

Channahon Triangle

An Illinois MUFON Case Study

Case Number: 41616

July 18th, 2012

Abstract

Keywords: Triangle-Translucent-Unknown-UFO-Other

Description	Witnessed a very large UFO over my home
Witness(es)	Gilbert Xxxxxx
Date and Time	On Saturday July 18, 2012 9:30pm.
Place	Channahon, Illinois Latitude: 41.43xxx Longitude: -88.21xxx
Weather	Temperature 78.3° F; North East winds, Speed 8.1 MPH; Clear; visibility 10 miles.
Duration	4 minutes

.Last Updated: Saturday, March 2nd, 2013

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INTRODUCTION

This case involved the sighting of a triangle shaped object consisting of one yellowish light located on the front point of the object. The object was observed by one, primary witness while standing in his backyard. The sighting took place in Channahon Illinois between approximately 9pm - 9:30pm CT on Saturday July 18th, 2012. The entire duration for this sighting was approximately 4 minutes. The disposition for this case is UNKNOWN OTHER.

Acknowledgements

Illinois MUFON would like to thank witness Mr. Gilbert Xxxxxx for allowing me to interview him.

Mr. Xxxxxx was fully cooperative during my questioning and was forthright in providing as much detail as he could possibly recall. He also agreed to provide a sketch of what the triangle looked like and his position in his backyard when he seen it.

The witness has lived in the area for the majority of his life. Mr. Xxxxxx understands air traffic patterns and routes in the area as well as the night time skies. His father was in the Air Force and was stationed at Lackland AFB in San Antonio Texas, where Gilbert Xxxxxx grew up as a child.

Witness Background

The witness, Gilbert Xxxxxx was born on March 2nd, 1960, is age fifty years old and is currently on disability due to an injury to his back which incurred on the job. Mr. Xxxxxx has three years of college at Southern Illinois University. He currently wears glasses full-time and has no hearing issues.

Mr. Xxxxxx currently resides at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx in Channahon Illinois. His father was in the US Air Force and Mr. Xxxxxx grew up as a child in Lackland AFB in Texas. He is very familiar with the night skies and often takes out his telescope to share the skies with his grandchildren.

During the interview, Mr. Xxxxxx was sincere and very forthcoming in describing what he had seen. While describing the incident with the light response from the object, you could determine Mr. Xxxxxx was still very shaken and frightened from what occurred. Although the sighting occurred nine months ago, he remembers the events of that evening like it happened yesterday.

I do not believe this case is a hoax. Mr. Xxxxxx's re-telling of what he seen and the manner in which his voice inflected re-telling certain scenarios appear to me to be very genuine. Gilbert Xxxxxx appears to be a credible witness with nothing to gain by creating and reporting a hoax.

SIGHTING DESCRIPTION

From actual MUFON CMS:

I tend to sit outside once my wife turns in for the night. I sit and enjoy a cigar, read something, have a cold beer and let the dog do her business. I do this every night and on clear days I also take my small binoculars out and watch the stars, planets and the moon. I've witnessed meteors streak across the sky. I've watched satellites slowly move across the night sky. I've watched countless airplanes and helicopters be they civilian, military, commercial etc in the sky over my home throughout the years but I NEVER witnessed anything of the type I witnessed on the night of July 18th, 2012. I was out in my back yard around 10:30 pm having a cigar and waiting for my small dog to finish her "ritual." My wife and I have a large, hand held floodlight we take with us to check for skunks before we allow the dogs out. On the night in question, I was standing approx. 20 feet from my porch so the sensor on the porch light timed out. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and I looked up and thought I saw movement coming from the Ursa Minor Constellation. It seemed as though one of the stars was moving in a northerly direction. I thought it might be a satellite so I paid it no mind until it "Stopped" moving and seemed to blink. As I watched it for a few seconds it seemed as though the "air" around the "Star" seemed to "ripple" sort of the same way heat does when watching it rise from the ground at a distance. It was then that I noticed it "moving" again and thought it odd as the stars that make up the Constellation of Ursa Minor don't MOVE! so I shined the flood light at the "Star" that was moving and That's when I realized I was watching something very strange. It seemed to "absorb" the light..It reminded me of the way water moves when a pebble is dropped and ripples. As I shined the light on it, it actually seemed to respond. It shined a light back at me! At first I thought it an optical illusion but when I did it a second time, and blinked the light several times, it repeated the sequence I had just done! This "THING" was massive! Made no noise and moved very slow across the sky. It blocked out the stars for a few moments that I shined the light at it as if to let me know it was actually there..I know that sounds silly but that's what happened. I watched it slowly fade as if "cloaking" again but I could make out the shape as it seemed to blink in and out as it moved. I lost sight of it as the tree blocked my view of it. That's what I witnessed and was wondering if anyone else witnessed this on the night in question.

