

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CLASSICAL CEPHEID, Chairman: Thomas A. Cragg
 Anglo-Australian Observatory
 Coonabarabran, N.S.W. 2357
 Australia

Chairman's report not received at AAVSO Headquarters.

CHART DISTRIBUTION, AAVSO Headquarters

The following is a report of AAVSO charts distributed from Headquarters from October 1, 1986, to March 31, 1987. During this period 141 chart orders were filled.

Standard Charts (8.5 x 11-inch)	6245
Photoelectric Photometry Charts	1121
Reversed Charts	920
Finder Charts	155
AAVSO Variable Star Atlas	7

Ed Halbach has prepared additional reversed charts for telescopes with an odd number of reflections. We thank Ed for his valuable work on this important project.

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

The following mailings of AAVSO Preliminary Charts were made from the Secretary's office during the period October 1, 1986, through May 15, 1987:

Destination	No. of Different Addressees	Chart Copies Mailed
Japan	3	3210
West Germany	1	1104
New Zealand	1	532
U.S.A.	10	279
Italy	1	249
Hungary	1	78
England	3	52
Canada	2	36
Finland	<u>1</u>	<u>28</u>
TOTALS	23	5568

All of these mailings were made, as before, in response to observers' requests. A complete set now comprises a total of 1104 different charts.

The Ninth Edition of the **AAVSO Preliminary Chart Catalog** (dated July 15, 1986) has been supplemented by a list of 21 addenda or corrections to same as of March 10, 1987, available to observers on request.

The comprehensive program described briefly in my last report, for updating all AAVSO charts both as to sequence and star data and as to format, is nearing completion. We anticipate that the work on this program will not be completed in final form until after the completion

and receipt of the remaining Volumes III - VII of the new 4th Edition of the Russian **General Catalogue of Variable Stars** (GCVS).

The Eichner photoelectric plate photometer obtained from Columbia University continues to be useful. R. M. Stanton of California continues his photometric measures for us on newly-charted fields, and the Ford Observatory 18-inch continues to be used by Rev. R. E. Royer for photography of new fields to be charted. Mr. Scovil processes most incoming orders for preliminary chart shipments, and mailing continues to be done from the Secretary's office.

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

Observing activity has been sustained at a good level during this reporting period, with 14 observers submitting data which can be reduced to approximately 265 times of minima. These data include a few photoelectric minima by Howard Louth, David Skillman, and David Williams. If this observing rate continues throughout the remainder of the observing year, we should equal last year's performance and continue our long string of continuous data on most program stars and many additional stars not officially in the program but faithfully monitored by individual observers on a continuing basis.

This reporting period also sees a revival of our efforts to computerize our data. Your committee chairman is not particularly adept at computer programming, but with the able assistance of Gerry Samolyk and Ron Baldwin, we are now in the process of entering post-1983 data into computer files. We look forward to the possibility of merging these data with the earlier data already on file.

Thanks to the efforts of Ron Baldwin, we now have the capability of doing the tracing-paper reduction of times of minima on the computer screen.

NOVA SEARCH, Chairman: Rev. Kenneth C. Beckmann
P.O. Box 240
Lewiston, ME 49756

Chairman's report not received at AAVSO Headquarters.

PHOTOELECTRIC PHOTOMETRY, Chairman: Howard J. Landis
50 Price Road West
Locust Grove, GA 30248

The photoelectric photometry program is continuing to show that it is alive and growing. At the end of calendar year 1986 we had 996 photoelectric observations reduced and in the archives at Headquarters. Later observations in process bring that total to 1209.

The observers' data report forms are to be sent to me once a month as they come in to Headquarters - no more large packs of data for me to enter, just smaller ones more regularly.

A set of charts with epoch 2000 positions for the Photoelectric Photometry Program stars are on file at Headquarters. If you need the new positions for any of the stars in the catalog, Headquarters can provide the information. This project was another on my cloudy night list.

A brief review of two books was written to be included with the

photoelectric photometry information packet to assist new observers in deciding which would best suit their needs.

