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Mysterious Aerial “Drones” - Oklahoma and Arkansas

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“The strange thing got closer and closer and had all kinds of arms and legs on it and spirally things (top wires going up into the air) and lights all over it. And it had writing on it that looked like a foreign language.”

– Hartshorne, Oklahoma, Drone Eyewitness, June 2003

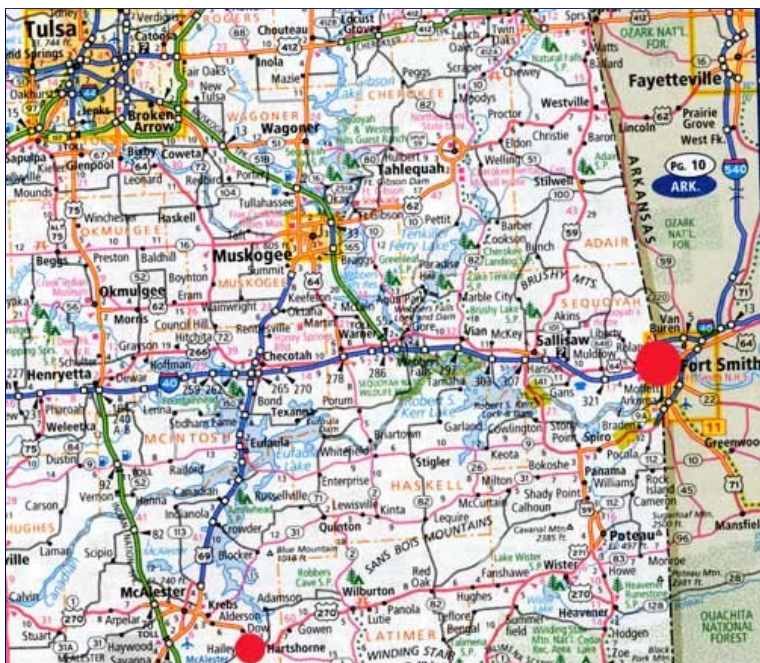


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Left: Dragonfly-shaped “drone” near Bakersfield, California, May 6, 2007, © by “Chad.”
Right: More complicated “drone” at Big Basin Redwoods State Park northwest of Santa Cruz, California, on June 5, 2007. Photograph © 2007 by “Ty B.”

Earthfiles, news category.



Hartshorne, Oklahoma (bottom red circle) is about two hours southwest of Van Buren, Arkansas, a suburb of Fort Smith. Jane Smith in Hartshorne saw a Big-Basin-type drone twice in June 2003, at her rural home. Her sister, Melody Thaxton, saw a Chad-type drone on or about November 20, 2007, from her Van Buren, Arkansas, office parking lot.

March 7, 2008 Hartshorne, Oklahoma, and Van Buren, Arkansas - A year ago on May 11, 2007, *Coast to Coast AM* webmaster, Lex, received an email letter with several

images attached of an odd, dragonfly-shaped, aerial object from a Central California resident who called himself "Chad." The images were dated May 6, 2007. In addition to the dragonfly-shaped body that had appendages sticking out from a large ring, there was another odd feature. Rising from the ring straight up into the air were slightly curved, thin wires that formed a tall, circular crown above the dragonfly body. Chad was worried about his family's safety and health after he saw the bizarre aerial object at least eight times from his house and on hikes near his home. Neighbors, he said, had also seen the unidentified aerial object.

Other photographs of dragonfly-shaped aerial objects began to emerge between May and June 2007 from Lake Tahoe, Capitola and Big Basin, California – all with appendages sticking out from a ring and the tall, thin wires extending high above. [See More Information below.]

By June 17, 2007, I received a dozen paper photographs dated June 5th, 2007, in post office mail. The new "drone" looked more menacing and more complicated than the others. I had taken to calling the objects "drones" because eyewitnesses had the impression that the hovering craft were not manned. The dozen photographs were from a man who called himself "Ty B." Ty explained he photographed the large, dragon-fly craft while bicycling with a group in the Big Basin Redwood Park near Saratoga, California. He said they all saw the dragonfly-shaped craft fade in and fade out three times above them. It was on the third fade in that Ty was able to take twelve photos, which he mailed to me.

