



# The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

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## From the Spooky Desk of James Willis: Paranormal Beginnings

I'm finding it almost impossible to write the intro to this newsletter. I keep finding my eyes wandering away from the keyboard and over to the calendar in front of me. No, I'm not counting down the days until summer or my next vacation. Rather, I'm staring in disbelief at the calendar that tells me it's only 20 days until May 9<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of The Ghosts of Ohio. Ten years ago to the day that I sat in front of this very same desk in my computer room and said to myself, "I think I need to start a ghost organization of my own."

Back then, I was a single guy living in a big ol' house all alone. And from time to time, a whole bunch of cars

would show up in the middle of the night, we'd load a bunch of boxes in them, and then take off for hours at a time. If you ask my neighbors now what they thought I was up to back then, most would say they thought I was in a band. Of course, there were a few that were convinced I was doing something illegal. My, how things have changed! Today, I get friendly waves all around the neighborhood from people who lovingly (as far as I know) refer to me as "the ghost guy."

Not only have I been accepted, but The Ghosts of Ohio has, too. When we first started out, we would go months without a single investigation request. Today, even though we're only entering

the second quarter of 2009, The Ghosts of Ohio is busier than ever.

As of January, we've completed three investigations, scheduled one reveal, and have three other investigations pending. And that doesn't even include all the overnight investigations we're planning for our Spend the Night program.

And we're just getting started. So in a couple of weeks, on May 9<sup>th</sup>, The Ghosts of Ohio invites you to raise a glass of your favorite beverage and join us as we toast the past 10 years...and prepare for the next 10.

Cheers,

James A. Willis  
Founder/Director

## The 'Reality' of New Devices: Zak's Zapper and Speaking Spirits

One of the things that The Ghosts of Ohio prides itself on is always being up-to-date on the latest trends in paranormal research.

With the recent surge of paranormal reality shows, there seems to be no end in sight to the interesting (and in some cases, downright bizarre) devices people are using to detect and/or communicate with ghosts. Keeping that in mind, The Ghosts of Ohio is currently conducting research into two devices in particular: Zak Bagans' "Dark Light" and the infamous Ovilus.

For those of you not familiar with these devices, the Dark Light is a mysterious device that Zak Bagans uses on the show *Ghost Adventures*. He's not very clear as to how the device is designed to work, other than stating on one episode that the light "illuminates the buffering zone in between our world and the spirit world using electromagnetic resonance between upper and lower ranges of the visible spectrums of light. In English, it's supposed to attract ghosts to the light kind of like bugs to bug zappers" when

the ghosts to come towards the light. After several minutes, the Dark Light is turned off and photographs are taken, some of which are said to contain images of ghosts that were drawn to the light.

As far as The Ghosts of Ohio is concerned, we're just as interested in finding out what the device does to the environment as much as whether or not it can work as a ghost beacon of sorts. In other words, is the Dark Light working like a black light, which would help illuminate dust particles, thereby increasing the amount of contaminants that could appear in photographs? Or is it really luring ghosts in? Either way, we'll be sure to keep you posted on our findings once we either get our hands on one or build one ourselves.

The other device we're looking into building is the Ovilus. This device, which is used on several ghost reality shows, most notably *Paranormal State*, allegedly takes ghost-modified electrical fields and transfers them into speech. In other words, the Ovilus gives ghosts a voice. Think "talking Ouija Board" and

you'll get the idea. Once again, the jury is still out on exactly how the Ovilus works.

Of course, there's also the whole controversy as to how ghosts know how to affect the electromagnetic field in such a way that the Ovilus can "speak" for them. Regardless, The Ghosts of Ohio has gotten their hands on some of the key components of the Ovilus and are preparing to build a replica. We'll let you know how it turns out!

### The Newsletter is a Robot!

We know that we keep promising to stop reminding you about this, but some of you simply refuse to believe it. But it's true: the newsletter is a robot. So please, please, please do not send any email responses to the newsletter. It is nothing more than an automated system that will banish your email to the depths of the Web until we manage to stumble across it.



## Scary Sleepover: Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio!

Last year, The Ghosts of Ohio kicked off their Spend the Night program, which created the unique opportunity for some of our lucky fans to take part in an overnight investigation with us.

