

The Oregon City Multi-Colored, Pulsating UFO

An Oregon MUFON Case Study

by

Keith Rowell

**Oregon MUFON Assistant State Director
Research Specialist in Librarianship**

November 8, 2009

Abstract

Keywords: Multi-colored—Pulsating—Multiple Witnesses—Flashing—Binoculars

Description	The witnesses, Jamie Carson and her boyfriend, sighted a bright, multi-colored UFO that flashed/pulsated as if stayed stationary in the early AM night sky. They used binoculars for a good part of the time. It came back 20 minutes later.
Witnesses	Jamie Carson (pseudonym) and boyfriend.
Time and Date	October 25, 2009, at 2:30 AM.
Place	In the eastern part of Oregon City, in a residential neighborhood near the Oregon City Hight School.
Weather	Clear sky, visibility 10 miles, wind: calm, temperature 45° F.
Duration	First sighting: about 15 minutes. Second sighting of very similar (same?) UFO: about 10 minutes.

Last Updated: Saturday, November 28, 2009

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
SIGHTING DESCRIPTION	3
Maybe It's a Commercial Jet	3
They Use Binoculars	4
They Were Shocked By What They Saw.....	4
The UFO Comes Back.....	5
ENVIRONMENT.....	6
Weather.....	7
EVIDENCE.....	8
ANALYSIS	8
Prominent Star in Same General Location	9
CONCLUSION	10
Identification Candidates	10

INTRODUCTION

This case is a fairly straightforward viewing of an unusual UFO in the night sky except that the witnesses were fortunate enough to be able to use binoculars for a good portion of the sighting and the (same?) UFO showed up again about 20 minutes later in the south instead of the southeast.

I interviewed the principal witness, Jamie Carson (pseudonym), at her home 13 days after the sighting. Jamie is in her forties, has an Associate of Arts degree, and works in the clerical field. I found her to be a straightforward person who listened attentively and answered all my questions with short, succinct answers. She is not generally knowledgeable about the night sky, which is true of most Americans. However, she is well aware of the characteristics of normal air traffic involving airplanes, helicopters, etc., which we talked about briefly. Unfortunately, I was not able to interview the second witness, Jamie's boyfriend. (He was sleeping at the time because he works an evening shift.)

SIGHTING DESCRIPTION

Right around 2:30 AM late at night on October 25, 2009, a Sunday, Jamie Carson was inside her home preparing for bed when she heard her boyfriend call out to her from outside in the backyard. The two live in a middle class home in a residential neighborhood on the southeastern edge of Oregon City, Oregon. Her boyfriend was outside making sure the dog did his business before they retired for the night. Jamie's boyfriend works the evening shift at his job so they are up pretty late sometimes.

Maybe It's a Commercial Jet

Her boyfriend said, "Come quick. I think I see a UFO!" Jamie said to herself, "Yeah, right, whatever," but she went outside anyway. She looked at where he pointed low in the southeastern sky. Sure enough there was something quite bright and somewhat unusual. But she immediately began trying to interpret the UFO as the landing lights of an on-coming commercial jet. These are seen frequently in this area of the Portland metro area. The Portland International Airport is about 12 miles to the north and commercial jets approach from the south and southeast frequently as they pass over Oregon City before landing at the airport.



Source: Keith Rowell

Figure 1. Jamie Carson's Backyard Looking Southeast

This is a view from where Jamie and her boyfriend were standing in their backyard while looking at the first position of the UFO in the southeast night sky about 20° above the horizon. The red star shows the location of the UFO in the sky.

Within a few seconds or so, Jamie realized the UFO was not moving. It was stationary in the sky. And it looked weird the more she looked at it. It was “shimmering or sparkling like a star.” But it was very bright and didn’t really look like a star. It was “different from anything [she] ever saw.” See *Figure 1, Jamie Carson's Backyard Looking East*.

