

Analemma Society Annual Report (March 2017 to March 2018)

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 2017 AS Volunteer Activities: We had 64 sessions over the course of the year, at the Roll Top. Total volunteer hours were 882, we estimated there were 1244 visitors.

Over the course of the year we have held observing sessions for Ambleside Elementary, 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.

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.

On April 1st Charles Olin, Jacque Olin, and Jeff Kretsch visited Falcons Landing to discuss Analemma Society activities in a presentation to the newly formed Astronomy Club there under Barbara Freedman. Falcons Landing is a retirement community for military and government personnel.

On April 18, 2017 Alan Figgatt presented a Parktakes course at the Roll Top on "Introduction to Telescopes" with support from Peter Gural, Gerald Kassalow, Jeff Kretsch, and Bob Anderson. There were 11 students including some children.

April 6, 2017 and May 4, 2017 Sundials to Satellites Program was held at the Great Falls Regional Library, organized by Jacque Olin and Jeff Kretsch, with two speakers, Steve Malys on April 6 spoke on “Journey to the Center of the Earth, Status of the Terrestrial Reference Frame”, and on May 4th Paul Ceruzzi spoke on “Not just GPS: Why Russians, the European Union, China, and India are Building Satellite Navigation Systems and What that means for the US Global Positioning System”.

May 4, 2017 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
Bob Kellogg	Doug Wood

May 18, 2017 Jeff Kretsch and Jeff Mirick served as judges to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS) Research Symposium at the University of Mary Washington.

On June 24, 2017 An Army Map Service Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony was held at Turner Farm with many dignitaries including Congresswoman Barbara Comstock and State Senator Barbara Favoli. John Fahey spoke on behalf of NGA.

During summer months AS (Robert Anderson, Rich Mascis, and Jeff Kretsch) has set up an outreach table at the Reston Farmer’s Market Saturday mornings to advertise the park.

Analemma Society Members (Alan Figgatt, Peter Gural, Bill Burton, Eve Kassalow, Calvin Powell and Jeff Kretsch) were active in supporting the Fairfax County Parktakes program with courses on meteors, telescopes, the moon, and family centered courses among other topics. We also hosted visits to the park by the National Geospatial-

Intelligence Agency Alumni Association (NGAA) and other groups. There were 31 Parktakes sessions over the period of this report.

August 20-22, 2017 AS supported at North American Sundial Society (NASS) meeting in St. Louis, MO with information of the total solar eclipse during the meeting.

September 16, 2017 AS supported Boy Scout Eagle Project (Stephan Rea) installing new blue bird boxes and renovating the Martin House at the Park.

October 28, 2017 AS (Jeff Kretsch and Jim Nguyen) with NOVAC supported the Astronomy Merit Badge program for the Powhatten District Scouts Camporee held at Camp Highroad.

January 4, 2018 AS members Charles Olin, Jacque Olin and Jeffrey Kretsch met with FCPA representative Barbara Nugent at the Great Falls Library to discuss modifying the current FCPA-AS agreement.

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 \$3003 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. Brian Symmes and Bob Kellogg have provided webmaster services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Olin

President

Analemma Society