

## A Trailcam Mystery

Dear Friends,

Frankly I had hoped for an even greater diversity of opinion. But here's what we have now: But first another look at the Unidentified Flaming Object:

I was first off the mark:

Kee Dewdney: "The flame looks like a book of matches thrown by someone leaning against the camera tree for support (possibly intoxicated -- who else would pull a stupid stunt like that?). We see the book of matches in mid-flare.

Darren Jacobs: "I think a piece of ice or a puddle caught the cam flash and reflected it."  
Ron Martin

Ron Martin (a chemist who knows about such things): " May I suggest Will o' the Wisp, possibly due to oxidation of hydrogen phosphide and/or methane from decaying organic matter?"

Martin remarks further on my alternate theory of a meteorite: "A meteorite would have left a piece."

Terry Keep: "I vote for guess number 1. Looks like someone grabbed the camera mount and let go, sending it vibrating and then lighting the lighter for whatever purpose..."

Pat Dewdney: "Clearly, this is a reflection from the camera flash-- probably into a puddle or on ice."  
(She had earlier thought that red cellophane might be involved.)

Betsy & Hugh Baldwin: "Hugh thinks the mystery light may be reflection, from a bit of ice, of the camera flash. He says there can often be aberrations at the edges of lenses, and that may account for the distortion. The rectangular shape of the light could be explained by the rectangular shape of the flash. Not the most exciting explanation, though."

Bruce Parker: "These mystery photos are gathering momentum. I think it is great!! Anyway, the new one seems rather dubious. Since it was done in the dark, maybe someone who lives nearby and knows of the cameras decided to create an illumination to set one off? Light a pack of matches and toss in front of the camera?!?"

Well then, until Mystery #4 arrives, this is the Newport Witch Project saying a chilly good night.

Kee

