



# AAVSO Newsletter

25 Birch Street • Cambridge, MA 02138 USA • 617-354-0484 • aavso@aavso.org • http://www.aavso.org

## Message from the President

David B. Williams

I'm still a bit dizzy from the Annual Meeting in October. Aside from the disorienting effect of being elevated from 2nd Vice President to President (I've never skipped a grade before), I'm suffering from future shock. The innovation that impressed me most was a live webcam talk and Q&A session with ace variable star observer Gary Poyner in England. There we were, talking with Gary across 3,000 miles of ocean, in real time and at negligible cost. The possibilities for special "guests" at future meetings are mind-boggling.

We also heard more about new programs that will be coming on line from the AAVSO in the coming year. The Automatic Chart Plotter is going to be a boon for observers everywhere, and the Variable Star Registry could change the way the whole variable star community keeps track of variables (an important problem in this era of countless new discoveries).

I reflect on all this with amazement because, with the possible exception of Clint Ford, I may be the only AAVSO member who has served on the Council with three directors. Back in 1968, Margaret Mayall was director of a very different AAVSO. In those days, observers sent in monthly reports on paper forms. I well recall transcribing my nightly observations from the record sheet made at the telescope to index cards, one card for each variable, then at the end of the month preparing my monthly report by copying all the new observations in Harvard Designation order from those index cards onto the monthly report form.

Each evening Margaret took home a batch of reports so that she could hand plot the observations to keep our light curves up to date. If a member dropped by our tiny, rented headquarters, he or she would be recruited to help trim charts. In those days, chart masters were inked on translucent paper, and these masters were sent out for reproduction by the blueprint process. Several charts were produced on each large blueprint sheet, and these charts needed to be cut apart and trimmed to standard 8x10 size with scissors. Like hand-plotting the light curves, chart trimming was a never-ending and time-consuming task.

Janet Mattei was director during my second stint on the Council, and Janet moved the AAVSO into the computer era. In those early digital days, each reported observation had to be recorded from the monthly report form to a punch card. Every year or two, a couple of hundred thousand cards were trucked over to the Center for Astrophysics and run through their big computers, producing data files and light curves. As the punch cards accumulated, they threatened to take over all the space at headquarters. Thankfully, computers evolved rapidly and the punch-card era ended before the staff was pushed out onto the street.

Then came desktop computers, the Internet, and the World Wide Web. Now charts can be downloaded from the AAVSO

website, and observations can be reported via the WebObs utility. After more than three decades of reporting observations the old-fashioned way, I still marvel that now I can report an estimate and, a few minutes later, see it plotted with everyone else's observations on the Light Curve Generator.

Our newest director, Arne Henden, is continuing to push the technological envelope to develop new programs to serve our members and the astronomical community. The next few years will bring more changes as the AAVSO keeps pace with the rapid development of variable star astronomy.

The only thing that hasn't changed – and won't change – is the need for high-quality observations and more of them, whether you are a visual, PEP, or CCD observer. It looks like it will be clear tonight. I know what I'll be doing. What about you?

David B. Williams  
President

## From the Director

Arne A. Henden

It is the holiday season again, and appropriately, I'm watching the first major Boston snowstorm of the year from my office window. Freshly falling snow is so pretty and really gets you into the holiday mood. It also reminds me that this is the time to take stock of what has happened during the past year, and to make plans for the coming year.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Many of these items were mentioned in my Director's Report, available on the Web as a PowerPoint presentation and will be printed in *JAAVSO*, vol. 34, no.2.

Probably the biggest change this year was the hiring of a new Director – me! Shortly after Janet's passing in early 2004, the Council initiated a search for a new Director. Several qualified candidates were interviewed, and after a lengthy selection process, I was hired early this year and came on board in March.

*(continued on next page...)*

### In this issue...

Message from the President	1
From the Director	1-2
What's New at HQ	3
Awards and Recognition	4-5
In Memoriam	5
AAVSO Fall Meeting	6-7
AAVSO 2003-2004 Observer Totals	8-12

*The AAVSO Newsletter - Production Editor: Travis Searle. Additional editing and proofing by Elizabeth O. Waagen. Other photo and written contributions in this issue by Kate Davis and Mario Motta.*

Elizabeth Waagen should be commended for her capable leadership of the AAVSO during the interim period – it was very easy for me to take over with Elizabeth to turn to whenever a question arose.

We had an astonishing number of observations submitted this year – approaching one million. Many of those are CCD time series, and so how they count in comparison to the individual visual observations is an interesting concept. However the data are taken, it still means a major addition to our International Database. We now have about 13 million observations, and if history repeats itself, should be close to 14 million by this time next year.

At the same time as we received all of these observations, we also handled 2,846 requests for AAVSO data and information from professional astronomers, observers, educators and students. This is 50% more than last year, due to our increased campaign activity, the end of the validation project (and therefore availability of more data online), and the new satellites (such as Spitzer and Swift) with need of ground-based verification. There were numerous other requests not uniquely identified, such as researchers checking Quick Look data, plotting light curves, using the AAVSO charts, etc.

Together with colleagues from Marshall Space Flight Center, Sonoma State University, and New Mexico State University, we held a very successful Third High Energy Astrophysics Workshop for Amateur Astronomers. While invited speakers told us of the latest high-energy news, we also had smaller workshops on CCD photometry. Most of the invited and contributed papers are online at our Web site.

This was a heavy publication year for the AAVSO. Two volumes of the *Journal* were published: 32.2 and 33.1. More importantly, we started publishing the electronic counterpart: *eJAAVSO*. This includes both back issues as well as all articles accepted for publication. These new articles are indexed into ADS as soon as they are posted, for rapid publication turnaround. We also published *CCD Views 325-338*, *Eyepiece Views* was restarted, *Alert Notices 311-326*, *Four Variable Star of the Season* articles, *Eclipsing Binary Monographs 9 and 10*, a revised *Manual for Visual Observing*, a *Photoelectric Photometry Newsletter* as well as the general *AAVSO Newsletter*, many issues of the *Solar Bulletin*, and much more. Nearly two dozen refereed papers with staff members as coauthors were published.

The GRB/High Energy Network showed enthusiastic participation. The Swift satellite was launched and is producing excellent localizations (a few arcsec using the X-ray telescope!). Four afterglows were detected and measured by network members. Several of the bursts had bright afterglows: GRBs 051111, 051109, 050922, 050820, 050721, 050525, and 050502 were all brighter than 15th magnitude but only in the first few minutes after the gamma-ray burst (they fade rapidly). In addition, the burst GRB050904 has been identified as the most distant GRB (its redshift was measured as  $z=6.29$ ), and GRB050709 was the first localized short-hard gamma-ray burst, possibly supporting the neutron-neutron star merger theory. Observations in support of the GLAST Telescope Network continue.

