MINUTES OF THE 89TH SPRING MEETING OF THE AAVSO, HELD APRIL 15, 2000, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

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The 89th Spring Meeting of the AAVSO was preceded by a first-ever, three-day High-Energy Astrophysics Workshop for Amateur Astronomers and a tour of Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), organized by NASA/MSFC and AAVSO. The workshop was well attended, with participants from 28 states and 10 countries on six continents. [*Ed. note: Complete descriptions of this unique workshop have been given elsewhere (e.g., AAVSO Newsletter 28, Sky & Telescope for January 2001.*]

The Membership Meeting was called to order on Saturday, April 15, at 9 a.m. by President Lee Anne Willson.

David Williams read the minutes of the 88th Annual Meeting for Secretary Martha Hazen, who could not attend. The minutes were accepted as summarized.

Director Janet Mattei presented the semi-annual treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Wayne Lowder, who also was unable to attend. Expenses exceeded income during the previous six months, but the cash balance was ample. The report noted that since 1996 the Endowment Fund has grown by 47 percent and the Ford Fund by 45 percent. However, growth in asset value is not the same thing as income, and the mix of stocks and bonds is being adjusted to produce greater income.

The following committee reports were read:

CCD	Gary Walker, Chair
Chart Distribution	Kerriann Malatesta, George Hawkins
New and Preliminary Charts	Charles Scovil, Chair
Telescopes	Charles Scovil, Chair
Nova Search	Kenneth Beckmann, Chair *(report read by Gene Hanson)*
Photoelectric Photometry	Howard Landis, Chair
RR Lyrae	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Eclipsing Binary	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Solar Division	Joseph Lawrence, Chair *(report read by Janet Mattei)*

Director Mattei expressed the AAVSO's thanks to all the committee chairs for their active and excellent work.

Director Mattei then read the report on new member applications previously approved by the Council. A total of 83 applications was approved, the largest number of any previous meeting. The new members included 73 from the US and 10 from other nations.

Director Mattei reported that five members/observers had died since the previous meeting: Kazuaki Gomi, John Goodwin, Leonard Kalish, Roy R. Lee, and Ben Mayer. [*Ed. note: Director Mattei also reported the death of member Jose Ibanez Oporto.*] In addition, the AAVSO lost two friends in the astronomical community, Carlos Jaschek and Johannes Van Paradijs. All present stood for a moment of silence in their memory.

Director Mattei then discussed plans for future meetings. The 89th Annual Meeting will be held in Waltham, Massachusetts, October 27–29, 2000. The Spring Meeting in

2001 is planned for Madison, Wisconsin, May 5–6. The 2001 Annual Meeting will probably be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Spring 2002 meeting in Hawaii in early June.

Scott Mecca gave a special presentation on the planned space mission to Comet Temple I ("Deep Impact") and reported that amateur observations will be solicited.

Following a break, Director Janet Mattei presented her semi-annual report. The highlights included the development of a new AAVSO Web site, responses to a record number of requests for data from the AAVSO International Database, the addition of a second Ph. D. astronomer to the Headquarters staff, the development of computerized chart making at Headquarters, completion of the revised AAVSO observing manual, and upgraded computer hardware. In recognition of the AAVSO's contributions to the success of previous satellite missions, the AAVSO also received 100,000 seconds of observing time on the Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer (EUVE) satellite. The cataclysmic variable OY Carinae was selected as the target, which allowed our southern observers to participate in the project. The EUVE observing run was conducted in February during a superoutburst of OY Car.

Following the Director's Report, the Scientific Paper Session was begun with five papers presented before the luncheon break and 15 papers presented in the afternoon. A list of the papers and authors follows these minutes.

In the evening, the banquet and awards presentation was held. Observer Awards were presented to AAVSO observers who have attained significant totals in the number of their observations (a list of the awardees follows these minutes). The Director's Award was presented to Ronald Zissell. In addition, plaques of appreciation were presented to NASA MSFC for organizing the workshop, and to the Von Braun Astronomical Society for their help during the workshop. The after-dinner speaker was astronaut Dr. John Grunsfeld, an astronomer who participated in the 1999 Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Saturday, April 15, 2000

Kevin Marvel	Grassroots Astronomy
Aaron Price	Automation and Innovation for Information Addicts (101)
Roger Pickard	The BAA Variable Star Section
Guy M. Hurst	The UK Nova/Supernova Patrol—the first 25 years!
Alexander Murphy	The Super Nova Early Warning System Collaboration
David B. Williams	A Photographic Investigation of Four Bamberg Variables
Arne Henden	The M67 Experiment
Mark Slovak	Using the Landolt Selected Areas for Photometric Identification of Faint Supernovae and Optical Counterparts of Gamma-Ray Bursters
Robert S. Fritzius	A Ritzian Interpretation of Variable Stars
Tom Cragg	Current Phase of the Sunspot Cycle

