



## **ALPO COMET NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2020**

A Publication of the Comets Section of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers

By Carl Hergenrother - 2020-October-7

The monthly ALPO Comet News PDF can be found on the ALPO Comets Section website (<a href="http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/cometblog/">http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/cometblog/</a>). A shorter version of this report is posted on a dedicated Cloudy Nights forum (<a href="https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/733309-alpo-comet-news-for-october-2020/">https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/733309-alpo-comet-news-for-october-2020/</a>). All are encouraged to join the discussion over at Cloudy Nights. The ALPO Comet Section welcomes all comet related observations, whether textual descriptions, images, drawings, magnitude estimates, or spectra. You do not have to be a member of ALPO to submit material, though membership is encouraged. To learn more about the ALPO, please visit us @ <a href="http://www.alpo-astronomy.org">http://www.alpo-astronomy.org</a>.

Two comets are expected to be good targets for small aperture observers: fading 88P/Howell (8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> magnitude) and brightening C/2020 M3 (ATLAS) (9<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> magnitude). C/2020 P1 (NEOWISE), not to be confused with this year's brightest comet C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE), could brighten above 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude but will only be visible to southern hemisphere observers at low elevations during the first week of the month. Assuming it survives perihelion, which may be unlikely as the comet is intrinsically faint and dynamically new, C/2020 P1 could be visible to northern observers as a faint visual object during the last week of the month. Among fainter comets to watch (10-12<sup>th</sup> mag) are departing comets C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) and C/2020 Q1 (Borisov) and inbound comet C/2020 S3 (Erasmus).

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### **Bright Comets (magnitude < 10.0)**

88P/Howell – Jupiter-family comet 88P/Howell is now outbound after perihelion on September 28 at 1.35 au. Since its 1981 discovery, its perihelion distance has dropped from 1.62 au to 1.35 au. Perihelion will stay within a few 0.01 au of 1.35 au until a close approach to Jupiter in 2061 resulting in a perihelion increase to 1.55 au.

In September the comet was consistently observed around magnitude 9.0. Five visual magnitude estimates were submitted to the ALPO by Chris Wyatt and J. Gonzalez. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, Wyatt reported a brightness of 8.9 and coma diameter of 4.5' while Gonzalez reported magnitude 8.7 and a 8' coma. Wyatt also observed 88P on the next night at 8.9 and 4.5' coma, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> at magnitude 9.1 and 9.3 with a coma between 6.2' and 6.5'. The image below shows 88P and globular star cluster NGC 5897 as captured by Martin Mobberley on September 5.



As has been the case over the past few months, 88P is an evening object. It is rather low in the southwestern sky for northern observers, but much better placed for southern hemisphere observers. 88P is moving against the rich star fields of Scorpius (Oct 1-2), Ophiuchus (2-15), and Sagittarius (15-31). 88P should slowly fade from around magnitude 9.0 to 10.0 in October.

```
88P/Howell
                                                                         Max El
T = 2020-Sep-28 q = 1.35 au
Jupiter-family comet
                                                                          (deg)
                              Decl.
                                                       Elong
                                                               Const
                                                                       40N
                                                                            40S
    Date
              Mag
                      R.A.
                                         r
                                                  d
                                                1.415
                                       1.354
2020 10 01
              9.1
                     16 46
                            -26 00
                                                         65
                                                                Sco
                                                                        12
                                                                              45
2020 10 06
              9.1
                     17 05
                                                1.433
                                                         65
                                                                        12
                                                                              44
                            -26 34
                                       1.357
                                                                Oph
              9.2
                     17 25
                                                         64
                                                                        13
                                                                              43
2020 10 11
                            -26 59
                                       1.362
                                                1.453
                                                                Oph
                                                                        13
2020 10 16
              9.3
                     17 45
                            -27 14
                                       1.370
                                                1.475
                                                         63
                                                                Sgr
                                                                              42
2020 10 21
              9.5
                     18 05
                            -27 19
                                       1.380
                                                1.500
                                                         63
                                                                Sgr
                                                                        14
                                                                              41
              9.6
                                                                        15
                                                                              39
2020 10 26
                     18 24
                            -27 13
                                       1.392
                                                1.527
                                                         62
                                                                Sgr
2020 10 31
              9.8
                     18 44
                            -26 58
                                       1.405
                                                1.558
                                                         62
                                                                Sgr
                                                                        16
                                                                              38
2020 11 05
                     19 04
                            -26 32
                                                         61
                                                                        16
                                                                              36
             10.0
                                       1.421
                                                1.591
                                                                Sgr
            Comet Magnitude Parameters --- H = 4.2,
                                                        2.5n =
                                                                31.4
```

C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) – This October we'll be saying goodbye to C/2020 F3 for a few months. The comet is already a very low object from the northern hemisphere at the start of the month and will be too low to be observed by mid-month. Southern hemisphere observers will be able to follow NEOWISE through the end of the month. Not helping matters, is the comet's steady fading from around magnitude 11.0 to 12.5 this month.