Witness Interview

Roger Xxxxxxx contacted Mr. Gilbert Xxxxxx on Thursday February 14th at 8:00pm for an initial phone interview. The following details were captured during this initial interview:

Gilbert Xxxxxx currently resides in Channahon Illinois near I-55 and Route 6 . His sighting of the triangle shaped object occurred on July 18th, 2012 between 9pm and 9:30pm.

On the night of the sighting, Gilbert was out in his backyard. Due the backyard size, he has a problem with skunks so he carries a 200 watt flashlight to check for skunks before he lets out his dogs.

It was a clear night and with no skunks in the area, Gilbert let his dogs out and was sitting outside in his backyard with his dogs around 9pm or 9:30pm. A bright light caught his eye in the sky and he looked up facing the northwest. Gilbert first seen the Ursa Minor constellation in the horizon. But what really caught his eye was that the stars of Ursa Minor then disappeared, as if something was blocking them out. It first appeared as if there was a dark "heat mirage like" image blocking out the stars. However, this image seemed to be solid. Gilbert stated the object appeared to be like a "heat mirage" because the object resembled the heat haze coming off a paved road in intense heat.

As he kept looking up, Gilbert noticed whatever was blocking out the stars was very large and moving very slowly to the north towards Chicago and making no sound whatsoever. Its speed seemed to be approximately 15 mph and the speed did not change during the entire sighting. As he watched this object, it seemed to be translucent, like you could see through it, but yet it had blocked out everything he night sky above it. As it passed over head, Gilbert felt a static charge and all the external hair on his body stood up, like you would see if you were standing near a electric static discharge. There was no odor ever detected during the entire sighting.

The object's altitude was approximately 500-600 feet above, lower than commercial airlines flight path on approach to Midway airport. From this height and although the object was dark, Gilbert could determine the shape of the object was in the form of a triangle. Towards the front of the triangle Gilbert could make out a yellowish-orange solid light, the light that originally caught Gilbert's attention when he first observed the object, but that is the only color he had seen. The edge lines of the triangle appeared to be fuzzy and the triangle corners were rounded, not sharp angles that you would see on a geometric triangle. The triangle reminded Gilbert of the Star Wars Battle Cruiser by its shape and size. The air around the triangle was disturbed. Gilbert could see the air was shimmering around the edges of the triangle. However, there were no trails left by the triangle in the sky.

When Gilbert shined the flash light on the "Object," the flash light beam tracked from slightly behind (*The light shone on the belly of this "object. Gilbert was not able to see the top or make out anything on the sides in detail. He "saw" some of the rear of the "object" but not specific details*). The "front" of the object to the rear of the "object." He held the "Beam" for about 1 to 2 seconds before the "Object *"responded"* to the beam.

The "Light" (for better lack of a word) seemed to emanate from just behind the "Tip" of the object and slightly to the left of the "tip." He'd say it was about a 1/4 of the way back from the front. The light was two stages. It first "Blinked" on as a cloudy white/blueish in color and then seemed to morph into a milky amber color. It seemed to be responding to the Flash light beam and stayed focused on where I was standing for about 3-5 seconds. Gilbert has never seen anything like it before in his 51 years and haven't since.

His backyard is on a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot, and the triangle would have covered both sides of his lot. A corner of the triangle did pass over his house. With his arms extended, Gilbert would not be able to completely cover it in his arms. The triangle wouldn't have been able to covered by a basketball being held at arm's length.

ENVIRONMENT

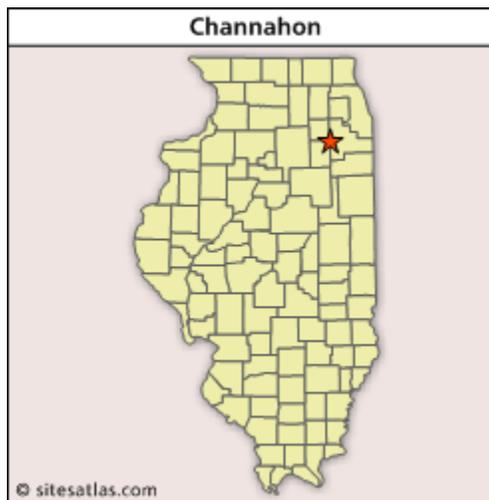
The environment for this sighting is in Channahon Illinois. Channahon is a village in Grundy and Will counties in the U.S. state of Illinois. Channahon is also the name of the township in which most of the village resides.

