

# The St. Helens Quick Close Encounter

## An Oregon MUFON Case Study

by

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### Abstract

Keywords: Low-level—Close encounter—Red lights—Patterned lights—Intermittently Pulsating

<b>Description</b>	Witness Stan Clauson (pseudonym) was at his home taking a cigarette break on the back porch. While there, he saw a slowly rising, intermittently pulsating, whitish/yellowish light move above a backyard tree. He decided to video the light with his Kodak camera. He took the video inside to show his dad. He came out again and then noticed two solid red lights approach the intermittently pulsating now stationary object. Suddenly, one red light peeled off and zoomed right toward him. It ended up showing an oval-shaped underside with at least 60 to 80 small red lights in four patterns as it swooped over him and raced off to apparently rejoin the other red light and intermittently pulsating light. His memories immediately after the close encounter are unclear.
<b>Witness(es)</b>	One only: Stan Clauson (pseudonym).
<b>Time and Date</b>	December 3, 2011, starting about 5:45 PM and ending about 6:00 PM(?)
<b>Place</b>	St. Helens, Oregon.
<b>Weather</b>	Clear, visibility 10 miles; wind: E, 21.9 mph; temperature 39° F.
<b>Duration</b>	About 15 minutes total(?); about 5-7 minutes viewing of UFOs.

**Last Updated:** Monday, February 7, 2011

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# INTRODUCTION

This case is a close encounter that might possibly be an abduction. UFO investigators have long since learned to look for signs of abduction if a UFO sighting is just “too close for comfort” such as this one was. The witness, Stan Clauson (pseudonym), is open to the idea of a personal abduction experience since he is quite aware of this possibility having avidly immersed himself in the UFO media (books, TV documentaries, movies, Internet, etc.) for around five years now.

Investigators learn to be wary of someone who is just too interested in UFOs and has learned a lot like Stan has, but Stan has corroborating evidence beyond his story in the form of his two minute long video of an anomalous, intermittently pulsating light. In addition, I discovered an anomalous red light toward the end of his video which is “buried” in the shadows of his nighttime video of the intermittently pulsating light. See the *ANALYSIS* section for more on this.

I would like to thank Stan for meeting me for an interview at his St. Helens home. I would also like to thank him for his full cooperation in my investigation. He was very motivated to learn more about his first sighting and he showed it by actively participating in my investigation and by making valuable observations and offering plenty of extra detail along the way.

## SIGHTING DESCRIPTION

On the night of December 3, 2011, just before about 5:45 PM, Stan Clauson, a young man in his early thirties, decided he needed a cigarette. Since he always smokes outside, he headed out to the back porch of his house. He sat down, lit up, and looked out over the close-by trees in his backyard to the evening sky. The star Capella was in the NE sky where Stan was looking, and it was stationary (of course) and flickering a little like stars do. No planets were visible, however, in the general direction he was looking, and the sun had gone down at about 4:30 PM that day, so the sky was completely dark. He noticed a couple of aircraft to the SE where Portland International Airport was about 18 miles away. They looked ordinary to him.

### Noticed an Intermittently Pulsating Light

Soon he noticed “a light making weird blinks . . . as it slowly [rose]” in the sky in the NE. See *Figure 1, Stan Showing Approximate Location of the Pulsating UFO*. He became more and more curious as the light continued to rise to be eventually about 40° off the horizon above a prominent tree bare of leaves not more than 25 feet away. He was quite sure it was unusual and not a star, planet, or plane at this point.

### Decided to Film the Light

He decided he wanted to photograph and film the unusual light with his Kodak Easyshare M1033 digital camera. He went back inside briefly to get his camera. When he emerged, the strange, intermittently pulsating, whitish/yellowish light was still there now stationary above the tree. He turned on the camera, pointed it into the night sky and took two photos. Then immediately he turned the camera’s settings to movie mode and began video’ing the strange light. He ended up taking two minutes and eight seconds of video. When questioned later, Stan figured he was outside doing the initial video’ing and observing for five minutes maximum. He then decided to go back in and tell his dad about what he had just video’d because he thought it was a “real UFO.” His dad is not much interested in the topic so Stan did not get a positive reaction from his dad. His dad said it was probably just a star and did not go outside to take a look.



Source: Keith Rowell

### **Figure 1. Stan Showing Approximate Location of the Pulsating UFO**

*Stan is on his back porch from which he saw the odd, intermittently pulsating light that rose slowly from the horizon straight up and stopped about 40° above the horizon.*

## **Two Red Lights Showed Up**

Stan then went a third time back outside to see if the object was still there. It was. Almost immediately, he noticed two solid red lights, one above the other, off to the east moving fast at about the level of the intermittently pulsating light. They were headed straight for the intermittently pulsating light. Stan thought at the time that the two solid red lights were moving too fast for conventional aircraft—planes, helicopters, or even fighter jet planes in pursuit at low level. They were going at “super speed.”

