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Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
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Mailstop 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.
IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)
CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU (science)
URL `http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html` ISSN 0081-0304
Phone 617-495-7440/7244/7444 (for emergency use only)

COMET C/2006 S4 (CHRISTENSEN)

E. J. Christensen reports the discovery of another comet on Catalina Sky Survey images obtained with the 0.68-m Schmidt reflector (discovery observation tabulated below), the object displaying a 1′.8 fan-shaped tail spanning p.a. ≈ 210°–250° in a stacked image of four 30-s exposures obtained in poor seeing. Following posting on the 'NEO Confirmation Page', M. Tichý and J. Tichá write that their CCD images taken on Sept. 22.99 UT with the 1.06-m KLENOT Telescope at Kleť show a diffuse 10″ coma and a tail in p.a. 260°. P. Birtwhistle (Great Shefford, Berkshire, U.K., 0.40-m *f*/6 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector) reports that his CCD images taken on Sept. 23.1 show a coma of diameter 10″ with central condensation and a tail 40″ long in p.a. 245°.

2006	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.
Sept.	22.37326	$1^{h}50^{m}43\overset{s}{.}48$	$-16^{\circ}25'58\overset{''}{.}4$	16.8

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2006-S53.

$$\left.\begin{array}{lll} T = \text{2007 Apr. 26.414 TT} & \omega = 28\overset{\circ}{.}144 & \\ & \Omega = 28.811 & \\ q = \text{2.89250 AU} & i = 52.670 & \end{array}\right\} 2000.0$$

RS OPHIUCHI

M. Orio and T. Nelson, Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica and University of Wisconsin, report that RS Oph (cf. *IAUC* 8671, 8695) was observed with XMM-Newton on Sept. 6 for about 15 hr. The count rate in the range 0.1–10 keV had decreased by more than a factor of 1000 with respect to the last XMM-Newton observation on Apr. 6. The unabsorbed flux is at least 4×10^{-12} erg cm^{-2} s^{-1}. There is still significant continuum flux below 2 keV, but the spectrum shows mainly strong emission lines. With the RGS spectrograph, several H-like and He-like emission lines of Mg, Ne, and Fe are detected (most notably Ne VII at 2.478 nm, O VIII at 1.896 nm, Ne X at 1.213 nm, and Fe XVII at 1.501 nm). The RGS lines are red-shifted with a velocity not exceeding 500 km/s. Despite the lack of significant flux above 2 keV, two emission lines of the iron triplet K(α) complex are detected with EPIC around 6.4–6.7 keV.

