

The Milwaukie Pink, White, and Blue Orbs Cluster UFO

An Oregon MUFON Case Study

by

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Abstract

Keywords: Balloons—Balloon-like—Video—Pink—White—Blue—Cluster

Description	Witness Don Andersberg (pseudonym) video-recorded a small, pink, blue, and white orbs cluster-type UFO from his backyard in blue sky daylight. He first spotted the UFO and then began video-recording the UFO as it moved along slowly in the sky.
Witness(es)	Don Andersberg (pseudonym).
Date and Time	On July 23, 2012, at 4:20 to 4:33 PM.
Place	Milwaukie, Oregon.
Weather	Temperature 71.1° F; winds 15 mph from the NW; partly cloudy; visibility 10 miles.
Duration	Thirteen minutes and 12 seconds of video.

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INTRODUCTION

This case consists of an analysis of one video of many UFO videos made by witness Don Andersberg (pseudonym). Don has a history of seeing UFOs off and on throughout his life. In the 2000s, he decided to try his hand at capturing on video some of the UFOs he has seen. He's been quite successful.

In this case report, we have decided to highlight one of Don's more interesting videos in the sense that

- The UFO is rich in details.
- It was seen and video-recorded for over 13 minutes time.
- And it was seen being slightly obscured by some passing clouds.

The last fact means that we can calculate a reasonable size estimate for the UFO—something pretty rare for a genuine UFO.

Balloon Mimic UFOs

This case reveals yet another balloon mimic UFO floating around in the skies over a major metropolitan area—the suburb of Milwaukie in the Portland, Oregon, metro area. See the *The Medford "Monkey" Balloon UFO* case report on oregonmufon.com for more discussion of balloon mimic UFOs.

Much of the time, the case for the reality of balloon mimic UFOs does not rise to the level of beyond a reasonable doubt, but here I think that maybe it does. You will see in the *ANALYSIS* section that the interpretation of the UFO evidence as an IFO is looking pretty weak for this case. A bunch of party or mylar balloons just doesn't really look or, especially, behave like the UFO in Don's video.

Don and I know from his many hours of video that he is video-recording the genuine UFO phenomenon, but I will try to make it plausible here from the evidence in just one of his better videos to date that this Unidentified Flying Object is simply *not* the closest natural or human-made object/phenomenon—a cluster of balloons—that it could be. In other words, this UFO is a genuine UFO, that is, an intelligently behaving, guided, and created aerial object and not at all some natural or human-made IFO.

Thank You, Don Andersberg

I thank UFO witness and video-recorder, Don Andersberg, for his full cooperation in this investigation of this and his many other UFO videos. He has continually made all of his videos (and photos) freely available to me for analysis. I have been to his house (and he has been to mine) many times and I consider him a good friend.

Don says his motive for spending hours looking for and occasionally video-recording truly anomalous UFO occurrences is to create concrete evidence about the phenomenon. I believe him. He has done nothing to dissuade me in what he has said or done. He is simply curious about "what the heck they are" as so many people around the world are. Unlike the vast majority, however, he puts in the time (hours and hours a month) scanning the skies and zeroing in on the occasional UFO.

Thanks, Don, for your patience and diligence so that the rest of us can get a little closer to understanding this elusive phenomenon.

SIGHTING DESCRIPTION

On July 23, 2012, in the backyard of Don Andersberg's Milwaukie, Oregon, home at 4:20 to 4:33 PM, Don started video-recording yet another UFO high up in the sky. This one appeared to him first above a cedar tree in his backyard to the northeast. His house and backyard are oriented to the compass directions with the fences in his backyard running parallel to the cardinal directions. He has low trees and shrubs in the backyard, which obscure the horizon but allow him to have an approximately 120° angle look at the sky if he is in the middle of his yard. His house is to the west.

Diligent UFO Skywatcher

Don will spend a couple of hours at a time skywatching. He is rewarded with something truly interesting on average about once a week, and something very, very good once a month or so. (Don is not systematic enough to keep accurate records. These are just our guesses based on the videos Don has turned over to me.)

Don usually skywatches looking toward the north and east in his reclining outdoor chair. See *Figure 1, Don's Backyard Tree with UFO Illustration*. He has his sunglasses on half the time probably. He sits and waits, scanning the sky periodically, till some action happens. Usually, this is normal animal or aircraft activity. He has seen and photographed many crows, hawks, squirrels, airplanes, balloons, white cottony fibers (drifting cottonwood seeds), etc. When I started working with Don to separate the UFOs from other small things in the sky, I encouraged him to photograph and video-record just about anything whether he could immediately identify it or not. He has helped out a lot in this regard and I thank him for it.

Spotting Something Suspicious

Don sees UFOs first as something small and usually bright and contrasting with the blue sky. Sometimes his sunglasses help with this. Don has fairly keen eyes and he will see things sooner than me (whatever it is) when we are skywatching together. As soon as he sees something he identifies as unusual, he starts video-recording it as soon as possible and continues the recording as long as he can keep it in sight. Most of Don's UFOs are balloon mimic type UFOs.

While he records the UFOs, he talks about what he can observe of them in his handheld camera's viewfinder or screen. The UFOs are so tiny that seeing details to describe is a real challenge. I also ask him to narrate his recordings with anything else that might help me get my bearings for later analysis.

The UFOs can appear anywhere but they are usually not more than 30° off the zenith (or 60° off the horizon) off to the north, northeast, or east. They can travel in most any direction once they are spotted. Later in the evening or the next day, Don usually views the recordings on his Mac looking at the details of the UFO (or balloon or probable insect or other odd things that flying around in the sky!).



