Minutes of the 94th Annual Meeting of the AAVSO, Held October 14–15, 2005, Newton, Massachusetts

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The 94th Annual Meeting of the AAVSO was held in Newton, Massachusetts, October 14–15, 2005, at the Sheraton Newton Hotel, and at AAVSO Headquarters in Cambridge. Our hosts were the AAVSO Headquarters staff.

On Thursday, October 13, the AAVSO Council meeting took place from noon to 6 pm. Registration opened at 1:00 pm for early arrivals. The afternoon and evening were a time to become acquainted and renew old friendships.

On Friday, October 14, the meeting officially began. The morning session included two Workshops, held concurrently. The subject of the first was "Advanced Visual Observing", organized by Michael Simonsen. Topics covered were "The Value of Visual Observations" by Elizabeth O. Waagen, "The Eye as a Photometer" by Michael Linnolt, "Visual Observing of Faint Variables from the Heart of England" by Gary Poyner (presented from Gary's home in the heart of England via internet webcam link), "Catch a Rising Star: CV's for Visual Observers" by Michael Simonsen, "Calibrating Your Eyes to Match the V-Magnitude Scale" by Sebastian Otero of Argentina, and "A Historical Talk on Clint Ford and Charts" by Charles Scovil.

The topic of the second Workshop was "Image Reduction and Analysis Facility (IRAF)", presented by Pamela Gay, an AAVSO member and instructor for the Harvard University Science Center. IRAF, a very powerful package for data reduction and analysis, is known for its long learning curve. Pamela helped ease the pain by highlighting features most relevant to AAVSO observers, discussing computer needs, and showing attendees some of the tricks to becoming one with your IRAF installation.

A lunch break and time to discuss variable star issues followed. The first of two Scientific Paper Sessions was held from 2:00 to 5:00 pm and the papers on the accompanying list were presented. In the evening, a buffet dinner at AAVSO Headquarters was held for all attendees. Staff members were present to answer questions, assist with the use of the AAVSO International Database, and provide tours of the facility.

The Membership Meeting was called to order by President William G. Dillon at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 15. Minutes of the 94th Spring Meeting, held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, were read by Secretary Gary Walker. A summary of the Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer Louis Cohen.

The following committee/group reports were presented:

CCD	Gary Walker
Chart Distribution	Mike Simonsen
Eclipsing Binary	Gerry Samolyk for Marvin Baldwin
High Energy Network	Aaron Price
Nova Search	Kenneth Beckmann
Photoelectric Photometry	Arne Henden
RR Lyrae	Gerry Samolyk for Marvin Baldwin
Solar	Tom Cragg for Carl Feehrer
Supernova Search	Barry Beaman for Robert Evans

Director Arne Henden reported that 54 new membership applications had been approved by the Council for the second half of the year. He also reported that members and friends of the Association deceased during that period were Fred Whipple, Phillip Morrison, James Baker, Marie-Odile Mennessier, Dick Walker, Ron Stone, Dorothy Beetle-Pilmore, and Walter Feibelman. Attendees stood in a moment of silence to honor them.

Director Henden gave his Annual Report, which follows these Minutes. Among the highlights were: the first Janet Mattei Fellowship awarded and research carried out; excellent progress made in the areas of charts, comparison star sequences, and digitization of comparison star information; work on the Automated Chart Plotter begun; *eJAAVSO* created (papers accepted for *JAAVSO* now posted to the AAVSO website after refereeing); membership database converted to MYSQL; 3rd AAVSO High-Energy Astrophysics Workshop for Amateur Astronomers and 2nd annual AAVSO Symposium held; Wayne Lowder's 94,946 remaining observations and A. W. Robert's 70,000 historical observations added to the AAVSO International Database.

Director Henden announced that the 95th Spring Meeting will be held in Rockford, Illinois, May 5–6, 2006, and will be hosted by Barry and Carol Beaman. He also announced that the 95th Annual Meeting will be held in Newton, Massachusetts, on October 27–28. Locations under consideration for future meetings include Calgary, Alberta, Canada, for Spring 2007, and England with the British Astronomical Society for Spring 2008.

President Bill Dillon announced that the newly elected councilors were Barry Beaman, Pamela Gay, Arto Oksansen, and Mike Simonsen. Bill thanked the nominating committee for its excellent work. The membership meeting was adjourned by President Dillon at 11:44 am for lunch and a group photo.

After lunch David Levy, one of the afternoon speakers, kindly signed books for numerous attendees. The afternoon sessions started at 1 pm with a public workshop on "Beginning Visual Observing", which concentrated on topics for new observers and the general astronomy public. David kicked things off with a talk on Leslie Peltier. David B. Williams discussed binocular observing, while Mike Simonsen encouraged deep sky observers to hop over to variables near or in deep sky objects. AAVSO observers Gene Hansen and Glenn Chaple discussed

observing tips, techniques, and tools for the beginning observer.

