ALPO Comet News

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



C/2019 T4 (ATLAS) is a dynamically old long period comet. It is inbound to a perihelion on 2022 June 9 at a distant 4.24 au from the Sun. Comet ATLAS is currently around magnitude 11 and visible in the constellation of Crater in the evening sky. Michael Jager caught the comet passing by the 10th magnitude spiral galaxy NGC 3887 on 2022 April 21.30 UT. The image is a co-add of 8x80 second exposures taken with a 0.4-m f/3.2 telescope and QHY600 camera.



alpo-astronomy.org comets@alpo-astronomy.org



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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/822424-alpo-comet-news-for-may-2022/</u>). All are encouraged to join the discussion over at Cloudy Nights. The ALPO Comets 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 appreciated.

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 >.

To learn more about the ALPO, please visit us @ http://www.alpo-astronomy.org.

Last month's big question was "What's up with C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS)?" Would it survive passing 0.29 au from the Sun or disintegrate like many other dynamically new, intrinsically faint comets? We now have our answer. C/2021 O3 has likely disintegrated with a remnant dust cloud being all that's remains of the comet. Still as of the end of April, some ground-based observers have been able to detect a diffuse remnant at ~9th magnitude. This at least gives us some hope of being able to monitor the slow dispersal of the dusty remains as it heads into the northern circumpolar evening sky.

Of course, C/2021 O3 isn't the only comet in the sky. While May won't see any very bright comets, a number will be in the 9-10th magnitude range including C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS), C/2019 L3 (ATLAS), C/2021 E3 (ZTF), and C/2021 F1 (Lemmon-PANSTARRS) (the last two only visible from the southern hemisphere). Observers who can push fainter to around 12th magnitude can also observe 9P/Tempel, 19P/Borrelly, 22P/Kopff, 45P/Honda-Mrkos-Pajdusáková, C/2019 T4 (ATLAS), C/2020 (ZTF), and C/2021 P4 (ATLAS).

April saw the ALPO Comets Section receive 89 magnitude estimates and 15 images/sketches of comets C/2021 P4 (ATLAS), C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS), C/2021 E3 (ZTF), C/2021 A1 (Leonard), C/2020 Y2 (ATLAS), C/2020 V2 (ZTF), C/2020 M5 (ATLAS), C/2020 K1 (PANSTARRS), C/2020 J1 (SONEAR), C/2019 T4 (ATLAS), C/2019 L3 (ATLAS), C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS), 116P/Wild, 104P/Kowal, 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann, 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, 29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann, 22P/Kopff, 19P/Borrelly, and 9P/Tempel. A hearty thanks to our April contributors: Dan Bartlett, Michel Deconinck, J. J. Gonzalez, Christian Harder, Michael Jager, Mike Olason, Uwe Pilz, Raymond Ramlow, Chris Schur, and Chris Wyatt.

Aperture Corrections to Magnitude Measurements

We try to include up-to-date 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. If a sufficient number of visual observations are submitted for a particular comet, we determine personal corrections for each observer for each individual comet. If the magnitudes shown in the text don't match those plotted in the lightcurves, it is because of the application of aperture and personal bias corrections.

Acknowledgements

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 are used to produce the lightcurves and orbit diagrams in these pages. And last but not least, we'd like to thank

Syuichi Nakano and the Minor Planet Center for their comet orbit 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 May 2022

May 01	- C/2021 E3 (ZTF) very close to 11th magnitude galaxy NGC 7079
May 03	- C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) skirts to the west of the omicron Persei Cloud
May 03	- C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) passes to the west of the California Nebula
May 07-08	- C/2021 E3 (ZTF) passes ~20' from 12 th magnitude galaxy NGC 7124
May 08	- First Quarter Moon
May 08-09	- C/2019 T4 (ATLAS) passes of ~10' from 10 th magnitude galaxy NGC 3831
May 09	- C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) clips the eastern edge of the Fossil Footprint Nebula, NGC 1491
May 10	- 22P/Kopff and Mars within 0.5 deg of each other. The pair are within a deg for almost 2 weeks.
May 12	- 182P/LONEOS at perihelion (q = 0.99 au, 5.1-yr period, V ~ 19, discovered in 2001, observed again in 2007 and 2012, not seen at return in 2017, yet to be recovered at current return)
May 12	- 286P/Christensen at perihelion (q = 2.36 au, 8.3-yr period, V ~ 19, discovered in 2005, also seen at 2014 and current return)
May 12	- 9P/Tempel passes near galaxies NGC 7180, 7184, 7185, and 7188
May 12	- C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) passes nearly over open cluster IC 361
May 12-13	- C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) and C/2021 P4 (ATLAS) are within ~2 deg of each other
May 15	- Full Moon
May 15	- 45P/Honda-Mrkos-Pajdusakova passes within arc minutes of open clusters NGC 1746, 1750, and 1758
May 20	- 22P/Kopff and Neptune within ~25' of each other
May 22	 - 420P/Hill at perihelion (q = 2.79 au, 13.0-yr period, V ~ 19, discovered in 2009 by ALPO Solar Section coordinator Rik Hill, pre-discovery observations found from 1996 and 1998, also observed at current return)
May 22	- Last Quarter Moon
May 22	- C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) passes close to 10th magnitude galaxy NGC 2146
May 24-25	- 45P/Honda-Mrkos-Pajdusakova passes within 0.5 deg of open clusters M35 and NGC 2158
May 26	- 9P/Tempel passes 0.75 deg north of the bright Helix Nebula
May 26-27	 C/2021 F1 (Lemmon-PANSTARRS) passes within arc minutes of galaxies NGC 1055 and M77
May 29	- P/2012 O3 (McNaught) at perihelion (q = 1.61 au, 9.8-yr period, V ~ 19-20, discovered in 2012, yet to be recovered)
May 30	- 179P/Jedicke at perihelion (q = 4.12 au, 14.5-yr period, V ~ 18, discovered in 1993, observed at return in 2007 and current return, though currently at very small solar elongations in May)
May 30	- 9P orbit plane crossing
May 30	- New Moon

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS)

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

Orbit (email communication from Syuichi Nakano)

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) computed on 2022 Apr. 14 Epoch 2022 Dec. 7.0 TT = JDT 2459920.5 T 2022 Dec. 19.68261 TT Nakano (2000.0)Р 1.7969235 0 q Peri. 236.19839 -0.0004644 +0.01818656 +0.04922961 Ζ +/-0.000003 Node 88.23554 -0.18092724 +0.98246013 е 1.0008344 Incl. 87.56305 -0.98332832 -0.17985700 From 7550 observations 2013 May 12-2022 Apr. 12, mean residual 0".46. (1/a) org. = +0.000037, (1/a) fut. = +0.001130 (+/-0.000000), Q= 9. The comet will pass 2.66 AU from Jupiter on 2024 Oct. 15 UT. Due to this approach, the semi-major axis will decline to 885 AU (P=26000 years).

