

# THE FALCON LAKE INCIDENT

## — Part 1

Prologue: 1967

*Chris Rutkowski*

**S**TEPHEN MICHALAK arrived in the resort town of Falcon Lake on the night of May 19, 1967, intent on doing some amateur prospecting in the area the next day. He left his motel at 5.30 the next morning, and headed north into the bush. By 9.00 a.m., travelling under a bright, cloudless sky, he had found a quartz vein near a marshy area, close to a small stream. At 11.00 a.m. he had lunch, then went back to his examination of the quartz formation.

At 12.15 p.m., with the sun high and clouds gathering in the west, Michalak was startled by the cackling of a gaggle of geese nearby, obviously disturbed by something. He looked up, and was surprised to see two cigar-shaped objects with "bumps" on them, at about forty-five degrees in elevation, descending and glowing red. As they approached closer, they appeared to be more oval and then disc-shaped. Suddenly, the furthest one of the pair stopped in midflight, while the other drew nearer and landed on a large, flat rock, which was later determined to be about 160 feet away. The one in the air hovered for a short while, then began rising and departed, changing from red to orange to grey as it flew into the west, where it disappeared behind the clouds, changing colour back to orange. Its movement at all times during its departure, like the arrival of it and its landed companion, was quick and noiseless.

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EDITOR

Turning his attention back to the craft on the ground, Michalak saw that it, too, was turning from red down to grey in colour, until it finally was the colour of "hot stainless steel," surrounded by a golden-hued glow. Michalak was kneeling on a rock as he observed the object, and wearing welding goggles which he usually wore to protect his eyes from rock chips. A brilliant purple light was flooding out of openings in the upper part of the craft, dazzling the eyes and making everything around seem purple (Michalak said that it left red after-images in the eye). For the next half-hour, he sat on the rock, making a sketch of the object and noting various peculiarities. He became aware of waves of warm air radiating from the craft, accompanied by the smell of

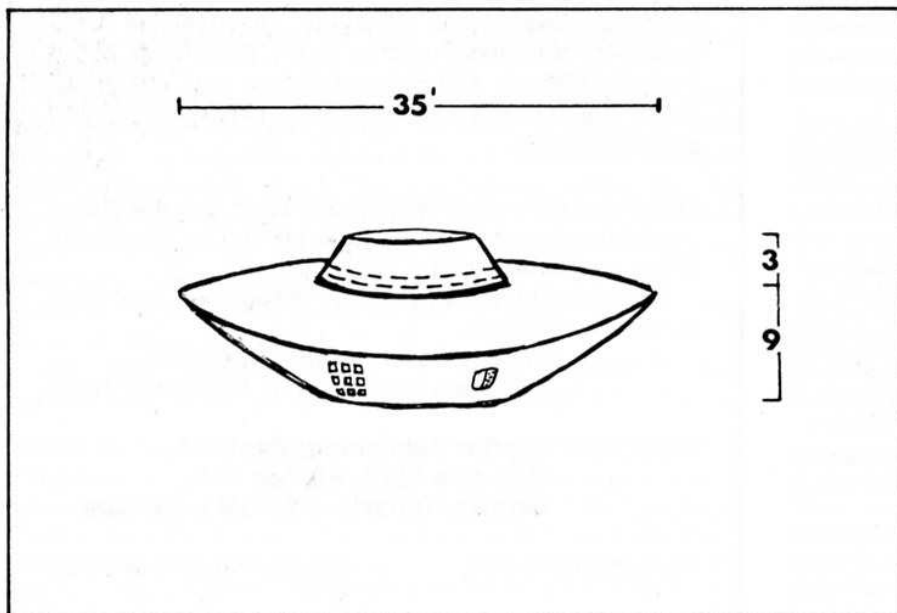


Figure 1: (Illustrations provided by the author). The craft. Figures denote dimensions in feet.

