## **ALPO COMET NEWS**



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

October 2021 alpo-astronomy.org comets@alpo-astronomy.org



Periodic comet 6P/d'Arrest spent September running a gauntlet of deep sky objects in Sagittarius. In this image, Eliot Herman caught 6P (between the red tick marks) as it was about to move across M20, the Trifid Nebula.

The image was taken with the T11 iTelescope (0.50-m f/6.8 reflector + CCD + f/4.5 focal reducer + FLI ProLine PL11002M CCD camera) in Mayhill NM. The image is a stack of three x 180 sec.

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The monthly ALPO Comet News PDF can be found on the ALPO Comets Section website (<u>http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/cometblog/</u>). A shorter version of this report is posted on a dedicated Cloudy Nights forum (<u>https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/792282-alpo-comet-news-for-october-2021/</u>). All are encouraged to join the discussion over at Cloudy Nights. The ALPO Comet Section welcomes all comet related articles, observations, images, drawings, magnitude estimates, or spectra. One does not have to be a member of ALPO to submit material, though membership is encouraged.

Please send your observations to the Comets Section at < comets@alpo-astronomy.org >, Coordinator Carl Hergenrother < carl.hergenrother@alpo-astronomy.org > and/or Acting Assistant Coordinator Michel Deconinck < michel.deconinck@alpo-astronomy.org >.

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## **Summary**

Magnitude 9 to 10 may not be everyone's idea of "bright" when it comes to comets. After months of no comets getting brighter than 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude, we finally have a few objects breaking the 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude barrier. The target of the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission, 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko may brighten to around magnitude 9 this month. It will be observable from both hemispheres in the morning sky. 8P/Tuttle will start the month around 8-9<sup>th</sup> magnitude but is limited to southern hemisphere observers. C/2019 L3 (PANSTARRS) could become brighter than magnitude 10 though it will mainly be a northern object.

29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann experienced 4 outbursts in quick succession in late September. As a result, it is brighter than it has become in years with visual observers placing it between magnitude 10 and 11.

We continue to watch C/2021 A1 (Leonard) develop as it heads towards a December encounter with Earth. Recent observations show a rapid brightening trend, so imagers and large aperture visual observers are encouraged to observe it this month as it may brighten to magnitude 11 by the end of the month.

## **Comets Section News**

During September, the ALPO Comets Section received 51 images and/or sketches from Dan Bartlett, Denis Buczynski, Eliot Herman, Gianluca Masi, Martin Mobberley, Uwe Pilz, Efrain Morales Rivera, Gregg Ruppel, and Chris Schur and 67 visual and CCD magnitude measurements from Michel Deconinck, J. J. Gonzalez, Mike Olason, and Chris Wyatt of the following comets: P/2021 Q5 (ATLAS), C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS), C/2021 A1 (Leonard), C/2020 T2 (Palomar), C/2020 PV6 (PANSTARRS), C/2020 F5 (MASTER), C/2019 O3 (PANSTARRS), C/2019 L3 (ATLAS), C/2019 F1 (ATLAS-Africano), C/2018 U1 (Lemmon), C/2020 T2 (PANSTARRS), C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS), 284P/McNaught, 193P/LINEAR-NEAT, 106P/Schuster, 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, 29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann, 19P/Borrelly, 15P/Finlay, 8P/Tuttle, 7P/Pons-Winnecke, 6P/d'Arrest, and 4P/Faye.

We've tried to include lightcurves for most of the objects discussed in this report as well as applying aperture corrections to the visual observations. All magnitude estimates are affected by many factors including instrumental (aperture, focal length, magnification, type of optics), environmental (sky brightness due to moonlight, light pollution, twilight, aurora activity, zodiacal light, etc), cometary (degree of condensation, coma color, strength and type of gas emission lines, coma-tail interface) and personal (sensitivity to different wavelengths, personal technique, observational biases). The correction used here only corrects for differences in aperture [C. S. Morris, On Aperture Corrections for Comet Magnitude Estimates. Publ Astron Soc Pac 85, 470, 1973]. Visual observations are corrected to a standard aperture of 6.78 cm by 0.019 magnitudes per centimeter for refractors and 0.066 magnitudes per centimeter for reflectors. As our work develops, we will investigate determing individual corrections for each observer for each individual comet as well as for digital observations.

In addition to observations submitted directly to the ALPO, we occasionally use data from other sources to augment our analysis. We would like to acknowledge with thanks observations submitted directly to the ALPO as well as those originally submitted to the International Comet Quarterly, Minor Planet Center, and COBS Comet Observation Database. We would also like to thank the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for making available their Small-Body Browser and Orbit Visualizer and Seiichi Yoshida for his Comets for Windows programs that is used to produce the lightcurves in these pages. And last but not least, we'd like to thank <u>Syuichi Nakano</u> and the Minor Planet Center for their comet orbital elements, the asteroid surveys and dedicated comet hunters for their discoveries, and all of the observers who volunteer their time to adding to our knowledge of these amazing objects.

## **Comets Calendar for October 2021**

Oct 01 Oct 02-09 Oct 03-05 Oct 05 Oct 06	<ul> <li>- C/2020 H6 (ATLAS) at perihelion (q = 4.70 au, long-period, V~13-14)</li> <li>- C/2020 T2 (Palomar) passes in front of the large area of nebulosity near Antares and rho Oph</li> <li>- 4P/Faye passes in front of Sh2-261 emission nebula</li> <li>- 52P/Harrington-Abell at perihelion (q = 1.78 au, 7.6-year orbit, V~16)</li> <li>- New Moon</li> </ul>
Oct 12	– First Quarter Moon
Oct 15	- 6P/d'Arrest passes within 10' of bright globular cluster M55
Oct 15-16	- 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko passes within 15' of bright open cluster M35
Oct 17	-57P/du Toit-Neujmin-Delporte at perihelion (q = 1.72 au, 6.4-year orbit, V ~ 15-16)
Oct 17	-418P/LINEAR at perihelion (q = 1.70 au, 11.4-year orbit, V ~ 16-17)
Oct 18	-110P/Hartley at perihelion (q = 2.46 au, 6.8-year orbit, V ~ 15-16)
Oct 18	-C/2021 G3 (PANSTARRS) at perihelion (q = 5.18 au, long-period, V ~ 21)
Oct 19	- 342P/SOHO at perihelion (q = 0.05 au, 5.3-year orbit, may be visible in SOHO data at perihelion)
Oct 20	– Full Moon
Oct 21	- P/2012 TK8 (Tenagra) at perihelion (q = 3.00 au, 8.4-year orbit, not seen since discovery apparition in 2012/2013 when it peaked at V ~19)
Oct 27	-419P/PANSTARRS at perihelion (q = 2.54 au, 6.6-year orbit, V ~ 19-20)
Oct 27	- C/2020 T2 (Palomar) passes within 20-25' of 9th mag globular cluster NGC 6304
Oct 28	– Last Quarter Moon
Oct 29	- 6P/d'Arrest passes within 10' of 11 <sup>th</sup> mag galaxy NGC 6925
Oct 31	-424P/La Sagra at perihelion (q = 1.36 au, 9.3-year orbit, V ~ 17-18)

