

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
MT SAN ANTONIO, CA

DATE: July 3, 2026
TO: The Herald, Church of Alienism
FROM: Howard Stonecipher, Director
SUBJECT: Joshua Tree Astronomical Observation / Hans Junghaus-Bieler

PROSPECTIVE HERALD SUBMISSION

Hans Junghaus-Bieler and the Object That Did Not Behave Like a Satellite

Submitted for consideration by The Herald.

Hans Junghaus-Bieler, an amateur astronomer visiting the Institute, spent several nights observing from Joshua Tree and the surrounding Mojave-Colorado Desert transition. Most of what he saw was ordinary: satellites, aircraft, meteors, planetary scintillation, and the persistent temptation to assign significance to anything faint.

One object resisted that sorting. It resembled a dim reconnaissance satellite and initially moved as one. Its track, however, included small directional changes that recurred near the same apparent portion of sky. The behavior was inconsistent with a simple orbit and equally inconsistent with ordinary aircraft motion at the distances implied by its brightness.

The Church has circulated a diagram describing certain lights as 'not travelers across the firmament, but apertures made visible by the turning of the observer.' We treated that as metaphor until Junghaus-Bieler changed observing sites.

From a second location roughly forty kilometers away, the object's relation to the background stars changed. Its relation to a suspected secondary Nodal terrain feature did not. The geometry remains too crude for a firm conclusion, but the discrepancy is difficult to ignore.

The easiest explanation is still observational error compounded by unfamiliar terrain and imperfect timekeeping. The next-easiest is an unusual aircraft or orbital object. Those possibilities are sufficiently reassuring that the Institute continues to prefer them.

Junghaus-Bieler arrived believing he had seen foreign spacecraft. I now find that possibility comparatively comforting.

Respectfully,
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