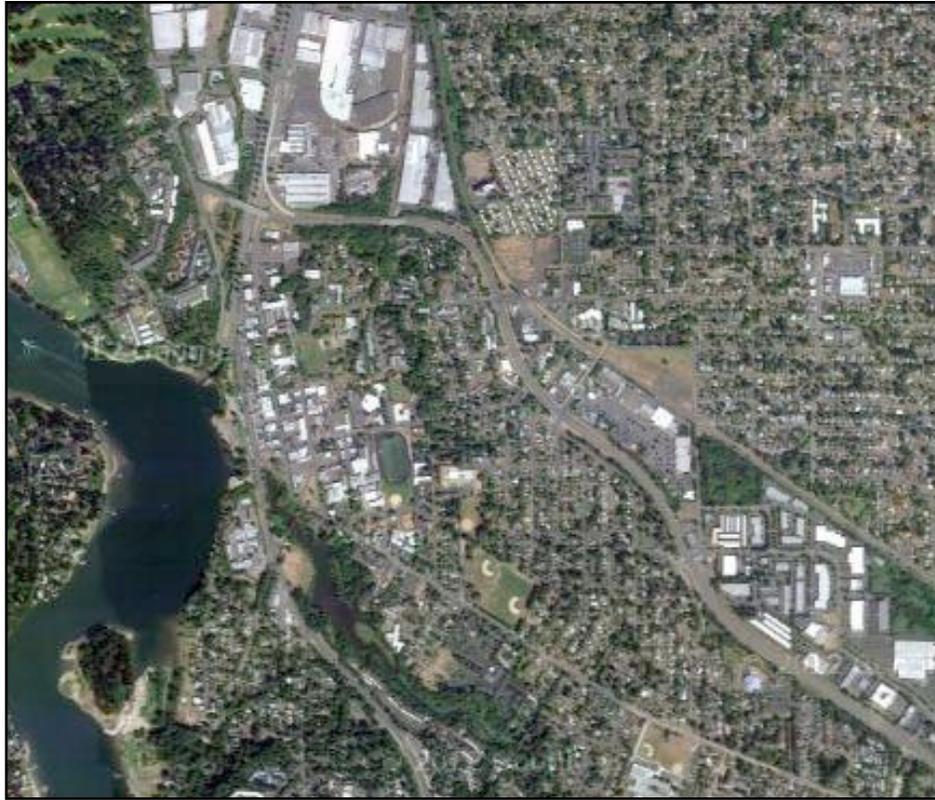
Source: Don Andersberg and Keith Rowell

Figure 1. Don's Backyard Tree with UFO Illustration

Video still from Don's backyard where he spotted the UFO. The UFO position is where he first spotted the UFO off to the northeast. Please note: the UFO in the video appears far smaller than the proportions in the illustration indicates. Don has keen eyes—better than your investigator! It takes a good pair of binoculars to see or a good, long telephoto to photograph or video-record most of the UFOs Don sees. They truly are tiny in the sky!

ENVIRONMENT

The environment for this sighting is Milwaukie, Oregon. See *Figure 2, Milwaukie, Oregon, and Environs*.



Source: Google Maps

Figure 2. Milwaukie, Oregon, and Environs

Don lives in about the middle of this aerial view of Milwaukie, Oregon, near the oval track in the center. A bend of the Willamette River is to the left, a light industry is to the north, and a shopping center and more light industry is to the southeast. None of these factors have anything to do with the genuine UFOs that Don sees and video-records on an almost routine basis. However, the Portland, Oregon, metropolitan area that Milwaukie is in does have to do with the small number of balloons that Don also video-records and that we must distinguish from his genuine UFOs.

Weather

See the details in *Table 1, Weather on Sighting Day*, for the weather on the day of the UFO sighting and video-recording.

Table 1. Weather on Sighting Day

Event Date	Event Time	Temp (F)	Visibility (miles)	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (mph)	Conditions
7/23/12	4:20 PM	71.1°	10	NW	15	Partly cloudy

EVIDENCE

The evidence in this case consists of the following:

- Don Andersberg's testimony.
- His 13 minutes and 12 second video (DSCN3586.MOV).

The Witness

Don Andersberg is a quiet and unassuming man in his early fifties who currently works for a custodial services company. A few years ago (2009), Don found his way to one of our public Oregon MUFON meetings. After the meeting, he approached me and said that he had been photographing and video-recording what he thought were UFOs from his backyard in a suburb of Portland, Oregon. He explained that in the past year he had gotten the idea about trying to capture UFOs with his (consumer grade) camera and video equipment. He added that he had seen a few things he thought were probably UFOs earlier in his life. He gave me some short video clips and some photos shot over a couple of months.

When I looked at them later at home, I saw pretty quickly that Don was yet another person who was capturing UFOs on a regular basis. By that time, I knew definitely that some people were seeing UFOs on a more or less continuing, but non-periodic, basis. You never knew when the darned things were going to show up. But show us they did—off and on—seemingly on their own, mysterious schedule. I myself by that time had also seen, photographed, and videotaped a few of the same kinds of oddball, usually glowing orb-type UFOs that were most closely similar to party balloons, or clusters of party balloons. (See the *Appaloosa Way UFO* and the *Lake Grove Spherical UFOs* case studies on oregonmufon.com.)

Don Not Hoaxing

Since that time a couple of years ago now, I have come to know Don better and better since he's been to my house a number of times and I've been to his a number of times. We even drove out together to visit James Gilliland's ECETI ranch for some UFO viewing in September 2011. (The five of us in our little Oregon MUFON group didn't end up seeing anything anomalous.) I feel I know Don very well now and far better than I do the average UFO witness that we MUFON investigators deal with on a regular basis. So, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Don is not hoaxing anything.

The photos and videos that he has taken and shares with me for MUFON analysis are offered freely and without restrictions of any kind. He simply wants the fact of UFO reality to be shared with as many people as possible.

Don knows the basics about cameras at a level above the average user, I would say. His knowledge of computers is more at a basic level, however. He likes learning about computers but freely admits that he has a lot to learn. He learns just enough to examine his videos and photos up close and magnified, but,

even though he purchased Final Cut Express at my suggestion, he finds it too difficult to learn. (I know what he means—the learning curve is steep and I still have a long way to go myself.)

All these facts are something you need to know to be able to properly evaluate the evidence in this case study. Don has not hoaxed or altered in any way any of the evidence he has given me to evaluate. And for that matter, I am not hoaxing anything in this case, and, in general, I do the very minimum with the photographic and video evidence that UFO witnesses lend me to illustrate the points I am trying to make in my case studies.

There is no wiggle room here. None of these images is made up. You'll just have to deal with the consequences as best you can.

The UFO Video

The video file (DSCN3586) for this case study was copied to my computer as an MOV file with the following properties:

- Frame size: 1920 x 1080 pixels.
- Video rate: 29.97 fps.
- Duration: 00:13:12.
- Format: AVC Coding, 1,920 x 1,080 HD; AAC, 48000 Hz, Stereo (L R)

Video Description

Figure 3, Full Frame of UFO, shows what the UFO looked like to Don as he was video-recording the UFO as it “drifted” along in the sky. The UFO in pixels measures around 18 vertical by 18 horizontal. This ends up being what many balloon mimic UFOs measure in many of Don’s videos, though sometimes they can be a bit larger, especially as Don has upgraded over the years to longer and longer reach zoom lenses on the consumer-grade cameras he can afford.