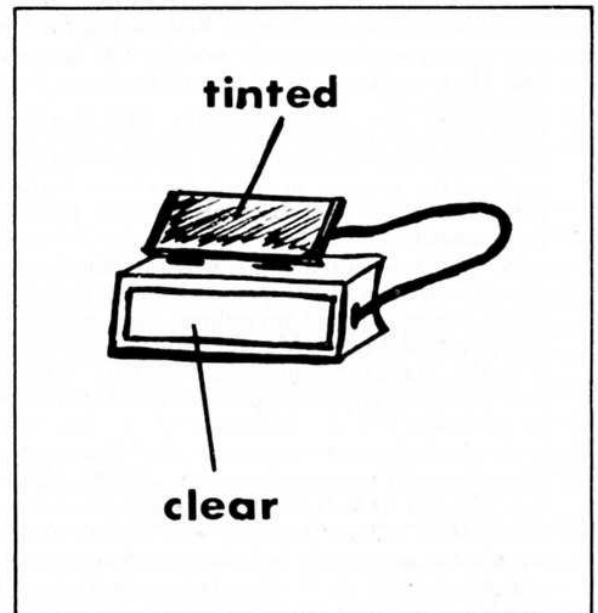
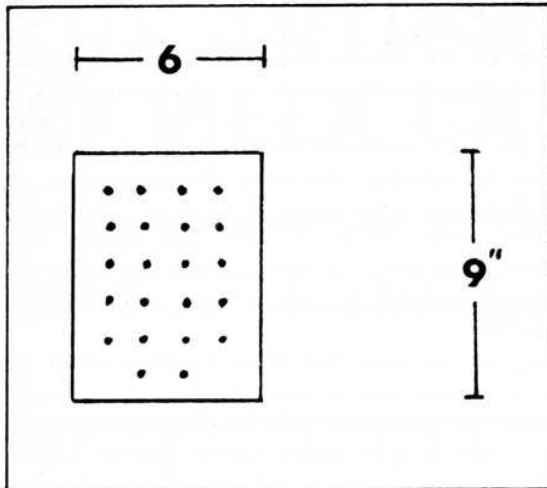


Figure 2: Style of welding goggles worn by the witness.



The dimensions of the slits on the craft, which emitted the lights, were approximately 12 ins x 1½ ins

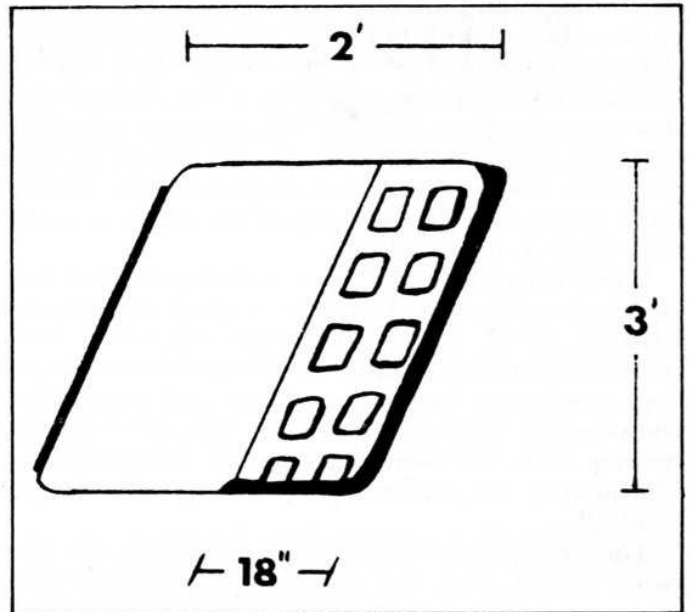


Figure 3 (above): An "exhaust".

Figure 4 (right): The hatch, or doorway.

sulphur. He also heard the whirring of a fast electric motor, and a hissing, as if air was being expelled or taken in by the craft.

