

Astronomical League Observing Programs Annual Report 2018

Submitted by the Astronomical League Observing Program Board:

Aaron Clevenson
Cliff Mygatt
Al Lamperti
Maynard Pittendreigh

Highlights for the year:

2017-2018 has been a good year for the Astronomical League Observing Programs. A total of 664 certificates and/or pins were issued during the previous year (2017). At the end of this report, there is a detailed analysis of all of the observing programs and awards. In that report, expenses represent actual costs of doing business, but may not be submitted for reimbursement. The Treasurer is the best source for actual costs to the Astronomical League. Total expenses reflect those reported by the coordinators or those by the Treasurer, whichever were higher. Pin purchases through the national office are included. Requested budget for next year reflects the best estimate by the coordinator and includes expected pin purchases.

At the AL-Con in 2017 there were a total of 3 proposals. Those adopted are in **bold**:

- **Beyond Polaris**
- **Binocular Master Observer**

Since the 2016 AL-Con, this program was adopted:

- Mars Apparition 2016-2018

These proposed Observing Programs for consideration by Council at the AL-Con in 2018 were reviewed by Observing Program Directors. A summary of those reviews and recommendations was submitted to the President, John Goss and to the Council via email. The list of known Observing Program Proposals for review at the 2018 AL-Con are:

- Nova

New Coordinators were appointed for these observing programs in the past year:

- Lunar Observing Program - Nina Chevalier
- Hydrogen-Alpha Solar Observing Program - Mark Simonson
- Bright Nebula Observing Program - Bob Scott

Observing Programs by activity level:

- Those programs with an average of over 50 certificates in the past year:
 - Outreach (239 awards in 2017)
- Those programs with an average between 25 and 49 in the past year:
 - Lunar (47 awards in 2017)
 - Messier (29 awards in 2017)
- Those programs with an average between 10 and 24 in the past year:
 - Advanced Binocular Double Star
 - Advanced Observer
 - Binocular Double Star
 - Binocular Messier
 - Carbon Star
 - Comet Hunter
 - Double Stars
 - Globular Cluster
 - Herschel 400
 - Master Observer
 - Meteors
 - Observer
 - Radio Astronomy
 - Sketching
 - Stellar Evolution
 - Urban Observing
- Those programs with an average between 5 and 9 in the past year:
 - Asterism
 - Asteroids
 - Binocular Variable Star
 - Caldwell
 - Constellation Hunter – Northern Skies
 - Deep Sky Binocular
 - Galileo
 - Hydrogen-Alpha Solar
 - Master Observer- Silver
 - Radio Astronomy
 - Solar System
 - Sunspotter
 - Two in the View

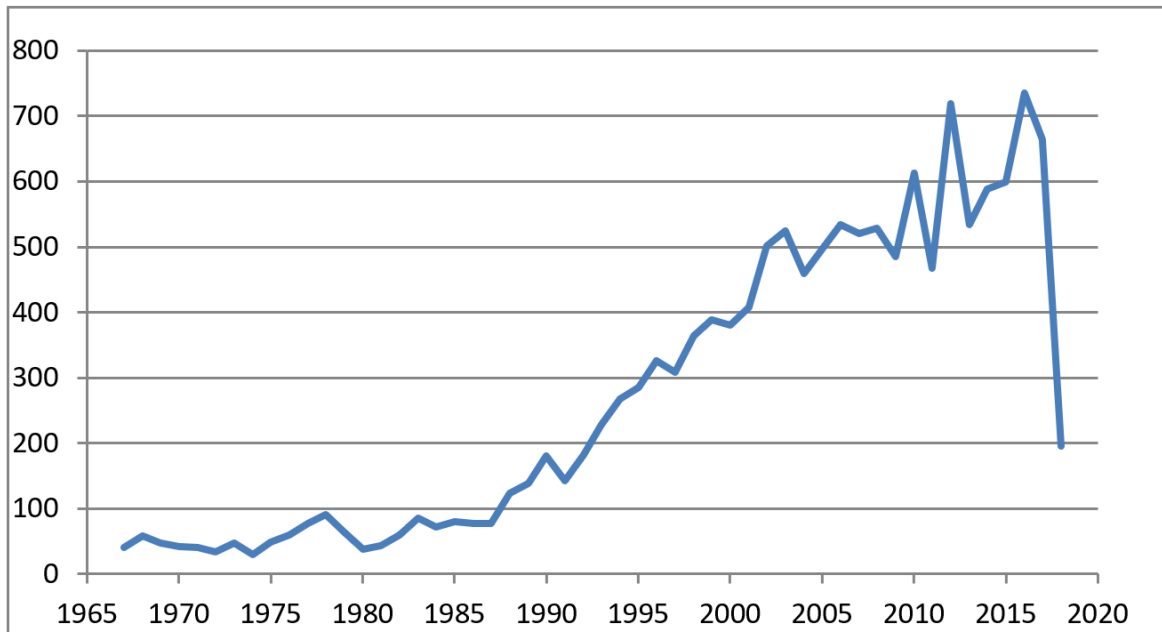
- Those programs with an average of 4 or less in the past year:
 - Active Galactic Nuclei
 - Analemma
 - Arp Northern
 - Arp Southern
 - Binocular Master Observer
 - Bright Nebulae
 - Constellation Hunter Southern Skies
 - Dark Nebulae
 - Dark Sky Advocate
 - Earth Orbiting Satellites
 - Flat Galaxies
 - Galaxy Groups and Clusters
 - Herschel II
 - Local Galaxy Group
 - Lunar II
 - Mars
 - Master Observer - Gold
 - Master Observer – Platinum
 - NASA Observing Challenges
 - NEO
 - Occultation
 - Open Clusters
 - Planetary Nebulae
 - Planetary Transits
 - Sky Puppy
 - Southern Skies Binocular
 - Southern Skies Telescope
 - Universe Sampler
 - Variable Stars

Accomplishments for the Overall AL Observing Program:

- Three new Observing Program Coordinators were appointed existing Programs.
- Two new Observing Program Directors were appointed to the Observing Program Board.
- Two additional NASA Observing Challenges were identified and introduced to the membership (Mars InSight and TESS).
- These Observing Program Manuals have been reproduced:
 - Carbon Stars
 - Galaxy Groups and Clusters
 - Globular Clusters
 - Math for Amateur Astronomers

- Meteors
- Sky Puppies
- Visual Observation Logbook

Overall Observing Program Growth:



There were no issues requiring the attention of the Observing Program Directors. Issues were minor and handled well by the Observing Program Coordinators. None were escalated to the AL President. All have been resolved.

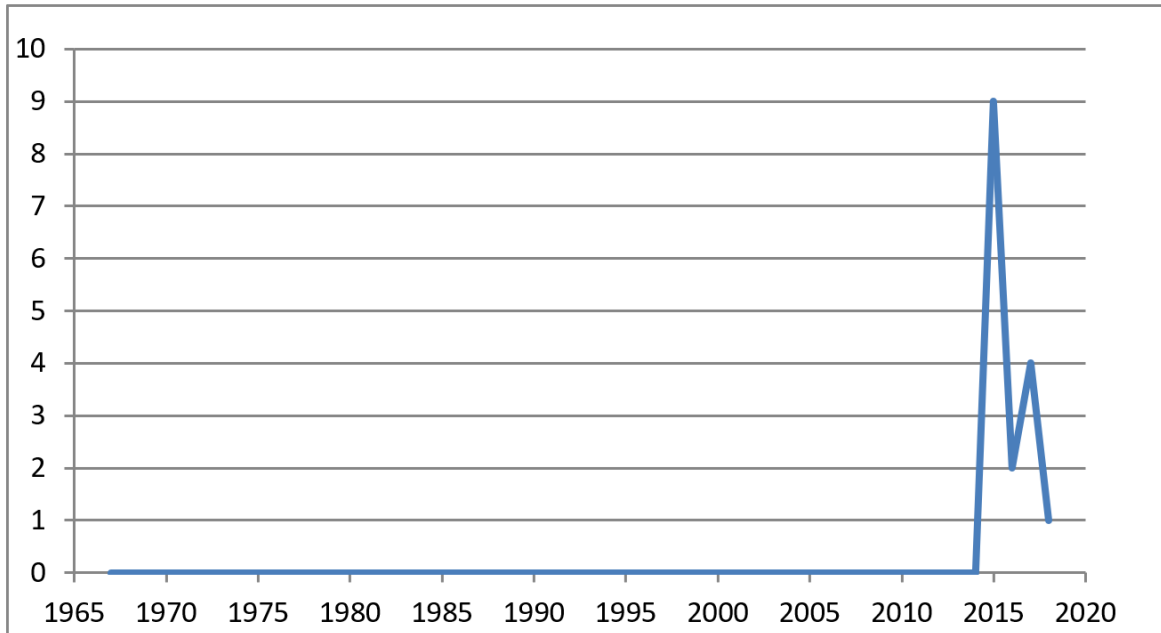
At this time four coordinators have more than three Observing Programs; Aaron Clevenson has the Master Observer Progression, 2 NASA Observing Challenges, and one Observing Program; Al Lamperti, Cliff Mygatt, and Scott Kranz have 4 each. Three is the best practice maximum that we follow. We have a total of 32 different coordinators at this time coordinating 65 Observing Programs and Awards. There are a total of 81 different certificates (by level and program) issued through the Astronomical League.

Respectfully submitted,
 Aaron B. Clevenson
 Clifton B. Mygatt, Jr
 Al Lamperti
 W. Maynard Pittendreigh
 National Observing Program Directors
 May 22, 2018

Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Active Galactic Nuclei
Al Lamperti

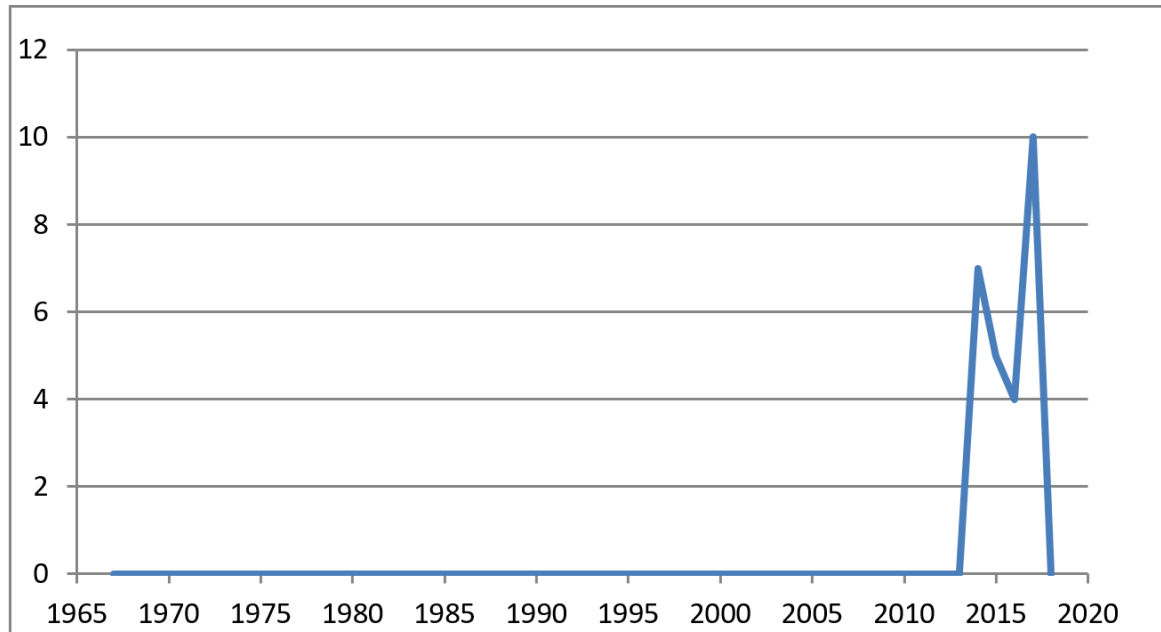
Active Galactic Nuclei Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

