

1979JAVSO...8

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHART DISTRIBUTION, AAVSO Headquarters

The following is a report of AAVSO charts distributed from Headquarters from 10/1/78 through 9/30/79. A total of 318 orders were filled.

8 x 10 charts	15,207
Finder charts	149
Atlas	27

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

Since the conclusion of my previous report on May 20, 1979, the following mailings of AAVSO Preliminary Chart copies have been made from the Secretary's office. All mailings have resulted from requests by observers:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>No. of Different Addresses</u>	<u>Chart Copies Mailed</u>
U.S.A.	11	458
Canada	3	213
Australia	2	34
Belgium	2	814
France	3	754
Austria	1	19
Greece	1	62
	<u>23</u>	<u>2,354</u>

A detailed breakdown of these figures is available, if desired. A total of two complete sets of the Preliminary Charts was shipped in the past six months.

A total of nine copies of the June 1978 Catalog of Preliminary Charts was mailed, in reply to requests. The number of new or revised preliminary charts completed and now ready for distribution has now increased to the point where it appears a newly-revised Catalog of these charts may be necessary by the middle of calendar 1980, possibly in time for issue at the AAVSO 1970 Spring Meeting.

PHOTOELECTRIC PHOTOMETRY, Chairman: Howard Landis
 Route 2, Box 44ED
 Locust Grove, GA 30248

Again we have experienced a new high total of requests for information on photoelectric photometry. Since last fall, I have written 42 letters related to helping spread the word about PEP.

Kevin Krisciunas of California now has a PEP system in operation, which he uses on a 6-inch, f/6 reflector. R. B. Minton of Arizona has added a micro-computer guider to his photometer-equipped telescope. Tom McFaul has built an observatory in which he houses his 14-inch Celestron equipped with a DOAA Photometer. I have relocated my observatory about 35 miles south of Atlanta. My sky background is 1.5 magnitudes darker here than it was in the city, and the horizon is unlimited above 25 degrees in all directions. I am looking forward to greatly improved observing conditions.

Photoelectric observers have reported a total of 844 observations on 13 eclipsing binary stars in the past year. This is a new high mark of activity and we appreciate the efforts of those who contributed. Some observers remain active in contributing RS CVn type data to Dr. Douglas S. Hall of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

We still have a list of 5 bright eclipsing binary systems with small magnitude range that have not been timed in many years, according to Marvin Baldwin. U Cepheids thought to be going through another disturbance and should be observed. Dr. Edward C. Olson at the University of Illinois reports a change in shape of the light curve and period. There are many useful observing projects the amateur can do with a PEP-equipped instrument of nominal size. We invite your inquiries in regard to amateur photoelectric astronomy.

NOVA SEARCH, Chairman: Carmine Borzelli
12 Corbin Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

For the observing year September 1, 1978, to August 31, 1979, the chairman received 5,548 observations covering 173 areas from 20 observers. During that period, nova searcher, Warren Morrison, discovered Nova Cygni 1979, (V1668 Cyg). Also, in the supernova search program, 5 observers reported 347 observations of 59 galaxies. During that period, supernova searcher Gus Johnson discovered a supernova in NGC 4321 (M100) in April, 1979.

The SNS program has 4 galaxy charts for distribution. Observer Tom Fetterman has prepared a number of charts which are being sky-checked for accuracy and it is hoped that these checks will be completed during the year. The object of his research, and the aim of the program, is to produce a chart for every galaxy within a moderate telescope's reach. Such charts would also meet the AAVSO's standards for variable star charts. Observers wishing to aid in checking the accuracy of the new charts are asked to contact the chairman for details.

During the fall, 1979, AAVSO meeting, 3 Nova discoverers and 1 Supernova discoverer will be honored for their efforts. The chairman and committee congratulate Messrs. Alcock, Hosty, Johnson and Morrison who had the perseverance and good fortune to be in the right place at the right time. Many observers are needed for the Nova and Supernova search programs. Materials for both programs are available from the chairman. If you've written previously and haven't received an answer, please write again as the chairman might not have received your letter.

