Fayette County Chestnut Ridge June 3-4. 2022 Summary Report

Preface: The subject area of this summary report has been under investigation beginning in April 2022 by several research teams. These teams have witnessed and experienced multiple unusual phenomena including but not limited to odd animal vocalizations such as howls, screams, grunts, whistles, and undiscernible talking or mumbling. Other miscellaneous sounds have been witnessed such as what can only be described as a single metallic wind chime or what sounded like metal on glass randomly occurring in different locations. Wood knocks have been heard in the immediate area both at close and distance ranges in a variety of patterns without a known source. Objects such as rocks, sticks, and large branches have been thrown at the researchers and vehicles.

One of the most peculiar phenomena that have been witnessed are the unusual light manifestations, flashes, and balls of light in various colors ranging from bright white, red, blue-green, and other colors have been witnessed by multiple eyewitnesses both independently and together at the same time. This odd light phenomenon has been captured on video which will be released at a later date. The odd light phenomenon appears to be random as to where and when it will appear and does not occur on every visit to the area. It also does not seem to be affected or caused by a specific weather pattern or condition. We are unable to locate a source for said lights at this time.

We are not suggesting nor implying that any of the described phenomena are related or share any correlation. We are simply documenting and sharing the various phenomenon experienced by the multiple eyewitnesses over the past several months of investigations.

The following is a summary report of the happenings that occurred during our two-night investigation in this undisclosed location between the eastern side of the Chestnut Ridge in Fayette County and Laurel Ridge on the nights of June 3 and 4, 2022

Friday night June 3, 2022. The team consisted of Chris and Connie Brinker, Tom Mihok, Eric, and Kathy Altman. The team arrived at approximately 7:30 pm. While conducting a brief walk around the perimeter, we were greeted by the vocalization of very unusual dog-like barking and howling coming from a very dense, heavily wooded ravine across the gravel roadway from where we parked the vehicles. To us, upon hearing the barking and howling, the animal was close and the sounds didn’t sound like a normal canine. It sounded as if something was poorly attempting to imitate a dog. The team discussed what animal could be vocalizing and some of the suggestions were, someone’s lost and abandoned dog, a wounded dog, a trapped dog, and even the possibility that what we were hearing was not a dog at all but something else. With all the past unusual occurrences in this area, the team was not above ruling any possibilities out. Being that our location was a mile and a half from the closest house, we found it odd but not out of the realm of possibility that it could be a canine of some sort be it domesticated or coyote. The team was just uncertain why a canine would stay in the ravine barking and howling as it was and not leaving the area, despite our attempts to call to the dog attempting to get a response. Whatever the animal was, it did not leave the ravine for close to an hour and seemed unphased by our attempts to communicate with it. We still could not understand the animal why would it be in this dense thick heavily wooded ravine and why did it stay in the same place for close to an hour just barking and howling unsolicited. After an hour of barking and howling, the sounds stopped. The sound did not move away or become distant, the sound simply stopped.

We did note that the other forest sounds did not seem affected by the bark/howls that had occurred.

