



The Montana Vortex

In northwest Montana the grand scale of pristine nature in *Glacier National Park* satisfies the vacation needs of around two million people a year. But once these scenery-seekers have been drenched in the natural high of being dwarfed by the towering, glacier-strewn Rocky Mountains some of them begin to crave balance. The lucky ones find a different sort of sensory experience by traveling west a mere thirteen miles from the Park entrance. Here, right off the highway they come across something that has little to do with the esthetics of lofty mountains, beautiful lakes, or rocks, and trees, and more to do with what Nature in a playful mood can do with rocks, trees and even people.

On the way between Glacier Park and

Kalispell roadside signs on Highway 2 invite travelers to stop by the *Montana Vortex*, a small attraction with a big impact. The towns of Hungry Horse and Columbia Falls are about equal distance from the attraction, which has been growing in attendance each year as its fame begins to spread.

Known before it changed hands in late 2004 as the, *House of Mystery*, the *Montana Vortex* is one of those places sometimes seen on TV, and read about in magazines catering to the weird proposition that reality isn't always what we see with a passing, busy glance. The idea of being able to enter a reality where some physical rules like gravity and perspective, if not suspended, are decidedly skewed is titillating, exciting to think about, yet subject to pragmatic skepticism. But a neophyte to this sort of thing might ask, "What if it's real? Will my life be changed if I personally experience the violation of hard and fast scientific conventions? Nah, it can't be real. It's just a slanted house on a side hill with some really great optical illusions. Right?"

The most celebrated of these "illusions" is the shrink and grow phenomenon whereby two people on either side of a level platform can change places, and then seem to change sizes. What is the explanation? Is it simply a stage magician's trick of tilted platforms and crooked backgrounds? Is it the result of some kind of invisible lens effect that bends light out in the



Owner Ali Hauser squaring off with a reporter for the Hungry Horse News on the "shrink" platform in front of the crooker shack. Measure the differences in size from the first photo to the second when they change ends.

open air? Can human beings literally grow and shrink in size? Do people actually undergo changes in atomic mass or density?

There are several of these roadside attractions in the United States that show this kind of genuine phenomena, but every one of them, as part of their tours, ask visitors to explore a crooked shack perched on a side hill. Grotesquely slanted walls and floors inside the houses trick human senses with remarkable



The slanted house at Montana Vortex.

optical and physical illusions. So, like all the other true vortex sites, the *Montana Vortex* roadside attraction has a “mystery house” as a side exhibit complete with a ramp where one can roll balls and marbles down an up ramp, but the attraction is far more than that. Sightseers who pass it by only to get home and find it, or something like it featured on television,



Ali “facing herself.” In this cropped and pasted photo the camera was held steady during the time she moved from one end of the platform to the other.

are sorry they didn’t pull off the highway when they had the chance.

The Montana Vortex does not just highlight the horribly out-of-plumb shack, but like a few other such attractions, it sports a genuine quantum, or gravitational anomaly that does really unusual things to people. It can be fun to play around in the shack with its obvious optical illusions, such as being plastered against ladder rungs on one side, but

hanging away from them on the other side. The true mystery, however, of this small patch of Montana woods is always the question of how human beings can shrink and grow in the eyes of others and themselves by simply walking a few short feet along a level surface?

Why in this area are people unable to stand perfectly erect as gravity demands almost everywhere else on the Planet? Why do folks feel like they are walking uphill when the lay of the land demands that they are walking downhill? The story of the *Vortex* contains many such why's; like why is it harder to pull a hanging weight in one direction than another? But the sensory feelings many detect in their body and bones inside the *Vortex* is the true story of its inception.

The Montana Vortex is the youngest of nine such places open to the public around the United States. The first, *The Oregon Vortex*, was opened in 1930. Most of the other attractions, from North Carolina to California, were opened in the forties and fifties, but the Hungry Horse, Montana site came on line in the early 1970's. The original owners, Joe and Marge Hauber, bought the property as an investment in 1965, and then began using it as a summer get-away. In those days the Hauber's land fronted the Flathead River and they frequently walked a forest path to their waterfront.

