



AAVSO Newsletter

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From the Director's Desk

Arne A. Henden

My, how time flies! It was a year ago that we were moving into the new Headquarters building. The prior month had been spent in packing the old HQ and repairing and painting the new HQ. Lots of you helped, volunteering where you could, and it was certainly appreciated – we never would have finished without your help. We now have the space necessary for future growth, and the archives are in much better shape than they were in the basement of the old HQ. Those of you who came to the Fall meeting can attest to the way the new HQ has matched our needs – even giving us conference space!

What is even more amazing to me is the enormous amount of progress we have made in the past year towards improving our service to the community, even while we were settling into the new offices. The Variable Star Plotter (VSP) was finally released; updated photometry for tens of thousands of comparison stars became available; the new standardized visual and extended formats for data submission were brought on-line. We now support data submission on any GCVS star, and all you have to do is make a request and we'll add any other star of interest. These changes required vast modifications of our internal processing programs, from validation to membership directories, which for the most part were transparent to outside users.

More changes are in store for this year, but I think we are finally getting over the hump of the improvements I had on my calendar. Instead, we will concentrate on our observers, bringing out more translations of the Visual Observing Manual, giving you an improved data access program, providing faster access to our tools, and cleaning up everything from the Web site to the documentation you need. Lots of campaigns are on tap!

As part of this observer "year", we are heading to the UK in April to have a joint meeting with the British Astronomical Association. Cambridge meets Cambridge! I highly recommend considering a European trip to join us – it may be the best time to finally shake hands with some of the people you hear about all of the time. They want to shake your hand too! The weather is typically good this time of year, and personally, I'm looking forward to the field trip to Stonehenge – a site that I have never visited.

The International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) is just around the corner. The AAVSO is involved in the Citizen Science side of things, running a campaign on epsilon Aurigae with Bob Stencil of the University of Denver, plus a campaign on other variable stars, in the hopes of drawing public attention to science. This will start ramping up by the end of 2008, so stay tuned. Speaking of the end of 2008: the Fall meeting will be another joint meeting, this time with the Maria Mitchell Association to celebrate their 100th anniversary. October on Nantucket! What more could you ask for?

I wish you clear skies and lots of free time for your observing!

Message from the President

Paul Szkody

When I first became a member of the AAVSO (back in the IUE era when I was in the midst of observing dwarf novae at outburst times), little did I know that one day I would be writing in the *Newsletter* as President. I know it was Janet Mattei that first made me aware of the AAVSO. Until I met Janet and found out that so many people had telescopes in their backyards, I was pretty much tied into the professional world of applying for time at a national or University facility, waiting a few months and then dealing with Mother Nature who always seemed to provide cloudy nights during my allotted time. The ease of amateur observing impressed me, just going out to the backyard or the rooftop to get some measurements whenever it was clear, but the small telescopes could not reach very faint. The UV space telescopes were pretty small as well. Thus, in those days, outbursts were events that could be successfully studied by both small space telescopes and small ground telescopes. Then, CCDs arrived and the space telescopes became larger and the AAVSO network became increasingly involved in cataclysmic variable work, as now complete cycles and low states could be included. With the observing campaigns of the past year, I think perfect synergy has now been reached.

One example has been my programs with HST. Not too long ago, the folks at Space Telescope realized that cataclysmic variables were actually cataclysmic and could create cataclysmic destruction of their UV instruments.

Now, in order to observe, we must have a guaranteed ground-measurement within twenty-four hours of the scheduled observation in order to proceed. To thwart bad luck with Mother Nature, and to obtain observing time within the one week notice from the HST scheduler, requires a network of global observers. With Matt Templeton and Arne Henden putting out *Alert Notices*, four of my HST programs were a resounding success within the past few months. I was astounded by the AAVSO observers response to each program and the ingenuity involved. Bill Dillon invented "round the world observing" where he hooked into Israel, then New Mexico then Australia on the same night with the Global

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The AAVSO Newsletter - Production Editor: Travis Searle. Additional text by Elizabeth O. Waagen, Kate Davis, and Gamze Menali. Photo contributions in this issue from Haldun Menali and the AAVSO archives. To contribute, contact Headquarters or email us at aavso@aavso.org.