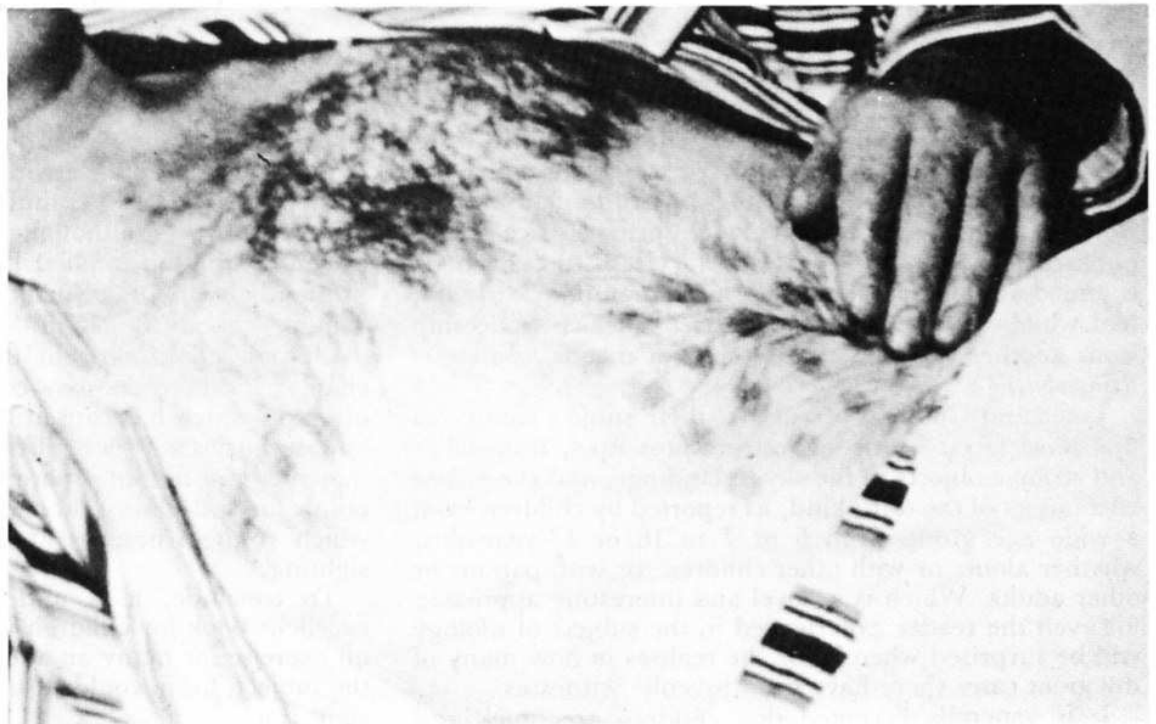
About this time, a door opened in the side of the craft, revealing some lights inside. Michalak approached to within 60 feet of the craft, and it was then that he heard two human-like voices, one with a definitely higher pitch than the other. Having first thought that the craft was some new American experimental airplane, he was now convinced of this, and walked closer to the craft, asking, "Okay, Yankee boys, having trouble? Come on out and we'll see what we can do about it."

Getting no response (the voices had subsided), but being a little flustered, he asked in Russian, "Do you speak Russian?" There was still no answer, so he tried German, Italian, French and Ukrainian, then once again in English.

With this, he walked closer to the craft, ending up

directly in front of it. This close to the craft, the light from it was too much to bear, and so he flipped down the green lenses on his goggles. Poking his head into the opening, he saw a "maze" of lights on what appeared to be a panel, and beams of light running in horizontal and diagonal patterns. There was also a group of lights that were flashing in some sort of random sequence. Michalak stepped away from the craft, and waited to see what reaction his endeavour had produced (as he stepped back, he noted that the wall of the craft was about 18 inches in thickness).

Suddenly, three panels slid over the opening, sealing it totally to the outside. He examined the outside of the craft now, and touched the side of it with his gloved hand, noting that there were no signs of welding or joints; the surface was highly polished, and appeared like coloured glass with light reflecting off it, and made silvery spectra out of the sunlight. Drawing his glove back, he saw that it



Michalak's chest and abdomen are shown, and his burns are quite evident. His left upper chest shows the effects of a severe thermal burn, the hair and flesh being charred, while his abdomen shows the 'checkerboard pattern' of chemical burns.

had burned and melted, as had his hat, which had apparently brushed the side. Unexpectedly, the craft shifted position, and he was now facing a grid-like exhaust vent which he had seen earlier to his left. A blast of hot air shot on to his chest, and set his shirt and undershirt on fire, and also caused severe pain. He tore off his burning garments, and threw them to the ground. He then looked up in time to see the craft depart like the first, and felt a rush of air as it ascended.

