

# John Thomas: The Dream is Alive

By Tim Ventura, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Few will dispute that dreams are powerful stuff. For centuries mystics have maintained that dreams allow people to see into the future, and more recently the science of psychology has said that at dreams allow the unconscious mind to solve problems that often elude the waking mind. Dreams play a role in science, too – the most widely known example of this is the solution for the structure of the benzene molecule. Chemist August Kekule realized in 1865 that benzene's structural-backbone was a ring of 6 carbon atoms after having a dream the night before about a serpent chasing its own tail.

Over 40 years ago, John Searl had two dreams that turned into a waking vision – a vision of the future of aerospace, predicated on complete control over gravitational force and the ability to generate unlimited energy from a generator that required no fuel to operate. After a run of initial success and setbacks to numerous to count, the reality of the Searl Effect is still just as much in dispute as it ever has been. Is the Searl Effect real, or has it been an elaborate hoax originating in the imagination of a lonely orphaned child in rural post-war England?

We like to think that many of life's great mysteries are solved by the passage of time – we tend to believe that pieces of evidence collected decades or even centuries after an event occurs can resolve historical disputes. However, within the 20<sup>th</sup> century we learned that perhaps history is not this clear-cut – that perhaps the 'solutions' provided by time's passage only seem to appear because we've lost the nuances of the culture and time-period surrounding the mystery in question.

There is perhaps no clearer case of the failure of history to find the truth regarding an event than the Roswell UFO crash in New Mexico in 1947. This may closely be followed by the questions surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the death of Marilyn Monroe. In perhaps another century's time, the textbooks that talk about these events little mention the controversy surrounding what actually happened as only a small footnote on the bottom of the page – the 'official' history will solidify on best-guess estimates of what we believe 'probably' happened.

The same is true for the Searl Device – as time progresses, instead of finding a clear and definitive answer, we're left with more questions. Searl began constructing the SEG (Searl Effect Generator) as a teenage boy, and eventually progressed to incorporating the device into his antigravity 'levity-disk' for propulsion as a young man. There is little question as to whether he actually built the devices – the primary question is whether or not they worked as he claimed they did. This in turn raises the question of not whether he should receive recognition for his accomplishments, but instead exactly what accomplishments he should be recognized for.

I'd like to point out that whether or not the Searl Device works, he is responsible for formulating a good deal of the public opinion about how an antigravity device 'should' work, as well as generating a great deal of interest in Antigravity over the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This shouldn't be underestimated – I believe that Searl has left a legacy of creating interest in physical and electromagnetic sciences that is valuable for keeping young people interested in science. His vision resonates with the dreams of young people interested in space-flight and futuristic technologies, and as they learn about his

research they are drawn into a field of study with plenty of real-world challenges that they can bring that experience and passion to bear on.

In addition to inspiring countless children towards science, Searl should receive recognition for actually following his dreams. Although there is dispute over whether or not the levity disk actually flew, we cannot dispute the fact that he built them. Dozens, if not hundreds of photos exist that show every stage of the construction process for the levity disks and associated SEG power plants. Not only is Searl shown constructing these devices, but also are a sizeable team of associates from the early years of his research. They're shown standing on top of completed and partially-assembled disks, and shown looking up at the disks in flight during testing. It is not disputable that Searl built these devices, but the question remains about why it is so difficult to locate corroborating video or film evidence from 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources showing them in flight. Where is the BBC footage that we would expect to see for something like this? I still don't have the answer to that question.

To follow up on the idea of shaping public opinion, I can attest to the effect that Searl's research has had on the perception of antigravity. "The Old Man", as Russell Anderson calls him, defined the characteristics of a technology decades-ago that still serve as the foundation for engineering-level research to this day. Many of the rotational and magnetic antigravity device designs are heavily influenced by Searl's work, and his research has even had some sway into influencing paths of gravitational research in the pure sciences as well.

