MINUTES OF THE 90TH SPRING MEETING OF THE AAVSO, HELD MAY 3–6, 2001, MADISON, WISCONSIN

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The Finance Committee met on Thursday morning, May 3, and the AAVSO Council met that afternoon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

On Friday, May 4, many members attended an Eclipsing Binary Workshop conducted by Dr. Dirk Terrell of the Southwest Research Institute, Boulder, Colorado. Late in the afternoon, members and guests were transported to the Yerkes Observatory, where director-designate Kyle Cudworth demonstrated the historic 40-inch refractor and members of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society hosted a cook-out with traditional Wisconsin fare.

On Saturday, May 5, the Membership Meeting was called to order at 8:58 a.m. by President Lee Anne Willson. Before the start of business, attendees were shown a CCD image of Minor Planet 11695 Mattei taken by the collaborative team of AAVSO CCD observers Bill Dillon, Arne Henden, Dan Kaiser, Mario Motta, Aaron Price, and Chuck Pullen.

David Williams read the Minutes of the 89th Annual Meeting prepared by Secretary Martha Hazen, who could not be present. The Minutes were accepted with minor correction.

Director Janet Mattei read a report by Past Treasurer Ted Wales, prepared on behalf of Treasurer Wayne Lowder. During the past year, the AAVSO has reduced its holdings of common stocks and replaced them with bonds. This portfolio adjustment has mitigated the effects of the recent stock market decline and increased income by $60,000. During the reporting period, expenses have exceeded income, but the difference is less than the increased value of our assets. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

The following committee reports were presented:

Charge-Coupled Device (CCD)	Gary Walker, Chair
Journal of the AAVSO	Janet Mattei (for Michael Saladyga)
Chart Distribution	Janet Mattei
New and Preliminary Charts	Charles Scovil, Chair
Gamma-Ray Burst (GRB) Network	Aaron Price
Nova Search	Michael Simonsen (for Kenneth Beckmann)
Photoelectric Photometry	Howard Landis, Chair
Eclipsing Binary Stars	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
RR Lyrae	Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Solar Division	Raymond Berg (for Carl Feehrer)
Supernova Search	William Dillon (for Robert Evans)
Telescope	Charles Scovil, Chair

During his report, AAVSO Photoelectric Photometry Committee Chairman Howard Landis announced that, having reached the age of 80 years and having served as chairman for 25 years, he would be retiring effective with the Annual Meeting in November. The members recognized this record of service to the AAVSO with an enthusiastic ovation.

Director Janet Mattei reported that the Council had approved the applications of 73 new members. She also reported the deaths of four long-time members or friends of the AAVSO, George Alcock, Fred Cederblom, Eugene Gale, and Leland Price. The members rose for a moment of silent tribute to these colleagues.

Director Mattei then presented her semi-annual report. Some of the highlights of a very active and successful period included the addition of the 10 millionth observation to the AAVSO International Database, the publication of the *AAVSO Manual for Visual Observing of Variable Stars* (the first revision in many years), production of a CD-ROM of all AAVSO charts, further streamlining and automation of incoming observations, automation of the chart-making process, upgrades and improvements to the web site, a record high number of requests for data, and grants received from NASA, the Fund for Astrophysical Research, and the Curry Foundation.

During her report, the Director took the opportunity to acknowledge the presence of two of the AAVSO's youngest observers, Michael Weier, aged 12, and Angie Manske, aged 9, as well as Miriam Houston, widow of long-time member and Councilor Walter Scott Houston.

The Director announced that the 90th Annual Meeting will be held in Waltham, Massachusetts, November 1–3, 2001, and the 91st Spring Meeting—the AAVSO Pan-Pacific Meeting—will be held in Waikoloa (near Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii), June 30–July 6, 2002.

At the suggestion of member Paul Norris, steps are being taken to obtain a special commemorative postal cancellation to honor the 90th anniversary of the AAVSO at the Annual Meeting in November.