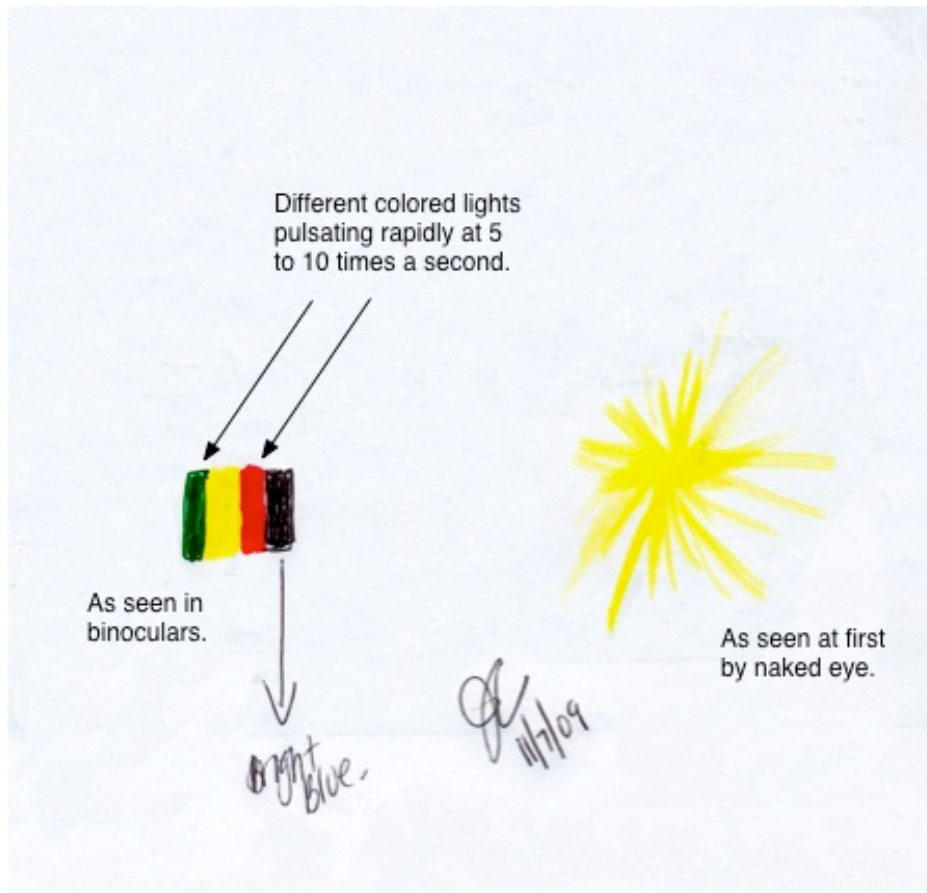
They Use Binoculars

Jamie and her boyfriend stood there looking at the UFO for a minute or two and then thought of his binoculars in his truck in the garage. Jamie ran to get the binoculars. Another 30 seconds to a minute went by while she was getting the binoculars out of the truck. When she got back, the UFO was still “hovering” there in the southeastern sky about 20° above the horizon. It had not moved. See *Figure 1* for the approximate location of the UFO.

They Were Shocked By What They Saw

When she looked at the UFO, it “was the weirdest thing either of us had ever seen.. It was a multi-colored [UFO] bouncing or hovering around in the sky! We were both shocked and could not believe what we were seeing!”

They watched the UFO for at least another two or three minutes, trading the binoculars back and forth. Then it suddenly started getting smaller and “then it was gone instantly.” Jamie says she was “excited, nervous, and scared all at once.” See *Figure 2, Jamie Carson's Illustration of What She Saw*.



Source: Jamie Carson and Keith Rowell

Figure 2. Jamie Carson's Illustration of What She Saw

The colored UFO on the left was what she saw in the binoculars. The bands of color pulsated or flashed rapidly at about 5 to 10 times a second or possible more. This is what gave the naked eye viewing its "shimmering or sparkling like a star effect."