Source: Don Andersberg

Figure 3. Full Frame of UFO

This is a full frame still from frame 00:35:00 of video DSCN3586. The UFO, of course, is the white “dot” in the middle of the clear blue sky field. The focal length equivalent is a 1000 mm lens on a 35 mm film camera. The telescopic power magnification is around 20 power. Most binoculars have 6 to 10 power.

Five Second Snap Shots

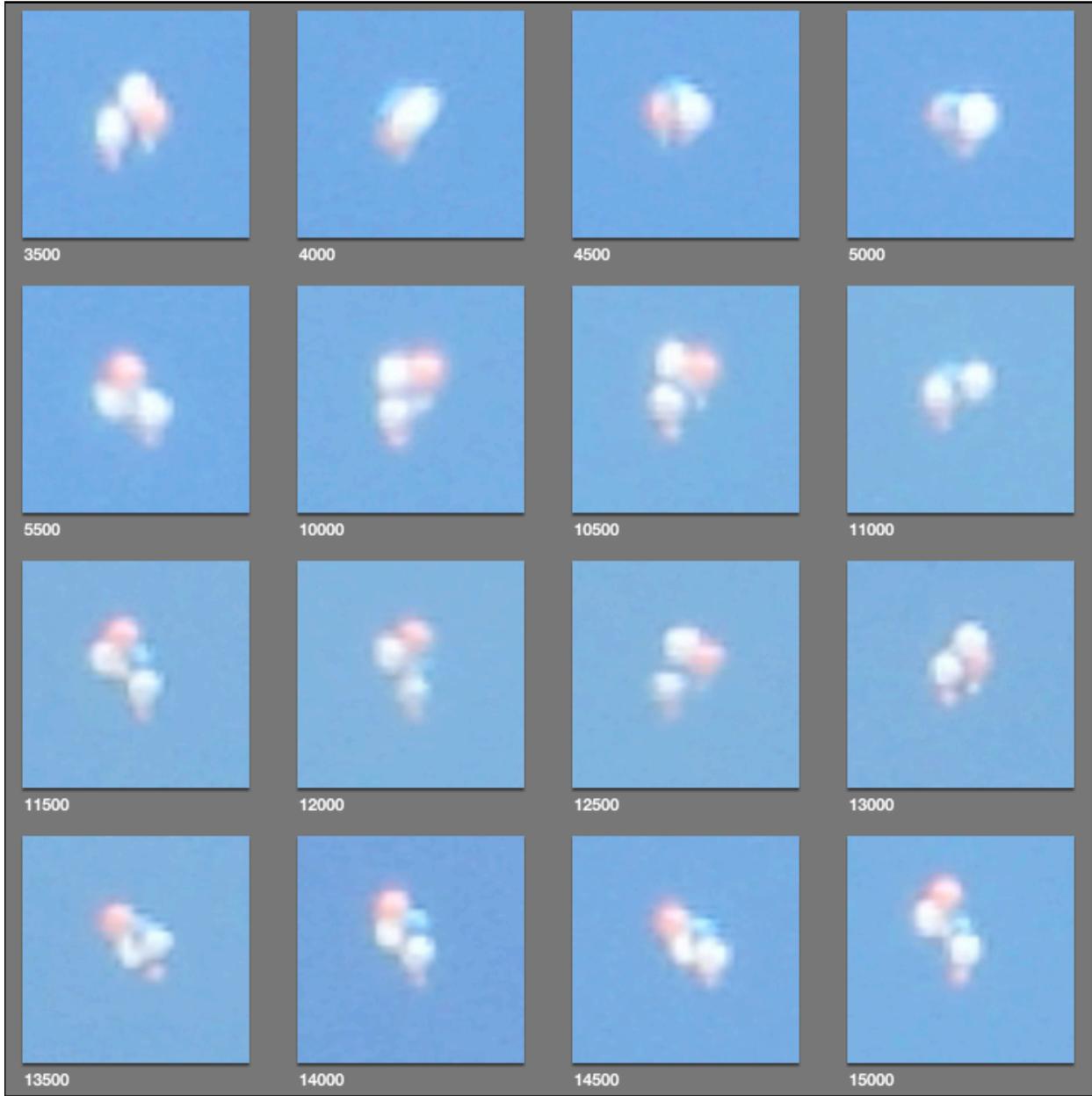
Frames five seconds apart were captured from the approximate first half of the video. These make up *Figure 4, Magnified UFO Images #1* through *Figure 8, Magnified UFO Images #5*. Frame 00:35:00 near the beginning was selected and thereafter frames five seconds apart until frame 6:50:00 were captured as stills. This sequence of frames gives plenty of evidence to examine. The (unshown) remainder of the video shows more of the same shapes, colors, and behavior in the UFO.

The decision to start the sequence at 35 seconds into the video was made because this is approximately where Don attained full optical zoom extent. He remained at this full zoom extent for the remainder of the video. Thus, the image sizes in the figures can be compared with each other to see inherent size and shape changes. The full optical zoom extent on Don's Nikon Coolpix P510 is the equivalent of a 1000 mm lens on an old 35 mm film camera. This is the equivalent of a 20 power telescope.

The images of the UFO in *Figure 4* through *Figure 8* were captured as screen images using Apple's Final Cut Pro to play the video clip. The video was played at the maximum clip magnification of 300%. A Mac screen capture utility (Precise Screenshot) was used to capture the 150 pixel square images.