One day in 1970 Marge tried a different route to the river and walked through a spot



Looking carefully at the tree, are distorted by the Vortex energy into large but vague circles of concentric lines.

that seemed to cause her to get sick to her stomach. It was a feeling of motion as if she were on the deck of a slowly heaving ship. She showed the spot to Joe, who also felt strange while standing in it, and then they began to take friends and relatives to this odd place in the woods. Awakened to the exceptional nature of their land they began to see it in a different light. They noticed that many of the trees were twisted and leaning, and they found another spot where they too would stand with this unnatural lean. The properties of their

land investment were proving to be very unusual, perhaps even unique.

In the beginning the Hauber's didn't know what they had, but a friend mentioned that a place near Medford, Oregon seemed to have similar properties as their vacation land. Out of curiosity they visited the *Oregon Vortex*. What they saw and experienced there convinced them that their own little corner of the map contained the same kind of gravitational anomaly. Finding that their strange possession was not strictly unique was not a let down, but actually gave them the idea of starting their own roadside attraction.

After doing what they could with only the trip into the Oregon incongruity as a template, they built the crooked house, borrowed part of the Oregon name, *House of Mystery*, and opened their doors to business in the early 1970's. For the first few years they provided guided tours, and then finally turned it into a self-guided exhibit, allowing folks to investigate the crooked house and grounds at their leisure.

There is no contrived story or theme about the slanted shack. Including the Hauber's, the Vortex has had four owners and they all freely admit the crooked house was deliberately built to accommodate tourist curiosity by enhancing the true effects of the anomaly itself. Since the beginning the *Montana Vortex* has only requested that one keep an open mind

while wandering around the grounds testing the phenomena with the props provided to help show that whatever is going on there is, "REAL!"

The Hauber's operated the business until 1982 when the State of Montana decided to liberate through eminent domain thirty-eight of their forty plus acres (the waterfront part) for a park. They cashed in the remaining part of their investment by selling the gift shop, crooked house, and five-plus acres of Vortex to a couple from Wisconsin, who expected the new park to help pull in more customers. To date, though, the land taken from the Hauber's by the state of Montana has still not been developed. The Wisconsin folks operated the business for about nine years, but let it get run down. For personal and financial reasons they sold it to Bill and Judy Booth who ran the place for the next 12 years, fixing it up as they went along.

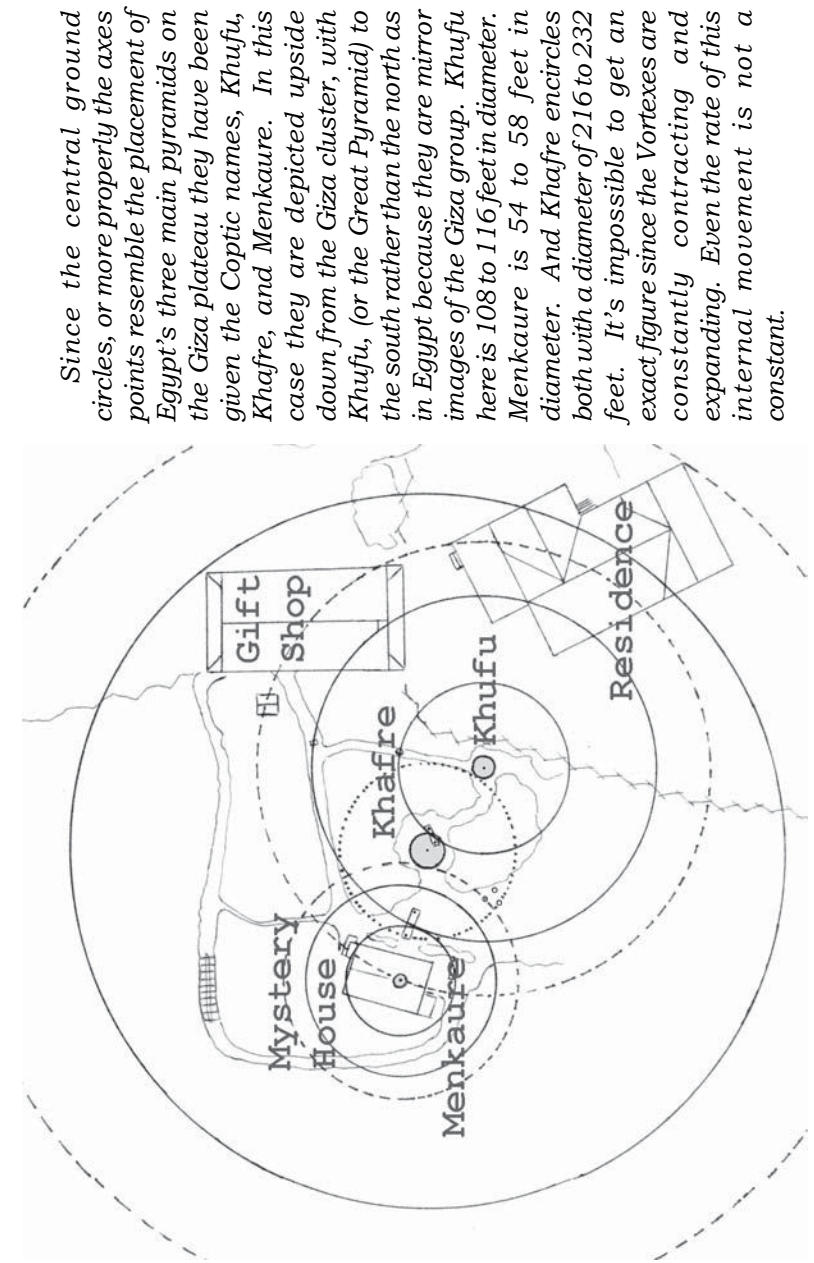
Finally, in late 2004 the Booth's, wanting to retire, sold the attraction to a couple from California who are dedicated to upgrading it. From 1972 through 2004 the Montana anomaly had never been fully developed, probably because the first three owners didn't have enough information about their possession. The new owners have had the Vortex surveyed by an expert, Nick Nelson, who has written three books on the subject. He spent two intense weeks roaming the grounds seeking aspects of the Vortex that were previously un-