## **One Red Light Buzzed Him**

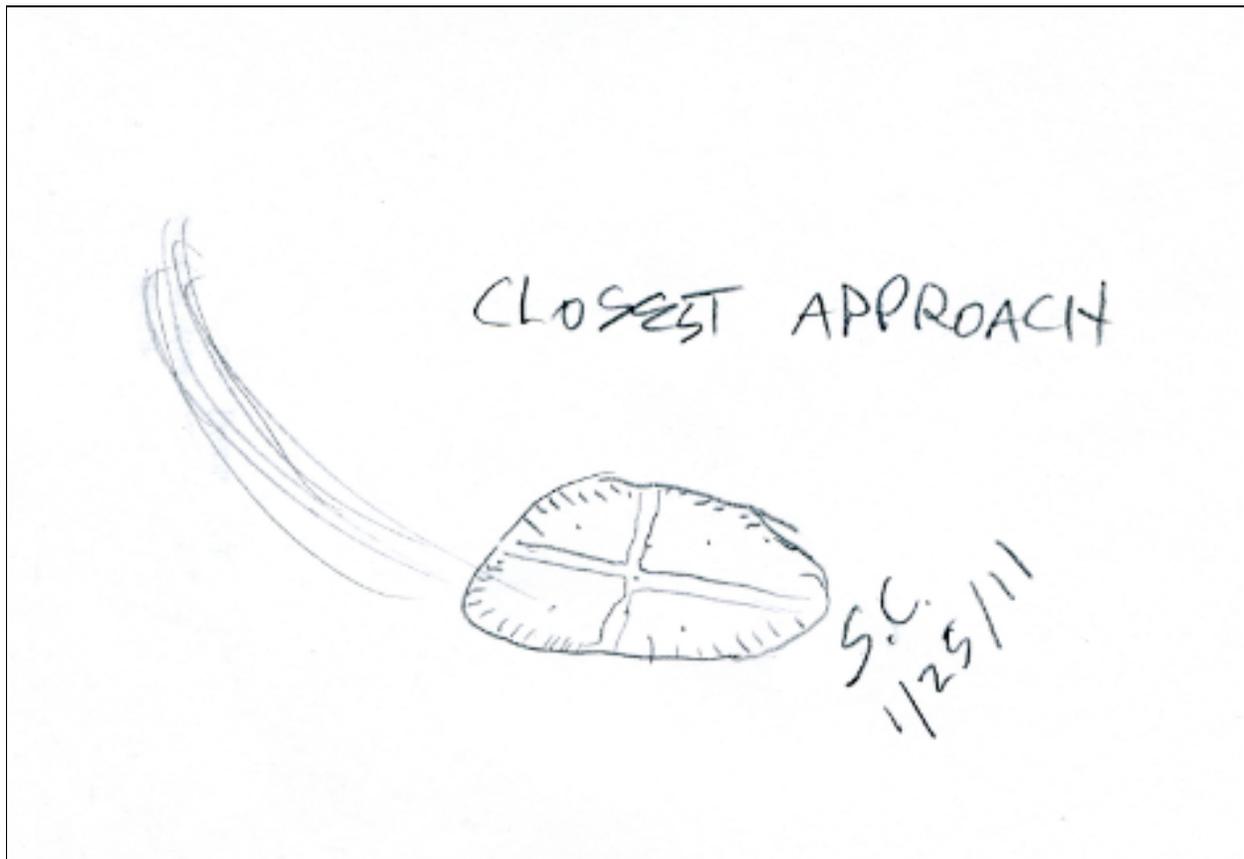
He immediately turned his camera back on in movie mode to catch the red lights activity. He was watching the activity normally and not looking at the back viewing panel of his Kodak camera. They stopped short of the intermittently pulsating light, but remained nearby it—perhaps 5° to the right or east of it. Then “about five seconds after the two red lights approached the [intermittently pulsating] object, the bottom red light started flying toward me and went right over my house.”

## **Saw the Underside of the Close Approaching Red UFO**

He got a very good, but quite brief look at the underside of the red UFO. He could now see that “it was [circular] in shape with about 60-80 [, he estimates, small] red lights [in a circle pattern] on the bottom of

the craft.” The craft body seemed to be “darker than dark” compared to the sky. Stan said at its closest approach the red light that zoomed toward him was the size of about two fists side by side in the sky above him. He estimated that at its closest approach it might have been 200 to 300 feet away. See *Figure 2, Stan’s Drawing Showing the Underneath of the Red UFO*.

Then it “made a 180 turn and headed back the way it came” toward the other red light that had stayed close to the intermittently pulsating light.



Source: Stan Clausen

**Figure 2. Stan’s Drawing Showing the Underneath of the Red UFO**

*Stan said there was a circle of small red lights—too many to count accurately—near the outside rim of the bottom of the UFO. They shined steadily. There were fewer lights towards the interior. The cross shape in the drawing indicates how the lights seemed to be segregated into “panels.” The space between the lights was “darker than darker.” That is, the apparent exterior of the craft was so dark that it was darker than the night sky.*

## **Discovered That the Close Approach Video is Missing**

At this point, Stan believes he immediately “ran inside to see the [new] video.” But he soon discovered that there were only three files in the memory of his Kodak camera. These corresponded to the two photos he had taken earlier and the previous video of just the intermittently pulsating light. There was no file corresponding to all the activity of the red lights with one of them zooming over his head and then returning. “I was really [irritated that the red lights video] was not there.” I then “looked at my cellphone [an iPhone] and it had been turned off.” (You must hold down a button for a few seconds to turn an iPhone completely off. Normally, iPhones are in “sleep” or standby mode and not completely off.)

## Smelled an Odd, Bitter Odor

Another odd thing was the odor that Stan smelled in the air right after the red lights UFO had closely approached him. The odor was “almost bitter [and] I have never smelled anything like it, and it didn’t last but about 10 seconds.”

## ENVIRONMENT

The environment for this sighting is a residential neighborhood on the north side of St. Helens, Oregon. To the NE, is the Columbia River within a couple of thousand feet and about three miles away across the Columbia River is the town of Woodland, WA, and its one runway, unattended airport—the Woodland State Airport. Just to the SE across the Columbia River is the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. In fact, in Stan’s video of the UFO, you can hear geese honking, which are probably from across the Columbia River flying around in the air above the refuge, which is quite a gathering place for waterfowl of all kinds. See *Figure 3, St. Helens, Oregon, Sighting Environs*.