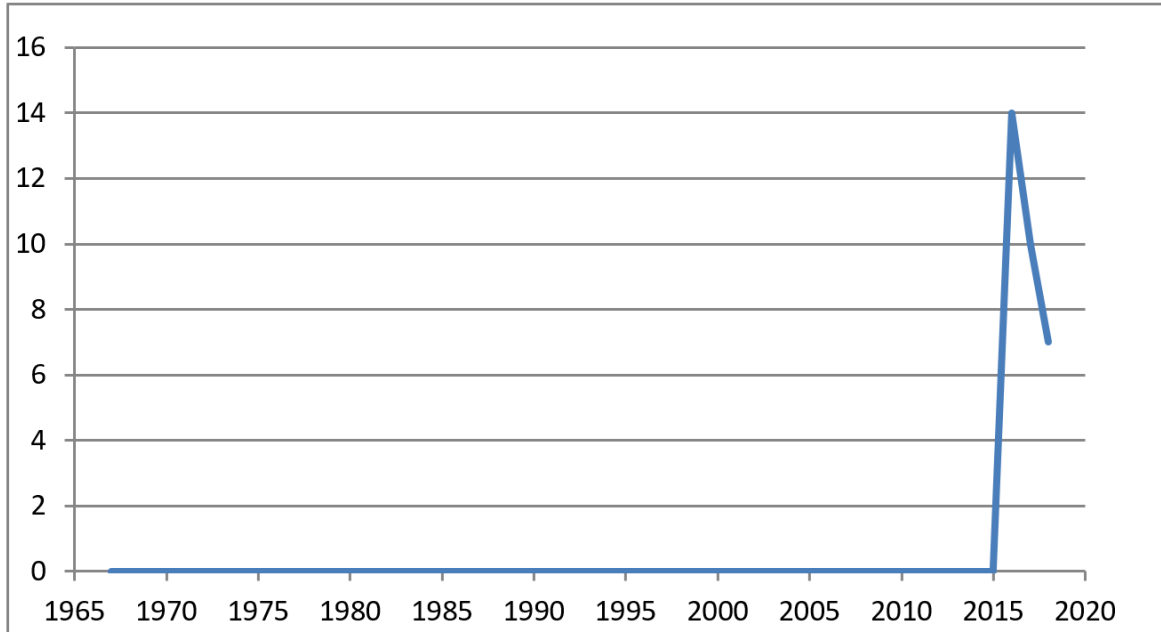
Advanced Binocular Double Star
Bob Kerr

Advanced Binocular Double Star Observing Program



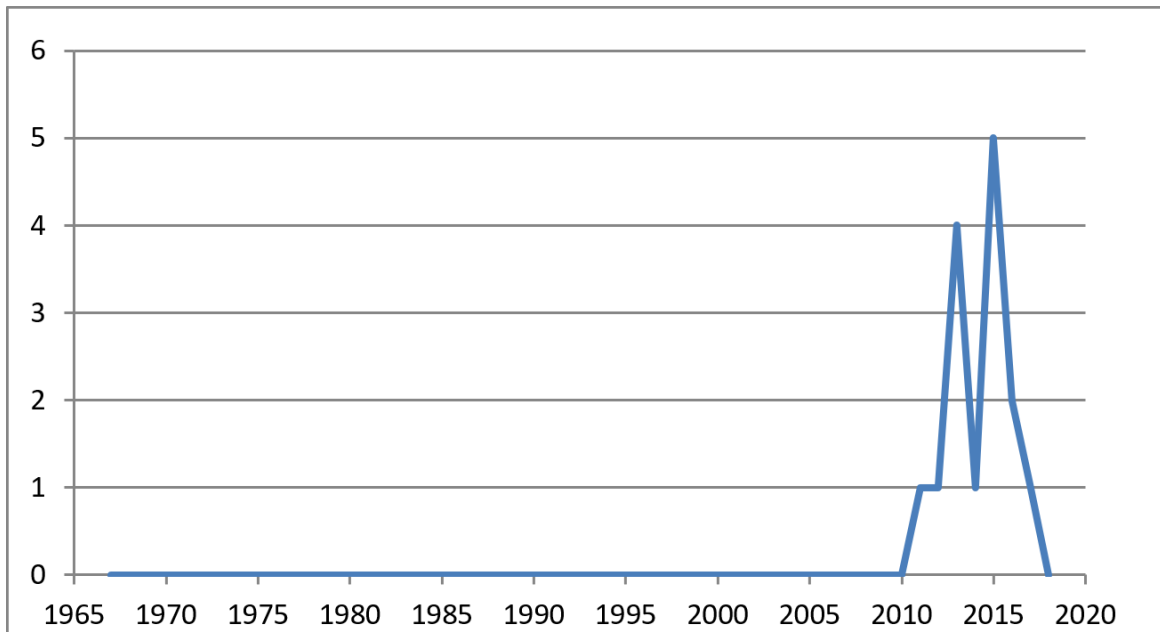
Observing Program Name: Advanced Observer
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

Advanced Observer Observing Award



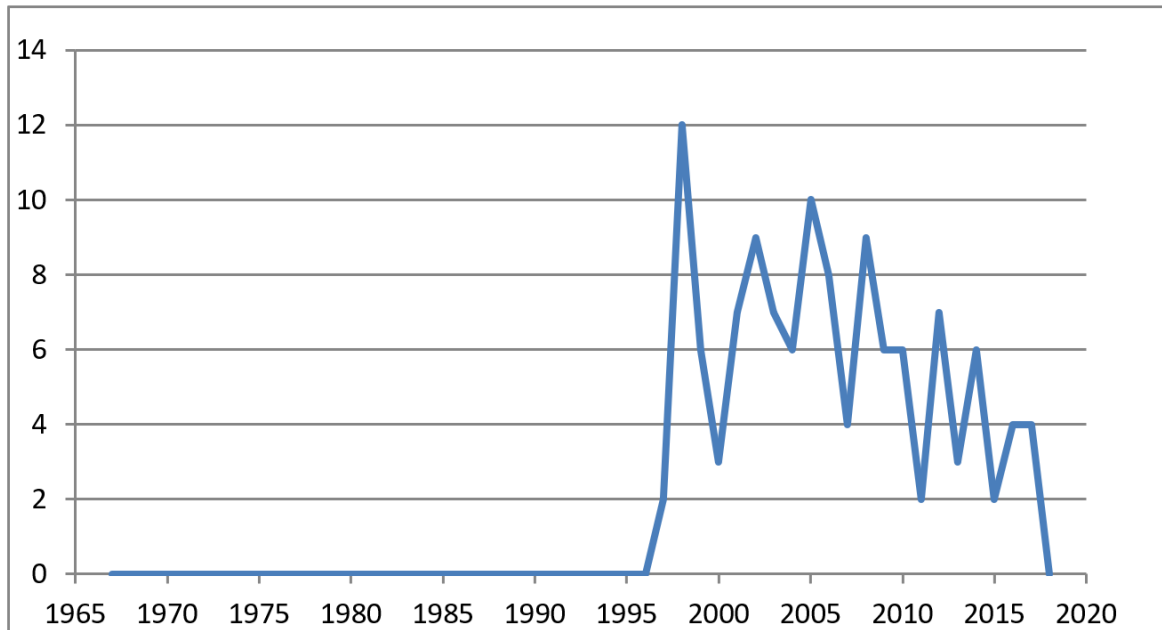
Observing Program Name: Analemma
Coordinator Name: Douglas Smith

Analemma Observing Program



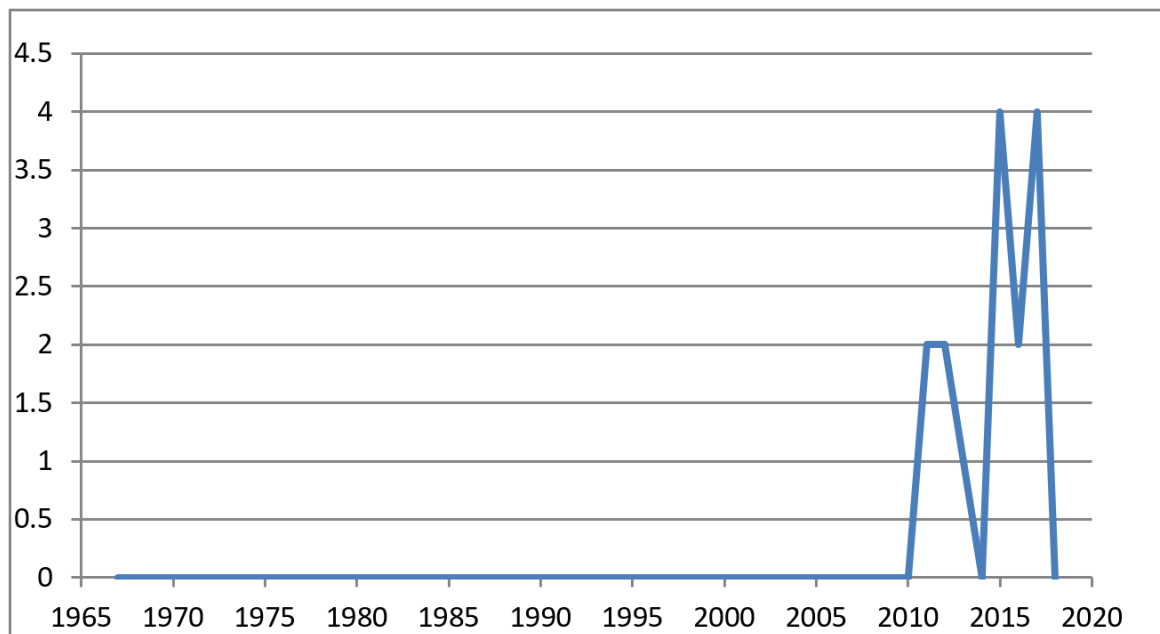
Observing Program Name: Arp – Northern Skies
Coordinator Name: Al Lamperti

Arp – Northern Skies Observing Program



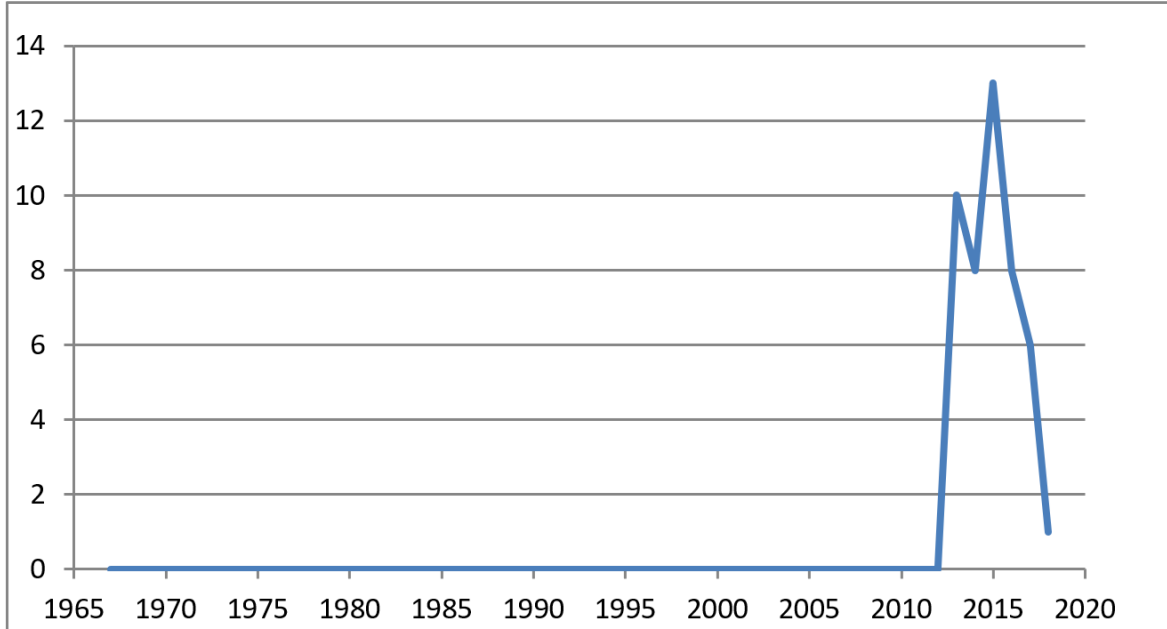
Observing Program Name: Arp – Southern Skies
Coordinator Name: Al Lamperti

