Minutes of the 93rd Spring Meeting of the AAVSO, Held July 20–July 24, 2004, Berkeley, California

David B. Williams (for Secretary Martha Hazen)
P.O. Box 58, Whitestown, IN 46075-0058

The 93rd Spring Meeting of the AAVSO was held in conjunction with AstroCon 2004 at the Doubletree Hotel in Berkeley, California, July 20–24, 2004. The membership meeting was called to order by President William G. Dillon at 9:00 A.M., on Saturday, July 24.

Minutes of the 92nd Annual Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on October 25, 2003, were read by Matthew Templeton.

Treasurer Louis Cohen reported that as of March 31, 2004, income was slightly higher compared to the previous year and expenses were considerably lower. Dues income was higher because of the dues increase; operating income was lower due to the decision to hold only one full meeting during 2003, but meeting expenses were reduced. The value of AAVSO investment funds rose about \$1 million and then declined \$200,000, reflecting the recovery and recent movements of the stock market.

The following committee reports were presented:

Charge-Coupled Device (CCD)	Gary Walker
New and Preliminary Charts	Michael A. Simonsen
Nova Search	Charles Pullen (for Kenneth Beckmann)
Photoelectric Photometry	Elizabeth O. Waagen (for J. Phillip Manker)
Eclipsing Binary	Marvin E. Baldwin
RR Lyrae	Marvin E. Baldwin
Solar	Pebble Richwine (for Carl Feehrer)
Supernova Search	Albert V. Holm for (Robert O. Evans)

Vance Petriew presented a report on the substantial progress of the Comparison Star Database Working Group. The Telescope Committee has no instruments in inventory so no report was made.

Interim Director Elizabeth Waagen reported that 48 new members were approved by the Council for the first half of the 2003–2004 year. Members and friends of the Association deceased during this interval were Director Janet Mattei, headquarters volunteer Katherine Hazen (mother of Secretary Martha Hazen), and member Ed Reed. The Annual Meeting for 2004 will again be an abbreviated meeting in Cambridge without a paper session or special programming on the weekend of October 29–31. The memorial service for Director Janet Mattei will be held on that Friday or Sunday. The Spring 2005 meeting is tentatively planned for the spring break period at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

Interim Director Elizabeth Waagen then presented her semi-annual report. The headquarters staff has functioned reasonably normally during Director Janet Mattei's extended illness and loss. Significant progress has been made in validating the data in the AAVSO International Database. About 9,000 staff hours have been devoted to validation with 82 percent of the project completed. Staff has also begun processing the 95,000 unreported observations of the late Wayne Lowder. Almost 1 million pages have been downloaded from the AAVSO web site by 144,000 individual visitors. There has been a large increase in chart downloads. Headquarters has received a record 475 requests for data compared to 173 at the same time last year. In the continuing archiving project at headquarters, the correspondence from the Mattei era through 1993 has been completed. The energetic Chart Committee has issued 3,565 charts for both new objects and improved versions of old charts. The AAVSO has provided observer support for three astronomical satellites, RXTE, Chandra, and Gravity Probe B. Recipients of this year's two Director's Awards are Arto Oksanen and (as announced at the banquet that evening) Christopher Stephan.

Aaron Price reported on recent activities and developments of the High Energy Network. Charles Pullen reported that the Memorial Planning Committee is planning a service in conjunction with the Fall Meeting and the creation of a fund to be named in honor of our late Director to support use of the AAVSO International Database by visiting investigators.

Gary Walker reported that the Director Search Committee, composed of himself, chairman Kevin Marvel, James Bedient, Thomas Williams, and Lee Anne Willson, has completed a salary survey, prepared a job description, and published an advertisement for the position. As of July 15, thirteen applications have been received. Selected applicants will be interviewed in St. Louis in August, with the finalists visiting headquarters in September. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Council in October.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Thursday, July 22, 2004

Aaron Price	BZ UMa and Var Her 04: Keeping Us Up At Night
Dale E. Mais	Mira Variable Stars: Spectroscopic and Photometric Monitoring of this Broad Class of Long Term Variable and Highly Evolved Stars
R. I. Dufour I. A. Smith E. P. Liang L. C. Hardin *et al.*	The Rice University CCD Imager for the AEOS Telescope (poster)
Mary Ann Kadooka	Deep Impact Mission (poster)
Arto Oksanen P. Tikkanen M. Aho H. Hyvönen M. Moilanen	Gamma-ray burst optical afterglow observations of Nyrölä Observatory (poster)

Pebble Richwine James R. Bedient Tim Slater	Analyzing Online Data on Variable Stars: An Authentic Research Experience for Teachers (poster)
Elizabeth O. Waagen	The AAVSO Data Validation Project: Opening the Treasure Chest
Matthew Templeton Janet A. Mattei Lee Anne Willson	Secular Evolution in Mira Variables
Timothy P. Castellano	Transitsearch: A Collaboration with Amateur Astronomers to Discover Transiting Extrasolar Planets
Donna Young	Double Vision: Chandra and AAVSO

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Friday, July 23, 2004

A. Price V. Petriew M. Simonsen	Charts and Comparison Stars: A Roadmap to the Future
Michael A. Simonsen	Unexpected Benefits (Preliminary Research Results From the AAVSO Chart and Sequence Teams)
John R. Percy Kaushala Bandara J. Donald Fernie P. L. Cottrell Ljiljana Skuljan	Self-Correlation Analysis of R Coronae Borealis Stars at Maximum Light
M. D. Koppelman J. C. Martin E. O. Waagen	AAVSO and HST Observations of η Carinae
Arto Oksanen	Observing Cataclysmic Variables
Michael A. Simonsen	The Future of Visual Observations in Variable Star Research
David H. Levy	William Tyler, meet Janet: How two extraordinary people made variable stars accessible to the rest of us

