



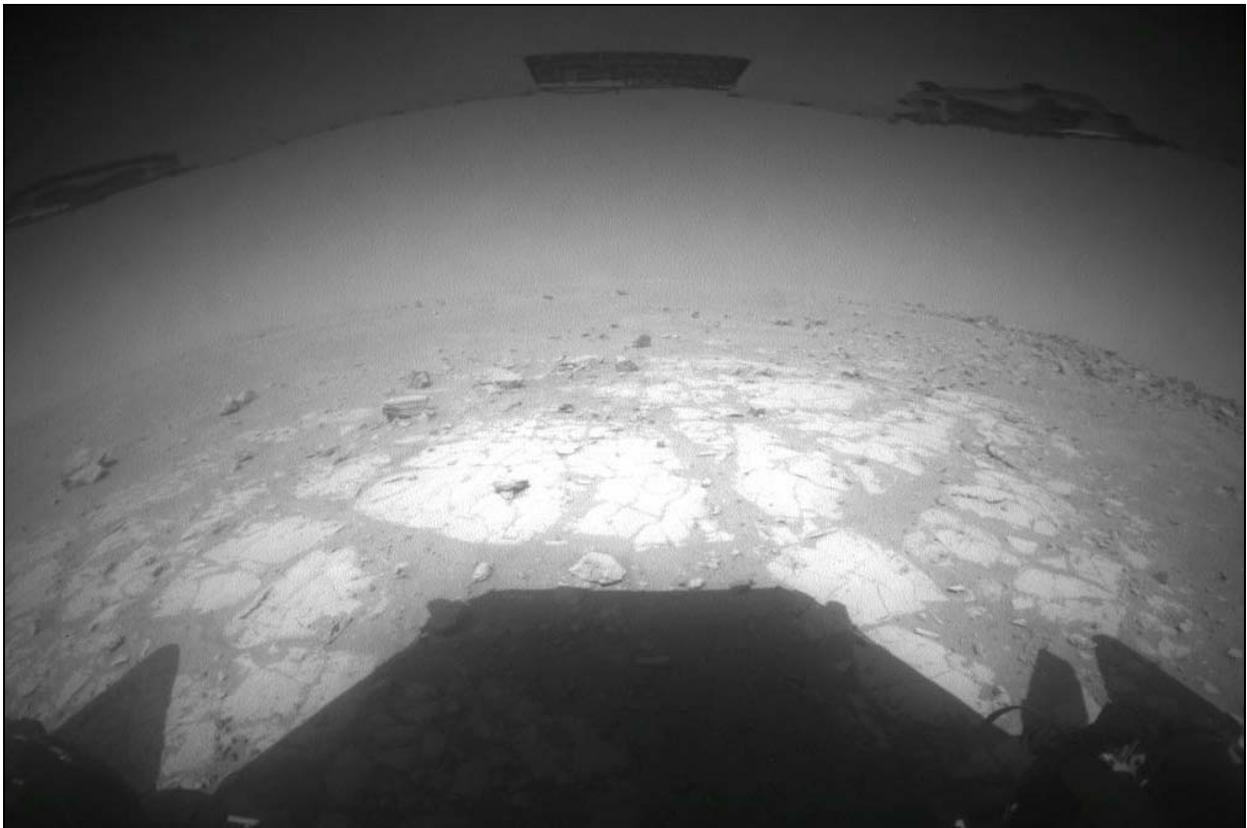
**ANDY BRIEFS WHITLEY ON STRUCTURES
SEEN ON MARS BY ROVER OPPORTUNITY**

In February 2010, MARS resolved the mystery surrounding apparent “structures” photographed on Mars by NASA’s rover *Opportunity*. Andy briefed science fiction writer Whitley Strieber on Facebook about MARS’ finding that the “structures” are, in fact, defects on the edge of the canopy of the *Opportunity* itself. The *Opportunity* had photographed the shroud protecting its RAT camera, in the process creating an optical illusion of apparent “structures” on Mars worthy of the search for Noah’s Ark on Mt. Ararat.



Whitley Strieber

Look at the top of the frame of this image from Mars rover *Opportunity*. What are those structures?