Socially and culturally, I tend to think of John Searl's work as really being the beginning of the "modern era" of antigravity research. While TT Brown was arguably getting more easily reproducible results and has a lead to this day in terms of a proven, demonstrable effect; Searl nonetheless had a much greater impact on the public consciousness because he was able to use the media to share his vision with people.

Unlike Brown and other contemporaries who worked on a small scale difficult for the public to understand, Searl recruited a team of specialists and raised capital for his projects in a manner that can only be seen as the precursor to the modern "dot-com" business model. Searl knew that if he could share his vision the project would continue to move forward, and because of this he focused on large-scale projects that would provide stunning demonstrations for the media. Instead of working in complete secrecy, Searl also took care to provide a sense of continuity throughout the development process for the public through his photographic documentation of the construction phase of these devices.

I'd been planning an article on the Searl Effect for quite some time, and initially I'd envisioned writing solely about the cultural aspects of his device. As I have only seen photographic evidence, I had no more idea than the next person as to whether his research was real or perhaps just a hoax. However recent developments led me to reconsider my position on the validity of Searl's work, and I settled on the final story idea with a much more optimistic view of the technology than I'd had just a few months earlier.

My negative opinion about the Searl Effect had developed over a period of years, ever since my friend and colleague Bill Butler sent me a VHS tape of a Searl-Effect conference that was held in Denver in 1990. My first impression of the tape was that it

was unethical for them to sell information about a technology so profound, and I also felt a little depressed at that time that the technology was so difficult to build. After all, why buy a tape about Antigravity if you can't actually build or experiment with it? It's a shame to spend the money on an organization that you know nothing about, and the presentation of the tape seemed a bit similar to the Amway sales-pitches that some of my college acquaintances were being exposed to: too good to be true.

I brought my negative opinions of the Searl Effect into an online debate a few months ago involving Russell Anderson, the head of Applied Electrogravitics, and John Thomas, the CEO of the DISC Corporation. My emails expressed very pessimistic views about both Searl and his research, and I was sure they would permanently jinx my plan for interviewing Thomas, but the DISC corporation is the official Searl organization and I needed Thomas' involvement in order to make the interview happen.

As time passes, views can change, and my work with Marcus Hollingshead had led me into a renewed interest into antigravity based on rotating magnetic fields. As I looked at the work of John Searl in a new perspective I realized that I'd come full-circle: it was time for the interview.

## Sacred Geometries

Connections exist everywhere in life – new ideas often draw from what appears to be unrelated work, and in real life the solution to one puzzle can often provide direction to solving another. Nothing is created in a vacuum – the construction of the SEG is based on the tools available to us, and designed to solve contemporary problems. It is inescapably a product of our time.

Other connections also exist, on perhaps a deeper level, and although we may not always understand their significance we do nonetheless realize that they are significant. Some of these connections – these relationships – are known as sacred geometries.

Before his involvement with John Searl and the SEG, John Thomas was involved in research for personal fulfillment into sacred geometries. When most people think of sacred geometries they tend to think of things like the triangular shapes used in the ancient pyramids or the symbolic relationships in the Mayan calendars. These shapes are called sacred because they appeared to early scholars to be religious artifacts important because of what they symbolized – it was presumed that the shape of the pyramid might mean something similar to the ancient Egyptians in much the same way a cross has a deep symbolism in our time.

Sacred geometries aren't necessarily religious, though – they are merely connections, or perhaps just templates in our minds used to make connections between ideas. Western science, which has tried to separate itself from mysticism for centuries, has many such sacred geometries, although they don't call them that. In a purely mathematical sense, the number Pi is a sacred geometry – it is the relationship between the circumference of a circle and its radius, and is an unchanging constant in our universe. Another example is the concept that electromagnetic force decreases with the square of the distance. This is due to the energy density in an expanding wave front, but most people don't realize this -- to them the value is sacred, and while they know its important they don't really know why.

