

Probe of mysterious V shape w

By William LaRue
Journal staff

UFO investigators have not given up their study of a V-shaped object spotted over the Hudson Valley, despite claims it's just an aircraft formation.

In fact, their investigation is growing — spurred by hundreds of recent sightings.

"We are getting reports from reliable, credible people who say it's not planes," said Peter Gersten, a Westchester County lawyer and founder of the Committee Against UFO Secrecy (CAUSE).

He paused, adding slowly:

"It could be explained as extraterrestrial. We had someone try to photograph (the object). But it has avoided being filmed."

The unidentified flying object has been reported in Dutchess, Ulster, Putnam and Westchester counties. Gersten said the latest sightings were Monday night.

He said he has received more than 100 reports of a huge, boomerang-shaped object that hovers at treetop level with a slight buzz. Some witnesses said the object had up to 20

lights that simultaneously turn from white to red.

"One man in Carmel said he thought it was something out of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind,'" Gersten said, referring to the movie about UFOs.

The lawyer recently placed classified advertisements in a local shopper, seeking information from those who spotted the UFO.

Gersten is also planning a rally at the end of July to gather those who have spotted the object. No time or place has been set.

Almost since the first UFO reports surfaced in March 1983, state police and other authorities have said they are several single-engine planes flying in formation out of Stormville Airport in East Fishkill.

In February, a Dutchess County pilot who says he flies in formation at night, told the Poughkeepsie Journal that most of the UFO accounts could describe the sight of formation fliers.

The pilot, who asked not to be identified, said he and others test their skills by flying in a V shape with a rotating beacon and navigation lights. He said the formation might appear motionless from the ground

because it is so wide and can be seen from long distances.

"I do think people are ignorant about flying," the pilot said, "and allow imagination to make up for a lot of things."

Gersten acknowledged that reports of planes flying in formation account for some of the UFO sightings.

"We've had three to five calls from Dutchess from people who said it was definitely planes," Gersten said. "We know some pilots have intentionally or unintentionally been flying at night and confusing things."

But he said planes cannot account for reports of a huge solid object that hovered with barely a sound at treetop level.

Gersten said he has not been successful in tracking down the formation fliers to determine if they have flown at the time of UFO sightings.

"I plan to put a private investiga-

tor on them seriously,"

J. Allen H. J. Allen H. try's leading Gersten is efforts thro successful - ernment to UFOs.

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Like Gers mation flier UFO sighti ley.

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(PUBLIC DOMAIN) - 28 June 1984 — Residents of the Hudson Valley area of New York say they see a boomerang shaped UAP that traveled at treetop level with a slight buzz.

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