known, and his survey found many other facets of the Vortex that have been neglected.

The new owners want their business to meet and then exceed the demonstrations that since 1930 has made the Oregon anomaly the industry standard. It is their intention to exploit the anomaly's great untapped potential and develop the *Montana Vortex* into the most comprehensive, finest, and most studied such roadside attraction in the world.

It seems certain that the original owners, **Joe** and Marge **Hauber** would approve of what the fourth owners, **Joe** and Ali **Hauser** are doing! Obviously, the Universe meant for the Hauser's to take over the reigns of the *House of mystery*, now renamed simply, the *Montana Vortex*.

As is usual with these attractions members of the scientific community wander in, do studies and then wander out never to be heard from again. Ostensibly, some folks from the University of Montana spent some time there. Another "scientist" about 1999 or 2000 took dirt samples, and other measurements which he said showed that there were, "... forces coming in from six different directions". His name is no longer remembered and he left no documentation to mark his work. Perhaps this person arrived at his conclusion from observing the trees in the area, which can only be described as tortured. The tree trunks, especially those of the Douglas Firs are bent in ways





*The section
of the gift
shop is
encountered
just inside
the front
door.*

Wait!

*Is that
broom
standing
on its own?*

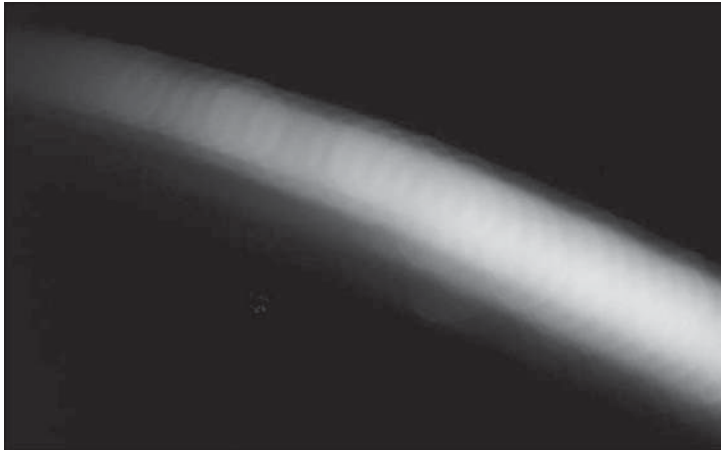
that cannot be blamed on weather, and there doesn't seem to be any direction of twist or lean favored.