The Chart Team has been very busy this year under the leadership of Team Leader Mike Simonsen and Headquarters Coordinator Aaron Price. Over the past three years, 2,000 charts for more than 400 stars have been created, updating about 40% of all AAVSO Variable Star Charts. The team is currently addressing a few chart errors, but is winding down their chart-making activity.

At the same time, the Comparison Star Database Team is nearing their first goal of documenting over 70,600 comparison stars on over 4,100 charts. Once all of the comparison stars are identified and entered into a database, we can obtain improved photometry for many of the stars and revise sequences to make them more useful to the observers.

The Web site has been greatly extended this year. New pages giving staff biographies, a virtual tour of the HQ building, Spring, Fall, HEA meeting special sections, the online book auction, and many feature articles were added. The Internet Relay Chat Server was installed to allow the AAVSO to host real-time chat sessions among its members. CVnet was started to provide concentrated information for our cataclysmic variable observers.

Our campaign activity has ranged from exosolar planets to galaxies. Many campaigns were in support of space missions, such as the AE Aqr campaign for Chris Mauche. AAVSO members monitored several CVs for Paula Szkody, ensuring that they were not in outburst so that HST observations could be made safely.

We were fortunate in having Grant Foster as our first Janet A. Mattei Research Fellow. Grant spent time at HQ this summer, researching a project on secular period evolution of cepheids using the extensive decades-long observation sets in our International Database. Two Margaret Mayall Assistants worked at HQ. Erin Snyder wrote Java interfaces to the new MySQL membership database. Yelena Synkova entered most of the older eclipsing binary and RR Lyr data that had been submitted to HQ on paper.

Many awards have been given out to our members this year. Michael Simonsen was given the Director's award for his many years of vital service to the AAVSO. Martha Hazen was honored for her outstanding service over the decades for the AAVSO with the Merit Award. Janet Mattei was posthumously given the William Tyler Olcott award for her longtime mentoring and promotion of variable star astronomy. Two Special Recognition Awards were given. The first was to Charles Whitney for thirty years of devoted volunteer service as Editor of the *JAAVSO* and the other to long-time AAVSO member Charles Scovil for his many years of service as Chair of the Telescope and New Charts Committees. Of course, many observers were recognized for their achievement of special levels of observation totals.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

But wait! That's not all! We have many more new things planned for the coming year. The automated chart plotter will be released, enabling real-time generation of charts and making their creation and maintenance much simpler. The International Database will be ported to a true relational database, making outside automated queries much simpler (and again, making internal maintenance vastly simpler). We are building a variable star index search engine, permitting data-mining across multiple surveys. The headquarters building is going to be renovated. More workshops will be given. We are going to travel the Southern Hemisphere to recruit new variable star observers and to cement our ties with our southern colleagues.

All-in-all, I think this has been a momentous year for the Association. I think it bodes well for the future. We have a stable financial situation, excellent staff and volunteers, and an enthusiastic observer base from which to contribute valuable service to the scientific community. Thank you all for your efforts!

-Arne

## What's New at AAVSO Headquarters



News and Notes from AAVSO HQ.

### Become an AAVSO Flying Star!

Travel is an important part of any astronomer's job. The AAVSO is an international association with members and observers in more than 40 countries. It is important that AAVSO staff travel and represent the organization at both professional and amateur meetings all over the globe. This can get quite expensive, especially with rising fuel costs. To help fund future travel the AAVSO has started the Flying Star Program.

You can become an AAVSO Flying Star by:

#### *Donating \$350 or Purchasing a ticket for an AAVSO Staff Member with your Frequent Flyer Miles.*

In return you'll get:

- A letter from the Director, describing the donation, for your tax records.
- A full report of meeting activities and results personally sent to you by the staff member who travelled on your donation.
- Your name listed in the acknowledgements section in any poster, talk or paper presented at the meeting and/or published.
- Your name listed as a "Flying Star" on the AAVSO web site and home page.

Remember, all donations are tax deductible in the USA. Your donation will only be used for air, train or bus fare and not for any other expense. Our goal for 2005/6 is \$1400 or 4 tickets and we're well on our way to achieving that goal! Please consider joining the Flying Star Program today. Check out the AAVSO website at:

<https://www.variablestars.com/flyingstar.shtml>

### Observing Manual Updates

New Translations Underway

As you may already know, the AAVSO has members and active observers in over 40 countries world-wide. In an effort to make *The AAVSO Manual for Visual Observing of Variable Stars* more useful we have currently launched a project to translate the manual into four languages; Spanish, French, Russian, and Turkish. Thanks to the assistance of several ambitious AAVSO volunteers in various countries the project is well on its way. We intend to make these translated versions, complete with all the photographs and figures from the English language version, available on our website for online viewing, downloading, and printing. Watch for them in the coming year!

### Where are You?

Show us!

Help us create a map of AAVSO'ers! *Frapp* (friend mapper) is a new application that uses Google maps to plot the locations of a group around the world. Add your name so we can see where all our AAVSO'ers are located. You can also post your picture and a brief message. Visit: <http://www.frapp.com/aavso>

### Calendar Year

A Generous Donation

Our thanks go out to long-time member and benefactor Tom Williams who graciously donated funds to include an AAVSO sponsored page in the 2006 American Astronomical Society Membership Calendar. Tom also provided the funds to purchase a calendar for every current AAVSO member who is not a member of AAS. This year, the AAVSO sponsored the month of November and our page features the story of our involvement with the nova V838 Mon. The calendars were sent out in early December. Thanks to Tom, we will have a sponsored page in the calendar every year leading up to our Centennial in 2011!

### Announcing the First Janet A. Mattei Research Fellow

Established in 2004 in honor of the late Janet A. Mattei, Director of the AAVSO, the purpose of the Janet A. Mattei Research Fellowship Program is to fund a scientist, postdoctoral researcher, or student to visit and perform research at AAVSO HQ using the AAVSO International Database and publish the results.

We are pleased to announce that the first Janet A. Mattei Research Fellow was Grant Foster. Grant is well-known to many of the AAVSO membership as a past staff member at headquarters. Some may recognize Grant, a talented guitarist and singer, from his performance at the Janet A. Mattei Memorial Service back in November of 2004. Grant is also the author of many of our data analysis programs such as TS, and for developing the CLEANEST algorithm and weighted wavelet Z-transform (WWZ).



