

# The Spirit Guide

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The Official Newsletter of The Spirit Seekers Paranormal Investigation Research & Intervention Team

## Voices from Beyond

*While the results are often mysterious, EVP research can be one of the most rewarding fields a paranormal investigator can pursue.*

By D.W. Koon

For many paranormal researchers, it's the first "hit" they ever get while seriously hunting for ghosts: a disembodied voice or mysterious noise, captured on an audio recording — a sound that wasn't heard at the time the recording was made. Odd and unsettling, even for the veteran investigator, Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP), has been a subject of interest to ghost hunters for over a hundred years. With the captured sounds sometimes seeming to actively respond to questions or provocation from the investigator, EVPs can range from barely audible to crystal clear — though modern computer technology has allowed investigators to "clean up" vague recordings.

While theories about what EVPs are and where they come from include spirits, angels, and even non-human beings from another dimension, the recordings themselves stand as some of the most intriguing evidence a paranormal researcher can collect in the field.

### A HAUNTED HISTORY

While low-cost digital recorders have recently become the favored method for capturing EVPs, the study of Electronic Voice Phenomenon goes back to man's earliest attempts to record sound.

The first instance of what might be called an EVP was captured in 1901, when American anthropologist Waldemar Bogoras traveled to Siberia to visit a shaman of the Tchouktchi tribe. Using a portable phonograph recorder to record a

tribal ritual, Bogoras was surprised to find that when he played back the wax cylinder recording he had just made, strange, disembodied voices were heard mixed in with the sound of the shaman's singing.

Though researchers, spiritualists and inventors -- including Thomas Edison, who told *Scientific American* magazine in October 1920 that he was working on a device to communicate with the dead -- kept up public interest in the EVP phenomenon through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the starting point of modern EVP research can be dated with a good bit of accuracy: June 12, 1959.

On that day, painter and film director Fredrich Jorgensen was attempting to record the song of a finch in the garden of his estate in Molnbo, Sweden with a reel-to-reel tape recorder. When the tape was played back, Jurgenson heard not only the finch, but also a voice which said "nightly bird voices" in Norwegian. Fascinated by the phenomenon, Jurgenson began experimenting with the recorder, capturing other voices, including one that he identified as his mother. He soon hit on the idea that background noise produced by water splashing in his garden fountain might somehow be helping the voices to manifest themselves -- an idea that has since become central to the "white noise" theory of EVP collection. Now known as the "Father of EVP," Jurgenson devoted the rest of his life to EVP research, eventually publishing the first books on the subject, "Voices from the Universe," and "Radio Contact with the Dead."

Inspired by Jurgenson's books, Dr. Konstantin Raudive -- a former student of Carl

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *The Spirit Seekers Mobile Research Vehicle (MRV) is ready for artwork!*
- *Mark your Calendars for our Annual Halloween Party!*
- *A Spirit Seekers Episode Watch Party is in the works!*
- *Annual Dues are Payable Now!*

## Meet The Team



Alan L. "Buz" Lowe

Director of Investigations / Co-Founder

**I Work At:** University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)

**Position:** Construction Engineer

**Time in Current Position:** 6 Years at UAMS

**Birth Place:** Little Rock

**First Job Ever:** Construction Laborer (I was 13)

**Alma Mater:** UALR

**Hobbies:** Wood Carving

**Marital Status/Children/Pets:** Married / 1 Son, Matthew; and 2 Daughters, Nancy and Violet / 3 dogs and a cat

**Favorite Food:** Chicken Fried Steak, mashed potatoes, fried okra

**Favorite Author:** Clive Cussler

**Last Book Read:** Inca Gold

**Favorite Movie:** The Others

**Favorite Television Show:** Supernatural

**Dream Vacation:** A couple of months in a cabin hideaway.

**Guests At My Fantasy Dinner Party Would Be:**

Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and of course Bobby Lee

**Best Advice I Ever Received:** Don't eat the yellow snow.

**Best Advice I Ever Gave Was:** To my son: Never live in the same state as your in-laws.

**Though I Was Proven Wrong, I Once Said I'd Never:** Work construction

**What Would Surprise People About Me:**

I'm not as mean as I look or act.

**Future Goal:** To finish one of my books. Then the others will be easier.

**My Heroes Are: In order;** My Dad, My Brother and My Son

**My Most Frightening Experience:** At home alone I had my hair ruffled by Sarah our live in ghost.

*"I'm not as mean  
as I look or act."*

## Mark Your Calendar!

### September

- 7- Closed Investigation at Private Residence \*
- 8 - Spirit Seekers Monthly Meeting & Training
- 15 - Closed Investigation at Private Residence \*
- 21 - "A Haunting" episode featuring Spirit Seekers Members entitled *Where Evil Lurks*, premiers on The Discovery Channel



### October

- Radio & TV Appearances—TBA
- 1 - Deadline for **The Spirit Guide** Submissions
- 6 - Closed Investigation at the McArthur Museum of Military History \*
- 13 - Spirit Seekers Monthly Meeting & Training
- 17 - Alan to present "**Top 10 Haunted Places in Arkansas**" at SouthArk Community College Noon Symposium
- 27 - Annual Spirit Seekers **Halloween Party!**
- 31 - Deadline for **Annual Dues**

### November

- 1 - Deadline for **The Spirit Guide** Submissions
- 3 - Investigation (TBA)
- 10 - Spirit Seekers Monthly Meeting & Training

\* Note: Closed Investigations are By Invitation Only

For more information on Upcoming Events,  
Or to add Events to the Spirit Seekers Calendar,  
Email [seeker@thespiritseekers.org](mailto:seeker@thespiritseekers.org).

