

The Sublimity Close Encounters

An Oregon MUFON Case Study

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Abstract

Keywords: Close Encounter—Orb—Multiple Witnesses—Blue—Red—Disk-shape

Description	Witnesses Charles Bradley (pseudonym), son Carl (pseudonym), and neighbor Britney Woolsey (pseudonym) saw various parts of two separate events on two separate nights. One event involved a close encounter at night with a well-lit saucer-shaped object. A second event involved two of the witnesses seeing a reddish, basketball-sized object maneuvering down their street with all three witnesses seeing a golden disk-shaped object streak by in the sky at the end of the event.
Witness(es)	Three witnesses: Charles Bradley, son Carl, and neighbor Britney Woolsey.
Date and Time	Sighting #1: 8/18/11, 9 PM; Sighting #2: 8/26/11, 12:00 AM.
Place	Sublimity, Oregon.
Weather	Sighting #1: 69.1° F; visibility 10 miles; wind from NNW at 8.1 mph; with clear conditions. Sighting #2: 66.0° F; visibility 10 miles; wind calm; with clear conditions.
Duration	Up to five minutes for Sighting #1; around fifteen or more minutes total for Sighting #2 including the end of the sighting when a third witness, Britney, came home, joined them, and then saw the yellow streaking object to end the sighting events.

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INTRODUCTION

This case is a close encounter case variously involving three people to two different sightings. The primary witness in both cases is Charles Bradley (pseudonym). He is the only witness in the first sighting (Sighting #1), but in the second sighting (Sighting #2), he was accompanied by his son, Carl (pseudonym), and, to part of the sighting, by a next door neighbor, Britney Woolsey (pseudonym).

Perhaps the most interesting part of the sightings is the impression Charles Bradley had that after the sighting he somehow knew how the propulsion systems of these UFOs worked. Accompanied by the propulsion information was a sense of urgency that this knowledge needed to be brought to a wider audience. This idea of technical or other complex knowledge somehow mysteriously attained during a close encounter experience is actually a minor theme in the serious UFO literature. See the books recommended on *oregonmufon.com*.

Thank You, Charles Bradley

Oregon MUFON Field Investigator Jason Ingraham and I would like to thank Charles Bradley, his son Carl, and their neighbor and friend Britney Woolsey for their cooperation in this investigation. Without Charles and Carl graciously inviting us into their home, we would not have been able to document these sightings as well as we have been able to.

Thank You, Also, Jason Ingraham

Oregon MUFON Field Investigator Jason Ingraham, co-investigator, of this case study provided the large share of investigation in this case. I (Keith Rowell) thank Jason for his very able job of interviewing the witnesses and doing the hard work of reconstructing the sequence of events in these two fascinating sightings by Charles, Carl, and Britney.

SIGHTING DESCRIPTIONS

Charles Bradley contacted Oregon MUFON directly via phone and told us about his sightings. We found them intriguing so we decided to investigate. He said he had had two close encounter sightings in front of his home in Sublimity, Oregon, a little over a week apart. Since they were so close in time and at the same place, we have decided to document both of them in this case study.

Sighting #1: A Disk-Shaped Object

On Thursday, August 18, 2011, at approximately 9 PM, Charles was in front of his house pulling his garden hose around from the side of his house to water his front yard. As he entered the street beyond his yard he happened to look east down his street. In the distance, he noticed a disk-shaped object moving just beyond a line of trees across the far fields at the end of his street. This was around a couple of miles away from him. The object had bright yellow lights around its perimeter and blue lights below those. The bottom displayed red lights. See *Figure 1, Looking Eastward Down Charles' Street*.

He Wanted a Closer Look

Charles was surprised by the shape, lights configuration, and colors, so he dropped the hose and ran down the street to a stop sign to get a better view. The object moved slowly back and forth three times during his observation of it. Charles had his iPod Touch with him and he tried to get the video function to work but was unsuccessful. He was just too excited and he was not used to doing videos on it. The object then moved to the south (his right) out of sight behind trees and neighborhood houses. All this happened during a few minutes.



Source: Keith Rowell

Figure 1. Looking Eastward Down Charles' Street

Charles saw the UFO above the distant tree line but below the hills in the far distance. The UFO was about in the position of the red star in the photo. We can only know that the UFO was not farther away than the distant hills and ridge line. The top ridge line is around five miles away. We guess from his description that the UFO was around a mile or two away.

It Flew Overhead

After a few minutes or so delay, he then saw an orb-shaped object shoot up into the sky from the direction the object had disappeared in. This would be to the southeast of him at this point. The original disk-shaped object was apparently gone and perhaps had been replaced(?) by this smaller orb-shaped object. It continued its southeast to northwest trajectory and it flew right over him and his neighborhood, causing several neighborhood dogs to begin barking. The object then stopped and hovered to the northwest, apparently over a field just behind the across-the-street neighbors' houses. It then sank down and disappeared behind the trees and neighbor's houses at approximately 9:10 or so PM.

