



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 20 Issue 4

The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same



James

I enjoy being asked my opinion on different paranormal subjects. Lately, I've been queried about where I stand regarding different public figures in the paranormal community, usually because it's becoming apparent that the field is turning on a specific individual or group. The ghostly flavor of

the month, it seems, is *Ghost Adventures'* very own Zak Bagans.

When it comes to para-celebrities, I tend to just put my head down and go about my business. There just seems to be so much drama and in-fighting that I don't have the time or energy for. *Ghost Adventures* itself, at least initially, had a very rabid fan base that would pounce at a moment's notice. I found that out when I wrote what I thought was an innocuous article for this very newsletter, pondering how Zak and *Ghost Adventures* were able to get permission to investigate Bachelor's Grove Cemetery after dark. A day after the newsletter with that article released, I received an email which simply read:

"Zak Bagans rocks. You do not rock."

So now people are claiming that Zak is involved in some back-room shenanigans to try and keep *Ghost Adventures* rolling along by getting shows he perceives as competition cancelled. And of course, now the allegations of *Ghost Adventures* faking evidence has popped up. To which I feel the need to ask, "why now?"

Mind you, I am not defending Zak's alleged actions, mainly because I've never looked upon Zak Bagans, *Ghost Adventures*, or any paranormal reality TV show as anything more than forms of entertainment. As such, entertainment can never be elevated to the level of "evidence" simply because of things like editing, post-production, and, in all fairness, ratings. What I do find concerning is that the same people attacking Zak are the very ones who had earlier put him on a pedestal or modeled their own ghost-hunting group after him.

The paranormal community is a wonderful one, but it is also routinely filled with backstabbing, in-fighting, and various forms of fake evidence. Sadly, that's nothing new. The new wrinkle is people lashing out at Zak for allegedly doing things with one goal in mind; ratings. The same goal he's always had in mind. Nothing's changed. In fact, the very shows people are defending over Zak/*Ghost Adventures* still follow the same formulaic "script": show up at a creepy location, get told some history, have spooky stuff happen, run away screaming, the end. Add, rinse, repeat. We need to do better or at least acknowledge that all TV shows are for entertainment purposes only. Either that, or this cycle is going to continue, as least for the foreseeable future.

And for the record, I still do not rock.

Cheers,

James A. Willis

Founder/Director

BOOK REVIEW

Episode Thirteen

Craig DiLouie

Published on January 24, 2023 by Redhook Publishing



Samantha

This may come as no surprise, but I love spooky stories. While it's true that most of the ones I read are what I call "candy" (fun for the moment, but ultimately forgettable), occasionally I find one that has more meat on its bones. This is how I would describe *Episode*

Thirteen by Craig DiLouie.

This novel is about a team of paranormal investigators in 2016 filming their thirteenth episode of a program they call *Fade to Black*. Their location is Foundation House, supposedly one of the most haunted locations in America. Back in the early 1970s a group of scientists with the Paranormal Research Foundation, or PRF, moved in and conducted human experiments attempting to not only make contact with spirits, but also "read minds, control objects remotely, travel out of their bodies, [and] know the future." It would seem that their experiments resulted in some very strange phenomena. However, no one truly knows the full scope of their work because they mysteriously vanished in 1972. What happened to them? What did they find?

Fast forward to 2016 and the *Fade to Black* team has arrived. Matt Kirklin (believer) and his wife Claire (skeptic & scientist) are in the lead, followed by Jake Wolfson (cameraman), Kevin Linscott (tech manager & former police officer), and finally Jessica Valenza (actress added to the show by producers to round out the team). Their goal is to spend 72 hours at the Foundation House, gathering as much evidence of the paranormal as possible, and hopefully solving the mystery of the missing PRF

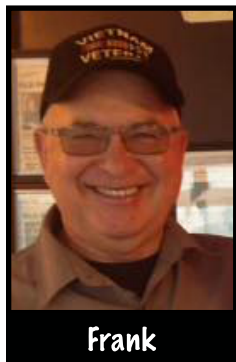


scientists. What they experience over that time is enough to send their ratings through the roof.

But at what cost?

Told in a "found-footage" format, *Episode Thirteen* has all the intensity and intrigue that readers of spooky stories enjoy. Not only do we have plenty of paranormal activity, but we get to bear witness to the changes the characters go through as the days go by. We see their interactions, hear their thoughts, share their concerns and fears. Even though, in my opinion, the plot took a strange turn toward the end, overall, I found this novel an engaging read that's perfect for fans of paranormal television.

THE SB7T SPIRIT BOX



Frank

Over the last several months, I have become interested in obtaining specialized equipment that might have the potential to make our investigations more effective while increasing our ability to gather meaningful evidence. So when I ran across an ad promoting the P-SB7T Spirit Box for under \$100, I thought I'd take the plunge.