## Tech Report: Another Toy and Why It's Needed

By Eric Walker  
Technical Specialist

One of the instruments I am working to obtain for the team is a portable weather station for use on investigations. This weather station is manufactured by Davis Weather Instruments of California; and will allow us to collect atmospheric data for comparison to observed events during the course of an investigation.



Conditions that will be monitored and logged include: temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed & direction (if needed), solar and UV radiation (again if needed), as well as time of occur-

*"There is still a lot that is unknown and unexplained."*

rences. All data is stored and can be displayed as well as trended and printed for analysis. This will aid in the investigations as these elements can be compared by matching the time of observed events with the logged data, giving us a more accurate representation of all conditions as events occur.

Why would we want to monitor these things? Well, for one, there is still a lot that is unknown and unexplained. I would like to have as much scientific data as can be obtained during investigations to see if there is any correlation to captured data.

Does any of the information captured above relate to observed events during an investigation? I don't know. But by capturing this information along with photos, video, and physical experiences, maybe we can come up with a correlation of what we see, hear, and feel to the scientific data that we collect as well.

## Voices *(Continued from Page 1)*

Jung and a professor in psychology at the University of Uppsala in Sweden -- began experimenting with EVP collection in 1965. He later described his experiments in the 1970 book "Breakthrough."

The success of his book led to the coining of the term "Raudive Voices" -- an alternative term for EVP -- and an explosion of interest in the field. Included in the tens of thousands of new enthusiasts was American paranormal researcher Sarah Estep, who would go on to found the American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomena in 1982. Now one of the largest groups of its kind in the world, the AA-EVP has over 500 members in 47 U.S. states and 22 international countries. During this surge of interest, researchers broadened the definition of EVP to include other electronic devices, including computers, televisions, fax machines, and telephones, calling this newly-expanded field Instrumental Transcommunication, or ITC.

### SO, WHAT IS AN EVP?

While no one is exactly sure where EVPs come from or how they're formed, they usually conform to several criteria: In general, EVPs:

**Are brief:** EVP recordings are less than two seconds on average.

**Are recognizably inhuman** -- Often hollow and monotonous, EVPs display peculiar quirks of pitch, speed and volume that make them sound wholly unlike human voices. Research has shown that the voices captured on EVPs are usually in a frequency higher or lower than the normal human vocal range, and are often missing certain fundamental tones created by the human voice box -- meaning the voices are created through some other method than speech as we know it.

**Often come after "Precursor Sounds"** -- Careful analysis has discovered that EVPs are often foreshadowed by a "popping" or "clicking" sound, just prior to the appearance of the voice on tape. Usually less than a tenth of a second long, these precursor sounds have been discovered in roughly seventy percent of EVP recordings.

**Are not accidentally-recorded snippets of ambient noise or broadcast signals:** EVP researcher Alexander MacRae has shown that EVP messages are nearly always strings of full words or phrases. If EVPs were segments of earth-based broadcasts, one would expect most EVPs to capture fragments of words. MacRae also found that EVPs can be produced in a soundproof chamber shielded from radio signals and light.

**Next Month: Collecting EVPs In The Field**

## Mobile Research Vehicle (MRV) Update

For the past eight months we all have been working to raise money to complete our newest and biggest investment. The renovation of the Mobile Research Vehicle is nearing completion.

Since December, we have had the engine rebuilt and all of the mechanical parts checked and rechecked. Thanks to Johnny McGehee the truck is in good running order. Alan Lowe has been finishing the box, making it comfortable and usable. The cabinets and storage areas are complete. The box has been wired and is ready to install the equipment that we have been gathering.

The only thing left to do is to finish the outside. With help of John Parker this, too, is underway. We are hoping for a grand appearance in mid-October. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the completion of the one and only Paranormal Mobile Research Vehicle in Arkansas.

Another first for SPIRIT Seekers!



*The MRV is ready for John Parker's artistic touch.*

## Ask Angela

### Is This Appropriate?

I have a relative who offers her Ouija board services to strangers and pretends to be a seer. She has had no experience or training and comes up with some horrendous and frightening messages for those who have recently lost loved ones. She presents herself as a master professional. I feel she is dabbling with something she knows nothing about and may cause some damage. Please respond. *I.Cool*

*"She comes up with horrendous and frightening messages for those who have recently lost loved ones."*

Ms. Cool – A Ouija board is a tool that can be used to contact the spirit world. However, one must be extremely careful.

Negative energies, or demons, can use the opportunity to give false information; and they will lie about who they are.