Source: Google Maps

**Figure 3. St. Helens, Oregon, Sighting Environs**

*Stan was looking off to the NE from the north part of St. Helens where his home is. Note the Woodland State Airport off to the NE of St. Helens. This airport is just one runway and is unattended. It parallels I-5, which runs in a NW to SE direction where the Woodland State Airport is. Portland International Airport is far off to the SE (18-20 miles).*

## Weather

See the details in *Table 1, Weather on Sighting Day*, for the weather on the day of the UFO sighting: December 3, 2010 at about 5:45 PM to 6:00 PM(?). The weather does not seem to have much to do with this sighting since the intermittently pulsating UFO rose slowly and became stationary and since the two solid red UFOs seemed to behave more like powered craft of some sort than any kind of wind-borne objects.

**Table 1. Weather on Sighting Day**

Event Date	Event Time	Temp (F)	Visibility (miles)	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (mph)	Conditions
12/3/10	5:45 PM	39°	10	E	21.9	Clear sky

## EVIDENCE

The evidence in this case consists of four components:

- *Stan's testimony.* This consists of his emails, formal MUFON report, and my in-person interview at this home.
- *Stan's two photos.* These were taken with his point and shoot Kodak Easyshare M1033 digital camera.
- *Stan's video.* This was taken with his Kodak digital camera in movie mode.
- *Data gathered after the event.* My photos, weather data, astronomy data, air traffic data, etc.

### Stan's Testimony

As with many close encounter stories, Stan's description of events includes "unbelievable" details such as complex visual observations like "60-80 red lights on the underneath of a moving craft-like object" and lots of other details. These highly detailed stories are not so unbelievable today since we have had 60 years of variously documented sightings of UFOs, but still an investigator wonders how much to believe and not believe. And that is what an investigation is all about. We try to separate the "facts" from the innocent misapprehensions and misunderstandings. (We also do our best to separate the hoaxers from the responsible people just struggling to tell their unusual story.)

Usually, all we have to evaluate is a story, but in this case, Stan offered up some possibly corroborating evidence to back up his story. These are his photos and video. It turns out that they do indeed back up his testimony and even provide a surprise corroboration of the last part of his testimony. See *The Video* later.

We did our usual Internet "background check" with Stan and found nothing that would cast doubt on his basic trustworthiness. My in-person interview did not raise any red flags for me either. Stan came across as yet another UFO witness doing his best to tell his story truthfully.

### Remains Hazy About the Aftermath

One thing we UFO investigators like to do is establish a minute by minute timeline of events somewhat before, during, and somewhat after a sighting. This helps get more information many times and puts events in their proper order as best we can reconstruct the event. Sometimes we even do a timed re-enactment. Using these techniques, we occasionally discover "missing time."

It turns out that there may be some "missing time" at the end of Stan's experience because we found that his memories toward the end of the UFO events were a little shaky. I asked Stan when was the next time *after he saw the two red UFOs* that he could remember an event on that evening that was "anchored" in

time. We do this by asking things like, “Do you remember watching something on TV or hearing something on the radio?” or “Do you always do something at a certain time of night like walk the dog or put your child to bed?” or similar questions. Stan could not think of anything in particular to provide some definite time “anchors.”

## The Two Photos

Stan took two photos of the intermittently pulsating UFO before he decided to switch to movie mode and start taking the video. See *Figure 4, The First of Stan’s Two UFO Photos*, for what the photos look like *unmanipulated* by photo software such as Photoshop. As you can see, virtually nothing shows up in the photos. Where are the UFOs?! The video is the same till you do a little processing with the brightness and contrast adjustments in Photoshop and video editing software such as iMovie and Final Cut Express used in the analysis for this report. See the *ANALYSIS* section later.



Source: Stan Clausen

### **Figure 4. The First of Stan’s Two UFO Photos**

*This unmanipulated and unprocessed photo was offered by Stan as evidence in his sighting. There is practically nothing but black except for the very tiny white blob in the lower right corner. It turns out this is a street lamp. (Some tree branches are just barely visible in the lower right part of the frame.) There is no trace of the intermittently pulsating, slowly rising UFO Stan described in his MUFON report. See ANALYSIS later for what is “hidden” is this greatly underexposed photo—not a UFO, but at least evidence that corroborates his story.*

## The Video

The video file that Stan submitted with his MUFON report is similar in appearance to the photo in *Figure 4, The First of Stan’s Two UFO Photos*. The frame is virtually all black except for the street light in the lower right corner bobbing up and down and in and out of the frame as Stan tries to keep the camera steady during the video’ing. The intermittently pulsating UFO is just barely visible at times in the unmanipulated video. However, a different story is told when the video is processed. See *ANALYSIS* later.

Stan thought that he took two videos after his UFO encounter, but it turns out that only two photos and one movie file was on his memory card from his Kodak digital camera. I asked him more than once if he is certain that he took at least two movies of his experience. He is as sure as he can be that he did not somehow fail to press the record button when he went back out to view the initial intermittently pulsating object and then saw the two red objects.

