

Anti-Gravity and the World Wide Web

By Richard Conway (30/01/06)

This article will be start of a regular column in the BUFORA journal which will outline the current scientific progress made in "anti-gravity" research online. From this issue we'll use the term anti-gravity (AG) indiscriminately to refer to anything involving new forms of breakthrough propulsion and energy research. Whilst many used to call the era of quantum physics "the new physics", this recently emerging hobbyist dominated subject is beginning to be called the same thing.

Whilst the academic mainstream shies away from all investigation and analysis of this new so-called "breakthrough propulsion" physics it can be said the internet community isn't. What started out some five to six years ago as a small group of individuals discussing pseudo-science on bulletin boards has now blossomed into a new phenomenon with hundreds more aficionados joining the throngs of physics study each week. This article is a brief synopsis of all the resources out there on the world-wide web illustrating how, where and what information can be found. In writing this I thought it important to create a limited glossary and explanation of everything that will follow in this quarterly journal so we'll be covering some of the rising stars of anti-gravity research as well as where they publish their study results and for the brave few explorers out there how you can replicate some of these experiments at home with cheap equipment.

The place to start for pure content and enthusiasm on this topic is the website <http://www.americanantigravity.com> by IT consultant Tim Ventura. Tim has had a long-term interest in anti-gravity and keeps a fantastic up-to-date provocative site filled with interviews, video, commentary and pages of descriptive content and news and updates. Like many online aficionados Tim has been wowed by the power of the lifter and has spent considerable effort recording all his experimental results and designs for others to replicate.

Before continuing to discuss American Antigravity we'll just take a quick sideline and describe exactly what these lifters are. Lifters are a modern phenomenon based on an old school effect. The effect was discovered in the late 1920s by Thomas Townsend Brown and involved large voltages across condensers with a dielectric in-between two asymmetric plates. T.T. Brown observed that by varying the voltage across the plates a slight movement towards the positive plate could be observed. This electro-dynamic effect resulted in a great deal of research by the US Navy as well as several patents and applications of the effect by Brown and colleague Byfield. Hereafter this will be known as the Byfield-Brown effect. There is much rumour and speculation involving US Naval work by Brown including involvement in the alleged Philadelphia experiment!

Back to the lifters though This is a modern implementation of the Byfield-Brown effect using a small frame made of balsa wood covered in foil and adding a wire (called a corona wire because of the type of electrical discharge seen around the wire) at the top of the frame. In essence this would make a small very light capacitor where the positive plate would be represented by the corona wire. When this first step is done the next step is to take a high-voltage power supply (which can produce in excess of 5000 kV) and attach the output to the corona wire. Whilst these high-voltage units can be made relatively easily from monitor tubes, flyback transformers and car ignition coils they can just as easily be bought from Information Unlimited (<http://www.amazing1.com>) which sells a range of high-voltage supplies and high-voltage kits. When the power supply is

turned on miraculously the lifter will fly straight up producing a number of surprising audio and visual effects.

There is much speculation as to what makes the lifter fly. The most popular theory is the so-called "ion wind" effect which suggests that air is ionised between the plates of the capacitor to such an extent that applying the voltage "ionises" the surrounding air and causes displacement of a column of air such that an updraft surges and pushes the craft upwards hence the craft flies upwards. Whilst this theory is not accepted by all proponents of lifters it does carry a substantial body of experimental proof. One such vacuum test can be found at <http://www.blazelabs.com/l-vacuum.asp> by engineer Saviour. Other experiments, mainly thought and calculation-based suggest that the ion wind may only be a by-product of something else which on its own is too insubstantial to lift the craft up. Another popular theory has emerged - even suggested by Townsend Brown himself - that there could be an interaction between electricity and gravity. As a result of this assertion some researchers have bracketed this effect in the electrogravitic category and attempted to explain the lifter observations through the relativistic effects that are emerging from the acceleration of electrons between the plates.

One experimenter Jean-Pierre Naudin has tracked successful replications of the lifter experiments around the world illustrating what can be done if the lifter technology is stretched to the limit (<http://jnaudin.free.fr/lifters/main.htm>). This includes a movement towards making a lifter craft capable of carrying a human (even though currently he has only managed to lift a mouse). Another fantastic experiment on Naudin's site shows a lifter having gyroscopic movement through limited electronic control allowing for roll and yaw turns. Giving the lifter a navigational console of sorts is a great appeal.