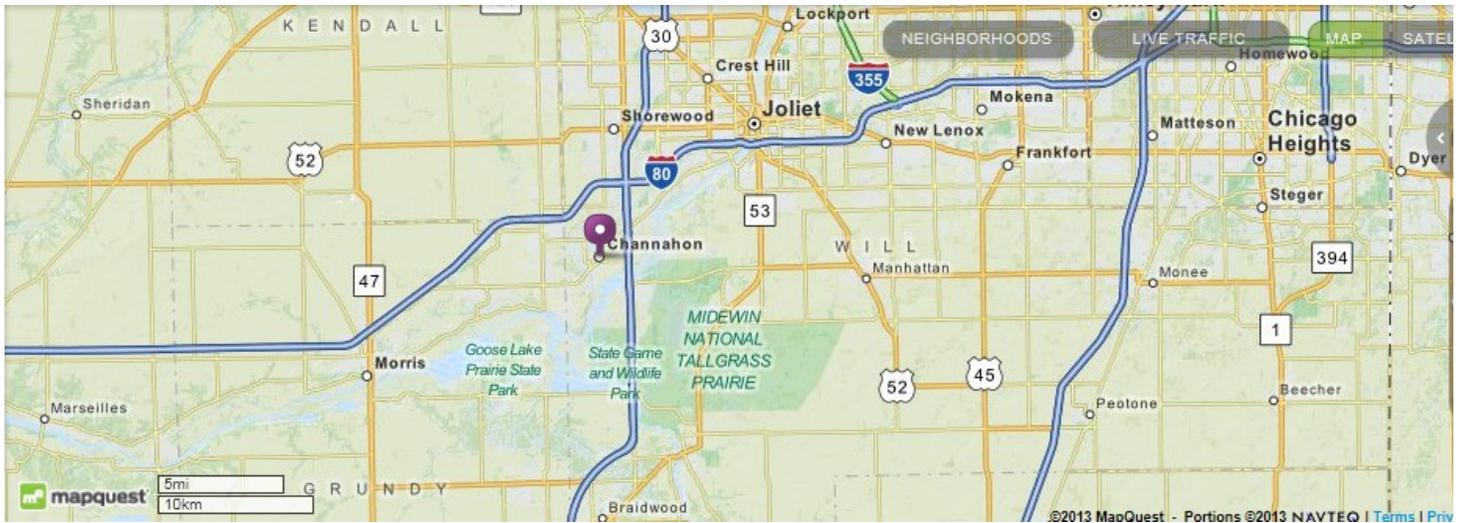
Its name meaning "Meeting of the Waters" in the language of the area's original Potawatomi inhabitants, Channahon is located at the confluence of the Des Plaines and Kankakee rivers, where they form the Illinois River. The Illinois and Michigan Canal (including several locks) runs through most of the village, where it is fed by the water of the DuPage River. The local Channahon State Park celebrates the region's unique geographical history.

Later in the 19th century, a railroad line that eventually came under the control of the Santa Fe Railroad was laid through the eastern portions of the township, but no railroad actually passed through the village itself. In the late 1920s, U.S. Highway 6 came through Channahon; Interstates 80 and 55 followed in the 1960s (although I-80 runs approximately two miles to the north of the village limits).

! Source: Google Maps

Channahon Illinois Locale





Des Plaines & Kankakee rivers

Location of Gilbert Xxxxx's Residence



Weather

Weather on the day and the time of the UFO sighting.

