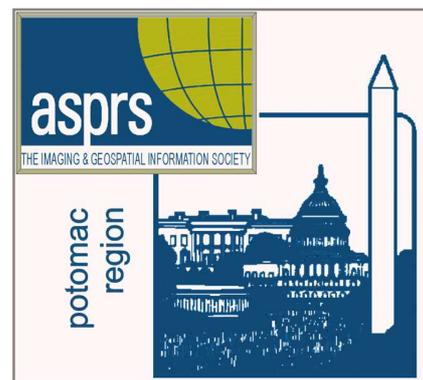


# ASPRS POTOMAC REGION

*The imaging and geospatial information society*  
*Q2 2015 Newsletter*



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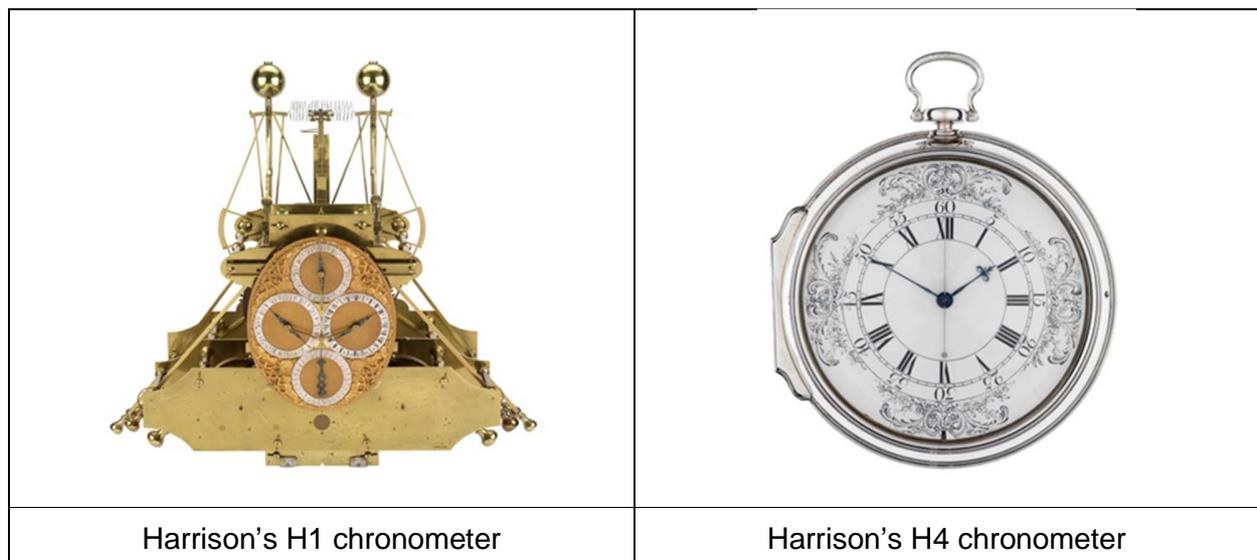
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## Tech Tour at the Folger Library: The Potomac Region finds its longitude!

Three members of the Potomac Region and a guest participated in a docent-led tour of the current exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library, "Ships, Clocks & Stars: The Quest for Longitude." Produced by the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England, the exhibit celebrates the 300th anniversary of the British Longitude Act of 1714, which offered huge rewards for any practical way to determine longitude at sea. John Harrison, winner of the prize, revolutionized clock-building and navigation at the same time. The competition is the subject of Dava Sobel's prize-winning book, *Longitude*.

We saw artifacts including compasses, sextants and ephemerides for navigation, early attempts at ship-board clocks, and the successive versions of Harrison's successful chronometers. It was fascinating to see the evolution from his H1 (1735), which pioneered the use of swinging balances and frictionless pivots without lubrication, to the H4 pocketwatch (1753), 132 mm in diameter.

The docent also showed us the library itself, which contains numerous historical paintings and pieces of furniture, as well as collection of Shakespeare tchotchkes including ceramic statues, mugs, etc. The ashes of the Folgers, who founded the library, are stored over the mantelpiece of the reading room.



The exhibit will be at the Folger until August 23. For more information: <http://www.folger.edu/exhibitions/ships-clocks-stars-the-quest-longitude>

## ASPRS National conference report from Tampa

Dr. Barbara Eckstein, National Director of the Potomac Region

### **ASPRS Conferences**

ASPRS's newly rebranded annual conference, the Imaging & Geospatial Technology Forum (IGTF) 2015, was held 4 – 8 May 2015 in Tampa, Florida. It is the first conference organized by ASPRS's National Technical Planning Committee (NTPC), chaired by Dr. Alan Mikuni. Conference attendance was low, in part because several events were taking place at or near the same time. The spring ASPRS conference has changed. The technical program is streamlined to align with ASPRS divisions and to include other agencies, both national and international. ASPRS HQ is taking a more active role in selecting keynote speakers.

In the future, ASPRS HQ will not hold fall specialty conferences. Instead, ASPRS will rely on its regions to organize events.

### **Professional Certification**

ASPRS now has 3 exams for LiDAR certification and 2 new certification programs. The Photogrammetry Applications Division (PAD) is working with a Texas board to certify photogrammetrists. UAS professionals want a UAS certification, which the UAS Division is developing.

ASPRS's recertification/license maintenance requirements are the most rigorous in the industry, requiring many more professional development hours (PDHs) than any state or other region. ASPRS is looking to bring its requirements more in line with others, in part by allowing certified professionals to earn PDHs simply by continuing in their employment.

### **ASPRS's LiDAR Format LAS**

The main topic at the LiDAR Division and Standards Committee meetings was ASPRS's LAS format for LiDAR data.