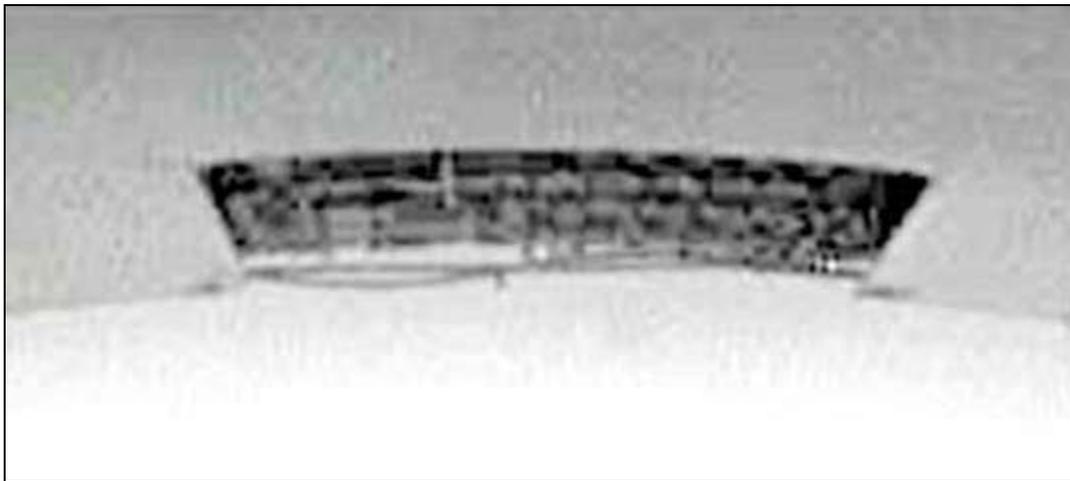


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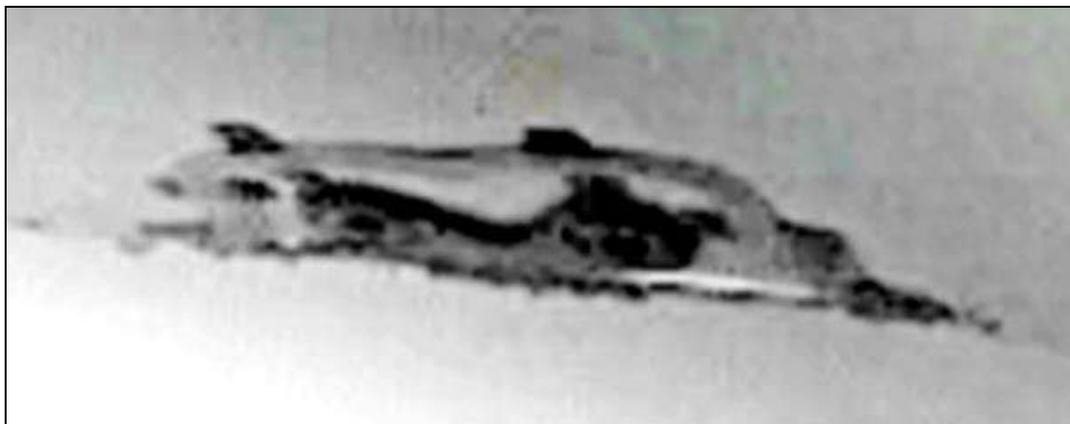


Whitley Strieber

This is the middle object (*below*), run through a simple sharpening process by one of our photo experts. It is contrast adjusted, not altered.



This is the object on the right (*below*), processed the same way.





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Andrew D. Basiago

Whitley, These anomalies were investigated by the Mars Anomaly Research Society (MARS). We concluded that they are not structures on the surface of Mars but rather defects on the canopy of the *Opportunity* itself. At the top of the photograph is a shroud that sits above the RAT camera that can be seen in just about every image from *Opportunity* taken from this angle. In this and other similar photographs, the *Opportunity* has photographed its own canopy and created a false horizon effect at the top of the image. The apparent "structures" are defects on the edge of the shroud. There are structures on Mars – for example, the image of a base on Mars that Bob Dean revealed at the European Exopolitics Summit in Barcelona in July 2009 – but these are not among them. These "structures" are the result of the *Opportunity* photographing itself. The "horizon" upon which the "objects" seem to sit is, in fact, the edge of the canopy, above, as it appears against the Martian sky, below. Andy



The shroud of *Opportunity*'s RAT camera (top), the Martian sky (middle), Mars' surface (bottom)