After a short while, Chris and Connie had another obligation to attend to and left for the evening. Tom, Kathy, and Eric remained behind. Kathy sat in the truck while Tom and Eric stayed out on the roadway. As soon as Connies vehicle’s tail lights were out of sight, Tom and Eric heard four very loud howls come from down the mountain in a different direction from where they heard the bark/howls earlier. Eric texted Chris and Connie to inform them of what they’d just heard. Connie and Chris just arrived at the intersection of the main gravel road about a half-mile away and decided to stop and try a call to see if they could get a response. Tom and Eric did not hear their call. Approximately, fifteen minutes later, Tom and Eric heard a pack of coyotes that began to howl and bark at a distance down the mountain. In the middle of the coyote pack barking and howling Tom and Eric heard a loud long-drawn-out low pitched howl which seemed to agitate the pack of the coyote as their barks and howls became louder, eventually moving off until they were no longer heard. After a brief period, f time had passed, Tom and Eric heard two more loud howls this time high pitch coming from the ravine where they had heard the canine-like barking/howling earlier in the evening. Those were the last sounds that would be heard for the remainder of the night. As Tom, Kathy, and Eric decided to leave for the night, it was decided to stop at the main road intersection and sit for a while to see if anything further would be heard. They reached the intersection and stopped the truck one last time to listen to see if they could hear anything before heading down the mountain. While they were sitting at the intersection with the windows down, Eric was leaning out the window to listen. Something caught Eric’s attention and he witnessed a bright white ball of light between the size of a golf ball and baseball floating near the treetops that seemed to float for 3 to 4 seconds before disappearing. This would repeat several times. The light would appear in a different location, move for 3 to 4 seconds, and then disappear. Eric brought it to Tom and Kathy’s attention, but neither saw the strange ball of the light. Eric, Kathy, and Tom exited the area shortly after.

On Saturday morning June 4, 2022, Eric went to review the audio files he thought he recorded Friday night, however upon pulling the SD card from the Zoom Hn2 recorder, the file was not present on the SD card. Eric did not erase the files when done recording, he stopped the recorder and powered it off. The recorded was checked several times during the night to make sure it was recording and it was confirmed it was and the card was not full. Eric’s recorded words did not capture any of the sounds witnessed on Friday night. Fortunately, two audio files were captured by Chris on his iPhone before they left. Those were the recordings of the canine sounds heard early in the evening. Those files were submitted for analysis to naturalist Joe Perdue to try to determine the animal responsible for the sounds. During the phone conversation with Chris about his captured audio files, Chris informed Eric that while leaving the area Friday night, after turning onto the main gravel roadway, he witnessed an upright figure standing in the distance on a gravel roadway y on a distant rise. As Chris and Connie drove towards the figure and down the gully and up the rise where he had seen something standing, whatever he had seen was no longer there. The results of Joe’s analysis of the Friday night recording will be discussed at the end of this summary report along with Saturday’s findings.

Saturday, June 5, 2022. The team consisted of Chris and Connie Brinker, their daughter Hunter, Hunter’s boyfriend Yermie, Eric and Josh Altman

The team arrived around 730 pm at the same location as Friday night. Upon parking and exiting the vehicles, the team was immediately greeted by high-pitch howls coming from the same ravine as the previous night. The one thing the team noticed immediately was that although similar, these howls were not identical to the sounds heard on Friday night. These howls did not have barking associated with them and they were higher pitch and longer drawn out howls. These were not the same sounds as Friday night and did not sound like a dog or coyote. Equipment was immediately set up which consisted of a parabolic microphone on a tripod that had recorded onto a Zoom H2n digital recorder set up on the gravel roadway next to the ravine and a hand heald H4N Pro digital recorder set up next to the parked vehicles. The howls occurred unsolicited every few minutes throughout a half-hour. Over 15 howls were heard in total but only 10 of the howls were recorded, due to lag in time getting the equipment set up. Despite the team’s attempts to elicit responses by wood knocking, using an isotec predator call, and several human whoops and howls, we realized that the howls would not respond to us. Whatever was vocalizing would howl whether the team was silent, talking, or attempting to communicate with it. The final sound heard was very distant. At one point during the evening, while looking down into the ravine, Eric saw what appeared to be the back end of a large dog or coyote trotting through the brush. It was large, gray with a bushy tail. The animal was only seen for a few seconds before disappearing into the brush. The animal moved quickly and silently as it did. The last howl heard occurred right after Eric saw the dog/coyote, and it came from a good distance away therefore it was concluded that the sound heard was not made by the dog/coyote that Eric saw.

