean, Linda Napolitano is one. There's just so many names. It's like they were just a name to me and a operator. And there was one Rick name and node

Speaker 4 33:42

number. Yeah,

Speaker 2 33:43

and that's how I knew them. I didn't know their involvement in the ufology world and stuff like that. And it's just I keep learning every day. Yeah, and listening to Peter Robbins last night, who's like the Forrest Gump of ufology. He was there for all the big events. You know, this is like you know he was there for the Nike shows. That is that is

Speaker 1 34:00

that is a beautiful analogy to that. To that, yeah, he's

Speaker 2 34:04

so interesting to listen to. But anyhow, I forget where I was going with that. But we're going to be successful in making this happen, and we're just blessed that Mufon is embracing it. And thank you again for your time. Hey, always, always.

Speaker 1 34:18

While you were online, everybody finding out more about TSIG and getting your copy or getting your unit. Make sure to stop on by Curious Realm. [CuriousRealm.com](http://CuriousRealm.com) is where you can like, follow, subscribe. That is where you can find links to amazing products like TSIG that can help you in the world of your investigation in the field. When we get back from this quick commercial break, we will continue with our live on-site coverage of the MUFON Symposium 2026 right here in Covington, Kentucky. Right after this, folks. The key to. Good science is good research. At the heart of good research is a good data set. With the field observation and encounter log from Curious Research, you can easily keep track of your investigative information all in one place, making it easier to review cases and readily see comparisons and contrasts between them. Whether out in the woods squatching, in a back room gathering EVPs, or using high-tech gear to track UFO UAP activity, this easy-to-carry pocket-sized scientific data log is the perfect companion for any field researcher. You can find your copy of the Curious Research Field Observation and Encounter log at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), or visit the official Curious Realm store at [curiousrealm.com/store](http://curiousrealm.com/store) to reserve your copy for yourself, your family, or a mind that you want to open. That website again is [curiousrealm.com/store](http://curiousrealm.com/store). Well, hello everybody, and welcome back to the Curious Rooms continuing coverage of the MUFON Symposium 2026 here in Covington, Kentucky, we have the great pleasure of being joined by our good friend and guest Bob Spearing. I'm

Speaker 5 36:29

I'm doing good. I'm not used to the headphones. It's

Speaker 1 36:33

right there in your head, isn't it? It's nice when you get the ESPN quality; it blocks all the noise out, things like that, but you were actually here today. We had you on all of a few weeks ago talking about some of the cases that you were discussing, but you were here discussing the cases of interest presentation. Let's get into some of those, Bob.

Speaker 5 36:54

Okay, one of them that we had was a video that was analyzed by one of our photo analysts, Larry Tyree, and it was a large cloud-like object that was moving north to south off the Western Australia coast over the Pacific, and you can see the cloud banks, and nothing's moving. And we used mathematics. Larry's a mathematician to estimate how far out the cloud bank was, and it's very, very. The wind was 31 miles an hour going north, and this big object was going south, and it looked like a cloud. And you would think that a cloud would disperse, all right? And it was traveling at 91 miles per hour with this cloud into a headwind, and ahead of it were three small dots. And we looked in flight radar, thinking it may have been fighter jets and something else, and there was nothing. Which doesn't mean that they were an aircraft, but fighter jets need to go faster than 91 miles an hour to stay up near. Yes, the cloud and these three small dots were moving in unison at 91 miles per hour. A

Speaker 1 37:55

cloud, and I don't know. Maybe it's just my realm of knowledge of physics and understanding of clouds and cloud structure, which I'm no meteorologist, mind you, Bob, but I find it very odd without tornadic activity or something, for a cloud to be moving at 90 miles an hour without some sort of deprecation to the cloud, without it breaking apart. Be and even at that point, like most of the time with thunderstorms, it's so thick, things like that. That that's why it maintains through a hurricane or or a tornado. But but this instance of a cloud just moving 90 miles an hour by itself, well, it's fascinating.

Speaker 5 38:34

Larry is a photo analyst, so basically he took one frame and he kept enhancing it, enhancing and enhancing it, and it turns out it seems to be like a disc with the coupler, but it's 156 feet in diameter, so it looks like a cloud disc with the cupola. So we don't think it was a cloud, especially since it maintained its cohesiveness. Yeah, but when it was enhanced, it actually looked like a discoid with a couple of on top, white, pure white, and it was 156 feet in diameter, which is bigger than a 747. Wow! Yeah, 747 is like a 114 feet.

Speaker 1 39:11

Wow, that is that is a massive craft that's large, and once again, 90 miles an hour. When you think about that, I mean, just the, I want to say 150 miles an hour, 100 miles an hour, something like that is what you need for like a Cessna, you know, just like a small general light aircraft, something like that, like a few, maybe 100, couple 100 yards of runway to get up to speed, you know. But the idea of sustained flight at 90 miles an hour, right? And not gliding, not floating.

Speaker 5 39:44

No, this thing was booking across the sky, and we don't know what the little white star-like objects were. It was towards sunset, so whatever they were, it was like a reflection, right? So they were probably metallic, but fighter jets can't go that slow without falling out of the star.

Speaker 1 39:59

Yeah, most most. Aircraft can't go that night

Speaker 5 40:01

with no transponder readings on flight radar 24, so we don't know what these four objects were.

Speaker 1 40:06

And now, granted, let's bring that up real quick because I'm a big fan of flight r flight radar 24. I've been using it for years, even before I got into Mufon. I've been using it. It was just a nerdy thing as someone who traveled 30 weeks a year that we technicians would do like, ooh, look, Southwest is going somewhere, and it was cool, but there there's a slight issue sometimes with flight radar that most people don't realize, and that's that yes, you know there are some aircraft that do not necessarily appear on there, and that's that's something I think important to point out. Not that not that it is a military aircraft, like we said. Anything like that would likely be needing to go much faster to stay in the sky, unless it's a dirigible of some sort. But even then, a blimp going 90 miles an hour. Right. Good luck with that. Well, you know, some people think that

Speaker 5 40:59

maybe the triangles or or some sort of balloons with an anti-gravity propulsion system.

Speaker 1 41:05

It's interesting, Bob, because one of the things that we show on the show regularly, there are high altitude, high speed balloons that are out there, and they're V-shaped. They're they're and they're massive. They are like the size of an airplane hangar. They're huge, but they're aerostat balloons, and they are made to go at speed and slipstream and stuff like that, and stay aloft for a long time. So

Speaker 5 41:30

I've seen them. One of them is called the Telos. Yeah, it's a surveillance vehicle. It's a chevron. Yep. All right. Yeah, and and they can be big. Yeah,

Speaker 3 41:37

huge, huge. The problem

Speaker 5 41:39

with chevrons, and I brought this up in the presentation too. Is that most of the time people don't see them except out of their peripheral vision because they're almost transparent. So

the theory is, if it is sort of an American craft, maybe there's cameras on top filming the clouds above and projecting it on the bottom to make it look almost invisible. Yeah,

Speaker 1 41:57

yeah, the reflective reflective camouflage things like that, which you know, they they definitely have experimented with and done plenty of work with to see if that is viable, and especially now because a lot of the problem previously technologically was how do you get those panels, how do you make those panels, how do you bend those panels? As somebody who works in the industry that I do, like I have now seen fully wrapable LED, where it is it is about as thin as eight nine pieces of paper put together, a small piece of cardboard, and it'll wrap 360 around a column, and there's video. So it's now fully lightweight. It's now fully bendable. It like, and it is too resolution. Much less if you're looking at it from a distance, you know. But even, even at a close proximity resolution, like a high resolution LED wall, you got to be a good 3040, feet away to catch full resolution, or else your eye starts seeing the strips of pixels, you know, things like that. So the technology is out there. There's tons of stuff like that that is even commercially available now, much less in the world of militaria.

Speaker 5 43:11

Oh well, yeah, the people that are trying to take out the flock cameras by putting like all sorts of wraps on their car, right? Yeah, yeah,

Speaker 1 43:18

yeah. Exactly, exactly. So let's get into the next case real quick.

Speaker 5 43:22

Okay. Well, I talked extensively about the missing scientists and generals and contractors. Yes. And what's interesting about that is that the majority of them were connected to NASA in some way, shape, or form. The majority of them disappeared in New Mexico. All right. Some of them were working on deep space exoplanet sensors looking for say liquid water or maybe pollution. Yeah. All right. And then the general was the first one to disappear. This all happened right after Bigelow apparently spoke to Trump on the fifth of February, and

that didn't come out till august 5 on Knapp's podcast. But right after that is when Obama made his statements. Trump put his foot in his mouth when someone said, "So there is aliens, and then he says, "Okay, I'm going to release everything. Yeah. The next week, General McCaslin disappears. Yes. Wipes his phone, takes his gun. Nobody's ever seen him again. Melissa Sayce, who worked at Los Alamos, same thing. Anthony Chavez, who was working on a quantum physics experiment where matter can exist in two places at the same time, like by location. Colin Firth in Disclosure Day holding the artifact. So, and the connection was was all with NASA. And interestingly enough, it connects to the Trump assassination attempt in April because the fellow who tried to kill him interned at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. So it just gets weird and weirder and weirder. Wild, yeah.

Speaker 1 44:47

And you know it's interesting because all of a few years-I'm not going to say a few years ago. I I want to say it was closer to 2015 or so. There was another spat of deaths like that. With NASA to the point that, like, I remember there being news reports of like it's dangerous to become a NASA engineer. That

Speaker 5 45:07

was one of my slides. Career tip: Yeah, don't don't guess if you want to live. Yeah,

Speaker 1 45:11

because like literally the odds were insane. Like it was it was close to like a 10 percentile of of scientists that went to work for NASA died. It was like even if that is of natural circumstances, that's still a large number of people. That's still a massive number. So yeah, it's it's interesting to see that. Now, when it comes to those disappearances, Bob, what what were you able to track anything down? Were you able to find any additional data as to things that they may have been working on, that kind of stuff.

Speaker 5 45:44

Well, Anthony Garcia was working on the bi-location experiment. Okay, Monica Reza, who disappeared on the hike in Angeles National Forest, yeah, who had worked for McCaslin, she had invented an alloy called Mondelez or Mondeloy, and basically for rocket fuselages,

and prior to that, we were getting that medal from Russia, and she sort of put them out of business. So I have a couple of theories: is that one, this may have nothing to do with UFOs at all, and that maybe it was a national security issue. Sure, maybe they got the phone call, Trump's release in the files because McCaslin was gone the next week, but everybody that disappeared before him, they all disappeared in a three-month period in 2025 from May till August. Okay, so that and they were all in New Mexico. That's not a coincidence. And so when Monica Reza disappeared, she had worked for McCaslin. So my one theory is that they had to go to a safe house, which maybe they got the way Trump's going to screw everything up, something like that, or maybe they were compromised. Maybe they were working for somebody else at the same time they were working for us, and the hammer came down and they tried to get away. I know that Melissa Sace was very agitated the week before she disappeared, and also Anthony Garcia disappeared from Los Alamos. So I think that those two were connected. Also, that was the bi-location experiment guy. Two out of Los Alamos and the other ones from from NASA.

Speaker 1 47:16

Well, and the bi-location experiment specifically is very interesting because the the one thing I say regularly and I normally bring it up in my talks is since quantum entanglement

Speaker 5 47:29

yes won

Speaker 1 47:29

the Nobel Prize they have been science has been rapidly coming not only to the field of UFO but to the field of psi to the field of para investigation it is really fascinating to see that pivot turn of science in that kind of way, and I honestly thank it not only to that, but oddly, and I'll get into this tomorrow, Bob. Not to ruin it for everybody out there, but that's one of my favorite things about the change from UFO to UAP, and I know it was done dirty. I know it was done under the table. I know we lost a few years of FOIA requests, you know, that had to be rewritten because people were like, "You got anything on UFOs? Like, no, we don't, right? Because we look at UAPs now, not UFOs. But the plus side is that last word, or the last two anomalous phenomena, which it is the direct duty of science to remove from a data set? So yeah, like I always say, it brings science and kicking and screaming to the topic. And since the time of quantum entanglement, winning that Nobel Prize, so many

things that they've been unwilling to like within string theory, they've touched it. Within some theoretical physics, they've touched it, but they've never really wanted to like reach out and try to touch it. And once that was proven, it it it really showed a different connection with a lot of things. So the idea of bilocation, the idea even even the hypothetical thought experiment of how do you possibly create a shutter that's fast enough to catch an electron in motion?

Speaker 5 49:11

Yep, that's the fascination. You know,

Speaker 1 49:13

because it does the atom know to slow down to be photographed and then go back on its way. Does that imply consciousness in an atom?

Speaker 3 49:22

Right.

Speaker 1 49:23

You know, but much less can an atom or can a particle exist in two places simultaneously? You know,

Speaker 5 49:32

spooky action at a distance. Absolutely,

Speaker 1 49:34

absolutely, and and it literally is one of those like that is that is a huge noodle scratcher when you start to think about it,

Speaker 5 49:42

sure. If you have a particle on one end of the visible universe and another one on the other, and they can instantaneously interact.

Speaker 1 49:48

Yeah, instantaneously interact and instantaneously share data, and that's a lot of the reason why science has come over to psi. Honestly, because like yes, it. There, probably of any community I belong to, I think that there is more actual hard laboratory data on the world of remote viewing than anything else, Bob, because it was born in a laboratory, and that in and of itself is I am a C plus remote viewer man, but the fact that I can remote view with some level of accuracy, period,

Speaker 4 50:27

is

Speaker 1 50:28

just mind-numbing to me. Mind-numbing, and I can do it. It's strange and it's weird, and it's one of those like, how are we getting that non-local information if we aren't sharing that data clout? Right. You know,

Speaker 4 50:42

right?

