

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CLASSICAL CEPHEID, Chairman: Thomas A. Cragg
 Anglo-Australian Observatory
 Private Bag 4
 Coonabarabran, N.S.W. 2857
 Australia

Chairman's report not received at AAVSO Headquarters.

CHART DISTRIBUTION, AAVSO Headquarters

The following is a report of AAVSO standard chart distribution from October 1, 1983, to March 31, 1984. A total of 192 orders have been filled.

Standard Charts (8.5 x 11-inch)	6,095
Photoelectric Photometry Charts	386
Finder Charts	117
"Old" <u>AAVSO Atlas</u>	3
"New" <u>AAVSO Variable Star Atlas</u>	26

We are happy to report that we now have special reversed charts for observers with Celestron telescopes. Last year Richard Hill offered his help in preparing reversed charts for use by observers with telescopes with an odd number of reflections, such as in Celestrons. Ed Halbach, on his way home from Egypt, visited Headquarters and offered his help in continuing the preparation of these charts. Ed has now completed 85 charts of stars that are easy to observe.

Sky Publishing Corporation and Cambridge University Press are still interested in the second printing of the AAVSO Variable Star Atlas, when the stock runs out. We are very interested in hearing from members/observers about errors in the current edition and suggestions for improvement.

Please use the Standard Chart Order Form when ordering charts. This form is available from Headquarters.

IMPORTANT: Please note that as of April 16, 1984, the following postage and handling charges are in effect for chart orders:

<u>First Class</u> (USA, Canada, Mexico)	<u>Fourth Class</u> (USA only)
1 - 5 Charts \$0.75	1 - 25 Charts \$0.50
6 - 10 " 1.50	26 - 50 " 1.00
11 - 25 " 2.50	51 - 100 " 2.00
26 - 50 " 3.50	
51 - 75 " 4.50	Add \$.50 for each increment of
76 - 100 " 5.50	25 charts over 100.

Add \$1.00 for each increment of 25 charts over 100.

AQ Airmail (Foreign)

1 - 5 Charts \$1.50
6 - 10 " 3.00
11 - 25 " 5.00
26 - 50 " 8.50
51 - 75 " 11.50
76 - 100 " 14.50

Add \$3.00 for each increment of 25 charts over 100.

Printed Matter (Foreign)

1 - 5 Charts \$0.75
6 - 10 " 1.25
11 - 25 " 1.75
26 - 50 " 3.00
51 - 75 " 4.25
76 - 100 " 5.50

Add \$1.25 for each increment of 25 charts over 100.

NEW CHART, Chairman: Clinton B. Ford
10 Canterbury Lane
Wilton, CT 06897

The following mailings of AAVSO Preliminary Charts have been made from the Secretary's office during the period of October 30, 1983, through May 20, 1984:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>No. of Different Addressees</u>	<u>Chart Copies Mailed</u>
U.S.A.	32	5,982
India	2	1,137
South Africa	2	76
Argentina	1	54
East Germany	1	46
Australia	1	32
England	<u>1</u>	<u>24</u>
TOTALS	40	7,351

A new Seventh Edition of the Preliminary Charts Catalog has been completed as of May 1984, listing 960 variable stars and 1,159 different charts for them. Copies of this new Catalog will be available during the summer of 1984. Our TRS-80 computer, programmed for the preparation of this Catalog, is finally working satisfactorily.

The same group of Committee Members as were listed in the May 1983 Report continue to be active. Mr. Scovil has been especially productive, both in working with the computer and also in the preparation of new and revised charts. Fr. Ronald Royer, California, has continued his valuable photographic work on chart fields, and is now cooperating with a group of Australian amateur astronomers in the production of an Atlas for Supernova Search which will be published by Cambridge University Press in England.

Our efforts to secure the use of a photoelectric plate photometer for determining stellar magnitudes have finally been successful. Via the AAVSO Director, Dr. Mattei, we now have the use of an instrument at Wellesley College through the courtesy of Dr. Scott Birney. Also, since February, 1984, we have on loan at Stamford Observatory a second plate photometer kindly made available by the Astronomy Department of Columbia University. The latter still requires some work to be done on it to make it operational.

The backlog of material to be charted remains the same or larger than previously noted. In view of RASNZ's recent publication of two new Series (Nos. 15 and 16) of southern variable star charts, we have adopted an increasing number of their charts into our program, excluding variables with declination south of 60 degrees S.