Nova Search Program

<u>Observer</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Affilia- tion</u>	<u># Areas</u>	<u># Observations</u>
Andrew Barrett	Australia	A S Victoria	5	585
Kenneth Beckmann	Missouri	AAVSO	26	869
Alan Birkner	Illinois	AAVSO	1	1
Carmine Borzelli	New Jersey	AAVSO	118	2,553
Nickolas Brown	Australia	RASNZ	27	96
Scott Coltrain	Iowa	AAVSO	3	7
Manfred Durkefalden	W. Germany	AAVSO	66	334
Frank Farr	Australia	A S V	1	5
Richard Harvan	Pennsylvania	AAVSO	1	2
Donna Hughes	Nevada	AAVSO	1	1
David Levy	Arizona	AAVSO	6	46

Nova Search Program (Continued)

<u>Observer</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Affilia- tion</u>	<u># Areas</u>	<u># Observations</u>
Herbert Luft	New York	AAVSO	1	120
Warren Morrison	Canada	AAVSO	8	404
Frank Schmitt	New York	AAA - NYC	1	14
James Scholl	New York	AAVSO	17	107
Chris Spratt	Canada	AAVSO	Dome	searches only
Phillip Steffey	California	AAVSO	9	54
Frank Traynor	Australia	BAA-NSW	Dome	searches only
Theodore Wales	Massachusetts	AAVSO	2	2
Tom Wilson	W. Virginia	AAVSO	6	<u>348</u>
				5,548

<u>Super Nova Search Program</u>			<u># Galaxies</u>	<u># Observations</u>
Carmine Borzelli	New Jersey	AAVSO	12	157
Tom Fetterman	New Jersey	AAVSO	23	61
Gus Johnson	Maryland	AAVSO	8	11
Tom McFaul	New York	AAVSO	44	117
Tom Wilson	W. Virginia	AAVSO	1	<u>1</u>
				347

VARIABLE STAR ATLAS COMMITTEE, Chairman: Clinton B. Ford
10 Canterbury Lane
Wilton, CT 06897

Since my May 1979 report on the VSA, work has progressed steadily, in accord with the deadline (Item 5a in that report) specified for completion of all 178 base charts by "October 1979."

To date, Mr. Scovil has completed and delivered to Headquarters for checking 171 of the 178 total charts. The remaining 7 charts, all near the south pole, will require about one more week to complete.

All necessary PEP(V) magns. for comparison stars have been transferred from Mr. Lowder's Borealis and Eclipticalis copies, and this material returned to him.

The next deadline date, for all corrections and overlays to be completed by March 1980 on master charts, can apparently be met with no difficulty, barring unforeseens. Checking of Mr. Scovil's first-draft base charts is continuing under the direction of Director Emeritus Mrs. M. W. Mayall.

Mr. Scovil and Mr. Robinson of Sky Publishing have been in direct correspondence concerning the work as it has progressed, and will continue to do so, in collaboration with the AAVSO Director, Mrs. Mattei.

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

This past year three observers reported a total of 1065 observations of 20 RR Lyrae stars. These data will eventually be reduced to about 75 times of maxima. This represents a reduction of activity in the RR Program compared to previous years. As a result a few program stars are needing more attention. Among these are AT And, TZ Aur, SW Boo, SZ Boo, UY Boo, TT Cnc, SZ Hya, WW Leo and AV Peg. One year ago we reported that computer analysis of our data for RR Lyrae stars had become a reality. We also noted that the process was somewhat hampered by the fact that some of the older data had to be re-examined

to assure compatibility with the current format. We have since learned that the various formats used during the early days of the program require verification of each individual observation -- a time-consuming operation. All the old data for one star, SW Andromedae, have been verified. The remaining data await generation of sufficient motivation to accomplish the task.

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

During the past twelve months eighteen observers submitted a total of 8352 observations on about 240 eclipsing binary stars. These data will eventually be reduced to about 450 times of minima. Included in these data are 843 PEP observations obtained by Howard Louth, Melanie Mitchell, and Leonard Kalish. Mr. Louth has led a very successful campaign to obtain PEP data on a number of eclipsing binaries which have been neglected by observers for many years. Our Milwaukee observers, led by Gerry Samolyk, continue to make southeastern Wisconsin a center of observing activity for eclipsing binary stars. Mr. Samolyk makes a policy of observing at least one minimum of as many different stars as possible each year. He personally accounts for a major portion of the unusually large number of eclipsing binaries observed. In addition to those individuals who contribute so much of their time applying their observing skills, there are several persons who contribute other skills essential to a smoothly functioning eclipsing binary committee. MJ Taylor continues to key punch all data for the program, including the data from the RR Lyrae program. She is also involved in the electronic processing of these data with Peter Taylor and Josefa Manella who have developed sophisticated computer programs for the reduction of data and other processing as may be required. Donald Livingston continues to provide the computerized ephemerides for both the EB and RR programs. Gary Wedemayer maintains the preliminary charts for the EB stars and distributes them to observers. David Skillman provides guidance for the PEP observers of EB stars and processes much of the PEP data.