

**MINUTES OF THE 85TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AAVSO, HELD
NOVEMBER 1–2, 1996, IN CAMBRIDGE, MA**

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The AAVSO Finance Committee met on Thursday afternoon, October 31, at AAVSO Headquarters, and the Council met on Friday morning, November 1, also at AAVSO Headquarters. On Friday afternoon, meeting attendees were invited to a Special Session on Mira and Mira-type Variables, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Mira, with several guest speakers, at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. *[Editor's note: The proceedings of this special session are printed in this issue of the Journal.]*

On Friday evening at Headquarters, members and guests were invited to an Open House and a preview of the videos for the AAVSO's Hands-On Astrophysics: Variable Stars in the Math/Science Lab project.

The Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on Saturday, November 2, by President Albert Holm.

Martha Hazen, Secretary, gave a summary of the minutes of the 85th Spring Meeting of the AAVSO. The minutes were accepted as summarized. John Percy asked about putting the minutes on the web site, and also noted that now that the *Journal of the AAVSO* was up-to-date, the minutes do appear in print in a timely fashion.

President Holm appointed Jerry McKenna, Gerry Samolyk, and Elizabeth Waagen as ballot counters.

Treasurer Theodore Wales presented his annual report. He reported that receipts were down 1%, while expenses were up 10%. However, receipts still exceeded expenses. The Ford estate is still in the process of administration, and the Margaret Mayall trust is not totally distributed yet. Without grants and donations, he projects a shortfall of \$42,000 for the next fiscal year. However, with the current cash balance and expected grant income, this should be all right.

The following Committee reports were read:

CCD	Gary Walker, Co-Chair
Chart Distribution	Janet A. Mattei, Director <i>(Report read by Sara J. Beck)</i>
Eclipsing Binary	Marvin E. Baldwin, Chair
New & Preliminary Charts	Charles E. Scovil, Chair
Telescope	Charles E. Scovil, Chair
<i>Journal of the AAVSO</i>	Charles A. Whitney, Editor <i>(Report read by Lynn M. Anderson)</i>
Nova Search	Kenneth C. Beckmann, Chair <i>(Report read by Wayne M. Lowder)</i>
Photoelectric Photometry	Howard J. Landis, Chair <i>(Report read by Raymond R. Thompson)</i>
RR Lyrae	Marvin E. Baldwin, Chair
Solar Division	Peter O. Taylor, Chair <i>(Report read by Arthur J. Stokes)</i>

Supernova Search

Robert O. Evans, Chair
(Report read by John W. Griesé)

President Holm expressed the AAVSO's thanks to all the committee chairs for their active and excellent work.

Director Mattei read the report of new membership applications approved by the Council on November 1, 1996. Seventy-nine applicants were accepted: 27 from the United States and 52 from abroad. Annual members: 39 (including 2 Junior members); sponsored members: 40. In reply to the question about their source of information on the AAVSO, 14 indicated books and magazines, 7 heard from personal contacts, and 2 mentioned the World Wide Web.

Director Mattei reported that the current membership is 798 annual, 155 sustaining, 3 honorary, 13 life, 32 complimentary, and 77 sponsored. The observers comprise 514 members, 214 non-members, and 212 who are members of other organizations.

Director Mattei reported the decease, since the spring meeting of long-time member and variable star lover and astronomer Luigi Jacchia (co-author with Leon Campbell of the book *Story of Variable Stars*), and long-time member and observer Elizabeth McMillan. All members present stood for a moment of silence in their memory.

Director Mattei then talked about AAVSO's outreach initiatives:

1. By the end of the year, observations of stars with more than 200 evaluated observations from the past three years will be posted on our ftp site. Data will be in ASCII form, and people desiring to download these data will have to fill out a form preceding the data. The observations are to be only for personal use.

2. The plotting program ZAP and time series analysis software developed at AAVSO will be available on the ftp site, with a copyright statement. Again, people wishing to download the programs will be asked to fill out a form. There will be tested documentation, but AAVSO will not offer technical support. However, users should inform AAVSO if they find bugs.

3. Douglas L. Welch has initiated an AAVSO discussion group on the internet for techniques, problems, and questions. No observations are to be sent. However, discussion of brightenings of CVs can be included. Doug will shortly be implementing a digest feature.