Charles felt deep emotion since now he had had his first sighting that he could not deny. He was awestruck. Before the sighting, he had been watching off and on a number of UFO programs on cable TV while also poking around on the Internet sometimes as so many people do nowadays. But now he had seen his first UFO!

Others May Have Seen This UFO

During our interviews with Charles, Carl, and Britney, we learned that other people may have seen this object also. Charles said that when he related his sighting to his neighbor Britney a few days later she said a group of campers was on McCully Mountain the same night and may have seen his disk-shaped object, too. McCully Mountain is approximately three to four miles south of where the object seemed to

move toward after it initially disappeared to the south. According to Britney during our interview, one of the campers said they all saw an object with purplish colored lights around the perimeter and a red colored bottom zig-zagging back and forth before suddenly disappearing.

Sighting #2: A Basketball-Sized, Reddish, Glowing Orb

On Friday, August 26, 2011, just before midnight, Charles and his son Carl were outside watering their yard when Carl saw a streak of yellow light flash by in the sky from east to west. Then suddenly there was a loud fire cracker-like sound off to the west down their street, and the whole area seemed to light up like lightning would light up an area but this lasted much longer than lightning would. See *Figure 2, Direction of Loud Sound for Sighting #2*.

At this point, they both noticed a basketball-sized orb object floating right in front of them around ten feet away in the middle of their street in front of their house. The orb was about four feet off the ground, moving slowly at about five to eight miles per hour, like a fast walk or jog. See *Figure 3, Charles' Overhead View of Sighting #2*.

The Orb Moves Along, Sparks, and Explodes

The orb-shaped object was lime green, blue, and white around its perimeter. This glowing part was about beach ball sized. The clear glass-like center part was a smaller basketball size. Inside this clear spherical part was a brilliant red, tear-drop shape. This interior red part moved around with tremendous activity and energy (it seemed). Also, the glass-like spherical part appeared to be rotating backward around a horizontal axis as it floated along. See *Figure 4, Carl's Drawing of the Orb Object*.

When it was past them going toward the east down their street, it began to drop below about four feet. Then at around 20 feet away, it hit the ground making a loud fire cracker-like sound just like when their attention was first called to the quick sequence of events that ended in them seeing the orb right in front of them. The object simultaneously threw out a lot of sparks from a center of about a two foot radius around the apparent impact area right on top of a manhole cover. The object had just disappeared (disintegrated?) without leaving any evidence that it was ever there. Needless to say, Charles and Carl were stunned by all this.



Source: Keith Rowell

Figure 2. Direction of Loud Sound for Sighting #2

Sighting #2 started off with a loud, fire cracker-like sound and a brilliant, persisting illumination of the neighborhood—trees, houses, and street. The direction is looking west down Charles' street.

Britney Corroborates a Subsequent Event

Just then Charles' wife and a friend of hers came out the front door of Charles' house and said "goodbye" to each other, totally unaware of the scene that had just unfolded. As the friend drove off, their neighbor Britney drove into her driveway right next door. She came over immediately to see what the commotion was all about at this late hour.

As Charles and Carl were telling her their story of the amazing orb-shaped object, they all (except for Charles' wife who had gone back inside their house) saw a golden yellow streaking shape move across the sky from northeast to southeast over to their righthand side. See *Figure 6, Britney's Drawing of Sighting #2 Golden Streak UFO*.

Carl Sees His Own UFO

Carl, who was standing behind them, saw something in addition to the yellow, streaking shape. While Charles and Britney were concentrating on looking at the yellow, streaking shape, he was looking more straight overhead. He saw a dark, craft-like shape with four headlight-yellow colored lights at the corners of an oblong shape. In the middle was a grate-like shape with dark blue color. See *Figure 5, Carl's Last UFO Sighting in Sighting #2*.

This all happened in around 20 minutes. They all stood outside for a while longer talking and trying to understand the events that had just transpired. They half expected something else to happen, but they saw nothing else unusual for the next ten or fifteen minutes. But that was enough for one night!

Did the Orb Communicate to Charles About "How the Saucers Work"?

During the time when the orb-shaped object was closest to Charles, just before it disappeared (exploded?), he felt that somehow, someway he was given the knowledge of how the object propelled itself through the air. He felt as if during the time he was intensely concentrating on the strange object

