

## Site Visit Report

Dear Friends,

I have been remiss in not following up on those infamous "Newport Mysteries," but here I am back to take up the thread once again. Specifically, we have some followup due on Mystery No. 4 before we get to No. 5.

I had a small word file built with your several reactions on it, but my new iMac refuses to open the file, declaring an "error." I have therefore trashed the file (safest procedure) and tried to reconstruct the content from memory. The following lights, as photographed by the previous trail cam at The Hole, appeared in June, if I recall correctly:

The lights were attributed to 1. camera artifacts, 2. fireflies, 3. raindrops caught in a flash. Sorry, I can't attribute these, but you're lucky I remembered as much as I did. My only comment is that whatever produced the small points of light, the repeated shape near the bottom right (three times) is typical of what photographic analysts call "specular reflections." They result (if I remember correctly) from multiple reflections within the optical system.

Having made no more progress than this, I'm calling it a cold case and moving on to Newport Mystery #5. This one has me puzzled. First, let's take a look at a production of the same trail cam dating back to a night in July (I'm sorry the old images were not time-stamped. The new ones will be.)

This looked to me, initially, like someone shining a very powerful flashlight on the foliage near the measuring stick. This would imply a night visitor with a searchlight (OPP looking for illicit TTLT crops?)

What gives me pause is that the light source is dead in the center of a water-filled washtub behind the lit-up foliage. Coincidence? If so, fine. If not, then it may be a reflection from the tub. Moonlight? That's some bright moon!

Neophyte photo-analysts can also ask themselves if the camera's flash went off; are ALL reflections in the scene consistent with a single source? A flashlight beam, emanating from a point behind the camera, must have an unusually narrow focus and it's strong enough to scatter light onto most of the surrounding foliage.

I'm not completely happy with the searchlight/flashlight hypothesis. Who can reassure me?

Happy sleuthing . . .

Kee

### IMAGES:

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*fallen trunks extend well beyond foreground giants*

*(click on image to enlarge)*



*looks like a six-pointer (buck looking to right in background)*