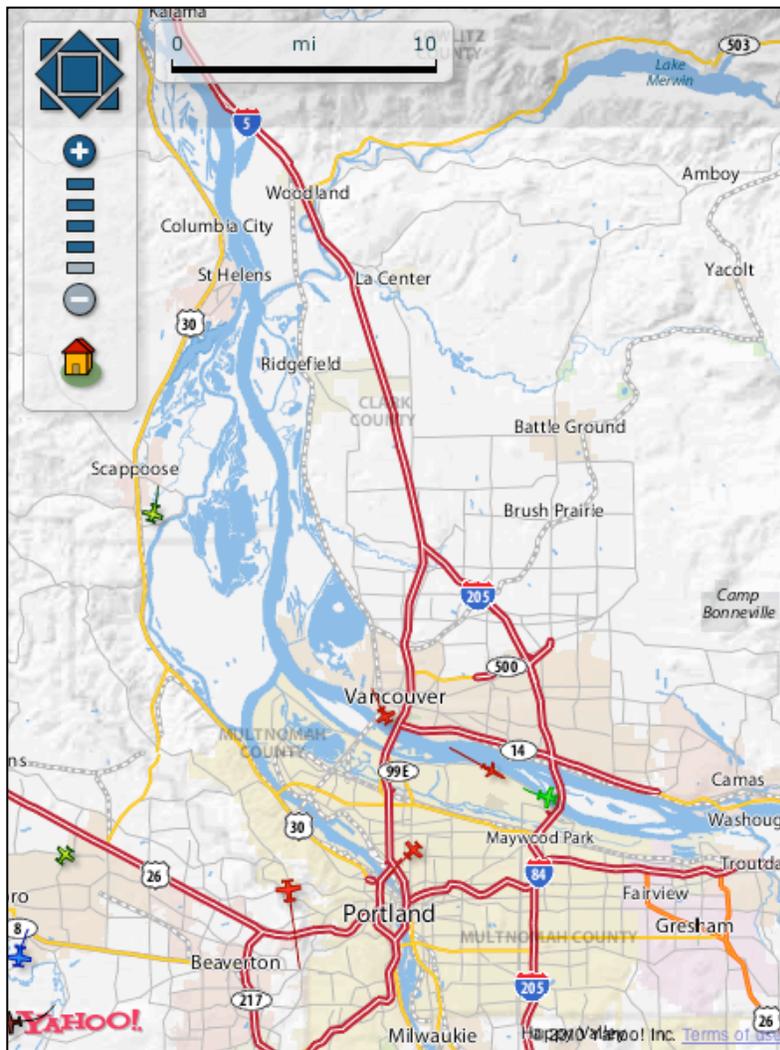
Since he does in fact have a first movie demonstrating that he knows how to take videos with his camera, I had to assume that perhaps something anomalous *did* happen during the video'ing the second time when he saw the red UFOs. Stan feels that the file was anomalously erased.

Stan also noted that the next time he remembers using his iPhone after his UFO experience it was turned completely off. To do this, you need to intentionally hold down the iPhone's top button for at least three seconds to begin the process of turning off the cell phone. Stan does not remember doing this, and most people leave the iPhone on all the time. (Normally, people leave the iPhone in sleep (standby) mode, so that they do not have to wait the 20 seconds or so that it takes to power up from the completely off state.)

We will never know about the anomalousness of these two events, but I would be remiss if I did not point out that the best of the UFO literature does indeed document anomalously missing, real evidence of close approach UFOs and the events surrounding the close approaches. Perhaps this is another instance of that.

## **Data Gathered After the Fact**

I did the usual things to investigate this case. I took photos at the site, took notes during the interview, took measurements of directions and elevations, etc. Weather data comes from *wunderground.com*. The astronomy data comes from Starry Night Enthusiast. The air traffic data comes from the WebTrak service, which is actually available to the public for complaints about air traffic noise from the PDX airport website: *www.flypdx.com*. See *Figure 5, Map Showing Aircraft Traffic*.



Source: WebTrak and Yahoo Maps

**Figure 5. Map Showing Aircraft Traffic**

*This map from aircraft tracking data on December 3, 2010, shows no regular trackable aircraft flying to the NE of St. Helens around 5:45 PM and after. Small private planes, however, may not show up in the WebTrak air traffic data.*

## ANALYSIS

After looking at the photos and video that Stan managed to take of the first half of his overall UFO event, I will make some comments on the shapes, colors and intermittently pulsating light observable in the video. Then I will try to “guesstimate” some answers for UFO size and distance. The photos and video were minimally processed with the simple image manipulation brightness and contrast adjustments in Photoshop, iMovie, and Final Cut Express to bring out whatever details there might be. I was lucky and revealed more of the intermittently pulsating UFO in the video. I discovered a “surprise” image of one solid (but still varying) red light at the right edge of the frame toward the last seconds of the two minute and eight second video.

