Minutes of the 92nd Spring Meeting of the AAVSO, Held April 23–26, 2003, Tucson, Arizona

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The 92nd Spring Meeting of the AAVSO opened with the Executive Board Meeting in the morning of Wednesday, April 23, and the Council Meeting that afternoon. That evening was a welcome dinner buffet at the hotel for all members.

On Thursday, April 24, the University of Arizona Mirror Lab was open for tours in the morning, and in the afternoon and evening, members were invited to tour Kitt Peak National Observatory, followed by an observing session.

On Friday, April 25 a very productive and informative workshop was held on Photometric Data Bases and Data Analysis Techniques, in the morning and early afternoon. This was followed by the first paper session (a list of papers presented at the paper sessions is attached to these minutes). The paper session was opened by a welcoming message from co-host David Levy on behalf of Tim Hunter and himself. In the evening, David and Wendee Levy hosted a star party at their "telescope ranch" for attendees.

The membership meeting was called to order on April 26 at 9:02 am by President Daniel Kaiser.

Secretary Martha Hazen said that the minutes of the October 2002 Annual Meeting will appear in the *Journal of the AAVSO*.

Co-host Tim Slater of the University of Arizona then officially welcomed the AAVSO to Tucson.

Treasurer Lou Cohen presented his semi-annual report for the period October 1, 2002, through March 31, 2003. He noted that the Association is carrying a larger deficit than can be sustained for a long period. He read the statement adopted by the Council:

The council believes the main priority for AAVSO today is to complete the validation of our database as quickly as possible, ideally by the end of FY2003–2004. To achieve this, we must continue to spend money at our current rate until validation is complete. This means that we are drawing funds from our endowments at a rate that, because of the current financial climate, will likely result in decreased income from our investments in the future. Nevertheless, we believe this is the right thing to do in order to fulfill the scientific mission of the AAVSO.

President Kaiser thanked the Treasurer for his services during such difficult times.

The following committee reports were read:

CCD Photometry	Gary Walker, Chair
Nova Search	Bill Dillon (for Kenneth Beckman)

Photoelectric Photometry	Arne Henden (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 Janet Mattei presented the list of 63 new members accepted at the Council Meeting on April 23. She described the current distribution of members and observers. The total membership now stands at 1239.

Director Mattei read the list of members and observers deceased since the last meeting. They are Joseph Anderer, Steven Ashe, Casper Hossfield, William J. Krywos, Wayne Lowder, Ernst Mayer, and Robert Miller. Members and guests stood for a moment of silence to honor these late members and observers.

Director Mattei announced that the Annual Meeting in the fall of 2003 would be solely for the purpose of Executive Board and Council Meetings, and a Membership Meeting to hear reports and elect the Council. No support services for other than Executive Board and Council members will be offered. The Spring Meeting of 2004 will be on July 21–24 at the Chabot Observatory near Oakland, CA, by joint invitation of the AAVSO, the Astronomical League, and the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers. This will involve celebration of the 35th anniversary of the moon landing. There will be Executive Board and Council meetings in late April or early May, 2004.

Director Mattei then presented her semi-annual report. Highlights of this report include:

- Significant progress on the validation of data
- Continued increase in AAVSO website activity
- Link of AAVSO data base with SIMBAD
- Responded to 173 requests for AAVSO data
- Production of several more monographs
- Production and distribution of several hundred revised and new charts

Janet mentioned that there will be a new website in May. The full Director's Report will appear in the *Journal of the AAVSO*.

After the Director's Report there was a discussion of how to ensure that CCD observations are able to be put on a uniform system. Visual observers must also report the chart date and comparison stars used.

The Membership Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am, and was followed by the group photo.

Following a lunch break, Scientific Paper Session #2 convened. (The list of papers is attached to these minutes).

The Closing Banquet for the meeting was held that evening at the Marriott Hotel. Observer Awards were presented and those attending received their awards in person. A complete list of the award recipients will appear in the *Journal of the*

AAVSO. Director's Awards were presented to Richard Huziak of Canada, who received it in person, and Gary Poyner of the United Kingdom. Since there is not going to be a full Annual Meeting of the AAVSO this year, the William Tyler Olcott Award for Distinguished Service, which would ordinarily be presented at that time, was presented to Edward A. Halbach of Estes Park, Colorado, for his promotion of variable stars, and for his mentoring of amateur astronomers and young people. Following the awards, Janet gave an illustrated talk about her travels for the AAVSO.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Friday, April 25, 2003

David H. Levy	Reach for the Stars: Inspiring a New Generation in Astronomy
Rodney Howe	A Computer Model for Detection of Gamma-Ray Bursts and X-Ray Transients at Very Low Frequency Radio Telescopes
Janet Mattei Isabel Hawkins Nahide Craig Rejane Spitz	National Virtual Observatory/SegNVO Project
Aaron Price	NVO: Survey for Amateur Astronomers

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Saturday, April 26, 2003

Aaron Price	The AAVSO High Energy Network
Chuck Pullen Arne Henden	GRB030329: AAVSO's Contribution to the Light Curve, a Statistical Analysis
Arne Henden A. Gilmore P. Kilmartin	Discovery of the Optical Afterglow for GRB030323
Elizabeth Alvarez	Tools for "Dark Sky" Education
Janet A. Mattei Christopher W. Mauche *et al.*	Chandra Spectroscopic (HETG) Observations of Cyg and U Gem in Quiescence and Outburst
Michael D. Koppelman	CCD Light Curves of TASS Variable Stars
Gary Billings	Tests of CCD Photometry with a Small Aperture Telescope
Paul Temple	Preparations for Study of Two Suspected Variables: WW UMa and CV UMa

