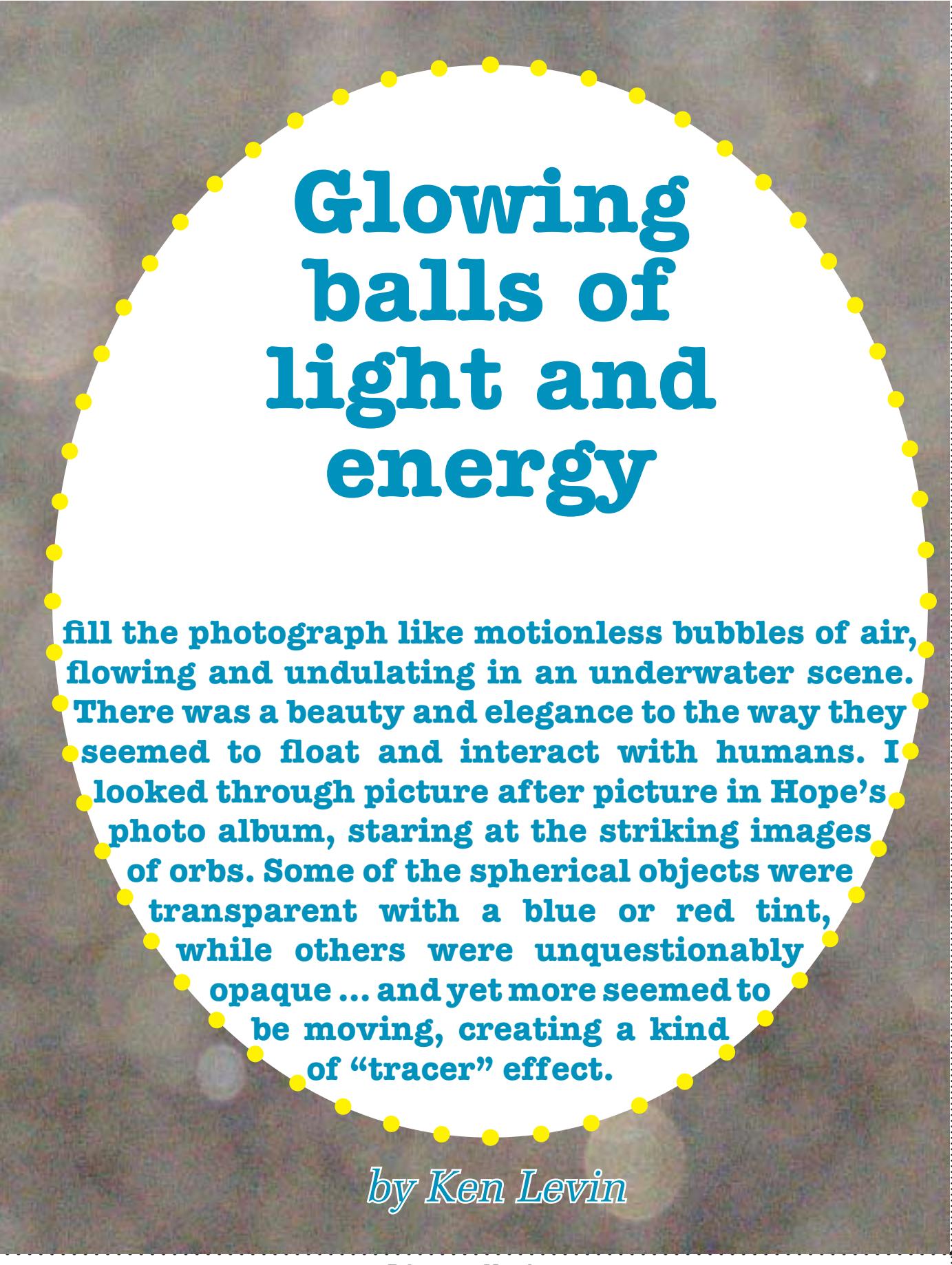


Orbs Come Out to Play



All photos courtesy Hope and Randy Mead, James Gilliland, Ken Levin, and Spar Gierdeman



Glowing balls of light and energy

fill the photograph like motionless bubbles of air, flowing and undulating in an underwater scene. There was a beauty and elegance to the way they seemed to float and interact with humans. I looked through picture after picture in Hope's photo album, staring at the striking images of orbs. Some of the spherical objects were transparent with a blue or red tint, while others were unquestionably opaque ... and yet more seemed to be moving, creating a kind of "tracer" effect.

by Ken Levin

All photos courtesy Hope and Randy Mead, James Gilliland, Ken Levin, and Star Gisterman.



