Minutes, JAAVSO Volume 31, 2002 73

Minutes of the 91st Spring Meeting of the AAVSO, Held June 30–July 6, 2002, Waikoloa Beach, Hawaii

Martha L. Hazen
AAVSO Secretary, 15 Chilton Street, Belmont, MA 02478

The 91st Spring Meeting was held in conjunction with the 2nd High-Energy Astrophysics Workshop for Amateur Astronomers, and was co-sponsored by the AAVSO and the NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC).

The Executive Board and the Council held their spring meetings at AAVSO Headquarters on April 13, 2002.

The meeting started with a traditional open-air luau at the hotel on June 30, followed by a traditional island dance program.

The membership meeting was called to order on July 1 at 9:03 A.M. by Director Janet Mattei. A traditional Hawaiian opening in Hawaiian language and welcome were given by Alyce Ikeoka, a Hawaiian teacher. Janet expressed her warm thanks to Karen Meech for hosting and helping with the organization of the meeting. Janet then turned the meeting over to President Dan Kaiser.

Secretary Martha Hazen gave a summary of the minutes of the November 2001 Annual meeting, as prepared by Secretary pro tem David Williams. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Louis Cohen presented his semi-annual report for the period October 1, 2001, through March 31, 2002. He noted that expenses exceeded income by $11,000 during the period. The treasurer’s report was accepted as presented. President Kaiser thanked the treasurer for his report.

The following committee reports were read:

Charge-Coupled Device (CCD) Gary Walker, Chair
New and Preliminary Charts Charles Scovil, Chair
Telescope Charles Scovil, Chair
Nova Search William Dillon (for Kenneth Beckman)
Photoelectric Photometry Wayne Clark (for J. Phillip Manker)
RR Lyrae Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Eclipsing Binary Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Solar Carl Feehrer, Chair

There was no report from the Supernova Search Committee.

Director Mattei presented the list of 93 new members accepted at the Council Meeting on April 13. She described the current distribution of members and observers.

Director Mattei read the list of members deceased since the last meeting. They are George Glagola, Lynn Matthias, Allen C. Montague, Arthur Stokes, and John Ulrich. Members and guests stood for a moment of silence to honor these late members.
Director Mattei then presented her semi-annual report. Highlights of this report include: completed development of new chart-making software; produced and distributed several hundred new charts; resolved multi-band data plotting program; responded to 246 requests for AAVSO data; continued evaluation of LPV observations in preparation for publication; redesigned and expanded HOA web site and pamphlet; made good progress on the archives project; prepared for publication Dorrit Hoffleit’s autobiographical memoir.

The director then discussed various points. She noted that the AAVSO web site activity is up substantially over last year. She noted that there would be several Observer Awards presented at the banquet. Also, the recipients of this year’s Director’s Awards are William Albrecht, Thomas Cragg, Rod Stubbings, and Richard Wend.

Director Mattei closed by expressing her thanks to math teacher Victor Kim, Jr., of Hawaii, for the Astro Tai Chi program that he conducted early every morning of the conference.

Director Mattei announced that the Annual Meeting in the fall of 2002 would be held in Somerville, MA, on October 24–27. The Spring Meeting of 2003 will be in either Arizona or New Mexico.

There followed a Town Meeting of open discussion on charts. John Toone talked about the International Chart Working Group which met Sunday before at the same location and the decision they took to standardize chart sequences. Michael Simonsen then talked about guidelines for standards. This was followed by an open question and answer session on charts. The Semi-Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at noon.

Following a lunch break, Scientific Paper Session #1 convened. The list of papers is attached to these minutes.

After dinner, members and guests attended a very interesting public lecture by Karen Meech, entitled “Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy of Ancient Hawaii.” This was followed by a public stargazing session at the luau grounds hosted by teachers of Towards Other Planetary Systems (TOPS, the teacher enhancement program directed by Karen Meech).

On July 2, Scientific Paper Session #2 was convened in the morning, and, again, the list of papers is attached to these minutes. Tours of the local area were offered during the afternoon and evening.

On July 3, members and guests enjoyed a tour of Mauna Kea. During the evening, attendees partook of a reception and buffet dinner for the High-Energy Astrophysics (HEA) Workshop.