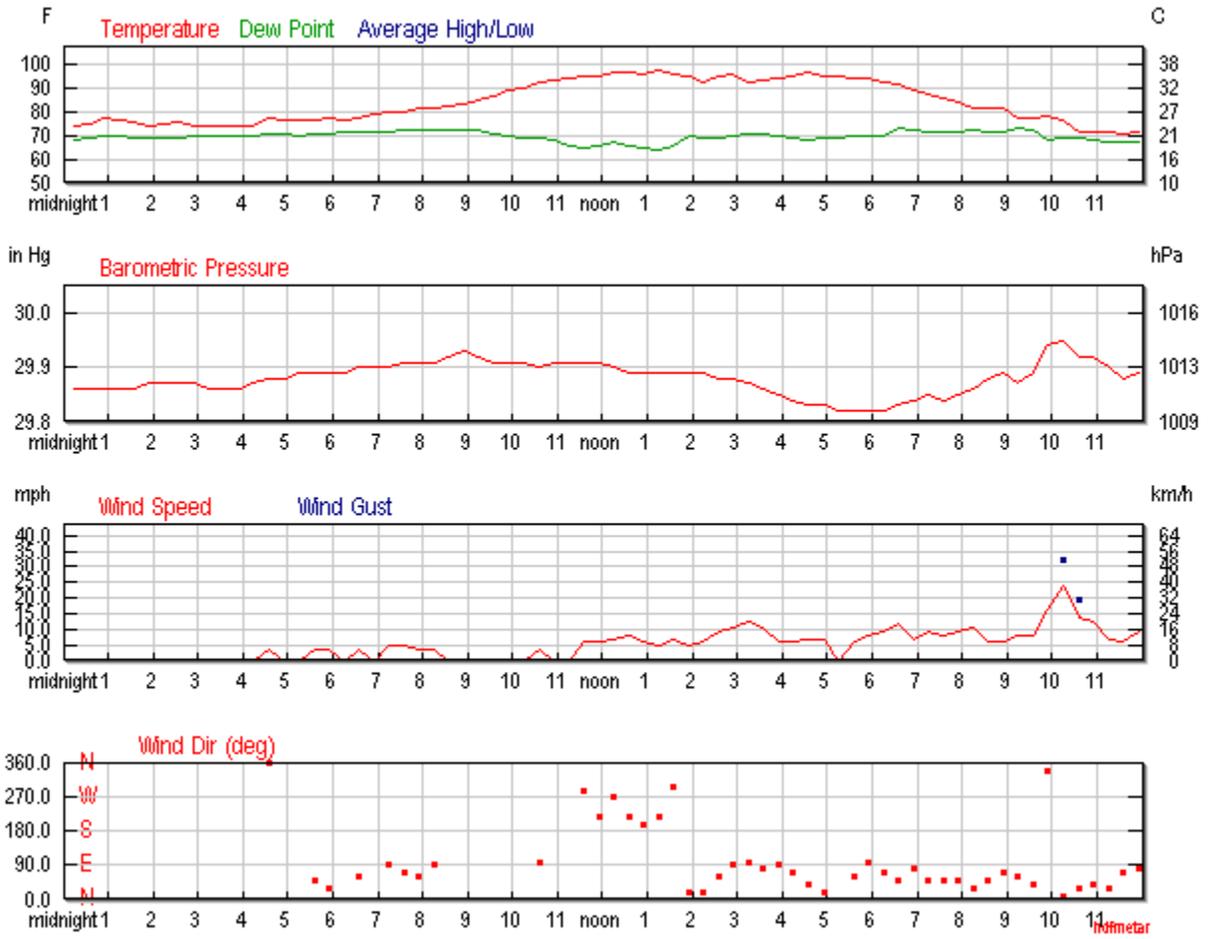
Weather on Sighting Day

Event Date	Event Time	Temp (F)	Visibility (miles)	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (mph)	Conditions	Cloud Ceiling
July 18 th , 2012	9:30pm ct	78.3 °F	10 miles	NE	8.1	Clear	Clear

