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*COMET P/2006 U3 (NEAT)*

R. Stoss, Astronomisches Rechen-Institut, Heidelberg, and Observatorio Astronomico de Mallorca, reports the recovery by J. L. Ortiz and A. Mora of P/2001 K1 (NEAT) on CCD images obtained with the 2.5-m Isaac Newton Telescope at La Palma, the object appearing asteroidal on 300-s $R$-band frames. The astrometric observations provided below were measured by Stoss. The indicated correction to the prediction on *MPC* 54169 is $\Delta T = -0.4$ day. The recovery positions appear to confirm the proposed identification of this comet with an object found by Stoss on Palomar Sky Survey plates from 1955; the 1955 astrometry falls within 15″ of the position predicted from an orbit linking the 2001 and 2006 observations.

| Date | UT | $\alpha_{2000}$ | $\delta_{2000}$ | Mag. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1955 May | 14.22084 | $14^h18^m41^s.81$ | $+ 6°22'39''.7$ | |
| | 14.22778 | 14 18 41.50 | + 6 22 38.0 | |
| | 14.26250 | 14 18 40.12 | + 6 22 27.3 | |
| 2006 Oct. | 23.13259 | 4 53 18.59 | +14 46 16.3 | 22.4 |
| | 23.13672 | 4 53 18.52 | +14 46 16.2 | 22.2 |
| | 24.03318 | 4 52 59.72 | +14 46 22.4 | 22.5 |
| | 24.03727 | 4 52 59.64 | +14 46 22.5 | 22.2 |

Orbital elements by B. G. Marsden, linking 1955 to 2006:

Epoch = 1954 Dec. 4.0 TT

$T$ = 1954 Dec. 22.7570 TT  $\omega$ = 93°.0505
$e$ = 0.345814  $\Omega$ = 86.3172  2000.0
$q$ = 2.564300 AU  $i$ = 16.6409
$a$ = 3.919835 AU  $n°$ = 0.1269996  $P$ = 7.761 years

Epoch = 2000 Oct. 23.0 TT

$T$ = 2000 Nov. 6.8998 TT  $\omega$ = 94°.6503
$e$ = 0.357232  $\Omega$ = 84.8386  2000.0
$q$ = 2.470580 AU  $i$ = 16.9125
$a$ = 3.843656 AU  $n°$ = 0.1307938  $P$ = 7.536 years

Epoch = 2008 May 14.0 TT

$T$ = 2008 May 26.7064 TT  $\omega$ = 94°.9130
$e$ = 0.357635  $\Omega$ = 84.7534  2000.0
$q$ = 2.468702 AU  $i$ = 16.9133
$a$ = 3.843143 AU  $n°$ = 0.1308200  $P$ = 7.534 years

2006 October 24  *Daniel W. E. Green*