The UFO Comes Back

For about twenty minutes, they tried to assimilate the experience they had just gone through. But then decided to go back out and look again for the UFO. They were both astonished to see that it was back, but it had moved from the southeast to just about due south now. See *Figure 3, Jamie Carson's Backyard Looking South*. They also used the binoculars again and watched the UFO for another three to four minutes while it stayed there, not moving in the sky. This time they decided to just quit watching the UFO because it didn't look any different or do anything it hadn't done before. They both retired to bed and tried to get some rest and sleep before their Monday workday began. They didn't get much sleep that night.



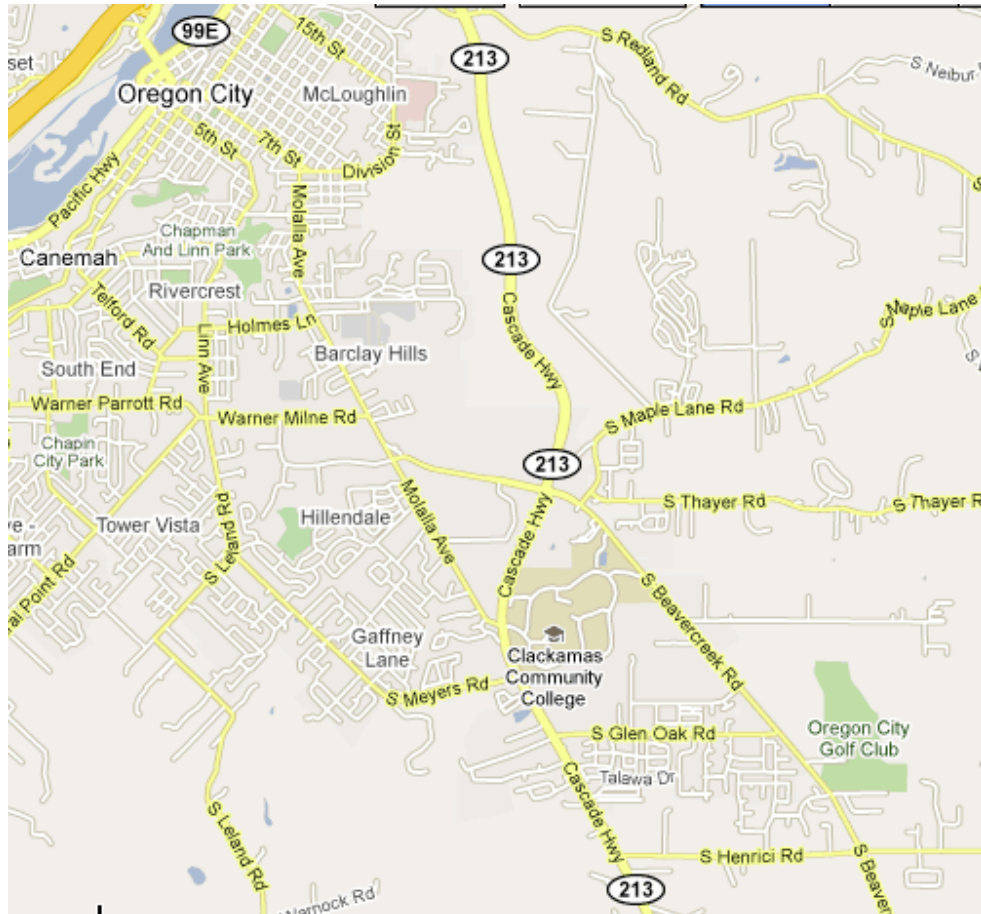
Source: Keith Rowell

Figure 3. Jamie Carson's Backyard Looking South

This is a view from where Jamie and her boyfriend were standing in their backyard while looking at the second position of the UFO in the southern night sky about 20° above the horizon. This sighting began about 20 minutes after the UFO disappeared during the first sighting. The red star shows the location of the UFO in the sky.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment for this sighting is a residential neighborhood of far southeast Oregon City, Oregon. The Oregon City Golf Club and Oregon City High School are nearby. No significant features of the land or environment figure into this case. See *Figure 4, Oregon City, Oregon, Sighting Environs*.



Source: Google Maps

Figure 4. Oregon City, Oregon, Sighting Environs

The witnesses live in the residential neighborhood just west of the Oregon City Golf Club in the lower right corner of the map.