Rent-A-Scope (GRAS), see the article by Matt on the AAVSO website.

Bill was President when I finally agreed to Janet's arm-twisting and ran for Council. It became a difficult first year when Janet became sick and then a new Director had to be found. Then, Arne and the next President, David Williams, took us through the difficult decisions about moving Headquarters. Currently, as David said in the last *Newsletter*, "This is an exciting time to be part of the AAVSO". Now that we have a new Director, a new building, and no crises on the horizon, we can concentrate on new ways of observing. While visual observations continue to be important, other options of CCD observing, robotic observing, and data mining in existing databases are emerging. The world is starting to wake up to the importance of transient phenomena across all timescales and knowledge of the types of behavior of all variable stars will be of increasing importance in the coming years.

The AAVSO is poised to tap into this global need and cooperation. We will be expanding our global horizons with upcoming meetings with fellow observers in Cambridge this spring and in Argentina in 2010.

While the future is bright, the past also strongly beckons. The AAVSO archive contains a wealth of information that is waiting to be explored. The meeting in Nantucket in the fall with the Maria Mitchell Observatory celebrates the long history of variable star observing. It's going to be a fun year. From the great sense of humor of the recent past Presidents, and the Council meetings and the Member Science meetings, I've come to realize this organization appreciates hard work but also knows how to have fun. Professionals sometimes lose sight of the fun among all the telescope proposals and grant and paper writing - we all (well, at least the observational astronomers) went into this field because of the lure of the night sky and the fun of observing. Next month, I get to go to CTIO and observe on a telescope on a mountaintop (not remotely from my office computer, staring only at a computer screen). I can't wait, and Mother Nature better cooperate!

If I haven't had a chance to meet you at one of the past meetings, please find me at one of the upcoming meetings and let me know what you are observing and your ideas for how to make the AAVSO even better.

AAVSO Fundraising Initiatives

By Mike Simonsen

Most non-profit organizations spend the majority of their time and resources engaged in fundraising. They can't perform the good works they do, pay their staff and keep the doors open without contributions from their members and benefactors.

For many years, the AAVSO has been able to archive and disseminate data to the membership and astronomical community, maintain and expand its internet presence, publish the *Journal*, Predicted Dates of Maxima and Minima of LPVs, Solar Section publications, newsletters, monographs and manuals, coordinate observing campaigns and put on our annual meetings without making a concerted effort to obtain funding through donations.

We've been able to meet our approximately \$1,000,000 annual budget through withdrawals from our endowments, dues, grants and royalties, contributions and miscellaneous operating income. The organization could probably go on for a few more years like this without running desperately short of cash or reducing

services, but not indefinitely. This scenario also leaves no room for the organization to grow.

So to meet the current needs of the organization, assure its future, and make room for us to grow, we are asking for your help.

Some of the things you can do are actually quite simple and painless. For example, make sure that your mailing address and contact information are up to date. You'd be shocked at how many *Newsletters* and *JAAVSOs* are returned to headquarters after each mailing, and what it costs us to track down the members' correct mailing addresses and resend the materials. This is particularly expensive for foreign subscribers. You can check and update your personal information in the Blue and Gold Section of the website <http://www.aavso.org/bluegold/>, send an email to aavso@aavso.org with any updates or simply fill out your dues reminder with the new address, email, and phone number.

Pay your dues on time. When your dues reminder comes in the mail, return it promptly with your dues payment, or simply log into Blue and Gold and renew your membership online. This saves the organization postage sending multiple reminder notices to members who are in arrears.

Consider paying your dues at the sustaining level this year. Annual dues are still only \$70. If you pay another \$70 to increase your dues to the sustaining level, that extra money goes into the General Fund to cover the expenses of the organization. You will receive a note of thanks that also acts as your receipt for the IRS.

Do your online shopping through Amazon.com via the AAVSO website. Simply make a habit of clicking on the Amazon link at the bottom of our home page every time you make an online purchase, and 5%, or more, of your total purchase price is donated to AAVSO through Amazon.com. Last year AAVSO received almost \$1000 from Amazon by people making purchases of electronics, software, music, books, clothing, cat food, beauty products, housewares, and even groceries! Obviously, you can purchase a wide variety of products from Amazon these days, and it costs you nothing extra for a percentage of that purchase to go directly to AAVSO. We could easily double or triple that amount if everyone would just remember to shop online through the Amazon/AAVSO link provided on our website. The way our agreement with Amazon works, we actually receive higher percentages based on total purchases, so your new shopping habits could actually provide a six or seven percent return this year. All you have to do is remember to do it!

