



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

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James

You're Gonna Need A Bigger Boat

Classic line from a classic movie, *Jaws*. There's good old Chief Brody, flinging bloody fish guts into the water when the mighty Great White they've been chasing after breaks the surface of the water for the first time. It's big—much bigger than

Brody thought it would be. He realizes they're in for a much bigger fight than he anticipated. Sure, he was out there, chumming the water in the hopes of drawing the shark in. But this beast looks to be more than they can handle. The same thing is happening right now in the paranormal community. In this case, the sharks that have broken the surface are a group known collectively as Debunkers. And they smell blood in the water.

Even the most tried and true believer has to admit, if only to themselves, that paranormal investigation shows—from television to YouTube and TikTok—have, in recent years, swerved wildly from “reality” into “entertainment.” It happens. People aren't going to be interested in things that don't entertain them. But what some are taking umbrage with is that fact that many of these shows are making unsubstantiated claims and, in some cases, manufacturing evidence and hoaxing.

Enter the Debunkers.

The Debunkers are a loose group of individuals who have taken to social media and YouTube, creating videos calling out various paranormal shows and para-celebrities (yes, they name names) and providing “evidence” of fakery and lies. It's fairly entertaining in and of itself, but it also gets somewhat brutal and personal. In turn, the shows and individuals who have been called out by the Debunkers have responded with claims of harassment and copyright infringement. And then things start to get really personal.

It should be noted that by and large, the Debunkers are not taking issue with claims of “this EVP says, ‘help me’” or “I thought I saw a shadow.” Rather, they are focusing on claims of doors repeatedly opening and closing on their own, demons being captured crawling out of the shadows, and suspect ways of alleged two-way spirit

communication. We're talking extreme activity here. And it's being passed off as being real. So the whole “extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence” thing rings true here. Personally, I think some of these groups threw that “evidence” out there simply to get views/likes without a thought as to what sort of repercussions might be waiting for them, just below the surface.

For me, any time I send a piece of “evidence” out into the ether, I simply say, “I can't explain this” and allow for my peers to analyze it. That's how it should be. If they have questions or put forward “normal” explanations, I don't dismiss those or get angry. And if someone does figure out that it wasn't a ghost after all, so be it. We live and learn.

The Debunkers are also starting to put forward a disturbing accusation. Namely that there are shows a para-celebrities that are basing their entire channels on creating hoaxes and passing them off as real. This has led to one Debunker to question the role that paranormal investigators have in enabling ignorance.

So a word of caution for those out there who are considering putting exaggerated claims out there for the sake of views: Don't be surprised when something bigger than you expected breaks the surface and starts coming for you.

Cheers!



Ghosts: Do You Believe?

Hosted by Ghost Hunters' Dustin Pari

Live at the Southern Theatre



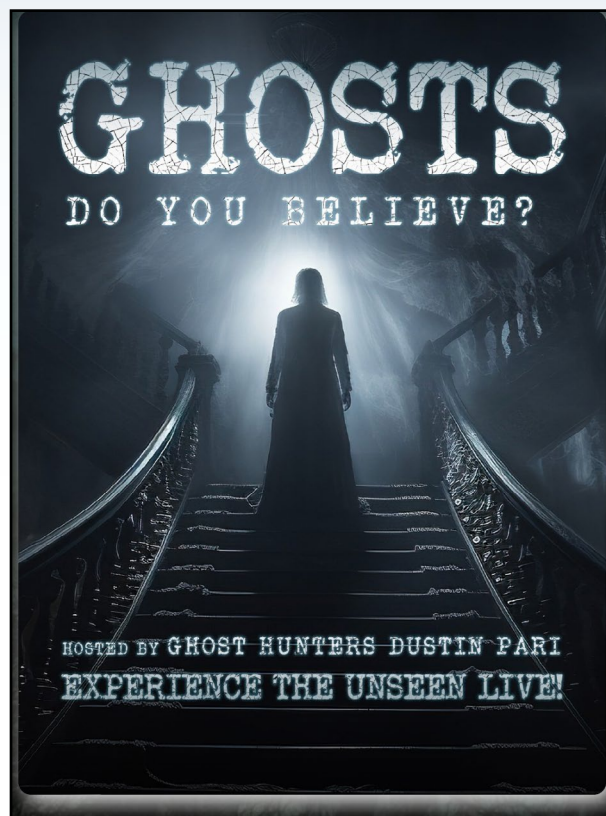
Frank

Ghost Hunters' Dustin Pari is going out on tour, so to speak, and I attended his presentation on April 17th at the Southern Theatre in Columbus, Ohio. Oddly enough, I only learned of Dustin's upcoming presentation a week prior to it taking place. It had not been widely promoted, for

some reason. I first met Dustin a little over 15 years ago on a *Ghost Hunters* group investigation at an old hospital in New Castle, PA. During that investigation, I managed to have a lengthy conversation with Dustin and found him to be a very honest, spiritual, and engaging person. So I knew his appearance at the Southern Theatre was not to be missed.

