Circular No. 8761

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
URL `http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html` ISSN 0081-0304
Phone 617-495-7440/7244/7444 (for emergency use only)

RS OPHIUCHI

M. F. Bode and M. J. Darnley, Liverpool John Moores University; J. P. Osborne, A. P. Beardmore, M. R. Goad, and K. L. Page, University of Leicester; T. J. O'Brien and R. J. Davis, University of Manchester; A. Evans, Keele University; S. P. S. Eyres, University of Central Lancashire; S. Starrfield and J.-U. Ness, Arizona State University; G. Schwarz, West Chester University; J. Drake, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory; G. K. Skinner, Centre d'Etudes Spatiale des Rayonnements, Toulouse; N. Gehrels, Goddard Space Flight Center; and J. Krautter, University of Heidelberg, report that observations of the latest outburst of the recurrent nova RS Oph with the 2-m Liverpool Robotic Telescope on La Palma, Canary Islands, indicate a brightening that might be associated with the re-establishment of large-scale accretion from the red giant to the white dwarf in this system. Representative photometry of more fully sampled data is as follows: Sept. 8.92 UT (day 208 from outburst; cf. *IAUC* 8671), $B = 13.61 \pm 0.04$, $V = 12.16 \pm 0.02$, $r' = 10.83 \pm 0.01$, $i' = 10.06 \pm 0.02$, $z' = 9.50 \pm 0.02$; Sept. 19.89 (minor secondary peak in V, r', i', and z'; day 219), $B = 13.19 \pm 0.03$, $V = 11.43 \pm 0.02$, $r' = 10.19 \pm 0.02$, $i' = 9.53 \pm 0.01$, $z' = 9.11 \pm 0.02$; Oct. 11.88 (day 241, latest data), $B = 13.07 \pm 0.01$, $V = 11.49 \pm 0.01$, $r' = 10.27 \pm 0.01$, $i' = 9.60 \pm 0.02$, $z' = 9.13 \pm 0.02$. In addition, Swift continues to monitor the source (*IAUC* 8675, 8677; `http://xxx.lanl.gov/abs/astro-ph/?0604618`; `http://www.astronomerstelegram.org/?read=838`, and references therein). In observations taken roughly once every two weeks from days 112 to 190, the XRT 0.3- to 10-keV count rate decayed as a power law with index -3. However, observations on days 201 and 217 showed no flux decline, while the two most recent observations, on days 238 and 244, showed a decline with the same index. The XRT count rate at the flux standstill was 0.06 counts/s, corresponding to a luminosity of around 1.4×10^{33} erg/s. Both Swift and Liverpool Telescope observations are continuing. Complementary observations, particularly fast optical photometry and spectroscopy in the blue, to explore flickering of the central source, are encouraged.

COMET C/2006 M4 (SWAN)

Visual total-magnitude estimates: Sept. 30.19 UT, 5.7 (N. Biver, Versailles, France, 7×50 binoculars); Oct. 6.21, 5.5 (J. Carvajal, Madrid, Spain, 6×30 binoculars); 14.81, 5.8 (J. J. Gonzalez, Leon, Spain, naked eye); 16.76, 6.0 (M. Meyer, Limburg, Germany, 10×50 binoculars).

2006 October 16 *Daniel W. E. Green*