

## Analemma Society Annual Report (March 2016 to March 2017)

Analemma Society  
PO Box 196  
Great Falls, VA 22066

Analemma Society (AS) is a 501 (c) 3 Educational Non-Profit dedicated to teaching the public science through Astronomy. AS is registered with the Commonwealth of Virginia. We maintained our status by doing our annual registration with the state as well as filing income tax forms with the US Internal Revenue Service. We are authorized by the state of Virginia to fund raise. We operated Observatory Park at Turner Farm to further our educational aims.

AS opened Observatory Park (OP) to the public for Friday night viewing and OP Saturdays and Sundays in general as in years past and closed when the sky was cloudy, temperature below 20° F, (or wind/chill factor below 20° F), or snow/ice on ground, OP was not opened to the public.

The AS opens OP to the public on clear weekends for sundial viewing and general unsupervised public access to the park.

### Summary of 2016 AS Volunteer Activities

Because of construction taking place at the park we had restricted observing over the course of the year. We had 19 sessions over the course of the year, two held at Baron Cameron Park. The rest were held at Turner Farm, and after the December 2nd we began holding events in the Roll Top. Total volunteer hours were 289, we estimated there were 1250 visitors.

Over the course of the year we have held observing sessions for Herndon High School and local elementary schools, Sunrise Elementary and Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups. The general public is always invited and we get regular attendance from them. During the construction of the Roll Top observations were moved to Baron Cameron Park on selected Friday nights as well as a Remote Telescopic Viewing program at the Great Falls Library described below.

AS monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at Dantes Restaurant at 12:30.

In addition AS supported outreach events to inform the public about activities at the park, and did coordination meetings with Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) officials.

During summer months AS has set up an outreach table at the Reston Farmer's Market Saturday mornings to advertise the park.

April 2, 2016 Charles Olin, Alan Figgatt, Doug Wood and Bob Kellogg with NOVAC members in an advisory group for equipping the Roll Top and getting it operational.

May 4, 2016 Annual Analemma Society Meeting, elected the following officers and directors:

#### Officers

President:	Charles H Olin
Vice President	Paul Reistrup
Corresponding Secretary	Don Fowler
Recording Secretary	Jacque Olin
Treasurer	Jeffrey L. Kretsch

#### Directors

Bill Kemmerer	Robert Anderson
Allan Figgatt	Eschi Warwick
David North	Doug Wood
Bob Kellogg	Joe Horodniak

May 9, 2016 Transit of Mercury Event at Observatory Park

May 18, 2016 Jeff Kretsch, Peter Gural, and Jeff Mirick served as judges to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS) Research Symposium at the University of Mary Washington.

May 27, 2016 Opposition of Mars Event at Observatory Park

June 20-22, 2016 AS represented at North American Sundial Society (NASS) meeting in Portland Maine by Jeff Kretsch. Bob Kellogg is a prominent member of both AS and NASS.

September 15, 2016 Jacque Olin and Jeff Kretsch met with the History Commission at the Fairfax County Government Center to review edits made by the Commissions' Marker Committee of the text for the historical marker proposed for the Army Map Service work done from 1963-1993 at the site that is now Observatory Park.

October 1, 2016 The Ribbon Cutting ceremony of the Roll Top was held with presentations by John Foust, Tim Hackman, Charles Olin and Jean and Ric Edelman. Installation of telescopes into the Roll Top proceeded.

October 12, 2016 Melvin Hayes led the Analemma Society team addressing internet connectivity and remote observing aspects of the RATO in a meeting with FCPA personnel, which included Peter Gural, Alan Figgatt and Jeff Kretsch. Critical members of the team include Doug Wood and Bob Kellogg.

October 28, 2016 AS (Alan Figgatt and Jeff Kretsch) assisted FCPA in removing the RATO telescope in preparation for work to assess the wall structure problems of the RATO.

October 29, 2016 AS (Jeff Kretsch and Jim Nguyen) with NOVAC supported the Astronomy Merit Badge program for the Powhatten District Scouts Camporee held at Camp Highroad.

December 2, 2016 First opening of the Roll Top Observatory for a public viewing session. Regular Friday Night sessions followed with usual opening conditions.

January 24, 2017-Jacque Olin and Jeff Kretsch together with Dr. Gary Weir, Historian, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, submitted final version of text to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for an historical marker recognizing the work of the Army Map Service/Defense Mapping Agency at what was known as the Herndon Site and is now Observatory Park. The submission will be evaluated by the Historic Resources Board on March 16th, and if accepted a ceremony for installation of the sign is planned for 24 June.

January 31, 2017 Registration started for Spring FCPA Parktakes courses developed and to be conducted by AS members (Peter Gural, Bob Kellogg, Bill Burton and Alan Figgatt).

Over January and February Analemma Society members supported various Science Fair judging activities at Langley, Thomas Jefferson, and Herndon High Schools.

Membership Drive: Analemma Society collected \$3,114 in dues and donations over this period.

Springvale Road Pickup: Springvale Road runs along the western boundary of the park, and to maintain a pleasant appearance and environment AS has been doing road pickup under the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Adopt a Highway program. We have been doing the pickups on a quarterly basis and reporting results to VDOT.

#### Acknowledgements:

AS consists of volunteers, among them Alan Figgatt has led the Friday night observing sessions, Mary Blessing has coordinated the Family Night program with schools, Dr. Doug Wood and Melvin Hayes have led the effort to make the Remote Access Telescopic Observatory (RATO) operational, Robert Anderson has led outreach efforts, and Dr. Jeff Kretsch has handled VDOT Road pickup as well as general duties maintaining the non-profit status of AS. Bob Beamer has opened the park for sundial viewing until it was stopped due to construction at the site. Brian Symmes and Bob Kellogg have provided webmaster services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Olin  
President  
Analemma Society