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

C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS)									
								(d	eg)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S
2022-May-01	18 51	+11 43	3.312	2.823	110M	Aql	9.6	59	38
2022-May-06	18 48	+11 35	3.267	2.711	114M	Aql	9.5	60	38
2022-May-11	18 45	+11 24	3.222	2.602	119M	Oph	9.4	61	39
2022-May-16	18 40	+11 08	3.177	2.497	124M	Oph	9.2	61	39
2022-May-21	18 35	+10 45	3.132	2.397	128M	Oph	9.1	61	39
2022-May-26	18 30	+10 16	3.087	2.301	133M	Oph	9.0	60	40
2022-May-31	18 23	+09 38	3.042	2.212	138M	Oph	8.9	60	40
2022-Jun-05	18 15	+08 51	2.998	2.130	142M	Oph	8.8	59	41

Comet Magnitude Formula (from ALPO and COBS data)

m1 = $2.7 + 5 \log d + 7.6 \log r$ [to T-425 days, where T = date of perihelion] m1 = $5.3 + 5 \log r + 3.9 \log r$ [T-425 days and onwards]



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 18-19th magnitude and 16.1 au from the Sun. Pre-discovery observations have been found back to May of 2013 when the comet was 23.7 au from the Sun which is further than the distance of Uranus. A peer-reviewed study has found evidence of dust

production starting even further out at a distance of 35 au from the Sun [David Jewitt et al 2021, Astronomical Journal 161 188, <u>https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-3881/abe4cf</u>].

The comet's rate of brightening was steady from mid-2017 through the later months of 2021 at $2.5n \sim 7.6$. Since late 2021, PANSTARRS has brightened at a much slower rate of $2.5n \sim 4$. To put that in perspective, a 2.5n = 5 value signifies steady state production, i.e., the comet's production of dust and gas is constant. A 2.5n value less than 5 suggests a production rate that is decreasing with time. If you are asking how the comet can continue to appear brighter as seen by us on Earth, the decrease in distance between the comet and the Sun and the comet and Earth is more than compensating for the decrease in production. Considering that C/2017 K2 has been followed for nearly a decade now, the occasional period of steady state or negative production is not uncommon. Hopefully C/2017 K2 will see an increase in production resulting in more rapid brightening.

This April, 6 magnitude estimates were submitted to the ALPO by J. J. Gonzalez, Christian Harder, Carl Hergenrother, and Raymond Ramlow. We have also been using observations submitted to the COBS site by Thomas Lehmann for our analysis. Near the end of April, visual observers (Gonzalez, Harder and Hergenrother) found magnitudes between 10.0 to 10.3 with a small 2-3' coma and no tail. After correcting for aperture effects, the visual magnitudes are closer to magnitude 9.4 to 9.9). Digital observations (Lehmann and Ramlow) found a slightly larger coma at 2.6' to 3.6' and 5-6' tail in April.

C/2017 K2 will be with us for quite some time as perihelion does not occur until 2022 December 19 at 1.80 au. Its current slow brightening rate of $2.5n \sim 4$ results in a comet that may only peak around 8.2 in July, fade to 8.5 in October as it moves away from the Earth, and peak again around 8.1 next January. Hopefully this is a worst-case prediction and the comet becomes brighter.

For May, a brightening from magnitude 9.6 to 8.9 is expected. It is still well placed for observations from both hemispheres in the morning sky in Aquila (May 1-10) and Ophiuchus (10-31). The comet's southerly motion will result in it being lost to northern hemisphere observers by the end of September or early October of this year. Northerners will once again be able to see K2 from their backyards during the 2nd half of 2023 though it should be a faint visual object by then. Southern hemisphere observers will have an uninterrupted view through the middle of 2024.



Figure 1 - Orbit diagram for C/2017 K2 (PANSTARRS) for 2022 May 15 from the JPL Small Body Browser.

Discovered 2019 June 10 by the ATLAS survey with one of their 0.5-m f/2 Schmidt

Orbit (from Minor Planet Center, MPEC 2022-H30)

C/2019 L3 (ATL	AS)			
Epoch 2022 Jan. 21	.0 TT =	JDT 2459600.5	5	
T 2022 Jan. 9.624	58 TT			Rudenko
q 3.5544778		(2000.0)	P	Q
z -0.0004422	Peri.	171.61176	-0.26052949	-0.66630351
+/-0.000003	Node	290.78993	+0.83676494	+0.20516556
e 1.0015717	Incl.	48.36123	+0.48161066	-0.71690078
From 5083 observat	ions 20	19 June 10-202	22 Apr. 22, mean	residual 0".4
1/a(orig) = +0.000	113 ATT*	*-1, 1/a(fut)	= -0.000870 AU*	*-1

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

C/2019 L3 (ATLAS)									
								(d	.eg)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S
2022-May-01	07 03	+12 49	3.695	3.993	65E	Gem	9.5	30	29
2022-May-06	07 07	+12 12	3.708	4.070	62E	CMi	9.5	25	29
2022-May-11	07 12	+11 35	3.721	4.145	58E	CMi	9.6	21	28
2022-May-16	07 16	+10 58	3.735	4.218	55E	CMi	9.6	16	27
2022-May-21	07 21	+10 21	3.749	4.289	51E	CMi	9.7	11	26
2022-May-26	07 26	+09 44	3.763	4.357	48E	CMi	9.8	7	25
2022-May-31	07 31	+09 06	3.778	4.422	45E	CMi	9.8	2	23
2022-Jun-05	07 36	+08 27	3.794	4.484	42E	CMi	9.9	0	21

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



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	CO	MA	TAII	1	ICQ CC	DE Obs	erver Name
		(1	UT)				Т		Dia	DC	LENG	PA			
2019L3	2022	04	29.87	S	10.0	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	2.4	3			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	28.90	S	9.8	ΤK	20.3T10	77	2.5	5			ICQ XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez
2019L3	2022	04	28.86	S	10.3	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	2.2	3			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	27.86	S	10.0	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	2.6	3/			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	26.86	S	10.0	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	2.5	3/			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	25.86	S	9.8	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	2.5	3/			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	23.88	S	9.8	ΤI	53.1L	139	2.2	4/			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	23.83	S	10.6	ΤK	32.0L 5	80	0.5	6	1.6	59	ICQ XX	PIL01	Uwe Pilz
2019L3	2022	04	22.15	Ζ	9.8	AQ	10.6R 5a	a180	7.1		8.Om	29	ICQ XX	RAMaa	Raymond Ramlow
2019L3	2022	04	20.36	хM	10.5	AQ	40.0L 4	108	1.3	6	4.Om1	L32	ICQ XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2019L3	2022	04	19.85	S	10.0	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	2.5	4			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	18.85	S	10.4	ΤI	29.8L 4	108	1.5	4			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	10.84	S	9.7	ΤI	25.2L 4	92	2.5	4			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	05.41	хM	10.2	AQ	40.0L 4	59	2.3	6			ICQ XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2019L3	2022	04	04.44	хM	10.2	AQ	40.0L 4	59	3.5	6	8.7m	93	ICQ XX	WYA	Christopher Wyatt
2019L3	2022	04	03.84	S	9.7	ΤI	29.8L	92	2.6	4			ICQ XX	HAR11	Christian Harder
2019L3	2022	04	03.13	Ζ	9.6	AQ	10.6R 5a	a180	7.7		7.Om	28	ICQ XX	RAMaa	Raymond Ramlow
2019L3	2022	04	01.85	S	9.7	ΤK	20.3T10	77	2.5	6			ICQ XX	GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez

It seems like we have been talking about C/2019 L3 (ATLAS) for months now. And well, that's because we have. C/2019 L3 has been highlighted in these pages since April 2021, so for over 1 year now. It helps that it's an intrinsically bright comet with a large perihelion distance [2022 January 9 at 3.55 au]. The large perihelion distance results in slow changes in the distance to the Sun and slow changes in brightness.