AAVSO Director Arne Henden (L) with Grant Foster (R) outside AAVSO HQ.

While at HQ Grant worked with Director Arne Henden on the cepheid database, both looking at long-term secular period changes and studying TU Cas in detail. A paper has been written and will be submitted soon to a major journal. Once it has been approved for publication we will link to it on our home page. He also worked with Aaron Price on studying SS Cyg supercycle properties and using WWZ to characterize quasiperiodic oscillations in BZ UMa outbursts. Papers are forthcoming.

We were extremely pleased to have had Grant at HQ this summer and hope this will be the first of many highly successful collaborations with future Mattei Fellows!

[To donate to the Janet A. Mattei Fellowship program contact Headquarters or simply visit our website at: <https://www.variablestars.com/janetfund.shtml>]





# Awards and Recognition

## The William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award

Initiated in 2000, this award is presented to a member of the AAVSO organization for outstanding contributions in promoting variable star astronomy. The AAVSO was most pleased to present the fourth William Tyler Olcott Award posthumously to Janet A. Mattei.

“...for her untiring promotion of variable star observing through her manifold activities as teacher, speaker, mentor, advocate, colleague, researcher, and administrator for over 30 years, and through her unfailing belief in the essential value of variable star observing and variable star observers.”



Janet's husband, Mike Mattei, accepted Janet's Olcott Award.

## The 37th AAVSO Merit Award

There are many observers whose contributions to the AAVSO have gone far beyond observing to other activities as well. The Association shows its gratitude to such individuals by presenting them with its highest award, the AAVSO Merit Award, an illuminated scroll and citation describing their contributions. This award is presented to any member who, by majority vote of the AAVSO Council, is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution as an observer, or as a long-standing benefactor. This past year the AAVSO Council voted to present the 37th AAVSO Merit Award to **Martha L. Hazen**.

“... in recognition of her outstanding service to the AAVSO during many years as Councilor, President, and Secretary, recognizing that she always reflected wisely on the long-term needs of the association and its members and offered sound counsel, especially to the presidents and the Director, and technical support to AAVSO observers while assisting in many other ways.”

Martha was unable to attend the official award presentation at the AAVSO Fall Meeting, so Director Arne Henden, along with HQ staff members Elizabeth Waagen and Travis Searle, ventured out to Martha's home where the Merit Award was presented to Martha at an impromptu and surprise ceremony. A Quicktime movie of the presentation, which was played at the banquet, is available for viewing on the AAVSO website.

## Special Recognition

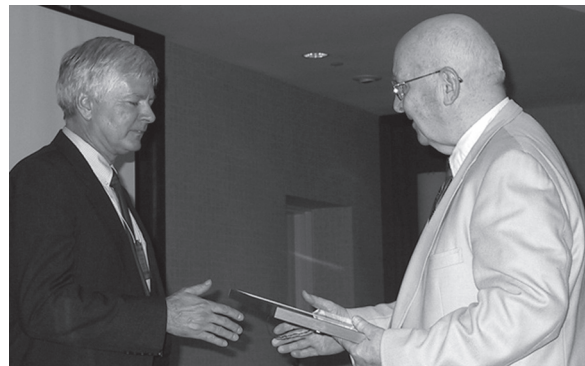
The AAVSO proudly presented two Special Recognition Awards at the 94th Annual Meeting this fall.

The first award went to *JAASO* Editor Charles A. Whitney. Charles has spent the past thirty years as a devoted volunteer of the Association as *Journal* Editor. His knowledge, guidance, constant support, and professionalism have helped to make the *Journal* into a recognized and respected resource for variable star research. We were pleased to have Charles and his wife, Elizabeth, on hand for the award presentation.

The second special recognition award was presented to long-time AAVSO member, officer, observer, supporter, and chart guru Charles Scovil. Charles was recognized for his forty years of devoted volunteer service to the AAVSO. Charles spent 35 years as Chair of the AAVSO Telescope Committee and 13 years as Chair of the AAVSO New Charts Committee, where his dedication and diligence was key to the standardization of AAVSO charts and helped to make more efficient their creation, drafting, and distribution. Charles is also well-known for editing the *AAVSO Variable Star Atlas*. We were delighted to see Charles at the meeting and we remain grateful for his hard work and dedication to the AAVSO.



AAVSO Director Arne Henden (L) presents JAAVSO Editor Charles Whitney (R) with a Special Recognition Award.



Charles Scovil (R) accepts his award for 40 years of volunteer service to the AAVSO.

## Solar and SID Observer Awards

Solar Observer Awards are certificates presented to solar observers who have reached milestones of 1000, 1500, and 2000 sunspot observations. In 2004 a new SID awards program was put in place that will allow SID observers to receive recognition for their efforts. In recognition of outstanding solar observing contributions, the most recent solar and SID observer awards were presented at the AAVSO 94th Annual Meeting, Newton, Massachusetts, October 15, 2005.



*Solar Observer and HQ volunteer Arthur Ritchie (L) accepts his Sunspot Observation Award.*

<b>Sunspot Observations</b>	<b>Country</b>
Biswajit Bose	India
Robert Brown	USA
Brian Cudnik	USA
Tom Fleming	USA
Monty Leventhal	Australia
Etsuiku Mochizuki	Japan
Michael Moeller	Germany
Arthur Ritchie	USA
Nick Stoikidis	Greece
Miyoshi Suzuki	Japan
David Teske	USA

<b>SID Reports</b>	<b>Country</b>
Peter King	England
Ted Poulos	USA
Roberto Battaiola	Italy
Andrew Clerkin	USA
François Steyn	South Africa
Jon Wallac	USA

## The Nova/Supernova Award

Receiving a Supernova Award this fall was **Robert O. Evans** of Hazelbrook, NSW, Australia, for his visual discovery of Supernova 2005df in NGC 1559 on August 4.625 UT.

## AAVSO HQ Staff Recognition

### 10 Years

**Rebecca Turner** - Astronomical Technical Assistant / Meeting Coordinator

### 5 Years

**Travis Searle** - Administrative Assistant / Membership Coordinator

## ☞ In Memoriam ☞

The AAVSO extends its most sincere sympathy and condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the following members, colleagues, and friends who have passed away since the publication of the previous *Newsletter*.

### **Bertie Baldwin - Butlerville, IN**

A long-time and very dear friend of the AAVSO, Bertie was AAVSO'er Marv Baldwin's wonderful wife. It was always a delight to see her at AAVSO meetings, or to speak with her on the phone, when she would patiently track down Marv or take a cryptic message for him.

