Abstract IT-6-1

AMATEURS' CONTRIBUTIONS

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Text of abstract not yet received.

Abstract IT-6-2

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE

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The recent apparition of the bright Comet Hale-Bopp (C/1995 O1) has been a true bonanza for all involved, from the scientists and the amateurs to the wide public. It is most certainly one of the, if not the, most observed comets of all time and no other comet in the past two centuries has been visible for such a long time.

This summary will attempt to give a balanced overview of the various research achievements in this connection and will of course be primarily based on the information presented at this meeting. It will also - as far as possible - provide reflections upon some of the fundamental questions related to this rare event. For instance: In which respects did Comet Hale-Bopp differ from other members of this class? Why was it so intrinsically bright? Why did it become so bright at such a large heliocentric distance?