

Mailing Address: Box 172, AMF Postal Station
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Dorval, P.Q.

October 31, 1967

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Sir:

The following telegram was sent to you to-day:

SATELLITES NEWYORK

HOWELL COMET LOW 31085 OCTOBER 05100 05129 24503 LOW

JAMES LOW
24 POINTE CLAIRE AVENUE
POINTE CLAIRE, QUEBEC

This message was coded in the form given on p. 270 of the second edition of Observational Astronomy for Amateurs by J.B. Sidgwick.

On October 30, I received a letter from F. John Howell of Calgary, Alberta, describing what appeared to be his discovery of a new comet. He sent you a plain language telegram, and expect he sent a follow-up letter. He observed this object at Oct. 27 03:45 U.T., 1967, and gave the position as 05h 13m x 46° 13' N. (No epoch stated). Mag. 6. His address is 185 Fairview Dr., S.E., Calgary, Alberta.

Upon receipt of Mr. Howell's letter, I went to the Observatory of the Montreal Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, where a meeting was being held that night. (Oct. 30). The 6" refractor was pointed at the position given by Mr. Howell (which is near Capella), and a comet-like object was seen immediately. Four other members, besides myself observed this object. Their names are: Miss I.K. Williamson, Mr. C.M. Good, Mr. A. Capper, and Mr. C. Papacosmas. All are experienced observers (and amateurs). We used three eyepieces to make sure we were not getting a reflection from Capella (50x, 120x, and 240x, approx.). The comet-like object remained in the same position and did not show any change under different powers. Enclosed is a diagram prepared by the undersigned showing the position and approximate shape of the comet. Magnitude was about 8 (compared with out of focus star nearby). Position (epoch 1950.0) was estimated at:

R.A. 05h 12.9m., Dec. 46° 03' N.

Oct. 31, 1967 at 05:10 U.T.

No motion was detected during the following hour.

I hope you are able to confirm the discovery of COMET HOWELL.

Yours truly,

James W. A. Low
National Coordinator
Comet and Nova Section

(Royal Astronomical Society of Canada)