After the Big Basin craft, no other photographs of the mysterious dragonfly-shaped "drones" emerged. But in January 2008, I received the following email from an Earthfiles viewer in Van Buren, Arkansas, a suburb of Fort Smith.

Subject: Drone
Date: January 6, 2008
To: earthfiles@earthfiles.com

"Dear Linda,
It was suggested that I send you a letter to let you know that I was pretty certain I saw a drone in Fort Smith, Arkansas. What was strange is at first I believed it to be a helicopter, and then I realized it wasn't making the noise of a helicopter. So I looked again and saw that wire cone-shaped part and realized what I was seeing (the drones in the photos at Earthfiles.com).

I was so shocked I didn't think about getting someone to take a picture of it. My cell phone isn't a newer one, so my camera on my phone sucks. Anyway, I saw it for what it's worth.

I also asked my sister if I could tell you about her sighting in Oklahoma several years ago. When I told her what I saw, she told me she had seen something like I was describing.

Sincerely,
Melody McIver Thaxton"

I phoned Melody and her sister, who I will call Jane Smith to honor her request for anonymity. Jane explained that she had two sightings the same week in June 2003 - long before all the May to June 2007 excitement about the "drone" photographs and eyewitness reports. At the time, Jane lived in the very small rural town of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, about two hours southwest of Van Buren and Fort Smith, Arkansas. Jane agreed to talk about what she said is the most extraordinary sky object she has ever seen.

Interview:

Jane Smith, Housewife, Hartshorne, Oklahoma, region: "The day was warm and I went out on my porch. I saw what I thought was an airplane. But then, the strange thing got closer and closer and had all kinds of arms and legs on it and spirally things (top wires going up into the air) and lights all over it. And it had writing on it that looked like a foreign language. Then, it just kind of hovered. It didn't like fly – it just hovered. It stayed in the same spot for several hours. Then I went inside. And I saw it again a couple of days later, but it was in the evening. I don't remember what time in the evening. It was doing the same thing and it was around the same area. And it just kind of hovers.

WHAT COLOR ARE YOU SEEING AND HOW CLOSE IS IT ABOVE YOU WHERE YOU ARE SITTING ON YOUR HOUSE PORCH?

Sort of a greyish color, like a pewter – like a metal. As far as distance, like a helicopter before it lands on the ground.

DO YOU THINK THAT WOULD BE 50 FEET ABOVE YOU?

Maybe a little bit more than that.

DO YOU HAVE TREES?

Yes, there were some trees. But it approached and got passed the trees where I could see it better.

WHEN IT PASSED THE TREES, WERE THE TREES 50 FEET HIGH?

The trees were much shorter, but it approached and went over the trees.

HOW CLOSE DO YOU THINK IT GOT TO YOU ON THE PORCH?

It didn't get much closer than that.

ABOUT 50 FEET HIGH. THE COLOR IS PEWTER GREY. COULD YOU SEE WRITING BECAUSE IT WAS A DIFFERENT COLOR?

The writing was a darker color than the pewter. It was a black, a dark...

BLACK ON THE GREY?

Yeah.

WHAT WAS THE SHAPE OF THE AERIAL OBJECT?

It's hard to describe. It was sort of like flat and round both.

DID IT LOOK ANYTHING LIKE A DRAGONFLY – A LONG TAIL WITH A ROUND FRONT?

Sort of. It had so many protruding legs and arm type of things on it. The body of it – it was like it did not have much body to it. But it had a lot of these extensions out from it. Sort of like a dragonfly, except it had a whole bunch of these arms or legs or whatever.

THE WRITING WAS WHERE?

On the bigger part, like the bodice part of the thing.

LIKE THE LONGER PIECE THAT THE PROJECTIONS CAME FROM?

Right.

“Squiggly” Writing On Drone and Arm Extensions That Moved

THIS BLACK WRITING – DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE SHAPES?

Squiggly, almost like Eastern-type language or like an Egyptian writing or Jewish writing. You know, it was a foreign type that was all squiggly.

THE WRITING WAS WHERE?

Like the side of it at the front of the ring. (She could not see bottom of tail.)

YOU USED THE WORD ‘SPIRAL THINGS’ COMING OFF THE LONGER BODY?
WHAT DO THOSE SPIRAL THINGS LIKE?