Speaker 5 50:42

So yeah, I've I've I've been interested in taking the Monroe Institute course on remote viewing. Oh well, fascinating. Let me

Speaker 1 50:49

know. I'll get you a code. Okay, I have codes for all that kind of stuff, but but yeah, it it really does change things, and that's that's honestly where things like Chris Bledsoe and psionics and orbs CE five all these things begin crossing over and it's as I say in my presentation it's a boundary phenomena that crosses all kinds of boundaries between scientific philosophic religious it's it's incredible

Speaker 5 51:18

yeah as a matter of fact in the string one of the string field status reports, there was an incident at Mauritius Bay, in I think it's 1980 or 81, where they used mediums to bring in a boomerang, and then they used an electro pulse weapon called Gabriel to take it down. It was a mass sighting, and they took it away like Jake Barber with the helicopter, large boomerang, but the the mediums, according to the Stringfield report, all died. So one of the things, being Greg Sisko, who's our MUFON historian, we're going to start looking through newspapers.com to see if we can verify that side of the story.

Speaker 1 51:54

Yeah, because the whole idea of that, I'm a I am a fan of all kinds of things in the world, Bob. But there are some things, and when it comes to CE five, no offense, I know many practitioners. I know numerous people. I have the CE five app. I've just never been to a meeting. I always I always go to our good friend Earl Gray, who shared his CE five experience on our show, where that led to a not so pleasant experience. That's after.

Speaker 5 52:29

That's the one where the wall opens up and they come through the wall. You know, do you know how many times that happens? I have like close to 200 quarts. Yeah, the wall just opens. Machines come through. Entities come through

Speaker 1 52:41

well, and and the thing is though, that experience was invited. That he invited that experience. So you know it it gets into some once again some wild religious areas and things like that. As far as even the work of Joe Jordan and the idea of the name of Jesus

Christ stopping abductions. Not all of them, but some of them, you know. So yeah, it brings about some very interesting concepts.

Speaker 5 53:10

I spoke at one of his conventions. I stayed at his house. Oh yeah, his house is across the pond. Yeah, from the the Apollo 11 building. All right. Oh cool. So yeah, I spoke on the practical side of ufology, and then he brought out all of these people who had been experiencers, and they all gave their testimony that when they called the name of Jesus Christ, yeah, the obstruction stopped. It

Speaker 1 53:34

stopped, yeah. And and he is a former Moof Farm field investigator. Like he

Speaker 5 53:38

he's a I don't know if he was sturgeon. I don't

Speaker 1 53:40

know if he is still current, but yes, he does work for Blue Origin. He's a great guy. I see him at Roswell every year. Hey, Joe. Sorry we didn't get to get an interview this year, bud. But that is some valid work to look into and a valid concept because, like, I I even talk about on my show regularly that so much so that I have a rope phrase that I believe that there is a large hominid being known as Bigfoot roaming the woods of North America and beyond, but there is also something else that is willing to hijack the tropes of our mind of what we would be comfortable with, married with our want of experience, as a point of ingress into this dimension. Take that how you want. Yeah, I mean, but the idea of you have opened the window for something to specifically come in.

Speaker 5 54:27

Yeah, I think somewhere along the line in the past 100 years, we did some sort of experiment that started open up portals. Okay, because we got all sorts of stuff coming in from the sky. Oh yeah, bedroom walls.

Speaker 1 54:37

Well, never forget. This is this is a little known, very nerdy fact, but Ghostbusters, the the whole ceremony on the roof and things like that, was actually from a working that was that was an amaranth working that was part of a series of workings that happened with my God, his name just. Left my head, the the famous Golden Dawn person here in the United States. He he worked with Prushing and all kinds of stuff.

Speaker 5 55:09

Prushing was the remote, or not

Speaker 1 55:10

not not Prushing. Jeez, I can't remember. I can't believe this just left my head. The alien lamb, the the being lamb. Oh oh, I

Speaker 5 55:20

brought him up. Yeah, Aleister Crowley. Yes, Aleister Crowley. Thank you. Okay, Agent 666.

Speaker 5 55:27

Let me tell you something about my presentation. So it was about the missing scientist, and it all connects to NASA, especially the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Yes, the guy that started the Jet Propulsion Goddard. No, Jack Parsons. Yes, Jack Parson Parsons. He belonged to the lodge. Yep, the lodge is a group of occultists that included Elron Hubbard and Alister Crowley. Exactly, and Aleister Crowley was opening up portals, allegedly trying to speak to this being what was the being? Lamb, Lamb, Lamb, and

Speaker 1 55:52

well, Lamb is what came through, but but the whole concept of like trying to bring about a change and a seed in humanity and every like like what happened in Ghostbusters was like oh they were crazy cult on top of the building trying to summon the end of mankind. That's

what they were trying to do, and it happened in Central Park West. Like one of the ceremonies took place in Central Park West. Yeah, like that is that whole situation is based on an actual event, but those were the workings that begat Lamb, and it's very interesting when you look at that time frame. That's right up around the same time that things started happening. It's right up around the same time that abductions started happening, and it's also Lamb is very gray looking. Yes, you know, very gray looking when you look at a picture of him. So, the idea of is there something else, and is there also something else that's guising as the something else? You know, is there something that once again would gladly use our trope of what we would be comfortable with very much in that, like Steven Spielberg did in the movie, where the experiencers as children, saw a gingerbread house and reindeer and and bunnies instead of the instead of the beings because well that's something that they would be comfortable with. Sure,

Speaker 5 57:12

and and 500 years ago, these women that would come back from being missing, saying that they were in a castle in the sky, they'd be burned as witches. All right, but maybe they were abducted.

Speaker 1 57:21

Yep,

Speaker 5 57:22

you know.

Speaker 1 57:22

Yeah, yeah, no, exactly, exactly. And there, I think that there are numerous cases like that throughout time, where through the parlance of their times, that's the best as they could explain it. Right, you know, it's it's kind of like, and I'll give the example tomorrow of Thor, god of thunder and lightning, things like like that is the best that an ancient civilization could do to explain that phenomena happening around them that fully affected their life in every way, shape, and form. How you ate, how you fished, how you hunted, whether or not you had fire that night, like rain affects all that. What was the what

Speaker 5 58:02

was the figure in Mesopotamia that came out of the the water and taught knowledge to mankind? It could have been,

Speaker 1 58:09

yeah,

Speaker 5 58:10

could have been. I think maybe yeah, could have been a human of submarine coming and teaching them stuff and going back in the submarine. Well,

Speaker 1 58:16

and even the fact of that that creature itself had a fish like appearance, had a fish like things like that. So yeah, yeah, it's it's very interesting when you start going back through humanity and seeing many of these continued tropes in that kind of way. You know, even now the idea of reptilians and scales and that kind of stuff. So it's fascinating. Now, when it when it comes to these cases, Bob. We we've got about 510 minutes left. How does a case, because you're former director of investigation, international investigations. Let's go through a case process real quick, and how something gets to becoming one of these cases of interest.

Speaker 5 58:58

Okay, great. So basically, we have a database with 150,000 cases in it. We've had it 25 years. It's at the end of its lifespan, so we're going to a new system September 30th called Andris, named after our founder. So essentially, in the old system, a witness would send us photos, they'd write a narrative, and it would take them 45 minutes to do that and submit today. The new system is only going to take eight minutes. So when a case comes in, yes. So I think we're going to see a surge in cases because it's going to be a lot easier for people to to report. When we get the case, the CMS coordinators vet, vet it, look for pornography, any sort of hoaxes, and they eliminate them. Then they're sent out to the state director

wherever the event happened or the country happened. That state director, in turn, will review the case and then give it to the field investigator closest to the scene. Especially if they have to go out in the field to collect evidence. Basically, they do phone phone interviews with people. If we get photographs, we have a six man photo analysis team. By Mark D'Antonio, and they'll do a deep dive. And I've seen some of these guys going back and forth for weeks over one photograph. All right, they really analyze these things. We also have a laboratory in Missouri, and we can do all sorts of electron microscopy. They just got a DNA machine, so when people give us implants or you know, samples of dirt from say a landing area, we have the ability to you know scientifically analyze it using the scientific method, and then we come to a conclusion. In the new system, we're going to a new scoring system. It's got to be X, Y, and Z. It's going to be broken up into non-human intelligence, okay, different types of things. People can pick visuals if they see an entity. What type of entity? What type of craft? It's all going to be visual graphics, not like check boxes we had in the old thing. Yeah. And then we just, you know, eventually come to a conclusion. Was was it an unknown? Is it identifiable? Was it a hoax? Is it yeah? You know, not enough evidence to make a decision either way.

Speaker 1 1:01:01

Well, and you know, I think that's an important point to bear because I belong to a lot of online communities, and something that I have to remind people of regularly because they'll be like, "Hey, I submitted my file to MUFON. I've submitted my case to MUFON, but I've never heard anything back. It's like, well, if it doesn't go past a certain level, you're you're not going to hear anything back. Well, in that kind of way, sometimes

Speaker 5 1:01:24

one of the because we're a volunteer organization, there's some field investigators that are great, and there's some field investigators absolutely. We're supposed to tell people dispositions. So to avoid that in the new system, once a disposition's generated, it's automatically going to send an email to the witness saying we decided X, Y, or Z,

Speaker 1 1:01:41

and that's what I tell them: is that like what happened is your your case was filtered down to a field investigator, and if they needed more eyes on it, then it was taken to another field investigator. And technically, it's up to that field investigator to follow up with, right? You

know, Mufon themselves, like as as a whole entity, are not going to be the ones sending you that it's it's Jimmy James not anymore. Now it's

Speaker 5 1:02:05

going to be the system, and that's

Speaker 1 1:02:06

and that's great. It is great because it it does. I mean, hey, we're all human. Things happen, but but the fact of being able to get that is hugely important. Absolutely, and that's what I've always tried to let people know is if you were given a case. Well, you know, I wasn't given a case number. It's like, well, I don't know if you finished that process then, because I'm pretty sure it kicks you out of case number, and you should have some. Yeah, and it's like you should be able to reference that, and at the very least, go to the website, contact, and say, I have case number this. I would like an update on my file. Things like that. So now we

Speaker 5 1:02:46

have we just added another layer, regional directors, where somebody's in charge of five states. So if the state director or the field investigator isn't doing their job, their main job is to keep those cases active, moving, go through the process, get them done on time.

Speaker 1 1:03:01

Yeah, exactly. And man, it's great to hear new things going on. It's sad to hear many people who have been with Mufon for many years and have done great work have passed here in the last year. But it's great to see where things are moving. It's great to see that there is still momentum. That the things, despite the loss of leadership, were not rudderless. They they were never rudderless. They still move on, march forward, and grow. So we're

Speaker 5 1:03:29

moving into a new era, a modern new database. We have a library coming. It's amazing what's going to happen with fun.

Speaker 1 1:03:34

And I I truly love the fact that y'all are working with Foss on getting real time alert, yeah, getting that real time alert system being being built into that. I think that that especially the fact of the fact of being able to pull that data from numerous locations and bump a case up immediately,

Speaker 5 1:03:57

and it will it will connect to Andris, so their data will go into our map app.

Speaker 1 1:04:02

Yeah, so if something happens in the same proximity as a sighting that's happened, you can now bump that up and run. Somebody reported to

Speaker 5 1:04:09

us, and it matches an alert at the same time on the same day.

Speaker 1 1:04:12

Because, like like we've said numerous times, whenever we've had you on, Bob, and you you were a proponent of this too, which I love. Which is report, report often, report everywhere, report to everybody because the more eyes on it, the better. And if you don't report, then Johnny and Poughkeepsie's report may not be verified, right? Because well, we need more eyes on it. And if you're in the localized area and see the same thing, now we have two cases talking about the same object, and we can bump things up to a different rung. So the fact that you're going to have automatic data that can do that, that can automatically like, oh no, on this date in in this proximity of a GPS ping, we have we have three nodes that picked up data. Right. That that's no different than three. Witnesses that saw it in the sky.

Speaker 5 1:05:01

That's right, and and basically to get back to your question, what makes a case of interest? Yeah. Okay. When you have multiple witnesses, either grouped or through electronic means. Yeah. And it's all connected. That brings it up a notch.

Speaker 1 1:05:14

Exactly. Exactly. And those, and especially the fact of not only do you have a witness at that point, you have verifiable electronic data. You have sensor platform that has picked things up. So it's no different than having a radar reflection. No different than having you know information from the National Weather Service or something like that. That is good verifiable data in that kind of way.

Speaker 5 1:05:35

And a lot of these websites like Flight Radar or 24 or other, they're going to be integrated using AI into the Android system sometime by the end of the summer. I

Speaker 1 1:05:45

love it. That's fantastic, Bob. Thank you as always for the time, man. It's a pleasure. Always great sitting back, see and just hanging out and talking like we were a while ago. Before we let you go, let everybody know where they can go to find out more about Mufon, where they can go to join and even become a field investigator. Okay, it's so helping.

Speaker 5 1:06:02

So simply go to mufon.com if you'd like to be a member. Memberships are as low as \$6 per month. Just mufon.com backslash join. We also have in our 4000 member cadre of people 700 field investigators. So if you're interested in joining us and investigating UFOs, it's it's you get this book. It's a manual. You study it. You take an online test. If you pass, we start giving you cases. That's some cases are blurring. Some cases will make your hair stand up. Yeah. All right. And right now we're at the Mufon Symposium, and we have it every year. Next year it's going to be in Kansas City.