ECLIPSING BINARY, Chairman: Marvin E. Baldwin
Route 1
Butlerville, IN 47223

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NOVA SEARCH, Chairman: Kenneth C. Beckmann
312 Union Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Chairman's report not received at AAVSO Headquarters.

PHOTOELECTRIC PHOTOMETRY, Chairman: Howard J. Landis
50 Price Road West
Locust Grove, GA 30248

As noted in the most recent AAVSO PEP Newsletter, interest in photoelectric photometry continues to grow. Including this meeting, there are seven amateur meetings scheduled this year at which amateur photoelectric photometry will be on the program.

Since our Fall Meeting, editor John R. Percy has very ably produced two issues of the Photoelectric Photometry Newsletter. Interest in the Newsletter is good and distribution of the last mailing reached nearly 300.

We received a special request from Dr. M. A. Barstow, University of Leicester, England. He requested a visual light curve of V711 Tau during the time he and his colleagues were to observe it with EXOSAT and Voyager II. H. Landis and R. Lines were able to establish a satisfactory light curve for them. Dr. Barstow has reported that his observations went well and expressed his appreciation for our data.

Our Director, Dr. Mattei, has compiled a statistical report on photoelectric photometry observers who have returned the information sheet distributed last Fall. It is interesting to note that about 40% of the group use moderate size telescopes (7 to 12 inch aperture), built their own photometers, and use a strip-chart recorder for recording data. About an equal percentage reported using pulse-counting, but almost all are using a photomultiplier tube for the light detector. About 70% of the telescopes are of the Cassegrain configuration with the balance being about equally divided between Newtonian and refractor types.

Again, we very much appreciate the work by Dr. Percy as our Photoelectric Photometry Newsletter editor, and the assistance of Dr. Mattei and all those at AAVSO Headquarters in the production and mailing of the Newsletter.

As always, we will end with the invitation to join us in our very interesting and useful activity of observing variable stars photoelectrically. We would be delighted to hear from you.

RR LYRAE, Chairman: Marvin E. Baldwin
Route 1
Butlerville, IN 47223

Chairman's report not received at AAVSO Headquarters.

SOLAR DIVISION, Chairman: Peter O. Taylor
P.O. Box 1476
Boca Raton, FL 33429

Since I assumed the chairmanship on November 1, 1983, our top priority has been to resume the regular monthly publication of the Solar Bulletin. I am pleased to state that this has been achieved from the first. In addition, the mailing list for the Bulletin has been substantially updated and purged of those persons who no longer wish to receive it, resulting in a nice saving in expense to the Division.

The American relative sunspot number program is in excellent condition and continues to grow. The program currently receives approximately 60 reports each month from observers on 6 continents. We are very pleased to announce the inclusion of American provisional sunspot numbers in Solar Indices Bulletin, prepared by John McKinnon of

the National Geophysical Data Center. This is an outstanding tribute to all of our contributors.

Bruce Wingate has undertaken the analysis of the (electronically acquired) SID data. These analyses are supplied to NOAA each month and published in the Solar Bulletin. The arrangement is working well, resulting in prompt, well-prepared reports. We are very anxious to stimulate interest in this valuable scientific work. Interested parties are definitely encouraged to contact Mr. Wingate or myself.

Many observers have volunteered their assistance since I became chairman. Their considerable talents will certainly be utilized as the need arises. Those offers are gratefully received.

It is a distinct pleasure to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Josefa Manella in preparation of the Solar Bulletin. Ms. Manella is responsible for the beautifully executed graphs that appear each month, and for much of the assembly work therein.

Special thanks to Janet MacLennan, AAVSO staff, for her painstaking work with the Solar Bulletin mailing list, and to Dr. Mattei for her advice and assistance to us during the transition process.

We also want to express our thanks to Tom Cragg, Dave Rosebrugh, and Harold Stelzer, among others, for their continuing contributions to the Solar Division, and to all of our dedicated observers whose excellent data and prompt reports continue to make Division programs a success.

TELESCOPE, Chairman: Charles E. Scovil
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c/o Stamford Museum
39 Scofieldtown Road
Stamford, CT 06903

Chairman's report not received at AAVSO Headquarters.