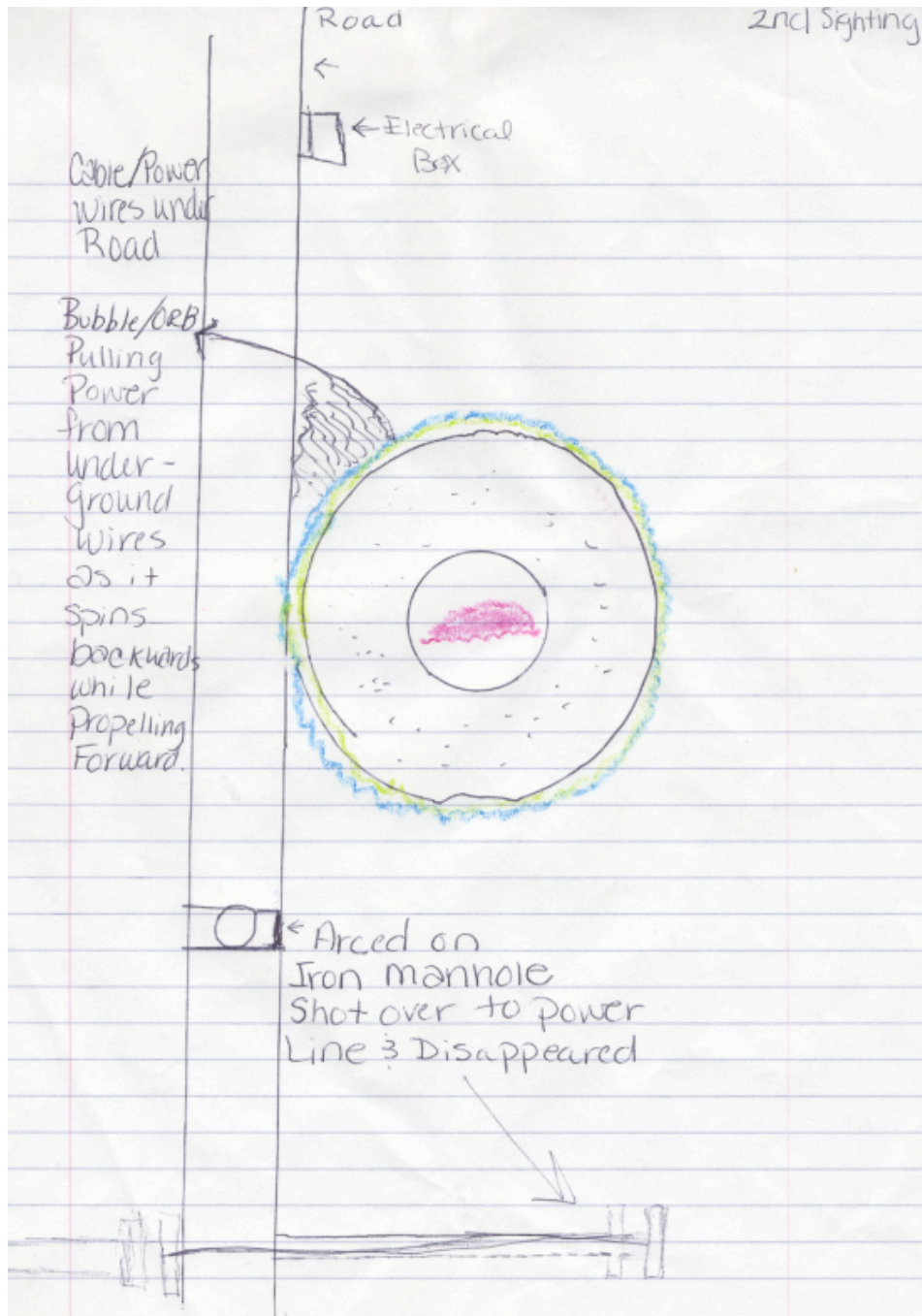
trying to figure it out and what it was that the mystery of it was somehow revealed to him. See *Figure 7, Charles' Ideas About How UFOs Work*.

During the days and weeks after the Sighting #2 event, Charles has felt that he was in some strange way given the secret of not only how the orb did its magic act of floating down the street, but also of how flying saucers propel themselves through our skies and maybe even how the crop circles are formed. This apparent knowledge is accompanied by a deep feeling of urgency that he should talk to scientists to try to express this all to them. Charles very much wants to get his story out to the public and talk to some scientists if he can to tell what he feels is deep inside him. See *Figure 8, Charles' Speculation on the Orb and Crop Circles*.

Witness Drawings and Diagrams

This section features the drawings and diagrams of the three witnesses to some aspect of the two sightings. As can be seen, none of the witnesses are “artists” or technically trained. But, nevertheless, these drawings and diagrams represent their best efforts at graphically explaining what they have seen. We see this willingness and desire over and over again with UFO witnesses. They very sincerely want other people to get the best idea they can of what they have seen and experienced. So, even though they protest that they “can’t draw,” they do their best to depict exactly what they have seen.