Arp – Southern Skies Observing Program



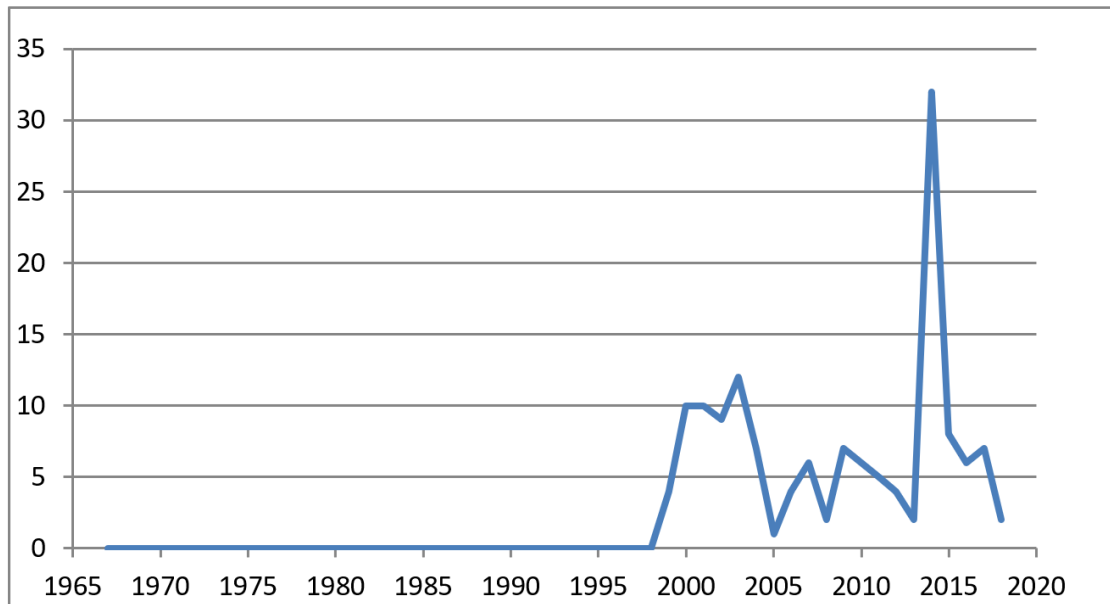
Observing Program Name: Asterism
Coordinator Name: Troy Stratton

Asterism Observing Program



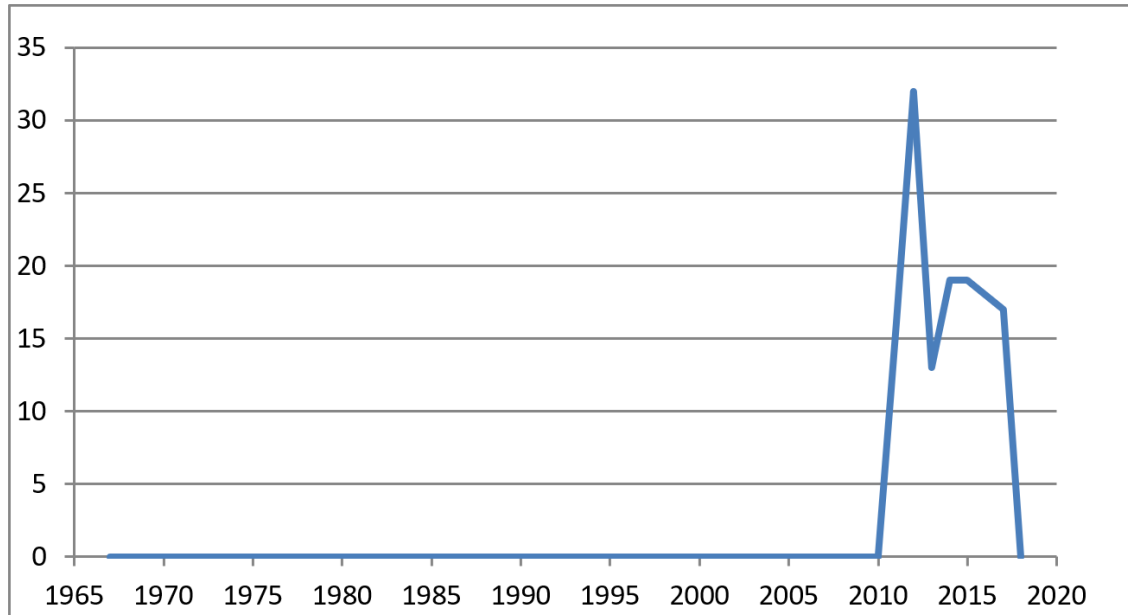
Observing Program Name: Asteroid
Coordinator Name: John Goar

Asteroid Observing Program



Observing Program Name: Binocular Double Star
Coordinator Name: Bob Kerr

Binocular Double Star Observing Program



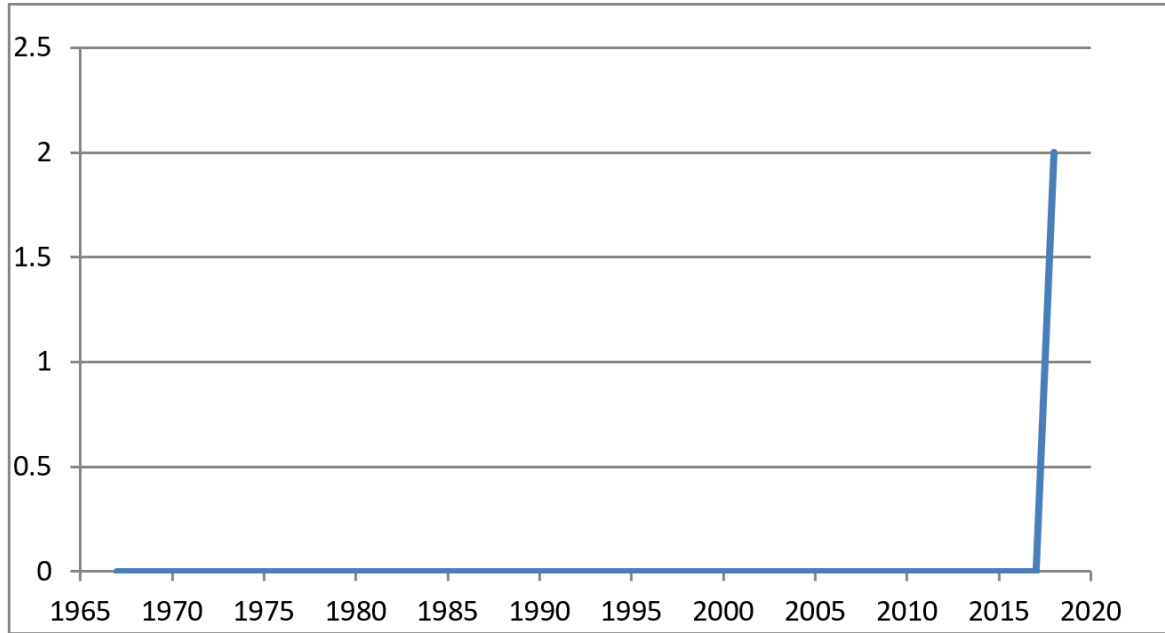
Observing Program Name: Beyond Polaris
Coordinator Name: W. Maynard Pittendreigh

Beyond Polaris Observing Program

Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Binocular Master Observer
Aaron Clevenson

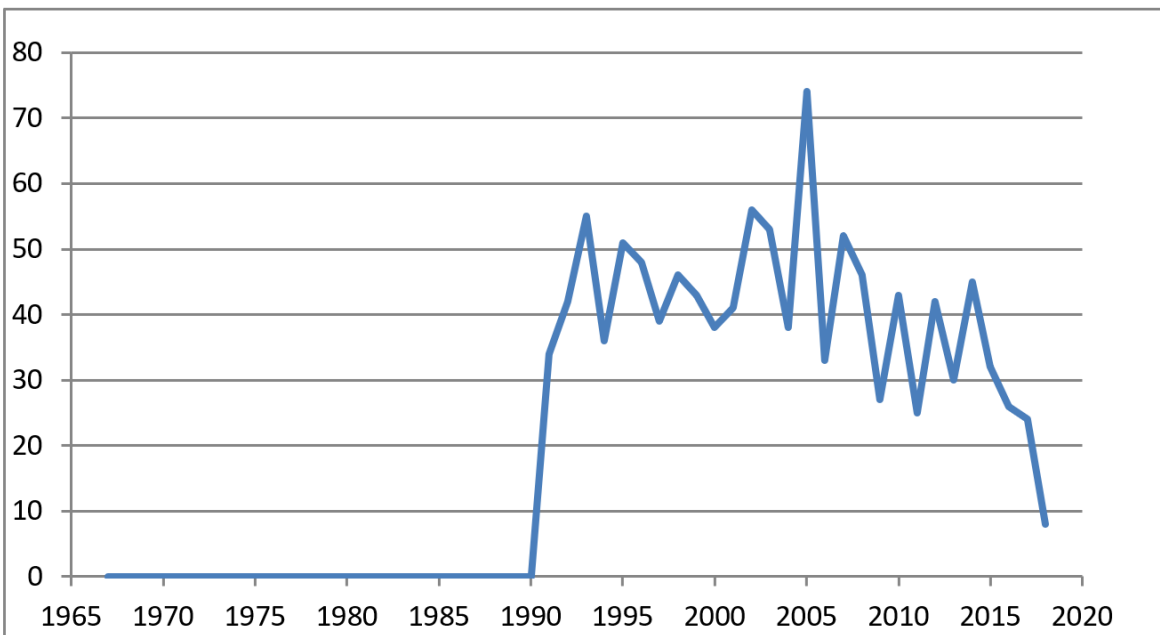
Binocular Messier Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Binocular Messier
John Goar

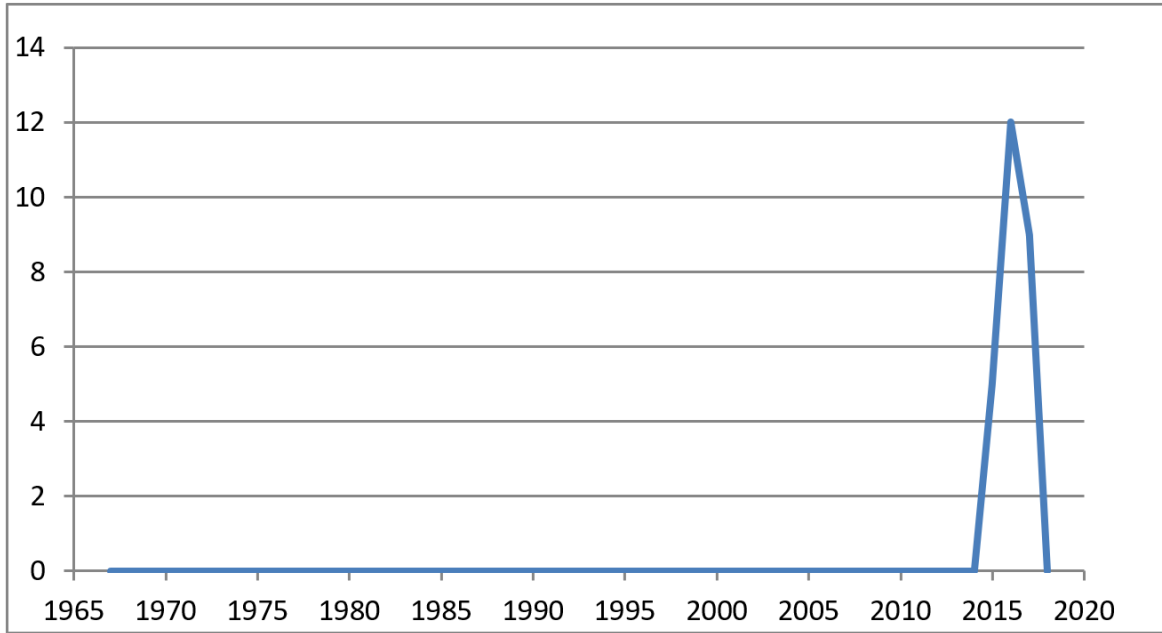
Binocular Messier Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Binocular Variable Star
Robert Togni