As part of the Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio program, we are renting out some of the most haunted buildings in Ohio for an entire night. Unlike traditional "ghost

hunts," where you are often forced to share the location with total strangers, every building we rented out was totally ours.

Based on how successful the program was last year, we have begun finalizing locations for our 2009 Spend the Night program. And just like last year, we want you to come along with us! We'll bring all the equipment, so all you need to bring is your courage.

How do you get in on all this spooky fun? It's simple, really. All you need to do is sign up for The Ghosts of Ohio newsletter—which is free...and which most of you have already done!!

For each investigation, we will pick several names from our list of newsletter subscribers and give them the first shot at spending the night with us. All they need to do is pay the same registration fee that the members of The Ghosts of Ohio have to pay in order to rent out the building (dollar amount subject to change based on each venue). In addition, we'll be drawing at least one lucky Grand Prize winner who will get to come along for FREE!

That's all there is to it! Of course, we might want to take a few pictures of you on the investigation and post them on our site so you'll be the envy of all your friends. But hey, that's a small price to pay for the chance to spend the night with The Ghosts!

If for some reason you don't have your own subscription, what are you waiting for? Sign up at <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/newsletter.html>.



The Ghosts of Ohio at Mansfield Reformatory in Fall 2008.

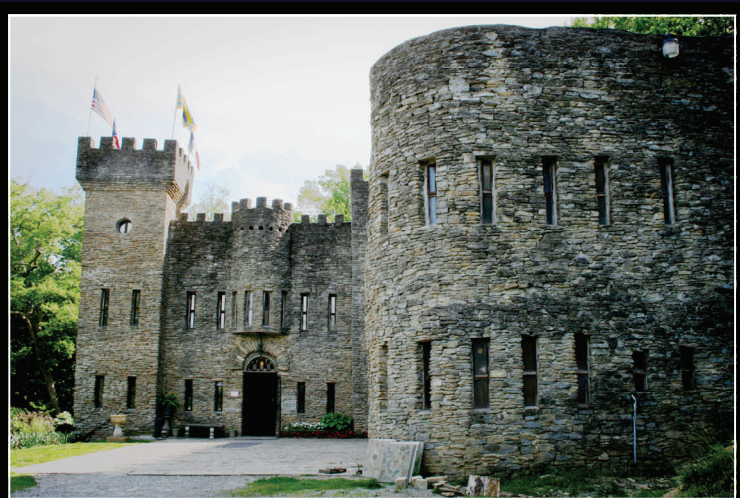
## Confirmed Locations for the Spend the Night Program

So where are some of the places you could spend the night with The Ghosts of Ohio? Well, while there are several locations we're still working on, we can at least get you excited about the two that we have already confirmed:

**Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Loveland Castle (Loveland, Ohio)

**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Bobby Mackey's (Wilder, Kentucky)

Winners for the Loveland Castle overnight will be announced in our June newsletter and the Bobby Mackey's winners will be announced in the August newsletter.



The Ghosts of Ohio will storm Loveland Castle on July 10<sup>th</sup>!  
Picture courtesy of Sheri Harrington: <http://www.harringtonphotos.net>.

## Dinner and Spirits With The Ghosts of Ohio

The Ghosts of Ohio is proud to announce another program that we are getting ready to roll out in 2009: our Dinner & Spirits Tour. We don't have any dates and venues confirmed yet, but we thought you would all like a sneak peek.

For our Dinner & Spirits Tour, The Ghosts of Ohio will be working with some of Ohio's reportedly haunted eateries to create a truly unique evening. The evening will begin with a specially created (and possibly themed) menu. Guests will enjoy their meal while hearing The Ghosts of Ohio members recount some of the ghost stories and legends associated with the building and, in some instances, showing evidence we acquired during our overnight investigations at the location. Some of the locations will even allow a few lucky guests to join The Ghosts of Ohio on an

investigation after the meal has concluded.

As we mentioned, we are still in the process of confirming dates and locations for 2009. So keep an eye on The Ghosts of Ohio newsletter and website for more information. And if you happen to be the owner of a haunted eatery and would like to be included on our Dinner & Spirits Tour, please contact [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) and we'll be happy to discuss the details with you.



## Spooky Social Networking

Need a spooky friend? If you have a MySpace account, swing by and add The Ghosts of Ohio to your friends list: [www.myspace.com/ghostsofohio](http://www.myspace.com/ghostsofohio).