For those not familiar with spirit boxes, they are essentially transistor radios that continuously scan or “sweep” through radio frequencies. It is said that as it is scanning, ghost voices can be heard and, in some instances, investigators are even able to engage in two-way conversations with the ghosts.

One of the reasons I was intrigued with the SB7T was because The Ghosts Of Ohio already owns an SB7, so I wanted to see what the updates were with this new model.

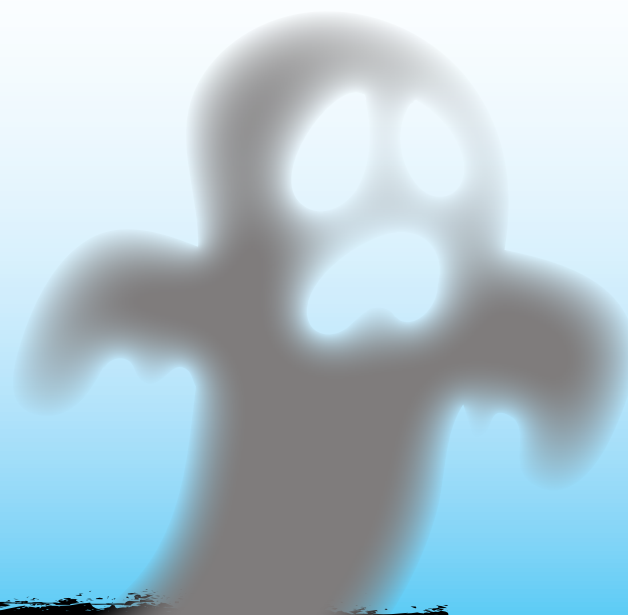
Both models allow the user to choose between AM and FM and whether to scan the frequencies forward or in reverse. There is also the ability to adjust how fast the spirit box scans—the “Sweep Rate”. Both also have outputs so you can incorporate earphones or attach an external speaker.

The biggest update to the SP7T is also where the “T” comes into play; temperature. The SP7T has an integrated temperature display that allows you to monitor temperature in Celsius or Fahrenheit. It also has something



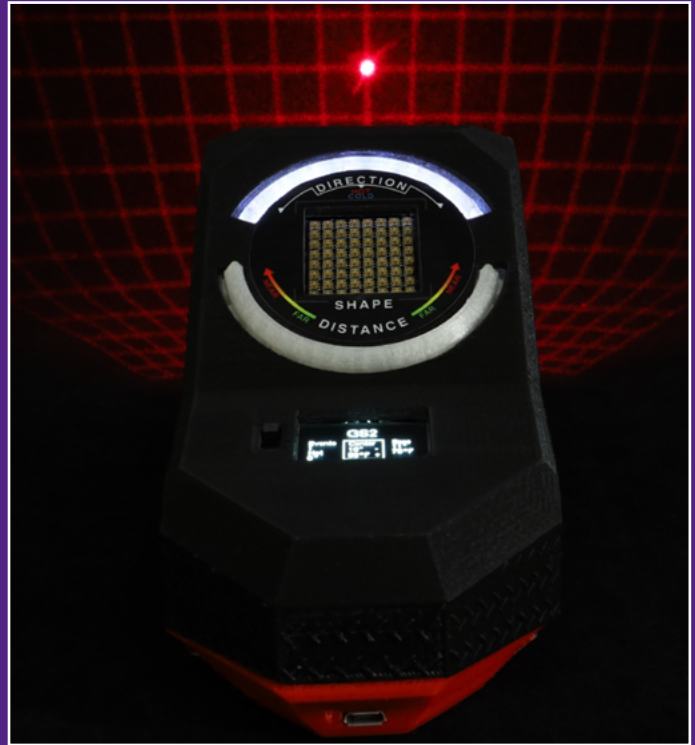
called Ambient Temperature Deviation Detection (ATDD) built in, which is said to alert when the SB7T detects temperature spikes.

I tested the SP7T at home and all functions seemed to work fine. No, I unfortunately did not get any EVPs while I was testing it, but maybe that's a good thing. I'm looking forward to testing it out in the field by itself, as well as alongside the SP7 to see if they pick up the same thing or if one is better than the other. Stay tuned!



GS2 LASER GRID SYSTEM

Quick update on our testing out the GS2 Laser Grid system: Mark continues to run it through its paces at his top-secret lab, using bags of ice to try and determine the range of temperature changes the GS2 can detect and how quickly. We even took it out for a quick test run on a recent investigation, which will be featured in an upcoming book (whoops, did we just let a secret out?).



Right now, it appears as though the GS2 does do what it claims to, albeit its range of sight is much better suited for a small, enclosed area as opposed to the wide spaces its often seen being used in on several ghost reality TV shows.