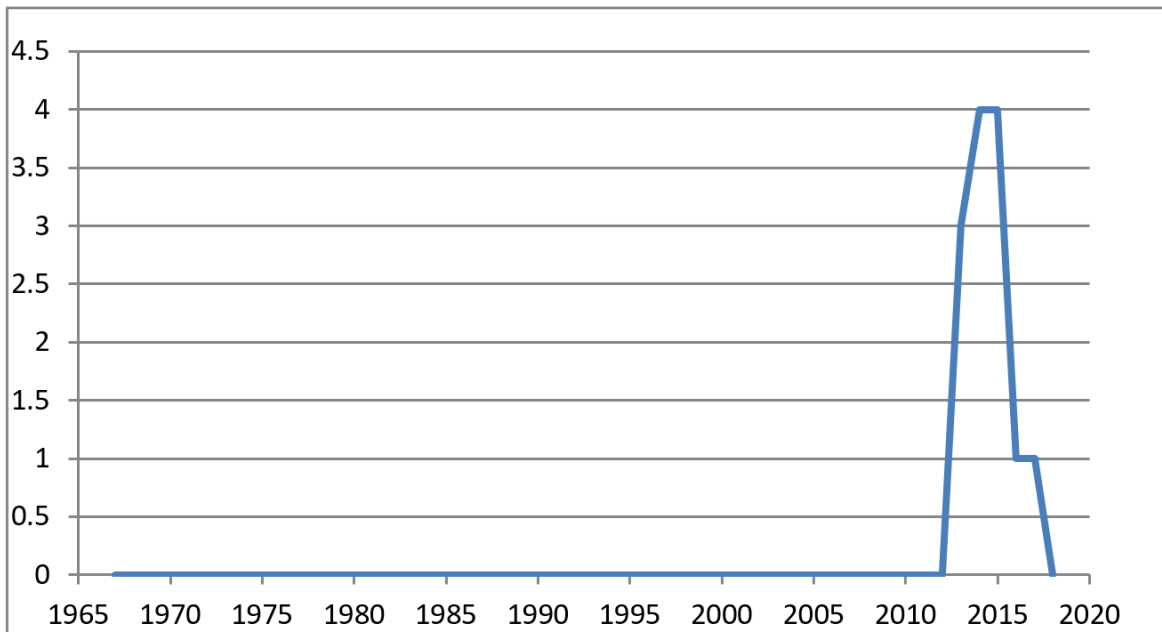
Binocular Variable Star Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

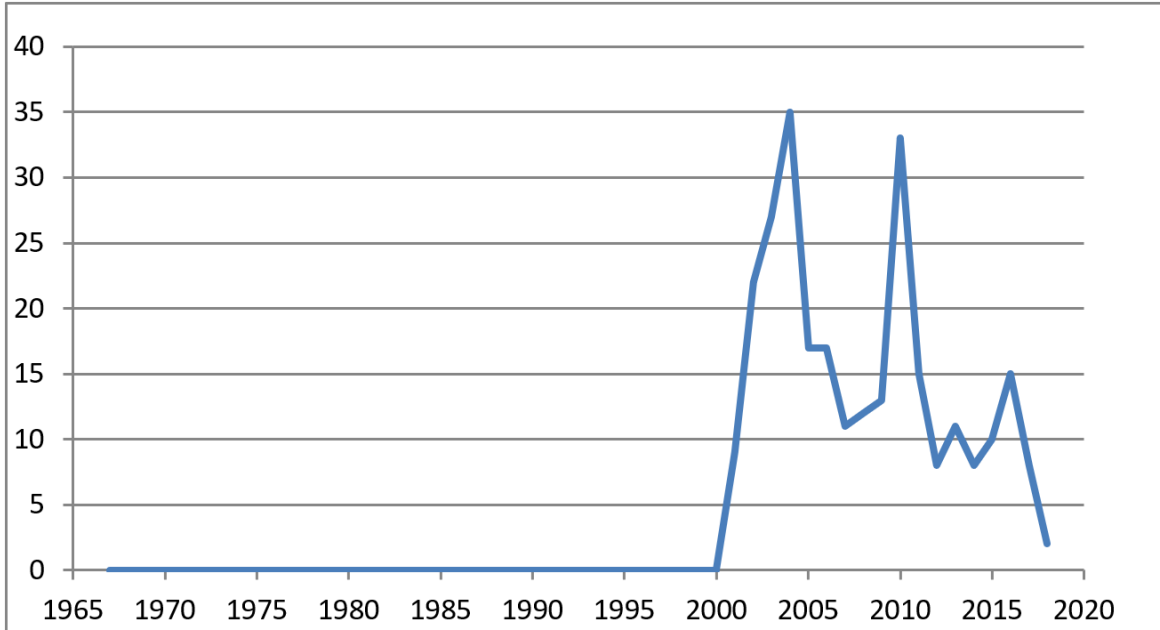
Bright Nebulae
Bob Scott

Bright Nebulae Observing Program



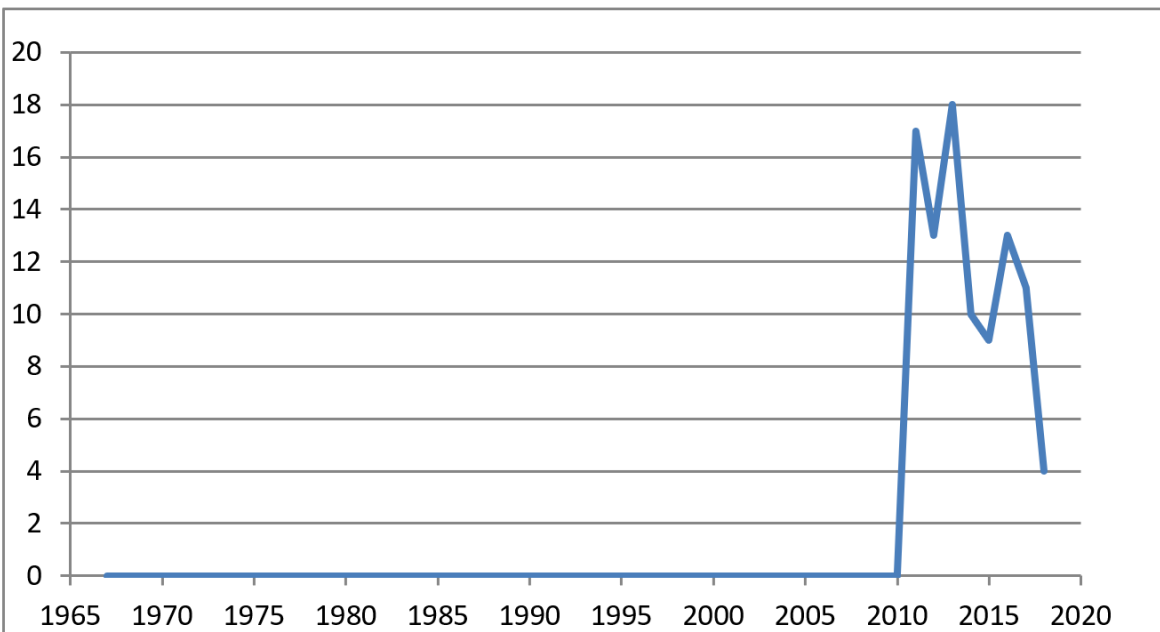
Observing Program Name: Caldwell
Coordinator Name: Sue Rose

Caldwell Program Observing Program



Observing Program Name: Carbon Star
Coordinator Name: Robert Togni

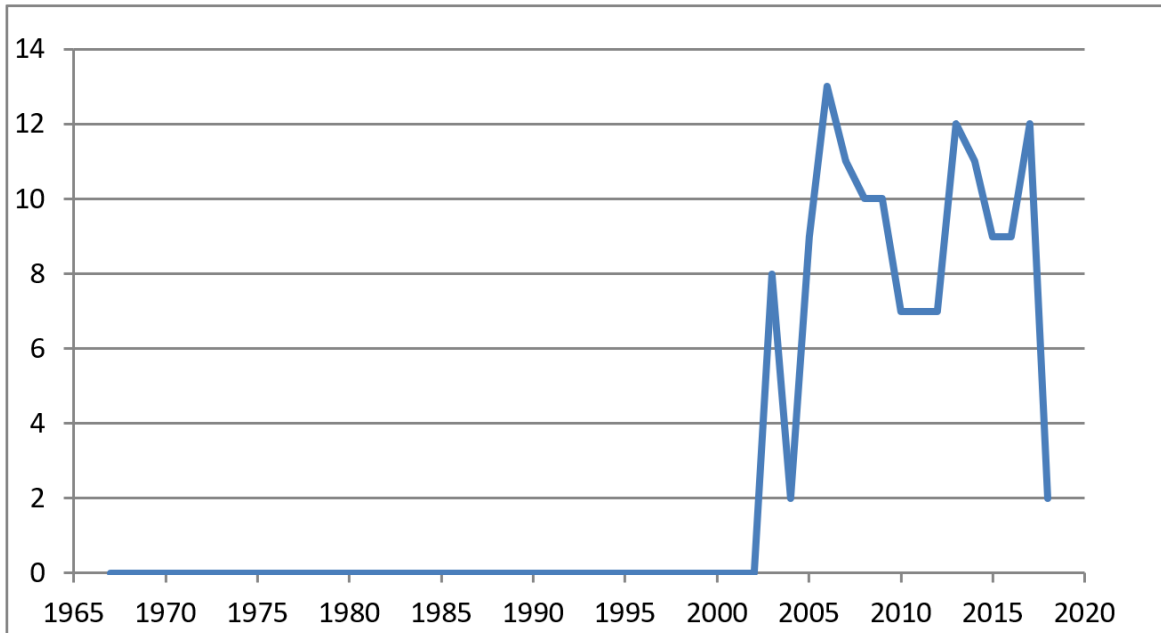
Carbon Star Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Comet
Scott Kranz

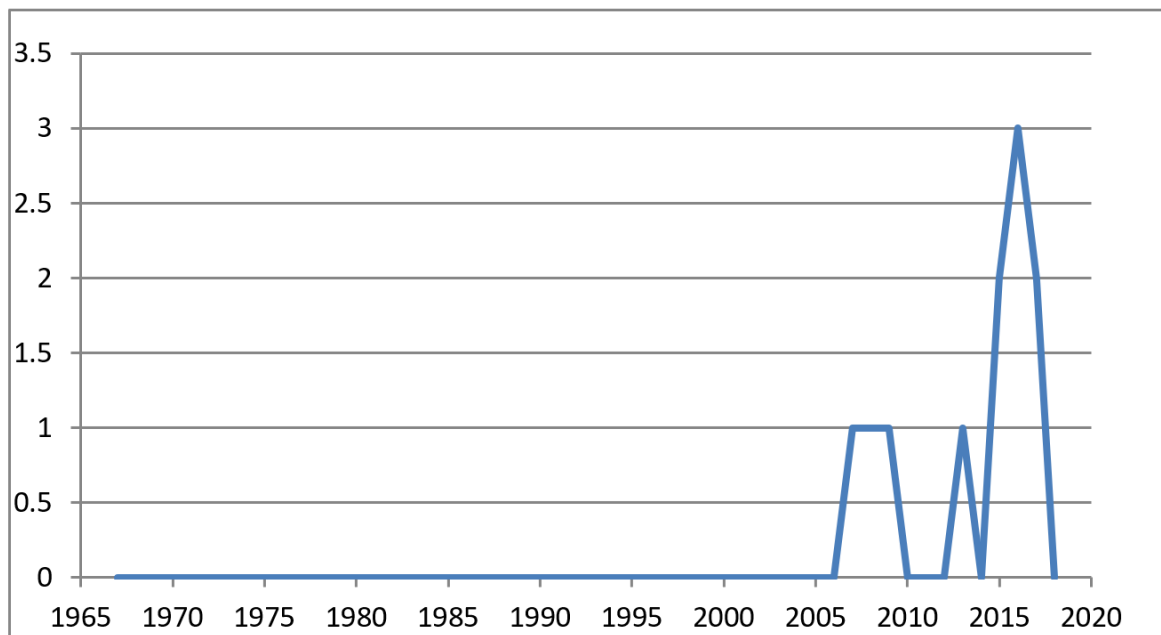
Comet Hunter Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Constellation Hunter – Southern Skies
Cliff Mygatt

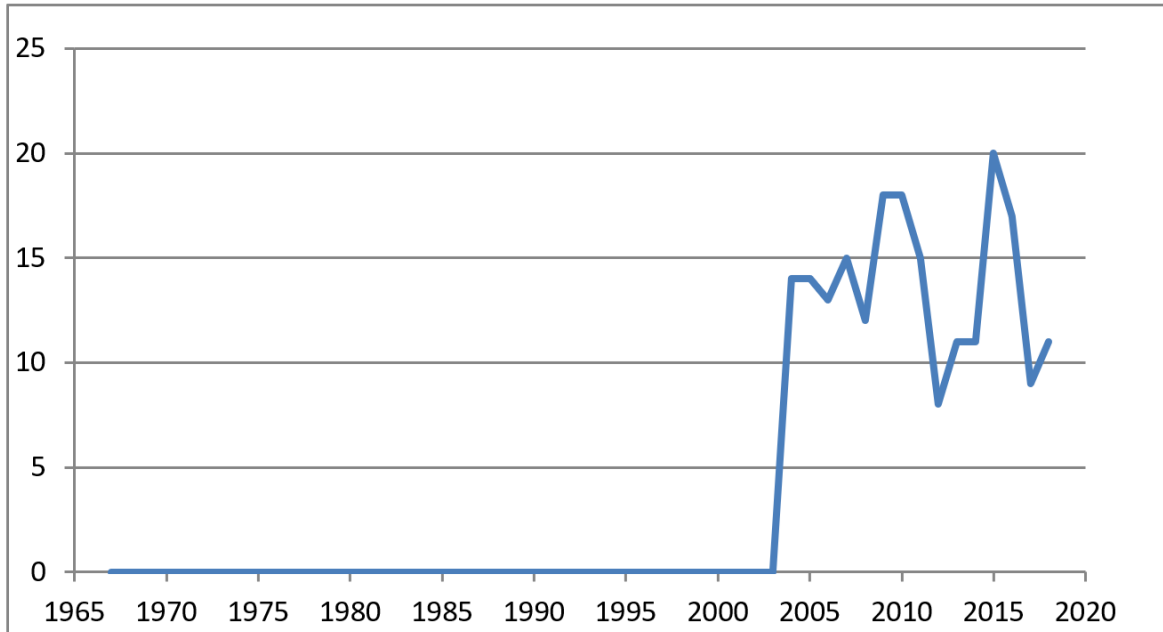
Constellation Hunter – Southern Skies Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Constellation Hunter – Northern Skies
Cliff Mygatt