President Holm also discussed two more outreach initiatives that have been in place for half a year:

1. The mentoring program, headed by Daniel H. Kaiser, is in place, and two new observers have already requested mentors. As the program becomes better known, we hope for many more match-ups.

2. The Council instituted half-price membership rates for new members for the first three years of membership.

President Holm announced the results of the election for new Council members: Peter Garnavich, Michael B. Hayden, Mario E. Motta, and Ronald E. Royer were elected to two-year terms.

Following a short break, Director Janet Mattei presented her annual report. The focus of Headquarters this year was on bringing the major publications up to date. Headquarters also answered a record number of requests for data and services. An electronic News Flash was initiated, and the World Wide Web site was expanded. The direct Internet connection, thanks to NASA, has proven to be extremely helpful. Headquarters has started to place charts of the ftp site. The web page has

been visited more than 86,000 times during the year. Current data processing is up to date. Processing of the archival data is now 96% complete.

Director Mattei noted that we are now at the tenth anniversary of moving to our permanent home at 25 Birch Street.

The full text of the Director's report is printed in this issue of the *Journal*.

Director Mattei then discussed plans for future meetings. The next meeting is to be held in Sion, Switzerland, in May. The final announcement will be sent in January. The annual meeting in 1997 will be either at Mount Holyoke College or at Williams College, MA.

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m., and was followed by a group photograph.

At the Special Council meeting convened at 12:50 p.m. to elect officers, the following were nominated and elected on a single ballot: Albert V. Holm, President; Gary Walker, 1st Vice President; Mark T. Adams, 2nd Vice President; Martha L. Hazen, Secretary; Theodore H. N. Wales, Treasurer; Janet A. Mattei, Director; and Michael Mattei, Clerk.

The following were appointed to the Finance Committee: Gary Walker (chair), Albert V. Holm (ex officio), Theodore H. N. Wales (ex officio), Mark T. Adams, Martha L. Hazen, Wayne M. Lowder (ex officio), and Janet A. Mattei (ex officio).

President Holm appointed Thomas R. Williams to chair the nominating committee. Two other members will be appointed later.

The special meeting of the Council was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The Scientific Paper Session was held from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m., and fifteen papers were presented. The complete list of papers is appended to these minutes, and the text of the papers will appear in complete or abstract form in the *Journal of the AAVSO*, Volume 26, Number 1.

The Banquet was held at 7:30 pm in the Taubman Building of the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Following an excellent dinner, Janet Mattei and Albert Holm presented AAVSO Nova Awards to visual discoverers of supernovae. Members and guests were then treated to a very interesting talk, "History of the Discovery of Mira Stars," given by long-time member, Yale University astronomer, and former Director of the Maria Mitchell Observatory, Dorrit Hoffleit. (*This talk is found on pages 115–136 in this issue.—Ed.*)

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Saturday, November 2, 1996:

Wayne M. Lowder	Observing Bright Cepheids: Some Lessons Learned
Grant Foster	Analysis of AAVSO Cepheid Data
Stephen P. Cook	CCD Photometry of Neglected Eclipsing Binary Stars
Richard Wasatonic	Visual and IR Photoelectric Photometry Results for TX Psc, alpha Her A, omicron Ceti, and RT Cyg
Marie-Odile Mennessier	Comparison of Mean Light Curve Parameters of M, S, and C Mira and Semiregular Variable Stars Using 75
Hishame Boughaleb	Years of AAVSO Data
Janet A. Mattei	
Thomas Bisque	Using <i>The Sky</i> Astronomy Software for Variable Star
Gary P. Emerson	Observing
Horace A. Smith	Solon Bailey and the Period-Luminosity Relation
Martha L. Hazen	The Centennial of the Discovery of SS Cyg
Ronald L. Zissell	Discovery of a New Variable in the Field of AH Her

Elizabeth O. Waagen	A Very Preliminary Look at AAVSO Long Term Data on RX Andromedae
Raymond R. Thompson	The Mystery of HR 6815
Douglas L. Welch	An Eclipsing Binary W Vir Star in the LMC
The MACHO Collaboration	
Bradley E. Schaefer	Improvements for the AAVSO Sunspot Count
Marvin E. Baldwin	MO Puppis: Lost and Found
Christopher Stephan	
David B. Williams	
John Pazmino	The International Dark Sky Shrine