C/2020 F3 will once again become visible in January 2021 for observers both hemispheres. At that time the comet may still be as bright as 14<sup>th</sup> magnitude if it follows its post-perihelion fading trend. It is also possible it could be much fainter. Either way, it will be more of an imaging rather than visual target. Time will tell. Departing NEOWISE as imaged by Martin Mobberley on Sep. 8.



```
C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE)
T = 2020-Jul-03 q = 0.29 au
                                                                       Max El
Dynamically old long period comet
                                                                         (deg)
    Date
              Mag
                     R.A.
                             Decl.
                                        r
                                                d
                                                      Elong
                                                              Const
                                                                           40S
2020 10 01
            11.1
                    15 04
                            -12 19
                                      1.945
                                              2.612
                                                        39
                                                              Lib
                                                                            18
                                                                       6
            11.3
                    15 09
                                              2.746
2020 10 06
                            -13 19
                                      2.025
                                                        36
                                                              Lib
                                                                        4
                                                                            14
                    15 15
                                                                       2
                                                                            11
2020 10 11
            11.6
                            -14 14
                                      2.103
                                              2.874
                                                        32
                                                              Lib
                                                                       1
2020 10 16
            11.8
                    15 20
                            -1505
                                      2.180
                                              2.996
                                                        29
                                                              Lib
                                                                             8
2020 10 21
             12.1
                    15
                       25
                            -15
                                52
                                      2.256
                                               3.113
                                                        25
                                                               Lib
                                                                       0
                                                                             4
2020 10 26
            12.3
                    15 30
                            -16 36
                                      2.330
                                               3.223
                                                        21
                                                               Lib
                                                                       0
                                                                             1
                            -17 17
2020 10 31
            12.5
                    15 35
                                      2.404
                                              3.327
                                                        18
                                                               Lib
                                                                       0
                                                                             0
                                                                       0
2020 11 05
            12.6
                    15 40
                            -17 55
                                      2.477
                                              3.425
                                                        14
                                                               Lib
                                                                             0
           Comet Magnitude Parameters --- H = 6.3, 2.5n = 9.3
```

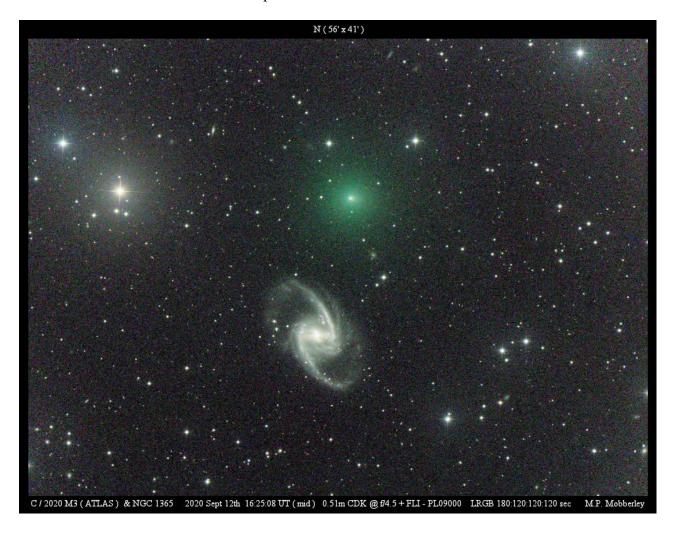
C/2020 M3 (ATLAS) – The previous two comets, 88P and C/2020 F3, are outbound and fading. Most of the remaining comets we'll focus on in this report are inbound. Of the inbound comets, only C/2020 M3 (ATLAS) is guaranteed to be within reach of small telescopes. The others are either poorly placed or uncertain brightness forecasts.

