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V2671 OPHIUCHI

R. J. Rudy, D. K. Lynch, R. W. Russell, and A. M. Gilbert, The Aerospace Corporation; and C. E. Woodward, University of Minnesota, report 0.8- to 5.5-μm spectroscopy of V2671 Oph on June 14 UT, obtained as above. V2671 Oph (Nova Oph 2008 No. 2; cf. *IAUC* 8951) is an "Fe II"-type nova with comparatively narrow lines of FWHM = 1200 km/s. It is at a very low stage of excitation, showing exceptionally bright lines of neutral carbon and strong emissison from the Ca II infrared triplet. The O I lines are also strong and indicate a large interstellar reddening of $E(B-V) = 2.0$. Weak, first-overtone emission from carbon monoxide beginning at 2.29 μm is present. No emission from dust is yet evident in the spectrum, but the presence of molecular gas suggests that its formation is imminent.

COMET C/2007 W1 (BOATTINI)

A. J. Lovell, Agnes Scott College; and E. S. Howell, Arecibo Observatory, report detection of 18-cm OH lines in comet C/2007 W1 with the 100-m Green Bank Telescope. Hyperfine ratios of lines at 1667, 1665, 1612, and 1720 MHz are 8.6:4.8:1.1:1. Production rates log Q(OH) are as follows: June 13.75 UT, 28.20; 14.79, 28.21; 15.78, 28.27. Mapping at $8'$ scale suggests that collisional quenching is present in the inner 20000 km of the coma. Line shapes are consistent with parent (water) outflow velocity of 0.78 km/s.

Visual total-magnitude estimates (cf. *IAUC* 8951) by R. Salvo, Montevideo, Uruguay (7×50 binoculars): June 8.95 UT, 5.6; 10.93, 5.5; 12.91, 5.5; 30.35, 6.0.

COMETS C/2008 G5 AND C/2008 G6 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 8956, additional apparent comets have been found on SOHO website images. C/2008 G5 (a Kreutz sungrazer) was very diffuse, very faint (mag 8), and elongated. C/2008 G6, which was small and stellar in appearance (mag $\sim$ 7.5), was suggested by R. Kracht to be a return of the Kracht-group presumed-comet C/2002 S11 (cf. *IAUC* 7991), and an orbit by B. G. Marsden on *MPEC* 2008-L29 links the two apparitions with an orbital period of $\sim$ 5.54 yr.

Comet	2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2008 G5	Apr. 10.018	$1^h24^m.4$	$+ 7^\circ12'$	C2	MU	2008-L29
C/2008 G6	12.921	1 31.5	+ 9 25	C2	BZ	2008-L29

2008 July 3 *Daniel W. E. Green*