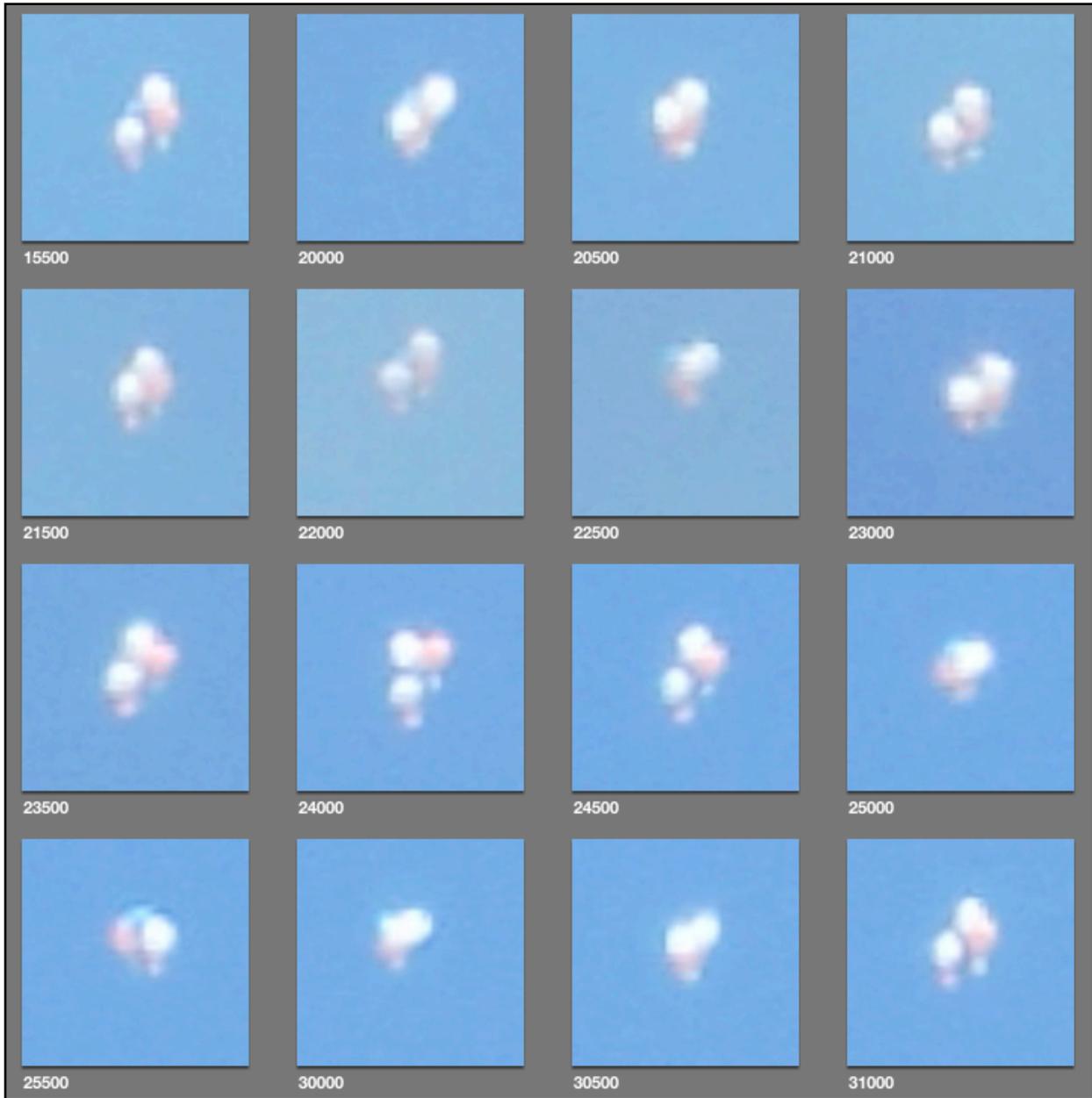
The entire sequence from *Figure 4* to *Figure 8* lasts six minutes and 20 seconds duration. The rest of the video not shown here lasts another seven minutes. The images are arranged so that they increase in time from left to right, row by row, and they give a sense of how the UFO changed as the video proceeded. The UFO image gets smaller as the video proceeds indicating that the UFO is slowly traveling farther away from Don. He lost the UFO when it went behind some trees in his yard to the SE.

Note that images 21000 through 22500 show a lessening of the blue sky color saturation around the UFO image. This is due to the UFO passing through the lower level of a cloud. Image 23000 then shows an abrupt return to the more saturated blue sky color indicating that the UFO has moved out of the obscuring cloud layer. This turns out to be significant for knowing an altitude for the UFO and being able to calculate a probable absolute size for the UFO. See *ANALYSIS* later for a discussion.