Sort of like little arms that come out, like a spider, sort of.

LIKE A SPIDER.

Like a spider's legs, like something that has the ability to turn any direction.

AS THIS APPROACHED YOU, IT STOPPED STILL IN THE AIR?

Yes, it sort of hovered.

WHEN IT HOVERED, DID THE DRONE TURN OR ROTATE IN ANY DIRECTION?

No, but the lights on it were what changed at different times. The little arms, they moved

around, but the main part of the craft itself did not really turn. It just stayed hovering there.

SO, THE LONGER BODY PART STAYED STATIONARY, BUT YOU COULD SEE THAT THE SPIDER-LIKE ARMS DID WHAT?

They just kind of moved around in different directions.

Various Sizes of Lights Went On and Off

SO, IN THE TWILIGHT, SITTING ON THE PORCH, WHEN IT'S AT ITS CLOSEST AND STOPS, YOU'RE SEEING SQUIGGLY WRITING, MOVING APPENDAGES AND LIGHTS. WHAT COLORS WERE THE LIGHTS? WHERE WERE THEY ON THE BODY? AND WHAT DID THEY DO?

They were just lights. I didn't see any color to the lights. All I saw was light.

WHITE?

Yeah, just like white lights.

WHERE WERE THEY?

They were on the bigger body part and they were also on the arms and there were several on the spirally type things.

DID THE SPIRAL-TYPE THINGS LOOK LIKE WIRES PROJECTING UP INTO THE AIR ABOVE THE FLAT BODY?

I could just tell they were there.

AT APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET ABOVE YOU, WERE YOU SEEING ONLY THE BOTTOM OF IT? OR COULD YOU SEE A PROFILE?

It was more a profile – part of the front and side.

WERE THE LIGHTS FORMING ANY KIND OF PATTERN ON THE OBJECT?

Some of the lights seemed to like take turns lighting up – like they would gradually light up one at a time and be all lit. Then they would go off and do it again.

DID THE LIGHTS ALL GO OFF AT THE SAME TIME?

No, they were all in different places – the ones doing this weird light-on light-off kind of thing.

WAS THERE ANY TIME WHEN IT DID NOT HAVE ANY LIGHTS SHOWING?

I don't think so.

SO THERE WAS ACTIVE WHITE LIGHT ACTIVITY OVER THE BODY OF THE OBJECT THE WHOLE TIME.

Right.

HOW BIG DO YOU THINK THOSE LIGHTS WERE IF YOU EXTEND YOUR ARM OUT AND COMPARE TO YOUR FINGERS OR FINGERTIPS?

Some of them were smaller. Some of them were about the same size of the tips of my fingers and some were larger.

WHERE WERE THE LARGER LIGHTS?

The smaller ones were on the spirally things and the larger ones were on the leg things and part of the bodice.

DID YOU SEE ALL OF THOSE LEGS MOVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER?

I saw the smaller ones moving some, but not the larger ones. The larger ones were just still.

Drone Hovered Near Porch for Hour and Made Intermittent Buzzing Sounds

HOW LONG DID YOU SIT ON THE PORCH AND WATCH THE OBJECT HOVERING ABOVE YOU?

Oh, my. The first time I saw it, probably 45 minutes to an hour – a long time.

DURING THAT HOUR, DID YOU EVER HEAR ANY SOUND FROM IT?

Like a humming or buzzing sound.

COULD YOU TRY TO MIMIC THAT FOR ME NOW?

(makes intermittent buzzing sound and laughs)

DID THE SOUND STAY STEADY? OR GO OFF AND ON? OR?

Kind of off and on.

IN THE HOUR THAT YOU WERE WATCHING, DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT CALLING THE POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR SOME ONE TO COME TAKE A LOOK?

I contemplated sharing it with a friend or neighbor, but to be honest, I was afraid they would think I was crazy and not really listen to me.

Later I talked about it with my husband and he said it was probably a satellite. And I said, 'No, it was not a satellite!' (Laughs)

Living out where I was in Hartshorne, we're talking about hillbilly authority. They would not, they would just think you were drinking or something. I knew that anyone that would take it seriously or would want to check it out, it would take so long to get there. Any authority was two or three hours away. I was in a very small area way rural, way out in the country! (outside of Hartshorne)

ANY MILITARY BASES AROUND THERE?