And for those of you who use Facebook and/or Twitter, you can now find The Ghosts of Ohio on those sites, too:

### Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Columbus-OH/The-Ghosts-of-Ohio/60704381381?ref=mf>

### Twitter

<http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio>

Whichever online community you prefer to use, you can always find us!



## Relax and Refocus: We Get Hypnotized

At The Ghosts of Ohio's monthly meeting in March, we had a very special speaker come out to talk with us: certified hypnotist Jeff Richards.

We first heard about Jeff and his methods from Julie and Janine, two Ghosts of Ohio members who had attended one of his presentations.

We were eager to speak with him about a few things. Specifically, we wanted to know if there were any simple ways of relaxing or refocusing oneself prior to an investigation.

Those of you who have been on ghost investigations know the drill—you run around like a crazy person setting things up and making sure everyone is in the right place. Then, you find yourself so physically and emotionally drained

that by the time the investigation officially begins, your mind is racing and you have to try and force yourself to refocus.

Jeff spoke with us about hypnosis in general, including his background and the various uses, and then walked us through some relaxation exercises that we can use ourselves. Afterwards, Jeff answered a few questions and left, but not without making himself available to us should we have any further questions.

All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed Jeff's presentation and as a group, we plan on incorporating some of Jeff's techniques into future investigations.

For more information about Jeff Richards, visit his website: [www.ohiohypnosiscenter.com](http://www.ohiohypnosiscenter.com).

## Want to Speak to the Ghosts of Ohio?

The Ghosts of Ohio is always looking for unique speakers for our monthly meetings on a wide range of topics—from paranormal to scientific and everything in between. Past speakers have included photographers, electrical engineers, Wiccan priests, and cemetery researchers.

If you are interested in speaking at a future Ghosts of Ohio meeting, feel free to drop us a line at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "meeting speaker."

## Investigations and Consultations: Now Scheduling for 2009

The Ghosts of Ohio is continuing to schedule investigations for 2009. If you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) or visit our website to fill out an investigation

request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Not sure if you want or need an Investigation? The Ghosts of Ohio now offers consultations. Let us sit down

with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer.

For more information, please visit <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html>.

## New Gear: "Extending" Our Ghostly Grasp on the Paranormal

The Ghosts of Ohio is currently in the process of adding some new devices to our arsenal of tools. To begin with, we're incorporating motion detectors and a radiation detector to our Vernier LabPro system.

Now, before you go thinking The Ghosts of Ohio believes ghosts are radioactive, let us explain. To us, radiation is a form of energy. Therefore, if the theory about ghosts grabbing energy from any available source is true, we just might see fluctuations in radiation levels. Aside from that, prolonged exposure to radiation levels, even slight ones, has been known to produce visual and even auditory hallucinations that just might make people think they are experiencing something paranormal. So for those reasons, we think the radiation sensor will make a good addition to our ever-expanding arsenal of tools.

Also, as The Ghosts of Ohio continues to investigate larger and larger

locations, the need has arisen for stronger infrared extenders for our video cameras. So John is currently hard at work building three 50-degree extenders.

Finally, John, Darrin, and Mark are exploring ways to improve the quality of our audio from our DVR cameras. Since the larger DVR systems and cameras are designed for security/surveillance, a lot of time is spent on the quality of the image with very little being devoted to the audio. In fact, most of the DVR cameras that come with sound have the microphone in the back of the camera, pointing away from the lens. A simple solution would be to use external microphones, but we've yet to find any commercially available ones. Another option would be to use a separate audio



IR Extenders increase the range of infrared cameras, allowing enhanced views of large rooms and long corridors.

device altogether, which would be simple enough...until you consider having to spend time synching up the video and audio.

If you have any ideas, we'd love to hear them. Until then, we'll just sit here and ponder things for a bit.

### Greenlawn Cemetery Cleanup

On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Ghosts of Ohio will be taking part in Greenlawn Cemetery's First Saturday program, as well as doing a bit of Spring cleaning of all the graves in Section 50, our adopted lot at Greenlawn.

Everyone is welcome to come out and give us a hand. Just follow the main entrance into the cemetery and hook a left in front of the chapel. After that, make a quick right in front of the Hayden Mausoleum and then keep an eye out for the famous Fisherman statue of Emil Ambos on the left. That's Section 50 and you'll probably see a bunch of Ghosts of Ohio members there.