Speaker 1 1:06:38

Yep. Can't wait. So awesome. Once again, Bob, thank you as always. Always a pleasure. While you are online, finding out more about MUFON at MUFON.com. Everybody, make sure to stop on by [curiousrealm.com](http://curiousrealm.com) and [curiousresearch.org](http://curiousresearch.org). [Curiousresearch.org](http://Curiousresearch.org) is where you can get your copy of the field observation and encounter log. And if you are a MUFON field investigator or a MUFON member, use the code MUFON. Save your money. When we come back from this quick break, we will continue our on-site coverage of MUFON Symposium 2026 here in Covington, Kentucky. Right after this, folks. The key to good science is good research. At the heart of good research is a good data set. With the field observation and encounter log from Curious Research, you can easily keep track of your investigative information all in one place, making it easier to review cases and readily see comparisons and contrasts between them. Whether out in the woods squatching in a back room gathering EVPs or using high-tech gear to track UFO UAP activity, this easy-to-carry pocket-sized scientific data log is the perfect companion for any field researcher, you can find your copy of the Curious Research Field Observation and Encounter log at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), or visit the official Curious Realm store at [curiousrealm.com/store](http://curiousrealm.com/store) to reserve your copy for yourself, your family, or a mind that you want to open that website again? Is [curiousrealm.com](http://curiousrealm.com) forward slash store? Well, hello everybody, and welcome back to the Curious Realms continuing coverage of the MUFON Symposium here in Covington, Kentucky. We are greatly pleased to be joined by the all-new Director of Investigations, Seth Feinstein. Welcome to the show. How are you today? I'm doing great. Well, we got into a great conversation last night during the benefactors' reception about the presentation that you gave regarding bakery, how to spot things when it comes to investigation, when it comes to images, video, forensics in such ways. How did you first come to this field of study, Seth.

Speaker 4 1:09:22

Well, very interesting. I have a bachelor's degree in fine arts with an emphasis on photography and filmmaking, also 3D sculpting.

Speaker 1 1:09:38

All right.

Speaker 4 1:09:38

I couldn't find a job when I got out of college in in the industry in the film or television industry, so I ended up while I was in college I worked as a shoe salesman, and when I was in high school I worked as a shoe salesman, so I ended up working on the. 58th floor of the Empire State Building for an importer, for a shoe importer.

Speaker 1 1:10:04

Wow!

Speaker 4 1:10:06

So what happened was I actually had a very successful business career in in banking and finance.

Speaker 1 1:10:15

Okay,

Speaker 4 1:10:16

and hadn't touched any photography or film type of work exposure through my entire working career. So when I retired and became an investigator for Mufon six years ago, I had a case that turned into seven cases and had over 500 images of that needed to be investigated and needed analysis on it, and at that time I couldn't find anybody to help me to do that, and so what happened was I'm friends with the New Mexico State Director, and I asked Stacy if it would be possible for her to have her photo analyst expert Dennis Friarmuth help me with the case, and she asked him to help me, and I spent six months doing training on it, and it's just the most loved and passionate position I have within MUFON is doing photo analysis and photo forensics.

Speaker 1 1:11:33

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:11:34

and the photo analysts at MUFON are all very highly intelligent people who have vast experience in investigations and doing photo analysis. So I became part of the team, and I've worked over the last six years Analyzing, I analyzed over 600 photo analysis cases. Most of them for MUFON and some for industry professionals within the UFO community. And even with all with all that work that I've done, I still don't consider myself an expert yet. Yeah,

Speaker 1 1:12:24

yeah, and it's interesting you bring that up because we, as we were talking in our conversation last night, I skirt a lot of communities. I'm in a lot of communities, and I loathe the term expert when it comes to any of this, because I just don't scientifically think you could be an expert in something that we have yet to prove. You know, like even theoretical physics has has proofs and and has mathematics and things like that that you can become expert in. But when it comes to the field of ufology, when it comes to parapsychology, cryptozoology, any of that, to say you're an expert, you may be an expert on the lore, the stories, something like that. But to say you're an expert on the creature, or that you're an expert on the craft, I don't know about that. I don't know about that. So even for you to humbly say, even after your years of doing this kind of analysis, that you do not consider yourself an expert in that kind of way, is a huge statement.

Speaker 4 1:13:30

Well, I'm motivated by learning. Yeah, I want to continue to learn.

Speaker 1 1:13:35

Yep,

Speaker 4 1:13:36

and I get a lot of satisfaction out of learning. I'm not wired for like these interviews or for public speaking. I can do

Speaker 3 1:13:47

it. Sure,

Speaker 4 1:13:47

I can do it, but I really prefer to be working.

Speaker 1 1:13:53

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:13:54

and to be accomplishing. So I get my greatest reward in life is by working and accomplishing results from the work I'm doing,

Speaker 1 1:14:05

yeah. Well, and and the idea specifically of results when it comes to that, the idea of learning to properly cull data, learning to be dispassionate in investigation, learning to not not be looking at data as a point of confirmation of belief in that kind of way, even all of that takes an extreme amount of discipline and personal courage because every time you go into an investigation, you have to ask yourself the very honest question of why am I investigating? Like that should be question number one in every investigation: Is why am I personally investigating? Am I investigating to confirm a personal belief, or am I investigating to examine an anomaly in a data set?

Speaker 4 1:14:54

Right.

Speaker 1 1:14:54

You know,

Speaker 4 1:14:55

when we go into an investigation, we take a look at the evidence. That the witness provided, and we attempt to use a critical thought process, where we will look at all of the possibilities of what we could be looking at, and our job is to investigate all of those possibilities.

Speaker 6 1:15:16

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:15:17

only when we can't prove any one of those are the answer. Do we have the possibility of an unknown?

Speaker 1 1:15:27

Yeah, yeah, exactly. And and much like a sadly, much like Arrow would say, much like just about any investigative body out there would say, there is like a five to 8% anomaly. There is a five to 8% data set of unknown, and that means like even our government, who has spent billions of dollars researching this, that five to 8% is unknown to them too.

Speaker 4 1:15:52

Right, right. So that's really the numbers where I would think that somebody who's well trained as an investigator would end up with the results.

Speaker 1 1:16:03

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:16:03

5% unknown is really the the I would say the model figure. Yeah, of what it should be.

Speaker 1 1:16:12

Yeah, yeah, exactly. And and if it starts straying into 15, 20% you'd be very wary of that. Be very wary of that data, you know, because it it may be confirmation biased in its own way. Of we've biased the information because this is the data set that we are looking for, you know, and very cherry picked in that kind of way. So, as an investigator, as as somebody, let's start getting into those critical thinking tools to begin with, because the first tool is your filter to start off with. But how do you recommend the average person beginning investigation start looking at photographs? Start looking at media. How can let's start that process real quick for somebody?

Speaker 4 1:16:57

Well, the the first thing we would say is we need to teach people how to take pictures of what they're when they're seeing anomalous events.

Speaker 1 1:17:07

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:17:07

because especially with cell phones, as soon as you zoom in, you create sensor noise and artifacts.

Speaker 3 1:17:15

That's right.

Speaker 4 1:17:16

And the biggest thing is when people are shooting at a faraway object, which is always almost always the case,

Speaker 1 1:17:25

yeah,

Speaker 4 1:17:26

in low lighting conditions, which is almost always the case, and the object is moving pretty fast,

Speaker 1 1:17:34

which is almost always the case.

Speaker 4 1:17:38

What you have to do to get a picture that can be analyzed is you cannot zoom in.

Speaker 1 1:17:44

Yes,

Speaker 4 1:17:45

you have to include scenery like trees or buildings in the foreground, so we can measure the the speed and see the movement of the object, and and without zooming in, you minimize the possibility of sensor noise and artifact.

Speaker 1 1:18:08

Yeah, and and specifically, folks on on your cell phone camera, we've gone into this before. I have a few presentations online. Your cell phone camera is a series of sensors. It is not by traditional means a camera. It is not capturing an image on a piece of emulsification and pulling that out through a chemical process later. There's no negative by which you can put it in photo negative mode, but it's not an actual negative in that kind of way. And as shown in Samsung phones, things like that, your phone will gladly, gladly use the AI software inside of it to try and correct something, to put interpolation behind something because it

doesn't think that's a shadow. It thinks it's part of the object, you know. So it will gladly fill in that space for you and put in data that is not there whatsoever.

Speaker 4 1:18:59

Well, there's two. That was an amazing, knowledgeable statement you just made. But what it also does in low light conditions, typically the cell phones will take four images of what it's looking at. Like the first one may concentrate on the the blue sky behind it or the dark sky behind it, the second one may concentrate on the bright object in the middle, on the foreground, whatever it does. Four images, and then it uses the AI functions

Speaker 1 1:19:33

to stack them,

Speaker 4 1:19:34

to stack them and put them together.

Speaker 3 1:19:36

Yeah.

Speaker 4 1:19:36

In addition to that, the other problem with taking images with a cell phone, is the rolling shutter effect. We all know how a copier works, where the light bar moves across the paper and takes the image by scanning the image. That's what the rolling shutter does. In cell phone cameras and also in security cameras. Yep. So that takes time for the arm to roll across the screen.

Speaker 1 1:20:10

Yeah.

Speaker 4 1:20:10

And so you've got multiple images stacked. You've got the rolling shutter effect, and then you have the sensors, which aren't really too good. We don't have the right technology yet. Well, and that that

Speaker 1 1:20:26

brings up a huge point, and and that is the fact of just sensor platforms in general, and the fact that most of what we have, even on industrial scale, like Arrow said that in their panel with the government, like, hey, National Weather Service, if if we have, we would love to cooperate with you. You have sensor platforms that we don't have access to, and he was even like, I have access to the NSA, but I cannot turn those instruments into America, and and look inside of the borders of this country. It's illegal. Okay, I have some of the most advanced sensor platforms out there, but it's illegal for me to use them in that fashion. So if you have sensor platforms that are looking down from a satellite, let's talk. Let give me access to that data, you know, because like I legally, by the Constitution, can't point by instruments inside our borders, right? Well, even though

Speaker 4 1:21:26

Arrow doesn't really share their data with the public, with

Speaker 7 1:21:31

nobody,

Speaker 4 1:21:32

but they do sets of standards in photo analysis because they do both the analysis side and the forensic side. That's right, and that's the way it has to be done.

Speaker 1 1:21:42

Yes, exactly, exactly, and and you know, especially that forensic side when you start getting into the forensic tools necessary. Let's let's start getting into a few of those things at different digital platforms, different things that you can use to process images.

Speaker 4 1:21:59

Well, so I'm I'm writing a manuscript.

Speaker 1 1:22:03

Okay,

Speaker 4 1:22:04

it's going to be somewhere between 400 and 500 pages. So I'm developing the tools, the free tools to use. Well, I'm not developing the yeah yeah. I'm discovering the tools to use to do all these forensic processes.

Speaker 1 1:22:21

Okay,

Speaker 4 1:22:22

and the book isn't going to include ones I don't use. It's basically processes with the instructions and how to interpret the results by using each of the processes. So it's I study and work on it maybe three to four hours a day, every week.

Speaker 1 1:22:46

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:22:47

and probably five days a week, and then I do my mufon work maybe three to four hours a day, probably six days a week, an extra day. So I'm working on this manuscript because the way I was brought up, and being Jewish, we believe that everybody is a teacher, and what you know is is shareable with anybody who wants to know it.

Speaker 1 1:23:15

Yeah, and I think that is a hugely important point to consider. You know, people even like I came up with the media inspection tool with Curious Research, where you upload any photo, upload any video, and take a still frame and examine it. Even put in a piece of audio, and it'll tell you the noise floor here does not match the noise floor here. I think this has been edited. You know, I think that something has been copy pasted in from a different source because the room tone doesn't sound the same between these two things, and the idea of like my wife asked me how much are you going to charge for this, and I was like absolutely nothing. Like every investigator should have access to these kind of things. Well,

Speaker 4 1:24:00

let me let me share with you a few things with Mufon.

Speaker 1 1:24:04

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:24:05

I was part of a team that put together the new investigation process, which is being introduced in about 30 days.

Speaker 1 1:24:17

Oh, nice! It's

Speaker 4 1:24:17

called the Andrus AI, named after Walter Andrus, one of the founding members of MUFON back in 1969, and it is modernizing the entire investigation process. It is making things more scientific. For instance, we added a scoring system to help determine if an object was a known or an unknown. We have 20 different items or factors that are scored pluses or minuses towards reaching a conclusion.

Speaker 1 1:24:55

Well, and the main thing is not that the not that the. AI gives you the conclusion, but the idea that the AI tells you out of the 50-point score, this is a 40 percent. You should look at it more, you know, things like that. Where much like mine, this is a heuristic. This it in the like. Do keep doing your research, but this is the path that you should be going down.

Speaker 4 1:25:19

Well, one of the things where we brought up 5% should really be we believe our belief system is 5% of what we is cited may be an unknown. Well, we also, in our investigation process, especially with using photo forensics, we may determine that the object is inconclusive, that we can't determine what it is, and I think where some investigators go wrong is they take what's inconclusive, and they say, "Well, I can't figure out what this is, so it's an unknown.

Speaker 1 1:25:55

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:25:56

and that's what helps drive up the percentages.

Speaker 1 1:25:59

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:26:00

or the answers.

Speaker 1 1:26:01

Well, and you know, even that-that is a very important point to bring up, Seth. The idea of the difference between inconclusive and unknown, because unknown is conclusive that you don't know what

Speaker 4 1:26:17

it is. Right. Right.

Speaker 1 1:26:19

Like we conclusively do not know what this is. We've sent it to numerous people; they don't know what it is either. We've sent it to experts in the aviation field; they don't know. Like conclusively, we know this is an unknown, and that's an okay conclusion. And and there's a point of epistemology that I'll be getting into my presentation tomorrow of being able to hold two conflictatory ideas in your head and being resolved with it and being okay and that's a huge point of resolution that you have to get to is that unknown is conclusive in that kind of way. I'm good. It could be my

Speaker 4 1:26:56

training. Yeah,

Speaker 1 1:26:57

because it's an important concept that like you don't, we don't have to know. Most of what we're going to be investigating will lead to more questions, you know. Even even most of science, a good scientist will tell you, like, we just don't know yet, man. We have tons of data on it, and we're working on it, and we're calling it, and we're experimenting with it, but we just don't know right now, and it's okay not to know, and I think that's a big point that a lot of investigators have a have a crisis of conscience with because they want to give an answer. They want to give somebody an answer, and sometimes that answer is we we don't know right now.

