The RASNZ Photometry Section, Incorporating the Auckland Photoelectric Observers' Group *(Poster abstract)*

Stan Walker
272 Heath Road, Waiharara 0486, New Zealand; astroman@paradise.net.nz

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Abstract This review traces the development of amateur photoelectric and CCD photometry in New Zealand from its beginnings in the late 1960s at Christchurch and Auckland, through the Auckland Photoelectric Observers' Group and the RASNZ Photometry Section to its present place in Variable Stars South. For this period of over forty years the participants have been heavily involved with southern hemisphere variable star astronomy and observatories such as Carter, Mt. John, and Auckland, together with which were sponsored the highly successful photoelectric conferences, PEP 1-5. Samples of various projects are shown and described. The full text can be seen at http://www.variablestarssouth.org/index.php/community/member-publications/posters

Introduction to BAV *(Abstract)*

Franz-Josef Hambsch
Joachim Hübscher
address correspondence to J. Hambsch, Oude Bleken 12, Mol 2400, Belgium; hambsch@telenet.be

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Abstract The Bundesdeutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Veränderliche Sterne was founded 1950 in Berlin. The intention was—and still is—to support amateurs in the systematic observation of variable stars. The history of the German workgroup, the classical working focus (maxima and minima and single estimates), and the main publications (*BAV Mitteilungen* and Lichtenknecker-Database of the BAV) will be described.

The GEOS Association of Variable Star Observers *(Abstract)*

Franz-Josef Hambsch
J. -F. Le Borgne
E. Poretti
the GEOS association
address correspondence to J. Hambsch, Oude Bleken 12, Mol 2400, Belgium; hambsch@telenet.be

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Abstract Groupe Européen d'Observation Stellaire (GEOS) is an astronomical association created in the 1970s to promote research among amateurs in Europe. We started in Belgium, France, and Italy, later extended to Spain, Switzerland, and Germany, and more recently, added U.S. amateurs. The basic idea was that amateurs should themselves extract scientific information from their observations (visually at first and later electronically) and publish their results. Some GEOS members have become professional astronomers and the amateur-professional collaboration has strengthened over the years. From the beginning, it has been clear that the study of variable stars is a privileged topic where such projects can develop. Since the 1980s GEOS members have published a number of scientific papers, even in refereed professional journals. Presently, observations are mainly done using CCD cameras though visual measurements still exist. In the past decade our main development has been the creation of a public RR Lyr star maxima database. This is a unique tool for the study of RR Lyr stars, as it enables the user to follow period variations since a star's discovery, some over 100 years ago. In parallel to the database, a project called "GEOS RR Lyr survey" was designed. Its aims include: first, add significantly more maxima timings of the brightest RR Lyr stars essentially using robotic telescopes; second, study fainter understudied stars to refine their period and find new stars which exhibit the so-called Blazhko effect; third, characterize the Blazhko effect, one of our main research topics. Other variable stars are also studied: eclipsing binaries, δ Scuti stars, and so on. GEOS has a good cooperation with other variable star associations, mainly BAV and AAVSO.

History of Amateur Variable Star Observations in Japan *(Poster abstract)*

Seiichiro Kiyota
Variable Star Observers League in Japan (VSOLJ), c/o Keiichi Saijo National Science Museum, Ueno-Park, Tokyo Japan; e-mail:skiyotax@gmail.com

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Abstract Japan has about 100 years of history of variable star observing since Naozo Ichinohe, professional astronomer in Tokyo Observatory, observed δ Cep in 1906. The first amateur variable star observer is Yoshihiko Kasai, who began observing variable stars in 1918. I introduce a brief history of Japanese amateur variable star observation, including topics of variable star organizations, nova and supernova hunters, collaborations with the AAVSO and the world, PEP and CCD observations. I also introduce the most active variable star observer, Hiroaki Narumi, who made over 260,000 visual estimates since 1975. VSOLJ was established in 1987 in collaborations with the variable star sections of Nihon Tenmon Kenkyu-kai (NTK) and the Oriental Astronomical Association (OAA). VSOLJ maintains a database of Japanese variable star observations (http://vsolj.cetus-net.org) and publishes the *Variable Star Bulletin* in English.