France B. Berger James C. Carlson (presented by Casper H. Hossfield)	Evidence from Sunspot Statistics that the Sun Has Changed Activity Modes During the Last Ten Cycles
Edward M. Sion Paula Szkody Boris Gaensicke F. H. Cheng C. La Dous B. Hassall	Hubble Space Telescope Spectroscopy of the Dwarf Nova RX Andromedae 1: The Underlying White Dwarf
Lee Anne Willson	Miras and the Ultimate Fate of the Earth
Kevin Marvel	Water Maser Proper Motions near Evolved Stars
Hideo Sato Kazuo Yoshioka Keiichi Saijo	Wavelength Dependence and Long-term Time Variation of Polarization of Three RV Tauri Stars
George Hawkins Janet A. Mattei Grant Foster	The Unusual Long-term Light Curve of the Mira Variable R Centauri
Eric Broens Christiaan Sterken Chris Koen	On the Observational History of Chi Cygni
Richard W. Schmude, Jr. Joy Jones Benjamin Jimenez	Photoelectric Magnitude Measurements of RX Cephei
Raymond R. Thompson	Differential Photoelectric Photometry, Sine Waves, and RS Cancri
Casper H. Hossfield	A Very Low Frequency Gravitational Wave Antenna

List of New Members Accepted at the Spring Meeting, April 15, 2000

Aquino, William, NY
Armstrong, Thomas K., CA
Arnold, Bruce R., NC
Beia, Mario, Italy
Bell, Leslie, MN
Billings, Gary, Canada
Boone, Roggie, GA
Branch, Robert, CA
Branchett, David, FL
Brannen Jr., Daniel E., PA
Broussard, William F., TX
Brownfield, James H., OH
Buckner, Spencer L., TN
Burkhardt, Robert, MA
Bushby, Paula, IL
Calderwood, Tom, MA
Carlson, James, MA
Carter, Richard T., SD
Chandler, Billie, CA
Cohen, Louis, MA
Cole, Gary, CA
Deen, Glen William, TX
Denmark, Larry, NH
Dobbs, Joe, CA
Duke, Aaron M., MA
Dunckel, Nicholas, CA
S Foulds, Tanja, HI
Fraeman, Martin, MD
Friends of Pine Mountain Observatory, OR
Fritzius, Robert S., MS
Garzon, Joaquin, NY
Geschwind, Ralph J., OH
Guder, Charles Frederick, MA
Haig, Colin, Canada
Hodges, Robert, WY
Hullett, William James, TX
Huskey, Bruce, TN
James, David, VA
Johns-Krull, Christopher, CA
Jones, Christopher P., England
Kaeter, James, MN
Kellogg, Howard, CA
Kiesche III, Frederick Paul, NJ
King, Lonnie, NY
Kinne, Greg, CO
Kreutzer, Kevin P., KY
Kuplin, Robert, AZ
Looby, Matthew, IL
Morrison, Joshua, PA
Morton, Arthur, WA
Moser, Paulo Roberto, Brazil
Neily Jr., Clark M., MA
Ogden, James, KY
Olsen, Frederick Bruce, TN
Ooi, Kang-yao, West Malaysia
Oporto Ibanez, Jose Manuel, Spain
Pickett, Brian, Australia
Quinn, Peter F., WI
Radabah, Selby, WA
Ranea Sanoval, Ignacio, Argentina
Roberts, George B., TN
Rose IV, Charles H., MS
Schiff, Stephen C., VA
Schroeder, Jeff R., CA
Schwartz, Ben, OH
Senson, Ben, WI
Shipman, John, MN
Simpson, George, OH
Sinor, Timothy, TX
Sollie, Greg, LA
Templeton, James, AZ
Thyrion, Kevin, WI
Tweedy, Richard W., England
Ureles, Alvin, NY
Van Poucker, Joseph F., MI
Wade, Tom, FL
Webb, William, CA
White, James Aaron, MA
Whiting, Alan B., MD
Wilson, Kyle, TX
Wolfe, Steve, OH
Wright, Paul, MN
Zimmerman, James Daniel, MN

S = sustaining membership

List of Deceased Members/Observers/Colleagues

Gomi, Kazuaki, Japan
Goodwin, John, MA
Jaschek, Carlos, France
Kalish, Leonard, CA
Lee, Roy R., FL
Mayer, Ben, CA
Oporto Ibanez, Jose Manuel, Spain
Van Paradijs, Johannes, AL

AAVSO OBSERVER AWARDS

Presented at the 89th Spring Meeting, Huntsville, Alabama, April 15, 2000

Over 100,000 Observations

Warren C. Morrison	Canada	1975–99	105,271	

Over 50,000 Observations

Jose Ripero Osorio	Spain	1978–99	50,941	

Over 25,000 Observations

George Mavrofridis	Greece	1975–99	26,457	
Yasuo Hirasawa	Japan	1970–99	25,805	
Robert J. Stewart	USA	1971–99	25,424	

Over 10,000 Observations

Stanislaw Swierczynski	Poland	1990–99	13,336	
Oskar A. Deren	Poland	1988–99	11,620	
Raymond Berg	USA	1956–99	11,010	
Christoph Gerber	Germany	1982–99	10,848	
Richard Huziak	Canada	1980–99	10,740	
Laszlo Kiss	Hungary	1991–99	10,663	
Hartmut Goldhahn	Germany	1989–99	10,561	
Stephen D. O'Connor	Canada	1972–99	10,311	
Sandro Baroni	Italy	1977–99	10,308	
Csaba Hadhazi	Hungary	1989–99	10,071	
Eddy Muyllaert	Belgium	1985–99	10,065	
Antal Kocsis	Hungary	1976–99	10,044	

*Over 5,000 PEP/CCD Observations**

Raymond R. Thompson	Canada	1962–99	5,031	PEP

* Years include total AAVSO observing interval (not only PEP/CCD observing).
Total includes PEP and/or CCD observations only (not observer's visual contributions).

AAVSO DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Presented at the 89th Spring Meeting, Huntsville, Alabama, April 15, 2000, to Ronald E. Zissell, USA.