John Thomas saw the connections between the sacred geometries of the ancients and the work of Searl – it was one of the many things that impressed him about Searl’s ideas. Not only is the Searl device the basis for an entirely new technology, but it is designed not around an arbitrary set of conditions but instead around the idea of geometry. In essence, the geometry and the design and connected with an elegance not seen in many other approaches to antigravity. It is Searl’s “Law of the Squares”, and it is the design basis that the SEG is built around.

John’s involvement with the Searl organization began in 1990 through their mutual friend William Sherwood. Thomas, living in upper New York State, was part of the UFO study group of Rochester, which was organized by Sherwood. Apparently, Sherwood had previously seen Searl’s Demo 1 device, which was a small SEG for stage-purposes built with no onboard controls to demonstrate the Searl Effect on a small-scale basis.

“The people that introduced me to Searl had been helping the Searl organization by writing a series of newsletters about the technology,” Thomas said, “They hadn’t seen the device working themselves, but they’d seen it being constructed, and they were definitely impressed. I started out by reading all of the newsletters that they’d published, and this only served to get me more and more interested in what Searl was attempting to do.”

I asked John about the moment that he ‘knew’ that Searl was for real. He responded, “I started corresponding with Searl – asking him for information every time I had a question about the device. Every time I would ask a new question, Searl would tell me the answer in a straightforward and honest manner. It’s not that he was holding back anything – just that he realized that I could only absorb the more complex pieces after learning the basics.”

Thomas still asks Searl questions after all these years – it’s been a continuing process of learning for him, and Searl’s guidance has served only to reinforce his belief the Searl Effect. Every element of Searl’s story reinforces the other elements – every piece of the puzzle seems to fit with all of the other pieces. “One time I was looking at photos of an early IGV construction project out in the woods in Great Britain, and I asked Searl how he was powering his equipment,” Thomas said, “Searl responded to me that he was powering it with an SEG. He wasn’t bragging –for him it was just a statement of fact.”

John told me that Searl had a lot of success with the media in the early years – something about Searl’s demeanor made the public in England fall in love with his dream. “Searl rented a fairground for a public demonstration to display the device,” Thomas indicated, “He called his demo unit a ‘firecracker’, because during the demonstration when he applied power to it, the unit would levitate and then immediately take off – presumably into space.” Like fireworks, the early IGV’s were uncontrollable – once they took off, they didn’t come back.

This explains a lot about why we don’t see SEG devices and the IGV’ that house them – they have a tendency to literally fly away. Thomas indicated that it actually takes more power to land an IGV than to take off.

## Government Involvement

In addition to IGV's from the 1960's era that are now presumably halfway across the galaxy, the government may play a role in some of Searl's problems. He began to get government interest by voluntarily his device to the United States government for review. As Searl tells it then-President John F. Kennedy ordered an examination of Searl's technology that resulted in him actually shipping a unit to the United States for review. The story is that a 17 person team examined the device at Edward's Air-Force Base, but not understanding how the inertial dampeners worked they actually sent the craft back to Searl in England and declined further involvement with the project (at least in public).

Searl would not be so lucky in his dealings with the power-company though. The Midlands Electric Board – Searl's former employer – supposedly ripped apart Searl's house to try and locate the hidden source of electricity. They'd noticed that he wasn't drawing power from the grid, and believed that the only way he could be powering the lights in his house was by stealing electricity from them. Under orders to find out how he was stealing the electricity, they first dug through his yard looking for buried cables, and then ripped apart the walls of the house – only to find an SEG providing the home's electrical power.

Searl spent time in jail as a result of the charges that the electrical board filed against him – a foreshadowing of the kind of power that energy companies would later be feared for – and while he was in jail his work & prototypes literally disappeared.

John Thomas told me that there are two stories pertaining to the disappearance of Searl's work, and since Searl was in jail at the time even the Old Man himself isn't completely sure which is true. The first account has John's distraught wife and children in a house that has been completely demolished by the power company. In a fit of rage, she destroys a great deal of John's work, and sells the rest for scrap. A more ominous version of the tale is the account of an unnamed man who apparently later confessed to being paid by an unknown source to put all of Searl's research and prototypes into trucks and cart them off to the airport, where they were loaded onto an aircraft, never to be seen again.