You can set up a monthly donation to AAVSO through your Visa or Master Card using our simple online giving form at <http://www.aavso.org/aavso/support/gift.php>.

A \$100 contribution each month (about the cost of your morning double latte) will add up to \$1200 by the end of the year, and the best part is, the money you contribute is tax deductible. You contribute to the AAVSO and the IRS has to give you money back at tax time! That is a win-win situation for you and the AAVSO.

Adding the AAVSO as a beneficiary to your will or life insurance policy costs you little or nothing to do now, but guarantees your philanthropic wishes will be taken care of after you are gone.

Consider what the AAVSO means to you and the astronomical community and write a check to contribute to one of our funds today. Money contributed to the Building Fund goes towards replenishing the Endowment for the cost of the purchase of our new headquarters. Money donated to the Janet A. Mattei

Research Fellowship Program will enable a visiting scientist, postdoctoral researcher, or student to perform research at AAVSO Headquarters with the goal of disseminating the results throughout the astronomical community. Donations to the Margaret Mayall Assistantship Fund help finance a summer student at AAVSO Headquarters who works on variable star-related projects and research while learning about the AAVSO and variable stars in general.

With your help, we will be able to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future, and continue providing the valuable scientific and educational services of the AAVSO for another 100 years.

The 96th Annual Meeting of the AAVSO

AAVSO Headquarters, Cambridge, MA
November 1-3, 2007



Meeting Memories

By Kate Hutton (HTN)

It is always a good thing when one gets a chance to put faces with names, observer codes and email addresses. It's an even better thing when one also gets to visit headquarters, especially when it's a brand-new headquarters. I admit that my decision to attend the 2007 Annual meeting was mostly an impulse, since I've not been on the east coast for thirty years. I'm glad that I followed the impulse. I feel like I now know where my data are going and who is handling correspondence, fixing software, and so forth.

I enjoyed speaking with everyone, but especially John Percy, Dirk Terrell, Pamela Gay, Carol and Barry Beaman, Susan Oatney, Michael Richmond, Elizabeth Waagen, Gamze Menali, Travis Searle, Kate Davis, and Doc Kinne. I enjoyed listening to all the scientific and educational talks. Thanks to everyone, I learned quite a bit more about eclipsing binaries, cataclysmic variables, as well as other stars and topics. I participated in lively discussions about, among other things, the topic of the week: charts.

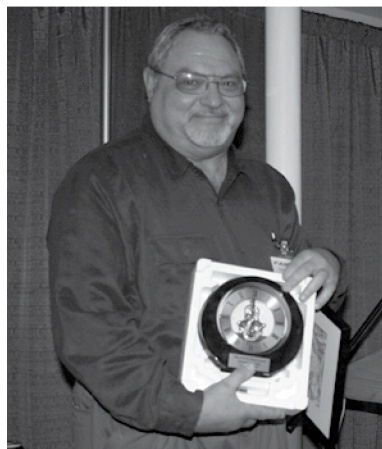
The AAVSO knows how to throw a good meeting. Arne, among his many skills, can flip a good hamburger. New England knows how to show a visitor not only pretty leaves, but also weather fit for southern California, followed the next day by a classic nor'easter!

Awards and Recognition

Presented at the 96th Annual Meeting

The 39th AAVSO Merit Award

Gerard Samolyk



"... in recognition of his over 32 years of devoted service to the AAVSO as variable star observer, particularly of eclipsing binaries and RR Lyrae stars, contributing over 150,000 observations; Council member for four years; member of the Eclipsing Binary and RR Lyrae Committees for nearly 30 years and developer of observing techniques, data collection methods, and analysis processes for these stars; preparer or co-preparer of thirteen AAVSO publications and 30 years' of ephemerides on these stars; and his continual encouragement to other variable star observers."