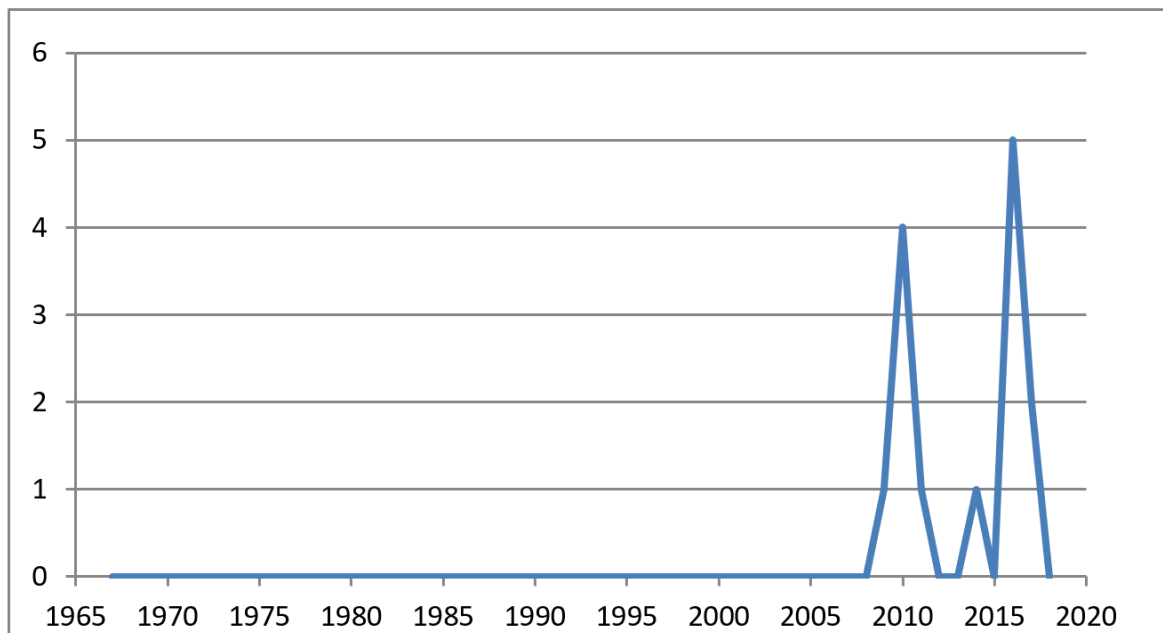
Constellation Hunter – Northern Skies Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Dark Sky Advocate
John Goss

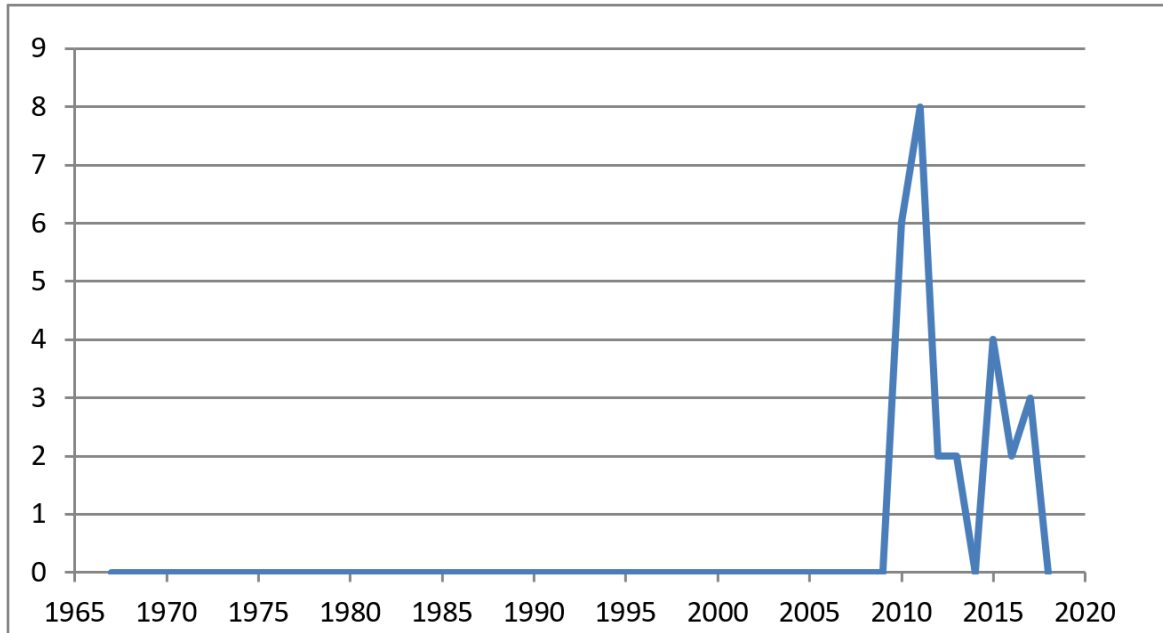
Dark Sky Advocate Observing Award



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Dark Nebulae
Kathy Machin

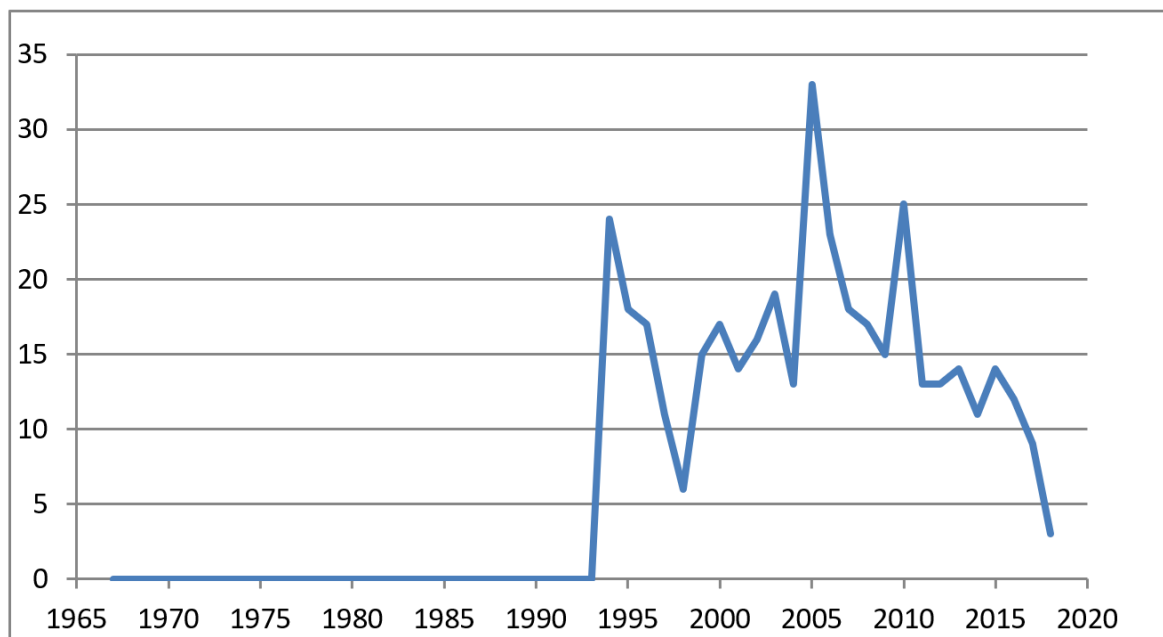
Dark Nebulae Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Deep Sky Binocular
Cindy La Russa

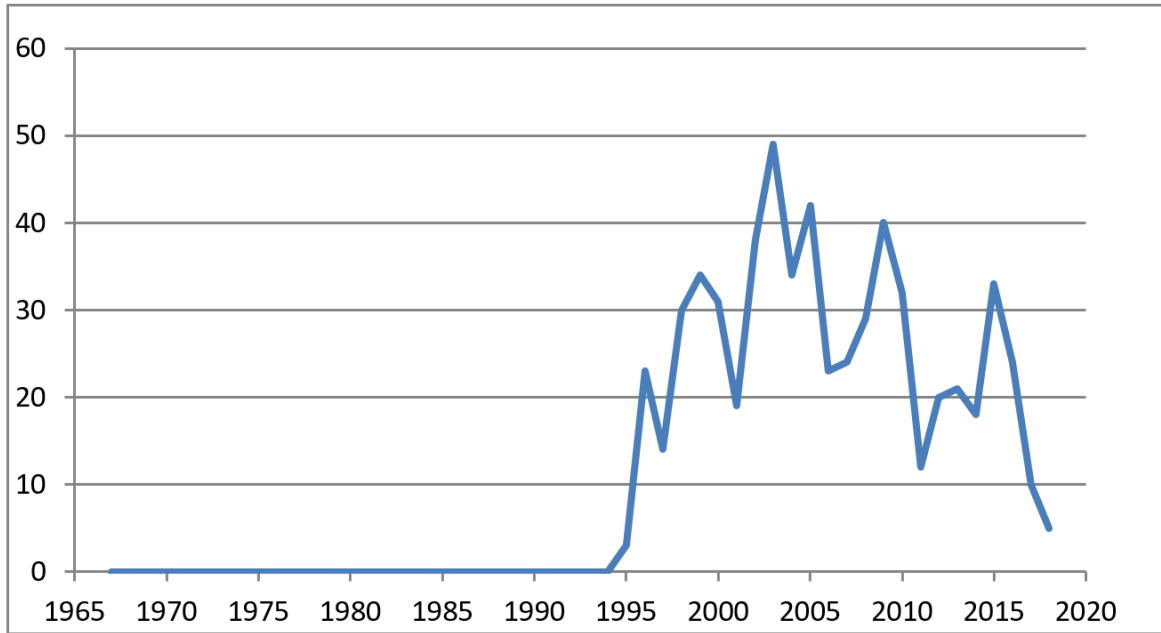
Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Double Star
Steve Bell

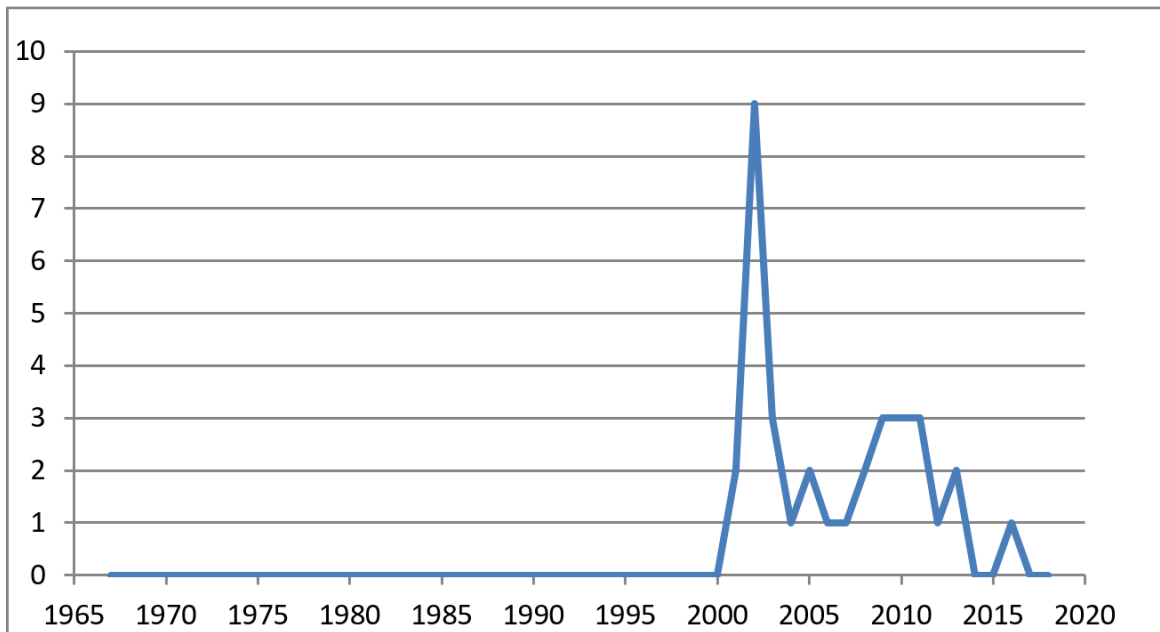
Double Star Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Earth Orbiting Satellite
Tom DeClue

