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ACCESSIBILITY

by Scott Sistik

Wed, October 14th 2009 at 12:00 AM

Updated Wed, October 14th 2009 at 5:00 PM

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A friend forwarded me this YouTube video of an extraterrestrial-looking cloud that was apparently filmed over Moscow earlier this

week.

It sure looks freaky, and many thought it was some sort of UFO.

But I'm betting there's a more natural explanation of this. While not having the data around makes it hard to prove, this looks suspiciously like a harmless "Hole Punch" cloud.

They are created when a jet flies through a stable layer of super-cooled clouds. While most of the photos I've found on Hole Punch clouds look a little brighter and sunnier than the video from Russia, I'll bet there's something similar going on in the physics behind it.

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Here is more information about Hole Punch Clouds:

<http://weatherthings.com/holepunch.html>

http://www.wkrg.com/weather/article_education/hole_punch_clouds/4097/

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