Comet thought experiment.

Source: http://sci.tech−archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005−01/2161.html

---

From: GD (*alfa_at_melb.something.au*)
Date: 01/12/05

Date: 12 Jan 2005 18:28:48 +1050

Upfront I'll say that I dont have any of the bits of equipment required to try this idea, all my astrophoto stuff is film based. Not a CCD or laptop in sight.

On the topic of comet hunting:
It seems that there is such a thing as a "typical comet spectrum". Doing a google search on the topic seems to bear this idea out anyway.

What I had in mind was taking a few CCD images of the same patch of sky, each image taken through a different filter (UHC, Swan Band etc...). Then a bit of software would look though the images and display a view based on how similar the intensities of each pixel in those images represented the intensities expected by a comet.

You'd calibrate and set it up using filtered images of known comets of course.

If this idea worked for *most* comets, and imaging only took a minute or so, and the computer analysis was quick, then I imagine a heap of sky could be scanned quite quickly for new comets since you arent looking for movement, just the right spectrum.

Thoughts?