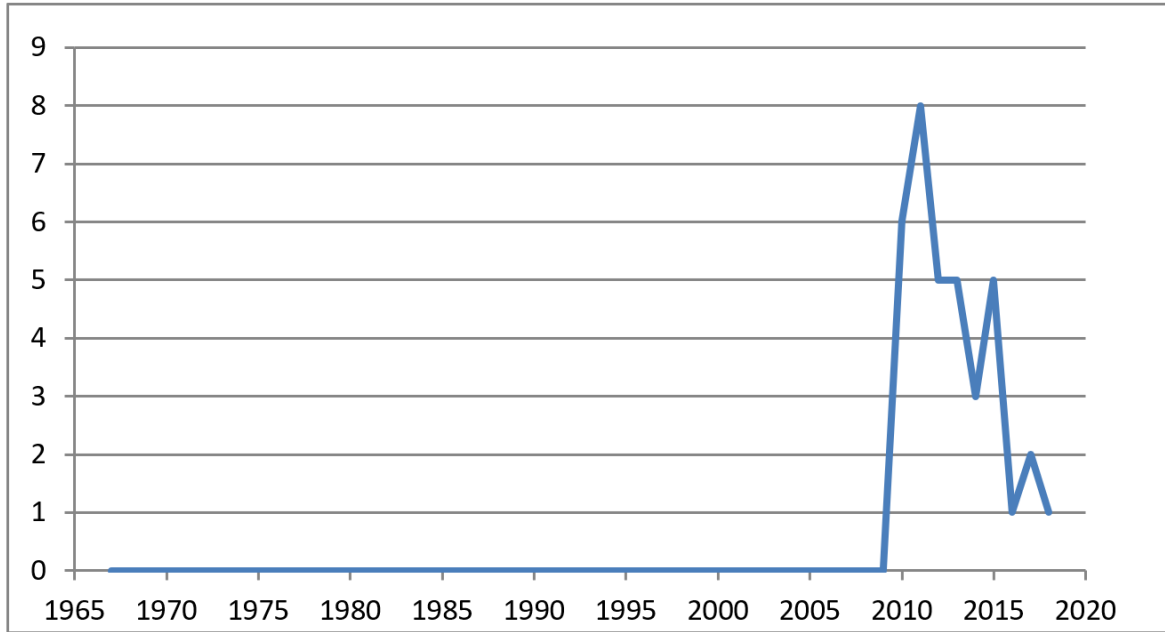
Earth Orbiting Satellite Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Flat Galaxy
Al Lamperti

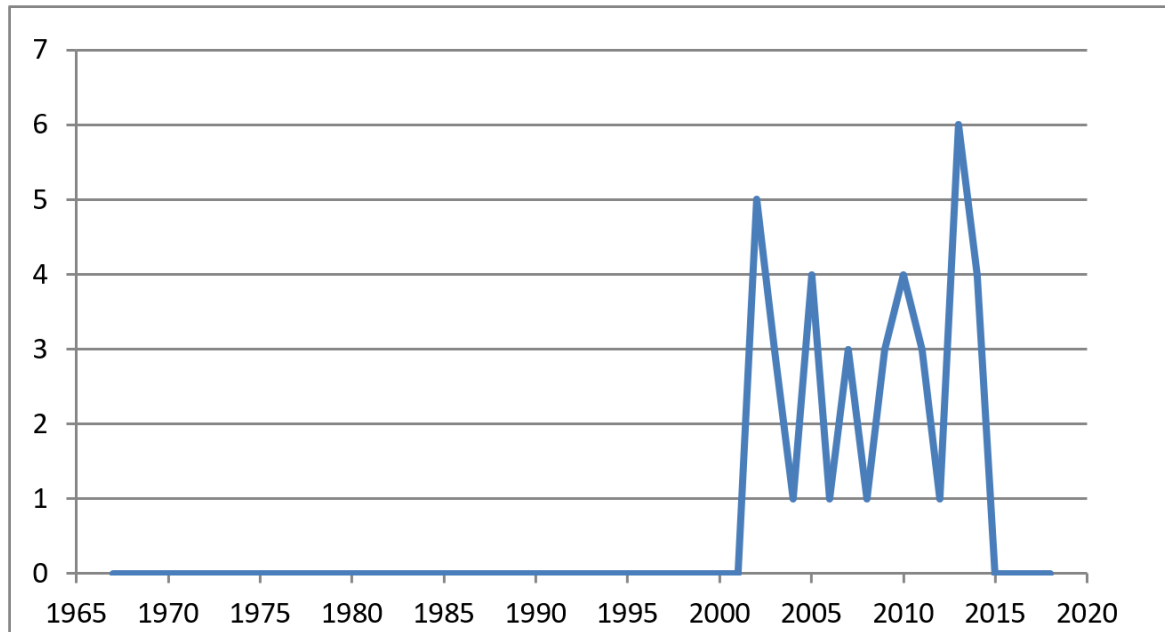
Flat Galaxy Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Galaxy Groups and Clusters
Dareth Murray

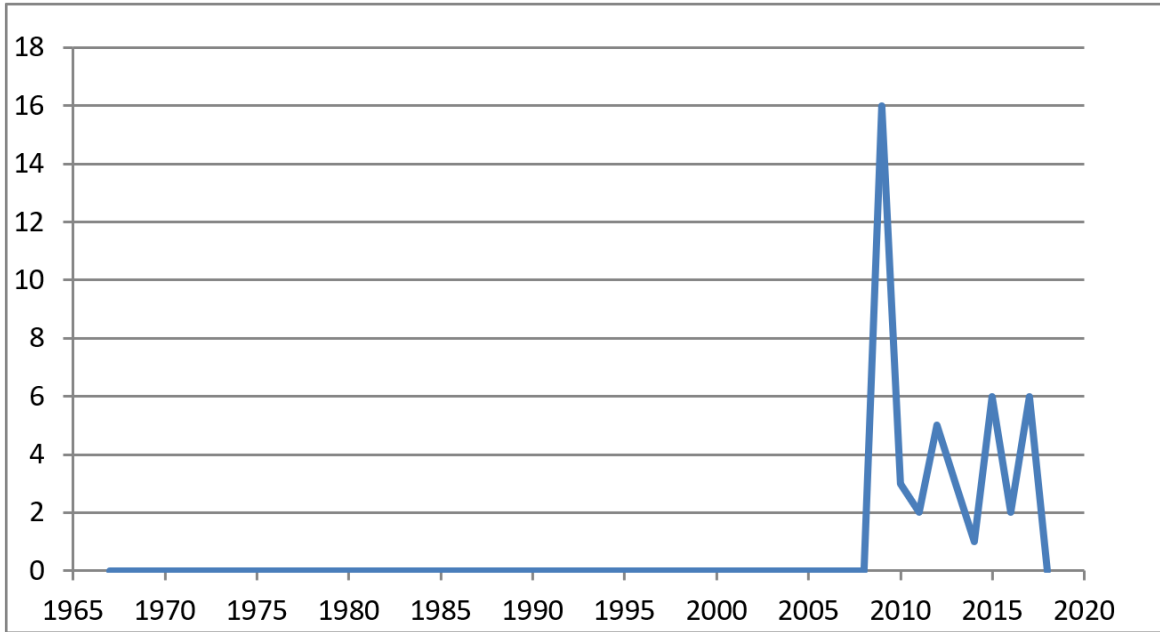
Galaxy Groups and Clusters Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Galileo
Mark Croom

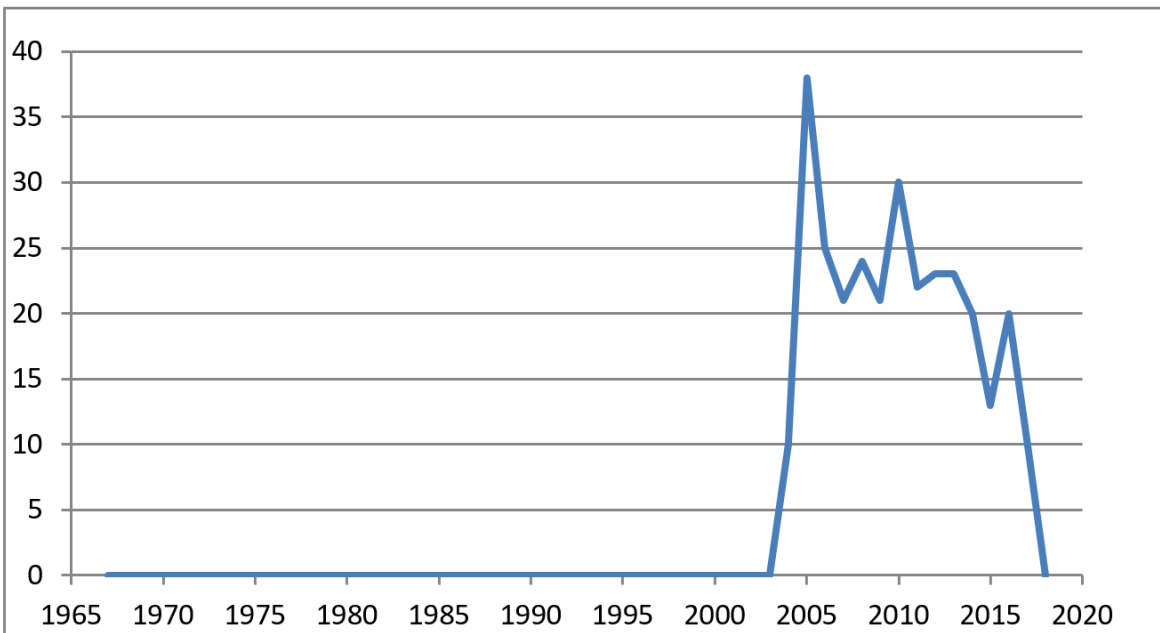
Galileo Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