A proposed change in the data report form was submitted to Headquarters. The changes are minor, so the data entry technician does not have to skip back and forth to find the data called for by the computer data-reduction program.

A new method of reporting raw photoelectric data is available which eliminates the need for filling out a report form. If the observer has available an IBM PC or PC-compatible computer, I will furnish him with a BASIC program on diskette that will generate raw data files in AAVSO format. When he has a file with 10 observations in it, or more than one file of 10 each, he will send the diskette to me to be reduced by the AAVSO data-reduction program. These raw data files, when computer-printed, will serve as the hard-copy back-up of the data for Headquarters' archives. I hope that whoever can will use this method for data transfer. Using it will eliminate the possibility of errors in transcribing the data, and I will have fewer observations to enter! If anyone is interested in using this method, please let me know.

Since the beginning of this fiscal year, I have written 41 letters to observers or prospective observers. This number was larger than usual because I was still entering the photoelectric data accumulating at Headquarters since 1983. Most observers needed to make some adjustments to either their observing or data-reporting procedures.

Russell Milton is collecting data on the questionable variable V Cephei. It is one of the stars Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit has suggested we observe because it is listed in the **General Catalogue of Variable Stars** as Constant. He has seven observations of it, and they will be reduced soon. When V Cep becomes available in the evening sky again, I am sure Russell will continue to observe it.

The check star for VY UMa is at present suspected of being variable. Dr. John Percy will have a note about it in the next issue of the **AAVSO Photoelectric Photometry Newsletter**.

The 180 observations reported between October 1, 1986, and the end of the calendar year are in the AAVSO archives at Headquarters. The number of known observations reported since January 1, 1987, is 171, which brings the grand total of archived photoelectric observations to 1209. Contributors of data in this fiscal year include George Fortier, Arthur Koster, Michael Kohl, Paul Kniepp, Howard Landis, Russell Milton, and Don Pray. We appreciate very much receiving raw photoelectric data from these observers - your efforts keep the AAVSO photoelectric photometry program going.

Dr. John Percy helps us with professional advice or answers to questions that we as amateurs have. We appreciate the very good work he does as Editor of the **AAVSO Photoelectric Photometry Newsletter**. This newsletter is available on request.

If you would like to do photoelectric observing, please get in touch with me - I want to help. We need more observers!

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

During this reporting period, four observers gathered data for 145 maxima of RR Lyrae stars. This puts us well ahead of last year's pace, and enhances the possibility of improving on our coverage of the

program stars. Already four of the seven program stars neglected last year have been observed, and efforts are underway to obtain data for the remaining three.

Our efforts to obtain large amounts of data on three stars - SW Boo, AR Her, and SZ Hya - have met with good success. Data from past years indicate that these stars undergo significant changes in their light curves, and we are hopeful that more data will enable us to define these changes better and determine if they are cyclic.

Like the eclipsing binary data, the current RR Lyrae data are being entered into computer files and various methods for reducing these data are under consideration.

SOLAR DIVISION, Chairman: Peter O. Taylor
P.O. Box 8115
Gainesville, FL 32605

The Solar Division continues to generate interest and active participation from around the world.

The Chairman has recently completed his move to St. Augustine, Florida (he has subsequently moved back to Gainesville- Ed.), and looks forward to renewing his full-time Chairmanship at this time. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the AAVSO staff and Dr. Mattei for their welcomed efforts on behalf of the **AAVSO Solar Bulletin** and the division's paperwork. Their work has enabled us to regain and retain our business and publishing schedules, and to operate in a timely manner.

We also wish to express our thanks to Bruce Wingate, who continues to do such an outstanding job as co-ordinator of our SID Program, and to the many fine observers in the international network of American Sunspot Program contributors, without whose dedicated efforts the Program could not be successful.

TELESCOPE, Chairman: Charles E. Scovil
Stamford Observatory
c/o Stamford Museum
39 Scofieldtown Road
Stamford, CT 06903

No changes have taken place during this reporting period in the status of equipment on hand, nor has any additional equipment been added to the inventory.