

Opportunities for MAC Research Involvement at MIRA

Dr. Daniel V. Cotton

*Normally to help with research at MIRA you need half a day a week on a weekday – if office work on a science project is your speed, email mira@mira.org with the heading *Volunteering*, and say what interests you. (You can also help with non-research jobs.)*

But there are other opportunities...



AAVSO Conference in Portland (Nov 1-2)

<https://www.aavso.org/114>

- AAVSO is the American Association of Variable Star Observers. Their membership includes amateurs and professionals and they often facilitate amateur-professional collaborations.
- Meeting covers topics:
 - Variable Star studies
 - History of Astronomy
 - Education and Outreach
 - Keynotes include talk on Vera C. Rubin Observatory.
 - Last year's talks are listed here: <https://www.aavso.org/113>
- Meeting Registration \$270/\$175 for Non-member/AAVSO Member.
- No registration deadline is given on their page (there must be one!) but the \$149/night special they have for the Mariot Hotel has a cut-off of October 2nd.
- Abstract deadline has been extended to Sept 12. You do not need to submit an abstract to attend.
- Jean, Kate and I will be attending. I'm happy to organize carpooling with any MAC members interested. Email dc@mira.org if interested.



Assist at the Oliver Observing Station

- We are doing a lot of observing at the moment at the Oliver Observing Station. In particular there is a program on polarimetric asteroseismology that needs a lot of work.
- I'm seeking expressions of interest, from MAC members who want to come up with me for a Friday-Saturday night session, and help out.
 - You'll get to see how "professional" observations are made.
 - See some great skies.
 - Be of general assistance.
- In addition, Jean has a imaging camera and filter wheel set up on the co-mounted 14-inch. She's working with Mark C and others to use that to take good astro photos for promotion and other purposes.
 - There may be future opportunities in this area.
- There may be prospects for winter observing at the WSO as well.
- If you are interested, please email dc@mira.org with subject 'OOS Observing Volunteer Helper'. In the email text, let me know which weekends you can make from 26 Sept until the end of the year.



Occultation Science

- MAC members Sandy Astone and Nelson Balcar have recently assisted Dr. Rick Nolthenius occultation science efforts.
- Rick gave a recent FoM talk on the subject.
 - It's exciting, because you're trying to capture a fleeting event.
 - You're contributing to the science of the Solar system.
- For members who are interested I can put you in touch with Rick.
 - There will likely be some equipment costs involved.
 - There's can be a lot of travelling with a team. Or if you have all the equipment you could help locally.
 - email dc@mira.org and I'll put you in touch with Rick.

