



Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP) Observations 2009 Reporting Scheme

<http://www.uapreporting.org/>

contact@uapreporting.org

The Project

Initiated during 2009 and under the framework of the International Year of Astronomy, The Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP) 2009 Observations Reporting Scheme is a project aimed at facilitating the collection of UAP reports from both amateur and professional astronomers, via a questionnaire to be downloaded from a dedicated website.

Over the last 60 years the UAP subject (popularly known as UFOs) has generated intense interest and invaded the modern consciousness on a worldwide basis. Despite the fact that the majority of sightings can be attributed to the misidentification of natural or man-made objects, a small residue of cases seems to remain unexplained and the debate over and fascination for the extraterrestrial hypothesis regularly resurfaces among the public.

The need for legitimacy of the UAP topic has been reiterated several times during the last two years when various countries, such as France, the United Kingdom, and Denmark, have started officially opening their governmental files on the subject to the public and to the scientific community.

Submit a report

For reporting an UAP observation, please fill out the website's forms, either manually (PDF file) or electronically (word file). Two questionnaires are available for your use, in short and detailed versions, and in English and French.

Your report has great value, as it will contribute to a better knowledge of transient phenomena occurring in the atmosphere. Please be as accurate and complete as possible, the more information we can gather on UAP characteristics the more comprehensive our analysis will be. Once you have completed your report form, please send it (including any applicable photos, audio and video clips) by email to:

contact@uapreporting.org

This information will be treated as confidential and will not be divulged to any third party. All the information collected from witnesses is for research purposes only.

Objectives

I. Facilitate and enable the reporting of UAP sightings and collection of related instrumental records from the Astronomical community, through questionnaires to be downloaded from a dedicated web site:

- Approach the UAP controversial field from a professional, rational, scientific approach and without any a priori.

- Simulate, as from 2009 and in the framework of the Internal Year of Astronomy (IYA2009), the submission of UAP reports that would have otherwise little chance to surface, encouraging witnesses to come forward with testimonies. We hope to greatly reduce individuals' reluctance of reporting a UAP sighting, reluctance based either on the assumption that no one will believe them, the fear of ridicule, or that nothing will be done with such reports.

- Contribute towards the collection of instrumental and photographic records of unidentified phenomenon. Many IYA2009 observers will be equipped with technical equipment (telescopes, video-cameras, cameras with spectrographs), which creates an excellent opportunity to obtain supplementary non-narrative data.

II. Help engaging with the public in discussions about the science behind what is seen in the sky:

- Assist the public to become familiar with the difficulties in determining, and reporting various parameters such as coordinates, altitude, distance, speed and size; fundamental for an observational science as astronomy is.

- Allow people to double check their sightings against the most common nocturnal and daytime misidentifications, and learn more about the various natural or man-made phenomena that can give rise to false UAP sightings.

III. Stimulate the general public, enthusing young (and not so young) people and prompt them to start looking upwards and outwards to make sense of their place in the Universe.

Misidentifications

It is certainly well known that the vast majority of UAP reports can be explained by a misidentification of some known natural or man-made phenomena and that well documented sightings defying a conventional explanation are rare (5% or less).

It is my hope that this website, aside from collecting serious reports from astronomers, could serve as a forum for educating the public about human, atmospheric and astrophysical phenomena. Amateur astronomers and societies who receive questions about UFOs and flying saucers could potentially redirect the people to this website.

Possible misidentifications have been categorized as nocturnal (most frequent) and daytime, and under each item and whenever possible the following details have been listed: a general explanation of the item, specific telltale signs and finally a "resource-help" providing links to relevant web-sites where people can further check details and develop their knowledge (e.g. satellite paths, stars/planets charts, characteristics of meteors). Finally two flowcharts of common misidentifications are provided, also split into nocturnal and daytime, as a guide to determine which item or event a sighting most closely resembles, following a series of descriptive clues.