MINUTES OF THE 89TH SPRING MEETING OF THE AAVSO, HELD APRIL 15, 2000, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

David B. Williams
AAVSO Secretary, pro tem
P. O. Box 58
Whitestown, IN 46075

The 89th Spring Meeting of the AAVSO was preceded by a first-ever, three-day High-Energy Astrophysics Workshop for Amateur Astronomers and a tour of Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), organized by NASA/MSFC and AAVSO. The workshop was well attended, with participants from 28 states and 10 countries on six continents. [Ed. note: Complete descriptions of this unique workshop have been given elsewhere (e.g., AAVSO Newsletter 28, Sky & Telescope for January 2001.)]

The Membership Meeting was called to order on Saturday, April 15, at 9 a.m. by President Lee Anne Willson.

David Williams read the minutes of the 88th Annual Meeting for Secretary Martha Hazen, who could not attend. The minutes were accepted as summarized.

Director Janet Mattei presented the semi-annual treasurer’s report on behalf of Treasurer Wayne Lowder, who also was unable to attend. Expenses exceeded income during the previous six months, but the cash balance was ample. The report noted that since 1996 the Endowment Fund has grown by 47 percent and the Ford Fund by 45 percent. However, growth in asset value is not the same thing as income, and the mix of stocks and bonds is being adjusted to produce greater income.

The following committee reports were read:

CCD Gary Walker, Chair
Chart Distribution Kerriann Malatesta, George Hawkins
New and Preliminary Charts Charles Scovil, Chair
Telescopes Charles Scovil, Chair
Nova Search Kenneth Beckmann, Chair
(Report read by Gene Hanson)

Photoelectric Photometry Howard Landis, Chair
RR Lyrae Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Eclipsing Binary Marvin Baldwin, Chair
Solar Division Joseph Lawrence, Chair
(Report read by Janet Mattei)

Director Mattei expressed the AAVSO’s thanks to all the committee chairs for their active and excellent work.

Director Mattei then read the report on new member applications previously approved by the Council. A total of 83 applications was approved, the largest number of any previous meeting. The new members included 73 from the US and 10 from other nations.

Director Mattei reported that five members/observers had died since the previous meeting: Kazuaki Gomi, John Goodwin, Leonard Kalish, Roy R. Lee, and Ben Mayer. [Ed. note: Director Mattei also reported the death of member Jose Ibanez Oporto.]

In addition, the AAVSO lost two friends in the astronomical community, Carlos Jaschek and Johannes Van Paradijs. All present stood for a moment of silence in their memory.

Director Mattei then discussed plans for future meetings. The 89th Annual Meeting will be held in Waltham, Massachusetts, October 27–29, 2000. The Spring Meeting in
2001 is planned for Madison, Wisconsin, May 5–6. The 2001 Annual Meeting will probably be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Spring 2002 meeting in Hawaii in early June.

Scott Mecca gave a special presentation on the planned space mission to Comet Temple I (“Deep Impact”) and reported that amateur observations will be solicited.

Following a break, Director Janet Mattei presented her semi-annual report. The highlights included the development of a new AAVSO Web site, responses to a record number of requests for data from the AAVSO International Database, the addition of a second Ph. D. astronomer to the Headquarters staff, the development of computerized chart making at Headquarters, completion of the revised AAVSO observing manual, and upgraded computer hardware. In recognition of the AAVSO’s contributions to the success of previous satellite missions, the AAVSO also received 100,000 seconds of observing time on the Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer (EUVE) satellite. The cataclysmic variable OY Carinae was selected as the target, which allowed our southern observers to participate in the project. The EUVE observing run was conducted in February during a superoutburst of OY Car.

Following the Director’s Report, the Scientific Paper Session was begun with five papers presented before the luncheon break and 15 papers presented in the afternoon. A list of the papers and authors follows these minutes.

In the evening, the banquet and awards presentation was held. Observer Awards were presented to AAVSO observers who have attained significant totals in the number of their observations (a list of the awardees follows these minutes). The Director’s Award was presented to Ronald Zissell. In addition, plaques of appreciation were presented to NASA MSFC for organizing the workshop, and to the Von Braun Astronomical Society for their help during the workshop. The after-dinner speaker was astronaut Dr. John Grunsfeld, an astronomer who participated in the 1999 Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Saturday, April 15, 2000

Kevin Marvel  Grassroots Astronomy
Aaron Price  Automation and Innovation for Information Addicts (101)
Roger Pickard  The BAA Variable Star Section
Guy M. Hurst  The UK Nova/Supernova Patrol—the first 25 years!
Alexander Murphy  The Super Nova Early Warning System Collaboration
David B. Williams  A Photographic Investigation of Four Bamberg Variables
Arne Henden  The M67 Experiment
Mark Slovak  Using the Landolt Selected Areas for Photometric Identification of Faint Supernovae and Optical Counterparts of Gamma-Ray Bursters
Robert S. Fritzius  A Ritzian Interpretation of Variable Stars
Tom Cragg  Current Phase of the Sunspot Cycle
France B. Berger
James C. Carlson
(presented by
Casper H. Hossfield)

Evidence from Sunspot Statistics that the Sun Has
Changed Activity Modes During the Last Ten Cycles

Edward M. Sion
Paula Szkody
Boris Gaensicke
F. H. Cheng
C. La Dous
B. Hassall

Hubble Space Telescope Spectroscopy of the
Dwarf Nova RX Andromedae 1: The Underlying
White Dwarf