July 4 and 5 were the HEA Workshop itself. During the workshop the AAVSO presented three special awards to Gerald J. Fishman and Chryssa Kouveliotou of NASA/ Marshall Space Flight Center for their strong support of AAVSO International GRB Network activities, and to Arne Henden of USNO, Flagstaff, for his mentoring GRB Network observers. On the evening of July 4, a “Fourth of July” barbecue was held at the luau grounds. The grounds made a fine place to watch the local celebratory fireworks.
The closing banquet for the meeting was held on July 5. This included the Observer and Director’s Awards Presentation as mentioned above, and a special guest lecture by Nick Kaiser of the University of Hawaii.

On July 6, there was a full-day tour of the Volcanoes National Park site at Kilauea. Participants toured the visitor center and Halemaumau fire pit, and also the site of active lava flows along the Chain of Craters road. A few members and guests went on to Mauna Kea for sunset and astronomical observing.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Monday, July 1, 2002

Douglas T. Durig  Observations of Supernovae and Gamma-Ray Bursts as Co-operative Observing Exercises for Advanced Astronomy Classes
Kirk S. Holtgrewe  Observations of the Cataclysmic Variable 1 RXP
Douglas T. Durig  J113123+4322.5
Margarita Karovska  Latest Surprises from Mira the Wonderful
Kevin B. Marvel  Chemistry Near Evolved Stars via mm Interferometry
Albert A. Zijlstra  Evolution and Instability in Mira Variables
Robert H. Nelson  Star Modeling with a Laptop
Charles J. Rodkey  NASA’s Swift Satellite—Gamma-Ray Bursts on the Fly
Karen Jean Meech  Science Outreach for the Deep Impact Mission

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Tuesday, July 2, 2002

Arne A. Henden  JHK Standards for Small Telescopes
Mario E. Motta  Calculating the Total Photon Flux from Luminous Events
Gary Billings  Observations and Modeling of the Eclipsing Binary GSC3515:0865
Dirk Terrell  2002 OW Gem Secondary Eclipse: Call for Observations
Orville H. Brettman  Standstill Behavior in the Light Curve of UZ Serpentis
John Pazmino  Street Stars
Carl E. Feehrer  Day-to-Day Variation in Estimates of Sunspot Group Totals
Martha L. Hazen  Period Changes in the Long Period Variable TY Cas
Janet A. Mattei  Japan’s First Variable Star Observer, Dr. Naozo Ichinohe
Seiichi Sakuma  Signs of Eta Carinae Outburst in Artifacts of Ancient Bolivia
Sallie Teames  Detecting Cosmic Rays Coming into Our Atmosphere with the Help of Clustering Statistics
Rodney Howe
List of New Members Accepted at the Spring Meeting, July 1, 2002