Speaker 4 1:27:38

And then the other factor involved with that is we're dealing with real people who made the reports.

Speaker 1 1:27:44

Yeah, who want an answer

Speaker 4 1:27:45

and who want an answer?

Speaker 3 1:27:47

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:27:48

and sometimes the investigator develops a friendly relationship with that witness, and they don't want to disappoint them.

Speaker 1 1:27:56

Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:27:57

and so they would turn an inconclusive or don't know into an unknown because they don't want to disappoint the the witness

Speaker 1 1:28:07

yeah yeah and and you know that that's just it and that's not

Speaker 4 1:28:11

science

Speaker 1 1:28:12

no no no no it is not you have to

Speaker 4 1:28:14

go by the

Speaker 1 1:28:15

data that's right exactly and you've got to like in the truest sense of the deck of cards you've got to call a spade a spade. It's not a club. It's not a heart. Right. This is a spade, and you've got to be willing to say that. You've got to be willing to say like we are inconclusive on this. We've all looked at it, and none of us can decide that it's an unknown. None of us can figure that out. Right.

Speaker 4 1:28:38

Right. And

Speaker 1 1:28:39

that's a that's a huge step, even in science, because even even Alex Dietrich said that in her talk today that I observed something, trained observer,

Speaker 4 1:28:50

right,

Speaker 1 1:28:50

spent millions of dollars training her to fly billions of dollars of machinery on the daily.

Speaker 4 1:28:55

Right,

Speaker 1 1:28:56

you can't get more trained. All right, but she's like, what I saw, I cannot identify. What I saw is unknown, but I will not say what I saw was extraterrestrial.

Speaker 4 1:29:08

You can't do because

Speaker 1 1:29:09

that's a leap that leaves the science out, and in between my in between my sighting and my statement, and in between extraterrestrial and that verdict lies the science that needs to be done,

Speaker 4 1:29:23

right? So, in Mufon, we have to come up with a disposition. Yes, and we have we first write what would be like a summary and conclusion, which is to prove that we have utilized the process of investigating all of the theories that we had,

Speaker 1 1:29:47

yeah, and

Speaker 4 1:29:47

then to list all the data that we gained that is leading us to make the conclusion we're going to make,

Speaker 1 1:29:55

yeah,

Speaker 4 1:29:56

right. And in the new Andrus AI system. We added two new categories that we didn't have, which were really important. We added an NHI category, non-human intelligence category,

Speaker 1 00:00

Hello, everybody, and welcome back to the Curious Rome's waning coverage of MUFON Symposium right here in Covington, Kentucky for 2026. We have the immeasurable pleasure of being joined by our good friend Peter Robbins. Welcome back to the show.

Speaker 2 00:14

Great to be back, my friend.

Speaker 1 00:15

It has been so. It was actually my first MUFON conference where we not only met you but had you on the show for the first time, and I've been very remiss in not having you back since. But you gave a presentation the other day about your many years involved in the UFOology community, and it truly it was it was an amazing time machine. Number one, and I I heard somebody make a reference to you the other day that I truly loved, and it was like he's he's like the Forrest Gump of ufology. He's been in every picture. He's been with everybody. It was like that is that is a beautiful analogy. The fact of like he's been in every moment, every moment of it. He's been he's been there along the way. So

Speaker 2 00:55

my old friend Richard Dolan refers to me sometimes as a Zelig of ufology.

Speaker 1 01:01

Well, inside of that time, Peter, you you have worked with Bud Hopkins, of course, to great acclaim, and I love his work with experiencers. And you spent years working in that. You yourself are an experiencer, not really. Well, witness, but

Speaker 2 01:21

yes, most definitely.

Speaker 1 01:22

Yeah, let's get into that experience or work real quick because that is one that is very near and dear to my heart, and something that I've been working on in the last couple years. Is how do we how do we begin some way out outside of normal means to to begin groups, to begin ways to to literally normalize the paranormal, you know, and and to make people understand the empathy of experience in that kind of way.

Speaker 2 01:52

Good question. Number one, I think the most important thing is that the general population have an opportunity to become more educated on not necessarily the UFO phenomena per se, or the fact, as many of us feel unquestioned, that some, as Stanton Friedman said, underline not all. Some UFOs are in fact advanced technology from parts unknown under intelligent control, coming and going with impunity, and we're left to wonder about the particulars. Yeah, the jump from that to Human beings being taken-a very intimidating thought-and for anyone who's generally anxious about or not predisposed to the general subject of UFOs, anxiety-provoking, to put it mildly. Yeah. I guess for me, the most practical and most hands-on way to move toward more achievement of this goal is To give experiencers and abductees the respect they deserve. Yeah. What that means, in essence, is about an hour and a half ago, a gentleman came up to my table and started to tell me about some UFO experiences he had, then started to show me photographs. I simply listened, but listened with positive intent and respect. Going back to a volunteer job I had

many years ago, working on as a volunteer in the busiest suicide hotline in America, in New York City, and actually during the AIDS crisis. Wow, we were trained not to become fake mental health professionals, but to help steer, steer the individual toward the pain. So rather than helping them escape it,

Speaker 1 04:29

yeah,

Speaker 2 04:30

steer them toward the truth, so to say.

Speaker 1 04:32

Yeah.

Speaker 2 04:34

But the most important thing that we did was become extremely good listeners. I can't stress enough how one person who has the patience, goodwill, respect, training to be a good listener to an individual who is struggling. With something that happened to them, or that they saw, that they know, in their logical mind, is impossible. Yeah, absolutely defies any realism of the way we grew up and the way that we think. But that one person, just being a good listener, with No facial expressions, no eye rolling, no body language that's disconnected or disrespectful

Speaker 1 05:31

or dismissive.

Speaker 2 05:32

Exactly. The fact is, this is happening. I don't know about you, but in all the years I've been doing this work, and for me, my primary interest is welfare of individuals who have been

through this. I'm a humanist, and Bud in part set the model that I follow, which is you care about people and you want to be of assistance in this work. It can seem extreme or romanticizing and science fictiony, but it's simply true. And without any special fanfare or flags, bells and whistles. Yeah, that people like you and I continue to educate as well as we can, listeners, viewers, and anyone that wants to avail themselves for me to even recommend a reading list, or if they have decided that this memory for them is authentic, or maybe, and that they do want to get closer to it, as opposed to whatever it is, I'm fine that it's stuck over there in my consciousness. I have no desire to go into the details

Speaker 1 07:00

or to dig deeper,

Speaker 2 07:01

yes. And in fact, over the decades that I saw, I'm sure several 100 people literally approach Bud with that idea in mind. And I would like you to put me under hypnosis and regress me, and we'll explore this. Bud's first response was always, "Are you sure you want to do this?"

Speaker 1 07:25

Yeah, yeah.

Speaker 2 07:27

You are aware that it can bring up possibly a joyous, beatific experience that will inspire you for the rest of your life, or the most frightening, Unusual, completely upsetting experience. Yeah, and you can always do this another time. But to make sure that people had an opportunity to make sure that they wanted to do it, and to do it, I don't know, to say for the right reason, simply means to do it because you feel it will be of assistance.

Speaker 1 08:06

Yeah,

Speaker 2 08:07

and better to know than not to know. Yeah, where other people also remember a number of times Bud sitting with somebody, knee off to the side, saying. How can I say beyond? You can always do this. You know, better do a quick edit right here because I'm losing my train of thought on this. That an individual has an opportunity to fully explore their experiences in hypnotic regression, which today I hear a lot of criticism about. Yes, and part of that is, like they say, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. The hypnotic regressions that come to the surface, or that people talk about, are often the controversial ones. Yeah. What do we look for? Yep. In a positive experience, number one, the practitioner. What's this person's angle? And you and I know an assortment of people who have qualified, are trained, are certified-not hypnotherapists, but regressive hypnotists. Yeah, that these folks, their intention is honorable. Sometimes it isn't, and when I say dishonorable, it's like I just want to help you, but in secret, I want to write a book, and I'm going to base a character on you. Yeah, and you're just a widget to me,

Speaker 1 09:48

or or much like any any card teller or healer or something like that, where it's like don't forget to come back next month, you know, and and we're going to need to do this 10 or 12 more times, you know. And digging for money in that kind of way, that kind of stuff, horribly victimizing.

Speaker 2 10:04

The criticisms that I've heard over the years, many of them are valid. And I give you a perfect example. One about 20 years ago, I was speaking at a conference in. Liverpool in England. Nick Pope was also speaker, and the two of us had been in correspondence with a gentleman. I'll say somewhere in the United Kingdom, who lived and worked in the small village where he grew up. He was the law enforcement. He was the police officer. It was that small a place. Respected, knows the people since childhood. Seems happily married, but a lifelong abductee who wrote to Nick and to me, and wanted very much, ideally, to come to America and work with Bud. But knowing that nobody, his family, his wife knew about this or suspected

Speaker 1 11:15

it, yeah,

Speaker 2 11:15

and to even mention it to them might jeopardize not just his marriage but certainly his career,

Speaker 1 11:21

absolutely

Speaker 2 11:22

relationship with everybody that he knew,

Speaker 1 11:24

yeah.

Speaker 2 11:24

And what we worked out first, after expressing that we both took him seriously, was during the conference, Nick and I disappeared for about two hours. This gentleman took the day off from work on some pretext, came to Liverpool by train, and we met at a pub at a pre-appointed hour. Honestly, Chris, I think we sat together for about two hours. We each had a beer in front of us. I don't know if anybody took a sip. What he brought with him, among other things, was a dream journal and a notebook that he'd been keeping for years.

Speaker 1 12:05

Oh wow!

Speaker 2 12:06

With the understanding that I would personally bring that to New York for Bud to read, and based on that, they would work out whatever they were going to do.

Speaker 3 12:15

Sure.

Speaker 2 12:16

Well, what can I say about the gentleman? He was serious, respectful. Certainly not in uniform, but every everything about him seemed honorable and straightforward. The last thing he was looking for, of course was publicity, or being on TV or writing a book, and I did bring those things home. Bud felt his authentic case, but see if we can find somebody qualified to work with him within the UK. Yeah, the whole thing of disappearing to America for a week or two, on some pretext, is more difficult than a day in Liverpool. Yeah. What we were able to do was Nick located a psychotherapist in London, who we never had heard anything bad about who had expressed a serious interest in the abduction phenomena, who had I won't say registered with us, but at the height of Bud's active work, we had a separate Rolodex with almost 100 people who had come forward and said, "I'm glad to assist if I can. Psychologists, a handful of psychiatrists, psychiatric social workers, psychiatric nurses, a number of different qualified counselors, and we contacted this gentleman and sent our guy to him. Now the way those records were kept, our Rolodex records might seem counterintuitive to some, but we were less interested in what the professional had to say about the individual, than the individual had to say about the professional.

Speaker 1 14:24

Exactly, exactly. I was just about to ask that. How was it received? Because that's the litmus test right there. Is how do they receive that? Because it's not necessarily confrontational, but it's definitely let's get more data, and are they willing to share that data?

Speaker 2 14:38

And what happened was very interesting. For. our experienter he wrote to us at Lane. He said, number one, the I think was a psychologist, extremely nice, respectful, what I would

call contactful. And enthusiastic about this, takes the time to put him under. But our experiencer felt he wasn't completely under, and at the same time was a bit embarrassed to say to the guy, I'm not really hypnotized yet. Maybe work a little longer. And it was at that point, after of course hearing the narrative leading up to the abduction, that he started to ask the right questions. Tell me about the weather that day. Yeah. Where were you standing? All that kind of stuff, and then getting responses, and it was at this point that our individual said, "I became uncomfortable and asked him to take me out of the hypnosis, and I again he seemed very nice and all that, but I'm I'm I'm not really interested going back. I said, "Well, what happened?

Speaker 1 16:08

Yes,

Speaker 2 16:09

he said, "Once he had set the scene, working from information I had given him, and I'm looking at this, you know, in the sky that's bigger than a star, but there it is. His question was, "Tell me what the spaceship looked like. We don't know it was a spaceship. We don't make that deduction. We certainly don't put that out there to start with.

Speaker 1 16:41

That's right. That is a very loaded question. That is a very guiding question.

Speaker 2 16:45

Well, we contacted the psychologist, and again, he's working as a volunteer. Yeah, certainly not pathological, but what he did was wrong, and

Speaker 1 17:00

methodologically hugely wrong.

Speaker 2 17:02

Yes, exactly, and he was incredibly apologetic, but he made an admission that we wished he had made earlier, which was in fact he was so interested in the subject that he was hard at work on a book and looking for case material, and his card came out of the Rolodex, and you know. But we're not mental health professionals. Yeah, we're Bud and I are trained in the visual arts. Yeah, but I will say this about Bud: he was the best self-trained investigative writer I've ever met or imagine, and he was such a a good writer. He also more than any writer I've ever known and been exposed to works leading up to a major work. He was the best first draft writer I've ever come in contact with, and I know that because I read a lot of those first pages first. Anyway, all these efforts put together may help advance the legitimacy of people making that not jump, but that passage from that sounds like the craziest damn thing I've ever heard in my life. To this may well be happening.

Speaker 1 18:36

Yeah,

Speaker 2 18:36

and if it is, everything I thought I knew is now open to question.

Speaker 1 18:42

Yeah,

Speaker 2 18:43

I think that's really one of the main mantras in the understandable resistance of the human race.