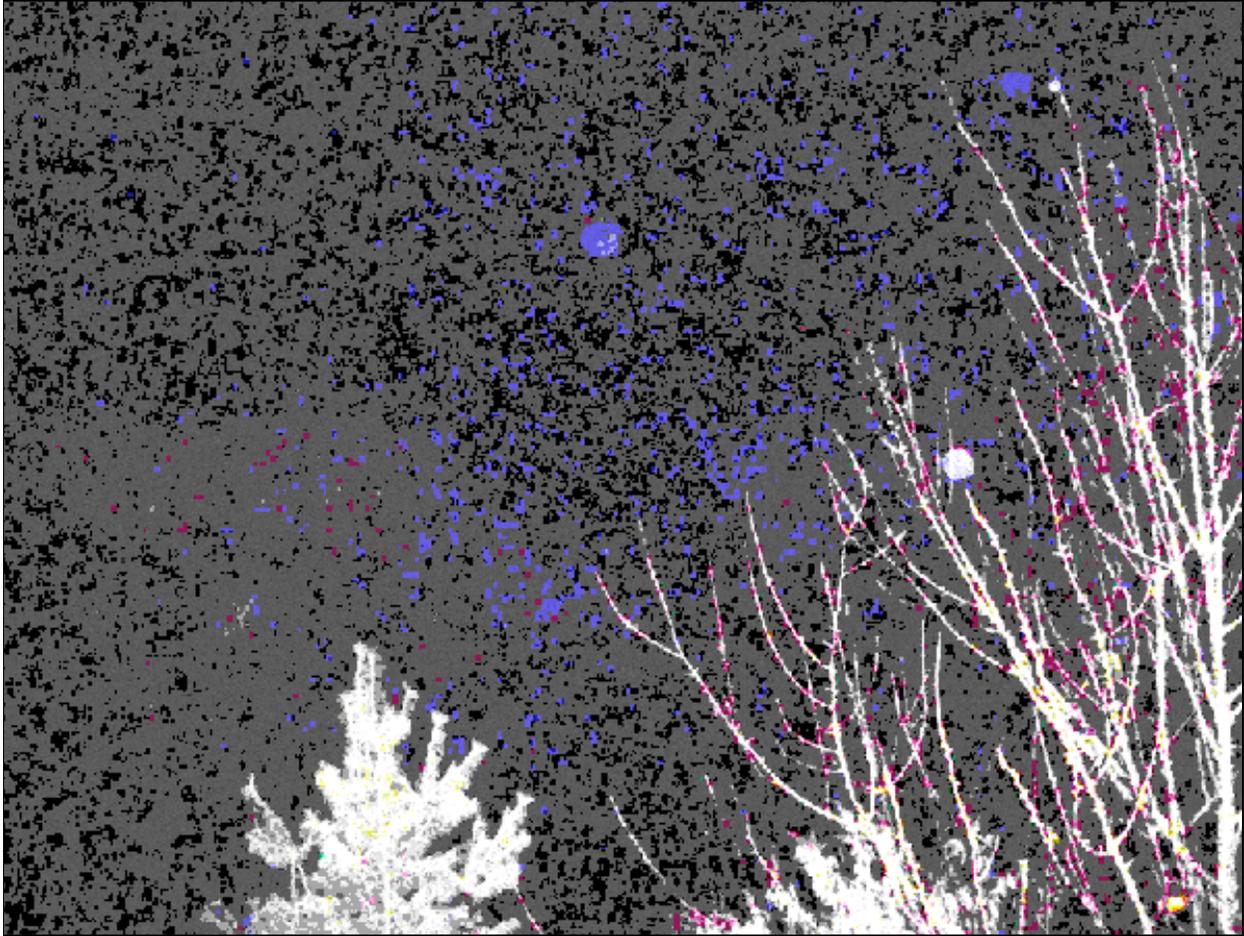
## What the UFO Photos Show

Stan took two photos with his Kodak Easyshare M1033 digital, point and shoot camera. Both of the photos are solid black with basically just one obvious light blob in the lower right corner. See *Figure 4, The First of Stan's Two UFO Photos*, for what the *unprocessed* image looks like.

It is evident that the photos must be highly processed to show anything at all. Sometimes, by using various kinds of techniques involving Photoshop's invert, brightness, contrast, levels, Curves, threshold, etc., features, various kinds of information may be shown to exist in "hopeless" photos, which is what we have here. Stan's two photos merely show that he photographed his backyard trees, which is consistent with his testimony. No trace of the intermittently pulsating UFO shows up in either photo.

The small circular areas evident in the photo in *Figure 6, The Second of Stan's Two UFO Photos*, are examples of the "orbs" phenomenon. This investigator believes that a very high percentage of orbs photos simply show consumer-grade digital camera artifacts. These mostly occur when the flash is on and fires when photos are taken. The bright flash illuminates either dust motes, rain drops, etc., in the atmosphere between the camera and subject or apparently illuminate dust either trapped inside lens assemblies or on the outside surface of lenses. There is also the possibility that dust motes on the digital camera sensor itself are responsible for these circular artifacts.

*An aside:* At this time, I'm inclined to think that a few "orbs" photos do show some sort of genuine phenomenon, but that the vast majority of "orbs" photos are due to camera artifacts. As with the UFO, let's let the facts prove themselves as we go slow and easy to investigate this phenomenon and not rush to judgment as UFO investigators have done in the past in the 1950s and 1960s when they tended to reject UFO stories with occupant descriptions not to mention tales of abduction associated with UFOs.



Source: Stan Clausen and Keith Rowell

### **Figure 6. The Second of Stan's Two UFO Photos**

*This highly processed photo shows some trees in Stan's backyard. The intermittently pulsating UFO should be in the middle of the photo, but is not evident. Either the UFO was too faint to be picked up by his Kodak digital camera's sensor at its ISO setting (400) or it might have been in between pulses. Stan's first photo is similar. It does not show any trace of a UFO. See the text for an explanation of the circular spots quite evident in the photo.*

## **What the UFO Video Shows**

After Stan took two photos, he decided to switch his Kodak camera to movie mode and begin taking video of the intermittently pulsating UFO. With this Kodak camera, one press of the shutter button starts a video sequence and the next press stops the sequence. This results in one file showing up on the memory card inside the camera. The file is written to the memory card of the camera as it is being taken. Thus, a single recording sequence becomes a single file on the memory card.