The second Scientific Paper Session convened at 2:00 pm. The papers presented are given on the accompanying list. Both afternoon sessions adjourned at 5:30pm.

Attendees gathered at the Sheraton in the evening for the closing banquet and awards presentation. After a delicious dinner, awards were presented. Special awards were presented to Charles A. Whitney, in recognition of his thirty years of service as Editor of the *Journal of the AAVSO*, and to Charles E. Scovil, recognizing his forty years of volunteer service, including thirty-five years as Chair of the Telescope Committee and thirteen years as Chair of the New Charts Committee. Faithful Headquarters volunteer and solar observer Arthur Ritchie received his Solar Observer Award for his sunspot observations. Service Awards were presented to staff members Rebecca Turner and Travis Searle, recognizing ten years and five years, respectively. An AAVSO Supernova Award was awarded to Rev. Robert O. Evans for his visual discovery of SN 2005df in NGC 1559 and will be sent to him in Australia. The William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award was presented posthumously to late Director Janet Akyüz Mattei and was accepted by Mike Mattei. The recipient of the 37th AAVSO Merit Award was longtime AAVSO member, Councilor, and Secretary Martha L. Hazen. Martha was not able to attend the meeting, so the award had been presented to her at her home prior to the meeting by Arne Henden and Elizabeth Waagen, with videographer Travis Searle recording the event for posterity and viewing at the Annual Meeting. After the award was announced and displayed, the video was greatly enjoyed by all.

Following the awards presentations, Headquarters staff members Aaron Price, Astronomical Technical Assistant, Technology, and Katherine Davis, Astronomical Technical Assistant, Web, presented an entertaining and informative talk on the AAVSO website, including its history, some of its many impressive features, and thoughts for future development.

At the end of the evening, prior to stepping down, President Dillon remarked on his two years in office, with their enormous, unimagined challenges for the Association and for himself. Attendees responded with hearty applause and thanks for a difficult job well done. Bill turned the gavel over to incoming President David B. Williams, who, after making remarks that were warmly received by the attendees, adjourned the meeting.

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Friday, October 14, 2005:

Jerry Doug West W. Douglas Hodgson Keneth D. Luedeke	Photometry of η Aquilae
Ronald E. Zissell	CY Aquarii Revisited
Grant Foster	Long-Term Light Curves of Cepheid Variables
John Pazmino	Station at the Center of the Universe

Arne A. Henden	A New Look at Johnson/Cousins Photometric Filters
Jerry D. Horne	V478 Lyrae Revisited: A Current Look at Eclipses and Star Spots
Barry B. Beaman	SS-AT—A Remote Telescope for Pretty Pictures, Science Projects, and Real Research
Pebble Richwine James Bedient Timothy Slater	Preliminary Findings on the Impact of Observing Variable Stars on Middle School Students
Mary Ann Kadooka	Deep Impact 9P/Tempel Student Projects

Papers presented at the Scientific Paper Session on Saturday, October 15, 2005:

Matt BenDaniel	Remote Observing With SLOOH
John R. Percy Anna Molak Hugh Lund M. Danie Overbeek Amelia Wehlau Peter F. Williams	V725 Sagittarii: Read-Time Evolution of a Pulsating Star
Jeffrey A. Wilkerson T. S. Brown B. K. Lacoul	Searching for Open Cluster Variable Stars Using Short Duration Unfiltered Images
Frederick R. West	Some Recently Discovered Red and Brown Dwarfs
William R. Alexander John Hall Ty Nelson Danielle Miller	A Time Series of UX UMa
Paul A. Valleli	Forward or Backward? Visual Brightness Estimates Using the MMO Digital Data Base
Kerriann H. Malatesta Sara J. Beck Gamze Menali Elizabeth O. Waagen	The AAVSO Data Validation Project
Edward J. Los	Update on the Harvard College Observatory Plate Digitization Project
Gerald P. Dyck	Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel, Astronomer and Civil War General
Barbara L. Welther	Some Notes From Annie Jump Cannon's Notebooks