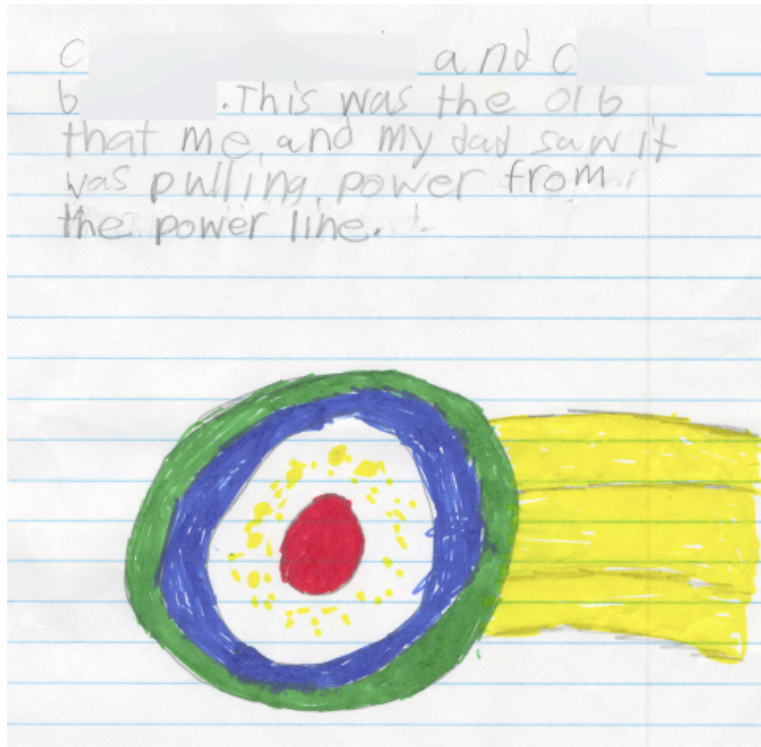
What we *can* understand clearly from these drawings is the unusual overall shapes for the objects they saw and the odd color juxtapositions. They are clearly describing non-ordinary objects and behaviors and, Charles, in addition, feels compelled to offer explanations of what might be behind the UFOs’ appearances and behaviors.



Source: Charles Bradley

Figure 3. Charles' Overhead View of Sighting #2

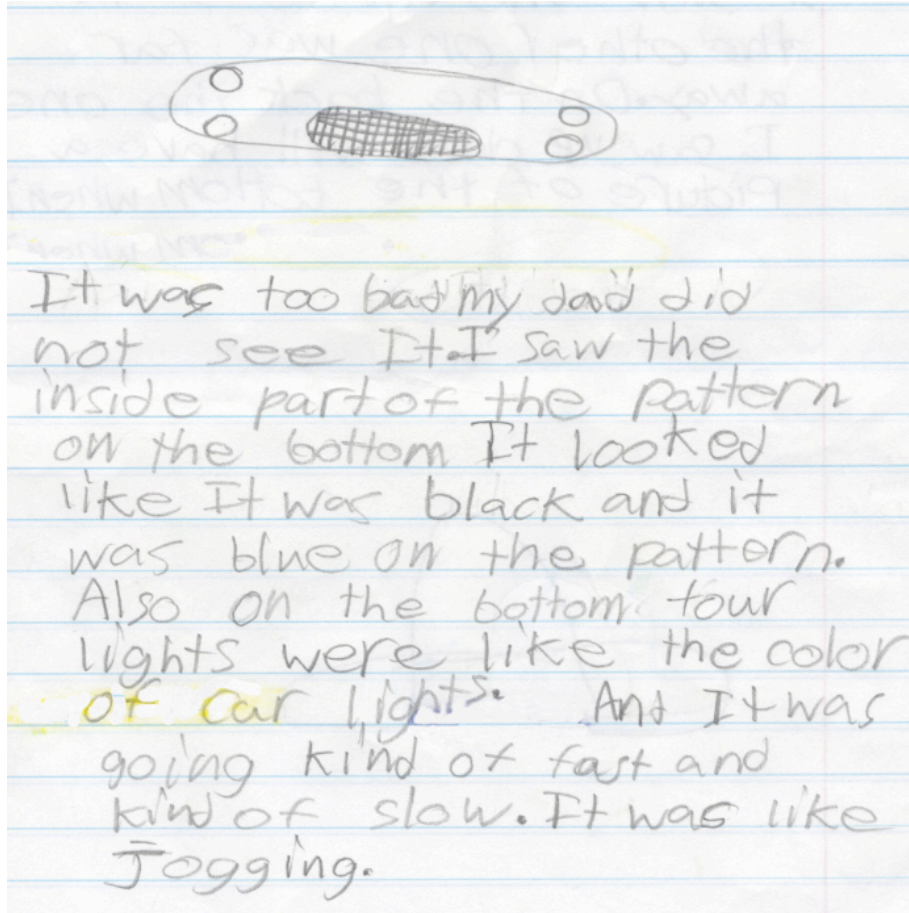
Charles is depicting the orb object in the setting of his street in overhead view (a bird's eye view from up in the air). The "power line" at the bottom of the drawing is actually a street lamp pole and not a power pole. The power lines are underground in this little neighborhood in Sublimity as noted at the side of the drawing. Charles believes that somehow the orb drew power from the power lines.