Naudin has also set up several logs which allow newcomers to try their hand at building lifters and has a yahoo "lifters" group which promotes discussion of the topic and allows researchers to chronicle their own experiences with lifters. This group has led to a multitude of fantastic ideas and speculations as well as new experiments to try and nail down exactly how the lifters work.

Whilst the lifters seem to be getting ever more popular amongst engineers, scientists and interested parties online they are not the only mechanisms which are resulting in a greater anti-gravity dialogue. Perusing through AmericanAntiGravity.com is a wonderful experience in understanding the diverse approaches to the problem of propellantless thrust.

One of the rising stars in anti-gravity research and somebody who inspired my own interest in the subject is the elusive Eugene Podkletnov. Podkletnov made a claim in 1992 that a spinning superconducting disc reduced the effective weight of objects above the disc. This and other stunning experiments involving a gravity "force" beam is why Podkletnov has (a) gone to ground and (b) been rumoured to be working for Boeing (see Nick Cook's excellent book "The Hunt for Zero Point"). Indeed Podkletnov has his own section on [AmericanAntigravity.com](http://www.americanantigravity.com/podkletnov.html) <http://www.americanantigravity.com/podkletnov.html> which illustrates how some of his work has been successfully reproduced by other researchers (Ning Li/NASA) and how others are using his experiments to make theoretical predictions on the interactions of superconductors and gravity (Raymond Chao).

The whole Podkletnov phenomenon has sparked a great deal of interest and intrigue including much speculation on the man and the work. For the time being there are no online sources which give updates on the work or whereabouts of Podkletnov so speculation abounds. It's easy to see the effect that Podkletnov has

had on anti-gravity research as a whole and the creation and usage of many newsgroup (not least the Yahoo! Newsgroup "antigravity" set up by engineer and researcher Graham Ennis).

Graham setup a conference at a great deal of personal expense in 2001 to attempt to get all the interested parties and AG researchers together in one room. The presentations, concepts and results were striking and the subject was furthered greatly by it. Many at this conference paid tribute to Podkletnov and the astounding work he'd done during the 90s at refreshing interest in the subject and getting out there and creating something testable and quantifiable. The conference itself (and the people) was incredibly interesting but it's a story I'll save for another issue.

The inventors tend to have websites as well as the aficionados. One inventor that has been around since the 60s is John Searl, inventor of the Searl Effect Generator. The mechanics of the SEG are too comprehensive to do justice here but they can be seen online at <http://www.searleffect.com/>. Searl's claims are very grand and little has been seen in the way of proof or video footage but just recently others in the community have claimed to have replicated his work. Much of this is chronicled on americanantigravity.com including Tim Ventura's observations in the similarity between various inventors work and John Searl's. It would seem though that not much is known about some of the other replications of Searl's work and there are no first-hand web resources to validate any of it.

It should be noted that for a hobbyist trying to get more in tune with current ideas in antigravity testing there are resources out there which provide an easy entry point for building lifters and other wonders. Information Unlimited (<http://www.amazing1.com>) contains a wealth of products which can be purchased in the form of a kit or a complete pre-built unit. The kits are generally cheaper and offer design plans with them to allow a greater understanding of the electronics. The site contains everything from spy paraphernalia to laser weapons and plasma kits. High voltage power supplies are sold up to the mega volt range and also kits using these with Tesla coils to conduct wireless transfer of electricity. Ion thruster craft and maglev craft are also sold (as well as complete lifter kits!) and newer NASA launching ideas such as mass drivers can be purchased too.

Another fantastic site run by student Sam Barros is the Powerlabs website (<http://www.powerlabs.org>). This site contains a wealth of information, detailed design and experimental results on HV power supplies. Sam has focussed on the design of lasers and various high performance engines as well as something called a rail gun (which is currently being investigated by the US Navy).

Sam describes his experiences and detailed design on the site going over the number of iterations and the problems he faced. The rail gun is a high capacitor discharge system used to accelerate a projectile to hypersonic velocities along train track rails. In Sam's first few iterations the energy output was so great and uncontrolled that the projectile became fused to the rails. Whilst this has obvious connotations for the military industrial complex there is also a strong possibility of developing technologies such as this into a transport system of some kind using magnetics and high-discharge capacitors only.

Sam's foray into high-voltage offers a great deal of information for the hobbyist and dedicated researcher alike. Listed on the site are ways to make high voltage power supplies (which seem to be key to all types of antigravity research) which include flyback transformers, car ignition coils, tesla coils and cockroft-walton

voltage doublers which were used in old black and white TV sets and Marx Generators which produce VERY high voltages.