Eighteen magnitude estimates and one image were submitted to the ALPO in April by Michel Deconinck, J J Gonzalez, Christian Harder, Michael Jager, Uwe Pilz, Raymond Ramlow, and Chris Wyatt. We also incorporated into our analysis a single estimate submitted by Thomas Lehmann to the COBS site.

Most visual observers found L3 to have a coma between 2-3' with digital observers finding the coma to be larger at 7-9'. A short tail, less than 10', was seen by some visual observers. Most estimates placed L3's brightness between magnitude 9.5 and 10.5 (aperture corrected to between 9.0 and 10.0).

C/2019 L3 (ATLAS) is still an evening object as it moves through Gemini (May 1-5) and Canis Minor (5-31). Starting the month around magnitude 9.5, L3 should only fade to magnitude 9.8 by the end of the month. Its lightcurve shows evidence of as seasonal lag with the comet being intrinsically brightest nearly 2 months after perihelion. This asymmetric lightcurve is helping keep L3 brighter even months after perihelion. Being located south of the Sun, it is well placed for southern hemisphere observers all month long. Its elevation in a dark sky will become lower and lower for northern hemisphere observers as the month progresses and the comet approaches solar conjunction. Northerners will lose sight of L3 in late May or early June though it will become visible once again in September.



Figure 2 – Color image of C/2019 L3 by Michael Jager on 2022 April 21.

Discovered 2021 March 9 by the Zwicky Transient Facility on Mount Palomar Dynamically new long-period comet

Orbit (email communication from Syuichi Nakano)

C/2021 E3 (ZTF)							
Epoch 2022 June 30	.0 TT =	= JDT 2459760	.5				
T 2022 June 11.911	.06 TT			Nakano			
q 1.7773798		(2000.0)	Р	Q			
z -0.0005020	Peri.	228.85024	-0.11525701	-0.43252774			
+/-0.0000005	Node	104.46849	-0.37417702	+0.85281734			
e 1.0008923	Incl.	112.55489	-0.92016704	-0.29261295			
From 887 observati	ons 202	21 Mar. 9-202	2 Apr. 16, mean r	esidual 0".39.			
(1/a)org.= +0.000013, (1/a)fut.= +0.000582 (+/-0.000001), Q= 8.							
The comet has passed 3.60 AU from Jupiter on 2021 Oct. 8 UT							
F1 '1 (1 1	·1 o ··	1.1.1.1.0		`			

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

C/2021 E3 (Z	TF)							Max (d	El eg)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S
2022-May-01	21 31	-43 50	1.857	1.562	89M	Gru	9.8	0	71
2022-May-06	21 41	-48 26	1.840	1.468	94M	Gru	9.6	0	72
2022-May-11	21 53	-53 38	1.824	1.385	98M	Ind	9.4	0	71
2022-May-16	22 09	-59 26	1.811	1.316	101M	Tuc	9.3	0	67
2022-May-21	22 31	-65 42	1.800	1.263	104M	Tuc	9.2	0	62
2022-May-26	23 07	-72 10	1.791	1.228	105M	Ind	9.1	0	56
2022-May-31	00 19	-78 08	1.784	1.214	106E	Hyi	9.0	0	49
2022-Jun-05	02 54	-81 38	1,780	1.221	105E	Hvi	9.0	0	42

Comet Magnitude Formula (from ALPO and COBS data)



The Zwicky Transient Facility discovered C/2021 E3 on 2021 March 9 at 19th magnitude. Closest approach to Earth occurs on 2022 May 31 at 1.21 au followed days later by perihelion on 2022 June 11 at 1.78 au. Though a dynamically new long-period comet, it appears to have been brightening rapidly since discovery. Raymond Ramlow found E3 at magnitude of 11.3 and with a 5.5' coma in images taken on April 1. Thomas Lehmann also observed E3 and found it at magnitude 10.3 on the 10th and 16th with a 10-12' coma.

C/2021 E3 is currently only a southern hemisphere object and will become a southern circumpolar object in May. For those who can see it, C/2021 E3 should brighten to around magnitude 9.0 by the end of the month as it moves through Grus (May 1-7), Indus (7-15), Tucana (15-21), Indus again (21-27), Octans (27-30), and Hydrus (30-31). It passes through opposition from the morning into the evening near the end of May.

Discovered 2021 July 26 by Pan-STARRS with the 1.8-m Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m on Haleakala Dynamically new long-period comet

Orbit (from Minor Planet Center, MPEC 2022-C56)

C/2021 O3 (PAN	STARRS)			
Epoch 2022 Jan. 21	.0 TT =	JDT 2459600.	5	
T 2022 Apr. 21.046	33 TT			Rudenko
q 0.2873237		(2000.0)	P	Q
z -0.0004079	Peri.	299.98975	-0.56804074	-0.81247970
+/-0.0000022	Node	189.02021	+0.64621182	-0.53901783
e 1.0001172	Incl.	56.78868	-0.50964694	+0.22211824
From 686 observation	ons 2021	l July 26-202	2 Jan. 25, mean	residual 0".4.
1/a(orig) = +0.000	038 AU**	*-1, 1/a(fut)	= -0.000123 AU*	**-1.

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

C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS)									
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	Naut	Twil
2022-May-01	03 33	+23 46	0.420	0.663	17E	Tau	?.?	40N 0	403
2022-May-06	03 49	+38 39	0.531	0.608	25E	Per	?.?	8	0
2022-May-11	04 08	+53 20	0.644	0.605	37E	Cam	?.?	18	0
2022-May-16	04 40	+65 53	0.756	0.640	48E	Cam	?.?	27	0
2022-May-21	05 41	+75 25	0.864	0.698	57E	Cam	?.?	34	0
2022-May-26	07 55	+80 58	0.970	0.771	64E	Cam	?.?	41	0
2022-May-31	10 56	+80 53	1.072	0.852	69E	Cam	?.?	47	0
2022-Jun-05	12 37	+77 26	1.171	0.938	73E	Cam	?.?	51	0

Comet Magnitude Formula (based on data submitted to the COBS and the MPC)

 $m1 = 13.2 + 5 \log d + 4.7 \log r$ [through -130 days] $m1 = 11.5 + 5 \log d + 7.5 \log r$ [-130 days to perihelion, assumed, who knows after perihelion]



There was hope that C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS) would become a nice object due to its small perihelion distance of 0.29 au on April 21. There was also a fear that due to its intrinsic faintness, the small perihelion distance would result in a disintegration event. New observations from both the ground and space are suggesting that the latter is true and the comet is in the process of disintegrating.

C/2021 O3 was first seen on 2021 July 26 at 19th magnitude by the Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m Ritchey-Chretien on Haleakala. From discovery till this January, C/2021 O3 brightened at a very slow rate of less than $2.5n \sim 5$. Like mentioned above with C/2017 K2, such a slow rate is indicative of an object intrinsically fading (i.e., producing less dust and gas with time).

Last month we were hoping for a peak brightness around 7th magnitude. That is looking way too optimistic. Though the comet has been deep in the Sun's glare since early February, two space-based assets were able to observe it. First the SOHO spacecraft and its C3 imager caught the comet at the end of March around magnitude 9 which is close to its limiting magnitude. Starting on April 6, the SWAN instrument on SOHO picked up the comet as a bright and brightening object. At least that was the case till about April 12/13, after which the comet started to fade. Though still visible in SWAN images on April 23/24, it is a much fainter object than it was about 10 days before.