In addition, Ghosts of Ohio founder, James Willis, will be donating an autographed copy of his book *Weird Ohio* for a silent auction designed to raise much-needed funds for Greenlawn Cemetery.

For more information on the auction, please visit the Greenlawn events calendar at:

[http://www.greenlawncolumbus.org/about/tours/events\\_calendar.php](http://www.greenlawncolumbus.org/about/tours/events_calendar.php)

### The Spirit of Service: Resor Road Cleanup

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, members of The Ghosts of Ohio descended upon our adopted section of Resor Road and gave it a nice spring cleaning. All in all, we collected six bags of garbage. Those of you who visit our website frequently might know that we like to keep track of the top 10 weirdest things we've found during the cleanup. Well, this time was

no exception. Our more noteworthy finds included a wrench, car battery, ring with LED lights, and several miscellaneous household items not native to the Cincinnati roadways.

If you are interested in coming out and helping The Ghosts of Ohio with their roadside cleanup, please send an email to [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org).



The Ghosts of Ohio road clean-up crew at Resor Road on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Celebrating a Decade with The Ghosts of Ohio

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, The Ghosts of Ohio organization officially celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It's hard to believe now, but back when the doors of The Ghosts of Ohio office first swung open for business, James Willis was the only member and all our equipment couldn't even fill the trunk of Willis' Honda Accord. My, how things have changed! At present time, the organization consists of more than 30 members and enough equipment to fill three SUVs...and one Honda Accord.

At present time, rumors run rampant about anniversary celebrations and Ghosts of Ohio merchandise giveaways. And while we cannot confirm or deny any of those rumors, we can tell you that there will be a lot of anniversary-related surprises popping up in the coming



The Ghosts of Ohio at Fort Meigs—Circa 2007.

## Have Spirits, Will Travel: Come Out and See The Ghosts!

It's only April, but The Ghosts of Ohio's calendar is already filling up with public appearances throughout the state of Ohio. So if you're interested in finding out more about our organization, what sort of evidence we've uncovered over the years, or just want to swing by

and say "hi," have a look to the right and see when we're coming to your town!

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all appearances are open to the public. Those listings with a "\$" denote venues with admission fees. All others are free.

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 PM**  
 WBGU-FM Dead Air Live In-Studio Interview  
<http://www.myspace.com/wfaldeadair>

**Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (all day)**  
 P-CON 2009 Paranormal Convention (\$)   
 Dayton FOP Hall  
 4725 Powell Road  
 Huber Heights, OH  
<http://www.theprodigygroup.org/pcon2009.php>

**Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> (all day)**  
 SOAR Paranormal Meetup (\$)   
 307 Front Street  
 New Richmond, OH  
<http://paranormal.meetup.com/526/calendar/9614363/>

**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 8:00 pm**  
 Ohio Library Support Staff Institute  
 (not open to the general public)  
 Denison University  
<http://olssi.org/>

**Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mothman Festival  
 Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia  
<http://www.mothmanfestival.com/>

**Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 Delaware Ghost Walk (\$)   
 Delaware, OH

**Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 pm**  
 Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation  
 New Lebanon Public Library  
 715 W. Main Street  
 New Lebanon, OH 45345  
<http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/branch.cfm?ID=30>

**Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm**  
 Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation  
 Upper Arlington Public Library  
 2800 Tremont Road  
 Upper Arlington, OH 43221  
<http://www.ualibrary.org/>



Check out The Ghosts of Ohio at an upcoming presentation near you!

# The Ghosts of Ohio: Haunting a County Near You!



Over the course of its 10 years, The Ghosts of Ohio has continually mapped out all the different locations that we have either given a presentation, conducted an investigation, or visited a public location rumored to be haunted.

If you notice, there are a few counties out there that The Ghosts of Ohio have yet to visit. So if you work or live in one of those counties, we'd love to hear from you! We'd be more than happy to come out and give a presentation at your place of business.

Or, if you think your house might be haunted, just keep reading to see how you can schedule an investigation of your property by The Ghosts of Ohio. Either way, here's your chance to tell people "I was the first person to invite The Ghosts into this county!"

## ADMINISTRATION

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