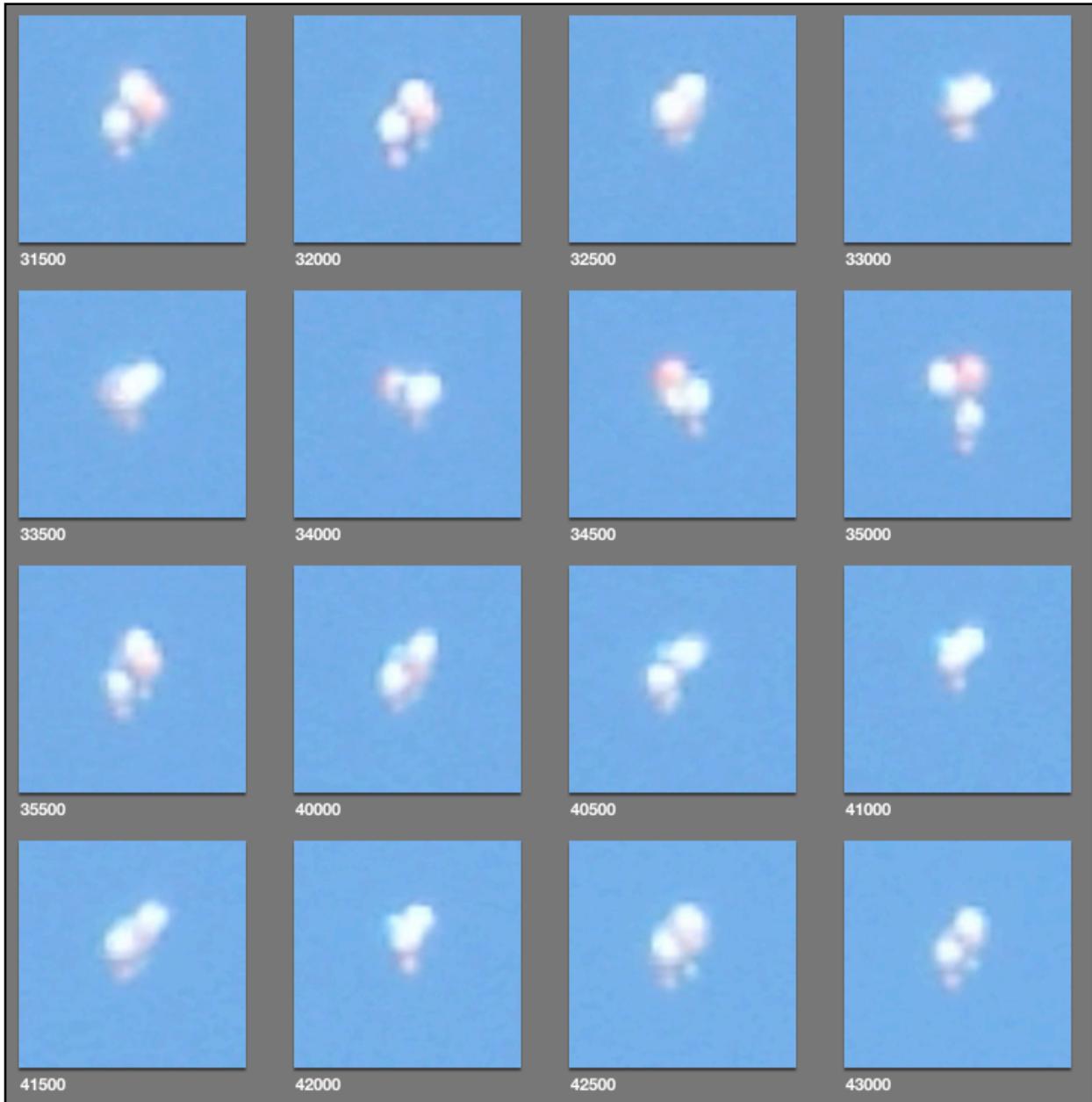
Source: Don Andersberg and Keith Rowell

Figure 4. Magnified UFO Images #1



Source: Don Andersberg and Keith Rowell

Figure 5. Magnified UFO Images #2



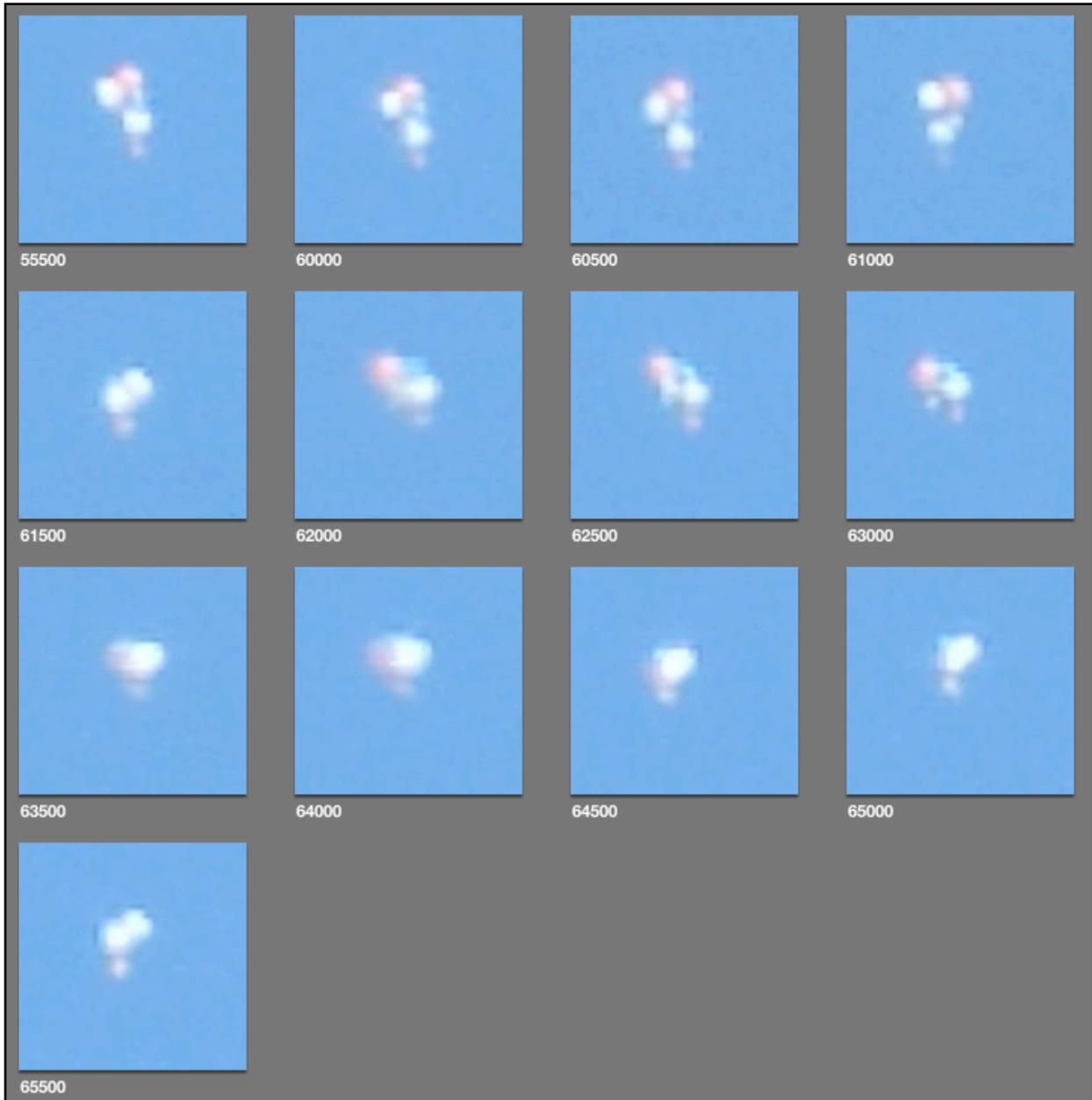
Source: Don Andersberg and Keith Rowell

Figure 6. Magnified UFO Images #3



Source: Don Andersberg and Keith Rowell

Figure 7. Magnified UFO Images #4



Source: Don Andersberg and Keith Rowell

Figure 8. Magnified UFO Images #5

Red and Yellow Party Balloons Example

We picked out a representative example of what an identified party balloon cluster looks like. Don video-recorded these two balloons—one yellow latex balloon and one red latex balloon tied together with standard ribbon—on June 23, 2011 at 12:54 PM. The main significant difference for comparison purposes between this image and the balloon mimic UFOs is the much higher resolution of this identified balloons image. The balloon image in *Figure 9, A Red and Yellow Party Balloon Cluster*, is about five times the horizontal resolution of the UFO images in this case study. Balloon mimic UFOs in our photographic and video evidence are rarely more than around 40 pixels across in still photos and 20 pixels across in the lower resolution of HD video. These identified balloons in *Figure 9* are about 40 pixels across.