Look for a full review and report in the June 2023 newsletter!



EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

Got a piece of paranormal equipment you've always wondered how it works? Does it really do what it's supposed to be doing? Or maybe you've created some paranormal equipment you'd like field tested? Either way, let us know because The Ghosts Of Ohio would love to help! Drop us a line at info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Equipment" and we'll take it from there!

DEADLY DRIVING: GHOSTLY VEHICLES



Wendy

When people think of ghosts, they think humans, whether they are moaning and dragging chains up the stairs or a family member visiting. Not many think of vehicles, yet they have been reported for centuries, with one of the most famous, the Flying Dutchman, being at the forefront. Here is just a handful of reported ghostly vehicles.

Stagecoaches

There have been a number of ghostly stagecoaches seen, but rarely are they backed up by fact. One that has been witnessed in Anza Borrego State Park in California is. In the 1860's, a stagecoach that was running towards the Vallecito Station was held up and the driver was killed. The coach can be seen travelling in the location of that old station.

Also in California, another phantom coach is seen in Santa Ynez, on the road west to Solvang. This coach is reported as being black, with 4 black horses. Yet research finds no reason for this supposed haunting.

Trains

Train ghosts seem to be more plentiful. President Lincoln's funeral train is one of the more famous, seen and heard by many as it passes along his funeral route. But another interesting sighting is based on the 1891 Bostian Bridge crash in North Carolina. In this case, the train jumped the tracks on the bridge at around 3am and fell to the valley. Many perished in the crash. In 1941, a traveling couple had car trouble near the bridge. The man went to get help while his wife waited at the car. As the clock moved to 3am, she saw a train approach the bridge, then jump the track and fall into the valley. She headed to the wreck to help, following the screams of the victims. When she realized she needed more help, she climbed back to the car just as her husband arrived with another man. She



Tragedy at Bostian Ridge

yelled at them to follow her because a train had crashed, but as they got there, the valley was silent, with no sign of a wreckage. The local who had come to help told them about the 1891 crash.

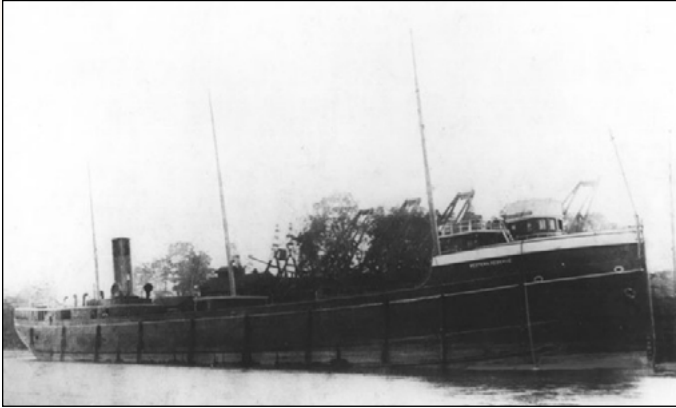
Finally, a bizarre report comes out of The Dragoon Mountains in Arizona. A phantom train is heard and seen travelling there between the mountains and Wilcox, Arizona. The only problem is that there has never been a train route in that area!

Ships

Ships are a little harder to find, since when you research 'ghost ships', you end up getting stories of abandoned ships, not actual ships that are ghosts. But I was able to find a few. In the United States, the majority are seen in and around the Great Lakes. The Bannockburn disappeared in 1902 on Lake Superior but is still seen sailing the lake. The Cornelia B. Windrate vanished on Lake Huron in 1875 but is also still reportedly seen from time to time. In 1892, the W. H. Gilcher sailed from Buffalo NY, headed toward Milwaukee, WI. On Oct 28th, it was witnessed by another frigate coming into a storm northwest of North Manitou Island in Lake Michigan. It never made it out, and bodies along with a W.H. Gilcher life preserver and other

(continued on page 6.)

DEADLY DRIVING: GHOSTLY VEHICLES *continued*



The SS Western Reserve

wreckage were found in and around South Manitou Island. To this day the ship has been reported coming out of a fog bank around Mackinac Island. The Western Reserve sank offshore on Lake Superior on August 30, 1892, under similar circumstances. It has been seen, but most people report just hearing disembodied voices.

Cars

And then there are cars. From the sounds of James Dean's 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder slamming into the car driven by Donald Trunupseed on what is now Highway 46 near Cholame, CA, to phantom menaces, these are seen quite frequently. Here are just 2 examples of what you might encounter on your next road trip.

Near Shiprock, New Mexico, a ghost car appears on US Highway 666, otherwise known as the highway to hell. This nasty car attempts to run other cars off the road. But as is the case with most ghost cars, there doesn't seem to be any evidence to back up the story.

