

If Columbia crew had only spotted the 'UFO' -- their RCC fragment drifting away....

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005-05/msg00224.html>

- *From:* "Jim Oberg" <jamesoberg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 13 May 2005 16:16:30 GMT
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Msnbc.com (Oberg): How to crack weird space cases

Lone sleuth uses the Internet and his wits to solve UFO mysteries

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7822879/>

By James Oberg, NBC News space analyst // Special to MSNBC

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HOUSTON – When a space station astronaut made an offhand remark about an unusual formation of lights he saw passing in front of him during a spacewalk, the report had all the earmarks of an unsolvable space mystery. But it didn't take long to crack the case, thanks to the power of the Internet and one amateur space sleuth's passion to find out.

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JimO shuttle-related comment:

In one tragic oversight, the crew of Columbia in January 2003 failed to spot a broken piece of their heat shield drifting away a day after they reached orbit (<http://www.msnbc.com/news/887192.asp?0cv=TA01>), thus missing a chance to realize how badly their spaceship had been damaged during launch.

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- ***Follow-Ups:***
 - ◆ ***Re: If Columbia crew had only spotted the 'UFO' -- their RCC fragment drifting away....***
 - ◇ *From: ghost@xxxxxxxx*
- Prev by Date: ***Re: Shuttle Ops in a Post-9/11 world***
- Next by Date: ***Re: If Columbia crew had only spotted the 'UFO' -- their RCC fragment drifting away....***
- Previous by thread: ***New NASA Boss Pushes to Replace Shuttle, May Cut Research to Pay for It***
- Next by thread: ***Re: If Columbia crew had only spotted the 'UFO' -- their RCC fragment drifting away....***
- Index(es):
 - ◆ ***Date***
 - ◆ ***Thread***