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COMET C/2006 K1 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet (discovery observation tabulated below) on CCD images taken with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope in the course of the Siding Spring Survey, noting the object to be diffuse and extended 10″ in p.a. 240°. Deeper images taken by McNaught on May 17.8 UT show a strongly condensed coma with a fan tail spanning $\sim$ 50°. Five stacked 1-min images taken by A. C. Gilmore with the Mt. John 0.6-m *f*/6.4 reflector on May 18.53–18.56 show a weakly condensed coma $\sim$ 10″ in diameter and a short tail suspected to the west-northwest.

2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 17.71978	22^{h}53^{m}07^s.97	−60°38′18″.1	17.6

The available astrometry, the following very preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-K13.

$$T = 2007\ \mathrm{May}\ 20.951\ \mathrm{TT} \qquad \omega = 7^\circ.358$$
$$\Omega = 48.990 \quad (2000.0)$$
$$q = 1.42581\ \mathrm{AU} \qquad i = 46.843$$

COMETS C/2006 B5, C/2006 B6, C/2006 C1–C3, C/2006 D2 (SOHO)

Additional Kreutz sungrazing comets have been found on SOHO website images (cf. *IAUC* 8694). C/2006 B5 and C/2006 C3 were described by K. Battams as tiny, stellar, and extremely faint. C/2006 B6, which was independently found by Q. Ye, was quite condensed and slightly elongated, reaching mag 4.3 on Jan. 30.638 UT at $\sim 10.8 R_\odot$. C/2006 C1 was small and stellar, reaching mag 6.4 on Feb. 8.404 at $12.4 R_\odot$. C/2006 C2 was elongated and peaked at mag $\sim$ 5.5, but good photometry was not possible due to a large data gap. C/2006 D2 was very small and faint in C3 images, and extremely faint and diffuse in C2 images.

Comet	2006 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2006 B5	Jan. 26.821	20^{h}51^m.6	−20°08′	C3	RM	2006-J50
C/2006 B6	29.821	21 12.8	−20 29	C3	KB	2006-J50
C/2006 C1	Feb. 7.988	21 46.5	−16 41	C3	RM	2006-J50
C/2006 C2	9.513	21 58.1	−16 53	C3	SF	2006-J50
C/2006 C3	10.904	21 53.8	−15 25	C3	SF	2006-J51
C/2006 D2	16.571	22 18.6	−14 08	C3/2	HS	2006-J51

2006 May 18 *Daniel W. E. Green*