Hourly Observations

Time (CDT)	Temp.	Heat Index	Dew Point	Humidity	Pressure	Visibility	Wind Dir	Wind Speed	Gust Speed	Precip	Events	Conditions
6:15 PM	93.7 °F	100.5 °F	70.5 °F	47%	29.82 in	10.0 mi	ENE	9.2 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 182315Z AUTO 07008KT 10SM CLR 34/21 A2982 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT NW T03430214												
6:35 PM	92.3 °F	101.5 °F	73.6 °F	54%	29.83 in	10.0 mi	NE	11.5 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 182335Z AUTO 05010KT 10SM CLR 34/23 A2983 RMK AO2 T03350231												
6:55 PM	89.6 °F	98.2 °F	73.4 °F	59%	29.84 in	10.0 mi	East	6.9 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 182355Z AUTO 08006KT 10SM CLR 32/23 A2984 RMK AO2 T03200230 10371 20320												
7:15 PM	88.2 °F	94.6 °F	71.8 °F	58%	29.85 in	10.0 mi	NE	9.2 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 190015Z AUTO 05008KT 10SM CLR 31/22 A2985 RMK AO2 T03120221												
7:35 PM	86.4 °F	92.6 °F	72.1 °F	62%	29.84 in	10.0 mi	NE	8.1 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 190035Z AUTO 05007KT 10SM CLR 30/22 A2984 RMK AO2 T03020223												
7:55 PM	84.7 °F	91.0 °F	72.5 °F	67%	29.85 in	10.0 mi	NE	9.2 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 190055Z AUTO 05008KT 10SM CLR 29/23 A2985 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT N T02930225												
8:15 PM	82.4 °F	88.2 °F	73.4 °F	74%	29.86 in	10.0 mi	NNE	10.4 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 190115Z AUTO 03009KT 10SM CLR 28/23 A2986												
8:35 PM	82.2 °F	87.3 °F	72.5 °F	72%	29.88 in	10.0 mi	NE	5.8 mph	-	N/A		Scattered Clouds
METAR KJOT 190135Z AUTO 05005KT 10SM SCT080 28/23 A2988 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT SE S AND NW T02790225												
8:55 PM	81.9 °F	86.8 °F	72.5 °F	73%	29.89 in	10.0 mi	ENE	5.8 mph	-	0.01 in	Rain , Thunder	Rain
METAR KJOT 190155Z AUTO 07005KT 10SM VCTSRA SCT020 SCT041 BKN085 28/23 A2989 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT E SE AND NW P0001 T02770225												
9:15 PM	78.4 °F	-	73.6 °F	85%	29.87 in	10.0 mi	ENE	8.1 mph	-	0.01 in	Thunder storm	Scattered Clouds
METAR KJOT 190215Z AUTO 06007KT 10SM VCTS SCT004 SCT020 SCT041 26/23 A2987 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT ALQS P0001 T02580231												
9:35 PM	78.3 °F	-	73.4 °F	85%	29.89 in	10.0 mi	NE	8.1 mph	-	0.01 in	Thunder storm	Clear
METAR KJOT 190235Z AUTO 04007KT 10SM VCTS CLR 26/23 A2989 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT ALQS P0001 T02570230												
9:55 PM	79.0 °F	-	68.7 °F	71%	29.94 in	10.0 mi	NNW	16.1 mph	33.4 mph	0.01 in	Thunder storm	Mostly Cloudy
METAR KJOT 190255Z AUTO 34014G29KT 10SM VCTS SCT026 SCT031 BKN075 26/20 A2994 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT NW THRU NE P0001 60006 T02610204												
10:15 PM	77.0 °F	-	69.8 °F	78%	29.95 in	10.0 mi	North	24.2 mph	32.2 mph	N/A	Rain	Light Rain
METAR KJOT 190315Z AUTO 01021G28KT 10SM -RA SCT033 SCT046 BKN055 25/21 A2995												
10:35 PM	72.5 °F	-	69.3 °F	90%	29.92 in	10.0 mi	NNE	13.8 mph	19.6 mph	N/A	Thunder storm	Scattered Clouds
METAR KJOT 190335Z AUTO 03012G17KT 10SM VCTS SCT050 SCT070 SCT095 23/21 A2992 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT NW THRU NE T02250207												
10:55 PM	72.1 °F	-	68.9 °F	89%	29.92 in	10.0 mi	NE	12.7 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 190355Z AUTO 04011KT 10SM CLR 22/21 A2992 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT NW THRU NE T02230205												
11:15 PM	72.0 °F	-	68.2 °F	88%	29.90 in	10.0 mi	NNE	6.9 mph	-	N/A		Scattered Clouds
METAR KJOT 190415Z AUTO 03006KT 10SM SCT100 22/20 A2990 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT NE AND NW T02220201												
11:35 PM	71.6 °F	-	68.0 °F	88%	29.88 in	10.0 mi	ENE	5.8 mph	-	N/A		Scattered Clouds
METAR KJOT 190435Z AUTO 07005KT 10SM SCT090 SCT110 22/20 A2988												
11:55 PM	71.8 °F	-	68.0 °F	88%	29.89 in	10.0 mi	East	9.2 mph	-	N/A		Clear
METAR KJOT 190455Z AUTO 08008KT 10SM CLR 22/20 A2989 RMK AO2 LTG DSNT SW AND NW T02210200												