During the time Eric was looking into the ravine, Connie and Chris both witnessed a white spherical ball of light the size of a baseball in the same brush area leading into the ravine, right beside the gravel road. As described by Connie and Chris, the light simply appeared and then vanished. Eric did not see the light

After sunset, there were other distant animal sounds heard however they were not recorded. There were also sounds of movement heard around the permiter of the clearing. No source could be determined on night vision, FLIR, or by flashlight. Several team members heard branches breaking, footfalls, and the sounds of something large moving through the brush.

After several hours of normal nocturnal sounds and no further unusual activity, the team departed for the night.

On Sunday, June 5, Eric pulled the files from his recorders. Before the files were analyzed, Eric edited out a lot of unnecessary talking and other unrelated noises. After running the files through Audacity, the howls were amplified so they could be analyzed and Joe was sent both the edited and unedited copies of the file for review and analysis.

The research teams are unable to conclude what we heard and witnessed while investigating during the weekend of June 3 and 4th. We can only confirm that heard very unusual sounds were heard, and unusual lights were witnessed by several team members. We did not see the animals responsible for making the sounds so we cannot say for certain what was responsible for making these sounds. We can say that as experienced outdoors persons, with years of field research, the sounds heard and recorded Saturday night were not sounds we can positively identify as common sounds related to the local wildlife and that the team members were not able to positively identify them. Eric, Connie, and Chris have no explanation for the lights witnessed on Friday and Saturday nights. As stated previously we can not confirm nor are we suggesting that any of the phenomena are related or correlated in any way. The area will remain under investigation and surveillance by our teams as much as possible utilizing the audio and video equipment we have available. Below is the results of the analysis done by a colleague, researcher, and Master Naturalist Joe Perdue.

Audio Analysis by Joe Perdue:

* **Joe Perdue Master Naturalist of the West Virginia High Strangeness Collective Audio analysis of recordings from Chestnut Ridge, Fayette County PA June 3 and 4, 2022.**
* **After a review of the 5 audio samples from The Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society and Eric Altman, using Sonic Visualizer to view the audio signatures via spectrograph, we have discovered multiple recognizable forms. Every noise carries its audio signatures, from birds and frogs to coyotes and human speech. These ranges are all known ranges and can be referenced quite easily. Pictured below are screen grabs of different signatures. Each is marked with its designation to distinguish what the culprit was. The team experienced multiple vocalizers during the 2-night survey. Specifically noted below, you can see spring peepers (listed as a frog) have a distinct high-frequency chirp, human voices speaking carry a broad frequency as seen below, a songbird signature that appears as a ~, coyote howls that are displayed in the 500hz range and taper down into the lower 400hz, and then an anomaly presents itself as well. This anonymous vocalizer is present in a few frames below, the frames have been edited down to only valuable information as mentioned above to display the differences in sound forms. Our subject seems to have a harmonic range (lower range at 545 and upper range at 1237) the spectrograph signature also matches other widely accepted alleged Bigfoot vocalizations such as the Ohio howls and the Bruno vocalizations. These vocalizations are of interest due to them being in a Hz range higher than coyotes produce as well as the strength line signature. Coyote vocalizations typically have a tapered drop, as noted in the screen grabs, a sharp front-end spike that has a sudden drop, or is simply barks that display as sudden blasts on the spectrograph. Another interesting note is that the recorder picked up a knock that is visible on the recording but was not observed by the witnesses. This knock occurred just before a vocalization (also noted in the images in the report). It is my opinion, and the opinion of other members of the collective, specifically Ron Lanham and Dave Roberts, that multiple vocalizations in the recording are authentic "Bigfoot" vocalizations and not those made by humans, or misidentified wildlife. Representations of the human calls that were made can be presented upon request to show the stark contrast between the recorded subjects. That said, there were active coyotes in the area, birds, owls, etc. Those signatures are all marked in the screen grabs to assist the reader. I have corresponded with Eric Altman via video calls to review the findings and share the results. We look forward to The Collective's continued partnership with the PBS in the search for answers and investigation of High Strangeness. -Joe**