Speaker 1 18:49

Yes,

Speaker 2 18:50

I know as a 14-year-old, having recovered my memory of my sighting back then, one of the things that was going through my mind Ferociously, was I know flying saucers aren't real. Why? I would say to you, I intuited from the adult world. I knew they were real in the black and white movies I was seeing at the fantasy theater on a Saturday morning, but I also knew that as an aspiring adult and at 14 I took myself quite seriously. That it's fantasy,

Speaker 1 19:27

yeah.

Speaker 2 19:28

Except that there they were, and when I say there they were, I mean five silvery white disc-shaped objects in a upside down V formation or V formation, and close enough to make out regular detailing around the edge of each. That 14 plus years later, when my sister and I first discussed it, the immediate agreement was the only way we could describe these things was. The way that windows would look on a commercial airliner at a appreciable distance, but I shut down on it. I literally-it was my repressed memory from childhood. Although I do joke with people that if I have other repressed memories from childhood, I don't remember them.

Speaker 1 20:18

Well, and I was just about to honestly say that's that is one of the dangers that you come into when it comes to regressive therapy. And I had, hey Terry Lovelace, I had Brendan guest Terry Lovelace put me through a regression session a few years ago. He was like, "Would you like to be hypnotized? And I was like, "Only if I can record it for my show, and we do an episode on it, and I've never had a. I've I've had sightings in my life, but it was never anything that I blocked out. But that was something that came up in our conversation was how frequently because that's a danger that you have to fully inform somebody of is we may run across other memories that are not associated with this that you've buried that are traumatic to you, or that, or that you may have even to use. I've I've been robbing the term from the remote viewing community lately. But have you analytic overlaid an experience, an alien experience over a traumatic event?

Speaker 2 21:17

There you go. Because

Speaker 1 21:17

you would you would much rather have that than this horrific event that happened to you,

Speaker 2 21:23

and it wasn't horrific as much as just completely disorienting,

Speaker 3 21:29

sure,

Speaker 2 21:29

and pulling the rug on my little logical thinking mind. As the years progressed, I continued to have zero interest in the subject. I will say, having come of age in the '60s, and certainly one of those people of my generation who used LSD and mescaline and peyote, one

Speaker 1 21:57

of my generation also. So,

Speaker 2 22:00

And it was fortunate in that my experience was a positive learning experience. Absolutely, but on my very first LSD experience, and I should say LSD was still legal in the United States at the time, so there's no paranoia.

Speaker 1 22:18

Yeah, a very

Speaker 2 22:19

distorted version of this memory came up.

Speaker 1 22:22

Oh wow!

Speaker 2 22:23

And again, as a young artist, before we all set off, the small group I was with, under the supervision of another pair of friends who had that experience earlier, and were the designated drivers for the 24 hours at the scene. Okay.

Speaker 1 22:40

Yeah, yeah. And I will also add that this was

Speaker 2 22:43

manufactured by Sandoz Pharmaceutical in Switzerland. This was the real deal.

Speaker 1 22:48

Wow. All right.

Speaker 2 22:49

But I had partly prepared for this new experience by having a lot of my art supplies laid out. I certainly was right in assuming I'd want to experiment with materials? I actually did a series of watercolors, of again a very sort of cute version with a little extra forced happiness in it and things, and did it kind of in the spirit of a simple children's book. I put captions under the pages, and then put them away and went on to some other drawings. Forgot about them. Some years later, I pulled them out of one of my portfolios, and this is still some years before the memory returned. I can only say, Chris, I was very upset when I saw them, and my logical mind said, "Bad art, very poorly executed. I don't like them. If I'm hit by a bus

tomorrow, I don't want these to be found in my portfolio. And I destroyed them. I absolutely destroyed

Speaker 1 23:59

them. Oh God! I

Speaker 2 24:00

tore them in pieces and threw them away, without a second thought, and then just went back to my life as it was. I think that we're having this opportunity to have kind of free-willing conversation here. Absolutely, this may be of value to some people, or just give this whole scenario a bit more grounding. Why did this memory come up when it did?

Speaker 1 24:24

Yeah.

Speaker 2 24:25

Well, I think one given is that I seem to be ready to deal with it, and my mind allowed the memory to come through.

Speaker 1 24:37

Yeah.

Speaker 2 24:38

However, I lived in New York City's Chinatown for a bunch of years. I loved it, and every February Chinese New Year's, and in the old days before former Mayor Giuliani cracked down on the firecrackers, you know, pretty low-level crime, and it's about a five-1000-year-old tradition. China, and the cops always looked the other way. Anyway, living down in Chinatown for 4872, hours once a year was like being in the DMZ. I'm sure it was. They didn't stop at night. No,

Speaker 1 25:14

no, it's and

Speaker 2 25:15

a lot of the kids they'd get what we call mats of firecrackers. It might be a string of firecrackers, 15 or 20 feet long, and they would light it and wait one end and throw it up over a streetlight, so it would just for minutes on end. And you're walking around ankle deep in shredded paper. Forget about Chinese food smell as normal. It's cordite. Exactly. I didn't sleep much, so I was a bit sleep deprived. Also, a week or so before, I had done a a very intensive human potential weekend workshop. I think those factors all working together.

Speaker 1 25:58

Yes.

Speaker 2 26:00

Cued by this, sometime before this, my grandmother gave me a small portfolio with maybe 50 plus drawings that I had done from the time I started visiting grandma and grandpa when I was a little boy up until I was about 15 or so, this was not the time in American parent culture where parents saved every drawing that their darling did.

Speaker 1 26:33

Yeah, yeah.

Speaker 2 26:33

My parents didn't. Grandma did, and I do joke with people that. It was before refrigerator magnets were invented, so you know. But I was looking at a drawing that I had done when I was about 14. Had nothing to do with the subject, but it had to have been done within a month or two, and those factors triggered something. I can say I have nothing else to compare to this. And in a kind of mr. Spock eyebrow-raising sense, it was fascinating, but it

completely undid me. It was as if in a single moment, a railway train had driven into my consciousness and was roaring down a track, with reliving every aspect of that compressed thing that had happened with my sister 14 plus years before. I couldn't stop it. My logical mind reacted within moments, essentially saying, "Wait, there's no way that any sane human being could have forgotten the most extraordinary thing that they have ever seen in their life. You're obviously having some kind of mental breakdown, or you know, mini stroke or something. I mean, this can't be happening. And I broke. I just sat on the floor of my loft, and I started to cry. And at the same moment, we all have moments like this. You're under stress, or something's very emotional, and there's a part of you that simply rises to the ceiling and looks down and says, "Isn't this interesting? That part of me absolutely understood that I had a need to let this go. Had a good cry, washed my face, had a cup of tea, and then said to myself, "Now what? The answer to that followed immediately. You had a witness, and my sister Helen, aspiring poet, living a mile or so north of me in the East Village, called her up. Good time to talk. Yep. I said I remembered something from childhood, and I need to know what your memory is of the same thing. I could just tell you, and you'll say yes or no. But if I did, I'd never really be sure that we shared the memory. So allow me to set the scene, and I describe the kind of day it was, about the time of day in the morning, yeah, where Helen and I were standing relative to each other, and relative to the front of the house, and she cut me off mid-sentence, and said, "Stop! I know what you're talking about. Then told me exactly what I'd remembered, with the variable that she wasn't sure whether it was five or six craft. I remembered five in great part because it was an even V.

Speaker 1 29:51

Yeah,

Speaker 2 29:52

if it had had six, it would have been a check mark. And we worked that out very quickly the next day because as soon as we got off the phone. I did a painting with six of them, and she came over the next day. I showed it to her with my hand over the one on the lower right, took it off. She said, "You're right. There were five. So I had this moment of validation. Oh my God, they're real! But it was a split moment. At the same time as I'm thinking, "Oh my God, they're real, or "Oh my God, it happened. It was oh my God it happened. Yeah. Oh my God, that actually

Speaker 1 30:26

happened. Yeah.

Speaker 2 30:26

Now, honestly, Chris, I think if that was the extent of it, I would be much more my my profile, so to speak, would be a lot more like everybody in that room attending a UFO conference, with an interest in the subject, enjoying it or being challenged, meeting other people, but your direction in life would have been what it was. It was at that point that my sister either said to me, "But there's more, and I don't know if you're going to like it, or "There's more, and I don't know what you think of it.

Speaker 1 31:03

Yeah, this is 50 years

Speaker 2 31:05

ago, 1975, longer, and she then began to describe to me a series of vignettes of frozen moments that related to that day immediately after these things appeared, they were what we would now call absolutely archetypical UFO abduction memories. I had never heard of anything like this before. Again, I had no interest in the subject, the subject of UFO abductions was not even a subject, really, except for Betty and Barney Hill. I

Speaker 1 31:49

was just about to say that was that was pretty much the primary thing, and it had just happened up around that. There were a few supporting reports,

Speaker 2 31:55

but that was really it. And a memory, for example, 12-year-old little girl being walked through a curved metal hallway. This is probably also about 15 years before the advent of the use of the term graze. So there was no word for her to describe it to me. Not that I would have understood the word at the time and Context anyway, but I asked her what they were

like, what they looked like, and she said her 12-year-old memory, the way she put it together in words, was quote unquote little doctors with big heads who talked to me in my head, and one very tall one who seemed to be in control. Then bang, a memory of being on table and lackadaisical, as I'm sure you know from a lot of accounts, one of the aspects of abduction that not only makes no sense but is kind of fabulously creepy is the way that you're thinking and reacting seems completely out of place to what's going on. Yes, a perfect example is Helen's memory of being on the table, surrounded by little grays and one big one. This is a naked 12-year-old girl who's now being prodded in things, and her attitude is like, "Hmm, really interesting, fascinating. Exactly, exactly. It happens so often that it's part of the profile. My reaction when she started to talk about it-a very defensive reaction already. I'm reeling from what she's validated for me. Was my sister's gone crazy, and then catching myself and really having a forced laugh and thinking you're crazy too. Eight nine seconds ago, it was okay to have five flying saucers over the Parkers house to see the light. Listen to what your sister said. Yeah

Speaker 1 33:51

yeah yeah.

Speaker 2 33:53

Well, finally we get off the phone. I'm devastated. I I don't even know my own experience in a way.

Speaker 1 34:02

Yeah,

Speaker 2 34:02

I did this one painting. I have no idea how I spent the rest of the day. Helen came over the second day, and then I started to do something. That if this had happened two years later, people would have a right to say, "Hey, come on! I saw Close Encounters of the third kind, and Richard Dry is doing all the mashed potato towers and things. I started drawing versions of flying saucers and UFOs, big drawings. Within a matter of a week or so, I had just gone on to something more disturbing, which was pages filled with ellipses, just tipped

ellipses, you know, almost like beads you could have strung. And after some weeks, I thought I'm I'm really coming undone here, and I was terribly disturbed because I had no reference to anything. I had never read a UFO book. I knew no one who was interested in the subject. I didn't know there were UFO conferences. I clueless, truly clueless. Yeah. And it was at that point that I began to educate myself as best I could. Also, within even months, I couldn't stop thinking about it, and I remember one late Monday afternoon, I'm walking. If anybody knows New York City, east on East 23rd Street to my alma mater, where I was also a faculty member, the School of Visual Arts, thinking about this, and at a certain point, flashing on the actor Kevin McCarthy at the end of the invasion of the body snatchers, he's run out into the middle of the highway and he's just yelling, "They're here! They're here! You're next! I. It sounds kind of corny, but I had to restrain myself from running out into traffic, and that scared me. I finally was fortunate enough to get not just a therapist who helped me, but the most extraordinary one I could have happened to go to. Dr. Ellsworth Baker had been the first assistant of Dr. Wilhelm Reich for the last 11 years of Reich's life, and part of Reich's the destruction of his scientific reputation was based on the fact he said he'd seen flying saucers, which of course means "Hi, I'm crazy, except that he had very well witnessed by other credible beings, and Dr. Baker had had two sightings of his own, one with Reich out in Arizona, the other in our in over his home in in Red Bank, New Jersey, and he helped me tremendously first to understand that my sister and I, in no way, were crazy or dysfunctional, the world was. These are real. Some of them are machines from other places here for whatever reasons, and that if I felt that my arts career had really been eclipsed by this. There were a lot worse ways that I could move forward in the world than becoming a serious student of this, and perhaps ultimately a spokesperson or someone contributing to our knowledge of this. And I continued to struggle to be visual artist, but my intention had never been to be a Sunday painter and to show my work at craft fairs. I was aiming for a world position. I was aiming to be a major modern painter whose work was in the best galleries and museums around the world, making top dollar, having a great loft, a lot of interesting friends, and it derailed, and there was no way to compensate. I, I really resented the whole UFO thing for an extended period of time, in part because I I had a plan, I had a passion. I was one of the lucky ones. I was following a dream from childhood that all the wonderful adults in my life, who were key to me, were supporting. Yeah, I was an artist. I was selling my work. I knew Andy Warhol. I was apprenticed for one of the last of the great abstract expressionists, Adolph Gottlieb, who was right up there with de Kooning and Pollock, etc. I was working in half a dozen galleries every month, being the guy who comes in, takes down the old show, pulls the nails, fill the holes, repaints, hangs the new show, and then doing construction work in Soho, helping to turn over buildings. I had a life, I had a dream. I was following it, and I loved it.