Daily Graphical Weather Data by Hour



Night Sky Map for July 18th, 2012

North Horizon



North-West Horizon



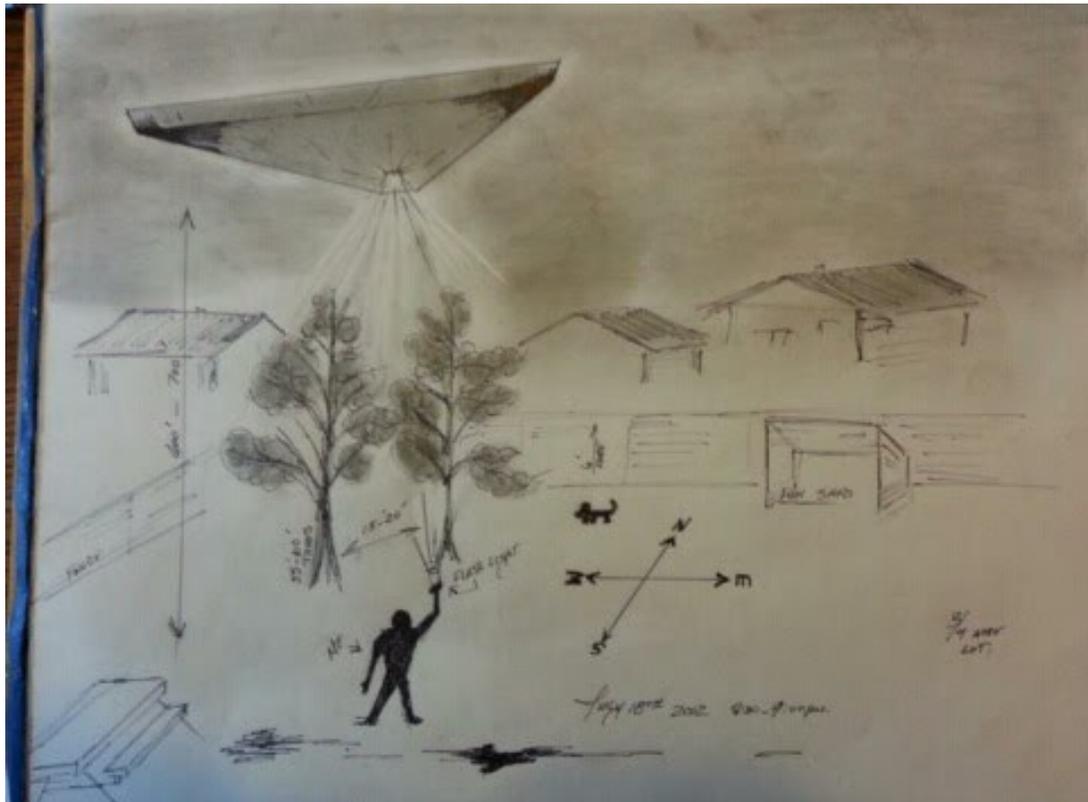
Northeast Horizon



EVIDENCE

The evidence in this case consists of the following:

- Gilbert Xxxxxx's oral testimony via phone interview.
- Sketch drawn by Gilbert Xxxxxx of the triangle he observed
- Photographs taken by Gilbert Xxxxxx of his backyard where he had observed the triangle
- Information from Google Maps, Google Earth, Weather Underground, Stellarium, etc.
- No other significant evidence was used to reconstruct "what happened" in this case study.



Hand drawn sketch drawn by Gilbert Xxxxxx of the triangle sighting

Significant Points in Witness Testimony

The following facts from the witness testimony are highlighted here for convenience in the analysis that follows. The source of the facts is either contained in the MUFON CMS report, denoted "(CMS)," or during our interview, denoted "(Interview)."

- Object was in the shape of a triangle (CMS/Interview)
 - There was only one light associated with the triangle object located on the front point (Interview)
 - Dark body portion of triangle had the look of heat- haze
 - The location on the triangle where the flashlight beam hit had the translucent color of a soap bubble
 - When flashed with the flashlight beam, the triangle responded with a blinking light
 - Object maintained a consistent altitude. (Interview)
 - A rash developed on the witness's arm approximately 1 week after the sighting which doctors claim is very rare and have no known medicine to treat the rash
 - The object traveled north, north east and seemed to follow I-55 before it was lost out of sight behind a tree line (Interview)