Saviour, as mentioned earlier in the context of lifters runs a fantastic website much like the powerlabs website with references to all the experimental work that he does including explanations and conclusions and of all types of project. Blaze Labs, as his site is known, also sells a wealth of equipment to enable hobbyists to copy the experiments. These include, high voltage power supplies with computer interfaces and per project equipment with designs.

Saviour has a large section on EHD Thrusters which are generic lifter type craft which use some form of ion propulsion to displace themselves upwards. The EHD stands for ElectroHydroDynamic. The E represents the electric current used to propel the craft. The H represents the fact that air is being used as a fluid medium to propel the craft upwards and the D is used to indicate movement. This is inline with the contention of the site that the lifter's thrust is caused by the flow of air and nothing else.

The site also contains an experiments section which describes some of the experiments or potential experiments used to determine information about lifters and asymmetric capacitors as well as experiments for onboard shrinking power supplies for the lifters. Other experiments attempt to prove behaviour of gravity and/or inertia as a consequence of another force.

The more you delve into the anti-gravity aspects of the WWW the more technical it can all become. While there is a great deal of substance in these sites you may want to avoid having to get a science degree first before you can participate. There are two fantastic introductory sources which describe journeys into the antigravity underground from a very personal perspective.

The first can be found at <http://www.karenlyster.com/gravity.html> which is a detailed investigation by Bruce Smith of Nexus Magazine into the anti-gravity community. Bruce describes meeting and seeing Tim Ventura of American Antigravity and the lifters in action in Tim's garage. This intro is very good since it shows the bizarre nature of the side-effects of lifters and other experiments which defy explanation by conventional theory. As well as describing the research of Dr. Fran de Aquino (which has recently ended in much conspiratorial speculation of his research being hijacked by the Brazilian military) Bruce goes on to talk about Hal Puthoff's research into zero point which could provide the new unlimited energy source for the future.

The other article(s) are written by wired magazine journalists. The first of these, in a 1998 issue of wired, written by Charles Platt can be read at <http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/6.03/antigravity.html>. This article is a great introduction to the shadowy anti-gravity underworld containing interviews with Podkletnov, James Cox and others, as well as with a variety of inventors. It is very light-hearted and open-minded regarding the developments in the subject. Wired magazine published a follow-up article on this with all the latest info mainly on the lifter phenomenon illustrating the bizarre nature and interview Tim Ventura in the process; it can be found here http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.08/pwr_antigravity.html. When these 3 articles have been digested you will have a good introduction to anti-gravity research and certainly a thirst to know more!

A quick search in google under antigravity will bring a surprisingly large number of hits. Many of these are theories that hobbyists and scientist srelate about their ideas of what gravity and inertia are. For example, antigravity.org contains

Sergey Ivanenko's ideas of the curvature of the universe in higher dimension and the effect that it has in our dimension as gravity and inertia. Many new theories begin to encompass the superstring ideas that have become prevalent over the last 25 years. Antigravity.org like most sites is not for the faint hearted and is packed with mathematics explaining the ideas of the author. Many graduates and scientists explain their ideas in this way so that other scientists will gain interest in their work.

Scanning the web for "antigravity" will familiarise you with some common names in the field. During the lifetime of this column we'll delve deeper into the researches of these various inventors, scientists and others. For now we'll introduce them by mentioning their names, describe what they do and where we can find more about them and their work online.

John Hutchison is without doubt a household name in the field of antigravity. Hutchison has made numerous videos of experiments which are primarily driven by Tesla coils (high voltage experiments again!) and has received some remarkable results such as "jellying" all sorts of substances which have also lost colour and levitating just about everything metal and non-metal alike. The Canadian researcher like most has gone to ground on the web but you can see some information on the Hutchison effect up to 2002 at the following URL <http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/Thinktank/8863/main.html>.

Antigravity is here to stay and the world wide web has been an incredibly useful vehicle over the past few years in pulling together people, ideas and resources. Who knows, it may have even kicked started the revolution necessary to get the big investment into private enterprise and fund space research as well as publicise ideas to the wider internet community and bring that star trek dream that we all have one step closer to reality.

For our subject this means that we gain some level of clarity as to what nature will ultimately permit us to do in the way of emulating the UFOs we see in the skies (whether real or not).

In the next article in this series we'll delving into the science and politics of alternative energies.