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COMET 17P/HOLMES

H. H. Hsieh, A. Fitzsimmons, and D. L. Pollacco, Queen's University, Belfast, on behalf of the WASP Consortium, report that the SuperWASP-N facility was serendipitously imaging the position of comet 17P throughout October, and that the comet is not visible in unfiltered CCD images to a limiting magnitude of $V \approx 15$ at or prior to Oct. 23.27 UT. The comet is visible in the next image taken on Oct. 23.99 and brightens steadily, becoming saturated at $\approx$ Oct. 24.10. From photometry performed using apertures $70''$ in radius (5.1 pixels; 124000 km at the comet), a nearly 3-fold increase in the comet's brightness is found (from $V \approx 9.7$ to 8.6) in the 2.6 hours of unsaturated data. The brightening of the comet during this period is consistent with a power law with an exponent of 2, which would be expected from the linear expansion of an optically thick dust coma. Assuming a constant rate of expansion, the time of the comet's intiial outburst is found to be $\approx$ Oct. 23.8 UT.

COMET P/2007 T4 (GIBBS)

Additional astrometry and the following revised orbital elements from *MPEC* 2007-V101 show this comet (cf. *IAUC* 8880) to be of short period:

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
T = \text{2007 July 20.3414 TT} & \omega = 42^\circ.3664 & \\
e = 0.614168 & \Omega = 37.1654 & \text{2000.0} \\
q = 2.005990 \text{ AU} & i = 23.8690 & \\
\end{array}
$$

$$a = 5.199127 \text{ AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.0831397 \qquad P = 11.9 \text{ years}$$

COMET C/2007 T1 (McNAUGHT)

Revised orbital elements (cf. *IAUC* 8877) from *MPEC* 2007-V53:

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
T = \text{2007 Dec. 12.520 TT} & \omega = 233^\circ.728 & \\
 & \Omega = 111.429 & \text{2000.0} \\
q = 0.96882 \text{ AU} & i = 117.646 & \\
\end{array}
$$

2007 VW_{266}

Another retrograde asteroidal object ($i = 108^\circ$, $q = 3.34$ AU, $P = 12.1$ yr, mag ~ 20) has been discovered, this time via the Mt. Lemmon survey (details given on *MPEC* 2007-W21).

2007 November 19 *Daniel W. E. Green*