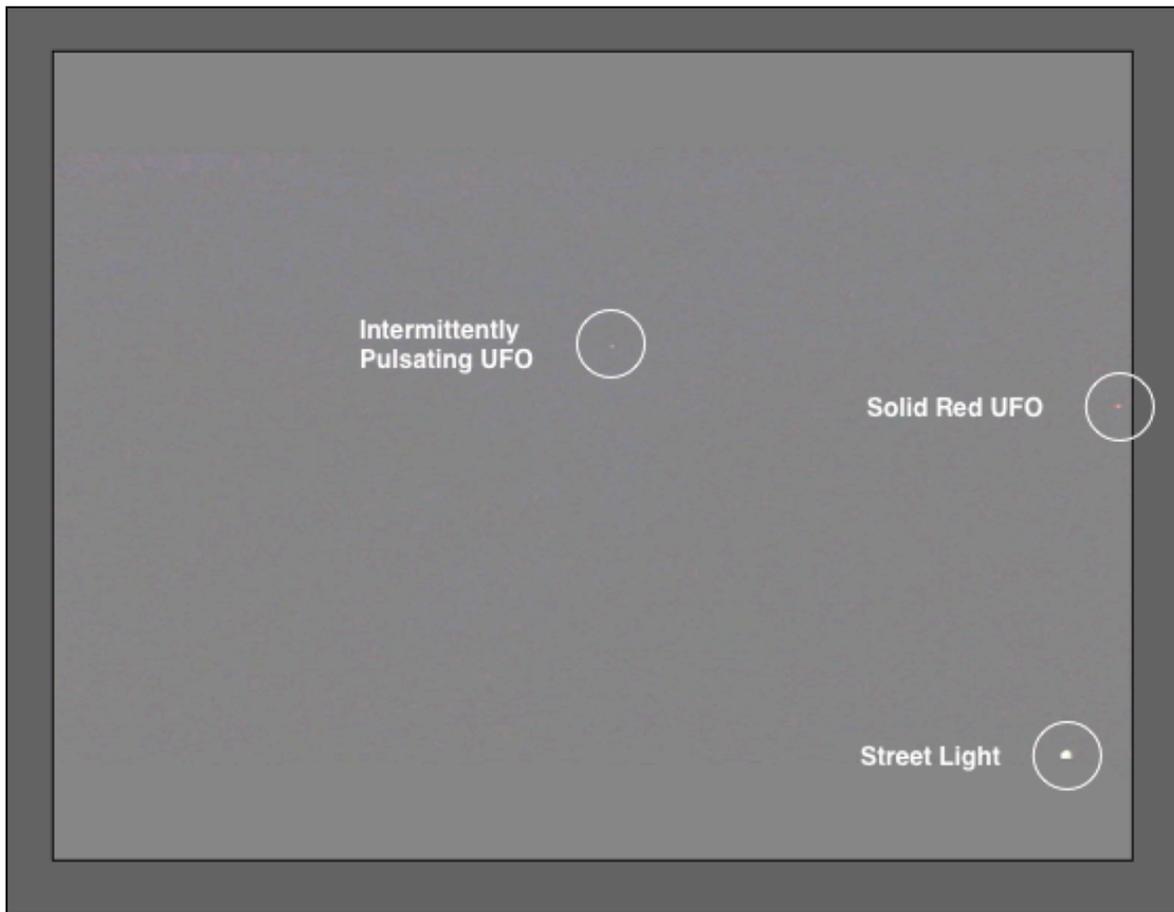
When I interviewed Stan, we looked at the files on his memory card. He said he had not altered the memory card at all since he took the photos and video of the UFO. He just continued to take photos occasionally afterward. When I looked at the memory card files on my laptop at his house, I saw the two photo files and the single video file (along with all his other photo files before and after). These three files corresponded with the files that he attached to his MUFON report.

In Final Cut Express, the video file shows an almost completely dark frame till about half way through when the street light visible in the lower right corner of *Figure 6, The Second of Stan's Two UFO Photos*, shows up. (If you strain when you look at the unprocessed video, you can sometimes just barely make out a faint light in the center of the frame that is actually what Stan was video'ing—the intermittently

pulsating light. But manipulating the video with brightness and contrast adjustments makes this show up much more clearly.)

The street light bobs up and down in the lower right as the video is played to the end. The general colors in the photos and video of the street light compare well. These images are, indeed, the same street light.

But, in order to show Stan's intermittently pulsating UFO (and possibly any other anomalous details) in the video, I had to do the same sort of brightness and contrast adjustments that I had done to the photos. I used two programs (iMovie and Final Cut Express) to get the best enhancement I could for determining what the video might show to back up Stan's UFO experience description (or not). *Figure 7, Full Frame Showing Two UFOs and the Street Light*, shows what I discovered after I did some simple brightness and contrast adjustments.



Source: Stan Clausen and Keith Rowell

**Figure 7. Full Frame Showing Two UFOs and the Street Light**

*This full frame of Stan's video at 02:02;29 shows (faintly) in the center the UFO Stan saw and was video'ing, a red UFO that Stan did not see at the time at the middle right side, and the street light at the lower right corner. The video is processed with brightness and contrast adjustments to bring out the white and red UFOs, which are almost invisible in the unprocessed video. The street light is quite visible in the unprocessed video. Note that even though Stan saw a few stars (one at least probably being Capella because it was in the right area of the sky at the time), they do not show up here. This means that the UFO Stan saw was brighter than the usual night sky stars. Stan was also fixated on the UFO in the center because it was pulsating rapidly and oddly—again differently than normal stars and planets.*

Figure 8, *Street Light Near Stan's Home*, shows the street lamp as it is visible in the day time from the same vantage point that he took his photos and video from. This little detail helps anchor Stan's story in the reality of everyday details and makes the whole story a lot more plausible. We investigators are taught to be just as careful with the ordinary things you can easily check as with the "exciting" things that are not so "checkable." The story as a whole must be consistent internally—the ordinary details along with the "fantastic" details.

But at the same time, why is it that when it comes to suspected UFO images, we start second guessing ourselves and talk about camera artifacts and video production software (iMovie and Final Cut Express) and photo analysis software (Photoshop) "artifacts"? It is because we are trying to be good investigators. But do we go too far sometimes in trying to explain away what the evidence normally interpreted actually shows, for example, that a UFO was actually *red* or that a seemingly intermittent pulsation is actually a real intermittent pulsation and not some artifact of the recording device. As always, go slow and be judicious and critical, and do not rush to judgment!



