

# Ridgefield man sights UFO?

Woodland,  
Washington  
Lewis River  
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**RIDGEFIELD** — What some say may have been a UFO was seen by a Ridgefield man over the Columbia River between Ridgefield and Woodland on Tuesday, March 17th.

The bright orange lights and eerie whining noise were witnessed by Donald Atkin, a citizens band radio operator in Ridgefield.

He broadcast the noise over his radio to police officers after sighting what he described as a flaming ball descend quickly to the river.

Although speculations include the possibility that the light was a flare involved in marking the pickup spot for an illegal drug deal, the incident peaked the interest of the founder of Center for UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) Studies. One of its members was sent to southwest Washington to interview witnesses to the unexplainable sighting.

The UFO sighting is the second to occur near Ridgefield in the past six months.

On October 5, 1980, a crew member on a southbound Union Pacific train reported seeing a triangular-shaped craft about 300 feet across hover about 400 feet above the Burlington Northern train tracks near Pacific Wood Treating Co.

The crewman sighted the strange craft with red and white blinking lights early in the morning and reported the incident to police at the train's first stop.