## **Comets Brighter Than Magnitude 10**

8P/Tuttle									
Discovered on 1790 January 9 by Pierre F. A. Mechain Rediscovered on 1858 January 5 by Horace Tuttle									
Orbit (from Minor Planet Center, MPEC 2021-S45)									
8P/Tuttle         Epoch 2021 July 5.0 TT = JDT 2459400.5         T 2021 Aug. 27.73743 TT         q 1.0260106       (2000.0)         n 0.07228558       Peri. 207.48894       -0.26849292         a 5.7073554       Node 270.20405       +0.96326319         e 0.8202301       Incl. 54.91123       +0.00596493         P 13.6       From 231 observations 2008 Feb. 12-2021 Sept. 16, mean       Nongravitational parameters A1 = +0.40, A2 = +0.21	Rudenko Q -0.50829781 -0.13641373 -0.85030855 residual 0".5. 33.								
Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows prog	<u>(ram)</u>								
8P/Tuttle	Max El (deg)								
DateR.A.Decl.rdElongCons2021-Oct-0110 36-21 401.1501.85233MHya2021-Oct-0610 53-25 141.1861.87833MHya2021-Oct-1111 11-28 351.2241.91034MHya2021-Oct-1611 29-31 421.2651.94634MHya2021-Oct-2111 48-34 341.3081.98635MHya2021-Oct-2612 06-37 121.3532.03035MCen2021-Oct-3112 25-39 341.3992.07635MCen2021-Nov-0512 44-41 421.4472.12436MCen	t Mag 40N 40S 8.6 0 15 8.8 0 16 9.0 0 16 9.2 0 17 9.5 0 17 9.8 0 18 10.1 0 18 10.4 0 18								
<u>Comet Magnitude Formula</u> m1 = 7.0 + 5 log d + 20 log r(t-25) [Ref: Seiichi Yoshi	da]								
Magnitude Measurements Submitted to the ALPO Comets Section									
Recent Magnitude Measurements in ICQ format:         COMA           Comet Des         YYYY MM DD.DD         Mag SC APER FL POW         COMA           (UT)         T         Dia         DC           8         2021 09 11.77 xM         8.9 TK 40.0L 4         59         3.1         5           8         2021 09 07.77 xM         9.0 TK 40.0L 4         59         2.8         5	TAIL ICQ CODE Observer Name LENG PA ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt								

There is not too much new to report regarding 8P/Tuttle this month. The current return is limited to observers in the southern hemisphere and even there it is a low morning object as it moves through Hydra (Oct 1-23) and Centaurus (23-31). Chris Wyatt visually observed Tuttle on September 7 and 11 from Australia at magnitude 9.0 and 8.9, respectively. Chris used a 0.4-m telescope reflector, meaning with a nominal aperture correction, Tuttle may be ~0.6 magnitudes brighter than Chris' report. Now over a month after its August 27 perihelion at 1.03 au, Tuttle should be fading this month from around magnitude 8.5 to 10.0.

Tuttle was discovered during two widely separated apparitions. Pierre François André Méchain made the first discovery on 1790 January 9. Sixty-eight years and 5 orbits later, 8P was re-discovered by Horace Parnell Tuttle on 1858 January 5. With a 13.6-year period, 8P/Tuttle is making its 13th observed return and 18<sup>th</sup> return going back to the initial 1790 discovery apparition. Tuttle's relatively large semi-major axis of 5.7 au and inclination of 54.9° makes it a Halley-type rather than a Jupiter-family comet. Its orbit currently passes 0.096 au from Earth and a relatively safe 0.74 au from Jupiter.

The comet's best observed apparitions occurred in 1980/1981 when it reached 6<sup>th</sup> magnitude and at its previous return in 2007/2008 when it passed 0.25 au from Earth and reached 5<sup>th</sup> magnitude. This year's return is rather poor with a minimum Earth-comet distance of 1.81 au (last month on September 12). The next return in 2035 will be slightly better with a marginally closer Earth-comet distance of 1.54 au. Tuttle should put on a nice show 27 years (or 2 orbits) from now when it will pass within 0.18 au of Earth on 2048 December 28 and brighten to 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

Comet Fun Fact: Tuttle has one of the few nuclei to be detected by Earth-based radar. The now defunct Arecibo radio telescope observed the Tuttle's nucleus in 2007-2008. It found a contact binary shape rotating with a 11.4-hr period. The larger lobe has dimensions of 5.8x4.1 km with the smaller having dimensions of 4.3x3.3 km. [Ref: John K. Harmon et al., Radar observations of 8P/Tuttle: A contact-binary comet, Icarus, Vol. 207, Issue 1, 2010, Pages 499-502, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2009.12.026.]



Figure 1 - Arecibo images of the nucleus of 8P/Tuttle taken on 2008 January 4.9. Credit: Mike Nolan, NAIC, Univ. of Arizona, http://www.naic.edu/~pradar/comets/8P/.



Figure 2 - Orbit of 8P/Tuttle valid for mid-October. Made with the JPL Small-Body Browser.

## 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko



While 8P/Tuttle is limited to southern observers, 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko is better placed for observers in both hemispheres. Last month visual observations were submitted by J. J. Gonzalez, Christian Harder, Uwe Pilz, and Chris Wyatt who all found the comet to be as bright as magnitude 10.8 and as faint as 12.4. After

applying aperture and bias corrections, the magnitude range tightened slightly to between 10.5 and 11.8. As is the case with many short-period comets, 67P experiences a seasonal bias in activity resulting in peak activity occurring weeks after perihelion. As a result, maximum brightness may not occur till December. This month should see 67P break magnitude 10.0 and could be close to magnitude 9.0 by the end of the month as its moves through Taurus (Oct 1-14) and Gemini (14-31) in the morning sky.

Orbit plane crossing happens on October 29. As we approach the end of the month, imagers are encouraged to be on the lookout for a strong dust trail along the comet's orbit.

67P was discovered on photographic plates taken on 1969 September 11 by Kiev University Astronomical Observatory astronomers Klim Ivanovic Churyumov and Svetlana Ivanovna Gerasimenko working with a 50cm Maksutov astrograph at the Alma-Ata Astrophysical Institute in current day Kazakhstan. The current apparition is 67P's 9th observed return with perihelion occurring on 2021 November 2 at 1.21 au. A close approach to Earth at 0.42 au on November 12 makes this the comet's best return since 1982 when it came marginally closer to Earth at 0.39 au. At that return, a peak brightness of 9th magnitude was reached. 67P was famously the target of the ESA Rosetta/Philae mission, the only spacecraft to have orbited and landed on a comet. This will be 67P's first return since Rosetta ended its mission by soft landing onto the comet's surface.



*Figure 3 – Orbit of 67P/C-G from the JPL Small-Body-Browser.* 



Figure 4 – Images of 67P/C-G. Top: Image on 2021 September 11 by Chris Schur with a 10" f3.9 Orion astrograph. Bottom: Image taken by Dan Bartlett on 2021 September 14 with a RASA11 and ASI183mcP camera. The image is a co-add of 63x90s unfiltered exposures.

## C/2019 L3 (ATLAS)

Discovered 2019 June 10 by the ATLAS survey with one of their 0.5-m f/2 Schmidt Dynamically old long-period comet

#### Orbit (from Syuichi Nakano, Nakano Note NK 4342)

C/2019 L3 (ATL	AS)			
Epoch 2022 Jan. 2	1.0 TT =	JDT 2459600	.5	
T 2022 Jan. 9.618	48 TT			Nakano
q 3.5544913		(2000.0)	Р	Q
z -0.0004539	Peri.	171.61068	-0.26052581	-0.66630775
+/-0.000010	Node	290.79047	+0.83675882	+0.20517556
e 1.0016135	Incl.	48.36122	+0.48162328	-0.71689398
From 1281 observa	tions 20	19 June 10-2	021 Jan. 4, mean	residual 0".36
(1/a)  org. = +0.0	00021, (	1/a) fut. = -0	.000735 (+/-0.000	(001), 0= 8.

#### Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows program)

C/2019 L3 (A	TLAS)							Ma: (de	x El eq)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40s
2021-Oct-01	07 30	+43 07	3.671	3.692	80M	Aur	10.2	63	0
2021-Oct-06	07 34	+42 42	3.660	3.613	84M	Lyn	10.1	67	0
2021-Oct-11	07 37	+42 17	3.649	3.533	88M	Lyn	10.0	71	1
2021-Oct-16	07 40	+41 52	3.639	3.454	92M	Lyn	10.0	75	2
2021-Oct-21	07 43	+41 27	3.630	3.374	96M	Lyn	9.9	79	3
2021-Oct-26	07 45	+41 01	3.621	3.296	101M	Lyn	9.9	83	4
2021-Oct-31	07 46	+40 35	3.612	3.218	105M	Lyn	9.8	88	5
2021-Nov-05	07 47	+40 08	3.604	3.142	110M	Lyn	9.7	90	6

#### Comet Magnitude Formula and Lightcurve (from ALPO and COBS data)

 $\begin{array}{rll} m1 &=& 2.0 + 5 \ \log \ d + 12.3 \ \log \ r \ [through \ T-550 \ days; \ T \ = \ date \ of \ perihelion] \\ m1 &=& -4.6 + 5 \ \log \ d \ + \ 20.8 \ \log \ r \ [T-550 \ to \ T-150 \ days] \\ m1 &=& 2.8 + 5 \ \log \ d \ + \ 8.0 \ \log \ r \ [T-150 \ days \ and \ onwards] \end{array}$ 



C/2019 L3 (ATLAS) is a far northern object in Auriga (Oct 1) and Lynx (Oct 1-31) in the morning sky. Though well placed for northern observers, folks in the southern hemisphere may get their first look at the comet this month though it will never be far from the horizon in a dark sky until later in the year. Seven measurements

were submitted to the ALPO from J. J. Gonzalez, Christian Harder, and Uwe Pilz. Observations taken during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the month found the comet between magnitude 10.5 and 11.3 (aperture corrected magnitude range from 9.6 to 10.3) with a coma between 1.4' and 5' in diameter.

C/2019 L3 is still three months from its 2022 January 9 perihelion at 3.57 au. The large perihelion distance means C/2019 L3 should remain a visual object well into 2022 and possibly even 2023. The comet has been brightening at rapid rate since discovery. If we assume a slow down to a more conservative 2.5n = 8 brightening rate from now till perihelion, it could brighten to between magnitude 9.0 and 9.5 between December and February.



Figure 5 - Orbit of C/2019 L3 (ATLAS) from the JPL Small-Body Browser.



Figure 6 - C/2019 L3 (PANSTARRS) as imaged on 2021 September 14 by Dan Bartlett. Image is a co-add of 89x120s exposures with a RASA11 + ASI183mcP camera.

## C/2020 T2 (Palomar)

Discovered 2020 October 7 at 19<sup>th</sup> magnitude by the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) Discovery Telescope: 1.2-m Samuel Oschin Schmidt on Mount Palomar Dynamically old long-period comet with orbital period of 5560 years

#### Orbit (from Syuichi Nakano, Nakano Note NK 4449)

```
C/2020 T2 (Palomar)
Epoch 2021 July 5.0 TT = JDT 2459400.5
T 2021 July 11.14758 TT
                                                         Nakano
    2.0546863
                          (2000.0)
                                              Ρ
                                                               0
q
   +0.0032038
                   Peri.
                         150.38316
                                         -0.53887199
                                                          +0.70302914
Z
 +/-0.000009
                   Node
                            83.04827
                                         -0.83514131
                                                         -0.37375209
    0.9934172
                   Incl.
                           27.87301
                                         -0.11025416
                                                         -0.60502843
е
From 682 observations 2019 Dec. 11-2021 Apr. 2, mean residual 0".37.
  (1/a) org.= +0.002916, (1/a) fut.= +0.003827 (+/-0.000001), Q= 8.
  The comet will pass 3.10 AU from Jupiter on 2022 June 7 UT.
```

#### Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows program)

C/2020 T2 (Palomar) M										
								(d	eg)	
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S	
2021-Oct-01	16 17	-23 59	2.272	2.622	58E	Sco	10.8	9	39	
2021-Oct-06	16 27	-25 07	2.298	2.692	56E	Sco	11.0	8	36	
2021-Oct-11	16 38	-26 10	2.324	2.763	54E	Sco	11.1	7	34	
2021-Oct-16	16 49	-27 08	2.352	2.833	51E	Sco	11.3	6	32	
2021-Oct-21	17 00	-28 01	2.381	2.904	49E	Oph	11.4	5	29	
2021-Oct-26	17 11	-28 50	2.410	2.975	47E	Oph	11.6	4	26	
2021-Oct-31	17 22	-29 34	2.441	3.045	44E	Oph	11.7	4	24	
2021-Nov-05	17 33	-30 13	2.472	3.114	42E	Sco	11.9	3	21	



C/2020 T2 (PANSTARRS) peaked between magnitude 9.5 and 10.0 brightness in July. Though some months after perihelion, it has only faded by a magnitude or two. Chris Wyatt visually observed PANSTARRS on September 6 and 8 at magnitude 10.9 on both dates. Aperture correction yielded a brightness of 10.4 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10.1 on the 8th. The different amount of aperture correction was due to Chris using a 0.25-m (10") reflector

on one night and a 0.40-m (16") on another. The larger aperture instrument requiring a larger aperture correction. Both observations found a moderately condensed (DC = 5-6) 3.7' to 3.9' coma. Michael Lehmann reported an imaging observation to the COBS site on September 15<sup>th</sup> which found the comet at magnitude 10.9 with a 7.5' coma.

C/2020 T2 should fade by another magnitude during October. Due to the comet's location in Scorpius (Oct 1-17) and Ophiuchus (17-31), it will be well-placed for southern hemisphere observers, but a rather low object for northern observers.

Photo Op Alert: C/2020 T2 will pass in front of the photogenic nebulosity of the Antares/Rho Ophiuchi area during the first week of October. Later in the month on the 27<sup>th</sup>, it will pass within 20-25' of 9<sup>th</sup> mag globular cluster NGC 6304.



Figure 7 - Orbit of C/2020 T2 (Palomar) for mid-September. Made with the JPL Small-Body Browser.



4P/Faye was a visual discovery by Herve Faye (Royal Observatory, Paris, France) on 1843 November 23. The comet was abnormally bright and reported to be visible to the naked eye only days after discovery. Since then, it has only peaked at 9<sup>th</sup> magnitude even during its best returns (as in 1991 and 2006).

This year's apparition is Faye's 22<sup>nd</sup> observed return with the comet having been missed at its 1903 and 1918 returns. 2021 is a moderately good, but not great, apparition with perihelion on 2021 September 8 at 1.62 au. October should see Faye at its brightest at around magnitude 10.6. Even though perihelion was a month ago, the comet will continue to move closer to the Earth until December 5 (0.94 au). As a result, it will stay close to maximum brightness through November.

Visual observations submitted by J. J. Gonzalez, Christian Harder, Uwe Pilz, and Chris Wyatt found Faye to be a moderately condensed object with a coma diameter between 1.2' and 5'. Pilz and Wyatt reported a tail up to 5' in length. The tail is a major feature in images taken of Faye. Images continue to show an asymmetric coma with a persistent anti-sunward jet-like feature.

Faye is a morning object observable from both hemispheres as its moves through Orion (Oct 1-13), Gemini (13-30), and Monoceros (30-31).

Photo Op: Faye passes in front of the large emission nebula Sh2-261 on October 3-5. Sh2-261 is located in the club of Orion. [Editor's Note: I mistakenly called this nebula to the Rosette Nebula in last month's Comet News. Embarrassing!].



Figure 8 - Orbit of 4P/Faye from the JPL Small-Body Browser.



Figure 9 – Two images of 4P/Faye from the same night, 2021 September 8. Top: Image by Denis Buczynski with a C14 f/6 and ASI 1600MM Pro camera (6x120s exposure). Bottom: Color image by Dan Bartlett with a RASA11 and ASI2600MC-P camera (65x120s exposure).