Photo courtesy Hope and Randy Meadd.

This photograph was taken just seconds before the large photo on page 32. Notice that the people in the circle have not moved and that the orbs are just beginning to appear.

Like many people, I had taken thousands and thousands of photographs during my lifetime. I even have a degree in photography and had experimented extensively with producing images in minimal light conditions. But this was amazing! Some of the images seemed to defy any sense of logic and were devoid of scientific reasoning.

Just what are these *orbs*? What is this wonder that has only begun to be recorded photographically within the past few years, ostensibly since the dawn of digital photography beginning in the mid-1990s? Though they seem to be recorded best on digital cameras, tremendous success has been achieved using 35mm film cameras, as well. Additionally, they are usually documented more readily at night and generally with a flash.

I experienced photographing orbs for the first time while visiting James Gilliland's Sattva Sanctuary in Washington State. It was there I met Hope and Randy Mead, orb researchers and producers of the only video documentary to date on the subject, "Orbs: The Veil Is Lifting" (www.toolsfortranscendence.com).

Together, we went on an "orb hunt," and since I was spending a week at the Sanctuary and experiencing a variety of consciousness-expanding events, among them numerous UFO sightings, I realized that in order to let the orbs be part of my reality and to truly experience them, I had to be consciously willing to accept them as a possibility. Believers feel that while orbs are a "spiritual energy," the camera—a scientific and technological device—can act as a conduit allowing humans to see beyond this dimension.

The majority of orb photographers are very successful in capturing beautiful photos. They believe they are experiencing something interdimensional, that the "veil between dimensions" is lifting, making it possible to view this other world that is showing through the veil. Is it possible to believe in the existence of orbs as spiritual or inter-dimensional manifestations and still approach the issue scientifically with an open mind?

The Scientific Side

While the photographic evidence proves on some level that there are anomalies appearing in the images, scientific methodology must be applied in order to attempt some kind of explanation as to why orbs occur. The questions which arise when considering all the possibilities that could account for the appearance of orbs. Those possibilities are numerous and complex, but as is usually the case with this type of research, the answers only lead to more questions.

The Toronto and Ontario Ghosts and Haunting Research Society (GHR) have spent a great deal of time researching the many possible explanations for these objects, and have examined a myriad of situations in which orbs might be photographed, most of them related to cemeteries or other haunted venues. The possible explanations the GHR cites for their existence include, but are not limited to: dust, pollen, rain or dew, snow, insects, hair, ash, other semi-microscopic particles, or camera lens flares.

The other existing issues not related to external factors center around digital errors or film processing abnormalities. The GHR has established a rigid set of protocols that basically states that if any type of airborne particle is present, orbs will be captured.



Photo courtesy Hope and Randy Meadd.

Randy Mead, on his porch, holding the "Wands of Horus," is just beginning his meditation. Only a tiny amount of orbs are present.



All photos courtesy Hope and Randy Mead, James Gilliland, Ken Levin, and Spar Giedeman.

James Gilliland, owner of the Sattva Sanctuary, is surrounded by glowing orbs.

Their formula: lens position with flash + particles = orbs. Essentially, to follow their rules, experiments would have to be performed in a vacuum.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a noted UFO researcher, has performed numerous experiments in an effort to capture orb images (www.brumac.8k.com/orb_1.html). He was successful in repeatedly creating lab conditions that captured orbs using a disposable camera. Maccabee's conclusion rests on the airborne particle theory, as well as the sensitivity of newer photographic equipment. His main point of experimentation involves the proximity of the flash unit to the lens. He performed experiments involving photographing hollow glass beads close to the lens with a flash to produce orbs. In addition, he photographed a hair very close to the lens to produce a "tracer" effect. Although Maccabee manages to reproduce orb effects successfully, his results are rather poor and sterile compared to the multitude of beautiful orb photos available.