List of New Members Accepted at the Annual Meeting, November 2, 1996

Alves, Avelino A., Brazil	Larrea, Jorge, Chile
Baxter, John, Canada	Levit, Daniel I. II
Biesmans, Marc, Belgium	Lloyd, Stephen, CA
Blane, David L., South Africa	Loh Kwong Tien, Trevor, Singapore
Born, Eckhard, Germany	Martinez Perez, Jorge Daniel, Spain
Bouma, Reinder Johannes, Netherlands	McGlinn, Thomas C., OR
Braune, Werner, Germany	Midtskogen, Ornulf, Norway
Broens, Eric, Belgium	Monard, Libert A. G., South Africa
Browning, Robert R., NJ	Munkacsy, Mark J., RI
Camilleri, Paul, Australia	Nakroshis, Paul, NH
Carney, Ronald W., FL	Padilla Filho, Antonio, Brazil
Cichy, Adam, Poland	Patterson, Jefferson, IN
Cocoa Lopez, Juan Carlos, Spain	Pecorelli, Pablo Miguel, Argentina
Contreras, Mauricio, Argentina	Pickett, John A., AZ
Cooper, Tim, South Africa	Pietz, Jochen, Germany
Diepvens, Alfons, Belgium	Preciado, Michael E., MA
Dormann, Michael L., WA	Raineault, Gilbert J. G., Canada
Dumont, Michel, France	Reinhard, Peter, Austria
Dvorak, Shawn W., OH	Sainz Benito, Javier, Spain
Elias, Demetrius P., Greece	Schmeer, Patrick, Germany
Feijth, Hendrik, Netherlands	Smit, Jan A., South Africa
Field, Douglas R., NM	Sousa, John L., AZ
Fischer, Robert F., NY	Stawowy, Stanislaw, Poland
Foglia, Sergio, Italy	Stefanopoulos, George, Greece
Gabzo, Ofer, Israel	Strong, Carol L., AL
Gangale, Renée Élise, NY	Stuber, Roy Michael, IL
Gill, Michael, England	Sussmann, Dieter, Germany
Gottschalk, Steve, IA	Temple, Paul, MO
Grunnet, Carl, Denmark	Travis, Raymond D., MI
Henshaw, Colin, Botswana	Tsvetkov, Milcho, Bulgaria
* Howell, Andy, GA	Van Loo, Frans R., Belgium
Hron, Josef, Austria	Vanmunster, Tonny, Belgium
Ingrassia, Pablo Alberto, Argentina	Vedrenne, Paul, France
Ives, Frank J., New Zealand	Verdenet, Michel, France
Jensen, Lasse Teist, Denmark	Verstraete, Robert A., NM
Kerman, Brian L., MI	Vohla, Frank, Germany
Klinting, Ole, Denmark	Vollmann, Wolfgang, Austria
Knight, George, ME	Watson, Wayne, CA
Krisch, Gunther, Germany	Williams, Rich, WA

Kuipers, Gauke, Netherlands

* = New member attending meeting

List of Members Changing from Annual to Sustaining

Weyand, Charles L., CA

List of Deceased Members/Observers

Iacchia, Luigi G., MA
AAVSO Nova Award Recipients (presented at the AAVSO 85th Annual Meeting in Cambridge, MA, November 2, 1996)

McMillan, Elizabeth P., MD

- Robert O. Evans of Coonabarabran, New South Wales, Australia, for his discovery of
 - (a) Supernova 1995ad in NGC 2139 on September 28.8, 1995 UT;
 - (b) Supernova 1996X in NGC 5061 on April 12.5, 1996 UT;
 - (c) Supernova 1996al in NGC 7689 on July 22.71, 1996 UT (assisted by Samantha Beaman and Robert Benton).
- Piero Mazza of Milan, Italy, for his discovery of Supernova 1995al in NGC 3021 on November 1.04, 1995 UT. His discovery was made with Stefano Pesci.
- Stefano Pesci of Milan, Italy, for his discovery of Supernova 1995al in NGC 3021 on November 1.04, 1995 UT. His discovery was made with Piero Mazza.
- Samantha Beaman of Pimpana, Queensland, Australia, assisting Robert O. Evans in his discovery of Supernova 1996al in NGC 7689 on July 22.71, 1996 UT.
- Robert Benton of Coonabarabran, New South Wales, Australia, assisting Robert O. Evans in his discovery of Supernova 1996al in NGC 7689 on July 22.71, 1996 UT.