Some might argue that the lower pixel resolution is why we can't see details well enough to identify our balloon mimic UFOs as the party balloons they really are. Possibly, but to draw this conclusion, you would have to ignore *all the rest of the relevant evidence*, which rests on more than what the balloon mimic UFOs look like. A full accounting of all the evidence must include behavior and not just appearance. When all the evidence is in and evaluated properly, we believe that balloon mimic UFO is the correct "identification" and not human-made party balloon cluster. Proceed to the *ANALYSIS* section to see why.



Source: Don Andersberg

Figure 9. A Red and Yellow Party Balloon Cluster

These red and yellow party balloons from one of Don's videos are clearly identifiable for what they are. They are standard latex solid red and yellow party balloons that are loosely tied together by light colored ribbon string (not visible here though detectible in some of the frames). Note the light colored sun highlighting at the top and darker colored shadows at the bottom. Also there is a gradual change in tonality from the bottom to the top. Additionally, there is a hint of the balloon nozzles where the helium is blown in and the balloons are tied off. The not quite spherical shape is also evident.

ANALYSIS

This case is interesting because we can calculate a reasonable estimate for the actual size of the mostly pink and white orbs UFO cluster. Knowing actual sizes and distances for UFOs is always a difficult thing to know apparently. But here we are lucky. The UFO passed through the lower portion of a drifting cloud, so we used weather data to figure the probable altitude and then were able to calculate the probable real size of the UFO, too.

The topics addressed in this analysis are

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

UFO Shape

UFO shape in this case is what we have come to call a typical balloon mimic shape. See *Figure 10, Shape Variation*. A first impression of the UFO shape prompts an identification as a cluster of balloons and probably a cluster of party balloons due to the color. The UFO cluster does indeed show at different times a number of white, pink, or blue orbs. This leads to the idea of a cluster of party balloons. Closer analysis makes this quick identification less secure, however.

Looking closer, we observe that over a six minute span of time (shown in *Figures 4 through 8*) the UFO shows the following characteristics:

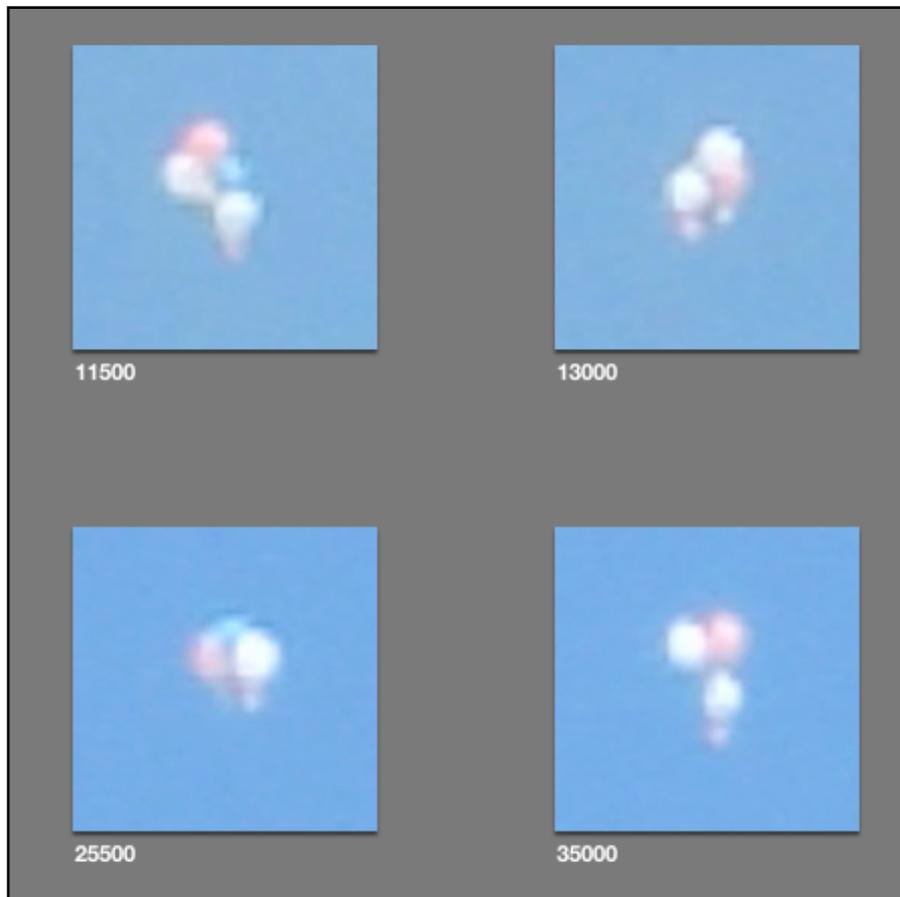
- The orbs count is from three to five commonly, with possibly a two and a six count.
- The orbs cluster shape changes from vertically elongated to quite compact.
- The orbs cluster constantly changes shape.

The UFO shape generally is too variable to be a simple party balloon cluster.

Transforming Orbs

Even from the still images in this report, we can get a feeling for the idea that the orbs as shown through their color changes are not behaving like loosely (or, certainly, tightly) connected party balloons. Close examination of the video in slow motion reveals quite clearly that the party balloon identification of this UFO is untenable. The orbs are constantly transforming as they grow and shrink and move around in the basic cluster. (This is consistent with other balloon mimic UFOs. See the *Appaloosa Way UFO* on oregonmufon.com, for example.)

A loosely tied party balloon cluster can, indeed, move around a lot, but we do not get the sense of any growing or shrinking of the balloons themselves, of course. This is quite different behavior from this balloon mimic UFO and some others we have documented.



Source: Don Andersberg and Keith Rowell

Figure 10. Shape Variations

A selection from Figures 4 through 8 shows the shape variation in the UFO as it moved along in the sky. Note compact and loose arrangements and a little variation in the number of orbs.

UFO Color

The colors in this UFO are pastels of blue and pink plus white in the orb shapes that make up the UFO. The orbs seem to be in two basic sizes: large and quite small. Sometimes the colors shift around to these much smaller orbs that only appear in some of the images in *Figures 4 through 8*. The three colors in the UFO have these characteristics:

- White is the most prominent and frequent color and appears in all of the various shapes, sometimes being only one orb, but many times being two orbs. White is present in all 77 images of *Figures 4 through 8*.
- Pink is the next most prominent and frequent color and appears in all of the various shapes, though in some it is greatly reduced and almost absent.
- Blue is the least prominent and frequent. Blue seems to be absent from around 30 of the 77 images in *Figures 4 through 8*, though it is a judgment call in a lot of the images.