During April, C/2021 O3 has been located too close to the Sun for most observers. But that hasn't stopped a few dedicated comet watchers from trying and succeeding. Terry Lovejoy in Australia may have imaged the comet on April 17 and 20 (check out this post with the April 20 image: https://groups.io/g/...l/message/30608). He estimated PANSTARRS to be around magnitude 9 or fainter. Michael Olason in Tucson, Arizona, may have also imaged the comet on the evening of April 30 (see https://groups.io/g/comets-ml/message/30608). He estimated a brightness near magnitude 9. A team using the 4.3-m Lowell Discovery Telescope found a diffuse 9th magnitude cloud of debris matching the comet's expected motion but offset about 2' from the expected position. No point sources down to a limiting magnitude of 14 were detected within the remnant cloud. (see https://www.astronomerstelegram.org/?read=15358)

Additionally, Twitter posts by Worachate Boonplod, an expert in analyzing and discovering comets in SOHO and STEREO imagery, (<u>https://twitter.com/worachate</u>) show the comet in STEREO-A COR2 images taken on April 27-28. His brightness and contrast enhanced versions of the images show a stretched out, faint, elongated comet suggestive of a disintegrating comet.

So, it's probably safe to say that C/2021 O3 is in bad shape and in the process of disintegrating if not completely disintegrated already. That's doesn't mean there won't be anything to observe. A total diffuse cloud with a total magnitude of ~9 won't be easy to observe but should be within reach of imagers. In fact, if the remnant is still visible in another week or so, it will be a northern circumpolar object as it moves through Taurus (May 1-3), Perseus (3-10), Camelopardalis (11-29), Draco (29-30), and Camelopardalis again (30-31). How bright is a major unknown, and it probably isn't even worth making a prediction? We'll have a much better idea of the comet's state and brightness in a few days when it will finally be observable against a dark sky.



Cr2021 03 (PANSTARRS), 2022 Apr 30 0255-0258UT, 10x6s + 6x10s no filter, FOV 3.8x2.5 degrees 25mm f/4 ST 402ME Mike Olason, Tucson Arizona Figure 3 - Could this be C/2021 03 (PANSTARRS) in a differenced image taken by Michael Olason on 2022 April 30?

9P/Tempel

Discovered visually on 1867 April 3 by Ernst Wilhelm Leberecht Tempel of Marseille, France								
Orbit (from MPEC 2022-H30)								
<pre>9P/Tempel Epoch 2022 Jan. 21.0 TT = JDT 2459600.5 T 2022 Mar. 4.94885 TT q 1.5442334 (2000.0) P n 0.17662630 Peri. 179.34904 -0.37340944 a 3.1460513 Node 68.71403 -0.85193662 e 0.5091519 Incl. 10.46997 -0.36710950 P 5.58 From 1778 observations 2015 Nov. 11-2022 Apr. 21, mean Nongravitational parameters A1 = -0.14, A2 = -0.0</pre>	Rudenko Q +0.91208281 -0.26493361 -0.31291395 residual 0".5. 610.							
Ephemerides (produced with Seiichi Yoshida's Comets for Windows pro	ogram)							
9P/Tempel Date R.A. Decl. r d Elong Con 2022-May-01 21 37 -21 05 1.642 1.469 80M Ca 2022-May-06 21 48 -20 49 1.659 1.447 82M Ca 2022-May-11 21 59 -20 35 1.677 1.425 85M Aq	Max El (deg) st Mag 40N 40S p 12.0 10 60 p 12.0 10 62 rr 12.1 10 64							
2022-May-16 22 09 -20 23 1.696 1.402 87M Aq 2022-May-21 22 19 -20 14 1.716 1.380 90M Aq 2022-May-26 22 28 -20 07 1.736 1.358 93M Aq 2022-May-26 22 28 -20 07 1.736 1.358 93M Aq 2022-May-31 22 36 -20 04 1.758 1.336 95M Aq 2022-Jun-05 22 44 -20 06 1.781 1.314 98M Aq	r 12.1 11 65 r 12.2 11 67 r 12.2 12 68 r 12.3 13 69 r 12.3 14 70							
Comet Magnitude Formula (from Yoshida Seiichi's page) m1 = 7.5 + 5 log d + 18.0 log r(t-15) where "t" is date of perihelion, "d" is Comet-Earth distance in au, and "r" is Comet-Sun distance in au								
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 COMA TAIL ICQ CODE Observer Name UT) T Dia DC LENG PA 9 2022 04 01.77 Z 13.9 AQ 10.6R 5a300 2.1 2.7m259 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow								

William Tempel of Marseilles, France discovered 12 comets visually between 1859 and 1877. 9P/Tempel was his 6th discovery and one of four periodic comets including 10P/Tempel, 11P/Tempel-Swift-LINEAR, and 55P/Tempel-Tuttle. 9P/Tempel is best known as the target of two spacecraft missions, Deep Impact and Stardust. Thanks to the two missions, we have accurate measurements of its nucleus which is rather large for a short-period comet with dimensions of 7.6 x 4.9 km ($4.7 \times 3.0 \text{ miles}$).

Raymond Ramlow observed 9P on April 1.77 UT with an iTelescopes.net FSQ 106 refractor. He found the comet at magnitude 13.9 with a 2.1' coma and 2.7' long tail. Thomas Lehmann (observation submitted to COBS) found 9P at magnitude 13.0 on April 10.14 UT with a 4.4' coma and 12' long tail. These measurements are about one to two magnitudes fainter than the prediction published by Seiichi Yoshida based on 9P's previous returns. No visual observations have been submitted to the ALPO or COBS. Perhaps the comet is visually brighter than the above prediction suggests.

This month, Tempel will be moving through the morning constellations of Capricornus (May 1-10) and Aquarius (10-31). Though observable from both hemispheres it is much better placed for the southern hemisphere as it slowly fades from its current 12-13th magnitude. Imagers are asked to be on the lookout for any sign of a dust trail around the time of orbit plane crossing on May 30.

Discovered 1904 December 28 by the Alphonse Borrelly

Orbit (from Minor Planet Center, MPEC 2022-H30)

	19P/Borrelly				
Ер	och 2022 Jan. 2	21.0 TT =	JDT 2459600.	. 5	
Т	2022 Feb. 1.824	21 TT			Rudenko
q	1.3062768		(2000.0)	Р	Q
n	0.14399732	Peri.	351.91640	+0.38680830	-0.79276252
а	3.6049543	Node	74.24715	+0.87108298	+0.14646202
е	0.6376440	Incl.	29.30463	+0.30264466	+0.59167260
Ρ	6.84				
Fr	om 2121 observa	ations 20	15 Jan. 11-20)22 Apr. 20, mean	residual 0".6.
	Nongravitati	onal par	ameters Al =	+0.24, A2 = -0.0	754.

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

19P/Borrelly								Max (d	El eq)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40s
2022-May-01	06 17	+42 43	1.659	2.007	55Ē	Aur	11.1	37	0
2022-May-06	06 36	+42 59	1.692	2.065	54E	Aur	11.4	36	0
2022-May-11	06 55	+43 04	1.727	2.124	53E	Aur	11.6	35	0
2022-May-16	07 13	+43 00	1.762	2.184	52E	Aur	11.8	33	0
2022-May-21	07 31	+42 46	1.798	2.245	51E	Lyn	12.1	32	0
2022-May-26	07 49	+42 24	1.834	2.307	50E	Lyn	12.3	30	0
2022-May-31	08 06	+41 54	1.870	2.370	49E	Lyn	12.5	28	0
2022-Jun-05	08 22	+41 18	1.907	2.433	47E	Lyn	12.7	26	1

Comet Magnitude Formula & Lightcurve (from ALPO and COBS photometry)

 $m1 = 5.9 + 5 \log d + 19.4 \log r(t - 16)$





Though still well observed, 19P/Borrelly should be fading fast from magnitude 11.1 to 12.5 as it moves through Auriga (May 1-20) and Lynx (20-31) in the evening sky for northern observers. Unfortunately, it is no longer observable from the southern hemisphere. The next two returns in 2028 and 2035 will be better than the current one. The current return saw a close approach distance to Earth of 1.18 au while 2028 will see an approach to 0.41 au and 0.62 au in 2035.