Heinrich Louis d'Arrest discovered 6P visually in June 1851. We now know that it had also been observed by Phillipe la Hire in 1678. Long-time comet watchers may remember this comet's excellent apparition in 1976 when it passed 0.15 au from Earth and reached 5th magnitude. d'Arrest's perihelion distance is larger now (1.35 au) so such close approaches are no longer possible. This year, closest approach to Earth was on August 2 at 0.75 au and perihelion on September 17.

d'Arrest usually possesses an asymmetrical lightcurve with respect to perihelion. In d'Arrest's case, it means the comet is at its brightest nearly a month after perihelion. If this is true this return, it should peak in brightness this month at around magnitude 10.2. Last month we received magnitude estimates from Chris Wyatt, original mag 13.6, aperture corrected mag 13.0, on September 8 and J. J. Gonzalez, original mag 11.1, aperture corrected mag on 10.8, on September 8. COBS CCD observations by Michael Lehmann are more in line with the brightness reported by Gonzalez. The difference in brightness may be a function of the observed coma diameter. Gonzalez and Lehmann reported coma diameters on the order of 5' while Wyatt saw a much smaller coma (0.8').

d'Arrest should peak in brightness later this month at around magnitude 10.2 as it moves through the evening constellations of Sagittarius (Oct 1-27) and Microscopium (27-31).

Photo Op Alert: 6P passes within 10' of bright globular cluster M55 on October 15 and within 10' of 11<sup>th</sup> mag galaxy NGC 6925 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.



Figure 10 - Orbit of 6P/d'Arrest from JPL Small-Body Browser.



Figure 11 -Though this image adorns the cover of this month's Comet News, I thought it was worth placing here at a slightly larger scale.

Discovered 1904 December 28 by the Alphonse Borrelly Short-period comet with orbital period of ~6.85 years

Orbit (from Minor Planet Center, MPEC 2021-S45)

	19P/Borrelly										
Epo	Epoch 2022 Jan. 21.0 TT = JDT 2459600.5										
Т	2022 Feb. 2.014	152 TT			Rudenko						
q	1.3064503		(2000.0)	Р	Q						
n	0.14398101	Peri.	351.91587	+0.38679938	-0.79274184						
а	3.6052266	Node	74.24796	+0.87108982	+0.14643746						
е	0.6376232	Incl.	29.30738	+0.30263636	+0.59170638						
Ρ	6.85										

From 1655 observations 2000 May 2-2017 Mar. 30, mean residual 1".3. Nongravitational parameters A1 = +0.20, A2 = -0.0380.

#### Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows program)

19P/Borrelly								Max	El
								(d	eg)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S
2021-Oct-01	23 29	-58 49	1.910	1.235	116E	Tuc	13.0	0	71
2021-Oct-06	23 21	-58 23	1.873	1.225	114E	Tuc	12.8	0	72
2021-Oct-11	23 15	-57 41	1.837	1.216	111E	Tuc	12.5	0	72
2021-Oct-16	23 10	-56 43	1.801	1.209	109E	Tuc	12.3	0	73
2021-Oct-21	23 07	-55 31	1.765	1.203	106E	Gru	12.1	0	75
2021-Oct-26	23 04	-54 04	1.730	1.198	103E	Gru	11.8	0	76
2021-Oct-31	23 04	-52 25	1.696	1.194	101E	Gru	11.6	0	78
2021-Nov-05	23 04	-50 34	1.662	1.190	98E	Gru	11.4	0	79

#### Comet Magnitude Formula (from Seiichi Yoshida)

 $m1 = 5.5 + 5 \log d + 25.0 \log r$ 



2021 has seen a few low numbered short-period comets come within range of typical backyard telescopes. Tough perihelion isn't till next February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 19P/Borrelly should become brighter than 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude this December on its way to a peak around magnitude 9.0.

Alphonse Borrelly discovered 10 comets and 18 Main Belt asteroids from the Marseille Observatory. In addition to his discovery of periodic comet 19P/Borrelly in 1904, Borrelly also discovered C/1873 Q1

(Borrelly), C/1874 O1 (Borrelly), C/1874 X1 (Borrelly), C/1877 C1 (Borrelly), C/1889 X1 (Borrelly), C/1900 O1 (Borrelly-Brooks), C/1903 M1 (Borrelly), C/1909 L1 (Borrelly-Daniel), C/1912 V1 (Borrelly).

The current apparition marks the comet's 16<sup>th</sup> observed return. 19P's orbit has been stable since discovery with perihelion staying between 1.30 and 1.46 au (this year it is at 1.31 au so nearly as close as it's been since discovery). The comet approached within 1 au of Earth during its first 4 observed returns (1904, 1911, 1918 and 1925) and peaked between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude. There was a stretch of 6 perihelion passages between 1938 and 1974 when the comet arrived at perihelion almost directly behind the Sun at ~2.3 to 2.5 au from Earth. Returns in 1987 and 1994 were much better with approaches to 0.48 and 0.62 au of Earth and peaks at magnitude 7 and 7.5, respectively. 2022 starts a new cycle of good apparitions. Though still a distant 1.18 au from Earth at its closest this time around, it will come closer in 2028 (0.41 au) and 2035 (0.62 au). The 2028 will be Borrelly's best observed return.



Figure 12 - Perihelion and minimum Earth-comet distances for 19P/Borrelly between 1904 and 2042.

October sees 19P limited to observers in the southern hemisphere as it moves through the southern constellations of Tucana (Oct 1-17) and Grus (17-31). It should begin the month around magnitude 13.0 and end the month close to 11.5. A peak brightness of magnitude 9 or so should be reached in January and February.



Figure 13 - Per-Jonny Bremseth sketched 19P/Borrelly with a 0.2-m SCT back in January 1988.

Discovered 1927 November 15 by the Arnold Schwassmann and Arno Arthur Wachmann at the Hamburg Observatory in Bergedorf, Germany Centaur comet with orbital period of ~14.8 years										
Orbit (from Minor Planet Center, MPEC 2021-S45)										
29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann Epoch 2021 July 5.0 TT = JDT 2459400.5 T 2019 Mar. 26.66253 TT Rudenko q 5.7691447 (2000.0) P Q n 0.06642072 Peri. 49.15125 +0.99219414 -0.03308628 a 6.0385641 Node 312.37551 -0.03076331 +0.86941959 e 0.0446165 Incl. 9.36679 +0.12084872 +0.49296539 P 14.8 From 9998 observations 2018 June 18-2021 Aug. 11, mean residual 0".6.										
Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows program)										
29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann       Max El (deg)         Date       R.A.       Decl.       r       d       Elong       Const       Mag       40N       40S         2021-Oct-01       04       57       +31       53       5.918       5.488       110M       Aur       82       18         2021-Oct-06       04       57       +31       59       5.919       5.417       115M       Aur       82       18         2021-Oct-11       04       57       +32       04       5.921       5.350       120M       Aur       82       18         2021-Oct-16       04       56       +32       08       5.922       5.286       125M       Aur       82       18         2021-Oct-21       04       55       +32       11       5.923       5.227       130M       Aur       82       18         2021-Oct-26       04       54       +32       14       5.925       5.172       135M       Aur       82       18         2021-Oct-31       04       52       +32       15       5.926       5.123       140M       Aur       82       18         2021-Nov-05       04       50										
Recent Magnitude Measurements Contributed to the ALPO Comets Section										
Recent Magnitude Measurements in ICQ format:         Comet Des YYYY MM DD.DD Mag SC APER FL POW (UT)       COMA TAIL ICQ CODE Observer Name (UT)         29       2021 09 28.93 I 11.2 TK 20.3T10 77       8       ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez         29       2021 09 17.10 S 12.9 AQ 20.3T10 166       1.5 3       ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez         29       2021 09 11.76 xS 14.8 AQ 40.0L 4 182       0.4 2/       ICQ XX WYA										

29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann was discovered photographically on 1927 November 15 by German observing team Arnold Schwassmann and Arno Arthur Wachmann. The duo discovered 4 comets together, three short-period comets (29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann, 31P/Schwassmann-Wachmann, and 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann) and a long-period comet shared with Leslie Peltier [C/1930 D1 (Peltier-Schwassmann-Wachmann)].