But this one is a little more detailed: In the 1940s, a car driving near Ashboro, North Carolina was recklessly trying to pass other motorists on Route NC 49. As it approached a hill while attempting to pass, it got caught between the car it was passing and a truck that was coming down the hill. The car tried to swerve to avoid the truck, but was clipped, sending it into a tree. Since then, people have reported car lights speeding up behind them, then

moving to pass. As the speeding lights pull up alongside, no driver can be seen, and the car vanishes.

Many other witnessed ghost cars are lights that chase you or come towards you, which sounds a lot like our Oxford Ghost rider. So on your next road trip, don't just take a walking ghost tour of the city you are in, look around. Those vehicles you see and hear might not actually be there...



A silver Porsche 550 Spyder, just like the one owned by James Dean



SPECIAL PRESENTATION: URBAN LEGENDS IN MOVIES AND MUSIC



On Tuesday, April 18th, our Fearless Leader, James A. Willis, was a guest at the New Lebanon Branch of the Dayton Metro Library for a very special presentation: Urban Legends in Movies and Music.

For well over an hour, Willis entertained the audience with tales of everything from cursed movies to songs that were banned for allegedly containing “pornographic” lyrics. There were even videos of alleged ghostly images inadvertently left in final prints of movies and, of course, Willis took the time to play a few songs backwards to see if any hidden messages might be revealed.

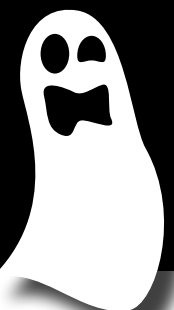
The New Lebanon Branch has hosted Willis several times and they always choose a different presentation to keep things fresh for their patrons.

As of right now, there are no more confirmed dates for this presentation to be given. But that’s not to say it won’t happen again! And if you want to be there, just go into your local library, and tell them you want Weird Willis to visit and tell you all about urban legends in movies and music!



WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here’s all you have to do: Just write down your story and send it to info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line “Newsletter Ghost Story.” Be sure to also include your name as you’d like it to appear with the story. We’ll take it from there and send you out an e-mail letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!



DATES STILL BEING ADDED TO OUR CALENDAR

Armed with a whole slew of new presentations, as well as updates to our most popular ones, The Ghosts Of Ohio continues to add appearances and dates to our calendar. So while the list below is only the confirmed dates and locations, you better believe that list is going to continue to grow as we roll on through 2023. So keep an eye on this newsletter or better yet, follow The Ghosts Of Ohio on any of our social media channels to be the first to know when new dates get confirmed.

Unless the event is marked with a "\$", it is free. In all cases, seating may be limited, so it's always a good idea to check with the venue regarding needing to pre-registration.

Monday, July 31st @ 6:30 pm

Weird Ohio Road Trips presentation

Rodman Public Library—Main Branch
215 E. Broadway Street
Alliance, OH 44601

Monday, August 7th @ 6:30 pm

Weird Ohio Road Trips presentation

Mentor Public Library
8215 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060

Wednesday, August 23rd

Monsters In Ohio presentation

Mentor Public Library
8215 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060

Thursday, September 28th

The Secrets of Hangar 18 presentation

Sylvester Memorial Wellston Public Library
135 East Second Street
Wellston, OH 45692

Friday, October 6th, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation

Oxford Lane Library
441 S. Locust St #2126
Oxford, OH 45056

Tuesday, October 10th, 2023

The Secrets Of Hangar 18 presentation

Dayton Metro Library: New Lebanon Branch
715 W. Main Street
New Lebanon, OH

Saturday, October 14th, 2023: 10 am – 6:00 pm

2023 MUFON of Ohio Conference (\$)

Quality Inn and Suites
1000 Comfort Plaza Dr.
Bellville, OH 44813

Saturday, October 21st @ 1:00 pm

TBD

Public Library of Steubenville and
Jefferson County
407 South 4th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952

Tuesday, October 26th @ 6:00 pm

Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation

Wayne County Public Library
220 W. Liberty Street
Wooster, OH 44691

Friday, December 1st–Sunday, December 3rd

GalaxyCon Columbus (\$)

Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[Tickets on sale now](#)



Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2023. All members of the organization who would participate in investigations have been fully vaccinated.

Additionally, we can also make arrangements to drop off ghost-hunting equipment at your home or business and walk you through how to set it up yourself if you prefer. So, if you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at info@ghostsofohio.org or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Not sure if you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts Of Ohio also offers consultations. Let us sit down with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer. For more information, please visit <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html>

Interact with The Ghosts Of Ohio

In addition to our website, here are a couple of places where you can find The Ghosts Of Ohio lurking online:

 [FACEBOOK](#)

 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

Administration

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