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COMET C/2006 P1 (McNAUGHT)

K. Battams, Interferometrics, Inc., and Naval Research Laboratory, reports that images of comet C/2006 P1 obtained on Jan. 11 with the SECCHI/HI-1B instrument on the NASA STEREO-B (Behind) spacecraft are available at the following website URL: `http://ares.nrl.navy.mil/sungrazer/index.php?p=latest_news`. The images show a curved, striated dust tail some 7° long, the bright coma being heavily saturated due to its brightness.

J. N. Marcus writes that forward-scattering brightness enhancement should peak in C/2006 P1, as viewed from the earth, on Jan. 14 at a level ≈ 2.3 magnitudes brighter than what would be predicted by a standard power law (model details in Marcus 2007, *ICQ*, submitted).

Selected visual total-magnitude, coma-diameter, and tail-length/p.a. estimates made with the comet at low altitude (all magnitudes were corrected by the observers for atmospheric extinction) and in nautical or civil twilight unless otherwise noted: 2006 Dec. 29.28 UT, 3.9, $1'.5$, – (B. H. Granslo, Fjellhamar, Norway, 0.10-m refractor); 2007 Jan. 2.30, 2.7, $1'.5$, $0^\circ.1$ in p.a. 0° (J. J. Gonzalez, Leon, Spain, 25$\times$100 binoculars); 3.28, 1.5, $1'.7$, $0^\circ.2$ (H. Dahle, Fjellhamar, Norway, 9$\times$63 binoculars); 4.64, 1.0:, –, – (Dahle, Blindern/Oslo, Norway, naked eye); 5.72, -0.5:, –, – (D. Moore, Dublin, Ireland, naked eye); 6.28, 0.2:, $1'$, 1° in p.a. 0° (Granslo, Tryvann/Oslo, Norway, 7$\times$50 binoc.); 7.30, 0.0:, $1'$, $0^\circ.4$ (N. Biver, Meudon, France, 7$\times$50 binoc.); 7.48, -0.5:, about $1'$, $< 1^\circ$ (D. W. E. Green, Rowley, MA, U.S.A., 7$\times$35 binoc.); 8.25, -1.2:, $3'$, $0^\circ.5$ (K. Hornoch, Vranov, Czech Republic, naked eye); 8.65, -0.8:, –, $1^\circ.5$ (O. Skilbrei, Honefoss, Norway, naked eye); 8.93, -1.5:, about $1'$, – (J. E. Bortle, Stormville, NY, U.S.A., naked eye); 9.68, -2.0, –, – (W. Hasubick, Buchloe, Germany, naked eye); 9.71, -2.2:, $1'$, $1^\circ.5$ (Biver, naked eye); 9.98, -2.9:, –, short (J. N. Marcus, St. Louis, MO, U.S.A., naked eye); 10.30, -2.2:, –, $1^\circ.0$ in p.a. 15° (T. Karhula, Vaesteraas, Sweden, naked eye); 10.34, -2.2:, –, $0^\circ.3$ in p.a. 15° (S. Yoshida, Toride, Ibaraki, Japan, 10$\times$70 refractor); 10.66, -2.7:, $5'$, 2° in p.a. 25° (K. Hornoch, Krasensko, Czech Rep., 10$\times$50 binoculars); 10.68, -3.2, $2'$, 2° (T. Scarmato, Calabria, Italy, 7$\times$50 binoc.); 10.83, -2.5:, –, short (R. A. Keen, Mt. Thorodin, CO, U.S.A., 7.6-cm reflector; broad daylight; comparison with Venus); 10.92, -2.5:, about $1'$, 1° (Bortle); 10.95, -2.9:, $1'$, $1^\circ.6$ in p.a. 15° (P. Creed, New London, OH, U.S.A., 10$\times$50 binoc.); 11.34, -2.8, about $3'$, 1° (Y. Nagai, Gunma, Japan, 7$\times$35 binoc.); 11.68, -3.5, $3'$, about 2° (Scarmato, naked eye); 11.75, -3.5:, –, 1° (A. Pereira, Cabo da Roca, Portugal, naked eye).

2007 January 11 *Daniel W. E. Green*