New Members Accepted at the Annual Meeting, October 15, 2005

Allen, Christopher, Sweden
Apple, Neta, MO
Barata, Miguel Angelo Barbosa, Portugal
Bennett, Andrew F., OR
Biarva, Ebrahim Amin, Italy
Birkle, Kent, LA
Boyer, Frederick M., OH
Buchheim, Robert K., CA
Burke, James, AL
Camp, Bud, CA
Campbell, Roy Kenneth, WA
Craft, David C., NM
Davies, Ben, CA
Davies, Donald, CA
DeGraeve, Richard, MI
Deustua, Susana, DC
Di Scala, Giorgio, Australia
Dovydaitis, Vincent, NM
Evans, Tom Lloyd, England
Forte, Theodore W., VA
Garrett, Russ, AL
Geisel, Mike, Australia
Hackins, Robert, IL
Harris, Mark S., GA
Hewlett, Jim, CA
Hoeg, Eric, Denmark
Kawaler, Steven, IA
Kelly, Glenn R., WI
Kessler, Kevin, MD
Kidder, John F., SC
Kinney Jr., Richard, AL
Kurth, Adolf, NY
Lazar-Pearl, Debra, IL
S McClurg, Kurt, TX
McDonagh, Thomas, MA
Murphy, Michael A., NC
Norris, Christopher, TX
Pryzby, Justin, NY
Retter, Alon, MD
S Roberts, Roland, NY
Schroeder, Brock, IL
Shotter, Larry, PA
Siviter, Phillip, England
Sokoloksi, Jennifer, MA
Starkey, Don J., NM
Teays, John Terry, MD
Thibeault, Doris, Canada
Thiede, Eric, W., WI
Unz, Ronald, MS
Valleli, Paul A., MA
Vogt, Nikolaus, Chile
Wagner, Mark Stephen, Canada
Wheeler, Russel O., OK
Williams, David, NC

S = sustaining membership

Deceased Members, Observers, and Colleagues

Baker, James G., NH
Beetle-Pillmore, Dorthy, CO
Feibelman, Walter A., MD
Mennessier, Marie-Odile, France
Morrison, Phillip, MA
Stone, Ron, AZ
Walker, Dick, AZ
Whipple, Fred, MA

AAVSO Merit Award Recipient (presented in person at Martha L. Hazen's home October 2005; announced *in absentia* at the 94th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 15, 2005)

Martha L. Hazen was presented the 37th Merit Award "...in recognition of her outstanding service to the AAVSO during many years as Councilor, President, and Secretary, recognizing that she always reflected wisely on the long-term needs of the association and its members and offered sound counsel, especially to the presidents and the Director, and technical support to AAVSO observers while assisting in many other ways."

AAVSO William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award Recipient (presented posthumously at the 94th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 15, 2005)

Janet A. Mattei was posthumously awarded the fourth William Tyler Olcott Award "...for her untiring promotion of variable star observing through her manifold activities as teacher, speaker, mentor, advocate, colleague, researcher, and administrator for over thirty years, and through her unfailing belief in the essential value of variable star observing and variable star observers." The award was accepted for Janet by her husband, Michael Mattei.

Special Recognition Award Recipients (presented at the 94th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 15, 2005)

Charles E. Scovil was presented a Special Recognition Award "...for forty years of devoted volunteer service to the Association, and in particular for thirty-five years as Chair of the AAVSO Telescope Committee, where your expertise with observing equipment was invaluable, and for thirteen years as Chair of the AAVSO New Charts Committee, where your diligence and meticulous work helped realize the standardization of AAVSO charts and make more efficient their creation, drafting, and distribution."

Charles A. Whitney was presented a Special Recognition Award "...for thirty years of devoted volunteer service to the Association as Editor of the *Journal of the AAVSO*. Through your knowledge, guidance, constant support, and professionalism, you have helped to make the Journal into a recognized and respected resource for variable star research, and in this way, you have helped to further the goals of the AAVSO."

AAVSO Nova Award Recipient (announced at the 94th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 15, 2005)

Robert O. Evans of Hazelbrook, New South Wales, Australia, for his visual discovery of Supernova 2005df in NGC 1559 on August 4.625 UT.

AAVSO Solar Observer Awards (presented at the 94th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 15, 2005)

Sunspot Observers (1,500 or more observations)

Biswajit Bose, India
Robert Brown, CA
Brian Cudnik, TX
Tom Fleming, TX
Monty Leventhal, Austrailia
Etsuiku Mochizuki, Japan
Michael Moeller, Germany
Arthur Ritchie, MA
Nick Stoikidis, Greece
Miyoshi Suzuki, Japan
David Teske, Canada

Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance Observers (40 or more months of reports)

Peter King, England
Ted Poulos, MA
Roberto Battaiola, Italy
Andrew Clerkin, MA
François Steyn, South Africa
Jon Wallace, CT

AAVSO Staff Recognition Awards (presented at the 94th Annual Meeting in Newton, MA, October 15, 2005)

Rebecca Turner (Pellock)—ten years
Travis J. Searle—five years