Columbus' Southern Theatre was the perfect setting for this type of intimate program, which was actually divided into 2 parts. For the first part, Dustin came out and was already in a very relaxed, humorous mood. He explained he was going to talk about his personal experiences and what he has learned over the years. Then, for the second part of the presentation, he would take questions from the audience, some of which had been sent in prior to the event.

Dustin began by sharing how he got involved with *Ghost Hunters* and doing investigations with TAPS. He basically lived in Providence, RI which is a stone's throw from Warwick, the home office of TAPS. Dustin admitted he was very persistent—contacting TAPS repeatedly with emails and general pleas to allow him to become an investigator. After some time, he was finally asked to join TAPS on a local investigation. Over time, Dustin eventually became a regular member of TAPS.



As his presentation continued, Dustin also shared with the audience his first ghostly experience. It happened when he was a young child and involved a shadow figure. Dustin told the audience that over time, he came to believe in the afterlife, following the death of his mother.

Dustin also discussed the history of written ghost stories, oral ghost history, the spiritual movement of the mid 1800s, Ouija boards and more. There were even video clips from his time on *Ghost Hunters International*. Dustin also displayed some apparitions that were captured with a special camera during filming the filming of GHI episodes in Brazil and Australia. To be honest, I personally thought it took some imagination to see what Dustin saw in those particular photographs. It was all very interesting, nonetheless.

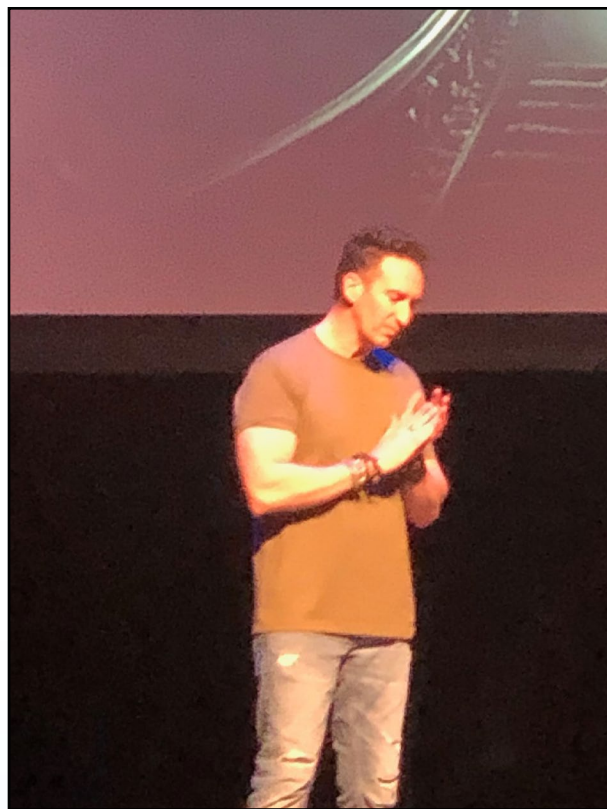
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Ghosts: Do You Believe? continued



he couldn't speak to the credibility of any program that he was not involved with. The worst question of the evening was "Is a hot dog a sandwich?" It was around that time I thought it was time to wrap things up.

All in all, I found Dustin to be very candid and honest and it was a fun experience. I would suggest that anyone with an interest in the paranormal check the show out if Dustin comes to your town. He's covering 24 cities east of the Mississippi with a few stops in Canada. Visit his [website](#) for more information.



Dustin wrapped up the first part of his presentation with a discussion about provoking spirits and demonic possession. Dustin was quick to point out that he felt one should always be respectful to ghosts. They were people, too, after all. It was also his personal belief that shows featuring provoking and people allegedly getting scratched by demons to be somewhat suspect.

During Act II, Dustin read questions from the audience that had been prepared beforehand. He even read my question; "Did you get pressured by your producers to "find evidence" in order to keep the program interesting?" His response was "absolutely not." He said Grant and Jason were both producers and stated there was no hocus pocus, per se and he never saw any faking taking place. Dustin did say that



EQUIPMENT REVIEW: MOTION LIGHT BALLS

In a field where dropping hundreds of dollars on a singular device is the norm, every once in a while, something comes along that's so cheap as to make it sound too good to be true. Such is the case with Motion Light Balls, which many groups and reality shows are using as trigger objects to detect the presence of spirits.