Wayne P. Johnson	Searching for Supernovae in the Sky and on the Web
James Bedient	Four Asteroids and a Question Mark: Chasing Ross' Variables
Thomas A. Cragg	Southern Miras

List of New Members Accepted at the Spring Meeting, April 26, 2003

Aka Egitim Hiz, Tic. As. School, Turkey
S Asim, Umair, Pakistan
Baker, Lester, PA
Baker, Timothy R., IL
Bhat, Sudeep, India
Brickley, Mark, United Kingdom
Brown, Janel Nicole, CO
Buus, Steffen, Denmark
Centala, John, IA
Cheaney, Brian, Canada
Clower, Darrell C., FL
Craig, David, MS
Creager, Robert, CO
Deneen, Michael, MA
Diduck, Ryan N., CA
Dutton, Ellsworth G., CO
Gery, Richard, MI
Goldman, Don, CA
Gonen, Yuval, NH
Grey, Denis, Canada
Hansen, John E., GA
Hartman, Katherine, NY
Heathcote, Bernard D., Australia
Hedrick, Kenneth, WV
Heinrich, Carl C., CT
S Howard, Charles, NJ
Howard, Jack T., NC
Hubal, Ken, OH
Jones, Edwin C., AR
Laurent, Jean-Luc, France
Leppert, John, ND
Lilley, George, GA
Macica, Andrew, CA
Manuell, Christopher, OH
Matulis, Douglas, IL
Mayer, Claire Rebecca, England
Meiling, Marco, Netherlands
Merriman, Rick, AZ
Mifsud, Martin, Malta
Muciek, Marek, Poland
Norton, Paul, CA
Obertrifter, Rudolf, Germany
Palmisano, Joseph P., AZ
Quigley, William S., NJ
Rasmussen, Collette May, MA
Ratchford, Daniel, MO
Ryan, Stephen, Ireland
Sandel, Mark, TX
Schuh, Andrew, Canada
Sharma, Sanjay, CA
Shelton, Eric, VA
Skelly, Bruce, CA
M Skiff, Brian A., AZ
Stephens, Robert, CA
Stetson, John, ME
Stoltzner, Sarah Eden, CA
Titov, Vassili Y., Russia
Waller, James W., OK
Walter, Bradley, TX
Wells, Don, TX
Wilber, Gordon, OH
Wilde, Cameron Doran, UT
Wilder, John E., CA

S = sustaining membership, **M** = honorary membership

List of Deceased Members, Observers, and Colleagues

Anderer, Joseph, AZ
Ashe, Steven, CO
Hossfield, Casper, NY
Krywos, William J., NJ
Lowder, Wayne, NY
Mayer, Ernst, OH
Miller, Robert H., NJ

AAVSO Observer Awards

Presented at the 92nd Spring Meeting, Tucson, Arizona, April 23–26, 2003

Over 100,000 Observations				
Gerard Samolyk	USA	1975–2002	105,272	
Over 50,000 Observations				
Rod Stubbings	Australia	1997–2002	55,053	
Jean Gunther	France	1981–2002	52,239	
Over 25,000 Observations				
Maciej Reszelski	Poland	2000–2002	38,318	
Libert A. G. Monard	South Africa	1992–2002	29,480	
Ronald E. Zissell	USA	1985–2002	27,871	
Miroslav A. Komorous	Canada	1976–2002	27,034	
James Molnar	USA	1966–2002	26,459	
Christopher Stephan	USA	1973–2002	26,424	
Andrei Sajtz	Romania	1987–2002	25,030	
Over 10,000 Observations				
Shawn W. Dvorak	USA	1981–2002	23,529	
Christopher Jones	England	1999–2002	11,640	
Guy M. Hurst	England	1974–2002	11,365	
Joerg Neumann	Germany	1993–2002	11,121	
Daniel B. Taylor	Canada	1987–2002	10,600	
Donn Ray Starkey	USA	2001–2002	10,226	
Michel Dumont	France	1983–2002	10,182	
Hazel McGee	England	1998–2002	10,059	
*Over 25,000 Observations PEP or CCD Observations**				
Gerard Samolyk	USA	1975–2002	25,041	CCD
*Over 10,000 PEP or CCD Observations**				
Shawn W. Dvorak	USA	1981–2002	16,993	CCD
Gilbert C. Lubcke	USA	1966–2002	12,025	CCD
Roger Diethelm	Switzerland	1966–2002	10,988	CCD
Donn Ray Starkey	USA	2001–2002	10,226	CCD

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Observer Awards, cont.

*Over 5,000 PEP or CCD Observations**

Andy Howell	USA	1964–2002	8,813	CCD
Robert A. James	USA	1953–2002	7,498	CCD
Ladislav Smelcer	Czech Republic	1995–2002	7,401	CCD
Thomas J. Richards	Australia	1992–2002	6,303	CCD
Arto Oksanen	Finland	2001–2002	5,493	CCD
Charles W. Robertson	USA	2001–2002	5,442	CCD

*Over 2,500 PEP or CCD Observations**

Michael Koppelman	USA	2001–2002	2,522	CCD

*Over 1,000 PEP or CCD Observations**

Gary Walker	USA	1994–2002	1,522	CCD
Keith A. Graham	USA	1981–2002	1,448	CCD
Jerry Doug West	USA	1987–2002	1,421	CCD
Frank L. Scheder	USA	2000–2002	1,379	CCD

* Years include total AAVSO observing interval (not only PEP or 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 92nd Spring Meeting, Tucson, Arizona, April 26, 2003, to:

Gary Poyner, Birmingham, West Midlands, England
Richard Huziak, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada