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SUPERNOVA 2005ea IN MCG +10-16-61

D. Lane and P. Gray, Stillwater Lake, NS, Canada, report their discovery of an apparent supernova (mag ~ 17.0) on an unfiltered CCD image (cf. *IAUC* 8462) taken on Sept. 6.016 UT, with a confirming image showing the new object at mag ~ 16.3 on Sept. 13.015. SN 2005ea is located at $\alpha = 11^{\rm h}06^{\rm m}47^{\rm s}.89$, $\delta = +57^{\rm o}41'07''.5$ (equinox 2000.0), which is ~ 14″ west of the nucleus of the galaxy MCG +10-16-61. Nothing is visible at this location on their images taken on Apr. 22 (limiting mag ~ 17.7), June 6 (limiting mag ~ 18.5), and Aug. 18 (limiting mag ~ 17.8), and nothing is present on Digitized Sky Survey images from 1994 (limiting red mag ~ 21.0) and 1988 (limiting blue mag ~ 20.5). A. Sehgal, Osoyoos, BC, Canada, reports that 2005ea appeared at mag 17.2 and at position end figures $47^{\rm s}.89$, $07''.4$ on an unfiltered CCD image taken with a 0.50-m reflector on Sept. 13.12.

V1647 ORIONIS AND ASSOCIATED NEBULA

C. Aspin, Gemini Observatory; and B. Reipurth, University of Hawaii, report on observations made at the Gemini 8-m telescope on Mauna Kea. GMOS optical images obtained on Aug. 30 UT show that V1647 Ori (cf. *IAUC* 8354), upon its re-emergence in the morning twilight, has faded by ≈ 1 magnitude in the r' passband since Jan. 8. McNeil's nebula itself (cf. *IAUC* 8284) has also faded considerably. The duration of the outburst so far exceeds 21 months. Optical spectra still show strong Hα emission with blue-shifted absorption. Both the depth and extent of the strong absorption component are less than previously observed, suggesting that the powerful wind is weakening.

COMET 169P/NEAT

M. Jäger, Vienna, reports that his co-added CCD images of this comet (cf. *IAUC* 8578, 8591) taken on Sept. 6.11 and 7.11 UT with a 0.20-m Schmidt telescope, with the comet low in the morning sky, show a coma of diameter $2'$-$2'.5$ and (on Sept. 7.11) a faint tail ≈ $10'$ long. A. Hale, Cloudcroft, NM, reports that his visual observations on Sept. 12.48 (0.2-m reflector) and 13.47 (0.41-m reflector) show the diffuse comet at total mag 11.5 with a coma diameter of $1'.5$ and some slight condensation. Hale had previously observed the comet in early August, when it appeared as an essentially stellar object of mag ≈ 14.5–15.0.

2005 September 13 *Daniel W. E. Green*