Weather

See the details in *Table 1, Weather on Sighting Day*, for the weather on the day of the UFO sighting: October 25, 2009 at 2:30 AM.

Table 1. Weather on Sighting Day

Event Date	Event Time	Temp (F)	Visibility (miles)	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (mph)	Conditions
10/25/09	2:30 AM	45°	10	Calm	Calm	Clear sky

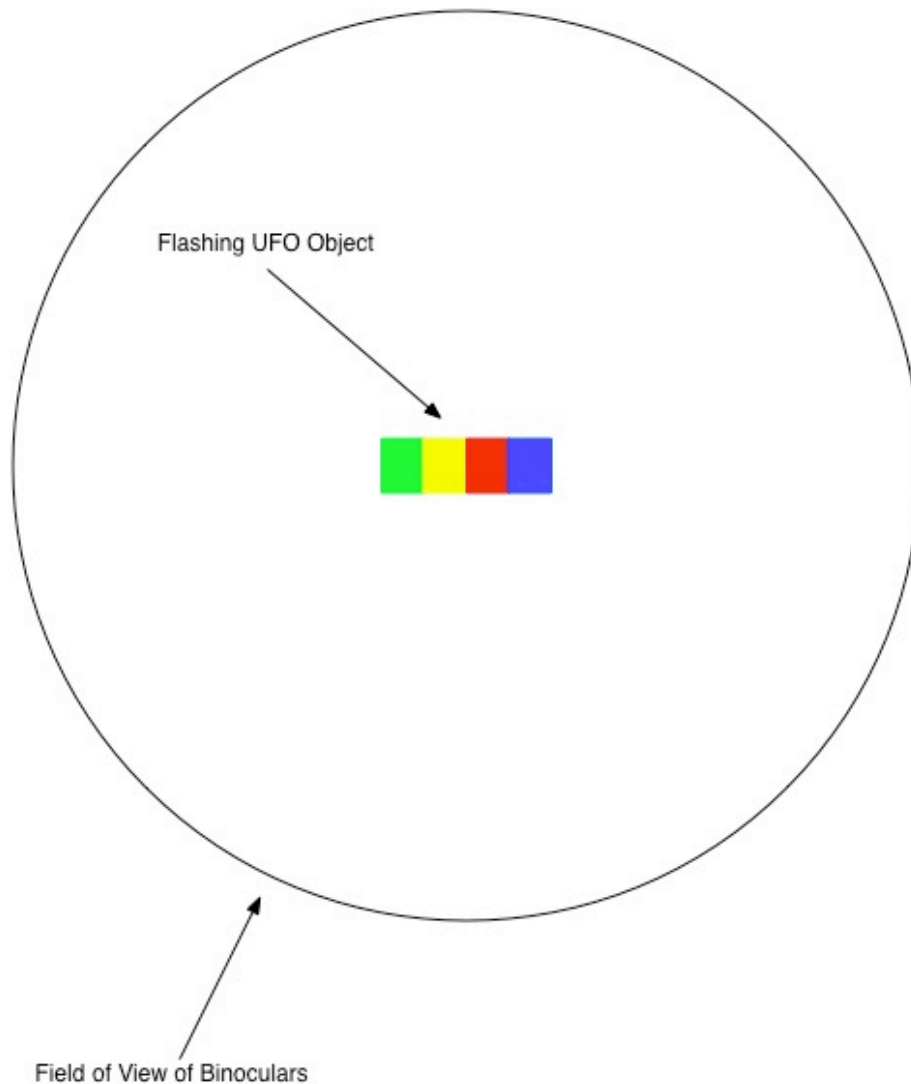
EVIDENCE

The evidence in this case consists solely of the testimony of the principal witness (Jamie Carson). Though I did not interview the other witness, Jamie's boyfriend, I have no reason to doubt Jamie's trustworthiness in relating her boyfriend's activities, emotions, or words during their sighting. Jamie is the one who made the CMS report. She filled out more than the usual UFO witness does in CMS, and a brief check on the Internet revealed nothing causing any doubt about her general veracity.