Interestingly enough, the orb phenomenon has been occurring at this increased rate for less than a decade, but smaller point-and-shoot cameras with flash units situated close to the lens have been manufactured for almost three decades. The question then arises as to why there are only a few known orb photos produced in the 15 or so years prior to their proliferation. If the flash/lens issue isn't the overriding factor, another explanation might be the significant shift in electronic strobe technology that occurred in the mid-1990s. However, I have not found any evidence to back this.

There are many other researchers who concur with the GHRS and with Maccabee, attributing orbs to airborne particulates. Even Fuji Film has devoted part of their website to the orb experience in order to explain to their consumers what is occurring in their images (home.fujifilm.com/products/digital/shooting/flash.html). However, with all the scientific explanations being provided, the fact remains



All photos courtesy Hope and Randy Mead, James Gilliland, Ken Levin, and Spar Giedeman.

Randy Mead, still holding the "Wands of Horus," an ancient meditation aid, as he experiences an "etheric-type contact."

that orbs are showing up with increasing frequency, and as the photos on these pages show, sometimes an image just cannot be explained away by using scientific rationale.

Believers and Non-Believers

In fact, there are always two sides to any phenomenon in which science is involved in attempting to provide a rationalization for some occurrence. Just as with UFOs, there are believers and debunkers. Orbs are no different. Karl Pflock, another noted UFO researcher, is insightful about both sides. With regard to orb studies, he states, "They are beset by True Believers ('They must be, therefore they are!') and True Unbelievers ('They can't be, therefore they aren't!'). Rare are those who pursue evidence wherever it may lead, no matter how the results may square with their cherished hopes and dreams. Ironically, both the True Believers and the True Unbelievers see themselves as champions of objective analysis and critical thinking, when in fact they are defenders of their respective faiths and, not incidentally, their egos."

That being said, the GHRS has stated in their numerous papers that their belief in ghostly phe-

nomena is based on experiences with various unexplainable phenomena that they've encountered during their research. The challenge in proving the existence of orbs lies in part on the fact that they are most commonly viewed through the photographic medium and are rarely seen with the naked eye. Though there are a small percentage of people who claim to actually see the orbs, but these occurrences are few and far between. Many people have seen ghosts with the naked eye—as well as UFOs—and scores of these events have been captured on film in various forms. Numerous paranormal and close encounters are backed up with photographic evidence and not just the visual impressions left after the fact. In such famous UFO cases as The Phoenix Lights, dozens of people experienced the same thing, with physical evidence to back it up.

While visiting Sattva Sanctuary, we captured dozens of orb images with different cameras from different angles. We all shared the same joyful moment, but were only able to record it in one form—photography. Does this make the experience any less real or believable for those involved? We admit we are believers. Our minds were open and our consciousness was raised while we were situated in a loca-

tion whose very existence is dedicated to raising consciousness. If orbs are a form of spiritual energy, what better place for them to manifest themselves?

Scientific Believers

John and Jan Young are Arkansas-based orb researchers who have taken over 50,000 photographs in their attempt to find an explanation for the phenomenon. They have compiled a fairly comprehensive website filled with photos and questions relating to possible solutions and answers (www.orbsbybeans.com). They understand the airborne particle issues, but still question the methodology. "Is there a reason that dust particles are usually an explanation for orbs in photos when hundreds of photos were taken on different nights, in different weather conditions, and no orbs show up? Isn't there supposed to be dust in the air at all times that should be recorded by the camera as the same consistent geometric design or expression?" asks John Young.

The Youngs attempted to follow GHRS protocols for photographing orbs and felt that when the protocols were followed, they would have the best chance of photographic legitimacy. However, their feelings

soon changed. According to John, "We followed these protocols for the first six months and then just dumped them. We found that when we photographed in all conditions, these protocols couldn't explain what was going on—things like orbs appearing in one photograph and none in the next, then a bunch of orbs. This occurred regardless of weather conditions." The Youngs, like many others, feel the camera is a technological instrument and trust in it being technically consistent in its reproduction.

The harsh cliché is that the camera doesn't lie. Like the Youngs, several of the pictures captured at the Sattva Sanctuary are in sequence. They clearly show the group in the same position in three photographs with numerous orbs in one of the pictures, a few in the next, and then none.

