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COMET C/2008 J6 (HILL)

R. E. Hill reports his discovery of a comet with a diffuse coma but a clear nuclear condensation and a fan-shaped tail 1′ long in p.a. 210° on four co-added 30-s Catalina Sky Survey exposures obtained in 2″-4″ seeing with the 0.68-m Schmidt telescope (discovery observation tabulated below). Following posting on the 'NEOCP' webpage, J. C. Pelle writes that images taken by N. Teamo (0.41-m reflector at Punaauia, French Polynesia) on May 14.6 UT show a diffuse coma of diameter 45″ and a bright central condensation. S. Nakano reports that CCD images taken by Y. Ikari (Moriyama, Shiga-ken, Japan, 0.25-m reflector) on May 14.8 show a coma of diameter 15″ and a short fan tail in p.a. 240°. E. Guido and G. Sostero write that co-added unfiltered exposures obtained remotely with a 0.25-m reflector near Mayhill, NM, U.S.A., on May 15.4 show a sharp central condensation ~ 8″ in diameter, surrounded by a faint, extended coma ~ 25″ in diameter (total mag 15.5) and a fan-shaped tail 30″ long toward the southwest. J. E. McGaha (Tucson, AZ, U.S.A., 0.36-m reflector) reports that his four stacked 60-s exposures with on May 15.4 show a round coma 14″ in diameter with a tail 48″ long in p.a. 242°.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
May 14.46025	$22^h43^m56^s.00$	$+10°47'48''.4$	15.5

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-J78.

$$T = 2008\ \text{Apr.}\ 22.838\ \text{TT} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{lcr} \omega & = & 16^\circ.385 \\ \Omega & = & 299.274 \\ i & = & 45.904 \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$
$$q = 2.05912\ \text{AU}$$

COMET C/2007 W1 (BOATTINI)

Additional visual total-magnitude and coma-diameter estimates (cf. *IAUC* 8899, 8931): Apr. 13.82 UT, 8.6, 4′.2 (W. Hasubick, Buchloe, Germany, 10-cm refractor); 23.88, 7.6, 15′ (J. J. Gonzalez, Leon, Spain, 10×50 binoculars); 30.93, 7.3, 12′ (A. Amorim, Florianopolis, Brazil, 10×50 binoculars); May 2.44, 6.9, 18′ (S. Rae, Tauranga, New Zealand, 10×50 binoculars); 6.00, 7.0, 25′ (M. Goiato, Araçatuba, Brazil, 7×50 binoculars); 8.45, 6.4, – (D. A. J. Seargent, Cowra, NSW, Australia, naked eye); 12.02, 6.5, 15′ (Amorim; moonlight); 14.96, 6.2, 23′ (Goiato; moonlight).

2008 May 15 *Daniel W. E. Green*