President Willson announced that AAVSO officers and Councilors would conduct a brainstorming session with several professional astronomers for a day and a half on Monday and Tuesday, May 7 and 8. The theme would be the impact of the changing landscape of astronomy on the AAVSO, with consideration of such developments as the proposed National Virtual Observatory, the trend toward massive surveys and less access to telescopes for astronomers, new NASA missions, and new ground-based telescopes.

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at noon for a group photo.

The Scientific Paper Session was called to order at 1:32 p.m. A total of 12 oral and 2 poster papers were presented (see list).

The banquet was held that evening. Following dinner, Observer Awards were presented to recognize those members who had achieved specified milestones in visual, photoelectric, or CCD observing. The recipient of the 2001 Director's Award was announced as Stephen D. O'Connor for his untiring contributions to both special and general AAVSO observing programs. At Steve's request the award will be presented to him at the 90th Annual Meeting. To conclude the evening, Dr. Christopher M. Anderson, chairman of the Astronomy Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, gave an illustrated talk on the South Africa Large Telescope (SALT) project.

On Sunday morning, the Milwaukee Astronomical Society Observatory, which houses several telescopes, was opened for a visit.

On Monday, May 7, AAVSO Council members and several invited professional experts met from 9:00 am until well into the evening to discuss the landscape of Astronomy in the New Century and the role of the AAVSO in this landscape. Jay Gallagher (University of Wisconsin) reported on development trends in ground-based astronomy. Steve Beckwith (Space Telescope Science Institute) reported on future directions in space-based astronomy. John Good (California Institute of Technology, Infrared Processing and Analysis Center) discussed astronomical databases, the proposed National Virtual Observatory, and the AAVSO's potential role in it. Arne Henden (U. S. Naval Observatory) reported on surveys and automatic telescopes, and Janet Mattei (AAVSO) discussed the current roles and strengths of the AAVSO. Participants then separated into working groups to discuss these developments and identify challenges and opportunities for the AAVSO in the years ahead. The working groups presented their reports the next morning, and following extensive discussions, the session was concluded at noon.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Saturday, May 5, 2001

Jaime Rubén García Victor Angel Busso Gabriel Ferrero Sosa	V393 Carinae May be Multiperiodic
Paul Groot	Eclipse Changes in Novalike CVs
Paul Groot	Spiral Shock Waves in Dwarf Novae CVs in Outburst
Arne A. Henden	The Discovery of the Optical Transient for GRB 010222
John R. Percy Heather Dunlop Gregory W. Henry Asif Hussain Lola Kassim Ryan Kastrukoff Zoe Nyssa Joseph B. Wilson	New Results on Pulsating Red Giants
Janet A. Mattei Christopher Mauche	Amateur and Professional Astronomers Team Up for Chandra Observations of SS Cygni
Raymond R. Thompson	Single Channel Photoelectric Photometry of RZ Arietis, 1983–2001

David B. Williams	Baffling Binaries: Solving the Puzzles of RV Apodis and NSV 4882
Lee Anne Willson Curt Struck	Hot Flashes on Miras
John Good	AAVSO and the National Virtual Observatory
Jaime Rubén García	V445 Puppis from South America (poster)
Costantino Sigismondi Dorrit Hoffleit	Mira and the Star of Bethlehem (poster)

List of New Members Accepted at the Spring Meeting, May 3, 2001

Abraham, Mark A., KS
Anderson, Meredith, CT
Anderson, Walter, TX
Beamer, Kevin, VA
Blankenship, Edward R., VA
Brunner, Andrew R., WI
Chomiak, Andre B., NY
Clark, Brian, Canada
Clark, Robert, CA
S Cole, Charles, MN
Conu, Alexandru, Romania
Cook, Pamela, AR
Cote, Jeremy, MA
Curry, Robert, OH
Davis, Richard, FL
De Luis Lopez, Miguel, Spain
De Santis, Pasquale, CA
Dunne, Patrick W., TX
Fain, Bob, MT
Fazlollahi, Sina, Iran
Feit, Mark, CA
Gerson, Michael, Canada
Grimmett, John, Canada
Harakal, Glenn J., CO
Hoare, Tim, England
Hyvonen, Harry, Finland
Jamieson, Scott, WI
Jonckheere, Kurt, Belgium
Kamitsis, Leonidas, MA
Keating, Christopher, SD
Koff, Robert A., CO
Le Vaux, Howard, MA
Legersky, Michael, CO
Levit, Dan, IL
Lewis, Richard W., FL
Mangelsdorf, Thomas A., WI
Martignoni, Massimiliano, Italy
McGinn III, George J., FL
McMurry, Wayne, AZ
Menaker, Steven, AK
Morin, Gary M., MI
Myers, Eileen, MA
Nathanson, Larry, MA
Nelson, Peter, Australia
Nicholas, Michael A., AZ
Oksanen, Arto, Finland
Poulos, Ted, MA
Priddy, Brian, NM
Pust, Marko, Slovenia
Ricard, Marc, Canada
Rill, Amy, PA
Ruck, David, OH
Rudolph, Michael, MD
Sagstetter, Danny, OH
Sanner, Frederick C., VA
Sass, Richard, NM

