



Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



Our Bookstore is **OPEN**

Over 5000 new & used titles, competitively priced!

Topics: [UFOs](#) - [Paranormal](#) - [Area 51](#) - [Ghosts](#) - [Fortean](#) - [Conspiracy](#) - [History](#) - [Biography](#) - [Psychology](#) - [Religion](#) - [Crime](#) - [Health](#) - [Geography](#) - [Maps](#) - [Science](#) - [Money](#) - [Language](#) - [Recreation](#) - [Technology](#) - [Fiction](#) - [Other](#) - [New](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

[Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1996](#) -> [Dec](#) -> Here

UFO UpDates Mailing List

The Satellites of Comet Hale-Bopp

From: **John Joseph Mercieca** <mufor@malta.net>
Date: Sat, 21 Dec 1996 10:40:49 +0100
Fwd Date: Sat, 21 Dec 1996 11:05:02 -0500
Subject: The Satellites of Comet Hale-Bopp

The Satellites of Comet Hale-Bopp
(from <http://www.metaresearch.org/>)

(A Meta Research Press Release)

Comet Hale-Bopp was discovered on July 23, 1995. It has the unusual distinction of being bright enough to be seen in amateur telescopes while still farther from the Sun than Jupiter. This may mean that the comet is bigger than most, perhaps even one of the spectacular but rare "great comets", the most recent of which appeared in 1882. But it might just mean that the comet underwent a recent outburst, and will soon fade back to a more typical brightness. As time goes by and the comet shows little sign of rapid fading, hope grows that it is truly a large comet that will become visible to the naked eye in the spring of 1997, when it reaches the inner solar system. If its extrapolated brightness is accurate (always a risky assumption with comets), it might reach about magnitude -2. This is the brightness of the brightest star Sirius. However, a comet's brightness is spread over a far larger angular area, since most reflected light comes from the comet's coma and tail. So the artificial night sky brightness common in cities will prevent viewing the comet except from places where the night sky is reasonably dark.

As readers of the book "Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets" will be aware, author Tom Van Flandern has predicted that both asteroids and comets commonly have satellites. This is a natural consequence of origin of these bodies in the explosive breakup of a larger former solar system planet or moon. But it is almost impossible if comets and asteroids condensed from a primeval solar nebula over 4 billion years ago, as the most popular theory today suggests, because captures are extremely rare events. So when an unusually large comet such as Comet Hale-Bopp is viewed with powerful modern telescopes, either satellites will be present, or they will not; and either way tells us something important about which model of comet origins is more likely to be correct.

The photograph with this article was taken with the Hubble Space Telescope on September 26, 1995, showing the region near the nucleus of the comet in high resolution. The caption supplied with the photo is partially reproduced in smaller typeface near the picture. Clearly, that caption presumes the solar-nebula-origin model, in which orbiting satellites are too improbable to be considered seriously.

The purpose of this press release is threefold:

1. to point out that the so-called "blob ejected from the nucleus of the comet" is in all likelihood a satellite of the nucleus in a

long-term stable orbit.

2.to predict that telescopes will continue to track this same satellite in the same orbit around the comet nucleus all the way into the inner solar system, by which time additional satellites might be seen.

3.to call attention to the implications for theories of comet origins this discovery implies.

- end -

```
-----
*           ~ MALTA UFO RESEARCH ~           *
*   Researcher & Investigator : John Joseph Mercieca   *
'-----'
* MUFOR Web site: http://207.167.67.197/ *
* TLP Database   : http://207.167.67.197/tlp/lunar.html *
* E-mail 1      : mufor@maltanet.omnes.net *
* E-mail 2      : mufor@waldonet.net.mt *
* IRC channel   : #cydonia (on Undernet) *
* Fax           : + 356 456729 *
* Mobile        : 099 0756 *
* Postal Address: P.O. Box 14, Rabat RBT 01, MALTA. *
'-----'
* "Either these *
* features on *
* Mars are *
* natural and this investigation is a complete waste of time,*
* or they are artificial and this is one of the most important*
* discoveries of our entire existence on Earth." *
* - RICHARD C.HOAGLAND on the MONUMENTS of CYDONIA, MARS *
'-----'
```

Search for other documents to/from: [mufor](#)

[[Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#)]
[[This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#)]

UFO UpDates - Toronto - updates@globalserve.net

Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.

To subscribe please send your first and last name to updates@globalserve.net

Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

[[UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#)]

To find this message again in the future...
Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.

Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: webmaster@ufomind.com

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).