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COMET 2006 E1

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet with a coma of diameter $\sim 6''$, extended to the northwest, on Siding Spring Survey images taken with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Mar.	11.74071	$19^h31^m31^s.33$	$-46°07'56''.2$	18.0
	11.74600	19 31 31.51	−46 07 58.2	18.0
	11.75130	19 31 31.72	−46 08 00.4	18.3
	11.75661	19 31 31.94	−46 08 02.9	18.1
	11.78456	19 31 32.97	−46 08 14.5	
	11.78789	19 31 33.09	−46 08 16.1	18.5
	11.79123	19 31 33.16	−46 08 17.1	18.7
	12.74392	19 32 08.04	−46 14 53.0	18.4
	12.75994	19 32 08.68	−46 15 00.2	17.9

RS OPHIUCHI

T. J. O'Brien, T. W. B. Muxlow, S. T. Garrington, and R. J. Davis, Jodrell Bank Observatory, University of Manchester; R. W. Porcas, Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie, Bonn; M. F. Bode, Liverpool John Moores University; S. P. S. Eyres, University of Central Lancashire; and A. Evans, Keele University, write that 6-cm radio observations made with the Very Long Baseline Array on Feb. 26 show radio emission from RS Oph in the form of a ring of diameter $\approx$ 18 mas, consistent with the size of the single circular component fitted to the MERLIN imaging reported on *IAUC* 8684. The ring appears almost circular, clumpy, significantly brighter on its eastern side, and with some evidence for a central point source. At a distance of 1600 pc, the diameter of the ring is 29 AU and, assuming that it has expanded uniformly since outburst, its expansion velocity is about 1800 km/s. O'Brien *et al.* suggest that this ring of radio emission may be identified with a shock wave expanding through the red-giant wind following the nova explosion, also resulting in the x-ray emission reported on *IAUCs* 8675, 8677, and 8683. VLBA observations are continuing.

Visual magnitude estimates, reported in part by E. Waagen, AAVSO: Feb. 17.249 UT, 6.5 (C. Labordena, Castellón, Spain); 21.847, 7.4 (A. Pearce, Nedlands, W. Australia); 26.180, 7.9 (B. Granslo, Fjellhamar, Norway); Mar. 2.163, 8.1 (C. Otten, Kinrooi, Belgium); 5.139, 8.2 (G. Mavrofridis, Nikea, Greece); 13.183, 8.9 (E. Muyllaert, Oostende, Belgium).

2006 March 13 *Daniel W. E. Green*