

20 Million Observations: the AAVSO International Database and Its First Century (*Poster abstract*)

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Abstract The American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) turns 100 in 2011—a century of service to the astronomical community! Another milestone was reached in 2011: the AAVSO International Database (AID) received its 20 millionth variable star observation! The AID contains observations of over 14,750 objects contributed by over 7,500 amateur and professional astronomers worldwide. Data on hundreds of objects extend from the AAVSO's founding in 1911 or earlier (mid-1800s) to present. Some objects' data are of shorter duration but of intense, high-precision coverage. Historical datasets come from published/unpublished professional/amateur observations, astronomical plate collections, and contributed archives of other variable star observing organizations. Hundreds of observations are added to the AID daily as observers upload their data in near real-time. Approximately 69% (~13.9M) of AID observations are visual, 30.4% (~6.2M) CCD (BVRI, unfiltered, Sloan colors, others), 0.5% (~75K) PEP (BVJH), and 0.1% (~17K) photographic/photovisual. Many objects have exclusively visual data, some PEP or CCD data only, and many a combination of types and bands. Objects range from young stellar objects through highly evolved stars. Included are intrinsic variables—pulsating (SX Phe stars through Miras and semiregulars) and eruptive (cataclysmic variables of all types)—and extrinsic variables—eclipsing binaries, rotating (RS CVns)—and exoplanets and suspected variables. Blazars, polars, quasars, HMXBs - today's AID is a thriving, exciting resource! The AID is maintained in a dynamic MySQL database, easily accessible to contributors and users alike through the AAVSO website (<http://www.aaavso.org>). The Light Curve Generator, Quick Look page (recent observations), and Data Download form offer different ways to view/investigate your targets. Quality control performed from submission through validation ensures reliable data for your research. Visit the AAVSO website if you need data; contact us if we may help you observe your targets. We are here for you!

Professional Astronomers in Service to the AAVSO (Poster abstract)

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Abstract Throughout its 100-year history, the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) has welcomed professional astronomers to its membership ranks, and has encouraged their participation as organization leaders. The AAVSO has been fortunate to have over 60 distinguished professionals serve as officers (Directors, Presidents, Council), and as participants in its various scientific and organizational committees.

The Variable Star Observations of Frank E. Seagrave (Abstract)

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Abstract I will discuss the relationship between Frank Evans Seagrave (1860–1934) of Providence, Rhode Island, and the Harvard College Observatory, and analyze the modest contribution Seagrave made to our database between 1895 and 1913, relating a few anecdotes from his life as a self-taught astronomer whose relationship with Dr. Pickering ended in controversy, but whose legacy is carried on by Skyscrapers Inc., the astronomical society which now owns and operates Seagrave Observatory in North Scituate, Rhode Island.

Apollo 14 Road Trip (Poster abstract)

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Abstract In January-February 1971, five astronomy enthusiasts, Dennis Milon, Alan Rowher, Sal LaRiccia, Mike Mattei, and Paul Valleli, drove from New Haven, Connecticut, to the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida. They joined with ALPO Jupiter Recorder Julius Benton in Atlanta.

After several stops along the way, the six arrived at the Apollo 14 launch site to observe pre-launch activity, met NASA personnel, and toured various facilities. On launch day, thanks to press passes provided by Dennis Milon who was there as the official photojournalist for *Sky & Telescope*, they met the Apollo crew and witnessed the launch. On the return trip, they made time to meet Mike Mattei's new girlfriend, Janet Akyüz, who was working on her Master's at Leander-McCormick Observatory in Charlottesville, Virginia. Janet gave the six men a tour of the observatory, including the the 26-inch Clark Telescope.