McAlester, Oklahoma, has a base that makes ammunition and tests it. It's called McAlester Army Ammunition. [Editor's Note: McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP) Defense Ammunition Center, is in the foothills of the Ozarks in McAlester, Oklahoma.]

HOW FAR FROM HARTSHORNE?

Only 30 minutes maybe.

Lighted Drone Leaves By Speeding Backwards Away from Porch

AT THE END OF THE HOUR OF WATCHING THE OBJECT IN THE SKY, WHAT HAPPENED? DID IT LEAVE OR WHAT?

It just went backwards. Kind of gradually faded so I couldn't see it anymore.

WHEN IT MOVED AWAY FROM YOU, DID YOU NOTICE ANY CHANGE IN THE COLOR, NUMBER OR INTENSITY OF THE LIGHTS? DID ANYTHING CHANGE WHEN IT STARTED TO MOVE BACKWARDS?

It seemed to brighten up more.

DID IT BACK AWAY FROM YOU VERY SLOWLY?

No, it actually seemed to move kind of fast. It was surprising. I wondered if it wasn't something from the government, like a secret project of some kind.

AS THE OBJECT MOVED AWAY FROM YOU, WHAT HAPPENED?

It just gradually fades away. It kind of disappears and it was as though it was never there.

Second Drone Encounter That Week of June 2003

HOW MANY DAYS OR NIGHTS LATER WAS IT UNTIL YOU SAW IT A SECOND TIME?

Oh, it was pretty close, within the same week. It was evening time and I thought I saw just a bright star from a distance. Then, it got closer. I pulled into my driveway. Where I lived, it was on top of a hill, so I had a really good, clear view of the sky. As it approached, I realized it was the same thing again, but it was not as close as it was before.

YOU KNEW IT WAS THE SAME BECAUSE WHY?

I don't know. I just knew! I guess because I could see there were more lights on it and it just seemed to hover like before. I just felt like it was the same thing.

DID IT COME CLOSE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HEAR THAT HUM?

No.

DID IT STOP IN THE AIR?

Yeah, it was doing the hover thing again.

THIS TIME, HOW CLOSE DID IT GET TO YOU AFTER YOU GOT OUT OF THE CAR?

A lot further away.

IF IT WERE 50 FEET BEFORE, HOW FAR WOULD YOU GUESS IT WAS THE SECOND TIME?

It was probably 200 feet, 100 feet. Quite a bit further.

BUT YOU DID SEE IT STOP?

Yeah.

THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

It just stayed there for awhile.

DID YOU STAND OUT IN THE YARD?

Yeah, I watched it for awhile and kind of knew what to expect. But I knew it was time for my husband to call. He works away and calls at a certain time. So, I went in the house.

THE LIGHTED OBJECT WAS STILL THERE HOVERING IN THE SKY?

Yeah.

YOU GET THROUGH WITH THE PHONE CALL, DO YOU GO BACK OUT?

No, because we talked for a long period of time on the phone back then.

SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTED CRAFT?

No.

BUT AS FAR AS YOU ARE CONCERNED, TWO OF THESE ODD, DRAGONFLY-SHAPED OBJECTS – ONE IN THE TWILIGHT AND ONE AT NIGHT – CAME WITHIN ONE WEEK TO WHERE YOU LIVED IN HARTSHORNE, OKLAHOMA, IN JUNE 2003?

Right.”

Hartshorne, Oklahoma, Aerial Craft Most Closely Matched Big Basin, California, “Drone” of June 5, 2007

I sent Jane Smith seven drone images shown below and asked her to pick out the one type that matched most closely what she had seen from her Hartshorne, Oklahoma, porch. She picked the seventh one. She also surprised me by adding that in addition to many of the appendages moving, she watched the “cage” hanging beneath the aerial drone open and close several times. But she did not see anything leave or enter the moving cage.

1)



Rajman1977 Image 0013, taken with a Konica Minolta DiMAGE X on May 16, 2007, in Capitola, California. Image © 2007 by rajman1977 at flickr.com.

2)



Odd aerial "drone" photographed in Lake Tahoe, California, on May 5, 2007. Photographer requested anonymity.