Source: Carl

Figure 4. Carl's Drawing of the Orb Object

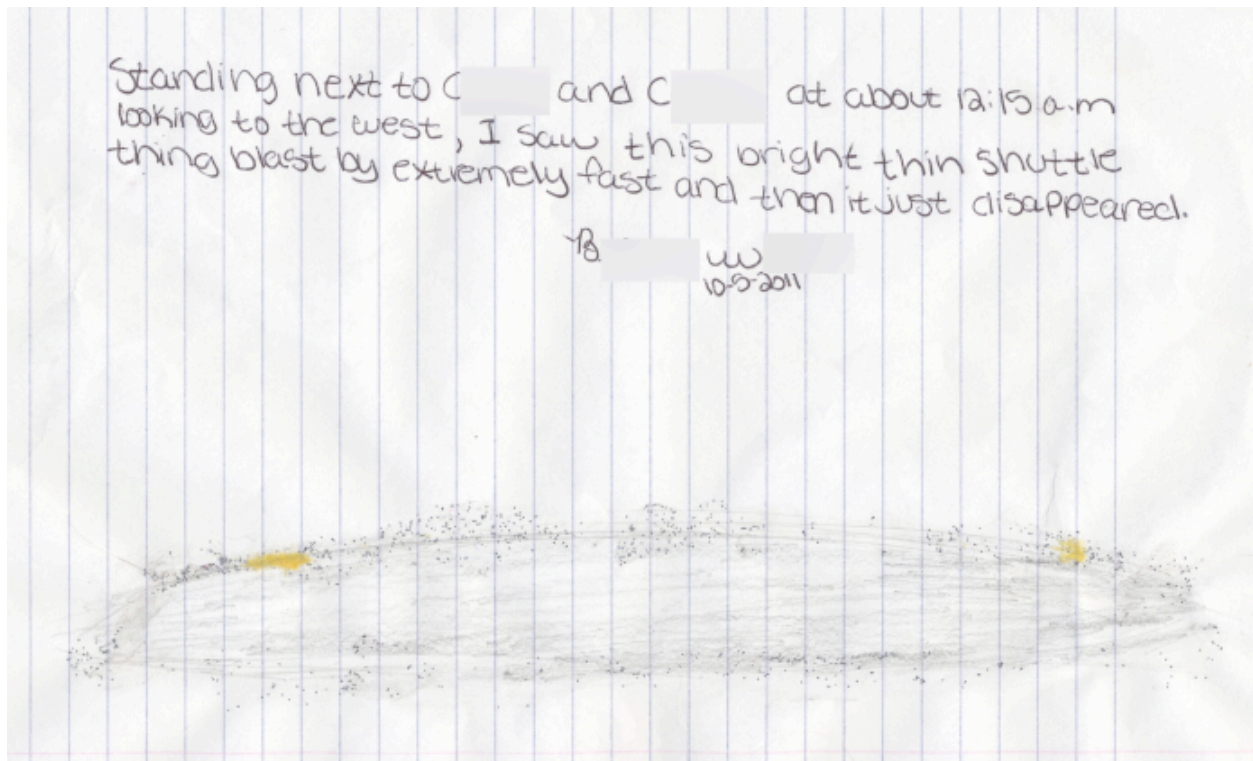
The green and blue exterior in Carl's drawing was described more as a kind of fuzzy glow in their testimony. The important part of the object was the central, very active red interior. The interior was moving around quickly with a seething intensity while the orb-shaped object moved down the street away from them and then over a manhole cover where it exploded. The yellow is meant to portray the sense of movement down the road. Carl got the idea of the "pulling power from the power line" mostly from hearing his father talk about it. See our discussion earlier about Charles' feeling that he received communication from the orb.



Source: Carl

Figure 5. Carl's Last UFO Sighting in Sighting #2

At the end of Sighting #2, Carl saw a UFO that Charles and Britney did not. He saw it only for around ten seconds. Note the car headlights comment about the color of the four lights on the ends. People frequently pick out things in their experience to give UFO investigators the most exact idea they can of what they saw. This is especially true of the many times strange sights, sounds, and sensations that accompany many close encounter sightings.

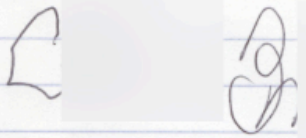


Source: Britney Woolsey

Figure 6. Britney's Drawing of Sighting #2 Golden Streak UFO

Britney was standing next to Charles and Carl after they had seen the red orb object. She saw, as did Charles and Carl, the yellow streak object that ended the entire sequence of events. Note the two yellow spots at either end of the object. The grainy/gritty effect in the illustration above is actually glitter particles on the original drawing intended to show that the object was "sparkly" somewhat as it streaked across the sky.