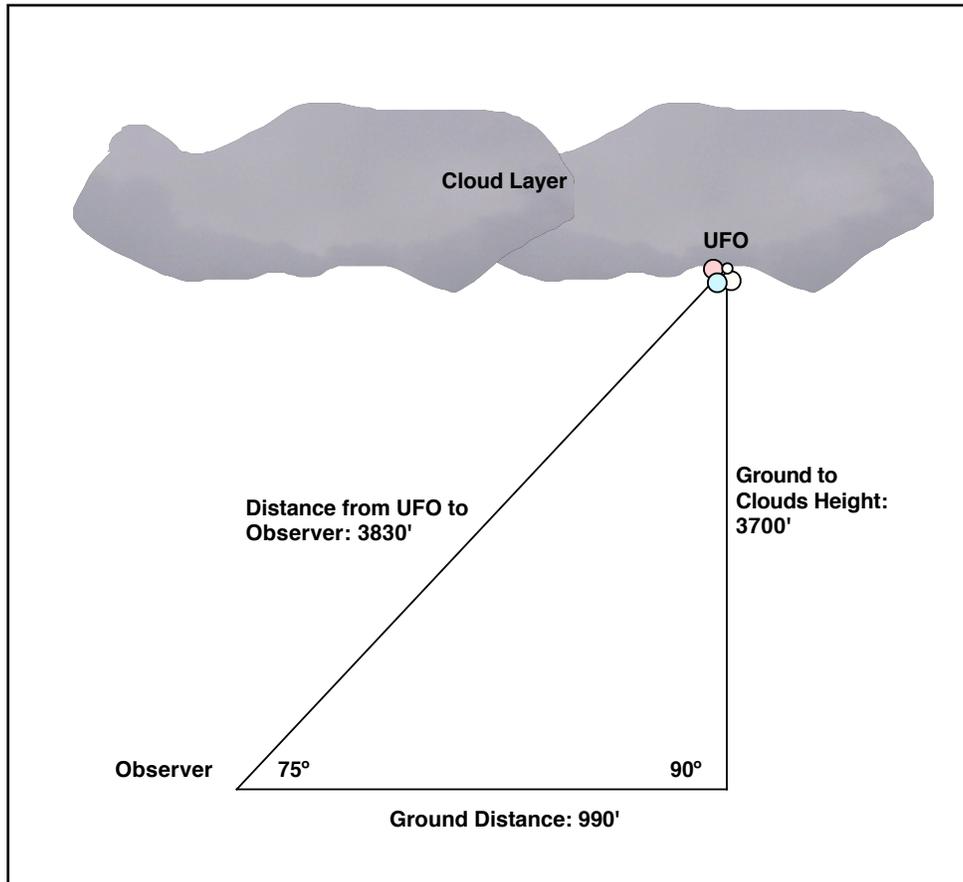
UFO Distance

We were lucky with this UFO. It appeared briefly near a known object: a cloud. During the approximately 13 minutes that Don recorded of the UFO, it spent about 20 to 30 seconds passing through the bottom of

a drifting cloud. We used METARS weather data to determine a cloud base height of 3700 feet for the cloud. (There were no other cloud layers at this time.)

A UFO Distance Is Determined

Using this 3700 feet cloud base height and the approximate angle above the horizon that Don sighted the UFO at, we can use a little trigonometry to calculate an approximate distance that Don was from the UFO. It turned out to be about 3830 feet from him. See *Figure 11, Distance to UFO*.



Source: Keith Rowell

Figure 11. Distance to UFO.

Don estimated that he was looking up at the UFO at an angle of about 75° above the horizon. We took that estimate and the cloud layer bottom from weather data of 3700 feet and calculated the distance Don was from the UFO. It was about 3800 feet away from him.

UFO Size

Obtaining a real (absolute) size for UFOs is generally difficult because there is so little measurable data available in the typical UFO sighting. Here we got lucky. The UFO passed in front of (and very close to) a passing cloud. And METARS weather data enabled us to know the cloud base height of 3700 feet as shown in *Figure 11, Distance to UFO*.

To calculate a probable size for the UFO, we need a few other measurements which it turns out we can obtain. We need the focal length of the lens that the UFO was video-recorded through and we need to know the pixel size of the UFO and dimensions of the video frame.

I have encouraged Don to narrate on the video when he has reached the maximum zoomed in extent during video-recording of his UFOs. He does this consistently now. The camera specifications of his Nikon Coolpix P510 state that the maximum zoomed in extent of the optical range is the equivalent of a 1000 mm focal length lens in the old 35 mm film cameras.

We also know from the HD 1080p video standard that the horizontal distance of a frame of video in pixels is 1920.

So to calculate an approximate real size for the UFO in Don's video evidence, we have the following:

- Distance to the UFO is 3830 feet.
- Focal length of the zoom lens zoomed all the way in is 1000 mm.
- The angle of view of a 1000 mm lens for 35 mm film is about 2° .
- The horizontal distance of the HD 1080p frame is 1920 pixels.

Counting the number of pixels horizontal and vertical of an "average" UFO (we chose the UFO in frame 00:42:08), we have 18 H by 18 V pixels for a size of the UFO image. Using a ratio and proportion equation and solving for the angular size of the UFO, we end up with 0.019° . See *Figure 12, "Typical" UFO Shape*.

Size Too Small for Cluster of Party Balloons?

Finally, using a distance to the UFO of 3830 feet and the angular size of the UFO at 0.019° and solving the right triangle, we arrive at a size for the UFO of about 1.27 feet. Thus, the *entire* UFO from the left side pink orb to the right side white orb is 1.27 feet across.

Since individual party balloons are usually blown up to around 10 inches across, this makes one more characteristic of this UFO implausible as a cluster of party balloons. But, admittedly, the size difference is not large. Perhaps at most the size difference is two times.



Source: Don Andersberg

Figure 12. "Typical" UFO Shape

*We decided to pick a compact, "balloon" cluster type shape to measure the pixels across and up and down for this size calculation simply for ease of measurement even though the UFO varies quite a bit in shape during the course of the video evidence. The calculated size of 1.27 feet across for the **entire** UFO cluster of*

orbs (not just the pink orb or just the white orb) we judge to be a bit too small for a typical party balloon cluster.