The Youngs have found that the orbs in their area respond positively to certain weather conditions. "Rain is really good; fog isn't. Orbs seem to respond well to high electrical disturbances in the atmosphere like a solar flare going off or lightning, and we've run into situations where they'll just appear in huge numbers and droves. We call them orb storms," notes John. A primary discovery by the



James Gilliland in a positive energy state, as evidenced by the quantity of orbs surrounding him.

All photos courtesy Hope and Randy Mead, James Gilliland, Ken Levin, and Spar Giedeman.

Youngs is that orbs respond to energy of all types. "A lot of it has to do with energy and the quality of energy. We always tell people to project as much positive energy as possible. They respond to that. Having a group of people is most advantageous to capturing them. You'll usually see them at any kind of uplifting event."

The consensus among those who have repeatedly captured unique and spectacular orb photos is that they themselves are energy: electrical energy, spiritual energy, conscious energy.

The Science of the Spirit

Theories as to what the orbs really are abound, they and assume as many shapes and color as the orbs themselves. Part of the problem is that as humans, we desire physical, concrete, rational answers for the anomalies in our world that cannot be readily explained through earthly scientific or tech-

nological means. The orb phenomenon is a prime example. As has already been stated, the airborne particle theories just don't fit, given the inconsistencies with which orbs have been captured. The mind must be opened to allow for otherworldly theories to provide some acceptable explanation.

The only consistent trait established in photographing orbs is their appearance during spiritual and positive energy conditions. A great number of orbs have been photographed around English crop circles, which are places with tremendous concentrated energy. Orbs have also been seen around many spiritual places and areas associated with UFO activity where reportedly there are vortexes or high energies, including places like Machu Picchu, the Egyptian pyramids, as well as the Sattva Sanctuary. Cemeteries and other places connected with the deceased are known venues for orb images as well as places of worship. However, these locations are



All photos courtesy Hope and Randy Mead, James Gilliland, Ken Levin, and Spar Giedeman.

This photograph was taken just seconds before the photograph on the cover. Notice the vast difference in the patterns of the orbs: in the cover photo, they seem to flow into and out of his head. In this photo, they are in a swirling pattern.



After a group meditation, a flying object appears overhead. This is a common occurrence, according to those who visit the Sattva Sanctuary. This is the only photo that has had any manipulation done to it. The object has been enlarged and superimposed for better viewing.

not mutually exclusive. Any place an individual finds that gives energy and provides a harmonious atmosphere will most likely produce orbs.

Some theories attribute the appearance of orbs to energy being transferred from a source—powerlines, heat energy, batteries, and even other people people—to the spirit so they can manifest. There have been many recorded instances of freshly charged camera batteries suddenly becoming depleted. This, of course, coordinates with the frequency of the suddenly dead batteries in cars that come into proximity with UFOs.

Given the laws of physics which state that a transfer of energy would assume the natural shape of a sphere, this makes sense, particularly in the case of orbs. The orb is the basic energy pattern of the spirit world and its most common form. However, in contrast, images of oblong and diamond-shaped orbs have been recorded.

James Gilliland has been capturing images of orbs at his ranch for years. He describes the phenomenon on Hope and Randy Mead's video in a succinct fashion: "Orbs are an extension of consciousness. When we are not in the physical form, we often travel in

a light sphere. It's way beyond the nuts and bolts to understand this kind of science. In the universe we live in, we can measure less than one percent [of existing reality], and physicists believe there's another 99 percent out there we cannot measure. There are other planes, other dimensions, and the orbs are a byproduct of these planes and dimensions."

Hope Mead feels they are a form of consciousness. "I believe there are a number of possibilities of what orbs might be," she says, "either Earth elementals, ETs using the orbs as portals to view our world or humans traveling via their astral bodies. Those are just some of the possibilities." Hope and many others have experienced the orbs' intriguing responsiveness to feelings of love and joy. "It's very clear to me that if you find a special place, nurture it with love and call them in, they'll appear. The more you go to that place and cultivate the area, the more they seem to populate it. Over time, when you go back again and again and photograph the same places, more and more orbs are captured. We have shown in our film that large numbers of orbs appear when we played music or meditated or just when the simple feeling of love was radiated."

Gilliland believes they are also much more than a form of consciousness. "These are very highly advanced beings," he asserts. "Some of them are an extremely high form of technology that is far beyond anything we could ever imagine. They know how to travel in spirit, which is a light sphere, and that light sphere can interact, engage, and observe people."