Axelsen, Roy, Australia
Bakewell, William C., CA
Ball, Richard, England
Bapt, Nicolas, France
Bartlett, Terrill, TX
Berdnikov, Leonid N., Russia
Bourerot, Todd A., NJ
Brewster, Stephen, CA
Caputo, Leslie F., WA
Carter, Dennis, CA
Castro, Edgar, FL
Chalupka, Frank P., NY
Clements, Greg, NE
Cowles, Dennis J., LA
Cox, Andrea, WI
Daffin, Charles, NC
Darby, Robert, NC
Davis, William, WI
Dickinson, Jon, PA
Dillon, William Patrick, TX
Dorn, David M., CT
Doyle, Brian, Ireland
Dutton, Anthony Joseph, Australia
Ehmann, Amy, PA
Elwell-Gavins, Keith, Australia
Ferguson, Leonard L., TX
Foster, Steven C., NH
Franck, Donald R., TX
Gainer, Michael, PA
Gary, Bruce L., CA
Genet, Russell M., AZ
Graham, Kenneth, CT
Gundy, L. Michael, GA
Hasslocher, Robert N., TX
Hergenrother, Carl, AZ
Hochberg, Jody, PA
Hohman, Dennis G., NY
Howland, Graham, England
Ivey, William Max, NY
Jensen, David D., NE
Johanns, Robert, Netherlands
Johnson, George P., OR
Johnston, A. Sidney, MA
Kent, Susan M., IL
Kipfer, Michael G., IN
Klinglesmith, III, Daniel A., NM
Knowles, Sr., Richard N., OH
Knox, Richard, OR
Koppelman, Michael, MN
Kratzwald, Leonios, Austria
La Favre, Jeffrey, OH
Lockridge, Jason, AL
Lyons, Luke C., England
Mazurek, Matthew, CA
McCrae, Andrew, Scotland
Miner, Phil, IL
Momose, Masahiko, Japan
Mraz, Frank J., FL
Murciano-Goroff, Raviv, MA
Nacman, Alwyn J., DE
Nicholson, Martin, England
O’Neill, J. Peter, Canada
Ott, J. Stephen, KY
Overton, Wesley Henry, OK
Papanikolopoulou, Dimitra, Greece
Parlante, David, MA
Perry, Daniel V., MI
Pietila, Peter, MI
Revets, Stefan A., Australia
Reynolds, Brian A., IA
Robertson, Charles, KS
Rodenhuis, Lynn, MD
Rodkey, Charles, PA
Rossetti, Michael, OH
Saw, Adrian, Australia
Sawyer-Beaulieu, Susan, Canada
Scott, James, IL
Sharpton, Robin, Guam
Smith, Eric, OK

S = sustaining membership

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List of New Members, cont.

Spencer, Ronald C., ME
Stillwell, Benjamin K., NM
Szpir, Michael, NC
Temprano, Javier, Spain
Teske, David R., MS
Thomas, Andrew, WA
Tiernan, Anne, NH
Vijayasingam, Vijayaraj, Malaysia
Vince, Charles L., England
Watkins, Mary H., PA
Weaving, Douglas D., FL
Wetherington, Dale, FL
Zeller, Paul A., IN

List of Deceased Members, Observers, and Colleagues

Glagola, George, OH
Matthias, Lynn, WI
Montague, Allen C., NC
Stokes, Arthur J., OH
Ulrich, John, CO

AAVSO Observer Awards
Presented at the 91st Spring Meeting, Waikoloa Beach, Hawaii, July 6, 2002

Over 50,000 Observations

Over 25,000 Observations
Eddy Muyllaert Belgium 1985–2001 28,502
Frederick R. West USA 1977–2001 25,346

Over 10,000 Observations
Michael A. Simonsen USA 1998–2001 13,531
Andrew Pearce Australia 1989–2001 13,252
Peter Williams Australia 1988–2001 10,481
Erhan Eker Turkey 1999–2001 10,453
Thorsten Lange Germany 1994–2001 10,349
Alfred Holbe Germany 1995–2001 10,298

Over 25,000 PEP/CCD Observations*
Lewis M. Cook USA 1974–2001 30,596 CCD

Over 10,000 PEP/CCD Observations*
Gerard Samolyk USA 1975–2001 14,387 CCD

Over 5,000 PEP/CCD Observations*
Shawn W. Dvorak USA 1981–2001 7,074 CCD

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Observer Awards, cont.

Over 2,500 PEP/CCD Observations*

Donn Ray Starkey  USA  2000–2001  4,756  CCD
Christopher W. Hesseltine  USA  1975–2001  3,576  CCD
Robert A. James  USA  1953–2001  3,076  CCD
Arto Oksanen  Finland  2000–2001  2,504  CCD

Over 1,000 PEP/CCD Observations*

Charles Pullen  USA  1998–2001  2,409  CCD
Marko Moilanen  Finland  2000–2001  1,507  CCD
Timothy Hager  USA  1985–2001  1,130  CCD
Orhan Golbasi  Turkey  2000–2001  1,019  CCD
Nik Stoikidis  Greece  1974–2001  1,001  PEP

* 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 91st Spring Meeting, Waikoloa Beach, Hawaii, July 6, 2002, to:

William B. Albrecht, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
Thomas A. Cragg, Coonabarabran, New South Wales, Australia
Rod Stubbings, Drouin, Victoria, Australia
Richard E. Wend, Spring Grove, Illinois, U.S.A.