



OBITUARY

Jack Houck (1939–2013)

With great regret the SSE recognizes the passing of one of its Dinsdale Award recipients, Jack Houck. Born George B. Houck, Jack, as he was better known to his many friends, was raised in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. He attended the University of Michigan where, in 1961, he received a Masters of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering degree. For more than four decades he was a researcher, theoretician, experimentalist, engineer, and analyst of anomalous phenomena. His most significant contributions to the field came with his direct contact with more than 20,000 people and with his providing them a firsthand, demonstrable experience of psychokinesis.

In 1981 Jack Houck developed the concept and protocols for psychokinesis metal bending (PKMB) parties. Rather than simple demonstrations by a talented individual who professed special skills, Jack proved that the process could be taught to anyone who was prepared to attempt it. For many participants, the PKMB experience that he provided proved to be a life-changing event. Importantly, his interests and explorations took him into many other controversial topics such as remote viewing, firewalking, spontaneous germination of seeds, EEG biofeedback, and healing with human energy.

Like many other members of the SSE, Jack delicately, and successfully, bridged the dichotomous fields of science and psi research. From 1961 until 2003 he worked as an aeronautical engineer with the Douglas Aircraft Company, which became McDonnell Douglas and then Boeing. Jack held many positions of increasing responsibility. As a rocket scientist he initially was involved in missile defense studies, and in 1972 he was selected as one of the authors of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT). For more than two decades Jack simultaneously managed a number of extremely sensitive defense and intelligence programs. During that period he formed the Advanced Research group that engaged in evaluating data of foreign rockets and associated weapons systems. Later he became involved as a risk management expert on large, classified space systems. In his final position he performed as the risk manager for all of the company satellite systems.

While most of his efforts in researching unexplained events were conducted outside his traditional work assignments, there were times when

the circumstances overlapped. In preparation for development of the SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, he became familiar with the possibilities afforded by remote viewing and he later began conducting experiments in the field. Awareness of his interests reached the top of the organization and in 1980 James McDonnell, then chairman of McDonnell Douglas, asked him to run a remote viewing experiment. In response Jack conducted fully judged, double-blind experiments using latitude and longitude coordinates for targets all over the world. It was those experiments that led him to develop a conceptual model of paranormal phenomena.

An inveterate researcher, Jack meticulously collected information at all of his PKMB events and amassed an enormous collection of data on macro-PK observations. What Jack uniquely and thoroughly documented was the fact that the human mind can and does impact physical matter. He worked with established material scientists to conduct analysis and documentation of microscopic changes that occur to the materials during the PKMB. He subjected a wide range of materials to the process and observed and reported the differences. Concerned with practical application of the extended human capabilities he observed, Jack also explored their use in healing illnesses.

It was the legendary PK parties that brought Jack and me together. Attending one of his early events in Alexandria, Virginia, with my boss, Major General Bert Stubblebine, we observed a renowned psychic, Anne Gehman, have a fork drop 90 degrees with NO physical force applied. That was a pivotal point for our relationship with Jack. His formula could be replicated and was used to educate and influence military intelligence officers for years to come.

Even when faced with severe personal physical challenges, Jack continued to carry forward his efforts in providing others with personal experiences in anomalous phenomena. Through scientific publications and a personal website Jack selflessly made his experiments and analysis available to other researchers and the public.

The work performed by Jack in development of theory, experimentation, and analysis covering a wide range of extraordinary observations was exemplary. What set Jack apart was his willingness to take great personal risks and transform theory into personal experiences that could be demonstrated by anyone willing to participate. Again, for many these were life-changing experiences. His positive influence on the field of consciousness studies has been immense; but more importantly he was able to attract the attention of average people in ways that no other researcher has done.

Among those surviving Jack are his wife Dr. Aleda “Jean” Houck, daughter Linda McGregor, and son David Houck. His works continue on and can be viewed at www.jackhouck.com

JOHN ALEXANDER