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PERIODIC COMET GE-WANG (1988o)

J.-x. Zhang, Purple Mountain Observatory, reports that Y.-l. Ge and G. Wang have discovered a moving object of somewhat diffuse appearance. The object's cometary nature has been confirmed from prediscovery exposures by C. and E. Shoemaker at Palomar:

1988 UT	R.A. (1950)	Decl.	m1	Observer
Oct. 11.48385	3 03 42.04	+ 6 30 27.8	16.5	Shoemaker
11.51510	3 03 41.43	+ 6 30 13.3		"
Nov. 4.36736	2 50 58.46	+ 3 47 17.7	16	"
4.59666	2 50 50.19	+ 3 45 59.4	17	Ge
4.63797	2 50 48.50	+ 3 45 43.7		"

Computations by B. G. Marsden, Center for Astrophysics, indicate that this is a short-period comet. The poor distribution of observations introduces substantial uncertainty, but a parabolic solution seems out of the question.

T = 1988 June 22.77 ET	Peri. = 185.10
e = 0.4815	Node = 175.68 1950.0
q = 2.3917 AU	Incl. = 10.38
a = 4.6126 AU	P = 9.91 years
n = 0.09949	

1988 ET	R.A. (1950)	Decl.	Delta	r	m1
Nov. 5	2 50.58	+ 3 43.7	1.625	2.603	16.2
10	2 47.51	+ 3 17.5			
15	2 44.57	+ 2 55.5	1.673	2.633	16.3
20	2 41.89	+ 2 38.0			
25	2 39.54	+ 2 25.5	1.747	2.664	16.5
30	2 37.61	+ 2 17.8			
Dec. 5	2 36.14	+ 2 15.1	1.844	2.697	16.6
10	2 35.19	+ 2 17.0			
15	2 34.77	+ 2 23.4	1.962	2.731	16.8

IAUC 4677

(724) HAPAG = 1988 V62

S. Nakano, Center for Astrophysics, has indentified this long-lost minor planet with an object discovered by T. Hioki & N. Kawasato at Okutama, Japan, on Nov. 8. There are no other identifications with recorded minor planets since J. Palisa's original discovery in 1911.

Epoch = 1988 Aug. 27.0 ET	
T = 1988 Nov. 1.6680 ET	Peri. = 204.3163
e = 0.248387	Node = 203.7735 1950.0
q = 1.846078 AU	Incl. = 11.7347
a = 2.456155 AU	P = 3.849 years
n = 0.2560474	

1988 ET	R.A. (1950)	Decl.	Delta	r	V
Nov. 15	3 41.55	+ 6 46.7	0.870	1.848	15.1
25	3 34.15	+ 4 52.0			
Dec. 5	3 27.92	+ 3 29.6	0.923	1.858	15.5
15	3 24.12	+ 2 44.6			
25	3 23.49	+ 2 35.5	1.053	1.876	16.0

IAUC 4676

V1118 ORIONIS (NSV 2229)

M. Verdenet, Bourbon-Lancy, France, reports that this irregular nebular variable star has brightened, being at mv = 14.0 on

Nov. 15.94 UT. The star was re-discovered by R.Chanal at mpv 13.5 on 1983 Dec 29 as reported in TA 20,151 (1984).

IAUC 4676

NRAO 300 FOOT DISH COLLAPSES

R.McNaught e-mails (Nov 17):

"Within the last 24hrs, the 300ft (Green Bank?) collapsed and was totally demolished. The control building was partially damaged.

Nobody was hurt.

I have no further information."

FIREBALL

P.Sutherland e-mails:

"On 1988, November 16 at about 22.15 UT, E-mail subscribers Paul Sutherland and Don Miles plus four other British amateurs witnessed the flash of a brilliant fireball which left a train visible to the naked eye for 1.25 hours (correct). The flash, at first thought to be car headlights, was seen while the group was observing with the new 1.06-metre reflector at Puimichel, in the Haute Provence region of southern France. From the dome slit, a bright, double-edged (cylindrical?), train was seen in Ursa Major. The train twisted and extended until horizontal and 15 degrees long in clear, dark skies, slowly drifting east through Cancer. Progress of the train was monitored while we were being treated to visual sightings of the Horsehead Nebula and other spectacles with this superb telescope!"

TA INDEX

We welcome Jean-Claude Merlin (MAG100851) our first member located in France thus extending our group still further internationally.

Guy M Hurst