

## AAVSO MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

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In January of 1980 a questionnaire was sent to the membership of the AAVSO. Our purpose in sending this questionnaire was to become better acquainted with our members, and learn a little more about the exceptional group of individuals who make up the AAVSO. The returned questionnaires were analyzed, and the results presented at the 69th Annual Meeting in Waltham. Since the meeting, several more responses have been received. The summary presented here reflects these additional responses. The information obtained from the analysis will be invaluable in planning future activities of the AAVSO.

Of the 1118 questionnaires mailed, 267 have been returned. This figure represents a response of 24%, which compares favorably with the average response rate of 17%. We thank each one who returned the questionnaire to HQ. For those members who haven't yet responded, it's not too late! If you still have a copy, simply fill it out and send it in. If you don't have a copy, just answer the questions as they appear here, briefly adding details where necessary, and return your answers to HQ. We would enjoy hearing from you.

Analyzing the questionnaires has told us a lot about who our members are. The analysis tells us they are a diverse group, but that they have some things in common, too. Living in all parts of the world, AAVSO members demonstrate among themselves a broad range of skills, backgrounds, interests, and experiences. At the same time, they share a true love of astronomy. Also, AAVSOers seem to be a very enthusiastic group, interested and involved in the world around them. Certainly, it was delightful to see so many members interested in taking a more active role in the AAVSO, in such a variety of ways. Hopefully, the AAVSO will always have as caring, thoughtful, and dedicated a membership as it has today.

| <u>QUESTION</u>                     | <u>PERCENTAGE</u> | <u>INDICATING</u> | <u>RESPONSE</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Location of Respondant?          |                   |                   |                 |
| USA                                 |                   |                   |                 |
| Northeast (states combined)         |                   |                   | 32              |
| Southeast       "       "           |                   |                   | 8               |
| Midwest         "       "           |                   |                   | 15              |
| Northwest       "       "           |                   |                   | 3               |
| Southwest       "       "           |                   |                   | 20              |
| Canada and Mexico                   |                   |                   | 6               |
| Overseas                            |                   |                   | 17              |
| 2. Occupation of Respondant?        |                   |                   |                 |
| Clergy                              |                   |                   | 1               |
| Computer-related                    |                   |                   | 5               |
| Education                           |                   |                   | 10              |
| Engineering                         |                   |                   | 11              |
| Professional (MD, LLD, MSW, etc.)   |                   |                   | 21              |
| Retired                             |                   |                   | 8               |
| Student                             |                   |                   | 19              |
| Other                               |                   |                   | 22              |
| Not given                           |                   |                   | 5               |
| 3. Personal Information?            |                   |                   |                 |
| Member of scientific organization   |                   |                   |                 |
| other than AAVSO                    |                   |                   | 18              |
| Received medal/award for astronomy- |                   |                   |                 |
| related work                        |                   |                   | 15              |

| <u>QUESTION</u>  | <u>PERCENTAGE</u> | <u>INDICATING</u> | <u>RESPONSE</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 4. Source of information about the AAVSO?                                  |                   |                   |                 |
| Astronomical Club  | 23                |                   |                 |
| Book   | 30                |                   |                 |
| Friend   | 26                |                   |                 |
| Magazine   | 46                |                   |                 |
| Other  | 8                 |                   |                 |
| 5. When Respondant joined the AAVSO?                                       |                   |                   |                 |
| before and including 1950  | 6                 |                   |                 |
| 1951 - 1960  | 5                 |                   |                 |
| 1961 - 1970  | 17                |                   |                 |
| 1971 - 1980  | 73                |                   |                 |
| 6. Observer?   |                   |                   |                 |
| Yes  | 93                |                   |                 |
| No   | 7                 |                   |                 |
| 7. Observational Equipment?  |                   |                   |                 |
| Binoculars (one or more pair, all sizes<br>combined)                       | 75                |                   |                 |
| Telescope (one or more, reflectors and<br>refractors, all sizes, combined) | 94                |                   |                 |
| Photoelectric photometer   |                   |                   |                 |
| Own one  | 10                |                   |                 |
| Don't own one but am obtaining one soon                                    | 15                |                   |                 |
| Don't own one but may obtain one soon                                      | 7                 |                   |                 |
| Don't own one but have access to one                                       | 1                 |                   |                 |
| 8. Peripheral Equipment?   |                   |                   |                 |
| Calculator (all kinds combined)  | 88                |                   |                 |
| Computer   |                   |                   |                 |
| Own one  | 11                |                   |                 |
| If own one, it is TRS-80   | 6                 | (50% of above)    |                 |
| Don't own one but have access to one                                       | 8                 |                   |                 |
| Blink comparator   | 1                 |                   |                 |
| 9. Types of stars observed by Respondant?                                  |                   |                   |                 |
| Long-period variables  | 73                |                   |                 |
| Semi-regulars  | 49                |                   |                 |
| Cataclysmic (U Gem, Z And, Z Cam types)                                    | 49                |                   |                 |
| R CrB variables  | 44                |                   |                 |
| Eclipsing binaries   | 10                |                   |                 |
| RR Lyrae variables   | 5                 |                   |                 |
| Cepheids   | 10                |                   |                 |
| Sun  | 8                 |                   |                 |
| Nova/Supernova search  | 3                 |                   |                 |
| Other  | 13                |                   |                 |
| 10. Respondant interested in taking a more active role?                    |                   |                   |                 |
| Yes  | 72                |                   |                 |
| No   | 26                |                   |                 |
| If yes, how?   |                   |                   |                 |
| Data analysis  | 60                |                   |                 |
| Helping new observers  | 49                |                   |                 |
| Drafting   | 21                |                   |                 |
| Advertising  | 10                |                   |                 |
| Fundraising  | 8                 |                   |                 |
| Printing   | 6                 |                   |                 |
| Other  | 14                |                   |                 |