ANALYSIS

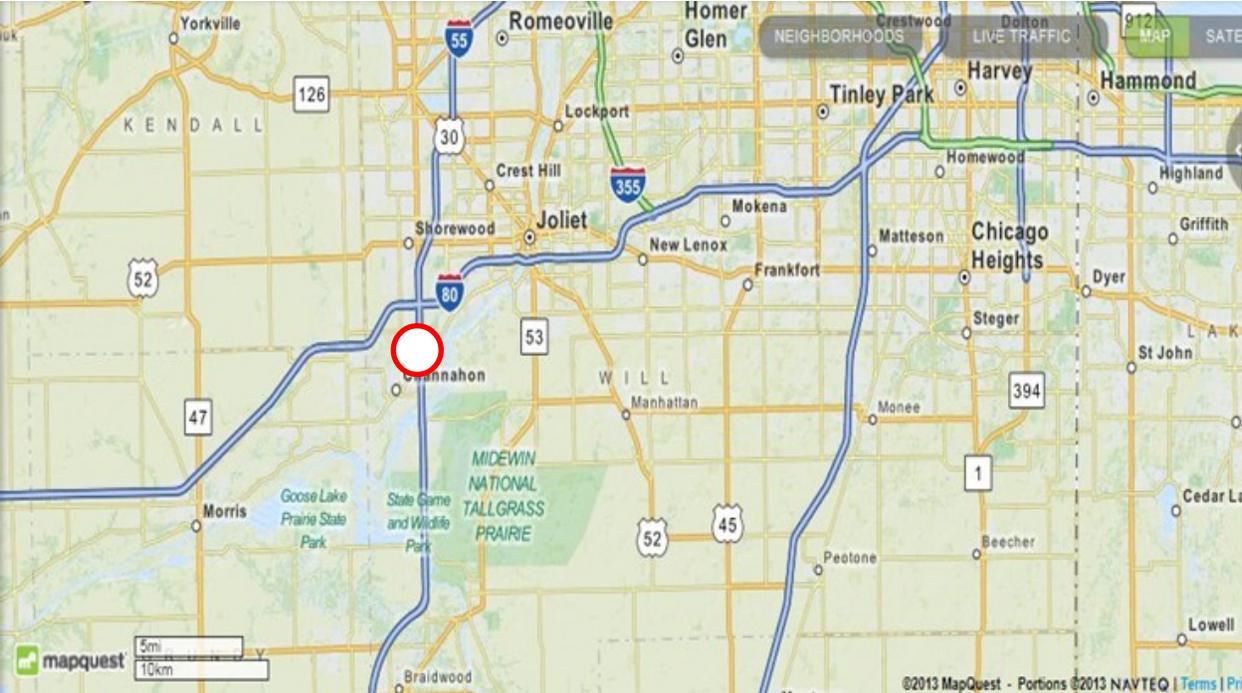
The object as described by Gilbert Xxxxxx resembled a triangle with only one light in the front. No other lights could be seen. The single light was round and had a yellowish-orange color to it. The speed of the triangle was no more than 15 MPH, very slow and the speed never changed during the entire sighting. Gilbert estimated the craft remained about 500-600 feet in altitude as it passed overhead.

The witness shined his flashlight on the triangle and where the light beam struck, witness stated that the body of the triangle appeared to have absorbed the light and the color of the triangle's body appeared to look like how a soap bubble color would appear. After being struck by the flashlight beam, the triangle then responded with a blinking light of its own as to acknowledge or communicate that it had seen the flashlight beam.

The witness became frightened at this point upon seeing the blinking light response and ran into his house. From his house, the witness observed the triangle disappear behind a tree line and never witnessed such an event again.

Estimated Path of Triangle Object

Chicago



UFO Shape

The object in this case was in the shape of a triangle. Although the sighting occurred in the night, the witness could determine some concave structure on the triangle's body. Nothing could be detected protruding underneath the triangle, such as antennas or landing gear. No sound or odor was ever observed during the duration of the sighting.

UFO Color

The colors of the lights were that of a whitish-orange. Although the photo shows one of the lights as red, the light was bright white from a naked eye. The lights had these characteristics. The illuminations were more brilliant than conventional aircraft:



Examples of the Heat-Haze like appearance that the triangle body had



UFO Distance

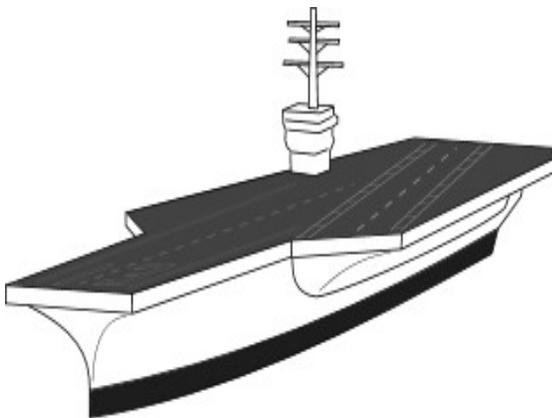
The triangle as it passed overhead at the time of the sighting was estimated to be only 500-600 feet in altitude.

UFO Size

With his arms extended, Gilbert would not be able to completely cover it in his arms. The triangle wouldn't have been able to be covered by a basketball being held at arm's length.

Gilbert stated that the triangle size was larger than an aircraft carrier. Below is the size comparison of a Nimitz sized carrier to the triangle viewed by Gilbert.

Nimitz carrier overall length of 1,092 feet
The overall size of the triangle was much larger than 1,092 ft.



UFO Speed

The speed of the triangle object as it traversed to the north east over Gilbert Xxxxx's house was very slow. Gilbert stated that he could have walked beside it and kept pace and said was not more than 15 MPH. It did not accelerate, stop, but kept the slow and steady pace.