Hope Mead states that when orbs are captured, interdimensional photography is occurring. She believes that the veil between worlds or dimensions is lifting, and the ability to photograph and see orbs is one of the results. "We're in the middle of a dimensional shift from our three-dimensional world to another dimension. The veil is lifting because of the shift that's happening."

Interestingly enough, John Young, who has never met or spoken to Hope Mead, has arrived at a similar conclusion. "The orbs can travel between dimensions and move in and out of our three-dimensional visual spectrum; some are sentient, have consciousness and personality identity, and others don't."

If this is the case, and orbs are becoming visible from another dimension, why is this happening and what has occurred on the Earth to cause it?

Looking Through the Veil

Perhaps the difference between our fragile reality and what takes place beyond it isn't that extreme. The universe and the laws that govern it revolve around cause and effect, and assuming this is the case, perhaps there's an explainable rationale why the barrier between worlds is apparently thinning.

Gregg Braden, scientist, visionary, and noted author of several scholarly works including *Awakening to Zero Point* and *The Isaiah Effect*, has written extensively on the increase in the Earth's frequency (The Schumann Resonance). This information is coupled with the documented decrease in the Earth's magnetic field, which is about half of what it was 4,000 years ago. Braden's research indicates the Earth will experience a magnetic polar reversal and because of these two existing geophysical conditions, a dimensional shift will result.

The Schumann Resonance is a property of atmospheric electrodynamics and essentially acts like the "heartbeat" of our planet—a measurement of the vibration rate of the Earth. First detected by W.O. Schumann in the early 1950s, it has remained at a constant 7.8 Hz for thousands of years; until about 1987, say some researchers, the year of the harmonic convergence. The frequency then began to rise until about 1995-1996, when it reached a rate of about 12.9Hz.

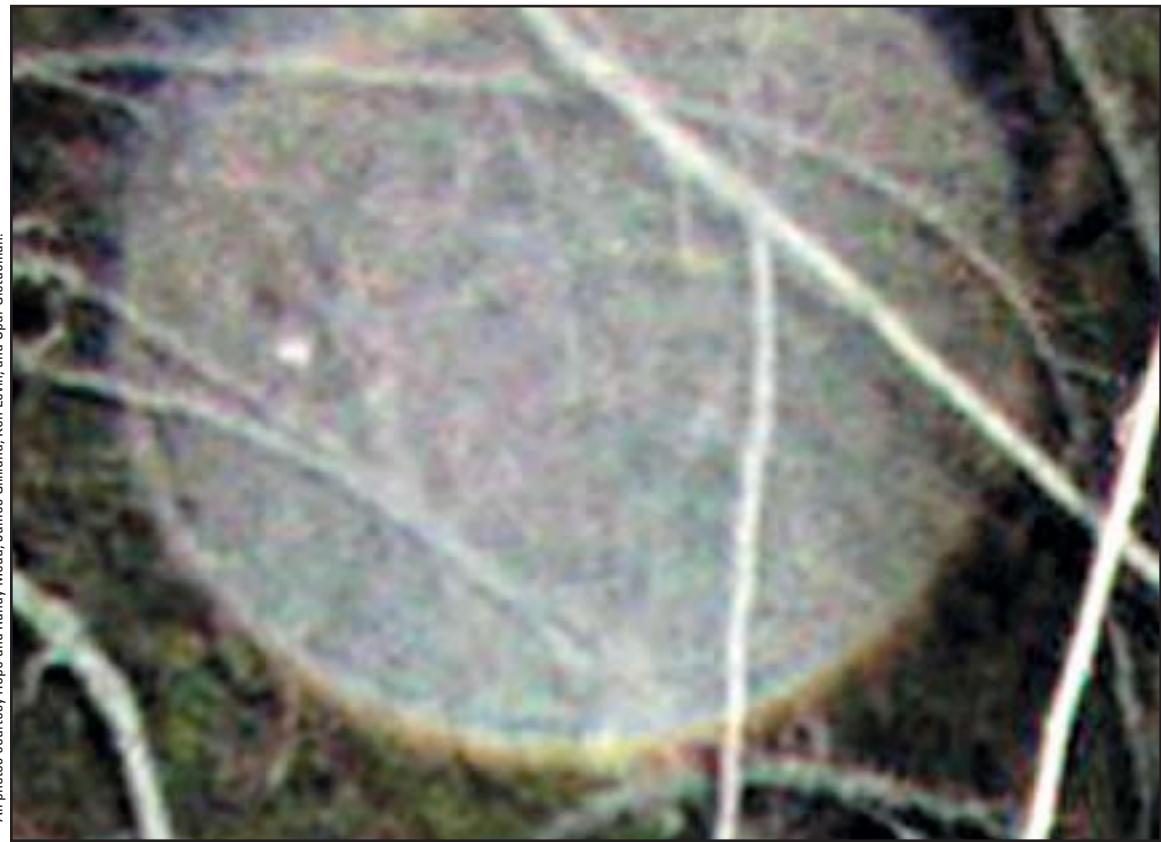
Braden believes that the Zero Point flip will most likely introduce us to the fourth dimension. In addition, our physical bodies are changing as we move toward Zero Point. He says that our DNA is being "upgraded" to 12 strands, and as a consequence a new "light body" is being created. According to this theory, we are becoming more intuitive. This belief system—not typically accepted by mainstream astrophysics—also posits that the Mayan calendar has forecast all the changes now occurring, and we are supposedly going beyond technology and back to the natural cycles of nature and the universe.

