Minutes of the 95th Annual Meeting of the AAVSO, held October 28, 2006, Newton, MA

Gary Walker
179 South Main Street, Sherborn, MA 01770

On Thursday, October 26, the AAVSO Council met all day.

On Friday, October 27, an all-day session was held on the Chandra X-Ray Observatory and the AAVSO. In the morning, a workshop was held on "The Chandra X-Ray Observatory and AAVSO Collaboration." Following lunch, a second workshop was held, "The Chandra X-Ray Observatory Data Analysis Software, Resources, and Activities." On Friday evening, an Open House and buffet dinner celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Clinton B. Ford Astronomical Data and Research Center were held at AAVSO Headquarters on Birch Street.

On Saturday, October 28, the Membership Meeting was called to order by President David B. Williams at 9:10 am. The Minutes of the 95th Spring Meeting held in Rockford, Illinois, were read by Secretary Gary Walker and accepted.

Treasurer Lou Cohen read the Treasurer's Report, his last as AAVSO Treasurer. Although the Association went slightly over budget this year, the Endowment grew by nearly 1 million dollars in value during the same period.

The following Committee Reports were read:

CCD	Gary Walker
High Energy Network	Matthew Templeton
RR Lyrae Stars	Marvin Baldwin
Eclipsing Binaries	Marvin Baldwin
Solar Committee	read by P. Gay for Paul Mortfield
Nova Search	read by B. Beaman for Rev. Kenneth Beckmann
Photoelectric Photometry	James Fox
Education and Public Outreach	John Percy

Director Arne Henden reported that 47 new annual and 3 new sustaining memberships were received and approved since the last meeting. This brought the total for the year to 84 new members.

The Director also gave the Deceased Members and Friends Report. Since the last meeting, members/observers Carl F. Kurtz, Eugene C. Larr, Earl Westoff, John Baxter, and Peter Quinn, and Barbara J. Silva of the AAVSO Headquarters staff died. All present stood for a moment of silence to remember them.

The Director announced that the 96th AAVSO Spring Meeting will be held in Calgary, ALberta, Canada, June 28–July 1, 2007, as a joint meeting with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Association of Lunar and Planetary

Observers. The 96th Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 26–27, 2007, in Newton, Massachusetts (later changed to Headquarters, Cambridge, MA). The site for the 97th Spring Meeting is England, in a joint meeting with the British Astronomical Association in April 2008. The 97th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Nantucket, to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Maria Mitchell Observatory.

President Williams announced results from the election of Councilors and Officers. The new Councilors elected were Gary Billings (re-elected), Karen Meech (re-elected), Lewis Cook (re-elected), and Arlo Landolt. Paula Szkody was elected 1st Vice President, Jaime Garcia 2nd Vice President, Dave Hurdis Treasurer, and Gary Walker Secretary.

Director Arne Henden gave his annual report. The complete report is posted on the web at www.aavso.org, and appears in this issue of JAAVSO. Highlights included:

- Automatic chart-plotting program, now called VSP, released
- Variable Star Index (VSX) released
- Blue & Gold Section of the AAVSO web site activated
- Transfer of AAVSO International Database from text to MySQL completed
- Merging of the AAVSO PEP archive into the AAVSO International Database nearly completed
- A. W. Roberts' 70,000 historical visual observations added to the AAVSO International Database
- Janet A. Mattei memorial issue of JAAVSO published
- Regular AAVSO publications published
- Translation of visual observing manual into Turkish completed; Russian, Greek, Japanese, Portuguese, Italian, and Romanian versions in progress
- AAVSO website use continued to increase: daily numbers included 20,580 requests for data, 939 unique visitors, and 1.7 Gigabytes of data transferred; five discussion groups maintained; 413,000 Quick Look requests for data; 402,160 requests for charts
- 1,841 special data requests fulfilled online and 249 requests fulfilled by staff
- 925,000 visual, CCD, and PEP observations received during the year
- Outburst of RS Oph

As the last item in his annual report, Director Henden announced that the AAVSO will have a new Headquarters, with the purchase in December 2006 of the Sky Publishing Corporation property at 49 Bay State Road in Cambridge (one

block and about 200 yards from 25 Birch Street). The new headquarters (also to be called the Clinton B. Ford Astronomical Data and Research Center) will offer a much larger and safer site for the AAVSO archives, space for expanded staff and visiting researchers, and a climate-controlled room for web/file servers.

AAVSO Treasurer Louis Cohen, who was not able to attend the Banquet scheduled for Saturday evening, was presented with the 38th AAVSO Merit Award for his invaluable contributions to the Association. He was acknowledged by attendees with a standing ovation. The text of this award appears following these Minutes.

AAVSO Techical Assistant Kerriann H. Malatesta was presented with her Staff Recognition Award for ten years of service. The award was presented to her by Director Arne Henden.

The meeting was adjourned by President Williams shortly before noon.

After lunch the Scientific Paper Session was held; papers on the accompanying list were presented.

Attendees reconvened for the banquet, awards presentations, and the after-banquet talk. The following awards were presented (the texts of the awards are given following these Minutes) and the recipients acknowledged with hearty applause: the 38th AAVSO Merit Award, which had been presented to retiring Treasurer Louis Cohen during the Membership meeting, was announced; the William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mary Ann Kadooka; an AAVSO Special Recognition Award was presented to Christopher Watson; an AAVSO Nova Award was announced for Peter Williams of Australia; AAVSO Solar Observing Awards and SID Observing Awards were announced for 10 and 2 observers, respectively.

Al Holm's after-banquet talk on "Three Eyes on the Cosmos: HST, Kepler, and James Webb Space Telescope" was most interesting and was greatly enjoyed by all. Following Al's talk, President Williams adjourned the meeting.