29P is one of the more enigmatic comets. It is always active and rarely fainter than 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> magnitude. Multiple times per year outbursts occur resulting in a peak brightness that can reach 10<sup>th</sup> magnitude though most peaks fall in the 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> magnitude range. Richard Miles (Director of the British Astronomical Society's Asteroids and Remote Planets Section) has published a series of papers on 29P and its outbursts. He found that as many as 6 active areas are producing outbursts on a nucleus with a rotation period of ~57-58 days. 29P is also considered a member of the Centaur population. Different organizations have different definitions for what constitutes a member of the Centaurs. The two most common definitions are from the Minor Planet Center (perihelion beyond the orbit of Jupiter and semi-major axis within the orbit of Neptune) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (semi-major axis between the orbits of Jupiter and Neptune). Both definitions would classify 29P as a Centaur. 29P has experienced a rare quadruple outburst on the nights of September 25 and 27. As a result, visual observations reported to the COBS site are reporting the comet to be as bright as magnitude 10.7. The comet is a morning object in Auriga and observable from both hemispheres. If you observe 29P, please consider contributing to two pro-am efforts to better understand this object: the British Astronomical Society's (BAA) Mission 29P monitoring program coordinated by Richard Miles. (<u>https://britastro.org/node/18562</u> & <u>https://britastro.org/node/25120</u>) and the University of Maryland's 29P Observation campaign (<u>https://wirtanen.astro.umd.edu/29P/29P\_obs.shtml</u>).



Figure 14 - Orbit of 29P from the JPL Small-Body Browser.



Figure 15 - A very condensed 29P as imaged by Martin Mobberley on 2021 October 3 with an iTelescopes 0.51-m f/4.5 CDK.

### C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS)

Discovered 2017 May 21 by the Pan-STARRS survey with the Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m on Haleakala Dynamically old long-period comet

Orbit (from Syuichi Nakano, Nakano Note NK 4448)

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) Epoch 2022 Dec. 7.0 TT = JDT 2459920.5 T 2022 Dec. 19.67178 TT Nakano 1.7969443 (2000.0)Ρ Q q -0.0004734 Peri. 236.19715 +0.01818315 +0.04923207 Ζ +/-0.0000004 88.23537 -0.18094861 +0.98245608 Node 87.56309 1.0008506 -0.98332445 -0.17987844 Incl. е From 4213 observations 2013 May 12-2021 May 3, mean residual 0".44. (1/a) org.= +0.000028, (1/a) fut.= +0.001121 (+/-0.000000), Q= 9. The comet will pass 2.66 AU from Jupiter on 2024 Oct. 15 and 7.88 AU from Uranus on 2029 Oct. 16 UT.

Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows program)

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) Max El										
								(d	eg)	
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S	
2021-Oct-01	16 59	+26 25	5.204	5.430	71E	Her	12.0	53	10	
2021-Oct-06	17 01	+25 26	5.160	5.437	68E	Her	12.0	50	7	
2021-Oct-11	17 02	+24 27	5.117	5.443	65E	Her	12.0	48	5	
2021-Oct-16	17 05	+23 30	5.074	5.448	63E	Her	11.9	45	1	
2021-Oct-21	17 07	+22 35	5.030	5.450	60E	Her	11.9	43	0	
2021-Oct-26	17 09	+21 42	4.987	5.451	57E	Her	11.9	40	0	
2021-Oct-31	17 12	+20 50	4.943	5.449	54E	Her	11.8	37	0	
2021-Nov-05	17 15	+20 01	4.899	5.444	52E	Her	11.8	35	0	

#### Comet Magnitude Formula (from ALPO and COBS data)





#### Recent Magnitude Measurements Contributed to the ALPO Comets Section

Recent Magnitude Measurements in ICQ format:																	
Comet Des	YYYY	M	4 DD.D	D	Ma	ag S	SC APE	RE	FL POW	1	COM	A	TAI	L		ICQ	CODE Observer Name
		(1	JT)					Т			Dia	DC	LENG	PA			
2017K2	2021	09	28.85	S	11.7	ΤK	20.3T	10	133	2.2	4			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez
2017K2	2021	09	28.81	S	11.6	ΤI	29.8L	4	108	1.5	3/			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2017K2	2021	09	12.90	S	12.2	ΤI	29.8L	4	108	1.5	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2017K2	2021	09	10.15	V	13.3	U4	10.6R	5a	600	1.4		1	.2m 20	ICQ	XX	HER02	Carl Hergenrother
2017K2	2021	09	09.85	S	11.8	ΤI	29.8L	4	92	2	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2017K2	2021	09	08.86	S	12.2	ΤI	29.8L	4	108	1.5	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2017K2	2021	09	08.40	хM	12.3	AQ	40.0L	4	182	1.5	5/			ICQ	XX	WYA	Chris Wyatt
2017K2	2021	09	06.41	хM	12.8	AQ	25.0L	5	125	1.2	4/			ICQ	XX	WYA	Chris Wyatt
2017K2	2021	09	04.92	S	12.2	AQ	20.3T	10	133	1.5	4/			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez
2017K2	2021	09	04.86	S	12.5	ΤI	29.8L	4	132	1.4	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2017K2	2021	09	03.88	S	12.9	ΤI	29.8L	4	108	1.2	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) was discovered on 2017 May 21 by the Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m telescope at Haleakala on the Hawaiian island of Maui. At discovery the comet was around 21<sup>st</sup> magnitude and located at 16.1 au from the Sun. Pre-discovery observations were found back to May of 2013 when the comet was 23.7 au from the Sun. For comparison Uranus has a semi-major axis of 19.2 au.

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) is over a year from its 2022 December 19 perihelion at 1.80 au when it should reach 6-7<sup>th</sup> magnitude. Several visual observations were made in September by J. J. Gonzalez, Christian Harder and Chris Wyatt as well as a CCD measurement by Carl Hergenrother. The visual measurements ranged between 11.6 and 12.9 (corrected magnitudes between 11.2 and 12.8). All observers found a small slightly condensed coma of ~1.2-2.2'.

C/2017 K2 is an evening object in Hercules and is better placed for northern observers though it also visible from the southern hemisphere. The comet will continue to slowly brighten throughout the remainder of 2021 and all of 2022.



Figure 16 - Orbit of C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) from the JPL Small-Body Browser.



Figure 17 – Gregg Ruppel caught C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) glowing faintly around magnitude 12 in Hercules in a cropped luminance 48 minutes total exposure from Dark Sky New Mexico

## C/2021 A1 (Leonard)

Discovered 2021 January 3 by Greg Leonard of the Catalina Sky Survey with the 1.5-m on Mount Lemmon Dynamically old long-period comet

Orbit (from Syuichi Nakano, private email)

C/2021 Al (Leo	onard)								
Epoch 2022 Jan. 21.0 TT = JDT 2459600.5									
T 2022 Jan. 3.303	35 TT			Nakano					
q 0.6152670		(2000.0)	Р	Q					
z -0.0000212	Peri.	225.09253	+0.63774456	+0.29160589					
+/-0.000016	Node	255.89525	+0.72790936	-0.53080844					
e 1.0000131	Incl.	132.68634	-0.25185283	-0.79574393					
From 1054 observa	tions 20	20 Apr. 11-2	021 Sept. 29, mea	n residual 0".54.					
(1/a)org.= +0.0	00524, (	1/a)fut.= -0	.000081 (+/-0.000	002), Q= 8.					
The comet will	pass 0.2	3 AU from the	e Earth on 2021 D	ec. 12.5 UT.					
Also comet will pass 0.029 AU from Venus on 2021 Dec. 18.0 UT.									
Ephemerides (produce	Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows program)								

C/2021 A1 (Leonard) Max El											
								(d	eg)		
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S		
2021-Oct-01	11 18	+37 43	1.858	2.445	43M	UMa	12.8	21	0		
2021-Oct-06	11 23	+37 12	1.784	2.319	46M	UMa	12.5	24	0		
2021-Oct-11	11 27	+36 42	1.710	2.187	49M	UMa	12.3	27	0		
2021-Oct-16	11 32	+36 14	1.635	2.049	51M	UMa	12.0	31	0		
2021-Oct-21	11 38	+35 47	1.560	1.904	54M	UMa	11.6	34	0		
2021-Oct-26	11 43	+35 22	1.484	1.753	57M	UMa	11.3	37	0		
2021-Oct-31	11 49	+34 57	1.407	1.597	60M	UMa	10.9	40	0		
2021-Nov-05	11 56	+34 34	1.330	1.435	63M	UMa	10.5	43	0		

#### Comet Magnitude Formula (from ALPO and COBS data)

 $\begin{array}{rcl} m1 &=& 7.4 + 5 \ \log d + 11.7 \ \log r & [through T-325 \ days, where T = date of perihelion] \\ m1 &=& 11.4 + 5 \ \log d + 5.7 \ \log r & [T-325 \ to T-178 \ days] \\ m1 &=& 5.2 + 5 \ \log d + 18.8 \ \log r & [T-178 \ to T-112 \ days] \\ m1 &=& 8.7 + 5 \ \log d + 8.0 \ \log r & [from T-112 \ days \ onward] \end{array}$ 



While no comet as spectacular as C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) is predicted to happen anytime soon, there is hope that C/2021 A1 (Leonard) will at least be a nice binocular or even faint naked eye comet this December. Catalina Sky Survey astronomer Greg Leonard found C/2021 A1 on 2021 January 3 with the Mount Lemmon 1.5-m reflector when the comet was around magnitude 19 and 5.1 au from the Sun at discovery. Pre-discovery

observations from Mount Lemmon and PANSTARRS were found back to April 2020 (when the comet was 7.5 au from the Sun).

An analysis of magnitude estimates submitted to the Minor Planet Center (MPC) in 2020, Comet Observation Database (COBS) and the ALPO in 2021 finds an object that has changed its rate of brightening at least twice already. The 2020 MPC data showed a healthy brightening of 2.5n = 11.7. That rate slowed to dramatically to 2.5n = 5.7 for most of 2021 up till July. A 2.5n = 5 rate means steady state so for the first half of 2021, C/2021 A1 was experiencing little, if any, increase in dust production. Since July, the comet has kicked back into high gear brightening at a 2.5n = 18.8 rate.

So far, all magnitude measurements have been from CCD/CMOS cameras with no visual observations submitted to the COBS site or the ALPO. Hopefully with the comet becoming better placed in the morning sky and brighter, visual observers will be able to measure its brightness. Unfortunately, the comet is located far to the north in Ursa Major and only visible from the northern hemisphere. Southern observers will have to wait till mid-December to catch a glimpse of Leonard.

Assuming a conservative 2.5n ~ 8 brightening rate from here on out would see Leonard around magnitude 13 at the start of October and magnitude 11 at the end of the month. The comet could be even brighter if its recent rapid brightening trend continues. A conservative 2.5n value of 8 would result in a peak brightness around magnitude 4.5 when the comet approaches within 0.233 au from Earth on December 12. With a large phase angle reaching 160 degrees at that time, forward scattering of light by cometary dust may increase Leonard's brightness by an additional 1-3 magnitudes. Working against it are very difficult observing circumstance due to a small solar elongation at the time of maximum brightness (minimum elongation of 15 deg) resulting in the possibility that the comet may be too faint to be seen while so close to the Sun. We should have a much better idea of how bright Leonard is getting by the end of October.



Figure 18 - Orbit of C/2021 A1 (Leonard) from the JPL Small-Body Browser.

## **Fainter Comets of Interest (Fainter than 13.0)**

### C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS)

Discovered 2021 July 26 by Pan-STARRS with the 1.8-m Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m on Haleakala												
Orbit (from Syuichi Nakano, private email)												
C/2021 O3 (PANS T 2022 Apr. 21.060 q 0.2875278 e 1.0	STARRS) 533 TT (20 Peri. 299 Node 189 Incl. 56	00.0) .96269 .06692 .70663	Nakano Q -0.81232240 -0.53970622 +0.22101925									
From 277 observat:	ions 2021 J	uly 26-Se	ept. 24	•								
Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows program)												
C/2021 03 (PANSTAN	RRS)						Ma (d	x El eg)				
Date R.A 2021-Oct-01 22 23 2021-Oct-06 22 13 2021-Oct-11 22 14 2021-Oct-16 22 10 2021-Oct-21 22 00 2021-Oct-26 22 00 2021-Oct-31 22 00 2021-Nov-05 21 5 Comet Magnitude Form m1 = 11.1 + 5 log Recent Magnitude Mea	Decl. +22 33 +21 25 +20 13 +18 57 +17 40 +16 22 +15 04 +13 47 Decl. +17 40 +17 40 +16 22 +15 04 +13 47 	r 3.527 3.465 3.402 3.338 3.274 3.210 3.145 3.079 data submi r	d 2.665 2.631 2.605 2.586 2.573 2.566 2.564 2.567 tted to the	Elong 144E 140E 136E 132E 127E 122E 117E 112E <b>e COBS a</b>	Const Peg Peg Peg Peg Peg Peg nd the M	Mag 17.6 17.5 17.4 17.4 17.3 17.2 17.1 17.1 <b>(PC)</b>	40N 73 71 70 69 68 66 65 64	40s 27 29 30 31 32 33 33 33				
Recent Magnitude Med Comet Des YYYY MM (UT 202103 2021 09 0	easurements DD.DD M C) 18.27 C 18.7	in ICQ fo lag SC APP 'U4 50.0Y	Drmat: ER FL PC T 5A200	DW CON Dia 0.3	MA DC I	TAIL LENG PA ICQ	XX HE	ICQ CODE R02 Carl	2 Observer L Hergenrot	Name .her		

C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) was first seen on July 26 at 19th magnitude by the Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m Ritchey-Chretien on Haleakala. Perihelion will occur on 2022 April 21 at a small distance of 0.29 au from the Sun. C/2021 O3 will experience some of the same observational issues as C/2021 A1 (Leonard). On the plus side, PANSTARRS will reach a relatively large phase angle though not as large as Leonard (only ~136 vs 160 deg). But PANSTARRS will also be located at very small solar elongations near perihelion which will make it a VERY difficult object to observe until a few weeks after perihelion and then only for northern observers. Not helping matters is C/2020 O3's faintness.

C/2021 O3 is currently a 17<sup>th</sup> magnitude evening object in Pegasus in the evening sky for observers in both hemispheres. Southern hemisphere observers should be able to follow PANSTARRS till the end of the year when the comet could be around 15-16<sup>th</sup> magnitude. Northern hemisphere observers will be able to follow it for another month or two till mid-February when it could be as bright as 13-14<sup>th</sup> magnitude. The comet will then spend the next two and a half months within 20 deg of the Sun.