C/2020 M3 is a Halley-type comet with an orbital period of 139 years. It was a faint 19<sup>th</sup> magnitude object when discovered on June 27, but rapidly brightened and was observed at 9-11<sup>th</sup> magnitude last month. Its current brightness is in question as most observers place it around magnitude 10-11 while a few contributors to the ALPO and COBS placed it between 9 and 10. A large low surface brightness coma may explain the uncertainty in brightness since the observed size of the low surface brightness comets can be very sensitive to sky conditions, equipment, observer experience, and observing techniques.

This month C/2020 M3 is extremely well placed for observation from the southern hemisphere with the comet nearly overhead in the morning sky in Eridanus (Oct 1-16) and Lepus (16-31). M3 starts the month a little low for northern observers but it becomes progressively better placed with time. Assuming the comet starts the month around magnitude 9.5, it could be around magnitude 8.5 at the end of the month. The end of the month will also see the comet at perihelion (October 25 @ 1.27 au). M3 will continue to brighten slowly in November as it passes within 0.36 au of Earth on November 15.

```
C/2020 M3 (ATLAS)
T = 2020-Oct-25 q = 1.27 au
                                                                       Max El
Halley-type comet - 139-year period
                                                                         (deg)
                                                                     40N
                     R.A.
                                                              Const
    Date
              Mag
                             Decl.
                                        r
                                                 d
                                                      Elong
                                                                           40S
2020 10 01
              9.5
                    04 21
                            -32 15
                                      1.320
                                              0.539
                                                       114
                                                               Eri
                                                                      18
                                                                            82
              9.3
                    04 33
                            -3024
                                              0.508
                                                       115
                                                                      20
                                                                            80
2020 10 06
                                      1.301
                                                               Eri
2020 10 11
              9.1
                    04 44
                            -28 04
                                      1.287
                                              0.479
                                                       116
                                                               Eri
                                                                      22
                                                                            78
2020 10 16
              8.9
                    04 53
                            -25 13
                                      1.276
                                              0.451
                                                       118
                                                               Eri
                                                                      25
                                                                            75
                            -21 46
2020 10 21
              8.8
                    05 02
                                      1.270
                                              0.426
                                                       121
                                                              Lep
                                                                      29
                                                                            71
2020 10 26
              8.7
                    05 09
                            -17 38
                                      1.268
                                              0.404
                                                       124
                                                               Lep
                                                                      33
                                                                            67
2020 10 31
              8.6
                    05 16
                            -1249
                                      1.271
                                               0.385
                                                       129
                                                               Lep
                                                                      38
                                                                            62
2020 11 05
              8.5
                    05 20
                            -07 19
                                      1.278
                                               0.370
                                                       134
                                                               Ori
                                                                       43
                                                                            57
            Comet Magnitude Parameters --- H = 9.8, 2.5n = 10.0
```

88P/Howell isn't the only comet to photobomb a nice deep sky object. Martin Mobberley caught C/2020 M3 near the beautiful barred spiral NGC 1365.



C/2020 P1 (NEOWISE) – Not to be confused with this summer's spectacular C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE), C/2020 P1 is NEOWISE's second small perihelion long-period comet 2020 discovery. Magnitude estimates reported to COBS placed the comet around 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude at the end of September. That is quite faint for a comet that is less than 1 au from the Sun and Earth. Combined with it being dynamically new, the survival of this comet is in question.

