

# Hole in ice caused by pond's lack of water

By Kevin Diaz  
Staff Writer

Police are pretty confident there's no mystery to the hole in the ice they found in a Rosemount pond this week.

The ice, it appears, caved in of its own accord because there wasn't enough water underneath to support it. The water level had dropped almost 3 feet lately, and the snow on top weighed it down until the ice broke, said Rosemount Police Chief James Staats.

The 100-foot-wide pond between the homes of Pete and Kathy Peterson and Barry and Karin Draxten became a gathering place Wednesday for

divers, geologists, UFO enthusiasts, police and journalists — all of whom came to speculate on the cause of the 12-foot-hole in the middle of the pond's eight-inch ice.

The Petersons and Draxtens found the hole Tuesday morning after hearing a crack in the middle of the night, which they likened to the sound of lightning hitting a tree. But the investigation turned up no evidence of an other-worldly explanation. Divers found only rocks and silt at the bottom of the pond.

There are hold-outs, however. William McNeff, state director for the Mutual UFO Network, said, "I'm pretty well convinced it was a meteor." Having been told that even a marble-sized meteor traveling at supersonic speeds could have caused the hole, he plans to look into it further.

And just for good measure, even the police might take another look. Said Staats: "I suppose in the spring they might go out and take another look."

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