

DISCUSSION CONCLUDING AAS 11-670

The presentation was made by Daniel Gambis on behalf of Denis Savoie, who could not attend the meeting in person.

David Simpson asked if anyone was familiar with a so-called *digital sundial*. This dial is comprised of two opaque sheets separated by a transparent spacer. Set of slits are cut into each one of the sheets, and are arranged such that if the Sun is at a certain angle, light will go through the correct slits to provide a digital readout of time. Simpson wondered what the consequences of a redefinition of UTC might be on such a dial: could one simply reorient the dial, or would the slits need to be remanufactured? John Seago thought the precision of this type of dial was perhaps 15 minutes. Simpson said that he thought the precision might be much finer, perhaps one to five minutes.*

Frank Reed said that sundials are really good indicators of *local apparent* time, noting that every useful public sundial will have a table next to it to account for the equation of time plus an additional correction for the static longitude offset. If the placard containing the value of longitude correction is replaced every few years then standard time can still be recovered from even the oldest sundial. Seago commented that the group would be visiting a public sundial on Friday designed to keep standard time *directly*, without any added tabular corrections for the equation of time or longitude.¹

REFERENCES

¹ Seidelmann, P.K. (2011), "The Longwood Gardens Analemmatic Sundial." Paper AAS 11-682, this volume.

* *Editors' Note*: The actual precision of a digital sundial is ten minutes. URL <http://www.digitalsundial.com>