The 6th AAVSO William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award

John R. Percy



"...for his promotion of variable stars and astronomy education through his ongoing research, dedicated student and peer mentoring, consistent demonstration of and advocacy for best practices in teaching, leadership within the AAVSO and the astronomy and science education communities, and his commitment to public education."

Special Recognition Award

Leonard B. Abbey, Jr.

"...in appreciation of more than 50 years of service to the AAVSO, not only through his contribution of variable star observations, but also through his devotion of numerous hours as a volunteer and programmer to create and maintain important software packages that have been used by hundreds of observers and researchers worldwide."

Supernova Award

Robert O. Evans of Hazelbrook, NSW, Australia
for his visual discovery of Supernova 2007it in NGC 5530
September 13.44 UT.

Announcing:
The Joint Meeting of the AAVSO and the BAA
Thursday, April 10, 2008 - Sunday, April 13, 2008
New Hall, Cambridge, England
Event web site: www.regonline.com/aavso-baa

The AAVSO and the BAA will be holding a joint meeting this year in Cambridge, England. The conference will be held on the beautiful grounds of New Hall, University of Cambridge from April 10th to April 13th, 2008.

We have two full days of interesting lectures planned for this meeting - Friday, "The AAVSO/BAA VSS Meeting on Variable Stars," will focus on variable star topics and Saturday, "The BAA Out of London Meeting in conjunction with the AAVSO & BAA Variable Star and Solar Sections," will have a broader scope of topics. We are working on Thursday and Sunday field trips to the American Military Cemetery, the Institute of Astronomy (IoA) and Stonehenge/Avebury. There will be a Friday evening informal lecture by Professor Mike Bode and an AAVSO/BAA Awards Banquet on Saturday evening featuring a guest lecture by Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Professor John Brown.

We are very excited to be holding this joint meeting and hope that many of our AAVSO and BAA members and colleagues will join us in Cambridge this April!

About Cambridge

Cambridge, located only 50 miles (80 km) north of London, is a historic university city known for its impressive architecture, narrow winding streets, punting on the river as well as a host of museums, colleges, and galleries.

Low temperatures in Cambridge in April are around 30F/-1C. Highs are in the low 70sF/low 20sC. Average temperatures are around 50F/10C.



Our venue, New Hall

For area maps and information on arriving by road, rail, or air, please visit the event website: www.regonline.com/aavso-baa.

New Hall is situated only a 15 minute walk from the historic City centre. The main Dining Hall, affectionately known as 'The Dome', built by Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, is a spectacular example of the groundbreaking architecture of the 1960's. The Dome has been completely refurbished, and provides a truly unique venue for larger dinner events. Notice its resemblance to a telescope dome!

New Hall has an extensive, modern Art Collection on display throughout the College, showing a wide range of works donated by female artists. Pieces include sculptures placed around the gardens and many pieces on view in meeting rooms and along the public walkways. Two tennis courts are available for use, along with a well-equipped gym and a squash court. Visitors are welcome to stroll around the informal gardens, or take time out to sit in peaceful areas and enjoy the sunshine. Most of our meeting events will be held in the beautiful Kaetsu Conference Room.



Lodging at New Hall

We have obtained a block of rooms on campus for our meeting attendees. You may reserve your room as part of the registration process.

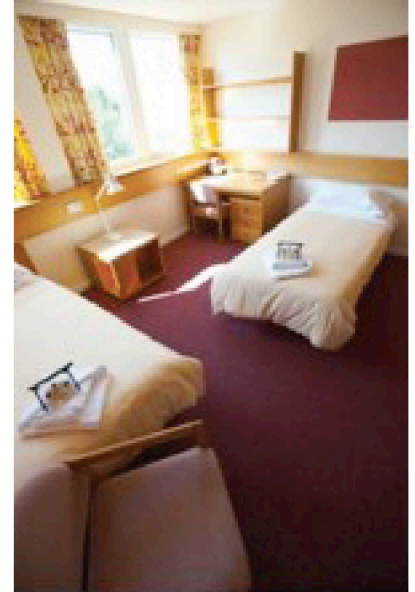
Rates: Single room - £78.00 (including value added tax) Twin Room - £118.00 (including value added tax)

Bedrooms Include:

- A full breakfast, served in the spectacular Dome Dining Hall
- Tea/Coffee making facilities
- Good working areas for study
- High speed broadband access
- Direct dial telephones - just buy a card from the Porters' Lodge
- Daily service, except on Sundays
- complimentary toiletries
- Guest Booklet with information about New Hall and Cambridge

Passports:

For those traveling abroad: be sure to check that you have a valid passport well before your travel date. US residents can visit: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html for information on obtaining a US passport.