The comet has yet to be observable from the northern hemisphere. Even southern hemisphere observers will lose sight of the comet by the second week of the month as it moves close to the Sun. If it survives, it could peak at 5<sup>th</sup> magnitude around mid-month. That brightness assumes about 2 magnitudes of forward scattering due to a high angle. Even with the enhanced brightness, it will only be visible (if at all) to Sun watching spacecraft until after its October 20 perihelion at 0.34 au. By the last week of October, it could be visible to northern observers if it is still with us. To be honest, the post perihelion brightness shown below is very uncertain.

```
C/2020 P1 (NEOWISE)
T = 2020-Oct-20 q = 0.34 au
                                                                         Max El
Long-Period comet - dynamically new
                                                                          (deg)
    Date
              Mag
                     R.A.
                             Decl.
                                                 d
                                                       Elong
                                                               Const
                                                                       40N
                                                                            40S
                                         r
2020 10 01
             10.0
                     12 31
                            -41 54
                                      0.627
                                               0.752
                                                         38
                                                                Cen
                                                                         0
                                                                             11
2020 10 06
              8.9
                     12 32
                            -34 42
                                      0.525
                                               0.697
                                                         29
                                                                Cen
                                                                         0
                                                                              5
                     12 33
                                                                         0
                                                                              0
2020 10 11
              7.3
                            -24 37
                                      0.432
                                               0.661
                                                         19
                                                                Crv
                     12 39
                                                         11
                                                                         0
                                                                              0
              5.5
                            -1204
                                      0.364
                                               0.672
2020 10 16
                                                                Crv
                     12 52
                                                                         0
                                                                              0
2020 10 21
              6.9
                            -00 35
                                      0.343
                                               0.752
                                                         16
                                                                Vir
2020 10 26
              8.6
                     13 11
                            +06 15
                                      0.382
                                               0.885
                                                         22
                                                                Vir
                                                                         4
                                                                              0
                                                                         7
                                                                              0
2020 10 31
              9.6
                     13 31
                            +09 05
                                      0.461
                                               1.030
                                                         26
                                                                Vir
             10.5
                     13 49
                            +09 52
                                      0.558
                                                         28
                                                                         8
                                                                              0
2020 11 05
                                               1.166
                                                                Boo
              Comet Magnitude Parameters --- H = 12.2, 2.5n = 8.0
```

## Fainter Comets of Interest (fainter than magnitude 10.0)

C/2020 Q1 (Borisov) – Last month we quickly mentioned the discovery of C/2020 Q1, the 10<sup>th</sup> comet discovered by Gennady Borisov. When first seen on August 17 at 16-17<sup>th</sup> magnitude, it was only predicted to reach 14<sup>th</sup> magnitude. The comet brightened faster than expected as it passed through its August 15 perihelion at 1.32 au and close approach to Earth on September 25 at 0.73 au. Now that we know it is a dynamically old comet with an orbital period of 407 years, maybe this shouldn't have been a surprise. Exactly how bright the comet got is still a bit in question as magnitude measurements submitted to the ALPO and COBS are all over the place (between 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> magnitude). Estimates of the size of the coma also cover a wide range (<1' to 9') suggesting, yet again, a large low surface brightness coma.

J. J. Gonzalez has trended towards the bright end of the estimates and submitted the following to the ALPO: Aug. 25.14 UT, mag = 11.6, coma diam = 2.5', DC=2; Sep 07.92 UT, mag = 10.8, coma diam = 2.5', DC=3; Sep 09.94 UT, mag = 10.1, coma diam = 7', DC = 2/.

This month, C/2020 Q1 should rapidly fade as it moves away from the Sun and Earth. It also continues to move through the Milky Way constellations of Auriga (Oct 1-7), Perseus (7-10), Camelopardalis (10-17), Cassiopeia (17-23), and Cepheus (23-31). The comet starts the month in the northern circumpolar sky but should move far enough south by mid-month to be seen from the southern hemisphere.

```
C/2020 Q1 (Borisov)
T = 2020-Aug-15 q = 1.32 au
                                                                         Max El
Long-Period comet - dynamically old
                                                                          (deg)
                                                                       40N
                     R.A.
                                                 d
                                                       Elong
                                                               Const
                                                                            40S
    Date
              Mag
                             Decl.
                                         r
                                               0.758
2020 10 01
             11.1
                     21 42
                            +60 02
                                      1.489
                                                        114
                                                                        70
                                                                              0
                                                                Aur
2020 10 06
             11.4
                     20 49
                            +50 40
                                      1.524
                                               0.824
                                                        112
                                                                Aur
                                                                        79
                                                                              0
2020 10 11
             11.8
                     20 21
                            +42 06
                                               0.921
                                                        108
                                                                Cam
                                                                        88
                                                                              7
                                      1.561
                                                                             12
2020 10 16
             12.1
                     20 06
                            +35
                                04
                                      1.600
                                               1.039
                                                        103
                                                                Cam
                                                                        84
             12.5
                     19 56
                            +29 29
                                                         98
                                                                        77
2020 10 21
                                      1.641
                                               1.171
                                                                Cas
                                                                             15
             12.9
                     19 51
                            +25 04
                                                         92
                                                                Cep
                                                                        71
2020 10 26
                                      1.684
                                               1.311
                                                                             16
             13.2
                     19 48
                            +21 34
                                      1.728
                                                         87
                                                                        65
                                                                             15
2020 10 31
                                               1.456
                                                                Cep
2020 11 05
             13.5
                     19 46
                            +18 45
                                      1.774
                                               1.604
                                                         82
                                                                        61
                                                                             13
                                                                Cyg
              Comet Magnitude Parameters --- H = 10.0, 2.5n = 8.0
```