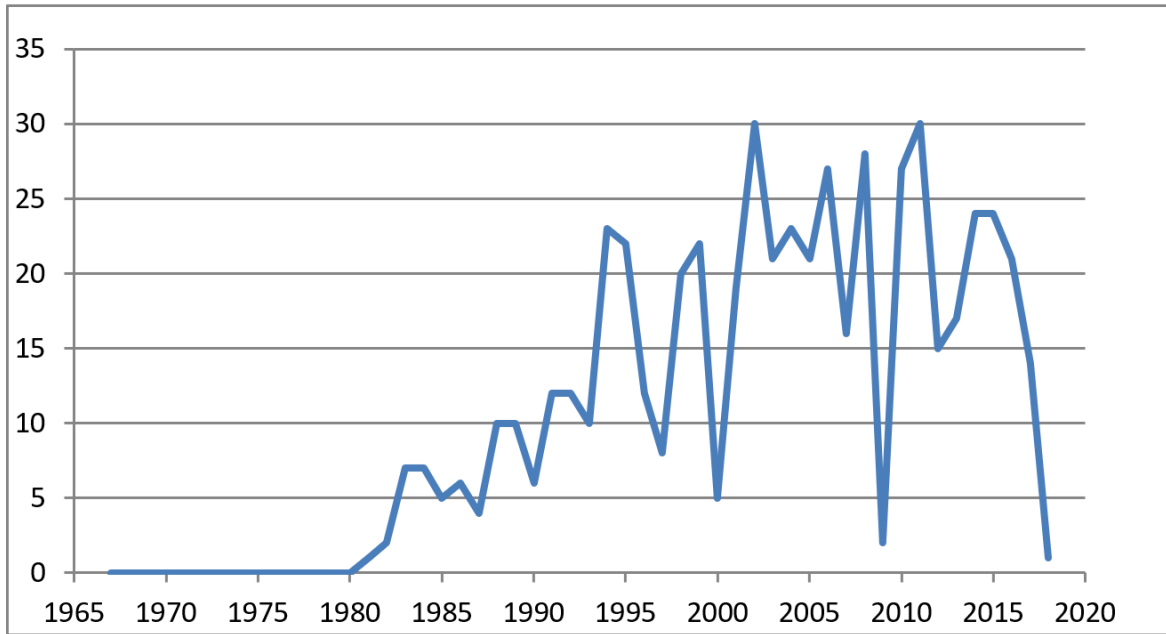
Globular Cluster
Bob Kerr

Globular Cluster Observing Program



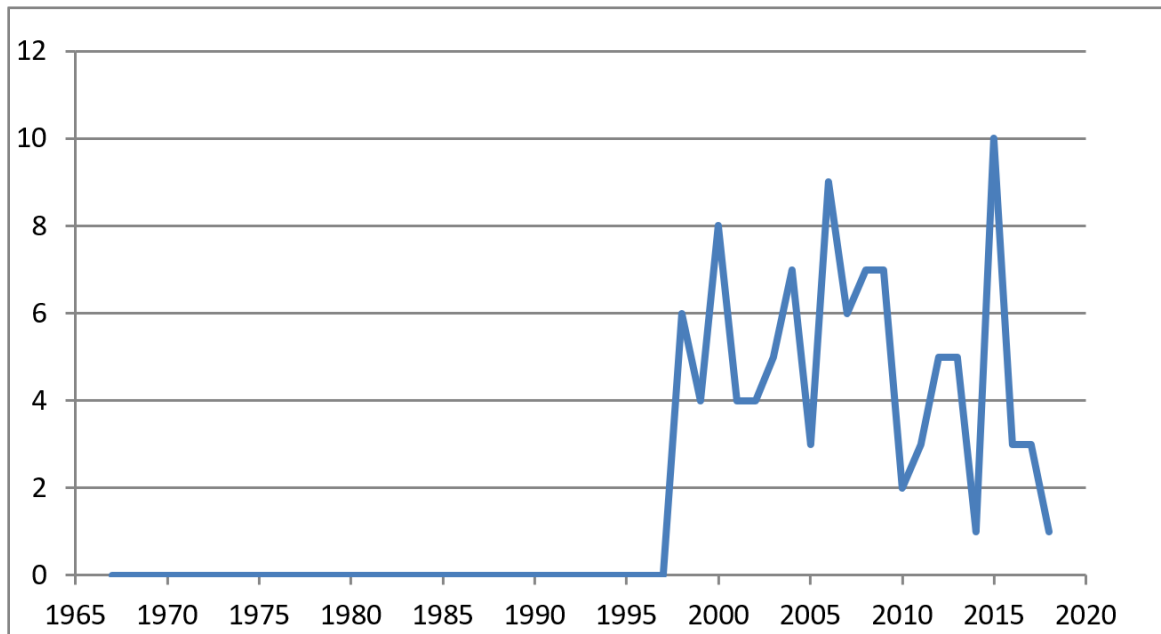
Observing Program Name: Herschel 400
Coordinator Name: Jack Estes

Herschel 400 Observing Program



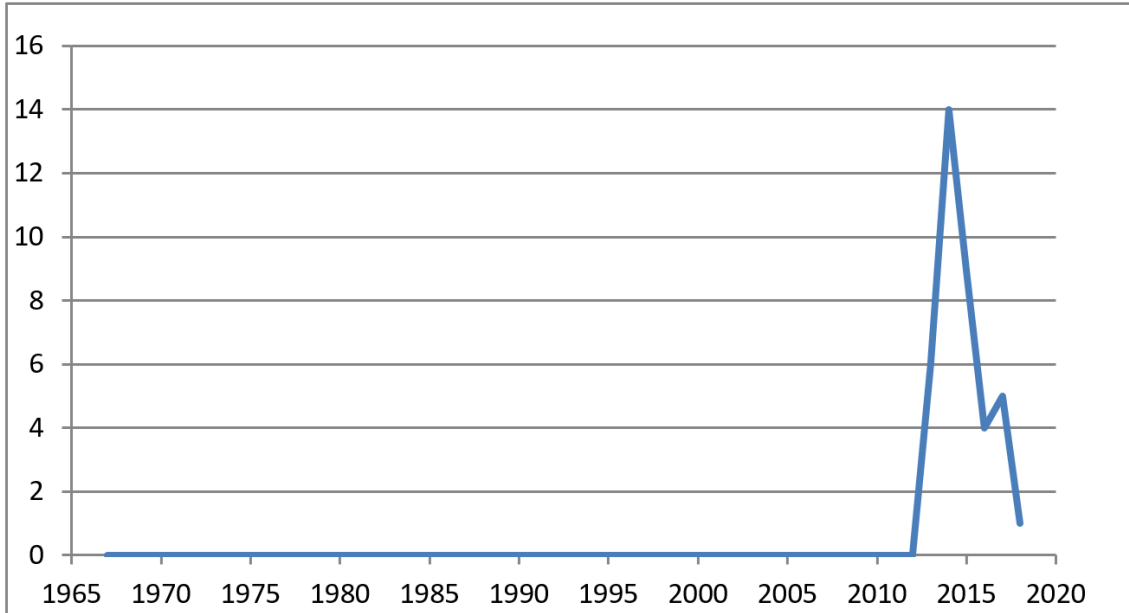
Observing Program Name: Herschel II
Coordinator Name: Candace Pratt

Herschel II Observing Program



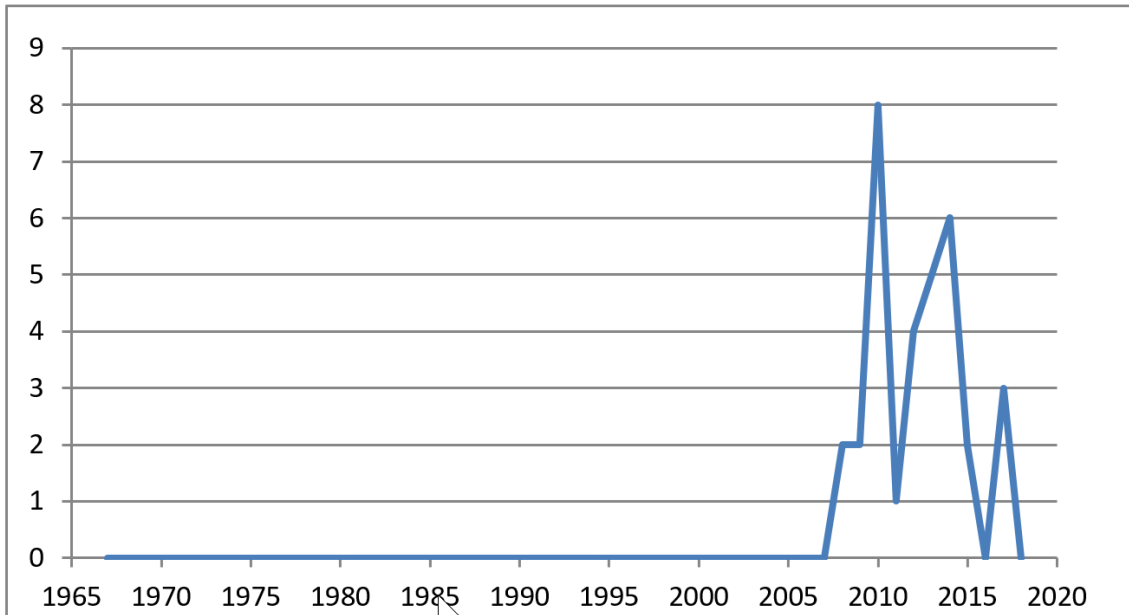
Observing Program Name: Hydrogen-Alpha Solar
Coordinator Name: Mark Simonson

Hydrogen-Alpha Solar Observing Program



Observing Program Name: Local Galaxy Groups
Coordinator Name: Dareth Murray

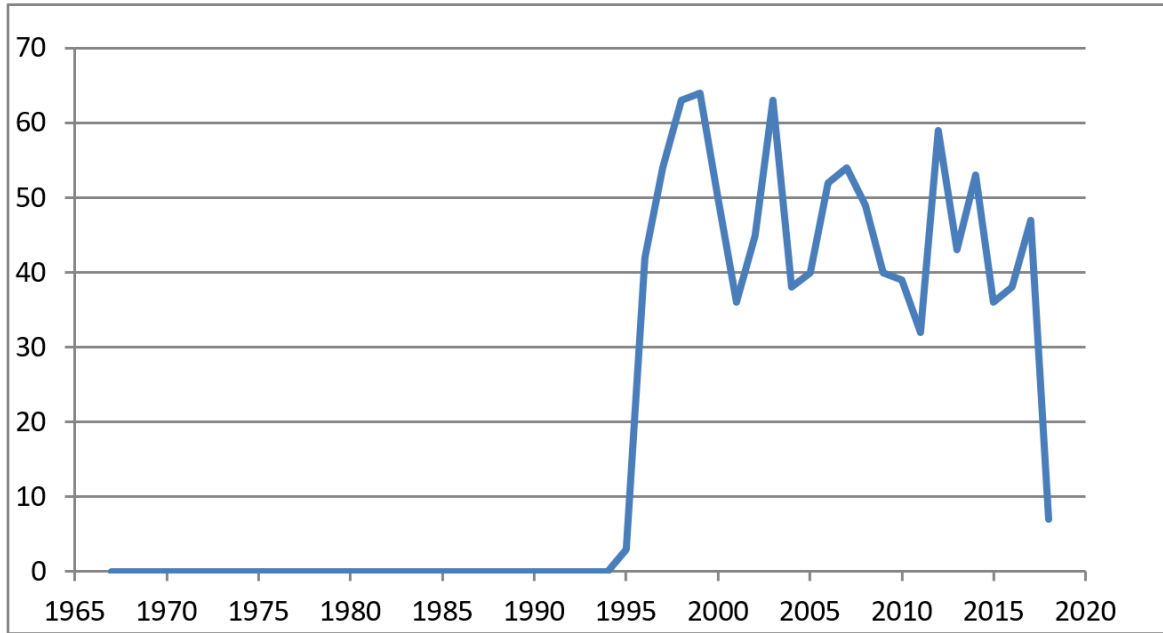
Local Galaxy Groups Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Lunar
Nina Chevalier

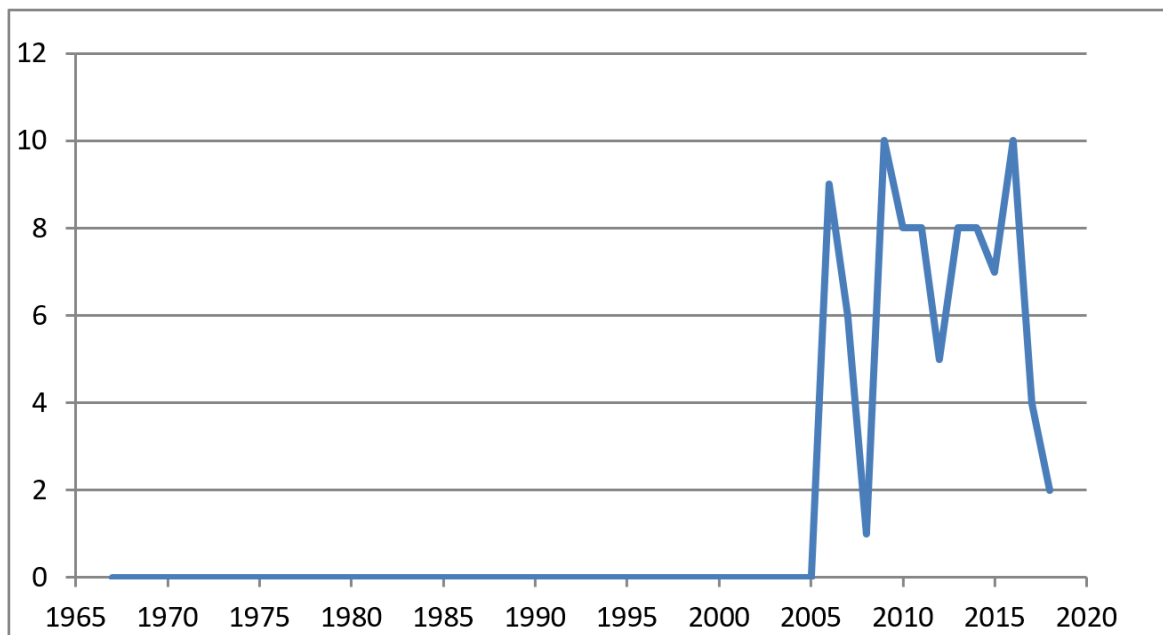
Lunar Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Lunar II
Cliff Mygatt