### **Jerome (Cheng-Yuan) Shao - Providence, RI**

Jerome Shao was an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge for 32 years as well as a good friend of the AAVSO. He discovered several minor planets, which he named in honor of his wife and for the Chinese province where he was born. Jerome also played an important role in studying meteorites and throughout the 1970's and 80's he served as a link between American and Chinese astronomers during many visits to his native land.

### **William Whiddon - San Pedro, CA**

A long-time member and supporter of the AAVSO.

---

## Opportunities at the AAVSO

The AAVSO is a unique organization dedicated to variable stars and variable star research. We house the largest and most comprehensive digital variable star database in the world. The possibilities of future research with these data are limitless. If you are interested in working with the data directly from headquarters, or if you are interested in a possible volunteer position, we might have an opportunity available for you! Contact AAVSO HQ for more information.

**Janet A. Mattei Research Fellowship** - For an active researcher who wishes to use our database, programs, library or other resources at HQ. Young PhDs are given preference, but we encourage applications by any researcher who has a specific project that is of interest to the AAVSO

**Margaret W. Mayall Assistantship** - For a high school or college student interested in learning more about variable stars or working with AAVSO data.

**Volunteer Opportunities** - We are always looking for people who may be able to help the AAVSO in some way. Some examples include landscaping (pulling weeds, cleaning gutters, gardening, basic building maintenance), clerical help such as answering telephones, assisting with mailings, proof reading, and other quality control tasks. We also look for help with more specialized skills like programmers familiar with visual basic, Java, as well as individuals familiar with language translation for the website and press releases.

# The 94th AAVSO Fall Meeting

October 14-15, 2005 - Newton, Massachusetts



## A Series of Firsts

For me the AAVSO Fall Meeting was more than a meeting. It was a wonderful experience full of first times. It was the first time I had flown such a long distance. I had only travelled on a plane two times before, en route to Brazil some nine years ago. That was a two hour flight. My flight from Argentina to Boston took a total of fifteen hours! Almost an entire day had passed since had I left home to go to the airport in the Buenos Aires suburbs until I found myself at the Sheraton-Newton Hotel where I was to attend my first AAVSO meeting. But, it was worth the long trip.

That AAVSO Fall Meeting was the first time I attended a variable star meeting and gave a talk to colleagues, rather than talking about variable stars in a general astronomy course or at a public star party. Not only was this my first time giving a talk in English, but also the first time I had to fluently speak a language other than my native Spanish. I have to admit that it was stressful at first, but the AAVSO'ers helped me survive this first stage. When I arrived in the United States I could hardly understand what people were saying. By the time I took off from Atlanta (during my return trip) my brain seemed to have switched into English mode and I was really surprised by the way I managed to understand most of the conversations around me. It was then I realized that the experience had been easier than expected because we actually speak the same language: the VSO language.

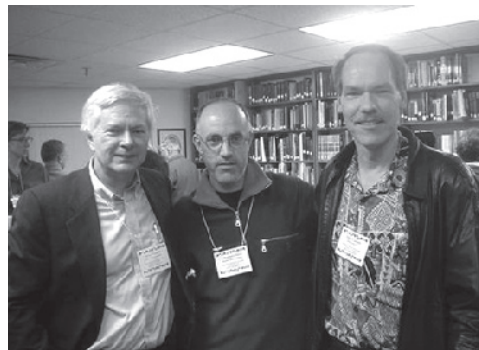
I was very glad to finally know the faces (and all at once!) behind the names on the e-mail messages I had been receiving during several years of exchanging correspondence.

My experiences at the meeting meant a lot to me. It was an opportunity to share with others the way I work and discuss issues related to observing techniques, among other subjects. There is not just one way to observe variable stars and I think it is important to know all the alternatives and always try and achieve the best results. I welcomed the chance to present a different approach to observing.

I've been connected to the AAVSO since 1998, during the early stages of my passion for variable stars. Over the years we've have had our differences and disagreements, as in every relationship, but after attending the meeting felt that there is fresh breeze blowing at HQ. The recent developments with charts, the AAVSO website, and software tools are crucial to taking the institu-

tion into the 21st century. The plans for the near future are really promising. Many of the projects in the works reach out to all observers and will help to meet the needs of not just the AAVSO, but needs of the whole variable star community.

Those who were in attendance may remember the Friday night "party" in Mike Simonsen's and my hotel room. Great fun was had chatting about ACP, VSX, variable stars surveys, and all the subjects that only completely insane variable star freaks like us can enjoy! This is the kind of experience that can not be replaced by any other.



(L-R) Director Arne Henden, Sebastian Otero, and Mike Linnolt at the AAVSO Open House.

And there is one other first time that I can't forget to mention. After several rainy days, Saturday night the sky cleared enough that I finally got to take my first look at the Northern Sky! Polaris, Cassiopeia, Perseus... they were all up there for me to enjoy them at last. And of course, I estimated MU Cep, Gamma Cas, Delta Ceph, Beta Lyr, and Beta Per with the help of Dan Taylor (Thanks, Dan!).

It wouldn't be fair just to mention a couple of names when there were so many people that I got to know, but I must be sure to express my gratitude to Mike Simonsen and AAVSO Director Arne Henden for their invitation and support.

I have no doubt that the future will find us all working closely and that there will be lots of SECOND, THIRD, and FOURTH times.

Sebastian Otero (OSE)  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

## AAVSO Fall Meeting: First Impressions

I'm an aspiring CCD observer and self-taught computer geek. Since high school it has been my fantasy to run an observing program out of my backyard. For now, I am teaching myself by night with the equipment owned by a nearby school. This fall, I hoped to involve the school's astronomy club in some sort of activities, besides the Stellafane convention in August. Though I didn't know what to expect, I suggested the October AAVSO meeting.

I had met some observers on the IRC chatroom, while observing during our streak of clear weather in early July, and was excited about the upcoming meeting.

I couldn't convince any of the other club members to join me, but I was ultimately able to hitch a ride with their adviser, sparing



myself the headache that is Boston driving. After arriving at the meeting, I did my best to meet other observers, which was my primary interest there.

Once the Council Meeting ended, I tagged along with attendees for dinner, drinks, and observing talk well in to the evening. That didn't stop me from waking up early in the morning to avoid missing anything. Both days, there were paper sessions and workshops given; I was inspired by the knowledge of the speakers, and the enthusiasm of other attendees. The best part may well have been the discussions that followed each group of presentations, small, self-organized groups of people with some common interest sharing advice, insights, and plans.