The comet's orbit is aligned in such a way that the comet will be mainly a northern hemisphere object except for a week or so centered on perihelion. On the date of perihelion C/2021 O3 will be an evening object located only 16 deg from the Sun. Northern hemisphere observers (for +40N) will not be able to observe it at that time as it will still be 7 deg below the horizon at the start of nautical twilight. It will be observable from the southern 28

hemisphere (-40S) when it will be at an elevation of 5 deg at the start of nautical twilight and only 1 deg below the horizon at the start of astronomical twilight. If its rate of brightening is 2.5n ~ 8, it will be at 6-7<sup>th</sup> magnitude. The combination of faintness and poor placement near the Sun will make observing this comet very difficult. The comet becomes observable in a dark sky (after the end of astronomical twilight) by the first few nights of May. This is around the time of maximum phase angle (135 deg) which may provide a 1-2 magnitude boost in brightness. Still, we are talking about an object that may only be around 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> magnitude and still located ~20 deg from the Sun. Though it will be fading fast, the comet will quickly move north and become circumpolar by mid-May. Note, that this all assumes this apparently intrinsically faint comet survives its close brush with the Sun. Time will tell.

Imagers and photometrists are highly encouraged to observe PANSTARRS over the coming months.



Figure 19 - Orbit of C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) from the JPL Small-Body Browser.

*15P/Finlay* – After reaching magnitude 10.0-10.5 in July, short-period comet 15P/Finlay is now fainter than magnitude 13 and fading fast. A mystery surrounding Finlay is its lack of an associated meteor shower even though its orbit that comes within 0.01 au of Earth. CBET 5046 reports the detection of a newly recognized meteor shower on 2021 September 28 and 29 by CAMS video cameras in New Zealand and Chile and the Southern Argentina Agile MEteor Radar Orbital System (SAAMER-OS). A total of 13 meteors were detected though the CAMS team reports that the outburst is ongoing. The observed meteors were released during Finlay's 1995 return. Two additional outbursts are predicted to occur on 2021 October 7 with activity centered at 00:35m UT (from its 2008 perihelion) and 03h55m (from its 2014 perihelion) though peak times could be .

<u>Astronomical Telegram #14947</u> contains predictions for the 2021 October 6/7 activity from a number of different sources. While ZHR rates of 100s to 1000s are predicted, the shower is expected to consist mainly of meteors fainter than naked eye visibility. Still visual observers are encouraged to try and observe any activity.

The newly found shower is officially called the Arid meteor shower due to its radiant's location at R.A. = 262.7 deg and Dec. = -57.8 deg in the southern constellation of Ara. The far southern radiant should make this a very difficult shower to observe from the northern hemisphere.

*P/2021 R6 (Groeller)* – Hannes Groeller of the Catalina Sky Survey used the Mount Lemmon 1.5-m to discover a new short-period comet on 2021 September 12 at 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude. Pre-discovery observations by Pan-STARRS were found from 2021 August 31 and September 4. P/2021 R6 has a 15.72-year orbital period and will arrive at perihelion on Halloween (2021 October 31) at 2.55 au. The comet is not likely to get any brighter. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> comet to be named after Groeller. The other two also being short-period comets [P/2019 B2 (Groeller)]. [CBET 5045, MPEC 2021-S113]

*P/2021 R5 (Rankin)* – Catalina Sky Survey observer David Rankin found his 8<sup>th</sup> comet (to be named for him) on 2021 September 9. Like P/2021 R6, P/2021 R5 was also discovered with the Mount Lemmon 1.5-m. Prediscovery observations by Pan-STARRS and Catalina were found back to 2021 June 26. The newest Rankin comet was 19<sup>th</sup> magnitude at discovery and close to its peak in brightness. Perihelion will be on 2022 January 9 at 3.33 au. [CBET 5035, MPEC 2021-R257]

P/2021 R4 (Wierzchos) – The third Catalina short-period discovery of September was made by Kacper W. Wierzchos. Like the other two Catalina finds, this one was also found with the Mount Lemmon 1.5-m. P/2021 R4 was 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude at discovery on 2021 September 6. Pre-discovery observations by Pan-STARRS were found from two nights prior to discovery. The comet has a 13.4-year period and a perihelion on 2021 October 13 at 2.33 au. This is Kacper's second amed comet after C/2020 H3 (Wierzchos). [CBET 5034, MPEC 2021-R256]

P/2021 R3 (PANSTARRS) – The Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m was used to discover this 21<sup>st</sup> magnitude comet on 2021 September 5. Pan-STARRS pre-discovery observations were found back to 2021 July 9. Syuichi Nakano's orbit published on CBET 5033 found a possible close approach to Jupiter of 0.36 au in September 2002. The current orbit has perihelion on 2021 May 27 at 2.53 au. It is likely that the comet has already peaked in brightness. [CBET 5033, CBET 2021-R255]

*C/2021 R2 (PANSTARRS)* – On 2021 September 5, C/2021 R2 was found in three 45-s w-band images taken with the Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m. The comet was 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude at discovery which is likely as bright as it will get. Perihelion occurs on 2022 January 4 at 7.31 au. [CBET 5031, CBET 2021-R151]

*P/2021 R1 (PANSTARRS)* – Four 45-s w-band images taken on 2021 September 4 with the Pan-STARRS1 1.8m were used to discover this 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude short-period comet. Perihelion occurs on 2021 December 17 at 4.89 au. The comet is likely as bright as it will get. Perhaps it will be brighter at its next return in 2045. [Ref: MPEC 2021-R150, CBET 5030]

 $C/2021 \ Q6 \ (PANSTARRS) - A \text{ new } 21^{\text{st}}$  magnitude comet was identified in four 120-s z-band images taken with the Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m on 2021 August 22. Numerous pre-discovery observations back to January 2021 were also found. C/2021 Q6 is another large perihelion object (T = 2024 March 24, q = 8.71 au). It should reach a peak brightness near magnitude 20 in 2023-2024. [Ref: MPEC 2021-R167, CBET 5032]

*P/2021 HS (PANSTARRS)* – Back on 2021 April 16, Pan-STARRS found 2021 HS, an apparently asteroidal 20<sup>th</sup> magnitude object. H. Sato was the first to notice cometary activity on images taken July 4 with a 0.51-m f/6.8 astrograph resulting in a new cometary designation of P/2021 HS (PANSTARRS). Perihelion occurred on 2021 August 6 at 0.80 au when it was near its peak brightness of 18<sup>th</sup> magnitude. With an 8.6-year period, it will be back at perihelion in 2030. [CBET 5043, MPEC 2021-S44]

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 the Comets Section < comets @ alpo-astronomy .org >, Comets Section Coordinator Carl Hergenrother < carl.hergenrother @ alpo-astronomy .org > and/or Comets Section Acting Assistant Coordinator Michel Deconinck < michel.deconinck @ alpo-astronomy .org >.

