

*The following is a detailed report by Paul Graves on an image he obtained with a game camera on August 3, 2012 in the Olympic Peninsula, Washington. Paul is a well-known and highly respected researcher. I have absolute faith in everything he reports. CLM*

### The Game Camera Image

by Paul Graves

I decided to make a full report available in a public forum concerning a game camera photo of a probable sasquatch I obtained in 2012 on the Olympic Peninsula, Washington State. I have provided an introduction, the circumstances leading up to the photo, and an analysis so you will appreciate all aspects of this remarkable incident.

I am a long time investigator into the sasquatch/bigfoot subject and have worked with various people and groups over the years; but mostly doing a lot of research by myself since 1988. I have made public short papers and reports on some of my findings.

I am a lifelong outdoorsman and grew up on an eastern edge of the Cascade mountains in North Central Washington where there are millions of acres of mountains, forests and shrub-step habitat right at my front and back doors.

When I first started doing sasquatch field work, I roamed the mountains and woods like I always had growing up, enjoying them and acting like a normal human doing human things. Nevertheless, I also thought about ways to gather sasquatch evidence using new tools and information gleaned from past sightings—such as probable sasquatch locations, behavior and so forth. Right from the beginning I wanted to do things a little differently than what had been done before. I am a lifelong artist and musician and frequently think “outside the box” in my work.

In 2006 I started a technique of recording “backwards” (I mounted a camera on the back of my jeep backwards, which fed into an old VCR). I did this after talking to some coastal Native friends who said that Sasquatch sometime walk or run behind a vehicle (as well as in front).

I also have a good sighting report provided by two sisters, who I know personally. They saw a possible sasquatch as they rode over a mountain pass while looking out the back window of their car. A large hair-covered “something” was crouched in the ditch beside the road and as soon as they passed it stood up and walked across the road behind them; it was taller than the top of their car.

I have worked with game cameras for many years; thanks to Wally Hersom and his generous contribution of game cameras and associated equipment to myself and others. As a result, I have several cameras I can use. I know that videos and digital photographs probably won't do much to convince scientists, but I really believe what I captured is most likely a sasquatch.

One thing I have never done with my game cameras is tie them to a tree like most people do. I put a lot of thought into camera placement, and from the beginning would usually hide them low to the ground and then point them up at a 45 degree

angle. My reason for this is that I have found from doing regular investigations that when there was alleged sasquatch activity in an area, and game cameras were placed by researchers, the activity would stop. It appears the sasquatch knew the cameras were in place—something appears to be alerting them. This led me to think more about camera positioning.

I have determined that most cameras have a passive infrared sensor or (PIR) that can detect animals and people by sensing changes in the infrared light that occurs when a subject enters the camera's detection zone; this causes the camera to react—“triggers” the camera. (I need to mention that wind and sun can trigger the camera as well, so just keep that in mind).

If you place a camera straight and high up then something can be detected from a considerable distance (causing reaction); but if you place it low and at a 45 degree angle something has to be almost on top of it before it will react. I have recorded some interesting images over the years, but nothing like the image I got in 2012 on the Olympic Peninsula.

In 2011 I was involved in a group called the Olympic Project. I got a call from a member about a couple (man and wife) and a friend living in the Olympic mountains; two of them had two really good sasquatch sightings, so I investigate. The couple's home is the highest on a mountain in a very isolated area with typical western Washington fauna. There is a huge, deep, dark ravine that goes right by the house and continues all the way down the mountain to a saltwater bay.

The wife saw a sasquatch while watching TV; it had ran across the front yard. The friend saw one while he was working on a retaining wall; he heard an odd noise in the ravine so went over to investigate. At a short distance he saw a massive black sasquatch peeking around a tree. This was odd because the tree was too small to cover its entire body—its wide shoulders stuck way out. The witness had a rifle with him (there are cougars in the area) and he observed the oddity through the rifle scope for about 20 seconds. He then went into a bit of a shock and rushed home.

He related the event to the homeowner (husband) and the two investigated the ravine for possible footprints, but only found disturbed ground cover near the tree.

