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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: NUFORC Reports on the US Northwest Mass

From: **Ted Viens** <drtedv@freewweb.com>
 Date: Thu, 04 Dec 1997 12:09:47 -0800
 Fwd Date: Thu, 04 Dec 1997 18:17:09 -0500
 Subject: Re: NUFORC Reports on the US Northwest Mass

> Date: Wed, 3 Dec 1997 20:42:05 -0500 (EST)
 > To: updates@globalserve.net
 > From: edwards@amigo.net (TIM EDWARDS)
 > Subject: NUFORC reports on the Northwest mass sightings

> Dozens upon dozens of reports on the Seattle and Northwestern US
 > Mass sighting Nov. 14 can be found at:

> <http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr/>

> Included in the reports is a press release by Peterson Field Air
 > Base, Colorado that a Soviet Rocket came down Nov. 16 NOT the
 > 14. A lot of these reports are very derogatory to the official
 > explanation of space-debris re-entering.

> Check it out.

> Tim

Hmmm... going to the Orbital Information Group website:

<http://oigsysop.atasc.allied.com/sat.htm>

and downloading the weekly satellite report (satwk.html) a couple
 of weeks after the sighting and what do we learn:

Objects NO Longer In Orbit:

Internatl. Designation	Name	Catalog Number	Object Source	Launch Date	Decay Date
1987-079L	SL-12 DEB	25022	CIS	16 Sep 1987	30 Oct 1997
1994-029AM	PEGASUS DEB	23991	US	19 May 1994	06 Nov 1997
1986-017LR	MIR DEB	23929	CIS	19 Feb 1986	08 Nov 1997
1986-017JN	MIR DEB	23691	CIS	19 Feb 1986	12 Nov 1997
1997-070B	SL-12 PLAT	25046	CIS	12 Nov 1997	13 Nov 1997
1994-029JL	PEGASUS DEB	24185	US	19 May 1994	14 Nov 1997
1997-070C	SL-12 R/B(1)	25047	CIS	12 Nov 1997	15 Nov 1997
1997-060C	FOTON 12 DEB	25015	CIS	09 Oct 1997	17 Nov 1997
1997-011B	ATLAS 2A CENTAU	24749	US	08 Mar 1997	19 Nov 1997

Why look!!! A big ole Russian SL-12 Rocket Booster decayed on 15
 Nov 1997. "Wait!!!" you say, "Them supernatural lights came
 streaking from the sky after 9:00 pm Friday -14- Nov 1997 Seattle
 time!" Right, they were sighted after 5:00 am Saturday -15- Nov
 1997 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC). Well Hot Damn!! The most
 respected non-military source of satellite information in the
 world and the actual events agree.

Also from the above brief list we learn that the booster was launched three days before decay. This tells us it decayed from orbit. The burning re-entry would be seen below its path over a third of the way around the world. It would have been most spectacular just before crashing to earth which appeared to be somewhere in the northwestern United States. It probably would have broken into several pieces and the densest ones would have lead a string of flimsier pieces across the sky. Sheet-like pieces would have diverted some from the path of the bulk of the booster.

A brief (hopefully) description of how NORAD really tracks low earth orbit satellites. Really big, big radars all over the earth sweep the skies flapping back and forth zapping everything just like in the movies... BBBRRRAAAPPPPP, NOT... Sorry, wrong answer. Take a paper plate and cut it in half. Get your globe (ok, pretend) and tape one of the halves sort of up and down centered over Texas. See how this semi-circle pattern stays fixed in place. Glue a marble to a string and spin it around the globe. See how it passes through the semi-circle once each orbit. Now, tape two more half plates to the globe so that they form a triangle over the central U. S. Take your marble and spin it around the globe in any orientation you can imagine. See how it passes through at least a couple of the radar fans during each orbit. NORAD takes all the vectors of all the hits by these three radars and sorts them out to compute the orbital paths of all the objects they can detect. If an object decays and they are not paying particular attention to it, they may take 3 to 6 hours to notice it. True, NORAD knows in advance what objects are about to decay, but they don't know that it has actually decayed until it fails to trip the radar fence on its next pass and someone cares enough to inquire. (Phewww, brief enough.)

In fact, the Orbital Information Group at the above page provides a sixty day decay forcast. (60da.html) If you look today, you will see that the list only forecasts decays through December 31 and that all decays are listed as expected on December 31. Even in the temples of technology, they screw up occasionally and software has bugs.

I am tempted to ramble on for another couple of pages to explain why, for the next couple of years, decaying space debris will begin to feel like a constant rain of fire falling from the sky. Fortunately, I am restraining myself. I will give a clue though: Personal Sat-Phones.

Bye... Ted..

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