I got to associate lots of faces with names which I knew from the mailing lists and IRC. I had an great time meeting everyone present. I applied for observer initials months ago, and was assigned initials PZY. Just this weekend I made my first data submission, 97 measurements of an ill-understood star known as Bernhard 02, aka 2239+30. With luck, I'll see you all next Fall!

## Upcoming AAVSO Meetings

### 95th Spring Meeting of the AAVSO May 5-6, 2006 Rockford, Illinois

Join us this May in Rockford for the Spring Meeting. Located along the Rock River in Northern Illinois, Rockford is the state's third largest city. A preliminary schedule as well as hotel and travel information will be available in the coming months.

Among the events currently being planned are a local field trip, scientific paper sessions, and a workshop on writing and submitting scientific papers.

Also, save the date for next fall's meeting...

### 95th Annual Meeting of the AAVSO October 27-28, 2006 - Massachusetts

## AAVSO on the Road

Several AAVSO staff members have been on the road lately, attending astronomical meetings across the country and across the globe. Thanks to continued member support the staff hopes to continue travelling to these important meetings, conferences, and star parties to spread the word about the AAVSO and to connect with the observing communities. Check out the AAVSO website for reports from Arne, Gamze, and Aaron on their most recent trips, and look for more updates in 2006. Remember, you can help by donating to the AAVSO Flying Star Program!

<http://www.aavso.org/aavso/meetings/onroad.shtml>



## The Second Annual AAVSO Symposium

Held in early August 2005, the second AAVSO symposium, entitled *Cataclysmic Variables in the 21st Century: Observations from Earth and Space*, was a great success. The symposium was held at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, just down the road from AAVSO HQ. This one-day meeting gathered together experts in theory and observation of cataclysmic variables from greater New England's astronomical community to share new results and ideas on these important objects.

Speakers included Joseph Patterson (Columbia U.; co-founder, Center for Backyard Astrophysics), Paula Szkody (U. of Washington; AAVSO Council Member), AAVSO Director Arne Henden, Nada Jevtic (U. of Connecticut; Richard Stockton College of N.J.), and Margarita Karovska (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics).

All talks and posters have been invited to be published in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of the AAVSO*, which will also feature discussion summaries and a symposium recap. Video of the selected talks will also be available on the AAVSO website in the coming months. Thanks to everyone who attended!

## Announcement: AAVSO Special Notice A New Electronic Publication

The AAVSO *Special Notice (ASN)* will include announcements on interesting and/or rare stellar activity that do not involve new coordinated campaigns. The goal is for the ASN to be quick and brief. Should the announcement warrant further attention, it may be followed by an Alert Notice.

This publication will replace the "Special *MyNewsFlash*", which will no longer be issued.

\*Current MyNewsFlash subscribers: you are not automatically subscribed to this new service. You may subscribe to the new Special Notice by either replying to this e-mail with "subscribe" or by visiting this URL:

<http://www.aavso.org/publications/email/>

As a reminder, the *Alert Notice* will now be used to announce major events, major discoveries, requests for observations, and new campaigns coordinated by headquarters. Follow-up will be done through *Eyepiece Views* and *CCD Views*.

Much more information on this new electronic publication as well as a summary of the most current publication plans to alert observers of stellar activity is available on the website at: <http://www.aavso.org/news/announcement.shtml>.

## A Very Special Thanks...

To all our members, observers, and friends, who sent holiday greetings to Headquarters. We are most grateful. We wish you all a safe, happy, and joyous holiday and best wishes for a terrific New Year!

-AAVSO HQ Staff



# Observer Totals 2004–2005

Table 1. AAVSO Observer Totals 2004–2005 by Country

Country	No. Observers	No. Obs.	Country	No. Observers	No. Obs.	Country	No. Observers	No. Obs.
ARGENTINA	3	379	GERMANY	37	19,796	ROMANIA	11	7,699
AUSTRALIA	29	104,068	GREECE	8	2,775	RUSSIA	16	3,448
AUSTRIA	2	960	HUNGARY	72	19,629	SCOTLAND	1	5
BELARUS	1	48	INDIA	2	32	SINGAPORE	1	1
BELGIUM	16	65,899	IRELAND	3	201	SLOVENIA	1	375
BRAZIL	12	4,066	ISRAEL	2	441	SOUTH AFRICA	9	9,006
CANADA	31	126,518	ITALY	27	5,088	SPAIN	37	9,521
CHILE	3	931	JAPAN	4	1,906	SWEDEN	4	320
CHINA	1	93	MALTA	2	125	SWITZERLAND	5	943
CROATIA	1	1,173	NETHERLANDS	14	10,947	TURKEY	3	218
CZECH REPUBLIC	1	93	NEW ZEALAND	2	37,863	UKRAINE	7	4,711
DENMARK	2	72	NORWAY	6	8,240	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1	7
ENGLAND	28	54,446	PERU	1	7	USA	263	367,415
FINLAND	9	7,366	POLAND	26	14,444			
FRANCE	32	36,515	PORTUGAL	4	7,736	TOTAL	740	935,526

Table 2. AAVSO Observer Totals 2004–2005 USA by State or Territory

State	No. Observers	No. Obs.	State	No. Observers	No. Obs.	State	No. Observers	No. Obs.
ALABAMA (AL)	3	2,600	MARYLAND (MD)	9	3,435	OHIO (OH)	6	442
ARIZONA (AZ)	14	6,511	MASSACHUSETTS (MA)	21	20,028	OKLAHOMA (OK)	3	275
CALIFORNIA (CA)	35	52,835	MICHIGAN (MI)	7	7,718	OREGON (OR)	3	23,486
COLORADO (CO)	6	763	MINNESOTA (MN)	11	8,626	PENNSYLVANIA (PA)	9	1,242
CONNECTICUT (CT)	7	2,164	MISSISSIPPI (MS)	1	7	PUERTO RICO (PR)	1	46
FLORIDA (FL)	6	19,553	MISSOURI (MO)	3	1,547	RHODE ISLAND (RI)	2	1,807
GEORGIA (GA)	3	615	MONTANA (MT)	1	27	TENNESSEE (TN)	4	469
HAWAII (HI)	1	753	NEBRASKA (NE)	2	123	TEXAS (TX)	14	3,169
ILLINOIS (IL)	13	11,347	NEVADA (NV)	1	47	UTAH (UT)	2	9
INDIANA (IN)	8	18,948	NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH)	3	6,290	VIRGINIA (VA)	6	737
IOWA (IA)	2	3,200	NEW JERSEY (NJ)	1	74	WASHINGTON (WA)	4	77
KANSAS (KS)	4	4,243	NEW MEXICO (NM)	9	55,585	WEST VIRGINIA (WV)	3	595
KENTUCKY (KY)	2	190	NEW YORK (NY)	11	81,636	WISCONSIN (WI)	12	23,366
LOUISIANA (LA)	5	144	NORTH CAROLINA (NC)	1	38			
MAINE (ME)	3	2,644	NORTH DAKOTA (ND)	1	4	TOTAL	263	367,415

Table 3. AAVSO Observers, 2004–2005.