Another person of "knowledge" stated that the Vortex was rectangular in shape, but if so it would be the only known force field that somehow assumed this dubious contour. By and large, science tends to pay little attention to these phenomena, and after the rare times when they do, conclusions, if any, are almost never published. Only the rare scientist ever plays detective and solves true mysteries. When solutions don't show themselves as having a classical physical cause, and the thing being investigated seems to be abnormal, the instinct of a tenured scientist is to leave it alone to preserve reputation and unrelated grant funding. Even so, the Hauser's are planning to open the site to legitimate scientific scrutiny that they hope someday will include free cabins in the woods to proper researchers.

Nelson's survey is the first comprehensive work done in this area, and it has revealed the true nature of the Vortex to be composed of not just one anomaly but a minimum of three that overlap and incorporate each other in a highly dynamic manner. He found that this triple-vortex is laid out on the ground in a surprisingly familiar fashion. The slanted house is surrounded by the smallest vortex, and its center is nearly in the middle of the shack itself. Several feet to the southwest is the cen-



This photo was taken at night with a digital camera that was held above the photographer's head when the shutter was tripped. The cloud of orbs was seen in the momentary flash with the naked eye, which rules out a camera malfunction.



A spiral light form that may be an orb accelerating across the camera's lens axis.

ter of the second largest anomaly, and between these two is the largest, whose greater diameter totally encircles both of the others. Nelson was amazed to see that the Vortex is laid out with two of its centers in line and one offset, or the same configuration as the three celebrated pyramids in Egypt, which are in turn situated in the arrangement of Orion's Belt in the constellation Orion.

The main body of this book identifying the Montana anomaly as an element of a much larger part of an Orion connection was already typeset when Nelson's survey surprisingly revealed that the *Montana Vortex* also assumes its own such archetype in miniature. The map on the very first page showing a triangular arrangement of these attractions also reveals a much larger Orion relationship with three other vortex attractions in the USA. Not only does the Vortex internally assume the "Belt" pattern, but it also externally takes the place of one of the four stars in the constellation comprising the lopsided "bow tie" effect with the "knot" being three other vortexes on the West Coast (See *Shapes and Structures of Vortexes*, page 80).

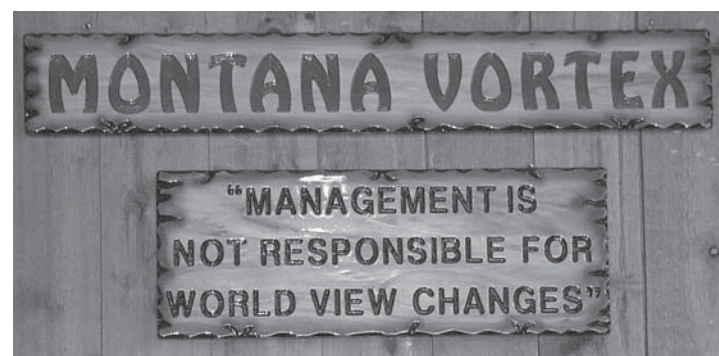
Many times the real "scientists" turn out to be just regular folks who simply notice things out of the ordinary. People who have visited several of these attractions have stated that the *Montana Vortex* is the strongest anomaly they've ever experienced, and given Nelson's

observations this is almost certainly the case. The US map of these attractions does reveal that the Montana anomaly is a hub, so to speak, for several others, therefore it would not be extraordinary to find the *Montana Vortex* to be the strongest, most active, and therefore most intense of the lot.

“Before the white man,” the Booth’s brochure said, “Indians sensed the strangeness of these locations and did not venture near them for fear of offending the Great Spirit! While we don’t think any spirits will be bothered, we do agree that something is very strange here. It’s a mystery to us, and will be to you...no matter how many times you visit!”

The gift shop, now completely remodeled by the Hauser’s is larger than most other vortex roadside attractions, and the products, many with a southwestern flair run the gamut from the usual coffee cups, embroidered hats and Tee shirts, books and art work, to science related items. Local folks have been seen carting off products from the gift shop because of the quality and price. Quantity is present, but quality elevates this shop from the ordinary cheesy fare of many souvenir shops found in most tourist attraction venues.