3)



Another odd aerial "drone" photographed by "Chad" in Central California, on May 6, 2007. Photographer requested anonymity.

4)



Letters, numbers and symbols on underneath side of drone tail photographed by "Chad" in Central California, on May 6, 2007.

5)



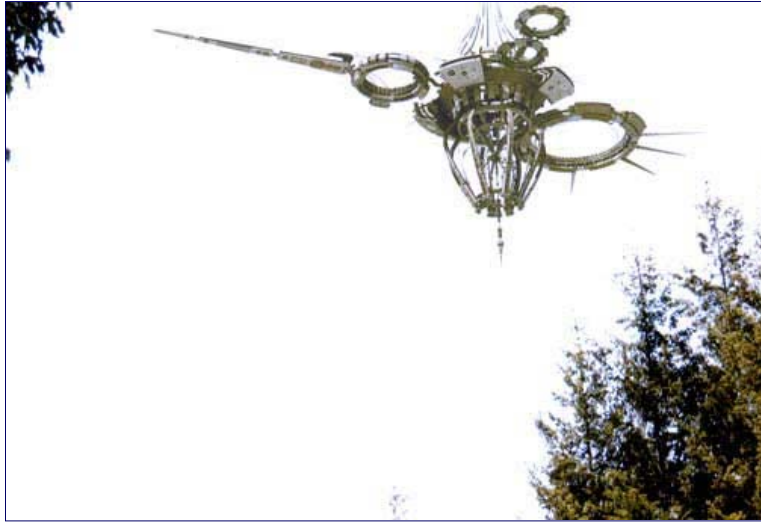
Odd, aerial object above power poles near construction site in May 2006, in Birmingham, Alabama. Photo by Mr. Smith, who requested anonymity.

6)



Above and below: two of a dozen photographs taken by "Ty B." while bicycling with a group in Big Basin Redwoods State Park northwest of Santa Cruz, California, on June 5, 2007. The aerial "drone" appeared three times, fading in and fading out rotating slowly and randomly clockwise and counterclockwise. Images © 2007 by Ty B.

7)



Note there are symbols on the underneath side of the tail and “boxes” around the central ring in this Big Basin Redwoods State Park photograph by “Ty B.” on June 5, 2007.

Interview:

Melody Melver Thaxton, non-profit fund raiser, Van Buren, Arkansas: “My sighting happened around November 20 or 21, 2007. It was 5 PM Central and I was leaving the building where I worked and went to my car. I just was looking in the direction where I was fixing to drive out of the parking lot. There is a business building next to where we are. Above that, I see this thing out of the corner of my eye. At first I thought it was a helicopter.

But when I looked at it, I thought, ‘Wait a minute! That’s no helicopter!’ Then I realized there was no sound. You know how much sound helicopters make, especially if you are within close vicinity?

RIGHT.

This was not making a sound and I realized I was looking at what appeared to be like the pictures of the drones at your Earthfiles website. It had this weird, funny, metal-looking shaped thing on it and it looked like it has a tail – like a long, flat tail sticking out.

WOULD THIS BE LIKE A DRAGONFLY SHAPE?

Yes, kind of like that. If you want to compare it to something, I guess that’s the best way. That would be the closest shape I can think of. There’s nothing that I’ve ever seen that is shaped like that.

IT WAS SO UNIQUE?

Yeah, exactly.

It was in pretty clear sight. And there was another person – I think they were a customer of where I work. They looked up and back at me and said, ‘Are you going to get a picture of that?’ And I said, ‘All I’ve got is my camera phone.’ I headed back to the building to see if I could find a photographer that was still there. As I was going back to the building, the aerial thing just kind of dissipated. You could tell it was moving very slowly, but not enough to – it wasn’t moving very fast!

IT JUST FADED OUT?

Yes, it just faded out.

AT EARTHFILES, ALL OF THE PHOTOS SHOW PRONGS OR WIRY STRUCTURES RISING UP INTO THE SKY?

Yes, that’s what I was telling you about the stuff that stuck out.

SO YOU WERE SEEING THE PRONGS STICKING UP IN THE SKY ABOVE THE BODY?