Apply for a Contributed Variable Star Paper Slot

Submissions will be reviewed and assigned to a limited number of 15-20 minute slots during the variable star session on Friday, April 11th. Those who do not receive slots will be invited to present their findings as a poster paper. Submissions must be received by March 10th. Authors will be notified by March 17th.

If registering online, please copy and paste your proposed variable star related paper title and abstract into the appropriate section of the registration form. If registering by postal mail please send proposed paper title and abstract to the AAVSO, 49 Bay State Rd, Cambridge, MA 02138. [Note: If you do not wish to be considered for a presentation time slot but wish to present a variable star poster only please type the words "Poster Paper" above your title.]

Fees

PLEASE NOTE: All fees are listed in British Pounds. (All prices include tax.)

Lodging (includes full breakfast): Single room £78.00 per night, Twin room £118.00 per night

Thursday

Dinner on campus: £22.50 per person

Friday

Variable Star Session (includes refreshments): £15.50 per person

Lunch buffet: £16.50 per person

Dinner on campus: £22.50 per person

Saturday

General Session (includes refreshments): £15.50 per person

Lunch buffet: £16.50 per person

Banquet: £36.00 per person

Sunday

Trip to Stonehenge/Avebury: £20.00 per person - does not include lunch

Looking for a roommate?

If anyone is interested in sharing a twin room in order to cut costs, please call or email us your name, and the dates that you would like to share a room. (617-354-0484, aavsobaa@gmail.com)

How to Register/Deadlines

There are two ways to register: Please visit the event web site at: www.regonline.com/aavso-baa to register and for news and updates as they are posted or call the AAVSO at 617-354-0484 to request a paper registration form.

Deadlines:

March 10, 2008 – Deadline for submitting a contributed paper.

March 26, 2008 – Deadline for registration.

We hope to see you in Cambridge for this very special meeting!

Preliminary Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 10th

Afternoon Suggested trip to the American Military Cemetery for those arriving early (Make own arrangements by bus or walk).
 19.00 Dinner on Campus
 20.00 Visit to Cambridge Institute of Astronomy old telescopes (no charge)

Friday, April 11th

08.45 Registration Begins
 09.20 - 09.30 Welcome, BAA President, Roger Pickard and AAVSO Director, Dr Arne Henden
 09.30 - 17.30 AAVSO/BAA VSS Meeting on Variable Stars
 09.30 - 10.00 Dr Paula Szkody, Washington University
 "Coordinated HST and Ground Campaigns on Cataclysmic Variables"
 10.00 - 10.30 Des Loughney, BAA VSS "Eclipsing Binaries - Observational Challenges"
 10.30 - 11.15 Short Presentations and poster papers from AAVSO and BAA Members
 11.15 - 11.45 Tea/coffee break
 11.45 - 12.45 Short Presentations and poster papers from AAVSO and BAA Members
 12.45 - 14.00 Buffet Lunch
 14.00 - 14.45 John Toone, BAA VSS
 "British Variable Star Associations"
 14.45 - 15.30 Robin Leadbeater, BAA VSS
 "Chasing Rainbows - The European amateur spectroscopy scene"
 15.30 - 16.00 Tea/coffee break
 16.00 - 16.45 Dr Tom Lloyd-Evans, BAA VSS
 "Long term monitoring and the Carbon Miras"
 16.45 - 17.30 Dr Boris Gaensicke, Warwick University
 "Cataclysmic variables from large surveys - a silent revolution"
 17.30 Session ends
 19.00 - 20.00 Dinner on Campus

20.00 - 21.00

Informal lecture: Prof Mike Bode, Liverpool John Moores University
 "The Explosions of the Recurrent Nova RS Ophiuchi"

Saturday, April 12

10.00 - 10.25

Registration - Tea/coffee available
 Welcome, BAA President, Roger Pickard and AAVSO Director Dr Arne Henden

