

Was this what all the 2008 UFO fuss was about? Credit: Skeptic.com

If you follow UFO sightings at all (and even if you don't) you probably heard about the Morristown, New Jersey UFO's from earlier this year. Reports of the sightings in January 2009 were covered extensively in newspapers around the country, on CNN, several national talk radio shows, and even was featured in the History Channel's new show, UFO Hunters. Well, yesterday two New Jersey residents Joe Rudy and Chris Russo revealed something big: it was all a hoax. The two created the entire five-night spectacle by tying flares to helium balloons. [Everyone should read their account over at Skeptics.com](#) (and the Bad Astronomer beat me to the punch by posting about it before I could, [so read his take on it, too.](#)) Why did they do this? "We set out on a mission to help people think rationally and question the credibility of so-called UFO "professionals," write Rudy and Russo, "We delivered what every perfect UFO case has: great video and pictures, "credible" eyewitnesses (doctors and pilots), and professional investigators convinced that something amazing was witnessed. Does this bring into question the validity of every other UFO case? We believe it does."

The article provides links to videos of how they created the hoax, and provides all the extensive media reaction. Most of the media includes quotes from "experts" including a pilot who saw UFO lights. But the two "hoaxers" call into question the validity of so-called UFO investigators and shows like the History Channel's UFO Hunters, as well as eye-witness accounts even from so-called experts. They make some great points in their article: "This begs an important question: are UFO investigators simply charlatans looking to make a quick buck off human gullibility, or are they alarmists using bad science to back up their biased opinions that extraterrestrial life is routinely visiting our planet? Either way, are these people deserving of their own shows on major cable networks? If a respected UFO investigator can be easily manipulated and dead wrong on one UFO case, is it possible he's wrong on most (or all) of them? Do the networks buy into this nonsense, or are they in it for the ratings? How can a television network that has pretensions of providing honest and factual programming be taken seriously when the topic of one of their top rated shows deals with chasing flares and fishing line?"

[Check it out.](#)

👉 **UFO**

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