The current LAS version 1.4 has not been revised in 4 years and does not support newer types of LiDAR, such as Geiger mode. At the request of Dr. Michael Hauck, ASPRS Executive Director, the LiDAR Division will perform a technical analysis of LAS and other competing formats and determine where to position LAS with respect to ANSI, OGC, etc. At this time, ASPRS does not know the details of what needs to be updated in LAS. ASPRS plans to publish a paper in PE&RS on the future of LAS and would like LiDAR experts to contribute.

### **ASPRS Initiatives**

The Remote Sensing Applications Division (RSAD) is seeking a climate change expert to lead its climate change subcommittee. In response to NGA/Director Cardillo's call for unclassified apps to support emergency response, Stuart Blundell, RSAD Director, has formed a steering committee to investigate how ASPRS can serve as neutral focal point for volunteer experts to support disaster response.

The Standards Committee chair, David Stolarz, wants to ensure that the process for developing a standard includes a review cycle so that ASPRS receives comments against that standard for update. ASPRS's recently ratified "ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data" is being

implemented, although some data providers are having difficulty transitioning from the old to the new standard. UASs need standards because of irregularities in data quality.

The Primary Data Acquisition Division (PDAD) is looking for volunteers to develop *in situ* calibration guidelines.

The Photogrammetry Applications Division (PAD) is working with a Texas board to certify photogrammetrists. Standards are needed for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) because there are any irregularities in UAV data quality. The UAV industry is very young, and UAV developers are not providing quality software that analyzes data with sufficient accuracy. The Defense & Intelligence (D&I) Subcommittee of the PAD may be elevated to its own division. D&I issues intersect with many other ASPRS divisions, and with the ASPRS Standards Committee.

The UAS Division is establishing calibration sites across the country, preparing for the UAS Mapping Symposium in Reno in September-October 2015, working on best practices & guidelines, and working on a UAS certification program.

The GIS Division (GISD) is working on a special PE&RS issue on big data analytics. GISD's free webinars called "GeoBytes" continue to be highly successful. GISD supports the Young Professionals Council (YPC) and is looking for mentors. GISD is working with other organizations, e.g., AAG, URISA, on topics such as licensure of GIS professionals. The updated ASPRS "Gossary of Mapping Sciences" is another big push and is expected to be ready for ASPRS HQ by June/July, with publication by the beginning of 2016.

### **ASPRS Management**

ASPRS management structure continues to streamline, and it will soon have a much smaller (12 member) Board of Directors (BOD) and no Executive Committee (ExCom). National Directors will cease to exist by about November 2015. Regions will instead be represented by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of a new Region Officers Council, whose makeup and governance are yet to be determined. ASPRS is working on providing more value to its members. ASPRS members should expect more major changes in ASPRS management as the streamlining task force continues its work.

To improve ASPRS value to its membership, ASPRS is developing a market-based strategy so as to grow wisely and prune carefully. Giving away memberships is not the answer. ASPRS needs to align strategy, governance, and HQ execution while maintaining essential member services and sufficient financial assets so that ASPRS fulfills its vision and serves its members.

ASPRS signed a contract with NASA on the Space Act Agreement for Landsat Legacy Project. The Student Advisory Council (SAC) has been rejuvenated. There are 3 new/reactivated campus chapters. The GeoByte webinars are rocking.

In spring 2015 NASA released a new education initiative. ASPRS has proposed a STEM education plan to NASA with partners including USGIF. The proposal focuses on creating an environment for geospatial/STEM promotion and on helping K-12 teachers put together curricula. Bobbi Lenczowski, ASPRS past president and current ASPRS secretary, is the ASPRS STEM lead.



Courtesy of PrecisionHawk

Interested in UAVs?  
Want to meet people in the industry?  
Just want to see some really cool pictures?

# Join us at the **GeoTech 2015** Conference!

September 23-24, 2015

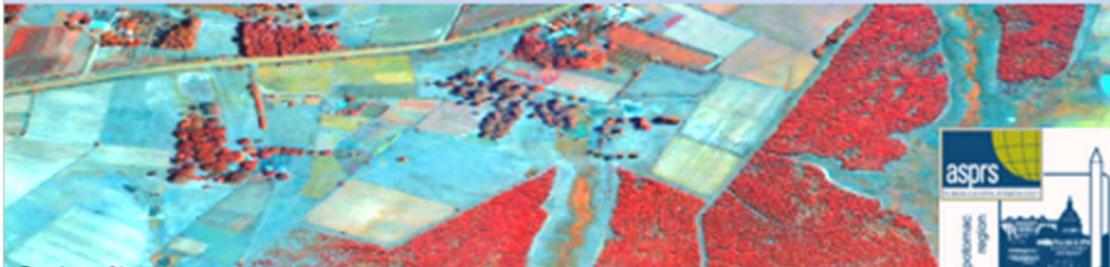
George Mason University

<http://asprspotomac.org/events/geotech-2015/>



Courtesy of Altavian

Come for the demo by PrecisionHawk, stay for the networking.



# GeoTech 2015

## Sensor Design Considerations for Unmanned Aerial Sensor Platforms



Come meet leaders of the UAS industry.

Participate in two days of seminars,  
breakout sessions, and networking  
opportunities.



← Keynote speaker  
Mr. Patrick Egan –  
Editor of the  
Americas Desk at  
sUAS News.

September 23-24, 2015  
George Mason University  
[http://asprspotomac.org/  
events/geotech-2015/](http://asprspotomac.org/events/geotech-2015/)

- Keynote speaker  
Dr. Bruce Quirk  
from USGS and  
ASPRS UAS Division