C/2020 S3 (ERASMUS) – Don't be fooled by the name of this comet as C/2020 S3 is yet another ATLAS discovery. Nicolas Erasmus of the South African Astronomical Observatory discovered C/2020 S3 on September 17 with the ATLAS (Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System) 0.5-m f/2 Schmidt at Mauna Loa, Hawaii. ATLAS reported it as bright as 17<sup>th</sup> magnitude at discovery. On September 28, Pete Carson reported a CCD magnitude of 14.6 to the COBS site.

The magnitude prediction below is a guess as we really don't know how quickly C/Erasmus will brighten. Also, its orbit is still too uncertain to know if it is dynamically old or new. Perihelion is 3 months from now on 2020 December 12 at 0.39 au. This means we still have time to watch the comet develop. October will see the comet observable from both hemispheres in the morning sky in Hydra (Oct 1-23) and Sextans (23-31). Assuming Carson's magnitude is correct, and the comet brightens at a conservative 2.5n = 8.0 rate, C/2020 S3 could brighten from magnitude ~14.4 to ~12.2 this month. That rate of brightening would only result in a  $9^{th}$  magnitude object at perihelion which is quite faint for such a small perihelion distance.

C/2020 S3 (Erasmus)									
T = 2020-Dec-12 q = 0.39 au Max El									x El
Long-Period comet - dynamically TBD (deg								deg)	
Date	Mag	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	40N	40S
2020 10 01	14.4	08 18	+05 50	1.615	1.795	63	Hya	35	22
2020 10 06	14.1	08 34	+04 17	1.531	1.679	63	Hya	35	23
2020 10 11	13.8	08 51	+02 30	1.446	1.567	64	Hya	35	23
2020 10 16	13.4	09 10	+00 28	1.360	1.461	63	Hya	35	23
2020 10 21	13.0	09 31	-01 49	1.272	1.362	63	Hya	33	22
2020 10 26	12.6	09 55	-04 25	1.183	1.272	61	Sext	31	22
2020 10 31	12.2	10 22	-07 19	1.091	1.193	59	Sext	29	21
2020 11 05	11.8	10 52	-10 26	0.999	1.128	55	Sext	25	19
Comet Magnitude Parameters H = 11.5, 2.5n = 8.0									

#### New Discoveries, Recoveries and Other Comets in the News

*P*/2020 S5 (*PANSTARRS*) – The Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m reflector at Haleakala, Hawaii discovered this 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude comet on September 21. P/2020 S5 arrived at perihelion on August 8, 2020 at 2.68 au. It has an 8.15-year orbital period.

2020 SJ5 – This apparently asteroidal object was also found by Pan-STARRS1 on September 19 at 21<sup>st</sup> magnitude. Pre-discovery observations back to August 28 were identified. 2020 SJ5 comes to perihelion on 2021 January 1 at 2.62 au. It is a Halley-family object with a period of 77 years. Unless it experiences some significant activity, it is unlikely to get any brighter than 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

*C/2020 S4 (PANSTARRS)* – The Pan-STARRS1 telescope was also used to find this 21<sup>st</sup> magnitude comet on September 16. The comet is still years away from a 2023 February 9 perihelion at 3.36 au when it may have brightened to 14<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

*C*/2020 *S3* (*Erasmus*) – See above.

*C*/2020 *S2* (*PANSTARRS*) – C/2020 *S2* was found on September 16 at 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude. The comet is unlikely to get brighter than 19<sup>th</sup> magnitude around the time of perihelion on 2020 December 21 at 1.76 au. The comet has an orbital period of 32.4 years.

*P/2020 S1 (PANSTARRS)* – Like the previous 3 comets, P/2020 S1 is yet another Pan-STARRS1 discovery. The comet is a faint short period comet with a perihelion on 2021 January 17 at 2.95 au. It was 21<sup>st</sup> magnitude at discovery and unlikely to get brighter than 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

C/2020 R7 (ATLAS) – The ATLAS (Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System) 0.5 f/2 Schmidt at Mauna Loa was used to find this 18<sup>th</sup> magnitude comet on September 15. C/2020 R7 is still two years from its 2022 September 14 perihelion at 2.93 au. Around that time, it may brighten to 13<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

C/2020 R6 (Rankin) – David Rankin is an observer with the Catalina Sky Survey. He used the Mount Lemmon 1.5-m to find this 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude comet on September 15. The comet is already a year past its 2019 September 12 perihelion at 2.95 au. The comet is likely already past its peak brightness.

