

COMET AND NOVA SECTION

COMET RUDNICKI (1966e)

This new comet was discovered on October 15 by Dr. Konrad Rudnicki, California Institute of Technology. At the time, it was a centrally condensed object with a 1' tail at magnitude 13.5. In December, it may be seen in the south-west during the evenings. It should be visible with small telescopes and possibly with binoculars. The following ephemeris was taken from IAU Circular 1981:

1966	R.A.(1950)	Dec.	Mag.
	h m	o ' "	
Dec. 1	00 06.7	-11 24	9.8
6	23 40.1	-12 41	9.4
11	23 11.9	-13 47	8.9
16	22 42.0	-14 39	8.4
21	22 09.7	-15 22	7.9
26	21 34.0	-15 55	7.4
31	20 54.7	-16 20	6.9

PERIODIC COMETS DURING 1967

Of the 15 comets listed in the Handbook of the British Astronomical Association, only four may become bright enough to be seen with telescopes under ten inches.

Comet Tuttle, 1790II = 1858I may be observed in the evening sky during the period listed in the ephemeris.

Jan. 10	22 55.2	40 55	12.5
20	23 32.6	37 23	12.0
30	00 11.6	33 26	11.5
Feb. 9	00 51.2	29 03	11.1
19	01 30.4	24 13	10.6
Mar. 1	02 08.5	19 02	10.2
11	02 44.9	13 36	9.9
21	03 19.5	08 04	9.8
31	03 52.4	02 33	9.8
Apr. 10	04 24.2	-02 50	9.8
20	04 55.6	-07 59	10.2
30	05 27.3	-12 54	10.5
May 10	06 00.2	-17 33	10.9

Comet Finlay, 1886VII may be visible with 8-inch telescopes during the morning hours this summer.

June 29	01 39.1	05 52	12.5
July 9	02 25.6	10 24	12.3
19	03 09.9	14 25	12.1
29	03 54.1	17 42	12.0
Aug. 8	04 36.2	20 11	12.1
18	05 15.6	21 54	12.3

Comet Tempel (2), 1873II may be observed most of the night during the listed period. A 6-inch telescope may pick it up.

May	30	18 22.8	-02 38	12.6
June	19	18 28.8	-04 42	11.6
July	9	18 30.7	-11 24	10.9
	29	18 40.1	-22 04	10.5
Aug.	8	19 09.4	-32 05	10.7

Comet Encke, 1786I is the famous short period comet with a period of 3.3 years. The return is unfavourable this year, but it may be seen with 6-inch telescopes during August, as it nears the sun. It will be in the morning sky.

Aug.	8	05 49.0	31 34	12.5
	18	06 54.0	30 43	11.1
	28	08 12.9	26 56	9.6

COMET SCHWASSMANN-WACHMANN (I), 1925II

This comet is normally about magnitude 18 and well beyond the reach of amateur telescopes. However, it is subject to sudden temporary increases in brightness, and at times may be brighter than magnitude 11. Amateurs with telescopes over 6-inches may wish to watch for such increases and the following ephemeris is included.

Nov.	21	11 17.0	01 06
Jan.	10	11 23.4	-00 26
Mar.	1	11 10.7	00 13
Apr.	20	10 52.5	01 46
June	9	10 52.6	01 56

Opposition is about March 7. This comet is in a near-circular orbit (eccentricity 0.14) and although it is not far from aphelion at the present time, the distance from the sun is decreasing.

Centres of the Society are asked to make this announcement known to interested members. Please report the first observation of each comet as soon as possible.

Copies of the instruction forms are available upon request.

Jim Low, National Co-ordinator,
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29 November, 1966.

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