## Notes from the Edge

In over 12 years of involvement with Searl and this technology, John Thomas indicated that Searl continues to provide answers to Thomas' questions that are not only consistent with known physics, but continue to remain consistent as physics as we know it advances.

I can attest to this interesting aspect of Searl's device – I've been reading some research by Prof. Matti Pitkanen from the University of Helsinki in Finland that provides a plausible description of the Searl Effect from the perspective of string theory. While string theory is less than two decades old, the interesting aspect is that not only does it explain many previously mysterious forces of nature, but it also provides some interesting ideas about how rotating magnetic field devices like both the SEG and the Marcus Device may interact with "dimensional sheets" of space-time to allow interactions between motion, electromagnetism, and gravity.

“If a technology is valid,” Thomas says, “then you’ll begin to see parts of it in related inventions from other sources. You begin to see the connections with Searl’s work even back to Viktor Schaumberger’s research, which also employed rotational dynamics with the idea of generating thrust in a novel manner.”

Thomas indicated that this isn’t magic – it’s more of a reality of inventing. “Any two devices tapping the zero-point will have similar components,” he said, “just like any two internal combustion engines will have similarities. They operate on the same rules, and are powered by the same forces – it’s obvious that they will use similar design strategies to tap into those forces.”

This is perhaps the most interesting side to Thomas – he’s been into the Searl Effect for so long that his comments on it are almost wrote memorization at times, but when begin to talk with him about other devices that may be similar to the Searl Effect in operation he really opens up on the speculative side of things.”

“I have an idea,” I told him, “What about extending the Searl Effect into 3-dimensions.” What I then explained is that the current SEG can be visualized as a 2-dimensional wheel of sorts that interacts by creating propulsion into a 3<sup>rd</sup> special dimension. I described my visualization of a 3D Searl-Effect Generator – where instead of having rings and rollers it would have spheres separated by composite-metal balls. “If a 2-D device projects into the 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension, then maybe a 3-D device will project itself into the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension – time.”

Thomas described for me in-depth calculations that he’d done to actually project the operation of a 3-D Searl Effect Generator in the past. He’d done calculations for the geometry up to a 3-D representation of a 2-ring SEG, but the number of components for anything more than that was too time-consuming for him to extrapolate out into 3-D at the moment.

## An Evolving Dream

What’s interesting is not necessarily that John Thomas is working on 3-D design, but that he’s not limited in the same way that Searl himself is. You see, Searl’s ideas come from the two dreams that he had as a child, and the bulk of Searl’s work has been in fulfilling these two dreams. Searl has put his life and ambition into an unwavering vision of the future, but it’s based on an idea that’s remained remarkably unchanged since its inception. While Thomas is keeping the dream alive for Searl’s SEG, Thomas is also more aware of the other ideas that are floating around regarding similar but alternative methods of producing Antigravity.

One of the pitfalls of antigravity research in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the isolation of the people with an interest and expertise in it. This became apparent to me in 1992 when I began conducting my own research into the field – people from different organizations were wasting tremendous amounts of time solving the same problems over and over again because they didn’t have the contact with each other required to share that information.

Despite numerous alternative energy conferences over the years, the repetition of work has been especially apparent with regard to the Biefeld-Brown effect. How many times

does the problem have to be solved before the intellectual community in general can move on to the next challenge?

While Searl may have resolved the immediate problem surrounding the global energy crisis and creating an effective Antigravity device in one fell stroke, he wasn't able to solve the peripheral (but very much important) issue of commercializing it. This isn't that uncommon – often the creative gifts of those who are able to develop a technology are different than those that can make it a commercial success. However, in Searl's case, where he failed may have been in not building a large enough base of support on the Internet, which is partly due to too much of a long-term internal focus and not enough external collaboration.

John Thomas is a different man – while he shares Searl's dream of the future, he also has a broad enough perspective on other technologies to be able to take lessons from the success and failures of other technologies, as well as pick up development tricks from the competition.