CONCLUSION

The UFO observation in this case was made by one person, Gilbert Xxxxxx while sitting in his backyard observing the night sky. He observed an unidentified aerial vehicle, apparently under intelligent control.

As explained below, no alternative explanations seem to fit with the observations of the witnesses. The details recorded all together rule out any conventional explanations or by conventional wisdom. Because of the object size, the identification candidates are ruled out definitively except for that of a "secret military aircraft.", "re-engineered vehicle" or unknown object.

Though there were brilliant planets/stars in view of the witness before the sighting, when the object entered the witness's field of sight, the planets/stars disappeared as the object, as a result of its massive size, "blocked" these out.

I will agree that a good portion of triangle UFO sightings may be attributed to a government manufactured craft, but this cannot account for all of them. The man on the street cannot know just how advanced governmental or military technological prowess may be, but reports of the flight characteristics of the triangles seem to surpass even our most liberal estimates of what modern technology is capable of.

We can never be certain of a hoax in any one instance. This witness sounded to be very genuine and you could sense anxiety in certain portions of his testimony. Although there is no additional physical evidence, such as a photograph or video, Gilbert Xxxxxx appears to be a credible witness with nothing to gain by creating a hoax.

Due to the estimated massive size of the triangle, this case should be explored further with an onsite visit to better obtain a more accurate size of the triangle.

Based on information provided and performing analysis, we are classifying this case disposition as UNKNOWN OTHER.

Identification Candidates

The candidates for identification for this UFO are the following:

- **Secret U.S. military or foreign power aircraft.** This explanation, of course, can never be completely ruled out by anyone except for the very few within the bowels of our deep black military and corporate contractor world who would also have access to all the on-going projects. This list of people is exceedingly small (perhaps only 100?!) because of the “need to know” and compartmentation of military secrets. However, verified reports of this kind of object over populated areas in the U.S. are far fewer than “standard” UFOs. It strains credulity that human-designed, “conventional” secret aircraft would be tested at only a few thousand feet or so altitude

Thus, this identification candidate should be considered.

- **Police surveillance UAV.** No city police or county sheriff’s departments in the Channahon area have any operational police surveillance UAVs, much less any that fit the description of this UFO.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Aircraft.** No conventional aircraft, military or civilian, looks like this or behaves like this UFO. Witness reported very slow airspeeds for an object observed at relatively close range and at altitudes below 600 feet above ground level. Large aircraft with the ability to maintain altitude at airspeeds of 30 mph or less are unknown, except for helicopters and VTOL jet aircraft such as the Harrier. If a Harrier were operating at 100 feet altitude in the vicinity of the witness, he would have reported the unmistakable noise of the jet engines.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Helicopter.** No helicopter, military or civilian, looks like this or behaves like this UFO. At any altitude of 600 feet or less, the sound of the helicopter would have been unmistakable, yet the witness reported no such sound.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Blimp.** No triangular blimps are known to exist. If the object were a conventional blimp, one or

both of the witnesses would have almost certainly been able to identify it. If any advanced lighter than air crafts of triangular shape are being tested by the Department of Defense or any private defense contractors, it would be highly unusual to fly these craft near a very busy major highway. No confirmed reports of DoD aircraft of this type being flown at low level in busy traffic corridors are known to exist.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Ultralight.** No ultralight looks like this UFO.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Remote-controlled model aircraft.** No RC model aircraft looks like this UFO.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Kite.** This UFO does not resemble a kite. In addition, the winds were from the direction in which this object was traveling against..

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Planets.** There were several stars out in the eastern, southwestern horizon at the time of the sighting. However, William described the V shaped object was moving and not stationary as would be the case if he had mistaken these lights as stars or planets. The lights were moving, traveling East, south-east.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Marsh Gas.** Color of the object does not match the color normally associated with marsh gas nor did the object “float” in the manner in which marsh gas maneuvers.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Hot Air Balloon or Balloons.** No balloon is as large as this object and would not be traveling against the wind direction at the time of the sighting.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

- **Chinese Lanterns.**

Just as with balloons, no paper lantern can move in the manner in which these objects moved. The lights seen kept a consistent distance apart from each other. It was windy at the time of the sighting and these lights could not have kept a set formation if they were Chinese lanterns.

Witness is familiar with chinese sky lanterns. He stated that the intensity was disproportionate.

Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.

Since the identification candidates fail for the reasons stated, this UFO observation is classified as a true UFO, an Unknown Aerial Vehicle or a MUFON Unknown Other.