Motion Light Balls come in a variety of sizes, but the most common ones are about 1.5" round pieces of clear plastic with a red on-off push button. Turning the ball on causes a series of small lights to flash inside the sphere for a few seconds before they turn off. Touching or creating any sort of vibration around the ball will cause the lights to flash again. The idea being that these devices, often marketed as "ghost detection balls" or "ghost trigger balls," will flash its lights should a ghost touch or move it or cause a vibration in close proximity to it—with phantom footsteps, for example. One of these light balls will barely make a dent in your wallet—only about \$2.00 each. Of course, if the packaging has "ghost" written anywhere on it, you'll need to triple the price. Why the price difference? Because while some people are selling them as ghost detection devices, to the normal people out there, these are nothing more than cat toys, designed to entertain cats by emitting a series of flashing lights whenever they are touched or moved.

At this point, it would be very easy to simply dismiss these devices having any sort of place in paranormal research, but hear us



out: If this device is able to detect motion and/or react to something touching it, then it could potentially be used as a trigger object. Not on its own, mind you. But if had several light balls lined up down a hallway, along with other handheld devices (EMFs, for example) and the motion balls lit up at the same time there were spikes on the EMFs, that could mean something. With that in mind, we decided to test the motion balls out.

Unfortunately, that's where we ran into a bit of a problem. You see, the light balls that we tested really needed a hard push to get them to trigger—in some instances, even when we gave it a good whack, the lights never came on. And then, sometimes, after the ball was just sitting quietly by itself, the lights would flash.

So what gives? Well, it seems that the different motion balls we tested all came with some sort of trigger where, if left unattended, will cause the lights to briefly flash. It might be designed that way to try to

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EQUIPMENT REVIEW: MOTION LIGHT BALLS continued

get a cat interested in playing again or simply just a way of letting us humans know we forgot to turn the motion ball off. Either way, the fact that these motion balls will start flashing without any external force being exerted on them means they shouldn't be used on investigations, at least not without secondary or even tertiary pieces equipment as backup.



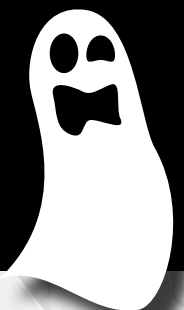
EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

Got a piece of paranormal equipment you've always wondered how it works? Does it really do what it's supposed to be doing? Or maybe you've created some paranormal equipment you'd like field tested? Either way, let us know because The Ghosts Of Ohio would love to help! Drop us a line at info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Equipment" and we'll take it from there!



WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do: Just write down your story and send it to info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story." Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you out an e-mail letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!





James

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Recently, my home computer decided it didn't want to house any of my Ghosts Of Ohio files anymore and quit on me. Not fun. I was able to get everything back, though, but the files were thrown all over the place, leading to my having to go through them all in an attempt to sort things out and get them back where they belonged. The result was a lot of "what's the deal with this?", especially when it came to old photographs. That's when it dawned on me; I bet all our newsletter subscribers would get a kick out of these. And the *From The Archives* column was born.

The plan is to post a photograph, without context, and let everyone try to figure out just what's going on in it. Then you can scroll down a bit, and we'll let you know the history behind the photo.

Here's the first one for you. Only thing I'll tell you for now is that those are all members of The Ghosts Of Ohio in the photograph and it was taken in 2013 at Willis Woods.



So what do you think is going on?
Are we trying to conjure something?
Being forced to endure the world's
saddest birthday party?

Actually, we were performing an experiment. Specifically, we were looking at the ideas of telekinesis and psychokinesis and how it might be possible for a "collective" to do such things. Put another way, no one in The Ghosts Of Ohio claims that they have the ability to move solid objects using the powers of their mind. We took that to mean that none of us had the "full" power to do that. After much consideration, we started asking ourselves "well, what if each of us had a small bit of telekinetic/psychokinetic ability. If we were to all come together and form a "collective" by all focusing on moving the same specific item, would we be able to move said item?"

We started with several different solid objects such as small toys and balls, all agreed what we were going to focus on (i.e.; cause the ball to roll), and then all concentrated on nothing but that. All of the

experiments were done in my basement with all the lights turned off and no one else in the rest of the house—so all distractions were eliminated.

I would love to say that the experiments were a success, and we were able to collectively send all sorts of objects flying through the air. But that didn't happen. No matter how hard we tried, we couldn't get any of the objects to budge even slightly.