One of the most interesting things that Thomas and I had discussed was the Marcus Device – a new technology that captivated the attention of Antigravity enthusiasts starting last November and has remained a hot-ticket item on AG wish lists ever since. Like the Searl Effect, the Marcus Device utilizes rotating magnetic fields to create an antigravity effect—but unlike Searl, Marcus has never conducted a public demonstration, after an initial announcement about the device's capabilities led to a media circus. Marcus continues his work in private, and manages to avoid more teams of reporters showing up at his door unannounced by not publishing his newest results online. Where Searl had time to prepare for the media circus that his device created, Marcus was a victim of 40 years of the pent-up public interest in effects like the kind that Searl had promoted.

“The Searl Effect absorbs all energy that you project at it – heat, radar, electricity...everything,” Thomas said, “It also creates a deflection shield around the craft while in operation. The deflection depends on the relative kinetic mass of the object that the craft collides with. When the IGV is traveling through space and it hits a rock, the rock is deflected – if you aim the craft at a planet, then the craft is deflected. It really depends which of the two things colliding is the most massive.”

Thomas also described for me a darkening of the bottom of the IGV in flight – the result of the field-effect that the SEG creates while in superconductive mode. “The bottom of the craft appears dark and shiny – you can see the reflection of trees in it. What you're looking at here is not the craft itself, but the reflection cast as light hits the darkened field and some of it is reflected.”

I had to tell him about the Marcus Effect, “Have you ever heard of Marcus Hollingshead?” I asked. When he responded that he hadn't, I continued to tell him about an identical darkening of the RP, or “Reference Point”, that Marcus had described to me in November of last year. “Marcus hadn't heard of the Searl Effect until I described it to him,” I said, “in fact, he hadn't ever really looked at any Antigravity research until he'd started posting his results online late 2002.”

It must be more than sheer coincidence that both Marcus and Searle report strange effects associated with their devices – both use rotating magnetic fields, and both have

reported darkening effects, energy-absorption, the creation of vacuum and ice-cold temperatures, shielding effects, and other strangeness in addition to the normal effect of the Antigravity style thrust. Marcus device is a bit different – the strange effects only manifest when all of the 6 field coils it uses are powered up, whereas with the Searl device these effects begin to manifest to varying degrees depending on the rotational speed of the device.

John indicated that he'd be interested in talking with Marcus, and sharing information about the Searl strategy towards AG – and why not? The Searl organization has nothing to lose and everything to gain by collaborating with new technologies, as Searl's strategy towards powered-spaceflight is already widely disclosed in the alternative energy community online.

## Building the SEG

Despite the resurgence in interest for devices like the Searl Effect, one of the things that the Searl Team can learn from other devices like those constructed by Marcus is how to potentially simplify their designs to reduce the cost of prototyping and manufacturing.

John Thomas is heir to the technology developed by Searl, but not limited to it in the same manner that Searl himself was. Therefore, its possible that under Thomas' guidance DISC corp. will be able to achieve new methods for constructing the SEG that are less complex and expensive than the process used to build a traditional Searl Effect Generator.

At the moment, DISC is in a tight-spot due to the economy. This means that instead of rushing ahead to create and assemble all of the components for a prototype SEG, the organization is limited to purchasing the custom components one at a time and assembling them.

One thing that makes the Searl Generator so expensive is the precision-machined Neodymium rollers and bearings. Despite have access to donated machining for these parts, the Neodymium components are difficult to fabricate to the precise specifications established by John Searl.

## The Future

Once DISC incorporated can complete fabrication of an SEG to Searl's specifications, John Thomas is confident that the device will perform well enough to garner additional capital for the company to build more of these devices.

Having an actual working SEG would be a giant breakthrough for the Searl team, because this would allow not only validation of the Searl Effect, but also facilitate a better understanding of how this device can be incorporated into a new generation of spacecraft.

For now, the dream is alive – but with hard work and diligent research, John Thomas and DISC Corporation expect to move forward with Searl Effect Technology into the new millennium.