10.25 - 10.30

10.30 - 17.30

BAA Out of London Meeting in conjunction with the AAVSO & BAA Variable Star and Solar Sections
 Dr Rene Oudmajer, Leeds University
 "Star Formation"

10.30 - 11:15

Dr Arne Henden, AAVSO
 "The MJUO/AAVSO Collaboration"

11.15 - 12:00

12.00 - 13:30

Buffet Lunch

13.30 - 14:15

Guy Hurst, BAA

"Novae and Supernovae: from visual to remote robotic observations"

14.15 - 15.00

Lee MacDonald, BAA

"Observing the Sun with Small Telescopes"

15.00 - 15:45

Tea/coffee break

15.45 - 16:30

Dr Giulio Del Zanna, Mullard Space Science Laboratory

"Changes in the solar corona during the last cycle"

16.30 - 17:30

TBA

17.30

Session ends

19.00 - 19.30

Assemble for Banquet (Smart casual attire will suffice)

19.30 - 21.00

Banquet

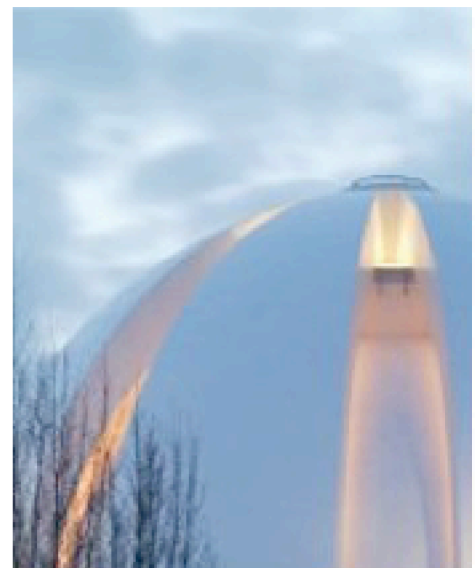
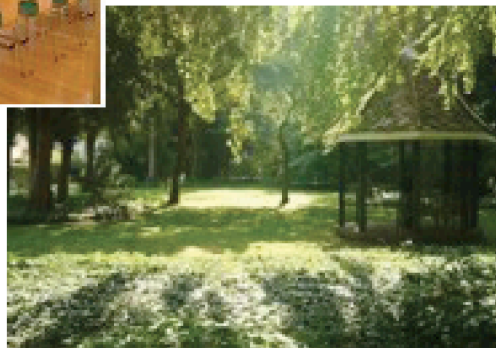
21.00 - 22:00

After Dinner lecture: Prof John Brown
 Astronomer Royal for Scotland
 "Some Musings on 50 Years in Astronomy and Magic"

Sunday 13th April

09.30

All-day visit to Stonehenge / Avebury



NMO List and Tools To Be Reintroduced

By Mike Simonsen

The new *Bulletin of Predicted Dates of Maxima and Minima of Long Period Variables* for 2008 should be published in February. When it is published it will contain a subset list of stars "In Need of More Observations", the NMO stars. These are stars that do not have mean light curves or enough observations in the AAVSO International Database to make reliable predictions of their behavior from cycle to cycle. Observing these stars presents a unique opportunity for observers to make observations they know are specifically requested by AAVSO headquarters staff.

Along with the stars that don't have plentiful or complete data, there is a category of NMO stars having good CCD data but still needing visual observations. Because all of the Bulletin stars have decades of visual observations that predate CCD data, even where there is good CCD coverage, visual observations are needed to allow correlation between the two types of data. These NMOs are specific cases where the continuity of visual observations is critical.

Once the *Bulletin* is published, I will recreate the NMO Observing Tool that was discontinued on the AAVSO website a couple years ago. This tool will be a document in Excel and Word format, posted monthly, that will track whether the stars are visible or in conjunction, above or below 13th magnitude, and whether there is adequate coverage to ascertain the current magnitude or not. Observers can use this information to determine which stars need visual or CCD coverage or are not getting any attention at all. Being available in a spreadsheet you can sort stars by RA, Declination, Constellation or whatever parameters you choose.