Yeah, that’s why I had to do a double take because it wasn’t – there was no sound. And then I realized it was not the right shape for a helicopter. When you are going home, you just think, ‘I’m on my way home’ and you kind of look at other things at a glance. But it definitely had those prongs on it going up.

YOUR SISTER SAID SHE COULD SEE SPIDER LEGS STICKING OUT FROM THE LONGER BODY? DID YOU SEE ANY OF THE PROJECTIONS MOVING?

No, evidently from the way she described it, she saw it from a closer distance. Mine was further away. I could not see anything moving. It was pretty hazy. But the thing itself was kind of floating.

And it had these metal, spidery-looking things going up – almost like a funnel shape, the way it would go up, like it was an upside down funnel with the spider-leg-looking things. And then, it had like a tail sticking out that was metal-like. The object was slowly moving toward the west.

There was another person there. I have no idea who they were and they looked at me and asked, ‘Did you see that? Do you have a camera?’

I did not have a camera, but I had my cell phone and I was going to go inside the building to see if I could find a photographer who was working. Before I got to the door, I was still keeping it in my peripheral vision and the thing faded out. It did not move away fast. It just disappeared, kind of dissipated, like a cloud of smoke.

THAT WAS NOVEMBER 2007. HAD YOU TALKED WITH YOUR SISTER ABOUT WHAT SHE HAD SEEN FOUR YEARS EARLIER?

No, we were at a Christmas party in December 2007 and I asked her, ‘You want to hear something odd that happened to me recently?’ And I told her about what I saw. And she said, ‘That sounds exactly like what I saw a few years back.’

I said, ‘What did you think it was?’

She said, ‘I thought it was some kind of spy equipment.’

Most people around here, if you told them you saw something like that (laughs), they would think you are crazy. I haven’t really discussed it with a whole lot of people because of that reason. This is the Bible Belt. I’m not saying that Christians can’t believe in UFOs. But a lot of them discourage it.”

I also emailed the same seven photographs to Melody and asked her to pick the one that most closely matched what she saw in Van Buren, Arkansas. She picked photograph number 3, one of the “Chad” photographs from Central California, dated May 6, 2007.



Another odd aerial “drone” photographed by “Chad” in Central California, on May 6, 2007. Photographer requested anonymity.

More Information:

For further information about mysterious aerial drones, please see Earthfiles reports below in the **Earthfiles Archives**:

- 07/11/2007 — Professional Computer Engineers Comment About “Isaac” and CARET Document
- 07/10/2007 — 2005 and 2006 Memphis “Drones”?
- 06/29/2007 — Another “Drone” This Week Near Maxwell AFB

- 06/26/2007 — Part 1: Explanation of the Recent "Strange Craft" Sightings
 - 06/26/2007 — Part 2: Documentation, Palo Alto Caret Laboratory Q4-86 Research Report
 - 06/22/2007 — Dragonfly "Drone" Seen October 1995 in Arizona
 - 06/17/2007 — More Big Basin, California, Bizarre "Drone" Images
 - 06/15/2007 — Part 1: Northridge, California, Aerial "Drone" Eyewitness On the Record
 - 06/15/2007 — Part 2 - Star Wars Physicist Edward Teller, Outer Space Menace And Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPVs)
 - 06/08/2007 — More Drone Photos and Other Eyewitnesses
 - 05/30/2007 — Birmingham-Type "Drone" Seen At Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, in Mid-1980s
 - 05/28/2007 — Letters About Unidentified "Drone" Aerial Objects
 - 05/25/2007 — Two More Eyewitnesses of Aerial "Drones" in 2005 and 2006
 - 05/21/2007 — Updated: Odd Aerial "Drone"? Photographed Again Over Capitola, California
 - 05/16/2007 — Updated: Odd Aerial "Drones"? Over Lake Tahoe and Central California
 - 05/16/2007 — Updated: Engineer Comments About Odd Aerial "Drones"?
-

Websites:

NASA Drones: <http://uav.wff.nasa.gov/relatedlinks.cfm>

Ion Propulsion, NASA: <http://nmp.nasa.gov/ds1/tech/ionpropfaq.html>

High Power Electric Propulsion Program (HiPEP): <http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/ion/present/hipep.htm>

UFO Casebook: <http://www.ufocasebook.com/strangecraftlaketahoe.html>

Credits

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