22P/Kopff



22P/Kopff was at perihelion on 2022 March 18 at 1.55 au. Closest approach to Earth won't be until 2022 September 14 at 1.39 au though it will be a more distant 2.30 au from Sun at that time.

Raymond Ramlow was able to image Kopff on April 1 at 12.2 with a 4.2' coma. Michael Lehmann submitted observations to the COBS site from April 2, 10, and 17. He found Kopff between magnitude 11.2 and 11.5 with a 5' to 8' coma. Like the aforementioned 9P/Tempel, these measurements are fainter than the prediction published by Seiichi Yoshida based on Kopff's previous returns.

Kopff should fade by ~0.5 magnitudes this month. It will be observable in the morning sky in Aquarius (May 1-21) and Pisces (21-31) from both hemispheres though more difficult from the northern hemisphere.

Discovered visually on 1948 December 3 by Minoru Honda, on December 6 by Ľudmila Pajdušáková, and December 7 by Antonín Mrkos

Orbit (from MPC 103849)

45E	/Honda-Mrkos-	Pajdusako	va	_	
Epc	och 2022 Apr.	11.0 TT =	JDT 2459680	.5	
Т 2	2022 Apr. 25.5	4709 TT			MPCW
q	0.5571806		(2000.0)	P	Q
n	0.18478014	Peri.	327.90889	+0.56328381	-0.82282410
а	3.0528058	Node	87.70313	+0.77311929	+0.49269923
е	0.8174857	Incl.	4.32261	+0.29154400	+0.28321013
Ρ	5.33				
Fro	om 1163 observ	ations 20	16 Nov. 6-20	17 Mar. 8, mean :	residual 0".7.
	Nongravitat	ional par	ameters Al =	-1.29, A2 = -0 .	6735.

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

45P/Honda-Mr	kos-Paj	dusakova					Max	El	
								(d	eg)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S
2022-May-01	03 18	+17 50	0.568	1.518	11E	Ari	9.3	0	0
2022-May-06	03 53	+20 16	0.597	1.505	15E	Tau	9.6	0	0
2022-May-11	04 29	+22 13	0.640	1.501	19E	Tau	10.0	0	0
2022-May-16	05 05	+23 38	0.694	1.508	22E	Tau	10.4	0	0
2022-May-21	05 39	+24 31	0.755	1.525	25E	Tau	10.8	2	0
2022-May-26	06 12	+24 54	0.820	1.553	28E	Gem	11.2	4	2
2022-May-31	06 44	+24 51	0.889	1.592	30E	Gem	11.6	4	4
2022-Jun-05	07 13	+24 25	0.958	1.639	32E	Gem	12.0	5	6

Comet Magnitude Formula (from Yoshida Seiichi's page)

 $m1 = 5.3 + 5 \log d + 21.0 \log r$





45P/Honda-Mrkos-Pajdušáková arrived at perihelion on April 25 at 0.56 au. Though it was located very close to the Sun at perihelion, the SOHO spacecraft was able to spot the comet. Surprisingly it appeared 1-2 magnitude brighter than its expected brightness of 9th magnitude. 45P will become visible to ground-based observers in mid to late May from both hemispheres at ~11-12th magnitude (or perhaps brighter if it continues to run 1-2 magnitude ahead of the prediction). It will spend May moving through Aries (May 1-2), Taurus (2-24), and Gemini (24-31) in the evening sky.

45P/H-M-P was discovered visually by three observers in December 1948. Minoru Honda of Okayama, Japan was first to spot the comet on December 3. A few nights later on December 6, L'udmila Pajdušáková of Skalnate Pleso Observatory in Slovakia found the comet with 25x100 binoculars. Due to an encroaching dawn, she didn't have time to confirm if the object was really a comet and not the nearby galaxy M83. The following morning

Antonín Mrkos, who was not aware of Pajdušáková's find, used the same 25x100 binoculars to make the third independent discovery. Honda has 12 comets to his name while Mrkos has 13 and Pajdušáková 5. Only Mrkos discovered additional short-period comets, 18D/Perrine-Mrkos, 124P/Mrkos and 143P/Kowal-Mrkos. Mrkos was also the discoverer of the great comet C/1957 P1 (Mrkos). This comet along with C/1956 R1 (Arend-Roland) provided the inspiration for the formation of the ALPO Comets Section.

An analysis of H-M-P's orbital evolution between 1900 and 2100 find little change in perihelion distance with a range of 0.53 and 0.68 au. The current return's perihelion at 0.56 au is near the smaller end of the range. Since 1959, apparitions have been alternating between 2 poor and 2 good returns. This return is in the poor category with a minimum close approach to Earth of 1.51 au meaning the comet is on the other side of the Sun at perihelion. The previous two returns were the best between 1900 and 2100 with very close approaches to Earth in 2011 at 0.06 au and 2016 at 0.08 au. 45P reached 6th magnitude during both returns.



Figure 4 - Orbital evolution of 45P/H-M-P from orbital elements at JPL Horizons.



Figure 5 – The LASCO C2 instrument on the SOHO spacecraft caught 45P/H-M-P in this 2022 April 27 image. Credit: ESA & NASA/SOHO.

Discovered 2019 October 9 by the ATLAS survey Dynamically old long-period comet

Orbit (from MPEC 2022-H30)

C/2019 T4 (ATL	AS)			
Epoch 2022 Jan. 21	.0 TT =	JDT 2459600.5		
T 2022 June 9.173	96 TT			Rudenko
q 4.2423678		(2000.0)	P	Q
z +0.0009796	Peri.	351.20645	-0.95991874	+0.05616815
+/-0.0000005	Node	199.94025	-0.18206347	-0.86982844
e 0.9958444	Incl.	53.62598	-0.21309366	+0.49014654
From 1129 observat	ions 20	19 Feb. 5-2022	Apr. 21, mean	residual 0".4.
1/a(orig) = +0.000	626 AU*	*-1, 1/a(fut)	= +0.000965 AU	**-1.

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

C/2019 T4 (ATLAS)											
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S		
2022-May-01	11 44	-14 38	4.255	3.437	139E	Crt	11.0	35	65		
2022-May-06	11 43	-13 32	4.252	3.480	134E	Crt	11.0	36	64		
2022-May-11	11 44	-12 30	4.249	3.528	130E	Crt	11.0	37	63		
2022-May-16	11 44	-11 30	4.247	3.581	125E	Crt	11.1	37	62		
2022-May-21	11 45	-10 33	4.245	3.639	120E	Crt	11.1	37	61		
2022-May-26	11 46	-09 40	4.244	3.702	115E	Crt	11.1	35	60		
2022-May-31	11 48	-08 51	4.243	3.768	111E	Crt	11.2	34	59		
2022-Jun-05	11 50	-08 05	4.243	3.838	106E	Crt	11.2	31	58		

Comet Magnitude Formula (from ALPO and COBS data)

2022 04 05.45 xM 11.6 AQ 40.0L 4 59

2019T4 2022 04 04.48 xM 11.9 AQ 40.0L 4 59

2019T4 2022 04 01.91 S 10.8 TK 20.3T10 100

m1	=	1.3	+	5	log	d	+	12.3	log	r	[Through ·	-60	day	s fro	om perihelio	n]
m1	=	2.0	+	5	log	d	+	10.0	log	r	[Since -6) da	ays	from	perihelion,	assumed]



C/2019 T4 (ATLAS) was discovered on 2019 October 6 at 19th magnitude with the "Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System" 0.5-m reflector at Haleakala. At discovery, T4 ATLAS was 8.6 au from the Sun. Perihelion is in a few months on 2022 June 9 at a still distant 4.24 au. The comet is a dynamically old longperiod comet last at perihelion ~64,000 years ago.

