

Who you gonna call? Local society busts ghosts

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posted:11 Nov. 2008

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A ghost hunter's job description includes "haunted" houses, late nights, electromagnetic field detectors and a mixture of skepticism and hope.



Photo Courtesy S.E.I.P.S.

This house in Blackfoot is home to a psychic who called the Southeast Idaho Paranormal Society. S.E.I.P.S. investigates supposed ghostly occurrences and searches for scientific explanations for supernatural phenomena.

Started last February, the Southeastern Idaho Paranormal society is a new group that investigates strange happenings in homes with a scientific approach.

Kara Hill, the current president of S.E.I.P.S, explains that the group doesn't use paranormal methods to solve their cases. No Ouija boards, séances, psychic mediums and dousing rods are used.

"That doesn't help anybody. It really doesn't. We just don't see how that can prove it to be anything but paranormal, so we go one step further, and we only use cameras, camcorders, and meters," Hill said.

Instead of assuming the explanation must be paranormal the group focuses on the possible scientific cause.

Often eerie feelings such as when skin starts to crawl, or it feels as if someone is watching can be explained by bad wiring. If a fuse box is not grounded right or is faulty, it can create high frequencies.

Theories suggest that people are sensitive to high frequencies and they experience those eerie feelings.

In cases such as these, S.E.I.P.S. helps set people at ease.

Because all of the members have day jobs, their volunteer work usually begins around 6 o' clock in the evening.

After an hour of set up, they are ready to begin.

Using meters to determine if there is a high reading of electromagnetic frequencies, having electronic voice sessions and investigating other factors — such as house acoustics and possible reasons for motion sensor lights being set off — takes well into the night, and the group is

usually not done till 3 o' clock in the morning.

If the cause was not found, S.E.I.P.S. will return if the homeowners are still uneasy. "If they're still scared, we'll keep working at it. That's why we're here and why we volunteer, because we have our own questions, and as long as their questions aren't answered, we're not answering our own," Hill said.

While those in S.E.I.P.S. believe many "hauntings" can be explained away, the majority of them do believe in ghosts.

Hill explains that while the main goal is to set people at ease, she also enjoys the excitement that it sometimes offers.

"It's fun. Sometimes something happens, and you figure it out, but at the moment it's happening it's kind of exciting," Hill said.

As a girl, Hill grew up in a house with unexplained happenings, and it has always interested her.

"They are things that make you go 'hmm'..." Hill said. Those "hmm's" are what S.E.I.P.S. searches for. They are happy when they can solve their case, but they still want answers to many of their mysterious questions.

Members of S.E.I.P.S. do their work voluntarily. They solve cases for free from Pocatello to Island Park, and, although their hobby of ghost hunting may sound a little eccentric, they are just ordinary people.

"We're all very normal people, kind of geeky, I'll admit, but we're just curious people, and I don't think any of us are shy about saying, 'Hey! We want answers,'" Hill said.

More information can be found [here](http://www.s-e-i-p-s.com) (<http://www.s-e-i-p-s.com>). □