*P/2020 R5 (PANSTARRS)* – The Pan-STARRS2 1.8-m at Haleakala found this 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude on September 14. As the P/ denotes, P/2020 R5 is a short period comet. Perihelion occurred back on 2020 May 28 at 3.41 au. With a 11.1-year period, its next perihelion will be on 2031 July 22. Like the previous comet, P/2020 R5 has already peaked in brightness.

C/2020 R4 (ATLAS) – Put this one on the list of comets to watch in 2021. C/2020 R4 was discovered on September 12 with the ATLAS Mauna Loa 0.5-m f/2. While currently a faint 18<sup>th</sup> magnitude object, the comet should brighten as it approaches a perihelion of 1.03 au on 2021 March 1. It also passes within 0.46 au of Earth in late April 2021. Assuming a conservative 2.5n=8.0 brightening index only brings R4 to around 12<sup>th</sup> magnitude. Since it will be well placed to observe when at its brightest, we'll have to watch and see if it brightens at a faster rate than predicted.

*P/2020 R3* = *P/2006 H1 (McNaught)* – P/McNaught was discovered by Robert McNaught as part of the Siding Spring Survey (which was a part of the Catalina Sky Survey) in April 2006. The comet peaked at 17<sup>th</sup> magnitude during that return. E. Schwab used a 0.8-m f/3 Schmidt at Calar Alto, Spain (in a project with D. Koschny, M. Micheli, and R. Jehn) to recover P/McNaught on September 11 and 12 at 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude. Recovery didn't take place till many months after its 2019 December 7 perihelion at 2.42 au. The comet was located deep in the Milky Way of Scorpius and Sagittarius near perihelion so perhaps its southern declination and the dense Milky Way prevented recovery at that time. McNaught will next be at perihelion in October 2033.

C/2020 R2 (PANSTARRS) – 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude C/2020 R2 was first noticed in images by the Pan-STARRS2 telescope on September 12. Pre-discovery observations were also found by Pan-STARRS in August and earlier in September. A high-q object, C/2020 R2 won't reach perihelion until 2022 February 24 at 4.67 au when it is only expected to reach 18<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

*P*/2020 *R1* = *P*/2013 *PA104* (*PANSTARRS*) – Not often does a new discovery quickly result in a multi-apparition object. P/2020 R1 (PANSTARRS) was identified as a new 19<sup>th</sup> magnitude object in images taken on 2020 September 9 with the Pan-STARRS1 telescope. Robert Weryk of the Pan-STARRS team was able to find observations taken on 11 nights in 2013 through 2016 as well as additional nights in 2020. The past observations were inadvertently designated with the asteroidal designation 2013 PA104 hence the double designation. The comet is not expected to get brighter than 18<sup>th</sup> magnitude with a perihelion on 2021 February 10 at 2.10 au. With a ∼6.7-year period, it will next be at perihelion in November 2027.

P/2020 O4 = P/2013 O2 (PANSTARRS) – The Mount Lemmon 1.5-m recovered this 19-20<sup>th</sup> magnitude comet during the course of the Mount Lemmon Survey on July 30 and August 13. Perihelion arrives on 2021 May 22 at 2.10 au. With a 7.4-year period, it will next arrive at perihelion in October 2028. At its discovery apparition in 2013, it reached 17<sup>th</sup> magnitude but appeared to quickly fade after perihelion.

C/2019 Q1 (Lemmon) – This object was designated originally designated A/2019 Q1 due to being an apparently asteroidal object on a cometary orbit. The Mount Lemmon Survey discovered it on 2019 August 28 at magnitude 20.6. Even though observations going back to November 2019 reported cometary activity, the object was only designated as a comet on 2020 September 9. Perihelion occurs on 2020 July 19 at 5.00 au. The comet is currently near its peak brightness of 18<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

As always, the Comet Section is happy to receive all comet observations, whether textual descriptions, images, drawings, magnitude estimates, or spectra. Please send your observations via email to < carl.hergenrother @ alpo-astronomy.org >.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the ALPO Comets Section!