Events at the attraction occur in a friendly, fun seeking atmosphere, but perhaps before you pass through the door at the back of the gift shop, which will usher you into the innards of this world class vortex, you may wish to ponder the words on the sign over the portal:



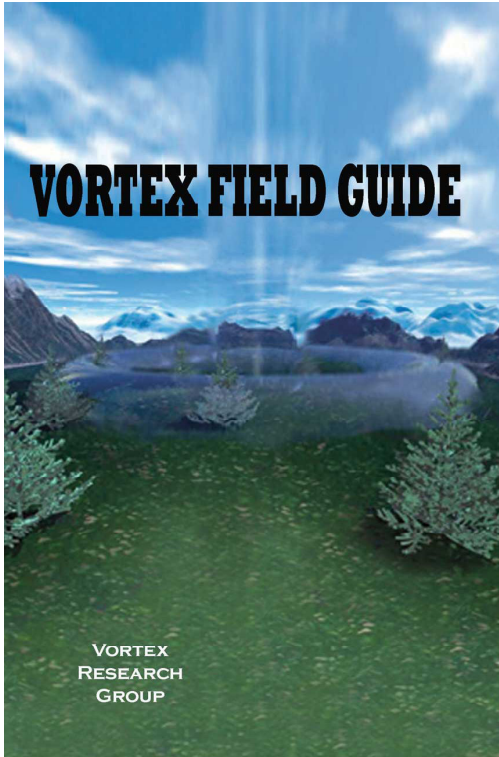
Have a camera ready and take many pictures, because things not always seen by the eye have a habit in this vortex of impinging on film or digital media. There is no restriction of what to shoot or of the type of camera you may use. The Hauser’s hope that you get spectacular photos of real and other more indistinct images, and that you will send them copies so they can share them with others on a growing display at the site.

Keep the camera in hand as you walk in a daze back to your vehicle in the large parking lot, and before entering your vehicle glance over toward Columbia Mountain across the highway from the gift shop. If you see something strange hovering near the mountain, take a picture. Maybe yours will be the photo that identifies the flying object that many others claim to have seen.

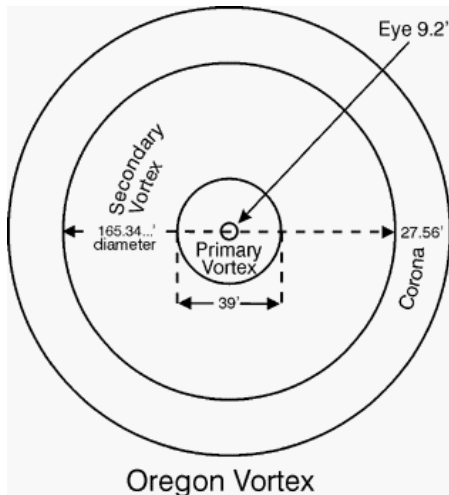
The *Montana Vortex* is a place caught between magic and science, and only you can make the decision as to which you want it to be.

Visit MontanaVortex.com.

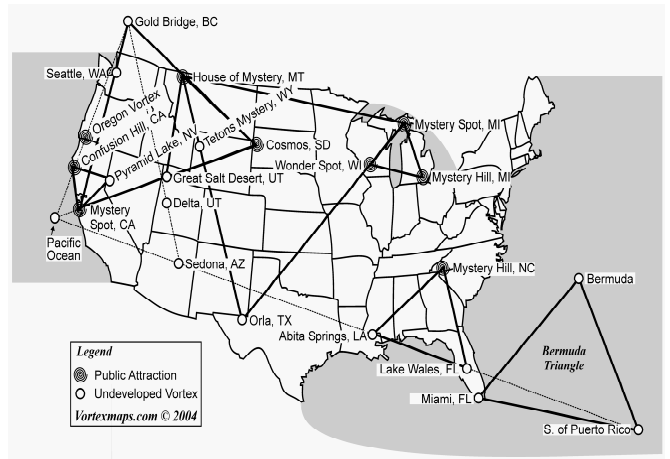
VORTEX FIELD GUIDE



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 250 pages



Across America there are numerous tourist attractions calling themselves "Mystery Hill", "Mystery Spot", "House of Mystery" etc. Some of these roadside attractions actually demonstrate phenomena that appear more like the new quantum physics than the old Newtonian physics. Others are frauds. How can you tell them apart? What kind of astounding phenomena do you find at a real vortex? How can it be demonstrated, observed and measured? How can you identify new vortices from maps, air photos, and on the ground? Where can you find these vortices? The ***Vortex Field Guide*** answers these questions and more, paving the way for some very fun but serious research.



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