I have never received "horrendous and frightening messages" from a loved one who has passed. The true messages from our loved ones are always reassuring – letting their families know that they are ok, and that they are at peace. Based on your statements, I do not

*Angela is a Spirit Sensitive and Co-Founder of Spirit Seekers. Questions for "Ask Angela" may be emailed to [spirit@thespiritseekers.org](mailto:spirit@thespiritseekers.org).*



believe that she is actually connecting to the loved ones, but is probably being used by negative energies. I agree that this could cause emotional damage to those she is trying to help. Additionally, she is possibly putting herself at risk by opening doors that will allow evil into her life. I realize those are strong statements, but I truly believe she could be in danger.



*Alan at New Dominion Pictures in Suffolk, Virginia.*

## Awake Dreams

By Alan

In a world where truth and opinion do not exist, or at least your truth and your opinions, awake dreams are figments of the imagination. As a matter of fact, awake dreams have been categorized in the paranormal realm. Psychologists call these "lucid dreams" and believe that they border on the psychosomatic events caused by stress. They say that if they do indeed exist, they are dreams where a person is actually awake in his or her dreams. Since a person can not be awake and dreaming, then they are not really dreams at all.

Parapsychologists believe that the awake dreams only come when a person has achieved REM or rapid eye movement. This is a period in which we are deeply asleep. I tend to disagree with the part where they believe that we must be in a deep asleep before we can have awake dreams. I have had several awake dreams where I am on the cusp of being asleep and have told

people what I am seeing. Ask Angie. I use these times to solve problems or find lost things. I believe that it is also a time when our spirit guides and loved ones can visit us and help us when life has presented an opportunity that we can not solve alone. Parapsychologists believe that a lucid or awake dream can seem so real that we honestly believe that we were participating in the dream; which only strengthens my belief that it is during our sleep that we can communicate with the spirit world during these awake dreams.

Try to have an awake dream sometime. Go to bed thinking of a place or person while trying to get to sleep. Don't try so hard that you actually fall asleep, but rather keep enough going on in your mind that sleep stays just barely out of reach. Tell the person you are sleeping with that if you start to talk write it down or remember it so that you can verify the event actually took place. You can control these dreams and participate in them. Have fun with your dreams, and ya'll sleep tight now.

## SPIRIT Seekers on the Small Screen!

Set your DVRs! On September 21, Spirit Seekers of Arkansas will make its national television debut, with a starring role on the Discovery Channel show "A Haunting." Detailing a June 2004 investigation by our group in Lamar, Arkansas, the episode was filmed last fall at the Virginia studios of New Dominion Pictures. Titled, "Where Evil Lurks" the show will feature recreations of events, and interviews with Spirit Seekers Co-Founders Alan and Angela Lowe, and Membership Director Violet Renee.

While *The SPIRIT Guide* wasn't able to get New Dominion Pictures to share even a clip with us - much less the whole episode - they were kind enough to send up the episode description:

*"As I entered the house at Lamar, I experienced a feeling of dread like never before."* - Alan

*"Soon after the Shea family moves into an old home in Arkansas, eerie noises and ghostly voices puncture the quiet country night. The Sheas learn that a young boy died in the house. They attribute the playful paranormal activity to his ghost. But their relief quickly gives way to chilling terror as a darker threat emerges, intent on harming their family. When one of their children suffers a devastating injury, the Sheas can't take the chance that the evil presence may be to blame."*

*Fearing for their children's safety, the Sheas turn to psychic mediums who will face their own terrifying experience as they try to battle the evil that lurks inside."*

*"It's been so long since the filming, it will be nice to see the finished product. It will be great publicity for Spirit Seekers."* - Violet

Keep checking the Spirit Seekers website: an episode watch party is in the works.



Violet is interviewed for "A Haunting."

## The Spirit Seekers, Inc.

14900 Wild Oak Lane  
Roland, AR 72135

E-mail: [spirit@thespiritseekers.org](mailto:spirit@thespiritseekers.org)

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

*Where The Here and  
The Hereafter Meet!*

We're on the web!

[www.TheSpiritSeekers.org](http://www.TheSpiritSeekers.org)



## Annual Dues Are Payable Now

Spirit Seekers Annual Dues of \$36 per person include free admission to all meetings and training sessions; as well as invitations to all open investigations and a monthly e-newsletter. Printed copies will be available at the meetings.

Annual Dues may be paid by mailing a check to:

**The Spirit Seekers, Inc.**  
**14900 Wild Oak Lane**  
**Roland, AR 72135**

Annual Dues may be paid in person at any Spirit Seekers event.

Annual dues can be paid through the web site via PayPal.

[http://www.thespiritseekers.org/  
TheTeam/AnnualDues.htm](http://www.thespiritseekers.org/TheTeam/AnnualDues.htm)

Annual Dues are payable by **October 31**, each year; and are pro-rated for Members who join during the current year.



*Spirit Seekers Members  
Sell Pizza & Beer at Alltel  
Arena Events.*

*This has proven to be a  
wonderful fund-raiser.*

*Thank you to all of our  
dedicated volunteers!*