1.2

1.3

4

6

6

3

ICQ XX WYA

Christopher Wyatt

ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez

ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt

2019T4

A number of visual observations were made in April finding C/2019 T4 between magnitude 10.6 and 12.3 though most estimates were between 11.0 and 12.0. The majority of observations also found a coma diameter between 1' and 2'. It is interesting that the comet appears to have brightened by about 0.5 to 1.0 magnitudes in April compared to the prediction we ran last month. C/2019 T4 is visible from both hemispheres in the evening sky in the constellation Crater.



Figure 6 - Michael Jager imaged C/2019 T4 (ATLAS) and 10th magnitude galaxy NGC 3887 (lower left) on 2022 April 20, a day before the image on the cover. The galaxy on right side of the image is NGC 3836.

Discovered 2020 November 2 by the ZTF survey Dynamically new long-period comet

Orbit (email communication from Syuichi Nakano)

C/2020 V2 (ZTF)				
Epoch 2023 May 16.	0 TT =	JDT 2460080.5	5	
T 2023 May 8.55257	TT T			Nakano
q 2.2277816		(2000.0)	P	Q
z -0.0005357	Peri.	162.42872	+0.69784708	+0.59394119
+/-0.000013	Node	212.37163	+0.53387710	-0.05876170
e 1.0011934	Incl.	131.61185	+0.47747743	-0.80235960
From 1810 observat	ions 20	20 Apr. 18-20)22 Apr. 16, mean	residual 0".37.
(1/a) org. = +0.0000)09, (1/	a) fut.= -0.00	00226 (+/-0.00000)	1), Q= 8.
The comet will pas	s 2.64	AU from Jupit	er on 2023 July 2	12 UT.

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

C/2020 V2 (Z	TF)							Max (d	El eg)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S
2022-May-01	10 28	+61 04	4.523	4.407	90E	UMa	12.8	68	0
2022-May-06	10 21	+60 44	4.482	4.435	86E	UMa	12.7	66	0
2022-May-11	10 14	+60 21	4.442	4.463	82E	UMa	12.7	64	0
2022-May-16	10 09	+59 55	4.401	4.491	78E	UMa	12.7	61	0
2022-May-21	10 04	+59 27	4.360	4.518	74E	UMa	12.7	57	0
2022-May-26	10 00	+58 58	4.319	4.543	70E	UMa	12.7	53	0
2022-May-31	09 57	+58 28	4.279	4.567	67E	UMa	12.6	50	0
2022-Jun-05	09 55	+57 57	4.238	4.587	63E	UMa	12.6	46	0

Comet Magnitude Formula (from ALPO and COBS data)

m1 = $1.3 + 5 \log d + 12.4 \log r$ [through -400 days] m1 = $4.3 + 5 \log d + 8.0 \log r$ [-400 days and onward, assumed]



The Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) used the 1.2-m Schmidt on Mount Palomar to discover C/2020 V2 (ZTF) on 2020 November 2 at 19th magnitude. At discovery, the comet was approximately 2.5 years from perihelion and over 8 au from the Sun. The comet is still a year from its 2023 May 8 perihelion at 2.23 au. Christian Harder, Uwe Pilz, and Raymond Ramlow observed C/2020 V2 on 10 separate nights in April. They reported the

comet between magnitude 13.3 and 14.1 (aperture corrected to 12.8 to 13.4). Since the comet is still over 4 au from the Sun, its coma is still small at 0.5' to 1.2'.

C/2020 V2 is currently in Ursa Major and only visible to northern observers. V2 should continue to slowly brighten at 12^{th} magnitude. Assuming a 2.5n = 8 brightening rate, V2 may reach magnitude 9 in January-February 2023 when it will still be a northern circumpolar object and again in September 2023 when it will be visible from both hemispheres. We may be hearing about this comet for many months and years to come.



C/2021 F1 (Lemmon-PANSTARRS) reached 8th magnitude in late March before passing too close to the Sun for observation. Discovered independently by the Catalina Sky Survey with their Mount Lemmon 1.5-m and

Pan-STARRS with their Pan-STARRS1 1.8-m on Haleakala on 2021 March 19, the comet was initially inactive and 20-21st magnitude. A quick analysis of photometry submitted to the Minor Planet Center at that time finds an absolute magnitude of 14.6 and diameter of 8 km assuming an albedo of 0.04. It is a dynamically old long-period comet with an original semi-major axis of ~200 au and orbital period of ~2800 years.

Due to its low solar elongation, it is not surprising that no observations of C/2021 F1 were reported to the ALPO or COBS in April. Though still not visible to northern observers in May, southern observers should be able to observe F1 during the 2nd half of the month as it moves through the morning constellations of Aries (May 1-5), Cetus (5-30), and Eridanus (30-31). Now a month past its 2022 April 6 perihelion at 1.00 au, the comet may already be fading fast by then and no brighter than 10-11th magnitude.

C/2021 P4 (ATLAS)

Discovered 2021 August 10 by the ATLAS survey Dynamically old long-period comet

Orbit (from MPEC 2022-H30)

C/2021 P4 (ATLAS) Epoch 2022 Jan. 21.0 TT = JDT 2459600.5 T 2022 July 30.37835 TT Rudenko 1.0804764 (2000.0)Ρ Q a +0.0031939 Peri. 175.82255 -0.18540209 z -0.96755546 +/-0.0000017 348.09490 +0.20093071 -0.15276505 Node 0.9965491 -0.97071567 Incl. 56.31076 +0.15317731 е From 647 observations 2021 Aug. 10-2022 Apr. 20, mean residual 0".6. 1/a(orig) = +0.003532 AU**-1, 1/a(fut) = +0.003270 AU**-1.