The documented rise of the Schumann Resonance correlates with the increasing abundance of orb photographs that began in the mid-1990s. If orbs are now being seen as a result of the thinning veil between dimensions, then Braden's theories may shed some light on the phenomenon.

Orbs exist on some level. There's no denying the event is happening. Denying the phenomenon doesn't mean it's not happening, it only means that skeptics refuse to accept the photographic evidence. Most people who successfully photograph orbs will tell of non-believers who go on orb hunts and capture nothing, while others on the same trip with similar equipment under the same conditions will produce dozens of orb photographs.

It seems to me that personal attitude—consciousness—affects the outcome for individuals looking into this phenomenon. Science as a whole rarely exhibits an open or free consciousness, and few hardcore scientists have explored the orb mystery. Although Bruce Maccabee and the GHRS want to believe in the worst way, they cannot see (or believe) beyond the scope of their limited three-dimensional research. Hope and Randy Mead's pictures, as well as the images James Gilliland has captured at The Sattva Sanctuary, seem to defy a scientific explanation on many levels. However, a true scientific skeptic unwilling to allow for even the possibility of orbs will quickly debunk them as being weather- or dust-related anomalies.

Raising the consciousness of the "one" is the first step in raising the consciousness of the "whole." Orbs images have shown me that, if nothing else, the feelings of energy, joy and love were abundant while we were capturing orbs. We believed in what was happening during that moment in time, and the orbs arrived to show us the effects of our positive energy. In short, perhaps the overwhelming evidence that orbs are a sign of coming change will someday make believers of everyone. **UFO**



All photos courtesy Hope and Randy Mead, James Gilliland, Ken Levin, and Spar Gierdeman.

An extreme closeup of an orb in the branches of a pine tree.



The best suggestion for anyone wanting to orb hunt is to find a location that feels sacred or joyous: a church or mission, an outdoor party or celebration, a special place in nature ... anywhere where positive vibrations are felt.



 *Try to be with loved ones who have fun together (having fun is an important prerequisite to locating orbs). Singing or playing instruments is also a good idea, since they are attracted by various forms of vibrations: love, music, etc. (And that's what music is all about!)*



 *Find your place either at dusk or when it's already dark. Orbs have been photographed in daylight, even without a flash, but it is rare.*



 *Frame the shot so that the subjects are towards the bottom of the frame; i.e., more sky than ground. It definitely helps to have a digital camera, although film cameras are perfectly acceptable. The light spectrum picked up by digital cameras seems to capture them more easily. Plus, there are no film costs. In addition, with digital, you get instant feedback. (I have used three digital cameras, from very inexpensive to quite sophisticated, and they each capture different kinds of orbs.)*



Be prepared to shoot a large variety of photographs and to revisit a location several times to cultivate the area. A small percentage of people see orbs with the naked eye, yet it is mostly through the photographic medium that they are recorded. But more important, it is through positive energy and our hearts that they are felt.



HOPE MEAD

