

Date: 03/03/2000 4:27:24 PM Central Standard Time  
From: uljan@lepvax.gsfc.nasa.gov (Joe Nuth)  
To: JamesOberg@aol.com

Dear Mr. Oberg,

I have had several email exchanges with David Sereda concerning his impressions of objects seen on Shuttle Bay Camera downloads available via NASA TV. Mr. Sereda was especially interested in material available from the Tethered Satellite mission and claimed to see a host of peculiar effects. I got a call about a week ago from a British editor who was looking into these images that he had obtained from Sereda and a Canadian TV station employee. I suggested that he might do well if he discussed the images with someone from the JSC Astronaut office who had actually flown on the Shuttle and was used to the sharp shadows and floating crud that is part of the Shuttle environment. I have heard nothing since.

My opinion, based upon very little examination of material sent to me by Mr. Sereda, is that the interplay of shadows with the free rotation of the floating debris in the shuttle bay could probably account for almost everything in the pictures. I was never asked about volatile materials such as water, propellant, etc. except in the context of comments on Lou Frank's hypothesis concerning hosts of cometesimals in near-Earth orbits. (A concern of Mr. Sereda's had initially been that the Space Station did not have the maneuvering capability to dodge these incoming cometesimals.) Certainly crystalline volatiles could easily be part of the floating debris seen in the video images Mr. Sereda sent to me. Another possibility would be debris released during deployment of the Tethered Satellite. I also mentioned that the cameras in the bay had no real perspective - close-by objects passing quickly in front of the lens could easily be mistaken for larger objects at greater distance and greatly increased velocity as well as apparent acceleration.

Judging from the snippet below, very little of what I had intended to communicate seemed to reach a receptive audience...

Hope this helps,  
Joe Nuth

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Date: 3/3/00 6:10:04 PM Central Standard Time  
From: uljan@lepvax.gsfc.nasa.gov (Joe Nuth)  
To: JamesOberg@aol.com

I guess that there is really nothing that can be said to the 'true believer' who is convinced that the establishment either can not see or will not admit to the existence of such phenomena. I certainly tried, but am sure that I was not believed. Thanks for the interesting link.  
Joe Nuth

At 06:01 PM 3/3/00 EST, you wrote:

>Thanks! I've written about this pop culture phenomenon of seeing UFOs in  
>space shuttle videos, for some years. See the 'folklore' links on my home  
page [www.jamesoberg.com](http://www.jamesoberg.com),  
>to see that your experience was typical, and hardly unique.  
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