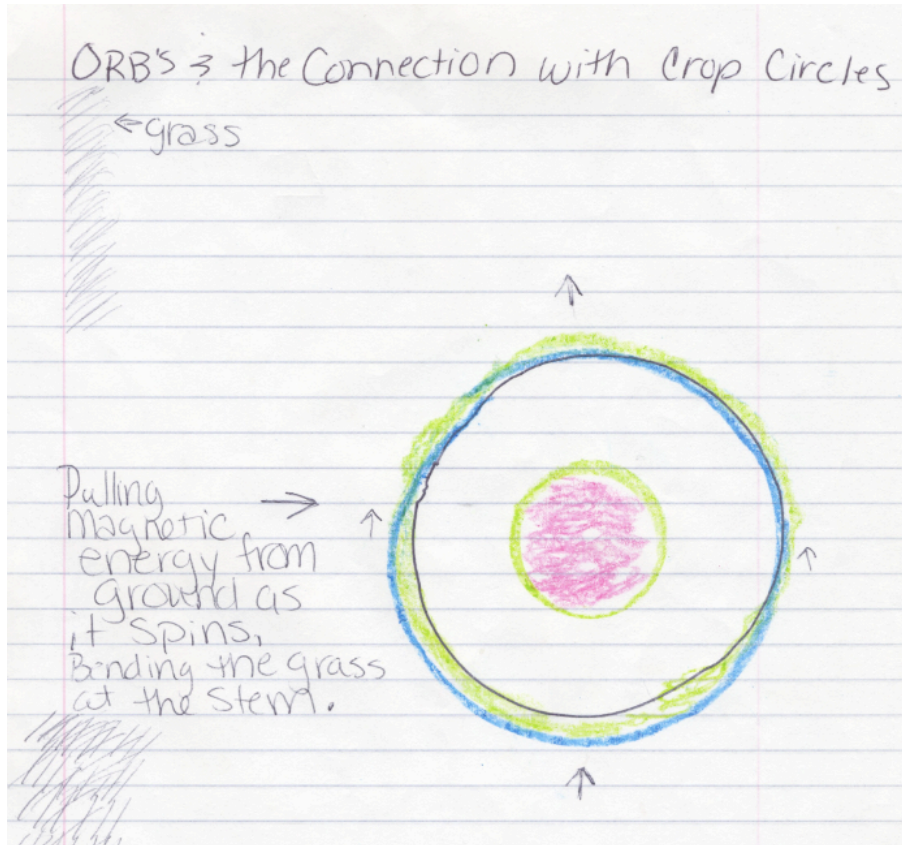
The bubble of energy was pulling power from the powerlines. when it was doing this the diamond in the middle reflected 2 times more light? (or appeared to) It was able to pull power off any powerline. --- I think that's how they all fly in formation and pull power off the same grid. They probably can all power off each other. After seeing this object I did some research of the videos that are online and have a theory how this can work with regards to crop circles as well.



Source: Charles Bradley

Figure 7. Charles' Ideas About How UFOs Work

Here Charles is explaining how he thinks the orb in Sighting #2 works. His information comes from a complex mixture of possibly "flying saucer induced" information at the time of his sighting(s) and later speculation on his part based on Internet and other research. The UFO phenomenon happens to all sorts of people and they all vary in their knowledge, education, and general understanding of people and the world. Charles does not have technical training or background, but even so, he feels compelled to express this understanding of "how the flying saucers work."



Source: Charles Bradley

Figure 8. Charles' Speculation on the Orb and Crop Circles

This illustration shows more of Charles' ideas about how UFO orbs might create crop circles.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment for this sighting is Sublimity, Oregon. See *Figure 9, Sublimity, Oregon*.



Source: Google Maps

Figure 9. Sublimity, Oregon

Charles Bradley had both of his sightings in the city limits of Sublimity, Oregon, where he lives. Both occurred in front of his house while he was outside doing chores in the yard.

Weather

See the details in *Table 1, Weather on Sighting Days*, for the weather on the days in question. Note that conditions were clear both days.

Table 1. Weather on Sighting Days

Event Date	Event Time	Temp (F)	Visibility (miles)	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (mph)	Conditions
8/18/11	9 PM	69.1	10	NNW	8.1	Clear
8/26/11	Midnight	66.0	10	Calm	Calm	Clear

EVIDENCE

The evidence in this case consists of the following:

- Interviews with Charles Bradley, son Carl, and neighbor Britney Woolsey over two hours at Charles' home.
- OM Field Investigator Jason Ingraham's videotaped re-enactments of Charles's sightings in the presence of his son, Carl.
- OM ASD Keith Rowell's photos of the street, house, Charles, etc., during the re-enactments.
- Additional information gained from talking with Charles on the phone both before and after the interview and re-enactments by Jason and Keith.
- Information from Google Maps, Google Earth, Weather Underground, etc.

No other significant evidence was used to reconstruct "what happened" in this case study.