Source: Keith Rowell

**Figure 8. Street Light Near Stan's Home**

Here is the street light that shows up in Stan's two photos and video. The street light shows up as overexposed white in the middle and yellowish around the edges just as you would expect in Stan's nighttime photos and video.

## The Solid Red UFO Close Up

Figure 9, *Solid Red UFO From Stan's Video*, shows a magnified image of one frame from Stan's video. The red UFO first shows up in the video at 2:02;25 almost at the end. The image then stays around till 2:03;11 and apparently disappears off the right frame edge. The movement of the object is assumed to be Stan's jiggling very slightly as he holds the camera as still as he can. He managed to hold the camera very steady for the whole two minutes, actually.



Source: Stan Clausen and Keith Rowell

### **Figure 9. Solid Red UFO From Stan's Video**

*This processed, cropped still frame image from Stan's video shows a distinctly red color. The shape is essentially roundish. The pixel size is small and reveals only that the light is brighter on the inside than the outside of the shape.*

## **The Intermittently Pulsating UFO**

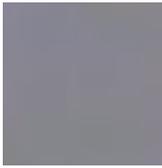
I have included *Table 2, Video Frame Captures of the Intermittently Pulsating UFO*, just to show how fast and seemingly randomly intermittent the pulsations of the UFO were and how its shape and color changes slightly within small fractions of a second. Arguably the shape and color changes (because this UFO is fairly small in pixel size) could be due to atmospheric distortions similar to star twinkling when captured on video. However, the pulsations evident in the video when played in real time look different from star twinkling, and the sequence in the table clearly shows anomalous pulsation compared to normal aircraft lights and star twinkling.

The sequence of images in *Table 2* from 13 frames of the video is about four tenths of a second long. The sequence (beginning at frame 01:43;14) was chosen to so that the sequence starts on a bright instance in its intermittent pulsations. The UFO pulsates similarly at random the entire two minutes of the video.

The screen capture images were obtained by using the Macintosh Grab (screen capture) utility on screen images of the UFO displayed by Final Cut Express with the frame magnified at the 800% setting.

**Table 2. Video Frame Captures of the Intermittently Pulsating UFO**

Frame	Image	Description
01:43;14		The intermittently pulsating UFO is clearly visible and in one of its brightest phases. Color is fairly neutral whitish here. Shape is generally roundish.
01:43;15		The pulsation is already fading in just one frame (about 1/30 of a second). The color is possibly reddish at this point; however, this could be due to normal noise fluctuations in the video because the pixel area of the UFO is small. Shape is now distinctly oval, oriented to vertical.
01:43;16		The UFO is almost gone at this point. Shape quite diffuse, but roundish.
01:43;17		Similar to the previous frame, but slightly brighter. No color change. Shape roundish.
01:43;18		UFO not evident now.
01:43;19		UFO still not evident.
01:43;20		UFO is now evident again. No color change. Shape roundish.

Frame	Image	Description
01:43;21		UFO not evident again.
01:43;22		UFO still not evident.
01:43;23		UFO is now evident again. No color change. Shape a little more vertically oval than wide here.
01:43;24		UFO not evident again.
01:43;25		UFO still not evident.
01:43;26		UFO is now evident again. No color change. Shape more roundish now.

## The Solid Red UFO

I have included *Table 3, Video Frame Captures of the Solid Red UFO*, to show that the “solid red” UFO was actually varying apparently in light output some, but not at all like the intermittently pulsating UFO did. But the red UFO’s variation was much slower and did not give Stan the impression of much variation in light output before it started zooming toward him.

Things to note are the variation in overall shape but especially the way that the reddish color shifts around in the basic shape of the UFO. I feel that the disappearance and reappearance of this UFO in the sequence of frames in *Table 3* could be due to the fact that the UFO may have been obscured by the numerous branches of trees and shrubs that are in that area of the frame (to the right side where the red

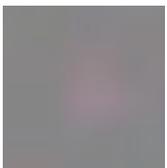
UFO appears). See *Figure 7, Full Frame Showing Two UFOs and the Street Light* and *Figure 8, Street Light Near Stan's Home*.

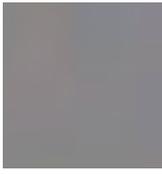
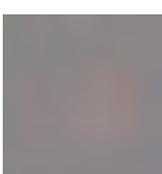
The sequence of images in *Table 3* from 20 frames of the video is about two thirds of a second long. (However, there is a gap of about four and 1/3 seconds before the red UFO reappears.) The sequence (beginning at frame 01:02:27) was chosen so that the sequence starts on a bright instance of the red UFO. The UFO varies in brightness and shape, but does not pulsate like the intermittently pulsating UFO.

The screen capture images were obtained by using the Macintosh Grab (screen capture) utility on screen images of the UFO displayed by Final Cut Express with the frame magnified at the 800% setting.

**Table 3. Video Frame Captures of the Solid Red UFO**

Frame	Image	Description
02:02;27		The solid red UFO shows bright red with a central whitish core. The shape is roundish.
02:02;28		Within one frame (about 1/30 of a second), the red mostly fades, but the whitish central core is evident more.
02:02;29		Within one frame, the red is more evident, but only on one side now.
02:03;00		Now the red shifts to the right side.
02:03;01		About the same as the previous frame.
02:03;02		About the same as the previous frame.

Frame	Image	Description
02:03;03		Now the UFO is similar to the initial frame.
02:03;04		Back to the basic shape in frame 02:03;02.
02:03;05		Fades a little here.
02:03;06		Back to initial frame roundish red shape with central whitish core.
02:03;07		Starting to seriously fade out here.
02:03;08		Same as previous frame.
02:03;09		Fading more.
02:03;10		And more.