S = sustaining membership

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List of New Members, cont.

Sevcik, Thomas, UT
Shorn, Vic, CA
Shoup, Anthony L., CA
Smart, Rob, MA
Smibert, Robert, Canada
Stansley, William, NJ
Steblina, Vladimir I., WA
Stine, Robert J., CA
Stroup, Roy, FL
Suhovecky, Mark, OH
Tekatch, Ann, Canada
Tschoerner, Kathy, HI
Van Ballegoij, Erwin, Aruba
Van den Bosch, Victor, Netherlands
Williams, Roger Glen, MI
Woerner, Edwin L., NY
Young, Ed M., AZ

List of Deceased Members/Observers/Colleagues

Gale, Eugene C., IA
Alcock, George E. D., England
Price, Leland, H., WI
Cederblom, Fred R., CA

AAVSO OBSERVER AWARDS

Presented at the 90th Spring Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, May 5, 2001

Over 100,000 Observations			
Paul Vedrenne	France	1978–2000	101,417
Over 50,000 Observations			
Lasse T. Jensen	Denmark	1992–2000	56,245
Gene A. Hanson, II	USA	1980–2000	51,107
Roger S. Kolman	USA	1962–2000	50,282
Over 25,000 Observations			
Rod Stubbings	Australia	1996–2000	33,288
Albert F. Jones	New Zealand	1960–2000	28,211
Frank Vohla	Germany	1989–2000	26,509
Lewis M. Cook	USA	1974–2000	26,440
Jerzy Speil	Poland	1976–2000	25,217
Thomas W. Wilson	USA	1970–2000	25,138
Over 10,000 Observations			
Timo Kinnunen	Finland	1997–2000	15,286
Sergio Foglia	Italy	1991–2000	12,847
Jay W. Mayer	USA	1958–2000	10,238
Michael Kohl	Switzerland	1966–2000	10,056

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AAVSO Observer Awards, cont.

*Over 25,000 PEP/CCD Observations**				
Lasse T. Jensen	Denmark	1992–2000	34,507	CCD
*Over 10,000 PEP/CCD Observations**				
Lewis Cook	USA	1974–2000	20,068	CCD
*Over 5,000 PEP/CCD Observations**				
Gerard Samolyk	USA	1975–2000	7,434	CCD
Gilbert Lubcke	USA	1966–2000	5,542	CCD
*Over 2,500 PEP/CCD Observations**				
Andy Howell	USA	1964–2000	3,308	CCD
James E. Wood	USA	1987–2000	2,789	PEP
*Over 1,000 PEP/CCD Observations**				
Christopher Hesseltine	USA	1975–2000	1,691	CCD
Raymond W. Jones	South Africa	1988–2000	1,434	PEP
Stephen D. O'Connor	Canada	1972–2000	1,383	CCD
Thomas Michalik	USA	1993–2000	1,371	CCD
Phillip Manker	USA	1994–2000	1,092	PEP
Tonny Vanmunster	Belgium	1976–2000	1,076	CCD

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

AAVSO DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Announced at the 90th Spring Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, May 5, 2001, as awarded to Stephen D. O'Connor, Canada (per recipient's request, to be presented at the 90th Annual Meeting in November 2001).