When it had left, there was a strong smell of burning electrical circuits mixed with the original smell of sulphur. Looking down, he saw that some moss had been set burning by his shirts, and so he stamped it out. He walked over to where he had left his things, and noticed that his compass was behaving erratically; after a few minutes, it became still. He went back to the landing site, and immediately felt nauseous and a surge of pain from a headache.

The landing spot looked like it had been swept clean (no twigs, stones, etc), but piled up in a circle 15 feet in diameter was a collection of pine needles, dirt and leaves. As he looked around, his headache became worse, he felt more nauseous, and broke out in a cold sweat. Feeling very weak, he vomited; he decided that his prospecting was over for the day, and that he had better head back to the motel. (On the way back, he vomited several times, and he had to stop to regain his strength).

When he finally reached the highway, he found himself to be about a mile from where he had entered the woods, so he started off down the road in that direction. He saw a Royal Canadian Mounted Police car coming towards him, and tried to flag it down, but it passed by, apparently to turn around, because a few minutes later, Michalak heard a voice calling beside him. It turned out to be an RCMP officer, and Michalak told him the story of what had happened. The officer listened, and then told

Michalak: "Sorry, but I have other duties to perform." He then left.

After walking for a few more minutes, Michalak reached the motel, but, thinking he was "contaminated," he did not go in, but rather remained outside in a clump of trees nearby. (A note should be made here about time references; to my knowledge, the next determination of time by Michalak is given as about 4.00 p.m., when he entered the motel coffee shop. I have not found any specification of the time spent at the landing site, though from the references given, I assume it to be slightly over an hour in duration).

At 4.00 p.m., he entered the motel coffee shop to inquire whether or not a doctor was available. He was told that there was no doctor nearby, but that there was one in Kenora, Ontario, which is 45 miles east of Falcon Lake. Michalak decided that instead of travelling further eastward from Winnipeg, he would return home and worry about prospecting when he was feeling better. He went to his room then, where he waited until the next bus to Winnipeg arrived at about 8.45 p.m. He called his wife, telling her that he had had an "accident" and not to worry, but to send their son to meet him at the bus terminal. When he arrived back in Winnipeg around 10.15 p.m. his son immediately took him to the Misericordia hospital. The investigations began.

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**Editor's comment:** It is one of the oddities of ufology that some cases get swept aside for some reason or the other, and afterwards forgotten. It was thus with the Michalak incident, which is why I asked our contributor, after he had submitted his detailed study of the case, to provide this prologue for our readers so that they have a record of the actual event. Mr. Rutkowski's study will be presented in the following issues of FSR.

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## THE BORDS' NEW BOOK

OUR contributors, and consultants, **Janet & Colin Bord** are the authors of a new book **Are we being watched?** (second title "True UFO sightings by children around the world"), hardcover, 96 pages wide format, price £3.95, published by Angus and Robertson (UK) Ltd. This book is aimed at older children, with an admonition, early on, that while some people think "UFO" means "spaceship from another planet. . .it does not; it means *unidentified flying object.*"

Janet and Colin have selected their subject matter so that most facets of the subject are presented, from LITs and strange objects in the sky to landings, and even close encounters of the third kind, as reported by children from a wide age group from 6 or 7 to 16 or 17-year-olds, whether alone, or with other children, or with parents or other adults. Which is a novel and interesting approach, for even the reader experienced in the subject of ufology will be surprised when he or she realises in how many of the great cases there have been juvenile witnesses.

It is generally accepted that children are quick and

objective observers, but in these modern times one should temper such acceptance with the realisation that children also possess easily stimulated and vivid powers of imagination — although it must be granted that deceptions of the implied latter kind are usually "seen through" without difficulty — which raises a little "niggle" about the claim "True" in the second title.

Of particular merit in this book is the penultimate chapter "Where do they come from?" — the ultimate question which has caused heartaches for both ufologists and enthusiasts — for all the *theories* (with the reminder that they are nothing more than that) are detailed, with points for and against them. This leaves a short chapter in which young witnesses are told how to report a UFO sighting.

To conclude, it is underlined that a study of this excellent book for children would be a valuable starting-off exercise for many an adult with a new enthusiasm for the subject, for it would ensure that they commence on the right track.

CHARLES BOWEN