No Physical Evidence

Almost always with very close encounters no photo or video evidence is produced by the witnesses. This is true here. Charles says he tried to get something on his iPod Touch camera, but he was just too excited during the sighting and too unfamiliar with the video function to end up with any photos or videos, even though he tried. Not infrequently in cases like this, witnesses describe apparent malfunctioning of cameras, camcorders, audio recording devices, etc. However, this does not seem to be the case here. Charles, in his excitement, simply seems to have failed to operate his iPod Touch camera correctly.

The Interview

OM Field Investigator Jason Ingraham and I met in Sublimity, Oregon, exchanged some notes in preparation for the interview, and then proceeded to Charles Bradley's home. Once there, we met Charles' son Carl outside and then Charles who welcomed us into their home. Charles is a very warm and open person, and we believe he has done his best to describe his extraordinary experiences.

After we all made ourselves comfortable at the dining table, Jason and I introduced ourselves and showed them our MUFON IDs. We then listened to Charles and Carl tell their parts of the two sightings. As usual at first, we let people tell us anything they want in any way they want since they are usually full of the excitement of getting to tell someone in an "official" capacity about their UFO experience(s).

We Do the Q and A Part

After this "anything goes" period, we proceeded to question and try to clarify their sighting descriptions as to, especially, the time sequence of events. We found Charles to be very animated and excited in his descriptions of what happened to him but he was somewhat hard to follow at times. In contrast, his son, Carl, was a "just the facts" kind of young man (nine years old). It did not seem to us that Charles was leading his son in any way since a number of times they would mutually try to figure out how best to describe some aspect of their experience. Carl would sometimes take exception to what his father said.

After we learned about Britney's part in the second sighting, we encouraged Charles to invite her over to discuss her part in the sighting. She came over and quite willingly discussed her part in the entire sequence of events. She proved to be very responsive and was careful in her statements about what she had seen. She emphasized that she had only witnessed a small part of the whole sighting, but her testimony takes the evidence outside the family to a third party, though she is a friend and next door neighbor of Charles and Carl.

The Re-Enactments

After the interview, we decided to try re-enactments of the first and second sightings. We all went outside to the front lawn of the house where all the action occurred. Charles went through both sightings with Carl speaking up at the appropriate time for his part in the second sighting.

All Witnesses Credible

To sum up, we feel that all witnesses were completely open in their willingness to describe as accurately as they could what happened to them. Carl, a nine year old, was extraordinarily matter-of-fact in his descriptions of what he saw and experienced in the sighting that he participated in. We found Britney to be a very good witness at describing her somewhat limited, but corroborating, part in the second sighting.

Charles was a bit more demanding of our time and attention in trying to pin down details, however. But at no time did we doubt the absolute sincerity of his desire to tell us what happened to him. (It should be noted here that Charles said after the interview that he suffers from pretty severe dyslexia and that made sense to us as we worked with him to document his sightings.)

It is a fact that people vary quite a bit in temperament, abilities, knowledge, etc., so that piecing together “what happened” is a real challenge with some people and rather straightforward with others. Add to this the inherent strangeness of UFO close encounters and it can be a real challenge to “figure out what the facts are.” It is very much like putting together the pieces of a crime, or automobile or airplane accident. We’ve done our best to document the stories of Charles, Carl, and Britney in this report.

ANALYSIS

This case offers only the evidence contained in the eyewitness testimonies of the three witnesses. However, we will present some (reasonable we hope) ideas about the basic characteristics of the objects that caused the two different sightings.

We touch on the following for both sightings:

- UFO shape, color, and movement.
- UFO distance and size.
- UFO speed.

Additionally, we did use an electromagnetic detection device over and around a manhole cover in the street over which the basketball-sized object in the second sighting was described to move.

Sighting #1

This sighting was of a large-sized, glowing, flying saucer-like object first seen far away that then disappeared and was possibly “replaced” by a much smaller orb-like object that came much closer and “buzzed” Charles’ house and street. This sighting was witnessed by Charles alone.

UFO Shape, Color, and Movement

UFO shape fits a usual description of a UFO as a basic disk-shaped object with the usual colorful lights that seem designed to attract attention at times. The colors were basic bright yellow around an apparent perimeter with discrete blue and red lights below. Also leading to the idea of “trying to attract attention” is Charles’ description of the UFO moving back and forth three times and then moving off more or less horizontally to the right (south) of his position. We believe from his description that the movement was around one or two degrees movement from side to side. (Imagine the object moving from side to side about two to four full moon diameters since the full moon is right at one half a degree in angular size.)

UFO Distance and Size

We believe this UFO was around one to three miles or so away. We know that it appeared in front of a ridge line of hills that is around five miles away from Charles’ position. This determines an “upper bound” distance away. We also know that Charles described the UFO as disappearing behind some closer trees and neighborhood houses. These are about 1000 feet away and this constitutes a “lower bound” distance away. So, we feel pretty certain that this UFO was anywhere from one half or so miles to three miles away based on these upper and lower bound distances.

