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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION**

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SAX J0840.7+2248

J. Heise and J. in 't Zand, Space Research Organization of the Netherlands, Utrecht; R. Ricci, G. d'Andreta, and J. Muller, BeppoSAX, Rome; and L. Piro, Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale, Rome, report: "A bright, high-latitude fast x-ray transient source has been observed on Apr. 29.366 UT in one of the Wide Field Cameras of BeppoSAX. The event lasted ~ 110 s. The peak intensity of the structured event reached ~ 1 Crab (2–25 keV). Its position is determined at $\alpha = 8^{\text{h}}40^{\text{m}}40^{\text{s}}$, $\delta = +22^{\circ}48'3$ (equinox 2000.0; error radius $3'$) and the source is designated SAX J0840.7+2248. A follow-up observation with the BeppoSAX narrow-field instruments is in progress."

MARKARIAN 421

P. Grandi, Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale, CNR, Rome; and L. Chiappetti, Istituto di Fisica Cosmica e Tecnologie Relative, CNR, Milan; L. Maraschi, Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera, Milan; and E. Pian, Istituto di Tecnologie e Studio delle Radiazioni Extraterrestri, CNR, Bologna; on behalf of the BeppoSAX collaboration on the coordinated campaign for spectral variability of Mkn 421, report: "This object was observed with the BeppoSAX Narrow Field Instruments on Apr. 21.08–22.13 UT. The source was bright and variable, and it showed a well-defined flare with an initial 50-percent increase over 15 000 s, followed by a slower regular decrease to about half the peak intensity. The source was well visible in the Phoswich Detector System up to ~ 50 keV. The preliminary standard analysis indicates an average energy flux of 3.2×10^{-10} erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ in the band 2–10 keV, close to the maximum reported by ASCA on Apr. 27 (*IAUC* 6888). Another BeppoSAX observation on Apr. 23–24 found an average flux of 1.9×10^{-10} erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ (2–10 keV). Thus the bright active state extends at least for a week and may persist for a longer time. Continuing observations at all wavelengths are urged."

SUPERNOVA 1998bp IN NGC 6495

S. Nakano, Sumoto, Japan, forwards the following position and magnitude for SN 1998bp (cf. *IAUC* 6890) from a CCD image obtained with a 0.4-m *f*/6 reflector by R. Kushida at Yatsugatake South Base Observatory on Apr. 30.75 UT: $\alpha = 17^{\text{h}}54^{\text{m}}50^{\text{s}}.74$, $\delta = +18^{\circ}19'50''.5$ (equinox 2000.0), $V = 15.0$ (measurer Y. Kushida).