Papers and posters presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Saturday, October 28, 2006:

John R. Percy Kaushala Bandara Pietro Cimino	Random Cycle-to-Cycle Period Fluctuations in Pulsating Variable Stars
Mary Ann Kadooka	Fun Physics Demonstrations for Astronomy Outreach
Michael Saladyga	A History of AAVSO's Headquarters
John Pazmino	Sunshine At Ground Zero
Vladimir Strelnitski	Ten-Year *BVRI* Monitoring of the Unique Hydrogen Maser Star MWC349

Roger Kolman Barry Beaman	Progress and Prospects—The AAVSO-AL Observing Venture
Steve Brady	Real Time Photometry and Follow-up of Variable Stars
Edward Los	Harvard Plate Digitization Progress Report *(poster)*
Pebble Richwine Timothy F. Slater	Astronomy Teaching Resources From Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS)
Christopher L. Watson Arne H. Henden Aaron Price	The International Variable Star Index (VSX)
Grant Foster	Effect of Finite Resolution on Magnitude Estimates
Ronald E. Zissell	Secular Variations in CCD Transformation Coefficients
Theo Jones Pebble Richwine	In the Hunt for Variable Stars: Digging Into the Data Mine
Michael Mattei	Digital Novae Searching

New Members Accepted at the Annual Meeting, October 26, 2006

Allen, Randy, CO
Alvarez, Miguel Angel Martin, Spain
Bembrick, Colin Seymour, Australia
Bergali, Francisco Rodriguez, Spain
Braffman-Miller, Judith, MO
Burton, Frederick S., CO
Cameron, Rex David, Australia
Chelborard, Cary, CA
Cincinnati Obsvy, OH
Coker, Phillip H., CA
Curren, David, DC
De Santis, Pasquale, NV
Dyer, Dave, KS
Edmonds, Jeffrey, MA
Ferrero, Gabriel, Peru
Field, George, MA
Flores, Tim, CO
Godet, Jean-Pierre, France
Golden, Tom, TN
Haagen, Gary Vander, MI
Helbig, Herbert F., ME
Hoffman, Neil W., GA
Hrabovsky, John R., FL
Hutton, Katherine, CA
Jensen-Clem, Rebecca Marie, WA
S Jones, Mike I., TX
Jones, Theo, AZ
Keranen, Karl V., CA
Little, Peter, England
S Mccann, James, WA
McLaughlin, Jeremy Michael, VA
S McLaughlin, Kenneth W., IA
Miro, Ramon Jesus, MD
Ormsby, Adrian, MI
Osell, Fritz, OK
Plummer, Alan, Australia
Schell, Todd A., TX
Schumann, Andreas, Germany

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Shenker, Jacob Quinn, CA
Sherman, Gregory W., TX
Sullivan, John J., MA
Teh, Katherine, Canada
Ul Islam, Naeem, Bangladesh
Ureles, Alvin L., NY
White, Krista Fay, IN
Wiley, Edward O., KS
Williams, Glenn L., OH
Wilson, Andrew Jonathan, England
Wood, Gary, NC
Zarate, Carlos A., Argentina

S = sustaining membership

Deceased Members, Observers, and Colleagues

Baxter, John, CA
Kurtz, Carl F., PA
Larr, Eugene C., CA
Ostroff, Earl, MA
Quinn, Peter, WI
Silva, Barbara, MA

AAVSO Merit Award Recipient (presented at the 95th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 28, 2006)

Louis Cohen was presented the 38th Merit Award "...in recognition of his outstanding service as Treasurer and as a trusted, steady advisor to the Directors throughout a period of fiscal and administrative uncertainty; and his guidance in reinvesting and restructuring the AAVSO's endowments, assuring the Association's financial security. His excellence in service, volunteerism, willingness to share knowledge and mentor observers, and his valued observations exemplify the ideals of the AAVSO."

AAVSO William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award Recipient (presented at the 95th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 28, 2006)

Mary Ann Kadooka was awarded the sixth William Tyler Olcott Award "...for her tireless efforts in motivating scientific learning and authentic research experiences for teachers and students.... At the heart of many of the programs Mary promotes are authentic research experiences, including observational astronomy projects that use the variable stars we love. In having teachers and their students looking up, she engages them in our core mission of observing and recording as she inspires the next generation of observers, one learner at a time."

Special Recognition Award Recipient (presented at the 95th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 28, 2006)

Christopher L. Watson was presented a Special Recognition Award "...for his dedicated efforts in supplying cutting-edge technological services to both the AAVSO and the astronomical community as a whole. His Variable Star Index

(VSX) program is assisting thousands of variable-star observers and researchers in their mutual quest to understand these enigmatic points of light."

AAVSO Nova Award Recipient (announced at the 95th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 28, 2006)

Peter Williams of Heathcote, New South Wales, Australia, for his visual discovery of Nova Ophiuchi 2006 No. 2 (V2576 Oph) on Apr. 6.565 UT.

AAVSO Solar Observer Awards (presented at the 95th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 28, 2006)

Sunspot Observers (1,500 or more observations)

Gema Araujo, Spain
Kenichi Fujimori, Japan
John Kaplan, MN
James and Shirley Knight, South Africa
Javier Ruiz, Spain
Gerd-Lutz Schott, Germany
Gerhard Stemmler, Germany
Hitoshi Takuma, Japan
William M. Wilson, TN

Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance Observers (40 or more months of reports)

Paul Campbell, Canada
Nick Stoikidis, Greece

AAVSO Staff Recognition Award (presented at the 95th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 28, 2006)

Kerriann Malatesta—ten years