New Members Accepted at the Spring Meeting, July 22, 2004

Alexopoulos, Stathis, Greece
Astronomy Club Of RSC, NJ
Bacon, Ian, Australia
Baker, Robert A., OR
Barnes, Brian C., TX
Bartels, John, TX
Baxter, John, CA
Black, William H., GA
Bolt, Gregory G., Australia
Campbell, Richard, FL
Cardona, Charles, NY
Carpenter, Jack, CA
Church, Charles E., CA
Driscoll, Jeffrey, MI
Dunkin, Randall C., OH
Eichenberger, Marc, Switzerland
Folks, James M., MD
Goossen, Alvar, NY
Hamilton, David, GA
Harvey, Jack, CO
Hawk, Samuel D., CA
Higgins, David, Australia
Kashner, Barbara, CA
Kinne, Greg B., VA
Kinne, Richard, NY
Klingenberg, Geir, Norway
Kurumlari, Marmara E., Turkey
Lerner, Bruce, OH
Martinengo, Maurizio, Italy
Massey, Bob, CA
Mead, Bradford S., WY
Meier, Linda, Canada
S Miller, Troy, NV
Muller, Fred, CA
Nicholson, Martin, England
Oliphant, Jason S., PA
Ritchie, Bruce, Canada
Rodger, David A., Canada
Sallman, Michael, MN
Shaw, John E., MO
Tsai, Benjamin, PA
Vincent, John, Canada
Whiddon, Wesley, TX
White, John, NC
Wojack, Jonathan, DE
Woodland, Ronald B., WI
Yancey, Gregory P., AE
S Young, Ken, MA

S =sustaining membership

Deceased Members, Observers, and Colleagues

Hazen, Katherine, MA
Mattei, Janet Akyüz, MA
Reed, Edward L., TX

AAVSO Observer Awards

Presented at the 93rd Spring Meeting, Berkeley, California, July 24, 2004

Over 100,000 Observations				
Gary Poyner	England	1991–2003	106,713	
Georg Comello	Netherlands	1966–2003	105,865	
Over 50,000 Observations				
Albert F. Jones	New Zealand	1960–2003	63,766	
Lewis M. Cook	USA	1974–2003	58,332	
Glenn F. Chaple, Jr.	USA	1980–2003	54,527	
Kenneth J. Medway	England	1973–2003	50,743	
Over 25,000 Observations				
Michael A. Simonsen	USA	1999–2003	34,278	
Shawn W. Dvorak	USA	1981–2003	30,807	
Richard Huziak	Canada	1980–2003	29,254	
Johan Van Der Looy	Belgium	1991–2003	29,143	
A. Patrick Abbott	Canada	1982–2003	26,945	
Robert A. James	USA	1953–2003	26,281	
Stanislaw Swierczynski	Poland	1991–2003	25,508	
Peter Williams	Australia	1989–2003	25,047	
Over 10,000 Observations				
Peter Nelson	Australia	1990–2003	15,632	
Hubert Hautcler	Belgium	1999–2003	13,831	
Adrian Bruno Sonka	Romania	1999–2003	11,893	
Janos Fekete	Hungary	1988–2003	11,527	
Charles W. Robertson	USA	2001–2003	11,182	
Matyas Csukas	Romania	1987–2003	11,149	
Arto Oksanen	Finland	2001–2003	10,984	
Richard P. Harvan	USA	1979–2003	10,264	
Barry B. Beaman	USA	1964–2003	10,064	
Robert P. King	USA	1983–2003	10,020	
*Over 50,000 PEP or CCD Observations**				
Lewis M. Cook	USA	1974–2003	51,962	CCD
*Over 25,000 PEP or CCD Observations**				
Ronald E. Zissell	USA	1985–2003	26,588	CCD
*Over 10,000 PEP or CCD Observations**				
Peter Nelson	Australia	1990–2003	13,133	CCD
Robert A. James	USA	1953–2003	13,058	CCD

continued on next page

AAVSO Observer Awards, cont.

Charles W. Robertson	USA	2001–2003	11,182	CCD
Arto Oksanen	Finland	2001–2003	10,984	CCD
*Over 5,000 PEP or CCD Observations**				
Neil D. Butterworth	Australia	2002–2003	9,326	CCD
Christopher W. Hesseltine	USA	1975–2003	7,316	CCD
*Over 2,500 PEP or CCD Observations**				
Thomas Michalik	USA	1994–2003	2,701	CCD
*Over 1,000 PEP or CCD Observations**				
Maciej Reszelski	Poland	2000–2003	1,617	CCD
Petri Tikkanen	Finland	2001–2003	1,529	CCD
Neil A. Simmons	USA	1983–2003	1,312	CCD
Mika Aho	Finland	2001–2003	1,265	CCD
Louis B. Cox	Canada	1983–2003	1,112	PEP
Mark J. Munkacsy	USA	1997–2003	1,000	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 Awards

AAVSO Director's Awards were presented at the 93rd Spring Meeting, Berkeley, California, July 24, 2004 to:

Christopher Stephan, Coos Bay, Oregon, U.S.A.
Arto Oksanen, Muurame, Finland.