Plans are to create a modest website and discussion list dealing with Long Period Variables and the NMO stars in particular. There we can discuss the behaviors, mysteries, and idiosyncrasies of these stars, as well as observing techniques, charts and sequences. In fact, one of the primary reasons I want to revive this tool and discussion list is to obtain information on the need for revisions of the LPV sequences that will be affected by the new photometry in the upcoming releases of the comp star database in VSP. Some of the sequences will need minor revisions, some will need extensions to fainter magnitudes, and some will need wholesale revision once reliable photometry is available.

More information will be posted to aavso-discussion and made available in *Eyepiece Views* as it becomes available.

Eyepiece Views

Eyepiece Views is a FREE electronic newsletter published by the AAVSO that is intended to support observers in their visual programs.

It contains lists of new targets, new observing program ideas, information that is both interesting and helpful. The stories, tips, and guidance found in this newsletter have helped many "newbies" through the variable star learning curve. *Eyepiece Views* is edited by Gamze Menali and has been published since June 2001 on a bi-monthly basis, except for a two-year hiatus in 2003-2004 when adjustments were made to staff schedules.

The content and the authors of *Eyepiece Views* are as varied as the variable stars it describes. From comments on variable star activities to tips on observing in cold weather, from book reviews to observing tales, this newsletter is enjoyed by many visual

observers, both beginners and veterans alike. Contributors include: Arne Henden, David Levy, Matthew Templeton, Janet Mattei, Kate Hutton, Mike Simonsen, David Williams, Erwin van Ballegoij, Mike Linnolt, Gary Poyner, plus many many more!

Recently we've had a home page article, highlighting the publication. We have selected some articles from our archives that we thought may be of interest to you. You can read more on this by visiting the <http://www.aavso.org/news/eyepieceviews.shtml>

There are many more Eyepiece Views articles to explore, so make sure you visit the Eyepiece Views archive for more. Subscribe to Eyepiece Views today to receive this newsletter free-of-charge, every two months, via email. If you would like to contribute an article, have comments or questions, please contact Gamze Menali at gamze@aavso.org.

An archive of Eyepiece Views can be found at <http://www.aavso.org/publications/eyepieceviews>.

We appreciate your contributions, suggestions and comments to help us excel our publication. Thanks and good observing!

The AAVSO and EPO

Education and Public Outreach is important for the AAVSO to attract, train, and retain new variable star observers and members of all ages, to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of variable star astronomy, and variable star observing among amateur and professional astronomers, educators, students, and the general public. It is also important to improve science education and literacy through the unique power of variable stars, and variable star observing to motivate students, young and old.

The AAVSO Education and Public Outreach Committee consists of amateur and professional astronomers with a wide range of interests in informal and formal education at all levels.

Some of the current projects, programs, and activities that are being worked on include:

***AAVSO Speakers Bureau:** a service established for people and groups looking for enthusiastic, knowledgeable speakers to provide informative presentations for astronomy clubs, star parties, banquets, Scout Troops, Astronomy Day activities and other public and private astronomy functions.

***Presentation Library:** containing PowerPoint presentations on variable stars, observing techniques and other astronomical topics, these are available free to the public to use in making your own presentations.

***Online Activities and Resources:** this page contains links to various online activities and resources, such as Hands-On Astrophysics learning activities, time series analysis software, and remote control of ground based and space based telescopes.

***AAVSO/EPO Discussion Forum:** an online forum for sharing thoughts and experiences in EPO with amateur and professional astronomers, educators and outreach activists. Registration is open to anyone with an interest in education and public outreach in variable star astronomy, and it's free! Check out: <http://www.aavso.org/mailman/listinfo/aavso-epo>.

***AAVSO Mentor Program:** AAVSO connects experienced observers with new observers to assist them in observing, recording and reporting observations of variable stars to the AAVSO International Database.

For more information on new programs or to contact committee members visit: <http://www.aavso.org/education>.

AAVSO
49 Bay State Road
Cambridge, MA 02138
USA

Upcoming Meetings
20-21 - Spring 2010: Argentina - Spring 2011: Joint with AAS in Boston - *Mark your calendars!*
Fall 2008: Maria Mitchell Observatory, Nantucket, MA; Oct. 17-18 - Spring 2009: Big Bear, CA; May