UFO Speed

To get an idea of the actual speed the UFO moved along in the sky with respect to the ground, we use these estimates:

- First sighted approximately to the northeast at 75° above the horizon.
- Last sighted approximately to the southeast at 30° above the horizon.

With this information and the fact that the UFO was seen to pass just under the only cloud layer in the sky at the time (see *UFO Distance* above) and that the cloud layer was at a height of 3700 feet, we can calculate that the UFO was at a distance along the ground from Don of 990 feet to the NE at the start of the sighting and 6409 feet to the SE at the end of the sighting. Using these two calculations and the fact that NE and SE are 90° apart, we can solve for the hypotenuse of a right triangle and get a distance of 6485 feet. This is the distance the UFO traveled in a NE to SE direction above the ground assuming that the UFO stayed more or less at its 3700 feet altitude above the ground for the whole time.

Speed Too Slow

Speed is distance traveled divided by time. The length of time for the video is 13 minutes and 12 seconds, which is 792 seconds. So, the speed the UFO traveled at during that time is 6485 feet divided by 792 seconds or 8.2 feet per second, which converts to 5.6 mph.

Winds aloft are generally higher than winds measured at the ground. At this time in Milwaukie, Oregon, the winds were 15 mph from the NW 30 meters above the ground. So they were in the right direction, but likely the wrong speed for the UFO to actually be a cluster of party balloons.

Judging from a couple of videos taken right after the UFO video—Don took these specifically to supply me with further information such as basic compass directions, what the moon looked like, etc.,—the clouds that the UFO passed underneath were traveling at a much higher rate of speed than the UFO. In fact, in the UFO video, we see the clouds moving quickly past the UFO from left to right indicating that the UFO is *not* traveling with the clouds. Additionally, since the UFO is partly obscured by the clouds, we know that the UFO was very close beneath the clouds and, therefore, should certainly have been traveling essentially right along with the clouds. *But the UFO was not traveling with the clouds, so it was not a cluster of party balloons.*

Lazy(?) UFOs

The idea that the UFO is traveling too slow for what prevailing winds are likely to be at the altitude we know that it was at arises again and again as we observe, document, and analyze the balloon mimic UFOs. And, here again, this seems to be true in this case. See *oregonmufon.com* for further cases documenting this “lazy” balloon mimic UFO behavior.

CONCLUSION

The UFO observation in this case was made by one person, Don Andersberg, in his backyard. He used his Nikon Coolpix P510 to capture about 13 minutes of video of a UFO that he first spotted with his unaided eyes (except for polarized sunglasses that he wears sometimes). The UFO “drifted” along in the sky with Don continuously video-recording the UFO till it disappeared behind the trees around his yard.

Identification Candidates

The candidates for identification for this UFO are the following:

- **Secret U.S. military or foreign power aircraft.** This explanation, of course, can never be completely ruled out by anyone except for the very few within the bowels of our deep black military and corporate contractor world who would also have access to all the on-going projects. This list of people is exceedingly small (perhaps only 100?!) because of the “need to know” and compartmentation of military secrets. However, verified reports of this kind of object over populated areas in the U.S. are far fewer than “standard” UFOs. It strains credulity that human-designed, “conventional” secret aircraft would be tested at only a few thousand feet or so altitude inside a small metropolitan area. (We 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—which are always only at very high altitudes!—is very scant, indeed.) The object video-recorded in this case is probably around 1 to 2 feet in diameter and looks like no military object of terrestrial operation that we know of. Also, Don reported no sound coming from the object. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Police surveillance UAV.** No city police or county sheriff’s departments in the Portland metro area have any operational police surveillance UAVs, much less any that fit the description of this UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Aircraft.** No conventional aircraft, military or civilian, looks like this UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Helicopter.** No helicopter, military or civilian, looks like this UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Blimp.** No blimp, military or civilian, looks like this UFO. Also, we think the UFO is at most a couple of feet in size. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Ultralight.** No ultralight looks like this UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Remote-controlled model aircraft.** No RC model aircraft looks like this UFO. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Kite.** This UFO does not resemble a kite. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Ball Lightning.** This UFO does not much resemble or behave like ball lightning. This well-known phenomenon based on anecdotal accounts is generally spherical and fuzzy in shape and originates usually in association with lightning storms. It moves around erratically and lasts from one second to perhaps at most a minute or so. *Thus, this identification candidate is rejected.*
- **Balloon.** This is the most viable ID candidate of them all. Here are the pros and cons.

On the evidential side for this candidate are the following:

- The UFO looks somewhat like a cluster of party balloons.
- The UFO generally moved along in the sky like a bunch of party balloons.
- The coloring of the orbs of this UFO is consistent with party balloons, although party balloons are generally more colorful.
- The UFO traveled in the correct direction for the prevailing winds at the time.

On the evidential side for genuine, balloon mimic UFO are the following:

- There is no evidence or even hint of typical party balloon strings or cords in this UFO.

- The calculated size of this UFO is on the small side for a cluster of party balloons.
- The movement and spacing of the various orbs making up this UFO is too variable to be a cluster of party balloons.
- The video, especially when viewed in slow motion, shows behavior consistent with an odd transformation and movement implausibly similar to an ordinary cluster of certainly tightly or even loosely tied party balloons.
- The orbs in the UFO show as some big ones but also as some odd very small ones. This would be quite unusual for a cluster of party balloons, which are normally all the same size more or less.
- We showed the UFO images in *Figures 4 through 8* to a person who has created numerous party balloon clusters in her job as a wedding and party coordinator, and she said that the variation in size, shape, and even color was *inconsistent* with an escaped or even pranked cluster of balloons.
- The calculated speed of the UFO (5.6 mph) is too slow for the likely speed of the winds at its 3700 foot altitude.
- The video clearly shows the UFO at the height of the clouds yet it also clearly shows the clouds moving at a different speed from the UFO.
- Other balloon mimic UFOs very similar to this case have been documented in Oregon in the 2000s. (See oregonmufon.com.)

So, since the preponderance of the evidence favors something truly anomalous, we suggest that this UFO is yet another instance of a balloon mimic UFO.

Since the identification candidates fail for the reasons stated, this UFO observation is classified as a true UFO, a MUFON Unknown Other. However, it is admitted that the overall evidence in this case only rises to the level of clear and convincing evidence and the case could be stronger.