Code	Name	No. Obs.	No. I.S.	Code	Name	No. Obs.	No. I.S.	Code	Name	No. Obs.	No. I.S.
AAP	A. Abbott, Canada	3754	271	AAM	A. Arminski, Poland	11		BSZ	S. Beckwith, MA	1610	268
AAN	02 A. Abe, Germany	209	11	AMN	M. Armstrong, AZ	754	115	BXG	G. Beddow, England	5	
AJT	J. Agustoni, Brazil	16		ADN	D. Arnautovic, Australia	39		BJS	J. Bedient, HI	753	269
AMI	M. Aho, Finland	416	416	ARJ	J. Arnold, AL	5	2	BYE	J. Beninger, Singapore	1	
AWL	W. Alexander, VA	268	16	ARN	01 L. Arnold, France	6	1	BTY	T. Benner, PA	459	135
ASAS2	All Sky Automated Survey 2, Chile	12		ATI	03 T. Asztalos, Hungary	847		BEB	R. Berg, IN	1	1
ASAS3	All Sky Automated Survey 3, Chile	912		ADI	02 D. Augart, Germany	287		BIZ	J. Bialozynski, WI	3928	
ACO	C. Allen, Sweden	280		AAV	A. Avtanski, CA	34		BIC	01 L. Bichon, France	10948	11
AJC	13 J. Almeida, Brazil	224		ARX	R. Axelsen, Australia	208	11	BMM	05 M. Biesmans, Belgium	1073	412
AJG	J. Almeida, Portugal	12		BYG	03 G. Babcsany, Hungary	4		BHK	H. Bilor, Poland	1	
AJV	15 J. Alonso, Spain	79	1	BIX	I. Bacon, Australia	63	7	BIQ	R. Bissinger, CA	2949	
ARC	R. Altenburg, PA	22		BWW	W. Bakewell, CA	1		BXN	01 M. Bisson, France	1031	
AKV	K. Alton, NJ	74	7	BCD	R. Ball, England	6		BKL	J. Blackwell, NH	1875	152
AAA	12 A. Alves, Brazil	417		BIV	03 I. Balogh, Hungary	593	2	BZH	J. Bohusz, Poland	5	
AMH	M. Amato, CT	24		BXX	K. Bambery, Australia	5	2	BVS	S. Bolzoni, Italy	1	
AAQ	03 A. Ambrus, Hungary	184		BVN	M. Banfi, Italy	65	26	BZU	M. Bonnardeau, France	843	
AAX	13 A. Amorim, Brazil	1682		BGZ	G. Banialis, IL	50		BRJ	J. Bortle, NY	5427	2044
ACI	C. Anderson, CO	27		BBZ	03 S. Barabas, Hungary	4		BMU	04 R. Bouma, Netherlands	295	15
AKG	19 K. Andersson, Sweden	3		BXA	09 A. Baransky, Ukraine	242	10	BDG	20 D. Boyd, England	9878	2423
AJE	J. Andrei, Romania	15		BBO	B. Barnes, TX	28	22	BQJ	03 J. Bozsoky, Hungary	5	3
ABG	08 B. Andresen, Norway	658	7	BSR	18 S. Baroni, Italy	146		BMK	M. Bradbury, MA	217	
AWJ	W. Aquino, NY	108	38	BCT	01 C. Barret, France	23		BXS	S. Brady, NH	4411	664
AWY	13 W. Araujo, Brazil	136		BVT	T. Bartlett, TX	35	4	BNW	02 W. Braune, Germany	54	
AAT	15 A. Ardanuy, Spain	22		BXJ	J. Baxter, Canada	2049		BDL	D. Breslin, MA	2	
				BBA	B. Beaman, IL	540	6	BTB	T. Bretl, MN	144	1
				BWX	27 A. Beaton, Canada	378		BHA	02 H. Bretschneider, Germany	1490	