The size we will guess at 30 to 50 feet in diameter since it was apparently around one to three miles away yet still plenty big enough to see reasonable detail as to lights on the craft-like object. If it were 30 feet in diameter and a mile away, this would put the UFO at a little less than the size of the diameter of the full moon. If it were two miles away, it would be half that size, which would be around a third the size across of the full moon. These are just guesses from the sizes of saucer/disk-shaped disks in the serious UFO literature.

UFO Speed

A pure guess on the speed the UFO moved to the south if it were, say, 30 to 50 feet in size and one to two miles away and traversed the short distance he could see in around 20 or so seconds—we didn't actually ask him this question, but this seems in the ball park from what he said—is around 200 to 300 mph.

Sighting #2

This sighting was of the basketball-sized, glowing, red object witnessed by Charles and his son Carl.

UFO Shape, Color, and Movement

Since this orb-type UFO was so close to the witnesses we have very good descriptions of the shape (spherical), color (green, whitish, and blue "plasma" haze with "active" red interior inside a clear "glass-like" globe), and movement (more or less straight line, four feet above the ground at a fast walking pace till it "exploded"). Charles emphasized often the very actively moving, brilliant red interior. He also emphasized a number of times the odd, spinning backward motion of the sphere, too.

UFO Distance and Size

This UFO was around 10 feet away at its closest to both Charles and Carl. So, both the distance and size are probably pretty accurate at "beach ball-sized" for the overall shape including the bluish/greenish hazy outer "shell" and basketball ("medicine ball") sized for the glass-like exterior containing the brilliant red active stuff.

UFO Speed

Both Charles and Carl agreed that the speed the UFO moved down their street to the east was like a fast walk or jog, or about 5 to 10 mph.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

We noted during the re-enactment of Charles' second sighting that there was an iron manhole cover in the center of the street near the front of his house. He described the basketball-sized, glowing, red object moving down the center of the street as essentially exploding over the manhole cover.

We decided to use our TriField Meter Model 100XE to see if any anomalous seeming readings of magnetic or electric fields would register. We walked back and forth over the manhole cover and held the TriField Meter quite close to the manhole cover top while operating the device. We noticed no high readings on any of the scales on the two magnetic, one electric, and one Radio/Microwave settings.

CONCLUSION

The UFO observations in this case were made by three people: Charles Bradley, his son Carl, and a neighbor, Britney Woolsey. Charles alone was witness to the first sighting. Charles, Carl, and Britney were witness to variously different and the same aspects of the second sighting.

Identification Candidates

The candidates for identification for these two sightings 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 these kinds of “black” objects over populated areas in the U.S. are far fewer than “standard” UFOs. It strains credulity that human-designed, “conventional” secret aircraft or RPVs (“black” objects) would be tested at low levels in moderately populated rural areas—or much lower in the case of Sighting #2—not far from a medium-sized metro area (Salem, Oregon). *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Police surveillance UAV.** No city police or county sheriff’s departments in the Salem/Sublimity area have any operational police surveillance UAVs. Also, a UAV in Sighting #1 is ruled out because of apparent size. And a UAV in Sighting #2 is ruled out because of the extremely low-level maneuvering, behavior, and look of the UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Aircraft.** No conventional aircraft, military or civilian, looks like the Sighting #1 or #2 UFOs. The basketball-sized UFO in the second sighting is obviously not a conventional aircraft of any type. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Helicopter.** No helicopter, military or civilian, looks like the Sighting #1 or #2 UFOs. The basketball-sized UFO in the second sighting is obviously not a helicopter. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Blimp.** No blimp, military or civilian, looks or operates like the Sighting #1 or #2 UFOs. The basketball-sized UFO in the second sighting is obviously not a blimp. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Ultralight.** No ultralight looks like the Sighting #1 or #2 UFOs. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Remote-controlled model aircraft.** No RC model aircraft is the size of the UFO in Sighting #1, and no RC model aircraft conforms to the description or behavior of what Charles and his son, Carl, saw and experienced in Sighting #2. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Balloon.** The Sighting #1 UFO does not conform to the look or, especially, behavior of any kind of balloon. The Sighting #2 UFO is definitely in size only like a small balloon, but its look and overall behavior as described do not conform plausibly to a balloon of any kind.
- **Hoax.** We do not believe that these sightings are hoaxes given the apparent sincerity and overall behavior of the witnesses. They do all know each other, but their complete willingness to be interviewed and questioned in any manner in addition to their after-the-interview cooperation with our requests for further information incline us to believe that they are all sincere reporters of two unusual events.

Since the identification candidates fail for the reasons stated, these UFO sightings are classified as true UFOs, MUFON UAVs. However, it is admitted that the overall evidence in this case rests solely on witness testimony, but there were three witnesses to various parts of the Sighting #2. They do all know each other, however. We believe these UFO sightings rise to the level of preponderance of the evidence.