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

Stay safe and enjoy the sky! - Carl Hergenrother

## **Recent Magnitudes Contributed to the ALPO Comets Section**

Comet Des	YYYY	MM	DD.DD		Mag	SC	APE	RFL	POW	COM	IA Da	TAIL			ICζ	Q CODE	Observer Name	
P/2021 Q5 (ATLAS)																		
2021Q5	2021	09	17.14	S	11.6	ΤK	20.	3T10	133	4	1/			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
2021Q5	2021	09	05.19	S	11.5	ΤK	20.	3T10	100	4	1/			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
C/2021 O3	(PANS	TARI	RS)															
202103	2021	09	08.27	С	18.7	U4	50.	0Y 52	A200	0.3				ICQ	ХХ	HER02	Carl Hergenrother	
C/2020 T2	(Paloi	nar)	)		10 0	70	4.0	OT 4	ΕQ	2 7	G			TCO	vv	TATX 7	Christenhan Wustt	
202012 2020T2	2021	09	06.42	xM xM	10.9	AQ AO	25	OL 4 OT. 5	40	3.7	5			TCO	XX	WIA	Christopher Wyall	
C/2020 PV6	(PAN	STAI	RRS)	211.1	10.9	112	20.	01 0	10	0.9	0			TOĂ	1111	** 171	onribeopher wyace	
2020PV6	2021	09	08.42	хM	14.6	AQ	40.	0L 4	182	0.9	4/			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
2020PV6	2021	09	04.91	S	13.3	AQ	20.	3T10	133	1.5	4			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
C/2020 F5	(MAST	ER)																
2020F5	2021	09	11.69	хM	14.8	AQ	40.	OL 4	261	0.4	5/			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
202015	2021	09	08.46	XM	14./	AQ	40.	OL 4	102	0.7	6			TCO	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
C/2019 L3	(ATLA)	5)	07.00	ХМ	14.0	AQ	40.	01 4	102	0.4	0			TCŎ	лл	WIA	chiliscopher wyatt	
2019L3	2021	09	17.12	S	10.5	ΤK	20.	3T10	77	5	4			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
2019L3	2021	09	09.93	S	10.9	ΤI	29.	8L 4	108	1.4	3/			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2021	09	08.94	S	11.3	ΤI	29.	8L 4	108	1.5	4			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2021	09	05.02	S	10.7	ΤK	20.	3T10	100	5	3/			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
2019L3	2021	09	04.96	S	11.2	TI	29.	8L 4	108	1.7	4			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2021	09	04.08	S	12.1	HS	32.	OL 5	80	1	6/	0 Em.	220	TCO	vv	PILOI UAD11	Uwe Pilz Christian Marder	
C/2019 F1	(ATT.A	09 5-21	US.95 frican	0)	11.4	ΤT	29.	оц 4	92	2.4	4	Ζ. ΟΠΙ.	550	τcų	ΛΛ	NARII	CHIISCIAH HAIDEI	
2019F1	2021	09	11.68	xM	14.8	AO	40.	0L 4	261	0.7	5/			ICO	XX	WYA	Christopher Wvatt	
2019F1	2021	09	08.46	хM	14.9	ΑQ	40.	0L 4	261	0.6	6			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
2019F1	2021	09	07.71	мx	14.7	AQ	40.	0L 4	261	0.4	6			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
C/2018 U1	(Lemm	on)																
2018U1	2021	09	08.43	xS	15.2	AQ	40.	0L 4	261	0.3	4			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
C/2UI/ K2	(PANS'	L'ARI 0 0	30 05	c	11 7	mν	20	3.001.0	122	2 2	4			TCO	vv	CONOS	Tuan Toso Consalos	Suaroz
2017K2 2017K2	2021	09	28.81	s S	11 6	TT.	20.	8T. 4	108	2.2	4 3/			TCO	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	Suarez
2017K2	2021	09	12.90	S	12.2	TI	29.	8L 4	108	1.5	3			ICO	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
2017K2	2021	09	10.15	V	13.3	U4	10.	6R 5	a600	1.4		1.2m	20	ĨCQ	хх	HER02	Carl Hergenrother	
2017K2	2021	09	09.85	S	11.8	ΤI	29.	8L 4	92	2	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
2017K2	2021	09	08.86	S	12.2	ΤI	29.	8L 4	108	1.5	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
2017K2	2021	09	08.40	Mx	12.3	AQ	40.	OL 4	182	1.5	5/			ICQ	XX	WYA	Chris Wyatt	
2017KZ	2021	09	04.92	XM	12.8	AQ	20	0L 3 3m10	123	1.2	4/			TCO	XX VV	CONOS	Tuan Toso Consolos	Supros
2017K2	2021	09	04.86	S	12.5	ΤŢ	29.	8T. 4	132	1.4	3			TCO	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	Suarez
2017K2	2021	09	03.88	S	12.9	TI	29.	8L 4	108	1.2	3			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
284P/McNau	ght																	
284	2021	09	11.72	мx	14.7	AQ	40.	0L 4	182	0.6	5/			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
67P/Churyu	mov-G	eras	simenk	0	10.0		~ ~	0 - 1 0	100	,						0.0170 F		~
67	2021	09	17.08	S	10.8	TK	20.	3T10	100	4 1 E	4	2 0		TCŐ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
67	2021	09	13.UI 11 73	S ⊽M	11 8	TT	29.	8B 4	108 59	1.5	54 6	3.Um2	263	TCO	XX VV	MVA	Christopher Wyatt	
67	2021	09	09.94	S	11.4	TT	29.	8T. 4	108	1.8	4	0.21112	_ 00	TCO	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
67	2021	09	08.99	S	11.2	ΤI	29.	8L 4	108	2	4			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
67	2021	09	07.72	мx	12.4	AQ	40.	0L 4	108	1.0	6	3.5m2	260	ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
67	2021	09	05.00	S	10.9	ΤK	20.	3T10	100	5	3/			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
67	2021	09	04.98	S	11.3	ΤI	29.	8L 4	108	1.5	4			ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder	
67	2021	09	04.06	S	12.0	TK	32.	OL 5	80	0.6	7	0.02 2	263	TCO	vv	PILOI UAD11	Uwe Pilz Christian Marder	
20D/Schuse	2021	09 -Wa	03.99 chmann	Э	11.1	T.T	29.	8Ц 4	108	1.3	4			τcų	ΧĂ	HARII	Christian Harder	
2.9	2.02.1	09	28.93	т	11.2	ͲК	20.	3т10	77		8			TCO	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
29	2021	09	17.10	S	12.9	AQ	20.	3T10	166	1.5	3			ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez	Suarez
29	2021	09	11.76	xS	14.8	AQ	40.	0L 4	182	0.4	2/			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
19P/Borrel	ly				_						-							
19	2021	09	11.71	хM	14.6	AQ	40.	OL 4	182	0.6	6			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
150/E:51	2021	υ9	U8.48	МX	15.0	AQ	40.	υц 4	261	0.3	ю			тсõ	ΧХ	WIA	unristopher Wyatt	
15	2021	09	05 12	S	11 २	ਸਾਲ	20	3.17.1 ∩	100	3	2			TCO	xx	GON05	Juan Jose Conzalez	Suarez
15	2021	09	04.10	S	10.8	TK	32.	0L 5	80	1.7	1			7 ° X	1111	PIL01	Uwe Pilz	JUULUL
8P/Tuttle	_	-		-	. •	-		-	-									
8	2021	09	11.77	мx	8.9	ΤK	40.	0L 4	59	3.1	5			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
8	2021	09	07.77	мx	9.0	ΤK	40.	0L 4	59	2.8	5			ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
/P/Pons-Wi	nneck	Э																

7	2021	09	11.70	xS	14.1	AQ	40.0L 4	182	1.3	3		ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
7	2021	09	08.47	xS	13.6	AQ	40.0L 4	108	1.5	2/		ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
7	2021	09	07.69	Mх	14.0	AQ	40.0L 4	182	0.9	4		ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
6P/d'Arres	t														
6	2021	09	08.44	хM	13.6	AQ	40.0L 4	261	0.8	2		ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
6	2021	09	04.85	S	11.1	ΤK	20.3T10	100	5	2		ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez
4P/Faye															
4	2021	09	17.13	S	10.3	ΤK	20.3T10	77	5	3		ICQ	XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez
4	2021	09	11.75	хM	11.9	AQ	40.0L 4	108	1.1	6	5.2m267	ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
4	2021	09	10.01	S	10.5	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	2.1	2/		ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
4	2021	09	09.04	S	10.4	ΤK	32.0L 5	43		6	0.05 236			PIL01	Uwe Pilz
4	2021	09	07.74	хM	11.4	AQ	40.0L 4	108	1.2	6	5.0m267	ICQ	XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
4	2021	09	05.03	S	10.5	ΤK	20.3T10	77	4	3		ICQ	XX	GON05	J J Gonzalez Suarez
4	2021	09	04.99	S	10.7	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	1.8	4		ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
4	2021	09	04.00	S	10.7	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	1.8	3		ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
4	2021	09	02.02	S	11.2	ΤI	29.8B 4	108	1.2	4		ICQ	XX	HAR11	Christian Harder