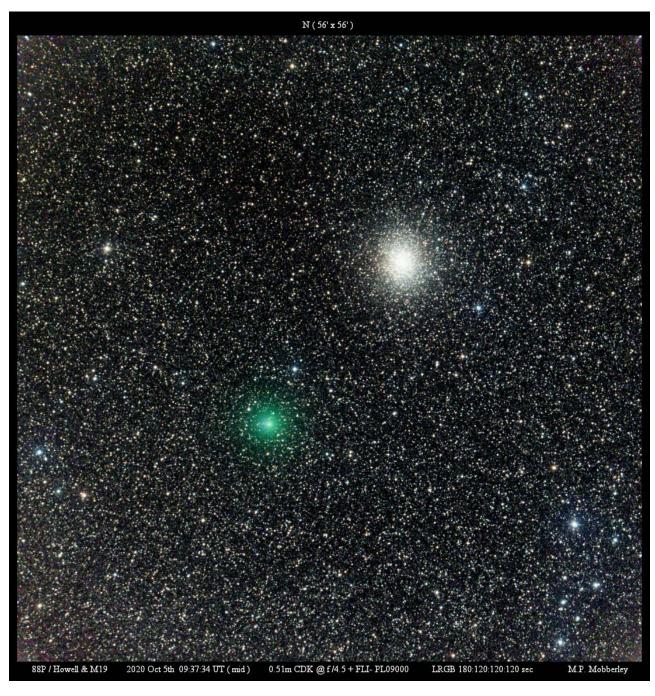
Stay safe and enjoy the sky!

- Carl Hergenrother (ALPO Comets Section Coordinator)

# **Recent Magnitude Measurements Contributed to the ALPO Comet Section**

Comet Des	YYYY MM DD.DD	Mag SC APER FL	POW C	OMA TA	IL	ICQ CODE	Observer Name
	(UT)	T	Dia	DC LENG	FA.		
2020Q1	2020 09 09.94 \$	10.1 TK 20.3T10	77 7	2/		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez
2020Q1	2020 09 07.92 8	10.8 TK 20.3T10	133 2.	5 3		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez
2020P1	2020 09 23.38 xM	10.3 AQ 25.0L 5	74 3	3/		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2020P1	2020 09 22.39 xs	10.7 AQ 25.0L 5	74 2.	5 3		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2020M3	2020 09 28.15 &1	10.0:TK 25.0C10	190 & 6	1/& 0.3	270	ICQ XX DECaa	Michel Deconinck
2020M3	2020 09 22.63 xM	9.4 TK 25.0L 5	40 7.	5 3/		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2020M3	2020 09 08.50 xs	10.3 TK 25.0L 5	40 6.	8 2		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2020F3	2020 09 22.40 xs	10.6 AQ 25.0L 5	74 3	3		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2020F3	2020 09 08.41 xM	9.0 TK 25.0L 5	40 7	4 36.	0m 59	ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2020F3	2020 09 07.86 \$	8.9:TK 20.3T10	77 6	2/		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez Juan
2020F3	2020 09 07.39 xM		40 8.		0m 63	ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2020F3	2020 09 05.13 8	8.7 TK 12.5B	30 2	2		ICQ xx HER02	Carl Hergenrother
2019U6		10.3:TK 20.3T10	77 6	2		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez
2019U6	2020 09 08.40 xs	12.6 AQ 25.0L 5	74 1.			ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2019U6		10.2 TK 20.3T10	77 5	2		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez
2019U6	2020 09 07.36 xs	12.5 AQ 25.0L 5	74 1.	2 2/		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2017T2		10.2 TK 20.3T10	77 6	1/		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez
2017T2	2020 09 07.37 xs	12.0:AQ 25.0L 5	74 1.	3 3		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
88	2020 09 23.40 xM		40 6.			ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
88	2020 09 22.41 xM	9.1 TK 25.0L 5	40 6.	5 4		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
88	2020 09 08.42 xN	8.9 TK 25.0L 5	40 4.	5 5		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
88	2020 09 07.85			2/		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez Juan
88	2020 09 07.39 xM	8.9 TK 25.0L 5	40 4.	5 5/		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt
29	2020 09 09.93	11.0:TK 20.3T10	100 5	2		ICQ XX GON05	J. J. Gonzalez

<u>Images Contributed to the ALPO Comet Section from the Previous Month</u>
<u>88P/Howell</u>





# C/2020 M3 (ATLAS)