The homeowner is a trained artist so sat down with the friend and spent the next three hours on an eyewitness drawing of the sasquatch; taking the time to get the details right while still fresh. This was a life-changing event for the friend, and when I got the game camera photo nine months later and showed it to him, it brought back all the feelings and memories from his experience.

Before I did my investigation, members of the Olympic Project went to the home and put game cameras on trees all around the house. I started to have routine conversations on the phone with the homeowner and one thing was evident right after the cameras went up—it got quite and all activity seemed to stop. This did not surprise me because there was another investigation that we (Olympic Project) had done on an island in Puget Sound. There was a lot of sasquatch-related activity, but it ceased when cameras were placed.

I will mention that there are certain things people do when living in rural homes that I think piques the interest of sasquatch.

A lady living on the Puget Sound island in the area of activity would stand on her deck and sing to music. I have used music and believe it has resulted in sasquatch activity.

Although I am no longer associated with the Olympic Project, I am still good friends with Derek Randles, Dave Ellis and others and highly respect their work. Nevertheless, I knew something had to change if we were to get better results with game cameras; I was really thinking “outside the box.”

I talked to the homeowner in the Olympic mountains and had all the game cameras removed. Sure enough within a week or so sasquatch activity returned—banging on the side of the house, strange loud whistles, yells/screams and wood knock. Also, odd branch structures were found.

It was at about this time I came up with the idea of hiding a game camera in a fake rock. I have my own concrete business and I am a long time sculptor, so I formed a fake rock using Styrofoam and made a cavity for a game camera. This was covered in concrete and when dry, the Styrofoam removed, I textured and colored the concrete to look like a natural rock. The finished “rock” was over 200 pounds and took two people to move it. I discussed placement with the homeowner and he was open to the idea.

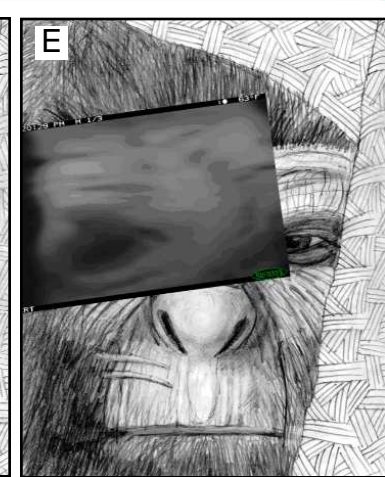
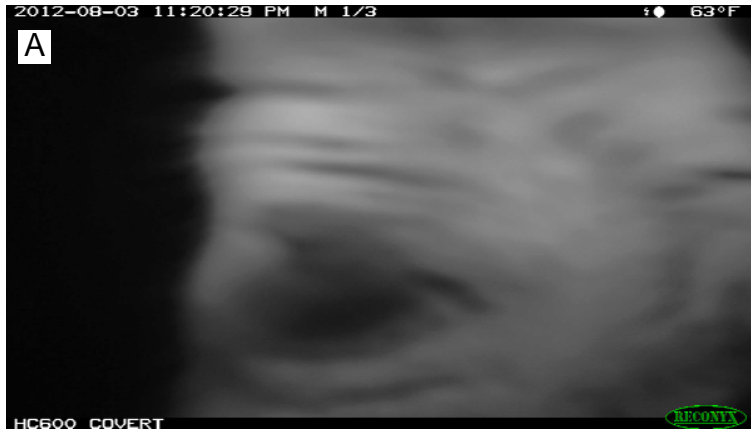
About a month later I drove to the property and we placed the false rock (seen here) in a rock garden with a small pond and a bridge leading to the house front door. Low retaining walls hold all the rocks and pond area together. Everything is right next to the ravine, which literally goes straight down. We placed the false rock on the edge of the rock garden near the wall closest to the ravine. We then inserted the game camera (we provided fresh batteries, which last many months—depending on the number of images recorded).