Speaker 2 39:12

And yes, I could still make believe, but I knew in my heart something more important had landed in front of me, yeah. And again, I resented the hell out of it. But I kind of struggled back and forth for about five years, and kept trying to go back to other subjects, but kept coming back to UFOs in one way or another. A very close colleague who I'd gone to art school with, a great guy and a very interesting creative mind, was one of the few people who seemed to get the profoundness of what had happened to me and its impact, and he very wisely said, "If you want to keep doing UFOs and." Saucers, you know, you'll be relegated to, you know, the eccentrics and a footnote to modern art and quirky. You need to find a way to utilize this imagery in a way that tells a bigger story. And it got me thinking: a UFO, a little flying saucer. It became an emblem for me of man's fear of the unknown. Sure, and I started to gravitate toward. I want to do one kind of masterwork. I thought, if that's going to be the emblem for fear of the unknown, what's the emblem for man? And I decided a tank. There are two ways to look at a tank. One way, they're incredibly scary, destructive machines, phallic, clunky, and inspire fear. They're about destruction and death, but they're also kind of cartoon-like. They're rolling along. They don't have, you know, much grace. Again, phallic as hell, and mechanical in every sense. Where, in every sense, authentic UFOs that do represent advanced technology are in every sense unmechanical. They move completely organically.

Speaker 1 41:26

Yes,

Speaker 2 41:26

and the masterwork, which I I still get a kick out of thinking about, was I built a sand table about a yard on each side, filled it with sand, and then created a little hill in the middle, and then started to place my. I did several dozen small ceramic tanks that I glazed. I used enameled cut-down toothpicks for the barrels, and working with wet clay, making swirls coming off of them, and then oil painting them, I had dozens of these cute little tanks in flames, and I set up the table with the little little UFOs sitting on the hill in the middle, and surrounded by tanks blowing the shit out of each other, and then even using toothpicks to create little trails, etc. exhibited once, and then moved on to other things. But it was about at that point that I was already very much involved in the subject. Bud and I had been

friends at that point for about five years, and then what happened was, he published his first book, *Missing Time*, and then his life changed very dramatically. He became a major force and a player within the field, and I became his assistant. And at that point, my interest in drawing and painting had become so subdued by all of this information that I was being presented with and trying to wrap my head around, and then not quite overnight, but Bud needed somebody to work with. The mail was coming in at a high rate, and more and more folks were simply contacting him to say, "I read your book. I think something like that may have happened to me, and I'd like to know more about it. Or, "Dear Miss Hopkins, I just found your book fascinating and just want to say it's a great read. And we were in business, so to say, unpaid business, but business, and my life rolled along from there. Had I finished my talk last night, one of the points I would have ended on is that I'm currently going through somewhere between five and 800 drawings, paintings, small sculptures, photographs of work that's gone out in the world, and methodically creating a database, year, materials, size, title, if any. And my intention is, by sometime next year, that I will use it for a very interesting lecture, possible material for a documentary, possible material for an exhibition, and also to do something I've wanted to do since I got sucked into this, which is how can I say? For most folks, their relationship with art is tenuous. They're busy. They're working people, and art is either okay. I can appreciate that. Look at those beautiful brushstrokes. That face looks so real. I'll bet that took hours to do. And years to learn how to do. I see the value, and it's the same value I see in you know the mercantile world.

Speaker 3 45:07

Sure,

Speaker 2 45:08

that's worth X that much an hour, etc. As opposed to a piece of what we'll call modern art, which may be so simple that whatever the artist's ideas or the derivations behind it, you look at it and go, my kid could do that. I can't believe that people pay for this nonsense. These are such effective nonsense.

Speaker 1 45:30

Or I don't get it.

Speaker 2 45:32

There you go. Those are the magic words. Number one in art, modern art as well as representational, getting it can be the booby prize.

Speaker 1 45:44

Yes, yes. Your

Speaker 2 45:45

take on it is as valid as the artist, and I will say one of my early art experiences, probably by the age of six, was my grandfather taking me to the Museum of Modern Art, where I got to see, among other things, Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh right there, right in front of my face, and in the next room, an early Robert Rauschenberg collage, maybe five feet, with a stuffed goat and an old tire, and I'm a kid going.

Speaker 1 46:22

Whoa! This is fabulous. This, this is art. Do this. This is art.

Speaker 2 46:27

I see where I'm going. Just that joyousness of the goofiness and the freedom and the freedom. The freedom exactly. I know I've taken us off on kind of a no,

Speaker 1 46:37

no. Truly, it is a beautiful. It's something that, once again, that idea of being able to hold two conflictatory concepts in your mind, and I think artists, I'm a musician. I've made for years and still make very esoteric soundscape art, not melody harmony. It's very disturbing for a lot of people, very John Cage, Philip Glass experiment with sound, not melody and harmony, and I used to be on a local composers' night in Houston once a month. My buddy or my dad and his beer drinking buddy would sometimes tune in at like midnight on a Sunday, and I'd see him the next week while we were like working on a house or a patio, and you'd be like, "We tuned in last week. Why don't you write something with a beat that like

people can listen to or dance to? Like, I don't understand that. And I'm like, "I appreciate your feedback. I was like, "That is some of the most beautiful feedback I can get. I'm not going to say I'm going to change my style. However, this this lets me under like your emotion itself is is what I'm looking for as an artist. It moved you, even if it moved you to dislike my job as an artist is done. Yeah, I am complete and fulfilled. It moved you.

Speaker 2 47:54

One footnote to what we were talking about for those folks that are watching and listening, we are on camera.

Speaker 1 48:01

Yes.

Speaker 2 48:01

Yep. Watching or listening, who may not be familiar with Philip Glass's name, he is one of our most distinguished modern composers.

Speaker 1 48:11

Absolutely.

Speaker 2 48:12

And even to the point that folks who are not avant-garde have made him their own. Philip, like so many of us young artists struggling, we all either learned or taught ourselves a trade in the construction industry. This was during the late '60s, well into the '70s and '80s, when one old factory building after another in the Soho district was being turned into upscale residences, galleries, restaurants, boutiques, that kind of thing. And I was a framing carpenter and wallboard guy, and occasionally working on finishing floors. Philip was a plumber, and we worked on several jobs together.

Speaker 3 48:57

Wow! Oh my God! Remember

Speaker 2 48:59

sitting like in an unfinished bathroom with him, we're both eating sandwiches, and we had to work in coordination because we're working with either

Speaker 1 49:07

weeping right now, Peter. That is so beautiful.

Speaker 2 49:09

Aluminum studs are more often two by fours, where we'd have to put them up so we could drill through them for him to run the pipes. You know, before we did the wallboard, I only remember a bit of small talk with him, and just you know, a fellow worker and a nice guy with a distinguished face. But then he became quite iconic to me because a good friend of his, the ultra super realist at that time, Chuck Close, had done a series of three huge black and white portraits. One of Richard Serra, who went on to become one of our most radical modern sculptors, huge multi-ton steel abstract sculptures, and. One of Philip, and the other was either a self-portrait, but there it was, and he did it like gritting them off, and these three huge portraits became one of the great emblems of art moving forward and different ways of treating realism in the late '60s. Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker 1 50:21

Well, and and the whole reason I bring up the art thing and really hammer that home is because the idea is open-minded conversation. The idea is being able to take feedback, even criticism, as not feedback in that kind of way. Just being able to open-endedly receive something, and when it comes to the world of either experiencer or the person talking to experiencer, you really have to be able to hold both of those concepts in your mind at the same time. And if you can, if you can have a conversation about art and what are because it's a very personal meaning to an artist, and they have a very intended meaning of what they did. But what moves you in a different way. It may it may move you to a different point than what they even intended, and it can sometimes be the same way with that. I'm not going to with interview. I almost said interrogation, but it's not interrogation. It's the fact of

asking open-ended questions, asking questions that are non-confrontational, but that still get data, and and it's the same way as talking with an artist about art. Yeah, you know, without the pointed harshness. With it, and I think that's a very important conversation. A for humanity to be able to have, especially on this topic.

Speaker 2 51:34

Yeah, I even as I stop producing art, it has in no way even remotely diminished my love of fascination with and just deep enjoyment. Yeah, one of like you as a you know one of two of several billion people on Facebook. We use our pages the way that they do. One thing I've done for some years is every Friday, every Saturday, I post a different painting from somewhere in the world, and every Sunday a different drawing. And it began just as sort of fun, busy work and having some extra routine. I have been really surprised by how many people have contacted me saying I look forward to Saturday and Sunday and learning more. Sometimes it's a beautiful painting. I want to see more paintings by that person, and it's it's just purely enjoyable.

Speaker 1 52:44

Absolutely, and it takes people down the rabbit hole of experience. There

Speaker 2 52:47

you go.

Speaker 1 52:48

And and that's just it. It's one of those to to loop this full conversation here, Peter. It's the idea of how do you bring experience forward from people? How do you make people comfortable with sharing experience? And that is that is a huge part of the work that you've done in your life, both both as artist and as interviewer in these kind of ways. And when it comes to this kind of investigation, investigative work, it really is kid gloves. It really is the the hand of empathy that has to reach out, and it's the hand of understanding. And I think, especially that artist lens in that kind of way, gives a very soft glove to to a very hard situation. You know, because as as an artist, especially as an interpretive artist, things like

that, you really have to learn to embody something in a way that people can understand, or that at the very least moves them one way or another in that kind of way.

Speaker 2 53:46

And next year, based on this particular project, I'm not sure the forum. It could be any UFO conference type event that's interested in having me there. I will do. I will be doing next year a presentation based on my evolution as an artist from six years old, yeah, straight up through art school, straight up through my professional work, and then bang. Starting with that very first painting in the UFO theme, show all of the UFO paintings and drawings that I still have, and then the next four years or so of struggling with the material, with the subject matter, and ultimately just stopping. And I'm going to aim it, hopefully, at an audience. Well, anybody I hope would be interested, but particularly for other artists,

Speaker 1 54:45

yeah,

Speaker 2 54:46

for mental health professionals,

Speaker 1 54:48

yeah,

Speaker 2 54:48

for counselors, and even a version for young people.

Speaker 1 54:54

Well, I think especially putting that in the light of art as. Trauma therapy, things like that. You could you could hit a whole different realm of presentations and conferences than these, brother. Truly, truly, and and opening up that door even of understanding of this topic to

those professionals. Yeah, you know, and a way a way for them to deal with people and and handle people who come in with these experiences and that kind of right. That's a beautiful, honestly, a beautiful transformation and melding of your two sides and your two your two halves, man. Truly, that's that is a beautiful beautiful point to come to. So, kudos to you for that. Truly, I look forward to that. Before we let you go, it's honestly it's always great talking with you. I need to have you on a whole lot more regularly. Absolutely, especially as things develop with other things that are going on that I don't want to bring up right now. We know what those are. But before we let you go, let everybody know where they can go to follow your work, where they can go to get involved, all that kind of good stuff, Peter.

Speaker 2 56:04

I have to laugh in a way at myself at this point. I become almost a forced underachiever. I'm

Speaker 1 56:14

a typical artist. Well, I'm also

Speaker 2 56:17

turning down certain offers or certain jobs or certain invitations to speak, because I just want to stay focused on this for now. My website has been taken down right now. I have, I have a very active Facebook page. Yes, and I would encourage anybody that wants to make contact with me. Believe it or not, there are more than one Peter Robbins in the world. One of them has become a Facebook friend of mine, a photographer in the Northwest, who I refer to as the other Peter Robbins. Yep, I'm the Peter Robbins who is listed in Ithaca, or just outside of Ithaca, New York. But anybody can contact me at my regular email address, first initial last name home state p r o b b i n s n y@yahoo.com.

Speaker 1 57:10

Fantastic, Peter! Thank you as always. Thank you for all you have done for the field and all that you always do. Truly, while you are online, everybody looking up the great work of Peter Robbins and following all of his work. Make sure to stop on by Curious Rome. CuriousRome.com is where you can like, follow, subscribe. That is where you can find all of

the episodes. That's where you can find all the embedded YouTube channels of our friends and guests. When we come back from this quick commercial break, we will continue with our waning coverage of Mufon Symposium right here in Covington, Kentucky. The key to good science is good research. At the heart of good research is a good data set. With the field observation and encounter log from Curious Research, you can easily keep track of your investigative information all in one place, making it easier to review cases and readily see comparisons and contrasts between them. Whether out in the woods squatching in a back room gathering EVPs or using high-tech gear to track UFO UAP activity, this easy-to-carry pocket-sized scientific data log is the perfect companion for any field researcher. You can find your copy of the Curious Research Field Observation and Encounter log at Amazon.com, or visit the official Curious Realm store at [curiousrealm.com/store](https://curiousrealm.com/store) to reserve your copy for yourself, your family, or a mine that you want to open. That website again is [curiousrealm.com](https://curiousrealm.com) forward slash store. Well, hello everybody, and welcome back to the waning cover of your curious realm right here at Newfoundland Symposium in Covington, Kentucky. We have the great joy of being joined by Jahan Azad of Retina FM. Welcome to the show for the first time.

Speaker 4 59:25

Thank you. Thank you so much.

Speaker 1 59:26

Absolutely. You have been here vending for the last few days, and you have some pretty incredible technology. I love talking with technical people about technology and its applications, especially in fields like this. How did you first come to the field of ufology. What made you help create Retina FM?

