

# UFORCOP CASE REPORT

**December 20, 2011**

**“RAYSTOWN RAY”**

## CASE OVERVIEW

Raystown Ray is a serpent type creature resembling the Loch Ness monster, reported to have been spotted in Raystown Lake in central Pennsylvania. 'Ray' is a recent phenomenon, gaining popularity in the 2000's. However some locals have stated that they have been aware of 'Ray' for some time and have chose to keep it to themselves until recently. Raystown Lake and mostly 'Ray' have become a huge attraction in the area for both tourists and researchers alike, pushing the number of visitors to approximately 1.5 million a year and spawning merchandise sales of t-shirts, patches, and postcards sporting the image of 'Ray'. Some of the prominent research into Raystown Lake included a segment done by the SyFy Channel show "Fact or Faked; Paranormal files" during their first season which aired on July 29th, 2010. After interviewing witnesses, several dives, and the use of sonar they came up with inconclusive evidence.

# **RAYSTOWN LAKE**

Raystown Lake is a manmade lake which started in 1907 when the Army Corps of Engineers dammed the Raystown branch of the Juniata River for a hydroelectric dam. Raystown Water and Power Co. began generating electricity in 1912 and later changed its name to the Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec). The lake as it is today, with a surface area of 8,300 acres, maximum length of 28 miles, and a maximum depth of 200 feet didn't come into existence until 1973 after an extensive expansion by the Army Corps of Engineers that included replacing the original dam built in 1912. This expansion didn't come without controversy however. Besides the impact on the area caused by flooding many local landmarks and over half of the town of Aitch (pronounced H), which is rumored to still be the final resting place of many residents that refused to leave, concerns of funding played a big issue. The actual purpose of the project as stated by the Army Corps of Engineers was "to provide flood control, recreation, water quality and fish and wildlife enhancement". The new project was not well accepted in the area and with the Vietnam war waging many felt it was an unnecessary expense. Soon there after a petition known as the "Help save the Raystown Dam" began to circulate with Senator Allen J. Ellender, then Chairman of the Senate Public Works Subcommittee, as one of it's biggest supporters. The petition listed five area's of concern; 1. The federal government should not be spending money to build recreational projects at that time; 2. The Army Engineers should have spent their time in projects that were more concerned with flood control, navigation and hurricane projection; 3. All available money should have been spent in supporting Armed Forces in Vietnam; 4. All unnecessary spending should have been cut to help keep the dollar sound; 5. And that the average taxpayer in Central Pennsylvania did not support the new dam. After more than 1,800 property owners sold their deeds to the government and 407 graves were relocated the project which once stated tourism and recreation as being the most important to the public and community was approved for flood control.

## **BIRTH OF 'RAY'**

The earliest date of a sighting report goes back to 1994 although recently released photos claim to go back much further. Jim Filson, owner of Jims Anchorage, claims to have one of the oldest photos of the yet to be named creature.