The homeowner only checked the photo card twice in nine months. On the first check nothing of significance was recorded. On the second check (about 9 months since the friend saw the sasquatch) there were three images as seen on the right (A, B, and C). The first image (A) had the homeowner perplexed. He called me that night and sent me the image. For the record, the game camera I used was a Reconyx PC900 Hyperfire Professional IR. At the time this was one of the best game cameras you could buy (\$600–\$700 new). I had the camera set up to take 3 pictures in about 5 seconds; when the IR detects something different it takes consecutive pictures.

I have taken thousands of game camera images over the years, and usually when I get a normally known animal on camera there will be multiple pictures taken. With the Olympic mountain case there was only one “hit” producing the three night images as seen here.

In the first image (A), I reasoned that I could see what looked like an eye with wrinkles above it, part of a nose bridge, part of another eye and a forehead; but was still not sure. I made a quick drawing and sent it to the homeowner. Right away he e-mailed me and said he had forgotten about his eyewitness drawing he had created nine months earlier. He then sent me his drawing “as is” (D) and then his drawing with the game camera image (A) overlaid (E).



It was almost a perfect match, and when I first saw this I got the chills; it was just too close to discount what we were seeing. When the homeowner showed it to the friend he broke down and started to cry.

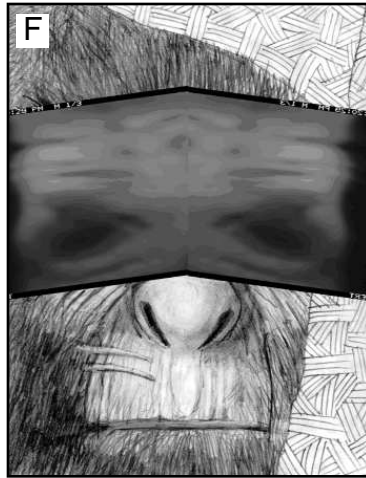
Also in the first image (A) it appears the subject may have put its hand up near its face to block the light emitting from the

camera. This is something that has been observed in many sighting reports. Sasquatch with their big eyes can probably see past the range of humans. The human retina can only detect incident light that falls in waves 400 to 720 nanometers long, and supposedly cannot see infrared or ultraviolet light (although some scientist think some humans can see this in certain circumstances). Many cameras have their flashes in the 900 nanometer range.

In the second image (B) you can see just a little bit of the something or "heat" in the bottom left corner. It seems to me that the subject came up the ravine and poked its head up getting its picture taken; it then ducked down very fast, just one second later and the camera caught only a small piece of it. Two seconds later, third photo (C), it is totally gone. No other photos were taken with the camera that night .

There is a lot of discussion as to why we don't get more game camera photos; some say sasquatch can smell cameras (plastic and so forth); some say the IR is giving them away; others say it might be a noise that humans cannot hear. I think in my case it could have been a little of all of them; but I believe the fact that the camera was encased in up to 4 inch of concrete probably masked the noise and/or smell and this tricked the sasquatch for a split second. Nevertheless, we have had the false rock and the camera in place for a couple years now with no other photos obtained.

The following image (F) is a "double reverse" image that indicates what the sasquatch might look like with both eyes superimposed on the homeowner's drawing.



I have shared this material with many of my colleagues over the years. Bill Munns come to the sighting location for a few days to meet with the witnesses. He sat down with the friend and made a bust out of clay based on what was seen and described by the friend. Bill did an amazing job replicating the head and features of the sasquatch (photos on extreme right, G, H, I).

Furthermore Dr. Jeff Meldrum spent a couple days here and was impressed with the photo aspects of this case. Ron Moorhead and Bob Gimlin also spent some days here and each experienced some activity.

This Olympic mountain property continues to have ongoing sasquatch activity and sightings. The homeowner's wife has had three additional sightings. After about seven or eight years the homeowner had a sighting.

I have spent a number of nights over the years at the location and experienced some activity. The entire area has a rich history of sasquatch being present; including reports by the local Native people who live just below the mountain at the saltwater bay.

In closing I wish to say that I believe there is a great probability that what you are looking at in the first game camera image (A) is a sasquatch from about 2 feet away.



Sculpture created by Bill Munns.