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## letters

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**Chris Stewart** of the Johannesburg Centre writes:

"It is with sadness that I must report the passing of Pam Cook on 16 July. Pam was one of the more prolific solar observers in this country, whose regular flow of observing reports to the Section was only curtailed by circumstances. Her

rare intellect and a warm personality will be missed by all who knew her; it was my privilege to have done so for almost two decades. Her husband Jack (also a long-term amateur astronomer and ATM exponent) provides the following commentary. Our thoughts are with Jack and his family in this time of sorrow."

**Astronomy and Pam Cook**  
by Jack Cook

Pam's lifelong interest, and forte, was mathematics. When there were no "serious" things for her to apply her mind to, she loved to sit with pencil and paper, working through some or other self-set problem for her own satisfaction and amusement. If she was not happy with the conclusions she reached then... she would return to the start and worry the problem until she arrived at the result that she sought and believed was correct.

It seemed natural that Astronomy offered a perfect outlet for Pam's talents. Pam found many astronomical views and conclusions controversial to her thinking. When this was so, she would delve deeper and deeper into the matter, quite regardless of time and effort, until she was satisfied with the outcome, whether or not she could disprove the "book".

Pam was delighted to view sky objects, either unassisted or using a telescope. However, she was never at a loss because of viewing conditions, she would simply use her desk and writing materials to immerse herself far into her current interest; a happy way to have the best of things, come rain, cloud or any other obstacle to good viewing.

Pam became very interested in Solar activity, and recording and pondering events that she observed. She liked to discuss matters with Jim Knight, the Director of that Section of ASSA. Intelligent conversation was one of her basic needs.

Pam passed away on 16th July 2005 after a long fight with illness. She is very much missed by her friends and family.

