Circular No. 8961

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η CARINAE

J. C. Martin, University of Illinois at Springfield; K. Davidson, University of Minnesota; and collaborators (R. M. Humphreys and A. Mehner, University of Minnesota; F. Hamann, University of Florida; G. Ferland, University of Kentucky; and K. Ishibashi, Northwest Research Associates) report the first definite sign of η Car's next spectroscopic event that is predicted to occur in 2009 January. Broad He II 468.6-nm emission has appeared in blue and red Gemini/GMOS spectra obtained on 2008 July 4 and 17. The central velocity is near -40 km/s heliocentric, the FWHM is roughly 300 km/s, and the equivalent width is ~ 0.01 nm. In η Car (HD 93308), this very-high-excitation feature becomes detectable only near a spectroscopic event, and it did not appear in similar data obtained during 2007 June-July and 2008 February. No existing model clearly predicts its appearance as early as six months before the oncoming event (Martin 2006, *Ap.J.* **640**, 474, and references therein). The only other perceptible spectral changes at this time involve the He I triplet (but not singlet) features. P-Cyg absorption around -400 km/s in the He I 402.6-, 447.2-, and 471.3-nm emission lines has increased by ~ 50 percent since mid-2007. Such absorption is expected to occur in outer regions of the primary wind photoionized by the hot secondary star, if the latter is now moving approximately between us and the primary. Thus it helps to constrain the orbit orientation. For background information see Ishibashi 2001, *ASP Conf. Proc.* **242**, 53; Nielsen *et al.* 2007, *Ap.J.* **660**, 669; Humphreys *et al.* 2008, *A.J.* **135**, 1249; and Okazaki *et al.* 2008, `http://lanl.arxiv.org/abs/0805.1794v1`.

COMETS C/2008 H6–H9 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 8957 and 8960, additional Kreutz sungrazers have been found on SOHO website images. C/2008 H6 was very faint (mag $\sim$ 8) and diffuse. C/2008 H7 was very diffuse (mag $\sim$ 7.5–8) with a faint tail. C/2008 H8 was extremely faint (mag $\sim$ 8–8.5) and slightly diffuse. C/2008 H9 was tiny and stellar in appearance (mag $\sim$ 8).

Comet	2008	UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2008 H6	Apr.	27.188	$2^{\rm h}25\overset{\rm m}{.}7$	$+12^\circ46'$	C2	EB	2008-L47
C/2008 H7		29.830	2 35.4	+13 31	C2	MM	2008-L47
C/2008 H8		30.881	2 39.1	+13 50	C2	MK	2008-L47
C/2008 H9		21.688	2 06.3	+11 05	C2	HS	2008-M10

2008 July 28 *Daniel W. E. Green*