Table 3. AAVSO Observers, 2004–2005,

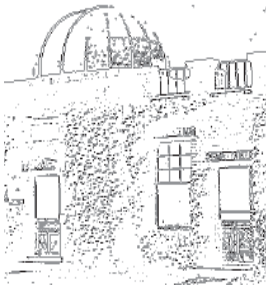
<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>No. Obs.</i>	<i>No. I.S.</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>No. Obs.</i>	<i>No. I.S.</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>No. Obs.</i>	<i>No. I.S.</i>
KSZ	03 S. Keszthelyi, Hungary	363		MLI	L. Maisler, NY	172	9	OYE	Y. Ogmen, Turkey	134	
KKX	K. Kida, Poland	257		MVO	17 V. Makela, Finland	42		OAR	A. Oksanen, Finland	4522	1955
KRB	R. King, MN	641	176	MQL	S. Mandelli, Italy	38		OHJ	03 H. Olle, Hungary	4	
KQR	R. Kinne, NY	7		MKE	R. Manske, WI	201		ODG	D. Ondich, MN	5	
KSJ	S. Kinsella, Canada	9		MOF	O. Maraev, Russia	37		OJR	06 J. Osorio, Spain	3231	1147
KCQ	C. Kirby, NM	62		MGK	G. Maravelias, Greece	10		OPR	P. Ossowski, Poland	9	
KIR	P. Kirby, AZ	263	3	MPB	P. Marini, Argentina	1		OSV	03 L. Osvald, Hungary	4	
KIL	03 L. Kiss, Australia	1920	145	MKW	A. Markiewicz, Poland	2241		OAG	06 A. Otero Garzon, Spain	2	
KMM	09 M. Kititsa, Ukraine	18		MXS	03 S. Marosi, Hungary	68		OJE	J. Oti Gonzalez, Spain	36	
KPC	P. Klages, England	6		MLK	L. Marschall, PA	82		OJJ	J. Ott, CO	113	72
KTX	27 T. Klassen, Canada	534		MMN	M. Martignoni, Italy	2	2	OJS	J. Ott, KY	179	
KGE	08 G. Klingenberg, Norway	5844	341	MYC	C. Martin, NE	4		OCR	05 C. Otten, Belgium	1423	1
KWL	W. Kloehr, Germany	36	36	MMG	M. Martinengo, Italy	79	9	PPK	17 P. Paakkonen, Finland	720	544
KCH	C. Knapp, WV	33		MRX	02 H. Marx, Germany	979	130	PCC	18 R. Papini, Italy	212	
KPL	P. Kneipp, LA	61	1	MN	H. Mason, NV	47		PPS	03 S. Papp, Hungary	3257	384
KGT	G. Knight, ME	30		MAV	16 D. Matsnev, Russia	1	1	PTQ	T. Parson, MN	2121	1296
KSP	S. Knight, ME	44		MTH	H. Matsuyama, Australia	3442	304	PJJ	15 J. Pastor, Spain	81	
KOC	03 A. Kocsis, Hungary	79		MTM	M. Mattei, MA	4	2	PKV	K. Paxson, TX	15	
KRV	R. Koff, CO	442		MGE	G. Mavrofidis, Greece	860	33	PEX	14 A. Pearce, Australia	10113	4593
KHL	M. Kohl, Switzerland	69		MKB	K. McCarthy, England	9		PN	A. Pearlmuter, MA	10	
KHJ	H. Koller, Canada	1		MBT	T. McDonagh, MA	32	17	PEI	11 E. Pedersen, Denmark	65	1
KRS	R. Kolman, IL	1817	62	MDP	P. McDonald, Canada	865	22	PEG	01 C. Peguet, France	729	
KMA	M. Komorous, Canada	2267	78	MGH	20 H. McGee, England	555	424	PCX	C. Perello, Spain	1	
KDZ	D. Kopczyński, Poland	119		MCI	B. McInnerny, England	40		PIV	I. Peretto, Italy	290	
KMP	M. Koppelman, MN	3013	58	MVQ	V. Medvedev, Russia	34		PJT	27 J. Petriew, Canada	3529	
KSG	G. Koronis, Greece	56		MED	20 K. Medway, England	1294		PVA	27 V. Petriew, Canada	60561	1280
KSO	S. Korotkiy, Russia	6	6	MIQ	I. Megson, England	1174		PGE	02 G. Petter, Germany	72	7
KCY	D. Korycansky, CA	403	9	MMB	04 M. Meiling, Netherlands	1		PRP	R. Pickard, Australia	8	
KOS	03 A. Kosa-Kiss, Romania	3577		MVS	27 S. Meister, Germany	2		PXR	20 R. Pickard, England	412	53
KLX	L. Kosciński, MD	131	11	MGQ	G. Menali, MA	1		PBN	B. Pickett, Australia	1	
KAF	03 A. Kovacs, Hungary	334		MHI	H. Menali, MA	986		PLQ	01 L. Pinatelle, France	129	
KVI	03 I. Kovacs, Hungary	416	51	MQZ	M. Mendez Majuelos, Spain	8	4	PGU	18 G. Pinazzi, Italy	50	
KJU	03 J. Kovacs, Hungary	1		MDJ	12 D. Mendicini, Argentina			PHT	H. Pinkston, VA	4	
KSR	03 S. Kovacs, Hungary	761	2	MTK	T. Michalik, VA	330	57	PMZ	15 M. Pinto, Spain	7	
KFK	F. Kraffka, TX	46		MOK	11 O. Midtskogen, Norway	914	109	PFB	F. Pires, Brasil	5	
KTC	T. Krajci, NM	1334	296	MXM	M. Mifsud, Malta	99	22	PIJ	03 J. Piriti, Hungary	781	
KWO	02 W. Kriebel, Germany	2640	291	MXL	20 R. Miles, England	17975	8	PIR	03 D. Piroška, Hungary	350	
KIS	02 G. Krisch, Germany	2423	86	MPF	P. Mitrofanov, Russia	286		PPL	P. Plante, OH	211	1
KA	A. Kroes, WI	716		MZS	03 A. Mizser, Hungary	266	5	PPZ	P. Plaszczyk, Poland	536	
KTZ	T. Krzyt, Poland	307		MCE	E. Mochizuki, Japan	5		PNC	01 N. Ploix, France	1	
KUC	01 S. Kuchto, France			MQD	03 M. Mod, Hungary	1		PAW	A. Plummer, Australia	4736	
KZQ	03 Z. Kuli, Hungary	179		MRV	R. Modic, OH	108	13	PRX	R. Poklar, AZ	714	
KUO	C. Kuo, MA	5		MII	03 I. Mohacsi, Hungary	3		PRS	R. Poleski, Poland	15	
KMI	16 M. Kuzmin, Russia	32		MOU	15 J. Molina, Spain	20		PMO	10 M. Poll, South Africa	66	
KSQ	S. Kuznetsov, Russia	635		MOC	03 C. Molnar, Hungary	12		PVR	03 V. Polozun, Hungary	4	
LCR	15 C. Labordena, Spain	399	1	MPV	03 P. Molnar, Hungary	2134		PWR	R. Powaski, OH	29	
LTO	02 T. Lange, Germany	2060		MOZ	Z. Molnar, Romania	5	1	POX	M. Poxon, England	582	123
LMF	13 M. Lara, Brazil	61		MLF	10 I. Monard, South Africa	7730	2845	PYG	G. Poyner, England	11689	8742
LMN	M. Larsson, Sweden	15		MF	F. Montague, MA	23		PAH	A. Price, MA	503	4
LJJ	J. Laurent, France	80		MHC	12 C. Montalvo, Peru	7		PRI	L. Price, WI	29	
LZT	T. Lazuka, IL	1411		MNN	N. Montecchiarri, Italy	5		PDQ	01 D. Proust, France	35	
LRO	R. Leadbeater, England	27		MDM	D. Moody, Scotland	5		PUJ	06 F. Pujol, Spain	627	157
LEB	01 R. Lebert, France	395		MOI	01 E. Morillon, France	4505	1046	PCH	C. Pullen, CA	4	4
LMT	M. Legutko, Poland	254		MOW	W. Morrison, Canada	5077	242	PSY	S. Pyatih, Belarus	48	
LDA	D. Lehman, MD	72		MXK	03 A. Morvai, Hungary	3		QW	02 W. Quester, Germany	50	18
LDI	D. Lehmann, Germany	38		MVZ	03 J. Morvai, Hungary	9		QNK	20 N. Quinn, England	780	52
LNZ	G. Lenz, LA	18		MPS	27 P. Mozel, Canada	11		RKE	02 K. Raetz, Germany	407	
LJP	J. Leppert, ND	4		MMH	M. Muciek, Poland	26		RIG	I. Rafalovsky, IL	1716	
LEV	A. Leveque, CA	144		MKH	S. Mukherjee, India	31		RBK	B. Ramotowski, NM	2	
LSQ	S. Levine, AZ	168	167	MMU	M. Munkacsy, RI	1797	467	RWA	W. Rauscher, PA	312	
LVY	D. Levy, AZ	37	37	MUY	05 E. Muylaert, Belgium	11915	7197	RFA	F. Reichenbacher, AZ	1719	231
LMI	M. Lierl, KY	11		NIS	03 I. Nagy, Hungary	1		RZS	03 Z. Reiczigel, Hungary	22	
LIW	W. Liller, Chile	7		NDQ	D. Naillon, France	553	107	REP	24 P. Reinhard, Austria	460	
LGO	G. Lilley, GA	20		NLX	14 P. Nelson, Australia	7687	332	RWG	02 W. Renz, Germany	22	2
LCI	C. Limbach, WI	33		NMI	M. Nicholas, AZ	989		RXM	03 M. Repas, Hungary	4	
LHG	19 H. Lindberg, Sweden	22	2	NMR	20 M. Nicholson, England	3630	218	RMQ	M. Reszelski, Poland	161	77
LAI	27 A. Ling, Canada	39	12	NOT	O. Nickel, Germany	207		RNA	03 N. Rezsabek, Hungary	58	
LMK	M. Linnolt, CA	1148	422	NGM	15 G. Nieto, Spain	114		RJG	J. Ribeiro, Portugal	3831	
LLZ	03 L. Liziczai, Hungary	413		NFD	04 F. Nieuwenhout, Netherlands	43	25	RIX	14 T. Richards, Australia	7324	798
LRZ	03 M. Lorincz, Hungary	3		NWP	W. Norby, MO	36		RKT	K. Richardson, CA	72	
LRD	D. Loring, UT	9	1	NCH	C. Norris, TX	198	29	RPB	P. Richwine, AZ	103	
LX	W. Lowder, NY	75039		NKL	K. Nuber, Germany	104		RQ	C. Ricker, MI	11	
LTB	T. Lubbers, MN	6		OCE	E. O'Connor, Canada	2		RRZ	03 R. Ricza, Hungary	306	
LFZ	F. Lucidi, Italy	14		OCN	27 S. O'Connor, Canada	32	2	RCW	C. Robertson, KS	3174	
LKA	K. Luedeke, NM	12		ONJ	J. O'Neill, Ireland	13		RSE	S. Robinson, MD	2118	1708
LMJ	M. Luostarinen, Finland	109	1	OSN	S. Oatney, KS	750		RJX	01 J. Roca, France	88	
MDW	W. MacDonald II, Canada	5171	4997	OES	D. Oesper, WI	4	2	RZD	06 D. Rodriguez, Spain	324	209
MHO	J. Madiedo, Spain	1		OLF	L. Offutt II, MN	39		RMU	07 M. Rodriguez Marco, Spain	39	37
MMT	17 M. Maenpaa, Finland	18						RJW	J. Rogers, Reading	4	