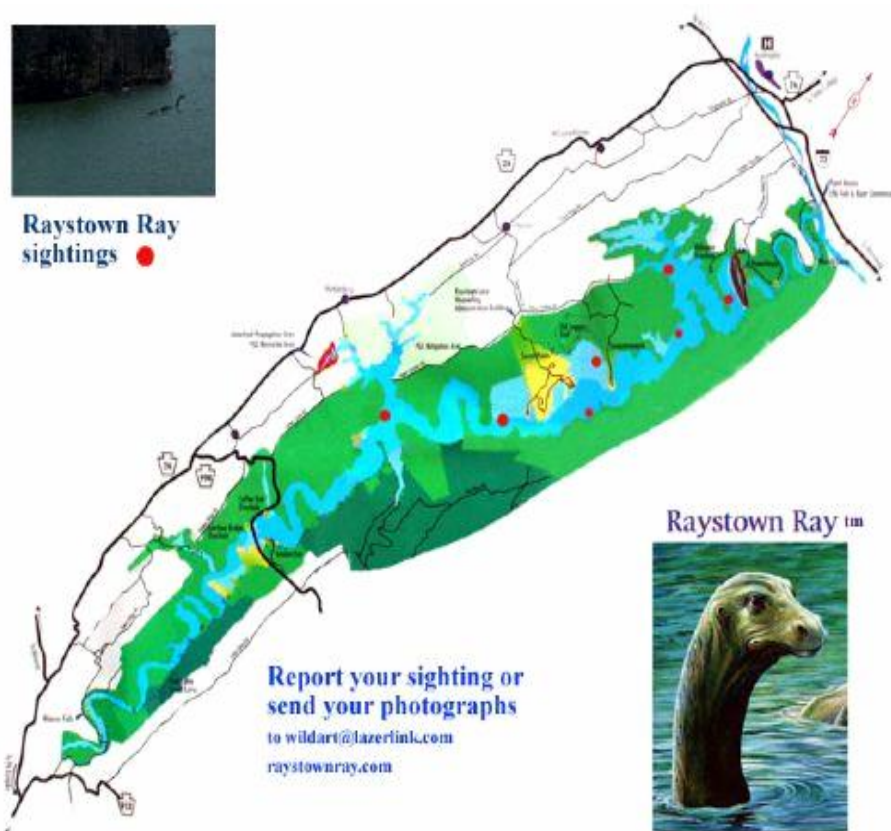


**Information concerning actual dates that pictures were taken seems to be impossible to find and these photos were found under the heading of just "Old pictures" with associated writing to lead you to believe that these images of a creature visible just under the water was taken in the late "60's" or early "70's" which may predate the actual lake expansion that was officially dedicated on June 6th, 1974. Oddly enough Mr. Filsons' daughter, Pam Prossor, grew up to become the Executive Director of the Raystown Lake Region visitors Bureau and once stated " I think if we embrace 'Ray' as our own mascot, we will have just one more reason to be proud to call this lake in the Alleghenies our home". Pam Prossor no longer holds that position and as of an article dated May 1st of 2010 she was running the Seven Points marina, another long existing**

Raystown Lake business. This adds serious credibility to those who believe 'Ray' was created in a townhall as a tourist attraction not born in the young waters of a manmade lake.

## SIGHTINGS

The following are excerpts taken from sighting reports of 'Ray' found on [www.raystownray.com](http://www.raystownray.com). In the sighting reports many of the names are abbreviated so we will just use initials. A map has also been included if you chose to pursue 'Ray' for yourselves.



(RED DOTS REPRESENT SIGHTINGS OF RAYSTOWN RAY)

### July 4th, 1994, J.R.

J.R. was on a boat with his wife, a friend, the friends wife, and the friends in-laws at approximately 9:00 am. "about 20-25 minutes into our (boat) ride the three of us (J.R.,

his wife, and their male friend) glanced off the port side of the boat and all at the same time saw ripples in the water, a long dark somewhat shiny black object that surfaced to the top of the water, then it seemed to spin and turn over and then submersed and disappeared. He (the friend) immediately shut down the boat in amazement, the 3 of us asked each other, "did you see that?". His wife and her parents were asking what was the matter and we were speechless. The size of the object was at least 10 to 12 feet long putting into perspective we were riding on a 19 foot open bow boat. The object was approximately 40 to 50 feet away."

### **May 14th, 2006, J. ?**

"While night fishing on the lake May 14th, 2006 at around 2:00 a.m., I noticed something large and dark slowly appear in the water approximately 40 yds away. I asked my friend if he could determine what it was. The visible portion was approximately 8 - 12 feet in length. After shining a Surefire flashlight at it, it submerged. There were no noticeable features such as a head or humps."

### **August 3rd, 2008, M.S.**

M.S., his parents, and his girlfriend witnessed this report. "It was 7:15 p.m. and we just loaded the jet skis and started to dry them off. My girlfriend jokingly said "Look, it's Raystown Ray"! I looked to see what she was talking about and saw a neck and a head sticking about 3 to 4 feet out of the water and it was striding toward a boat that was coming into the no wake zone at the 7 points. We watched it for about 3 minutes. We saw a wake in the water from its neck and about 15 to 20 feet behind that wake was another wake, but we couldn't see what was causing that wake."

### **August 29th, 2009, No name given**

"I looked toward the west shore after my son started to point at something. I really have NO idea what this thing was but it looked like a large, thick black snake with a huge head that bobbed in and out of the water. I moved a little bit closer but my son was getting scared, so I cut the motor and looked through my binoculars. The body was moving in coils or humps up and down in the water. The creature had no fins like a fish and the head was diamond shaped. The weirdest feature was the eyes (which were dark, somewhat small and slanted) were not set on the side of the head, but placed forward. I got an excellent look through the binoculars (I'd say it was about 50 yards from us) when it raised up. It's head moved side to side. I'd say it was at least 20 feet long."

# SUMMARY

Whether you're a true believer in 'Ray' or follow suit with those that think it's impossible for a prehistoric creature to have appeared in a lake less than 100 years old, it won't hurt to take a ride out to Raystown Lake. Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania is a picturesque area and you will enjoy the trip whether your with the family or your researcher colleagues and you never know, you just might get that picture everybody wants!