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

C/2021 P4 (A	TLAS)							Max	El
								(d	eg)
Date	R.A.	Decl.	r	d	Elong	Const	Mag	40N	40S
2022-May-01	03 29	+59 23	1.779	2.329	45E	Cam	12.0	23	0
2022-May-06	03 56	+59 24	1.722	2.287	44E	Cam	11.8	23	0
2022-May-11	04 24	+59 09	1.666	2.245	43E	Cam	11.5	23	0
2022-May-16	04 52	+58 36	1.611	2.205	42E	Cam	11.3	23	0
2022-May-21	05 21	+57 42	1.556	2.167	41E	Cam	11.0	22	0
2022-May-26	05 49	+56 27	1.503	2.132	39E	Cam	10.8	22	0
2022-May-31	06 17	+54 49	1.451	2.099	38E	Lyn	10.6	21	0
2022-Jun-05	06 43	+52 49	1.401	2.068	37E	Lyn	10.3	20	0

Comet Magnitude Formula (from ALPO and COBS data)

 $m1 = 6.7 + 5 \log d + 13.9 \log r$



Recent Magnitude Measurements Contributed to the ALPO Comets Section

Recent Mag	nitude Measurem	ents in ICQ format:				
Comet Des	YYYY MM DD.DD	Mag SC APER FL POW	COMA	TAIL ICÇ) CODE	Observer Name
	(UT)	Т	Dia DC	LENG PA		
2021P4	2022 04 28.89	S 12.1 TI 29.8L 4 108	2.4 3	ICÇ) XX HAR11	Christian Harder
2021P4	2022 04 28.88	S 10.5 TK 20.3T10 100	4 3	ICÇ) XX GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez
2021P4	2022 04 19.89	S 13.8:TI 29.8L 4 132	0.4 4	ICÇ) XX HAR11	Christian Harder

The "Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System" (ATLAS) search program found this 19th magnitude comet on 2021 August 10 with their 0.5-m f/2 Schmidt on Haleakala, Hawaii. Perihelion occurs on 2022 July 30 at 1.08 au, though unfortunately, the comet will be located on the other side of the Sun at a geocentric range of ~2 au and low solar elongation. Too bad perihelion wasn't in early March when a close approach to within 0.1 au of Earth would have occurred resulting in a 4-5th magnitude comet racing through opposition.

J. J. Gonzalez and Christian Harder both visually observed C/2021 P4 on April 28. Christian estimated a magnitude of 12.1 while J. J. found the comet at 10.5. Other visual observations submitted to COBS suggest it is closer to 12th rather than 10th magnitude. This month, the comet should continue to brighten up to ~10.5 as it moves through Camelopardalis (May 1-27), Auriga (27-30), and Lynx (30-31) in the northern sky.

New Discoveries, Recoveries and Other Comets News

New Periodic Comet Numberings

441P/2017 R1 = P/2022 B2 (PANSTARRS) [MPC 138400, WGSBN Bull. 2 #5]

New Comet Discoveries

P/2022 G1 = P/2011 Q3 (McNaught) - Hidetaka Sato of Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, recovered P/2011 Q3 (McNaught) on 2022 April 5, 10, and 11 at 20th magnitude with an iTelescopes 0.51-m f/6.8 at Siding Spring, Australia. Perihelion is expected on 2022 August 19 at 2.32 au when the comet should be near opposition at around 17th magnitude. P/McNaught was discovered on 2011 August 29 at 18th magnitude. It peaked during that apparition at 17th magnitude. [MPEC 2022- H01, CBET 5115]

C/2022 F2 (*NEOWISE*) – The Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) spacecraft discovered C/2022 F2 on 2022 March 30 at 16-17th magnitude. The comet was only a week passed perihelion at discovery (T = 2022 March 24 @ 1.60 au). It should have brightened a few tenths of a magnitude to around magnitude 16.5 when closest to Earth in mid-April at 1.15 au. [MPEC 2022-G83, CBET 5113]

C/2022 F1 (ATLAS) – The "Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System" (ATLAS) program first observed this comet on 2022 March 30 with their new 0.5-m f/2 Wright-Schmidt reflector at Rio Hurtado in Chile. C/2022 F1 is a high-q comet with perihelion on 2022 September 4 at 5.95 au. Due to the large q, the comet is already as bright as it will get at 18th magnitude. With a declination in the -80s, telescopes will need to be located in the southern hemisphere to observe this ATLAS comet. [MPEC 2022-G82, CBET 5112]

P/2022 E1 = P/2005 N11 = P/2015 PO210 (PANSTARRS-Christensen) – This comet was announced as P/2022 E1 (Christensen) on 2022 March 11. Syuichi Nakano found pre-discovery observations from the most prior return in 2005 and 2006. A request to the Pan-STARRS team to search for pre-discovery observations within their data found that they had discovered the object back in 2015 when it was assumed to be asteroidal and was designated 2015 PO210. The recognition of the 2015 discovery resulted in adding 'PANSTARRS' to the official name of this comet. [MPEC 2022-H49, CBET 5117]

P/2020 WJ5 (Lemmon) – The Catalina Sky Survey discovered this comet at 20th magnitude back on 2020 November 18. Though numerous reports of cometary activity were reported in the weeks and months following discovery, the object was only recently announced as a comet. It is a low-eccentricity object (0.17) with a perihelion at 5.02 au back on 2021 July 3. Its orbital period is 14.8 years. Though its distance to the Sun has not

changed by much since discovery, the object has rapidly brightened and is currently around 18th magnitude. [CBET 5118, MPEC 2022-H121]

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!