Speaker 4 59:46

Yeah, for a like a lot of us, what started it was the USS Nimitz. I heard David Fravor describe his yeah his experience. I I I thought it was at the time. I didn't really. I wasn't that interested. UFOs. When I was a little kid, yes, but you know, for years I hadn't really thought much about them at all. But that stuck in my head and said, I thought, you know, there has to be a better explanation. I'm sure there's something, you know, I'm sure this is all explainable. Yeah. But particularly that incident, the more you look into it, the more robust it gets. You you find out that there's a lot of witnesses. They basically all agree. There's

radar. There's video. There's there's a report you can read, and then you know from there I it was yeah it was kind of just like a big shift where I said actually I think there's something to this stuff yeah and that so that was that was that was probably around 2020 years ago interesting and then for a while I didn't I I just thought okay this is really weird but I don't know what they are I I think that they're you know they're around, but maybe they could just move their drones or something like that. And then in 2023, David Grush came out, and you know, high-level official testified under oath. And at which point I said, okay, this is even bigger than I thought. And then I really thought started to think about like, okay, what? You know, I'm a technology person. Like, what, how, what can I do? How can I get involved? This is this is the most interesting thing I could possibly work on. I want to work on this, but it wasn't really obvious, to be honest. Yeah. Um, and so what ended up happening is I ended up going to a conference in 2024, which is the Soul Conference. Okay. And a guy named Mitch Randall did a presentation on passive radar, and what he was describing was actually something that was first described by Peter Davenport, actually at Mufon 35 over 20 years ago, which is the idea of using a passive radar network to detect UFOs. Yeah. Now that was 20 years ago. the The problem then is that the hardware was too expensive. If you if you wanted to do the signal processing, you'd need a whole cluster of computers. It would have been 1000s or even 10s of 1000s of dollars. But after I saw after I started thinking about it, because I had a hardware background, I started thinking like, hey, you know, things have changed a lot. It may be possible to do this for relatively inexpensive, and so I spent about a month getting some hardware to test out, some cheap hardware, and seeing if I could get some, it would already existing radar open source packages to work on those. Yeah, you know, people had gotten them to work on their desktop, but I'm like, if I can get it to work on some cheap hardware, then this could this could be a thing. You could actually get a lot of people putting these nodes up. And so after about a month or so, I was able to get it to work on some pretty cheap hardware. I said, okay, this is possible then. So now the next step is just basically making it usable because at that point everything was kind of stuck together. You had to be pretty technical to get it to work. But okay, just take what I know. The pieces work individually, make it into a nice package, and then you can get a lot of people on the network. Like any network, the you know the value is the the square of the nodes. So the more nodes that you have, that's right, the more valuable the network is. Which means you need to get as many out there as possible, and you make it as easy as possible, so like anyone can put it up. You don't have to be a programmer to get it working. Yeah, so that's kind of how I got into it.

Speaker 1 1:02:48

Yeah, and you know that's very interesting because the idea of having a hardware background and coming to this-not only that, but the fact of you were not necessarily a believer in that kind of right-and that's that's something that I brought up in my talk today. Something that I bring up regularly is the idea of when you begin investigation. Why your first question should be, why am I investigating? Am I investigating to confirm a belief, or am I investigating because of anomalous data set and and trying to like scientifically? It's a job of science to remove anomaly from a data set.

Speaker 5 1:03:22

Oh, you know, absolutely.

Speaker 1 1:03:23

I love the fact that you were approaching this not as a believer, but as somebody curious about a data set and how can we gather this data? How can we make this data available? And and how can the average person process it in that kind of way?

Speaker 4 1:03:37

Oh, absolutely. And if you want to hear a funny story before I start doing this full time because at that point I was thinking, wow, am I really gonna kind of move my whole career in this direction, this UFO stuff? I, I, I, there's a there's a guy who's like a somewhat like kind of known debunker. I actually paid him to write some blog posts. Yeah, like to like look into it because he's a guy who he's a guy who I I think was pretty rigorous and I respected. So I was like, okay, maybe he's going to see something I don't. Sure, and he's going to talk me out of this, and then I can just kind of go back to my regular life. Yeah, yeah. And so he wrote three blog posts, and I would say, and two of them were actually vaguely positive. I would say, like a little bit, being like, hey, actually, maybe they're from base from base foundational assumptions. You should actually think that maybe there are there. Sure, I would say only like vaguely, but like a little bit positive. And then he did one on the USS Nimitz, and for him, he was like, it's inconclusive. He he could yeah, he didn't. That's just it. Yeah, he's like I he's like there's no obvious. He's like I can't say what it is, but I also there's no obvious explanation either. Yeah, and so to be honest, I had expected him to maybe debunk it, but he the fact that he was like, actually, I don't know. Then I was like, okay, well, yeah, yeah. You know, I've tried my best to talk myself out of it, and it just hasn't worked. Well, and the fact that

Speaker 1 1:04:49

you task somebody to try to a like, hey, tell me I'm at least investing part of my time and money and effort into something that is valid here. Yeah. You know that's that's a huge point, and truly the fact of bringing that point to life, bringing it to the fact of having somebody a error check you and b try and make sure that you were going down the right path, that you were actively creating a product that was for a purpose in that kind of way, not just not just vapidly wasting your time as a hardware designer and things like that. And when it comes to the hardware design, I don't want you to give up too much. You know, there are proprietary things. I'm sure, at least in how you have things connected. Not that you aren't using off-the-shelf items. Yeah, I should say work like that. We're

Speaker 4 1:05:39

actually all open source, so and that's beautiful. So, so you can actually you don't have to buy anything from us. We have a kit. Yeah, just because it's some people would prefer it. Well, and it's easier. Yeah, it's easier. But everything's open source, so you can build it yourself. That's

Speaker 1 1:05:49

fantastic. Let's get into that real quick because, like, I just spent I just spent the last couple few weeks designing an open source tool for my website, and my wife asked me like, "How much you going to charge for this? And I was like, absolutely nothing, nothing. I want every investigator in the world to be able to use this at absolutely no cost. You know, because that's the idea is to give people access to be able to find investigative data in that kind of way. So why why open source for you? Why not a product that you would put on the shelf, utterly label and put put like black black gummy down down on the circuit board, like so many designers do? You know where it's like, nope, this is locked down. You can't see what the parts are or what the values are by the color strips on resistors and things like that.

Speaker 4 1:06:40

Yeah. So I'd say there's there's two reasons. So for one, you know the we we want as many nodes as possible because for two reasons. So one, you know, UFOs are a rare phenomena. So you need a lot of area to be able to realistically capture them. That's one.

And for two, we want as robust data as possible, which means multi sensors, independent sensors. So I want users who are not connected at all to be detecting the same thing at the same time. Yeah, and to do that, you need a lot of them. And doing it, making open source, making it free makes it easier for that. The second thing is the entire field of like, in some sense, like why am I doing this when the FAA has radar, when the military has radar? It's because even though they have radar, they're not open and it's not transparent. And so, to me, making a you know replicating another radar system that's just closed-it's like that's the the whole the whole problem is not that there's no radar. The whole problem is that's not you don't

Speaker 1 1:07:30

have access to the data to it

Speaker 4 1:07:31

exactly, and so so what this I think everything this entire field needs is transparency. Yes, yes. And then finally, the fact is, you know, most people, and I understand, are you know, are very skeptical of the phenomena, and especially people academics, but especially scientists. Yeah. And if they want to, if if we want our data to be taken seriously, then they need to be able to review everything from beginning to end, not just the final product of the data, but how was the data generated? What was that generated? What was the equipment? What was that?

Speaker 1 1:08:01

Gathered it, and I literally had somebody all of all of about maybe a year ago that was like, "Oh, I found this signal. I've gone. And what was it like? Nine hertz or something like that. Like we found this anomalous nine hertz signal, and and I'm like nine hertz. Like I don't know. I'm an audio engineer, binaural beat musician, like nine hertz isn't that hard to generate. Like you're in the middle of Oklahoma, there's plenty of thunderstorms. You're in the middle of Tornado Alley. You're talking sprites and things like that that generate nine hertz. You're talking earthquakes that'll generate nine hertz. You're talking drilling equipment. Like let's talk more about Oklahoma than than fissure lines and fracking and drilling and major thunderstorms and tornadic activity. All these things that could naturally generate a signal in that signal range. So my question was, what equipment did you use to gather this, and what was your methodology? To which I got no answer. Yes, and it's one of

those like I got scanners that'll go everywhere from 20 hertz up to six Gs. You know, like that's what I do for frequency management with microphones on property, things like that. So, what is the equipment? What is the methodology? What sensors are you using in this platform?

Speaker 4 1:09:19

Yes. So we've so you when you build it you can actually use a fair number of different sensors. What we did is we made like a turnkey set, and I think beautiful. It's for for really for two reasons. So one, it's just easier for the user. If everything's turnkey, they're not. It's like you just buy this kit, the software will work out of the box. You don't have to think. That's it. It's just a open. It's an image, a operating system image to flash that image, or we actually send you if you buy the kit, we actually send you that image on the SD card for a Raspberry Pi, which is kind of standard hardware. Then and then we have something called a software defined radio, which is basically a digitizer, and we use something called the RSP Duo, which is just a like a good value. It's it's not. It's not the most expensive. It's not the worst. This is kind of a good value range where you get get good good data out of it, but also it's kind of it's like relatively affordable. Yeah, yeah. And so that's the that's the stack we kind of ended up on. And those are just that's just standard equipment. It's like very well understood, very well characterized. Yeah. And and

Speaker 1 1:10:16

proven and field tested and proven. Yeah, exactly. That's the main thing. Yeah. Field tested and proven, these are methodologies and sensors that have been used in all kinds of product everywhere with great results.

Speaker 4 1:10:26

Exactly, and and I was using those those that testing and characterization to choose this to choose this device in the first place because this is sort of standard like ham radio equipment. So they they kind of have a characterization of all these different devices, and I kind of looked through it and say, "Okay, this is probably the one we want. It's the price price point. You ain't

Speaker 1 1:10:43

gonna get any nerdier than the ham community. Yes, bud. Oh yeah, they're

Speaker 4 1:10:48

great. They're great. A lot of them already have all the equipment. Actually, absolutely

Speaker 1 1:10:50

no. They've got stacks of the actual hard equipment. They get the SDRs just to play around with while they're on the road. Like I told you, I have one that I carry typically in my backpack. It's in my bag in the 100% in the hotel room right now. Yeah, I sit and nerdily just plug it in and tune around and listen to things while I'm in hotel rooms around the country.

Speaker 4 1:11:10

Yeah, and so the the I guess the short answer to your question is we just pick the equipment that the ham radio people already kind of told you know knew is good and know how to use it and they said you know and they're happy with it. So I said, "Okay, this is my because my background is not exactly in radio. It's a little bit on the. You also,

Speaker 1 1:11:24

at that point, though, have a beautiful community of people that you can lean on for functionality, for integration, all kinds of things. What are the possibilities? What are the ranges? What are the tolerances of this equipment? Those dudes know that stuff.

Speaker 4 1:11:38

Oh yeah, and they're excited about it. I did exactly. I was at a conference two weeks ago. Ham, really more like an exhibition, like a ham exhibition. They were crazy. They loved it.

Speaker 1 1:11:46

Now I just need to know where that nerd conference happens. But we're going to talk after because that sounds cool as hell. Yeah, it was great. It was great.

Speaker 4 1:11:53

So yeah, they're they're great. They're they're kind of ideal to first yeah get involved.

Speaker 1 1:11:58

Well, and and with that in mind, especially how has the collaboration been with them, and what other collaborations are you working on with this?

Speaker 4 1:12:07

Yeah, so so you know we we've received a few a couple grants to develop some of this, and so one of them is from the ARDC Foundation, which is basically like an amateur radio foundation. So that's like one of the the first that was actually our first grant we ever got was that to develop it, and so that's like that's the beginning. But also, we a number of ham radio operators are actually our first users, and they're they're kind of because you know they know the tech and they have the that's it, that's it, and they've helped us actually. Well,

Speaker 1 1:12:35

and they know how to error test it. They know how to tell you no no what you're getting right now is extraneous signal. You're getting some crazy ground loop noise right now. And the example I give for that, I love you, folks. Don't get me wrong, and believe me, I understand the Earth resonates, but the Schumann resonance stuff online, where it's like half the time it's like, no, that is an ungrounded signal that you're seeing. Like you're seeing an actual problem with the ground on the signal when it spikes like that. That's not the sun doing that. That's not necessarily the way that works, you know. And yeah, even that kind of debunking, even that kind of stuff, where it's like they can tell you at least a range of what this anomaly might be, and it's not actually that anomaly that you're looking for.

Speaker 4 1:13:17

Yeah, yeah. So they're great. They've been really, really, really incredibly helpful. Like I said, they've they've kind of a lot of that stuff has walked me through the radio stuff that I hadn't didn't have a background in. Yeah,

Speaker 1 1:13:26

yeah. Now, other detection methods aside from the SDR things like that, what other sensors are you guys using and integrating into this platform?

Speaker 4 1:13:34

So, our our kind of approach has been to the the main sensor system that I think has been missing historically has been passive radar. So other people have they've they've used accelerometers, like magnetometers, optical methods, but nobody really had done radar because for a couple reasons. One is regulatory. One is because the technology, like as in the processing power, just hadn't caught up yet. Sure. And so we're kind of mostly basically focusing on radar. But then, because it's all open, we have an API. So if you have other methods, then you can kind of like. So then, you know, if there's an optical guy who's an expert in optics, yeah, then you can you can tie that in. So we're not really going and try to be a jack of all trades. We're basically saying, okay, we're going to do radar as well as possible, and we make everything open. So if you have another modality you want to stick, you're not connected to, then then great, you can go ahead and grab it. Yeah,

Speaker 1 1:14:21

and and have y'all set up any kind of like code share option, things like that, where people can put their own SDIs up, that kind of stuff.

Speaker 4 1:14:28

Yeah, so you can. So yeah, let's see. And so everything's everything's open source, so you can fork it if you want. Okay, and you can make contributions if anyone wants to contribute. Exactly, exactly. Where it's like, hey,

Speaker 1 1:14:39

you know, if you're looking at looking to integrate a gravitometer, guys. You know, here's some. Here's here's a few lines of code. Things like that.

Speaker 4 1:14:45

Yeah, and then everything is. I mean, everything is available on like a API. On so then you can. So probably right now the most straightforward way would be have another device that just pulls all the data. Sure. Something that aggregates all of it. Yeah. But it's just if it's on the same local network, you can just pull whatever you want.

Speaker 1 1:15:00

Okay, and and when it comes to the passive radar, because this is this, I mean, you know, we talked to Alex Dietrich. That's what was literally installed in her ship just before the Nimitz encounter.