Lee Anne Willson
Kevin Marvel

Miras and the Ultimate Fate of the Earth
Water Maser Proper Motions near Evolved Stars

Hideo Sato
Kazuo Yoshioka
Keiichi Saijo

Wavelength Dependence and Long-term Time Variation
of Polarization of Three RV Tauri Stars

George Hawkins
Janet A. Mattei
Grant Foster

The Unusual Long-term Light Curve of the Mira Variable
R Centauri

Eric Broens
Christiaan Sterken
Chris Koen

On the Observational History of Chi Cygni

Richard W. Schmude, Jr.
Joy Jones
Benjamin Jimenez

Photoelectric Magnitude Measurements of RX Cephei

Raymond R. Thompson

Differential Photoelectric Photometry, Sine Waves, and
RS Cancri

Casper H. Hossfield

A Very Low Frequency Gravitational Wave Antenna
List of New Members Accepted at the Spring Meeting, April 15, 2000

Aquino, William, NY; Kellogg, Howard, CA
Armstrong, Thomas K., CA; Kiesche III, Frederick Paul, NJ
Arnold, Bruce R., NC; King, Lonnie, NY
Bega, Mario, Italy; Kinne, Greg, CO
Bell, Leslie, MN; Kreutzer, Kevin P., KY
Billings, Gary, Canada; Kuprin, Robert, AZ
Boone, Roggie, GA; Looby, Matthew, IL
Branch, Robert, CA; Morrison, Joshua, PA
Branchett, David, FL; Morton, Arthur, WA
Brannen Jr., Daniel E., PA; Moser, Paulo Roberto, Brazil
Broussard, William F., TX; Neily Jr., Clark M., MA
Brownfield, James H., OH; Ogden, James, KY
Buckner, Spencer L., TN; Olsen, Frederick Bruce, TN
Burkhardt, Robert, MA; Ooi, Kang-yao, West Malaysia
Bushby, Paula, IL; Oporto Ibanez, Jose Manuel, Spain
Calderwood, Tom, MA; Pickett, Brian, Australia
Carlson, James, MA; Quinn, Peter F., WI
Carter, Richard T., SD; Radabah, Selby, WA
Chandler, Billie, CA; Ranea Sanoval, Ignacio, Argentina
Cohen, Louis, MA; Roberts, George B., TN
Cole, Gary, CA; Rose IV, Charles H., MS
Deen, Glen William, TX; Schiff, Stephen C., VA
Denmark, Larry, NH; Schroeder, Jeff R., CA
Dobbs, Joe, CA; Schwartz, Ben, OH
Duke, Aaron M., MA; Senson, Ben, WI
Dunckel, Nicholas, CA; Shipman, John, MN
S = sustaining membership
Foulds, Tanja, HI; Simpson, George, OH
Fraeman, Martin, MD; Sinor, Timothy, TX
Friends of Pine Mountain Observatory, OR; Sollie, Greg, LA
Fritzius, Robert S., MS; Templeton, James, AZ
Garzon, Joaquin, NY; Thyrion, Kevin, WI
Geschwind, Ralph J., OH; Tweedy, Richard W., England
Guder, Charles Frederick, MA; Ureles, Alvin, NY
Haig, Colin, Canada; Wade, Tom, FL
Hodges, Robert, WY; Webb, William, CA
Hullett, William James, TX; White, James Aaron, MA
Huskey, Bruce, TN; Whiting, Alan B., MD
James, David, VA; Wilson, Kyle, TX
Johns-Krull, Christopher, CA; Wolfe, Steve, OH
Jones, Christopher P., England; Wright, Paul, MN
Kaeter, James, MN; Zimmerman, James Daniel, MN

List of Deceased Members/Observers/Colleagues

Gomi, Kazuaki, Japan; Lee, Roy R., FL
Goodwin, John, MA; Mayer, Ben, CA
Jaschek, Carlos, France; Oporto Ibanez, Jose Manuel, Spain
Kalish, Leonard, CA; Van Paradijs, Johannes, AL
AAVSO OBSERVER AWARDS

Presented at the 89th Spring Meeting, Huntsville, Alabama, April 15, 2000

Over 100,000 Observations

Warren C. Morrison  Canada   1975–99   105,271

Over 50,000 Observations

Jose Ripero Osorio  Spain   1978–99   50,941

Over 25,000 Observations

George Mavrofridis  Greece   1975–99   26,457
Yasuo Hirasawa       Japan    1970–99   25,805
Robert J. Stewart   USA     1971–99   25,424

Over 10,000 Observations

Stanislaw Swierczynski  Poland   1990–99   13,336
Oskar A. Deren         Poland   1988–99   11,620
Raymond Berg          USA      1956–99   11,010
Christoph Gerber      Germany  1982–99   10,848
Richard Huziak        Canada   1980–99   10,740
Laszlo Kiss           Hungary  1991–99   10,663
Hartmut Goldhahn      Germany  1989–99   10,561
Stephen D. O’Connor   Canada   1972–99   10,311
Sandro Baroni         Italy    1977–99   10,308
Csaba Hadhazi         Hungary  1989–99   10,071
Eddy Muyllaert        Belgium  1985–99   10,065
Antal Kocsis          Hungary  1976–99   10,044

Over 5,000 PEP/CCD Observations*

Raymond R. Thompson  Canada   1962–99   5,031   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 AWARD

Presented at the 89th Spring Meeting, Huntsville, Alabama, April 15, 2000, to
Ronald E. Zissell, USA.