Clear skies! - Carl Hergenrother

Recent Magnitudes Contributed to the ALPO Comets Section

Comet Des	YYYY MM DD.DD	Mag SC	APER FL POW	COMA Dia DC	TAIL LENG PA	ICQ CODE	Observer Name	
C/2021 P4	(ATLAS)		Ŧ	DIG DC				
2021P4	2022 04 28.89	S 12.1 TI	29.8L 4 108	2.4 3		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2021P4	2022 04 28.88	S 10.5 TK	20.3T10 100	4 3		ICQ XX GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Su	uarez
2021P4	2022 04 19.89	S 13.8:TI	29.8L 4 132	0.4 4		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
C/2021 03	(PANSTARRS)	WT [7 6 AO	25 01 5 74			TCO VY MVA	Christophor Wystt	
C/202103	2022 04 19.30 (ZTF)	XI[/.0 AQ	23.01 3 /4			ICQ AA WIA	christopher wyatt	
2021E3	2022 04 01.78	Z 11.3 AO	10.6R 5a180	5.5		ICO XX RAMaa	Ravmond Ramlow	
C/2021 A1	(Leonard)	~				~	-	
2021A1	2022 04 01.78	Z 12.4 AQ	10.6R 5a180	4.5	35.0m123	ICQ XX RAMaa	Raymond Ramlow	
C/2020 Y2	(ATLAS)							
2020Y2	2022 04 20.37	xS 15.0 AQ	40.0L 4 182	0.5 3		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
202012	2022 04 03.44	XM 14.4 AQ XM 14 6 AO	40.0L 4 201 40 OT 4 182	0.8 5/		ICQ XX WIA	Christopher Wyatt	
C/2020 V2	(ZTF)	AN1 14.0 Mg	40.01 4 102	0.7 37		ICQ AA WIN	chiliscopher wyate	
2020V2	2022 04 29.89	S 13.8 TI	29.8L 4 132	0.5 4	0.8m110	ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 28.90	S 13.7 TI	29.8L 4 108	0.75 4	1.0m120	ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 27.89	S 13.7 TI	29.8L 4 132	0.6 4		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 26.89	S 13.6 TI	29.8L 4 132	0.55 4		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 25.90	S 13.7 TI	29.8L 4 132	0.8 4	0 5 110	ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 23.91	S 14.1 TI	53.1L 155	0.45 4	0.5m110	ICQ XX HARII	Christian Harder	
202072	2022 04 23.83	S 13.0 ПЗ S 13.3 ПТ	29 8T. 4 132	1.2 4		TCO XX HAR11	Owe FIIZ Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 19.90	S 13.5 TI	29.8L 4 132	0.6 4	1.0m100	ICO XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 03.85	S 13.5 TI	29.8L 132	0.55 5		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2020V2	2022 04 02.46	Z 13.7 AQ	10.6R 5a180	1.2	1.0m150	ICQ XX RAMaa	Raymond Ramlow	
C/2020 M5	(ATLAS)							
2020M5	2022 04 05.44	xM 15.1 AQ	40.0L 4 261	0.5 4		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
2020M5	2022 04 04.50	xM 15.2 AQ	40.0L 4 261	0.5 4/		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
2020K1	(PANSTARRS) 2022 04 02 47	7 15 1.70	10 60 5a300	0 6		TCO VY DAMaa	Paymond Ramlow	
C/2020 J1	(SONEAR)	2 1 3.1. AQ	10.01 34300	0.0		ICQ AA INAMAA	Kaymonia Kamiow	
2020J1	2022 04 05.45	xS 14.9 AQ	40.0L 4 182	0.5 3		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
С/2019 Т4	(ATLAS)							
2019T4	2022 04 29.88	S 12.0 TI	29.8L 4 132	1.2 3/		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
201974	2022 04 28.92	S 10.6 TK	20.3T10 77	4 3		ICQ XX GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Si	uarez
2019'I'4 2019T4	2022 04 28.88	S 11.9 TI	29.8L 4 108	1.8 3/		ICQ XX HARII	Christian Harder	
201914 2019T4	2022 04 27.88	S 11 0.TT	29.8L 4 132	1 7 3/		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
201911 2019T4	2022 04 23.87	S 11.9 TI	53.1L 155	1.8 4		ICO XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019T4	2022 04 23.84	S 12.3 HS	32.0L 5 144	1 2		ICQ XX PIL01	Uwe Pilz	
2019T4	2022 04 20.37	xM 11.6 AQ	40.0L 4 59	1.2 6		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
2019T4	2022 04 19.88	S 11.7 TI	29.8L 4 132	1.3 4		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
201974	2022 04 18.84	S 11.6 TI	29.8L 4 132	1 3/		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019T4 2019T4	2022 04 05.45	XM 11.6 AQ	40.0L 4 59	1.2 6		ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
201914 2019T4	2022 04 04.48	S 10 8 TK	20.3T10 100	4 3		ICO XX GONOS	Juan Jose Gonzalez Si	uarez
C/2019 L3	(ATLAS)	5 10.0 11	20.0110 100	- 0		100 111 00100		44102
2019L3	2022 04 29.87	S 10.0 TI	29.8L 4 108	2.4 3		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2022 04 28.90	S 9.8 TK	20.3T10 77	2.5 5		ICQ XX GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Su	uarez
2019L3	2022 04 28.86	S 10.3 TI	29.8L 4 108	2.2 3		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2022 04 27.86	S 10.0 TI	29.8L 4 108	2.6 3/		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3 201013	2022 04 26.86	S 10.0 TI	29.8L 4 108	2.5 3/		ICQ XX HARII	Christian Harder	
201913	2022 04 23.88	S 9.0 II	53 1T. 139	2.3 3/		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2022 04 23.83	S 10.6 TK	32.0L 5 80	0.5 6	1.6 59	ICO XX PILO1	Uwe Pilz	
2019L3	2022 04 22.15	Z 9.8 AQ	10.6R 5a180	7.1	8.0m 29	ICQ XX RAMaa	Raymond Ramlow	
2019L3	2022 04 20.36	xM 10.5 AQ	40.0L 4 108	1.3 6	4.0m132	ICQ XX WYA	Christopher Wyatt	
2019L3	2022 04 19.85	S 10.0 TI	29.8L 4 108	2.5 4		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2022 04 18.85	S 10.4 TI	29.8L 4 108	1.5 4		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
∠UL9L3 2010⊺ 2	2022 04 10.84	S 9./ TI	23.25 4 92 40 01 4 50	2.5 4		TCO XX MARII	Christopher Wystt	
2019L3 2019L3	2022 04 03.41	xM 10.2 AQ	40.0T 4 59	2.5 0 3.5 6	8.7m 93	TCO XX WYA CI	ristopher Wyatt	
2019L3	2022 04 03.84	S 9.7 TI	29.8L 92	2.6 4		ICQ XX HAR11	Christian Harder	
2019L3	2022 04 03.13	Z 9.6 AQ	10.6R 5a180	7.7	7.0m 28	ICQ XX RAMaa	Raymond Ramlow	
2019L3	2022 04 01.85	S 9.7 TK	20.3T10 77	2.5 6		ICQ XX GON05	Juan Jose Gonzalez Su	uarez
C/2017 K2	(PANSTARRS)							

2017K2 2022 04 30.48 S 10.0 TK 12.5B 30 2.0 4 ICQ xx HER02 Carl Hergenrother
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 ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 2017K220220424.05S10.3TI53.1L1392017K220220423.02S10.3TI29.8L4108 2 4 2 3/ ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 2017K2 2022 04 08.48 S 10.5:TK 12.5B 30 1.5 3 ICQ xx HER02 Carl Hergenrother 2017K2 2022 04 02.48 Z 11.1 AQ 10.6R 5a180 2.6 5.5m343 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow 116P/Wild 2022 04 23.90 S 13.5:TI 53.1L 215 0.8 3 ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 116 1.4 3/ 116 2022 04 20.39 xS 13.6 AQ 40.0L 4 108 ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt 1.4 4 ICQ XX WYA 116 2022 04 05.43 xM 14.0 AQ 40.0L 4 182 Christopher Wyatt 104P/Kowal 104 2022 04 22.15 Z 12.5 AQ 10.6R 5a300 4.6 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow 1.4 2/ 1.5 2/ 104 2022 04 05.42 xS 12.6 AQ 40.0L 4 108 ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt 104 2022 04 04.45 xS 12.9 AQ 40.0L 4 182 ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt 2022 04 03.12 Z 11.1 AO 10.6R 5a180 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow 104 6.6 4 2 104 2022 04 01.84 S 10.5 TK 20.3T10 100 ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann 73 2022 04 22.17 Z 16.6 AQ 10.6R 5a540 0.8 0.5m123 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow 2022 04 03.14 Z 16.9 AQ 10.6R 5a540 0.7 73 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow 67P/Churvumov-Gerasimenko 1.1 2/ 1 3 67 2022 04 05.42 xS 13.7 AQ 40.0L 4 182 ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt 2022 04 04.45 xM 13.5 AQ 40.0L 4 108 ICQ XX WYA Christopher Wyatt 67 3.2 15.5m284 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow 67 2022 04 03.13 Z 13.3 AQ 10.6R 5a300 67 2022 04 01.87 S 11.5 TK 20.3T10 100 2 3 ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez 29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann 29 2022 04 01.89 S 11.2 TK 20.3T10 100 5 1 ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez 22P/Kopff 22 2022 04 01.79 Z 12.2:AQ 10.6R 5a180 4.2 ICQ XX RAMaa Raymond Ramlow 19P/Borrelly 19 2022 04 28.91 S 10.3 TK 20.3T10 77 3.5 4 ICQ XX GON05 Juan Jose Gonzalez Suarez 2022 04 28.90 S 11.1 TI 29.8L 4 108 2022 04 27.87 S 11.1 TI 29.8L 4 108 2.9 2 1.8 2 ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 19 19 2022 04 26.87 S 11.0:TI 29.8L 4 108 2 2 ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 19 ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 2 2 2 2 2.5 2 2022 04 25.91 S 11.4 TI 29.8L 4 108 19 2022 04 23.89 S 10.6 TI 53.1L 139 19 ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 2022 04 19.87 S 10.8 TI 29.8L 4 92 ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder 19 19 2022 04 10.84 S 10.6 TI 25.2L 4 92 1.5 2/ ICQ XX HAR11 Christian Harder

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