ANALYSIS

There is not much to analyze in this case because the evidence consists only of the witness's testimony, but I will bring out one telling point that came out in the interview. During the discussion of the period of time when they viewed the UFO in the field of view of their Barska 10 by 50 WA, 367/1000 yards binoculars, I wanted to get an idea of how big the UFO was in the field of view. So, I drew a circle on a blank piece of paper and I asked Jamie to draw in the UFO in proportion compared to the circle. I was surprised at the size. So, I asked her again if that is what she meant and she indicated "yes."

Figure 5, UFO in Field of View of Binoculars shows the proportions. This shows a very large UFO with respect to the field of view. So, even if she drew it larger than it really was (which is likely), it was likely still quite large and, therefore, they both got a really good look at the UFO, and this is why she said they were both shocked and couldn't believe what they were seeing.



Source: Keith Rowell

Figure 5. UFO in Field of View of Binoculars

This figure shows the approximate proportion of the UFO to the field of view of the witnesses' Barska 10 by 50 WA binoculars. Note also the banded nature of the UFO. The colored lights did not move, but did pulsate quite rapidly.

Prominent Star in Same General Location

A check with the Starry Night Enthusiast astronomy program shows that on October 25, 2009, at 2:30 AM, in the Portland, Oregon, area, the star Sirius A B was in the SE about 20° above the horizon at 2:30 AM. Its apparent magnitude was a fairly bright -1.47. Sirius A B was very close to directly south at 4:30 AM and around 27° off the horizon. No other prominent astronomical objects were in these two general vicinities at the appropriate times.

CONCLUSION

The UFO observation in this case was made by two people in the same location and they knew each other. However, what sets this sighting apart from many reported sightings is the following:

- The UFO was seen at least two to three or more minutes both times.
- The UFO was seen during much of the observation through ten power binoculars.
- The UFO appeared again about 20 minutes later and was again seen through binoculars for minutes.

Identification Candidates

The candidates for identification for the pulsating, multi-colored UFO are the following:

- **Planet.** No planets were in the general regions of the sky of the two separate sightings of the (apparently) same UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Star.** There is a possibility that Sirius A B is what the witnesses saw. However, they saw the very bright UFO in ten power binoculars for minutes at a time. Stars do not increase their size when viewed with binoculars, though various imperfections in optics, especially in lower priced binoculars like the kind used by the witnesses, might cause a star to look marginally larger. However, Jamie drew the proportional size of the UFO quite large in the binocular field of view circle I gave her. It would be a stretch to say that the witnesses were both only seeing a distorted, twinkling Sirius A B. However, there are other problems with this possible identification. Jamie described the disappearance of the first sighting of the UFO as shrinking rapidly within five seconds and disappearing. Stars don't do this on a cloudless night. Also, the position of the UFO in the second sighting was very close to due south. Sirius A B did not attain this position in the sky till near 4:30 AM—well after their second sighting occurring twenty minutes after the first sighted UFO disappeared suddenly. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Helicopter.** Helicopters can be stationary in the sky and sometimes have bright lights, and, if close enough, can be heard under the right weather conditions. But helicopters generally maneuver around somewhat and don't look at all like what Jamie and her boyfriend saw in their ten power binoculars. Jamie and her boyfriend did not mention any sounds coming from the direction of their UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Commercial Airliner.** The witness, Jamie Carson, herself thought of this identification candidate, but rejected it quickly because their UFO did not move in the sky for minutes at a time. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Blimp.** A blimp would account for the unusual light display, perhaps, and also for the fact of the UFO showing up in two different places 20 minutes apart. But, the superstructure of a blimp through ten power binoculars would have shown up, probably, even at night, around the unusual light display. Additionally, the (unusual) arrival of a blimp in a metro area is usually noted in the news media. There were no news reports of a golf tournament or other unusual event which would pay for the expense of hiring a blimp. And, of course, a blimp hired for this purpose would not be flying around in the middle of the night. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*

Since the identification candidates fail for the reasons stated, this UFO observation is classified as a true UFO.