So what about the picture? Well, that was taken when we decided to abandon the idea of moving a solid object and instead try moving something a little less solid—like a candle flame. Alas, that didn't work, either. But it was fun trying and led to a whole slew of new experiments to try. And don't worry; some of them will be featured in upcoming editions of this very newsletter.

NEW GEAR FOR THE GHOSTS

Hot off the presses, The Ghosts Of Ohio just completed a major upgrade to our video recording capabilities.

What you are looking at is our brand new 8-channel NVR (Network Video Recorder) with a 4 TB expandable hard drive. Multiple 4K 8-megapixel cameras, both IP (Internet Protocol) and PTZ (Pan, Tilt, Zoom). And all cameras have internal microphones and IR capabilities up to 100 feet in total darkness. It's a beast of a system and there's more to come. So what are we gearing up for?

Ohio's Historic Haunts II

This book, again being produced with Kent State University Press, will have The Ghosts Of Ohio traveling to 21 historic (and reportedly haunted) locations in the Buckeye State over the course of the next 2 years. That, in addition to the dozen or locations for *Northern Ohio Legends & Lore*, not to mention our private investigations, and it all adds up to a very busy few years for The Ghosts.

But don't worry; we won't leave you in the dark about all this. There's a whole bunch of things planned, including potential ghostly ride-alongs. So no matter if you have to Like, Follow, or Friend Request us, make sure you do so you don't miss a strange and spooky minute!



NEW!

Filling up our 2024 Calendar



Spring has officially sprung, which means there's a whole bunch of new presentations popping up for 2024!

The following are only the confirmed dates—much more are in the works. Also, while the following dates, times, and topics were current when this newsletter went to press, it is all subject to change, so please check with the individual location to be on the safe side. Additionally, we post any changes to all our social media accounts, so give us a Follow/Like to stay in the loop.

As always, unless an event is marked with a "\$", it is free and open to the public. But in all cases, seating may be limited, so it's always a good idea to check with the venue regarding the need to pre-register.

Saturday, May 11th @ 11:00 am

Weird Ohio Road Trips presentation

Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County—
Main Library
407 South 4th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952

Thursday, May 23rd @ 6:30 pm

Bigfoot In Ohio presentation

Dayton Metro Library—New Lebanon Branch
715 W. Main Street
New Lebanon, OH 45345

Thursday, June 20th—Sunday, June 23rd

Haunted America Conference (\$)

Lewis And Clark College: Benjamin Godfrey Campus
5800 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, IL 62035
[Tickets on sale](#)

Monday, July 1st @ 6:00 pm

UFOs Over Ohio presentation

Brown County Public Library—Sardinia Branch
13309 Purdy Road
Sardinia, OH 45171

Wednesday, July 10th @ 6:00 pm

Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio presentation

Columbus Metropolitan Library—Gahanna Branch
310 Granville Street
Gahanna, OH 43230

Saturday, July 20th @ 11:00 am

Weird Ohio presentation

Brown County Public Library—Mary P. Shelton
Building
200 W. Grant Avenue
Georgetown, OH 45121

Saturday, July 22nd @ 6:30 pm

Amityville: Horror Or Hoax? presentation

Mentor Public Library
8215 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060

Saturday, September 21st-Sunday, September 22nd
2024 Mothman Festival

Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia

Monday, October 7th @ 6:00 pm

Investigating the Paranormal in the Buckeye State presentation

Barberton Public Library
602 W. Park Avenue
Barberton, OH 44203

Thursday, October 10th @ 6:00 pm

Creatures At The Ohio Border presentation

Tuscarawas County Public Library—Main Library
121 Fair Avenue
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Thursday, October 17th @ 6:30 pm

My Strangest & Spookiest Investigations presentation

Dayton Metro Library—New Lebanon Branch
715 W. Main Street
New Lebanon, OH 45345

Saturday, October 19th @ 11:00 am

Ghosts & Legends of Defiance County presentation

Defiance Public Library
320 Fort Street
Defiance, OH 43512

Friday, December 6th-Sunday, December 8th

GalaxyCon Columbus (\$)

Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[Tickets on sale](#)

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2024. So, if you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at 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 also 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>

Interact with The Ghosts Of Ohio

In addition to our website, here are a couple of places where you can find The Ghosts Of Ohio lurking online:

 [FACEBOOK](#)

 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

Administration

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Newsletter Staff:

Editor-In-Chief: James Willis

Designer: Stephanie Willis

Contributing Authors:

James Willis

Frank Yensel