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2002 VF_{130}

K. S. Noll and S. D. Benecchi, Space Telescope Science Institute; and W. M. Grundy, Lowell Observatory, report the detection of a binary companion to the transneptunian object 2002 VF_{130} (*MPEC* 2002-W30, 2004-V71). The observations were made during 2008 Nov. 3.8076–3.8396 UT with the Wide Field Planetary Camera 2 on the Hubble Space Telescope, using the F606W filter (wide V) for four dithered 260-s exposures. The two components were widely separated, with an angular distance of $0''.733 \pm 0''.003$. The secondary binary component was fainter by 0.31 magnitude. The secondary was located at $-0''.576 \pm 0''.003$ in α and $0''.453 \pm 0''.001$ in δ relative to the primary.

COMET P/2009 H2 (McNAUGHT)

Automatic procedures at the Minor Planet Center identified comet P/2004 K2 (cf. *IAUC* 8348) in incidental astrometry obtained by T. H. Bressi with the Spacewatch 0.9-m $f/3$ reflector on Apr. 28. Subsequently, recovery observations were independently reported by G. Muler, J. M. Ruiz, and R. Naves with the 0.30-m Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope at the Observatorio Nazaret (Lanzarate, Spain) on May 1 and 3. No information was provided about the comet's appearance. The first observation of each set is provided below:

2009	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
Apr.	28.36557	$16^h03^m06^s.17$	$-7^\circ33'49''.0$		Spacewatch
May	1.04433	16 01 23.07	−7 18 04.3	20.2	Muler
	3.05734	15 59 59.04	−7 06 17.5	20.0	"

The indicated correction to the predictions on *MPC* 56805 and in the *2008–2009 Comet Handbook* is $\Delta T = -0.08$ day. The remaining astrometry and the following (and additional) orbital elements from 155 observations spanning 2004 May 20–2009 May 3, together with residuals and an ephemeris, appear on *CBET* 1790.

$$\text{Epoch} = \text{2010 Jan. 4.0 TT}$$

$$\begin{array}{llll} T = \text{2009 Dec. 15.4321 TT} & \omega = 180^\circ.7575 & \\ e = 0.502681 & \Omega = 150.1181 & \Big\} 2000.0 \\ q = 1.548625\ \text{AU} & i = 8.1327 & \end{array}$$

$$a = 3.113947\ \text{AU} \qquad n^\circ = 0.1793648 \qquad P = 5.495\ \text{years}$$

2009 May 3 *Daniel W. E. Green*