These codes, which appear in the Table (AAVSO Observers 2004–2005), indicate observers are also affiliated with the groups below:

- 01 Association Française des Observateurs d'Étoiles Variables (AFOEV)
- 02 Bundesdeutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Veränderliche Sterne e.V. (BAV) (Germany)
- 03 Magyar Csillagászati Egyesület, Valtózcillag Szakcsoport (Hungary)
- 04 Koninklijke Nederlandse Vereniging Voor Weer-en Sterrenkunde, Werkgroep Veranderlijke Sterren (Netherlands)
- 05 Vereniging Voor Sterrenkunde, Werkgroep Veranderlijke Sterren (Belgium)
- 06 Madrid Astronomical Association M1 (Spain)
- 07 Asociacion de Variabilistas de Espagne (Spain)
- 08 Norwegian Astronomical Society, Variable Star Section
- 09 Ukraine Astronomical Group, Variable Star Section
- 10 Astronomical Society of Southern Africa, Variable Star Section
- 11 Astronomisk Selskab (Scandinavia)
- 12 Liga Ibero-Americana de Astronomia (South America)
- 13 Brazilian Observational Network REA
- 14 Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand, Variable Star Section
- 15 Agrupacion Astronomica de Sabadell (Spain)
- 16 Association of Variable Star Observers "Pleione" (Russia)
- 17 URSA Astronomical Association, Variable Star Section (Finland)
- 18 Unione Astrofili Italiani (Italy)
- 19 Svensk Amator Astronomisk Förening, Variabelsektionen (Sweden)
- 20 British Astronomical Association, Variable Star Section
- 21 Israeli Astronomical Association, Variable Star Section
- 24 Astronomischer Jugendclub (Austria)
- 27 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada



## MISFORTUNES AS BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE

*The Story of My Life*

Dorrit Hoffleit

Senior Research Astronomer Emeritus  
Yale University, and Director Emeritus,  
Maria Mitchell Observatory

The life of Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit—world-renowned astronomer, expert on variable stars, astrometry, and the history of astronomy—is a story of hardships endured, difficulties surmounted, lessons learned, goals met, and successes attained. She has spent a lifetime at work with some of the greatest astronomers of the 20th century, and has inspired new generations of young astronomers. The American Association of Variable Star Observers is proud to publish this wonderful book. *176 pages + xviii, 18 pages of photos, with references, complete bibliography, and a foreword by former AAVSO Director, Janet A. Mattei.*



### Order Your Copy Today!

It's easy, with the AAVSO's on-line secure order form. You can also read excerpts from the book.

Autographed copies still available!

<https://www.variablestars.com/book.shtml>

**\$25.00 (\$21.00 AAVSO members) plus \$5 U.S. shipping  
(\$10 non-US addresses)**

**Order from AAVSO, 25 Birch St., Cambridge, MA  
02138**

Phone: 617-354-0484 email: [aavso@aavso.org](mailto:aavso@aavso.org)  
Fax: 617-354-0665 Web: [www.aavso.org](http://www.aavso.org)

The AAVSO is proud to publish and offer the autobiography of world renowned astronomer and expert on variable stars Dorrit Hoffleit. This 176 page hard bound edition catalogues a life of hardships endured, difficulties surmounted, lessons learned, goals met, and successes attained. Dorrit has spent a lifetime at work with some of the greatest astronomers of the 20th century, and has inspired new generations of young astronomers.