Speaker 3 1:15:10

And

Speaker 1 1:15:11

I have always hypothesized with that and other technologies. I've always wondered if it was a cross-platform test that they didn't necessarily tell everybody on the boat about you know, and even even the whole rumor of tapes being taken from planes later by other people from another branch of the military, like that kind of explains that hypothesis of what happened. But how does the system work? How how are you basically using the ham radio antennas as a as almost like a sensor network in that kind of way to use them as a means by which to sense objects between their proximities or how how is it working

Speaker 4 1:15:52

yeah so so I'll start from just like the individual node the individual thing that the one person's putting up yeah and so this is passive radar as opposed to active radar exactly and so passive radar is using the radio signals that are already around us. So in our case, we're usually using digital television, but you can also use FM radio. And so the nice thing about that is you don't need a transmitter. You don't need to send out your own pulses, so that saves that cost. Also, you need an FCC license to be broadcasting. Yes,

Speaker 1 1:16:19

you do. And

Speaker 4 1:16:20

so this allows you to not need that. You can just piggyback off of somebody else's license and somebody else's transmitter. And so what you're doing is, the FCC has a database of where all these transmitters are, so you can look it up and know where that knows the physical location of that transmitter. Yeah. And then you know where you physically are, and then what you listen for is you listen for the original signal, and that takes some time to come to you. So you hear you know whatever music or something. It comes in at a certain time, and then then you'll hear an echo of that same music off of objects, right? And then when it comes in, though, it's coming in a little later because it's an echo, so it's going to go out and kind of come back. And so based on that time difference, you can say how much farther that radio wave had to travel, and so you can figure out kind of how far away that object is. Yeah. So that that'll give you one. That's one piece of information: is how far away it is from from you and from the transmitter. Sure. And then the second piece of information is something called a Doppler shift, which maybe you're familiar with, is when a moving object blue shift. Exactly. If a moving object encounters a radio wave, then the frequency gets can moved up or moved down, and so it'll be the same original signal, but moved a little bit up or down, and that's going to be based on the velocity of the object, and then velocity

Speaker 1 1:17:27

and size. Somewhat size, yeah.

Speaker 4 1:17:30

So the size will give you the will change the size of the return. Yeah. But yeah, and so then from there you can say, okay, I know kind of relative to the the tower and me, I know how fast it's moving, and those are the two bits of information, and so our our system will every half a second will kind of give you a new snapshot of that of, and so it's you're saying how far away is it and how fast it's moving, and then so over time that'll change a little bit because it's moving, and then you make a little track and you can say okay here's here's my little radar hits every half a second, and you kind of line up these lines as they go and you

say okay this is my object, and then now you have a trajectory, now you have a location. So these can be it can be used to you know determine if it's anomalous in and of itself. For example, if it's moving supersonic, or if it has very high accelerations, you can say, okay, this is itself. I can tell just from the radar turn that it's anomalous. Or let's say you have a a sighting, then and you want to look back in the historical data and say, "Hey, was there anything in physical in the sky when when I was when I think I saw a sighting? You can go back and look like, "Hey, okay, here's an actual object that we did detect at the sky. Okay, so that's the other thing is so that someone can go back retrospectively.

Speaker 1 1:18:34

Now, now comparative data wise, what other sources are you bringing in to compare that data against things like flight radar, things like Stellarium, where you can even track satellites, that kind of stuff. What what other modalities are y'all using for comparative data like that?

Speaker 4 1:18:53

Yeah, so right now we're using flight radar. So okay, which is a

Speaker 1 1:18:56

great one. Yeah,

Speaker 4 1:18:57

exactly. So it's you know airplanes, commercial airplanes are supposed to be broadcasting what's called ADSB. They're supposed to be. They don't always.

Speaker 1 1:19:05

Well, I caveat this to a lot of investigators regularly. Whenever they're like, "I checked it against flight radar, and I'm like, "Yeah, but you're near a military base. Not all military flights have them. Not all international flights have them. It's mainly flights outbound from the U.S. or that are and like a lot of this is like people in South Texas and it's like that's funny

because you've got Mexico right there in your sightline. Okay, so not every plane coming into Mexico is going to have that transponder that the FAA requires.

Speaker 4 1:19:36

Yeah, there's there's different rules. Some some older smaller aircraft use different systems. That's right. So just because it doesn't have a transponder doesn't mean it's anomalous. However, it does help you because you can eliminate anything with a transponder. Yes. As okay, we know what this is. Yeah. And so it does two things. Yeah. You eliminate the known targets. Yes. And then also you can calibrate your radar and you can validate your radar, right? Because if you put a radar up, you're like, how how do you know it actually is working? Well, if you. If you compare what the where the airplane says it is and to where the radar says it is, and if they line up very well, you can say, okay, this radar works, and you can actually say, okay, you can actually estimate how much the error is. Well,

Speaker 1 1:20:09

and at least within proximity of that data delay between what flight radar is getting and what you're getting.

Speaker 4 1:20:15

Yeah. So, so what we actually what we try to do on is is get go direct to the source, so you can go to the internet and get that data, and also you can set up your own receiver where you receive it directly from the plane. So then it's it doesn't have to go all the way through the internet. It's like then that the the time difference is very is much shorter, and exactly the basically the data is fresher. So we try to do if that of totally not everyone can do that. Well, it's running through your

Speaker 1 1:20:38

buffer, not through the buffer of a server, then the buffer of a browser, and then the buffer of your computer from a browser. Like there's a there's a three way bottleneck of information coming to you time wise.

Speaker 4 1:20:48

Yeah, so we try to do that, and then that'll give us as fresh data as possible to totally really see how well that radar is working. Yeah,

Speaker 1 1:20:53

incredible. And I mean, with that in mind, it it really is a pretty incredible and forward looking system. The fact that it's open source, people can add their own tools to it. People can contribute those tools, and even like, hey, here's the model number that it works best with. That kind of stuff. Like, you've really taken it to a beautiful community level in that kind of way, Jahan. What kind of things are you guys looking at incorporating in the future?

Speaker 4 1:21:20

Oh, yeah. Thank you for saying that. So there's a the the one of the big things we're doing now is we're trying to you know collect all that data into a central server, and then that server will hopefully will have historical data. Okay. So if anybody, for example, saw a sighting, they can just go back and see sure and like make it easy as a data explorer. I'd also like to do something like push notifications, where and this would not. I probably wouldn't personally want like try to make the app too, but there's a lot of UFO apps already, right? So if we could push to those apps and say, "Hey, there's a UFO in your vicinity right now. Try to take a photo of it or look at it, right? Because what we want the the the things you want is as much corroboration as possible.

Speaker 1 1:22:00

Yep.

Speaker 4 1:22:00

And the you want and you want multimodal. So different. You want radar, but you also want human eyeballs. You also want optical, like cameras, video cameras, IR.

Speaker 1 1:22:10

You want weather data. Weather data.

Speaker 4 1:22:11

You want everything at the same time.

Speaker 1 1:22:12

Absolutely. So

Speaker 4 1:22:13

ideally, you know, we see a thing on radar. Someone looks up at it, sees it, and takes a photo of it or takes a video of it. You know, that's way more robust data than if just our radar got it. Yeah, and so that's that's I think that's the next step. And I think there's a lot of people who are kind of working on something similar. And so my hope is to just give them our data feed, and then they get pushed and they can push it to their apps. Yeah. And like I said, you know, the the passive radar stuff is kind of so involved already that I'm trying not to get too much mission creep. You know, no, that's just it. You've

Speaker 1 1:22:39

you've really when it comes to things like this, and not that I haven't thrown a few ideas out, things like that, but it's it's one of those you really do have to be careful with how fast you're prototyping things, how fast you're moving things forward, especially in such a data-driven field like this. You've really got to make sure that your data is there. It's rock solid. It is what it is. It's UTC time stamped, things like that. Like making sure those protocols are in place. You you really can't future integrations. You really can't put in till it's like a two year window almost. You know you've really got to give things a robust two three year window to build that data set. Make sure it's coming in right. Make sure it's being processed right, and making sure that it's going out and being filtered to people in the proper kind of way.

Speaker 4 1:23:27

Yeah, 100% So our hope is because it's open, then anybody who wants, who has an app, can just grab the data. You know. Yeah. So that that's my hope. There's already so many

people working on this that. Yeah. I think hopefully this just allow us to integrate a little bit better, and you don't have to reinvent the wheel, and you know, you know the mobile apps guys can do the mobile app stuff, and I'll do the radar stuff.

Speaker 1 1:23:45

Oh no, no, exactly, exactly. And it's one of those you don't want to mire yourself, mire yourself down in projects, and also make it to where you're removing the good work and time that you could be putting in sharpening this, honing it, making it better, just to make it accessible too. And honestly, it's one of those not that mobile app isn't great, but it's more the fact of how do you get that data into systems? How do you get that data out to people? How do you make sure that data is making it out to the community outside of users? And of course, with connecting with other communities, stuff like that. How are you guys in the last couple minutes? how How are we? How are you looking at bringing that data to other communities? How are you looking at pipelining it into people and cooperating with them in that kind of way?

Speaker 4 1:24:35

Yes, I've talked to a number of people here at Mufon who are interested in kind of getting that data feed. Totally. Also work with some academics, and so that would be you know giving them a large dataset, and they kind of take their time and pour through it, and then you know see if there's anything anything there, and then maybe publishing papers on it. So those those are the main, and then of course we're also we have a public a public map. This is at right now it's it's early days, so there's not that many nodes, but it's just at map.retnet.FM, and that's a public map where you can just go and kind of see what we're over there. That's great.

Speaker 1 1:25:03

That's great. Fantastic. Now, in the last couple minutes, how do people get involved? How do the how do the SDR and ham operators out there find you? How do they get a kit? How do they? How do I get a kit and begin detecting for you right in Austin, Texas? Things like that.

Speaker 4 1:25:19

Yeah. So if you just go to retina.fm, you can there's a you can buy a kit. It's just a little like checkout, so you can just buy it online and we'll ship it out to you. Or if you're you know ham, then we have a guide that'll kind of show you kind of what you need to buy and what piece and kind of how to download the software. So you might already if you already have a Raspberry Pi, you just have to buy the SDR. So you know, so you can follow that. Sure. If you're if you're if you want to work or contribute, we're on GitHub. We have a link on our our page. Just go to our GitHub if you want to, or if you want to report issues, or if you want across features, anything like that, you can do it that way. And then yeah, also if if anyone else who's if you have a pro a project that's like you know archive project or another sensing project or like a mobile app, yeah. Please get in touch. We're happy to collaborate. And you know, for us, it just looks like okay. Here's the data feed. You know, go ahead and do a call with it.

Speaker 1 1:26:12

Absolutely. Well, I'll definitely be talking with you off air here in just a second about it. But I want to thank you so much for taking the time. You've been over here talking with people for days, and it's been great to see so many people interested in such an amazing technology, Jahan. So thank you so much for the work that you've done on that. I think it's really incredible, and I very, very much look forward to not only having you on the show again and again for follow-ups, updates, things like that, but to help expose all of this to a much larger and bigger community for you, so thank you so much for all the work you've done.

Speaker 4 1:26:43

Okay, thank you so much for having me, and you asked great questions, and yeah, really excited to to get to keep keep going, and I'll we'll stay in touch. Love to give you updates as it comes. Most

Speaker 1 1:26:51

definitely. While you were online, everybody checking out everything from oh my god, it just left my head one more time.

Speaker 4 1:26:58

Retina.fm. Retina.fm,

Speaker 1 1:27:00

and Jahan, everybody, make sure to stop on by Curious Realm. CuriousRealm.com is where you can like, follow, subscribe. That's where you can find all of the YouTube channels of our guests. When we come back from this quick break, we will continue with our waning coverage of Mufon Symposium 2026 right here in Covington, Kentucky. Right after this, folks. The key to good science is good research. At the heart of good research is a good data set. With the field observation and encounter log from Curious Research, you can easily keep track of your investigative information all in one place, making it easier to review cases and readily see comparisons and contrasts between them. Whether out in the woods squatching, in a back room gathering EVPs, or using high-tech gear to track UFO UAP activity, this easy-to-carry pocket-sized scientific data log is the perfect companion for any field researcher. You can find your copy of the Curious Research Field Observation and Encounter log at Amazon.com, or visit the official Curious Realm store at [curiousrealm.com/store](https://curiousrealm.com/store) to reserve your copy for yourself, your family, or a mine that you want to open. That website again is [curiousrealm.com](https://curiousrealm.com) forward slash store. Well, hello everybody, and welcome to our final piece of coverage here at MUFON Symposium in Covington, Kentucky. We have had a great show, some great interviews. It has been a fantastic conference, and I am so happy to welcome to our show in this segment, Brian McCabe. Welcome.

Speaker 6 1:29:06

Thank you for so much for having me.

Speaker 1 1:29:07

Absolutely. Now you run a, I guess the easiest way to put it is a reclamation service that that finds that brings people's archives and brings people's personal collections out to public availability. But in addition, you also run the is it the Springfield UFO?

Speaker 6 1:29:28

It's the Spring Grove Village Spring Grove UFO Research Society.

Speaker 1 1:29:32

Absolutely. How did you first come a to the world of UFO research, b to collection specification in that kind of way. Well,

Speaker 6 1:29:43

well. First off, thanks so much for doing this. I've never been on a podcast before, so it's my first time. So this is so cool. But so what it originally came from was my grandpa. So he worked at a facility called Fernald in South South. Ohio, and it was a uranium enrichment plant for the nuclear weapons facility in the United States. Yeah, so he worked there from 1951 to 1992, and it's funny that we actually just found out what he did there. So my mom and my grandma, they had no clue. I mean, he told him that he was a janitor, and that was part of the you know loose lips sink ships. Sure, and so we actually just got in touch with the Atomic Energy Commission's legacy program to get actual photographs of him from their company newsletter, and we actually he was