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COMET C/2008 S2 = C/2001 D1 = C/2004 X7 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 8985, an additional near-sun presumed comet has been found by R. Kracht on SOHO website images (discovery observation tabulated below). C/2008 S2 has been identified by Kracht as apparently identical with C/2001 D1 (cf. *IAUC* 7936) and C/2004 X7 (cf. *IAUC* 8466), a linkage that has been verified by B. G. Marsden (see *MPEC* 2008-S81 and 2008-S82). K. Battams writes that C/2008 S2 was tiny and stellar in appearance (mag 7.5–8.0) and appeared even fainter on the far side of the sun. In remeasuring the positions of C/2001 D1, Battams notes that it was then very faint and tiny (mag $\sim$ 8), and was slightly brighter when visible on the far side of the sun.

Comet	2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2008 S2	Sept. 17.814	$11^h50^m.0$	$+ 1^\circ36'$	C2	RK	2008-S81

COMET C/2008 S3 (BOATTINI)

A. Boattini reports his discovery of a comet on CCD images obtained with the 1.5-m reflector at Mt. Lemmon (discovery observation tabulated below), the comet having strong condensation with a coma $\sim 10''$ wide but elongated $\sim 15''$ at p.a. $\approx 115^\circ$. Following posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, D. T. Durig (Sewanee, TN, U.S.A., 0.30-m $f/2.5$ Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector, Sept. 30.4 UT) reports a tail $\sim 10''$ long in p.a. 90°. E. Guido (Castellammare di Stabia, Italy) writes that G. Sostero, P. Camilleri, and he co-added fifty 60-s unfiltered exposures that were obtained remotely with a 0.25-m $f/3.4$ reflector near Mayhill, NM, U.S.A., on Sept. 30.4, showing a coma of diameter $\sim 8''$ with a central condensation and slight elongated toward the northwest. J. Young (Table Mountain 0.61-m f/16 Cassegrain reflector, Sept. 30.5) finds a bright, diffuse coma of diameter $6''$ with a very short tail $\sim 16''$ long in p.a. 140°–160°, curving to the east.

2008 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Sept.29.49105	$4^h42^m49^s.71$	$+18^\circ29'48''.3$	18.4

The available astrometry, the very uncertain parabolic orbital elements (T = 2011 Apr. 4.172 TT, q = 3.12838 AU, $\omega = 95^\circ.199$, $\Omega = 56^\circ.737$, $i = 157^\circ.926$, equinox 2000.0), and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2008-Sxx.

2008 September 30 *Daniel W. E. Green*