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COMET P/2006 XG₁₆ (SPACEWATCH)

C. W. Hergenrother, University of Arizona, informs us that *R*-band images taken with the Catalina 1.54-m telescope show the Spacewatch discovery 2006 XG₁₆ (cf. *MPS* 192606, 195581; *MPO* 113007; discovery observation below) to be a comet. It was suspected to be cometary on images taken on 2007 Jan. 27.19 UT in poor seeing. Co-added 600-s *R*-band exposures in excellent seeing on Jan. 28.19 show the object at *R* = 18.2 with a coma 9'' in diameter and a tail 20'' long in p.a. 135°.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}
Dec. 10.41280		7 ^h 31 ^m 13.50 ^s	+26°37'28.7''

The following orbital elements (together with the Jan. 27–28 astrometry, full residuals, and an ephemeris) are given on *MPEC* 2007-B79.

Epoch = 2007 Mar. 1.0 TT

T = 2007 Feb. 9.9575 TT	ω = 41.3095	} 2000.0
e = 0.420981	Ω = 78.4544	
q = 2.102218 AU	i = 9.0781	
a = 3.630654 AU	n° = 0.1424711	
	P = 6.92 years	

SATELLITES OF NEPTUNE

Further to *IAUC* 5347, the IAU Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature has approved the following new designations and names of satellites of Neptune:

Neptune IX	Halimede	= S/2002 N 1
Neptune X	Psamathe	= S/2003 N 1
Neptune XI	Sao	= S/2002 N 2
Neptune XII	Laomedeia	= S/2002 N 3
Neptune XIII	Neso	= S/2002 N 4

COMET C/2006 P1 (McNAUGHT)

Visual total-magnitude and tail-length estimates (cf. *IAUC* 8797): Jan. 22.51 UT, −0.3, 24° (A. Pearce, City Beach, W. Australia, naked eye); 23.53, +1.5, 30° (D. J. Frew, Perth Observatory, naked eye); 24.53, −0.3, 26° (Pearce); 25.52, +0.4, 20° (Pearce); 29.65, +2.3, 15° (J. Drummond, Gisborne, New Zealand, naked eye); 31.52, 2.5, > 7° (Frew); Feb. 3.95, 3.0, – (W. Souza, São Paulo, Brazil, 8×30 binoculars).