Frame	Image	Description
02:03;11		And gone now.
—	—	The UFO is not evident again till frame 02:06;19 when it reappears.
02:06;19		The UFO returns briefly for four frames and then disappears again. A central whitish area is evident.
02:06;20		Slightly fading with shape changing.
02:06;21		Fading more with shape changing, but central whitish area still evident.
02:06;22		Almost faded out.
02:06;23		It it gone again.

## The Red UFO's Size

After I explained a little bit about the difference between absolute (or real) size and angular (or apparent) size, Stan and I went back out to his back porch so Stan could demonstrate how big the UFO was at its closest approach. Stan held out two fists pushed together against the sky when I asked how big the UFO was. He did not hold up a couple of fingers or his thumb or compare his UFO to a full moon. He held up two fists put together. This is huge for any kind of freely maneuvering object in the sky.

Only things like balloons, or chinese lanterns, or model airplanes, etc., *that you are close to the launching of*, or normal-sized aircraft *when you are very close to them at an airport*, or circumstances like these

make for freely maneuvering objects seen in the sky *of such large angular dimensions*. So, the red UFO that buzzed Stan at its closest approach was huge in the sky above him. But how huge? First we need to get a handle on how far away it was.

## The Red UFO’s Distance at Closest Approach

When I asked Stan about how far away he estimated the UFO to be at its closest approach, he said about a football field’s length away. This is 300 feet.

Now let’s suppose that Stan’s UFO was actually a known, powered aerial object, then with his two fists together showing his angular size guess (about 10°), we can get an idea whether any ordinary objects seem at all plausible.

**Table 4. Distances Away of Conventional Aerial Objects Given 10° Angular Size**

Object	Real Size (feet)	Distance (feet)
Commercial Airliner	160	907
Military Jet	50	238
Light Plane	25	141
Ultralight	12	68
RC Model Plane	5	28

Table 4, *Distances Away of Conventional Aerial Objects Given 10° Angular Size* shows, for example, that for a light plane of angular size 10° and real size of 25 feet, the light plane must be about 140 feet away. Since Stan estimated his red UFO to be about 300 feet from him, the table shows that the most likely real size of his UFO is about the size of a military jet at 50 feet long. Stan acknowledges that 300 feet is only his best guess. But he thinks the UFO was probably closer rather than farther away if his guess is inaccurate by much.

This idea of a 30 to 50 foot-sized UFO shows up quite a bit in the general UFO literature when people say that a UFO landed or appeared quite close to them. Generally, these close sightings were for much greater duration than Stan’s sighting, so the witnesses had time to compare the UFO size to known objects like trees, houses, light poles, cars, etc. Stan was certainly aware of his backyard and the trees and bushes just beyond during the red UFO’s close approach, but he says only that the UFO buzzed him and didn’t stay stationary (or very slow moving) when it executed its close approach maneuver near him. So, he didn’t have a lot of time to compare the UFO to objects near it at its closest approach.

## Conventional Aerial Objects Not Plausible

From Table 4, *Distances Away of Conventional Aerial Objects Given 10° Angular Size*, we can see that the distances of conventional aerial objects from Stan given their noisy propulsion systems would make all of these objects immediately recognizable and identifiable by the average person whether that person was especially knowledgeable or not about any particular conventional aerial object listed. Also, Stan said that he heard no loud noises typically associated with aircraft at a quite close distance. (Note, however, that a “far away” airplane can be heard in the first half of Stan’s video. But this is before the fly-by of the red UFO that is the subject here.)

It strains credulity to believe that any of these conventional objects could have been the stimulus for Stan's sighting. This consideration, of course, ignores his detailed description of what the object looked like. See *Figure 2, Stan's Drawing Showing the Underneath of the Red UFO*. The only "conventional" object he might have seen could possibly have been a "secret military aerial object" of some sort. This is always a possibility except that objects of similar description to Stan's UFO have been seen as far back as the 1950s, at least in the U.S. This diminishes greatly the plausibility of a "secret military aircraft."

## CONCLUSION

The UFO observation in this case was made by only one person. But this is offset by the fact that the witness saw the UFO at a very close distance doing odd maneuvering and in addition offered corroborating photos and a video, though they are of low quality. Processing the photos and video ended up producing additional corroborating details, one of which (the red light) was unknown to the witness before I did the processing. I am satisfied that the photos and videos were truly untouched by the witness after they were created.

Stan saw the UFO only briefly, but it was so close that it was of very large angular size for objects seen freely maneuvering in the sky. This provides for lots of opportunity to see detail in the object, which is exactly what he did as laid out earlier in this report. Because of the richness of detail in the close encounter and the supporting photos and video, the identification candidates are ruled out definitively except for the "secret military aircraft."

## Identification Candidates

The identification candidates for the fast-moving, low-level, red UFO with very rich surface detail 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. (I assume that secret military aircraft buffs could adequately "verify" this kind of report, but the documented record of reports of secret military aircraft appearing over populated areas is very scant, indeed.) The witness mentioned no sound whatsoever coming from this craft and also that she felt no wind, exhaust, hair standing up (electrical propulsion?), or other unusual effects that might be attributed to the movement of the craft. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Police surveillance UAV.** No city police or county sheriff's departments in the St. Helens and Portland metro area have any operational police surveillance UAVs, much less any that fit the description of this object. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Aircraft.** No conventional aircraft, military or civilian, would make no sound or create no other environmental disturbances at 300 feet as this craft seems to have done according to witness testimony. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Helicopter.** This candidate is no different from aircraft. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Ultralight.** Ultralights have a top speed of around 100 mph and do not look like or behave like this UFO did. Also, there was no sound. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Remote-controlled model aircraft.** RC models are usually built as replicas of conventional aircraft and do not look at all like what the witness described. Also, they are propelled by conventional, noisy piston or sometimes jet engines. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*

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