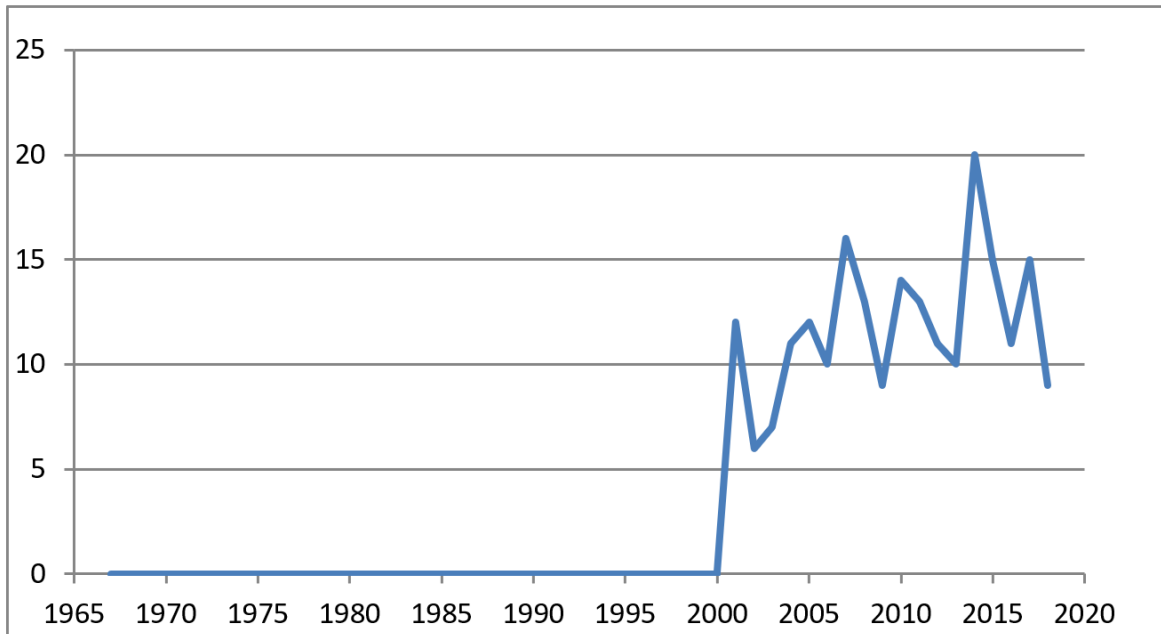
Lunar II Observing Program



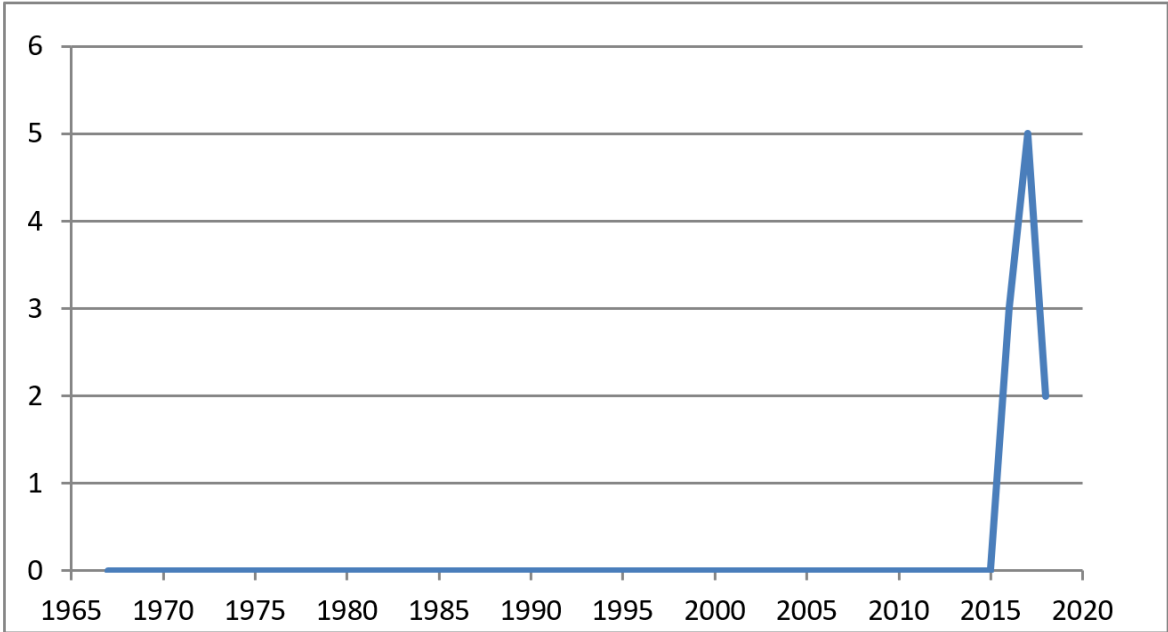
Observing Program Name: Mars
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

Observing Program Name: Master Observer
Master Observer – Silver
Master Observer – Gold
Master Observer – Platinum
Coordinator Name: Aaron Clevenson

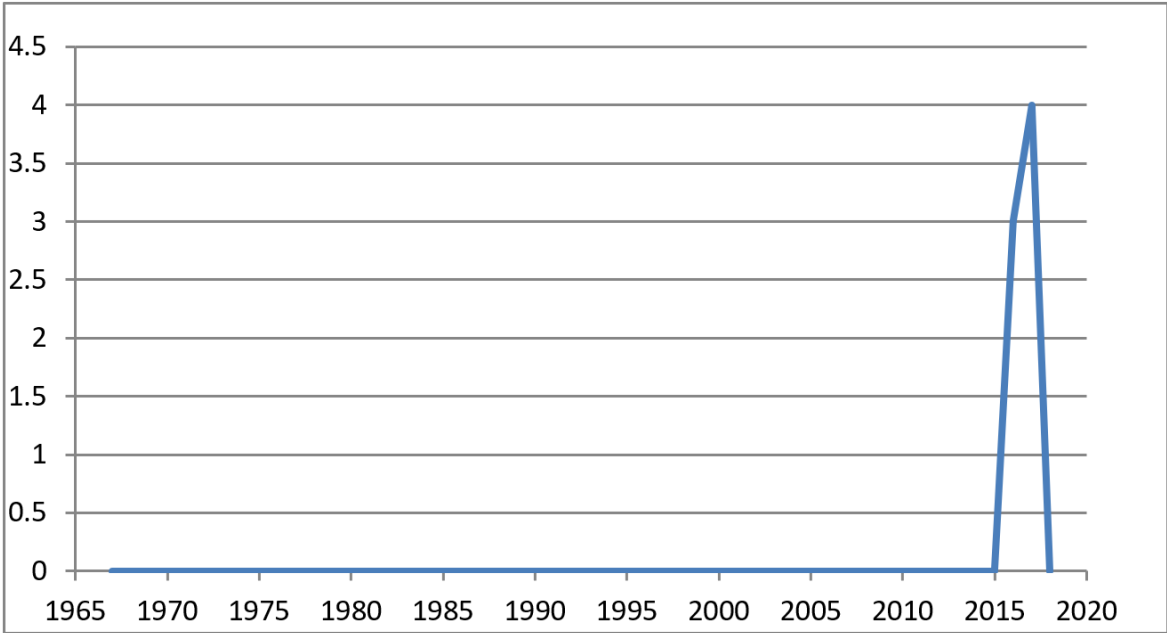
Master Observer Award



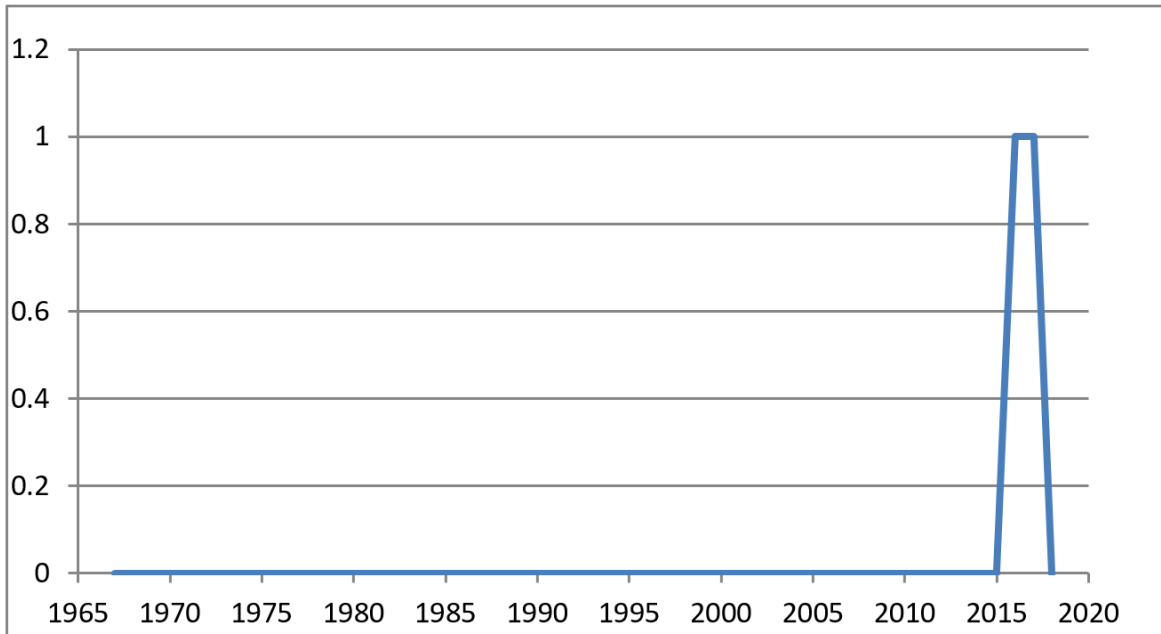
Silver Master Observer Award



Gold Master Observer Award



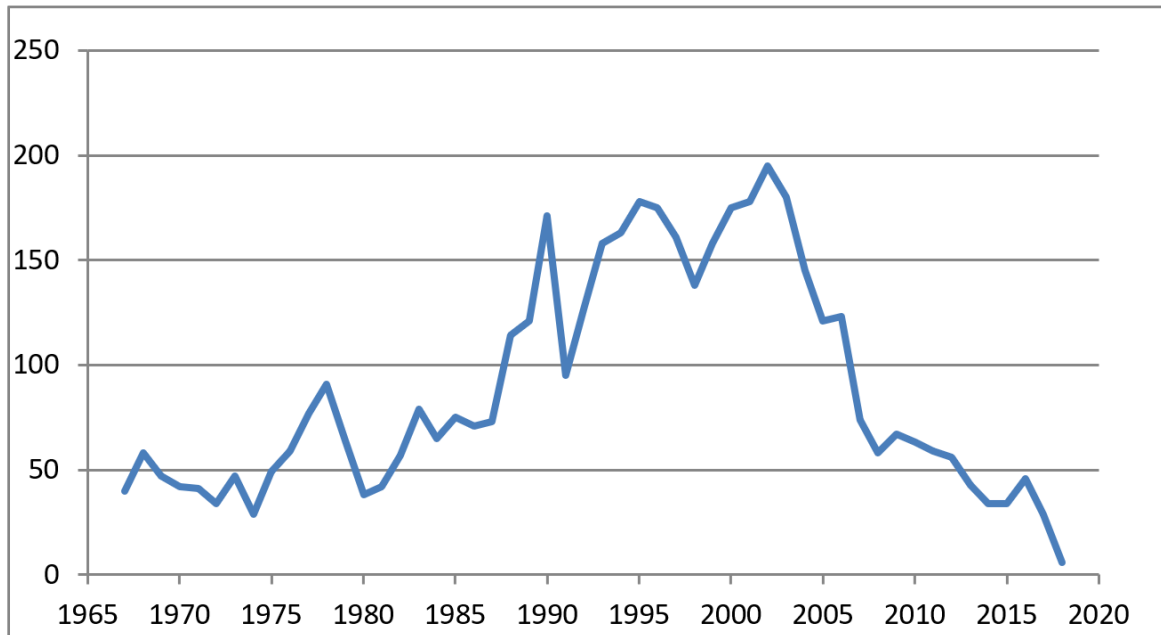
Platinum Master Observer Award



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Messier
Scott Kranz

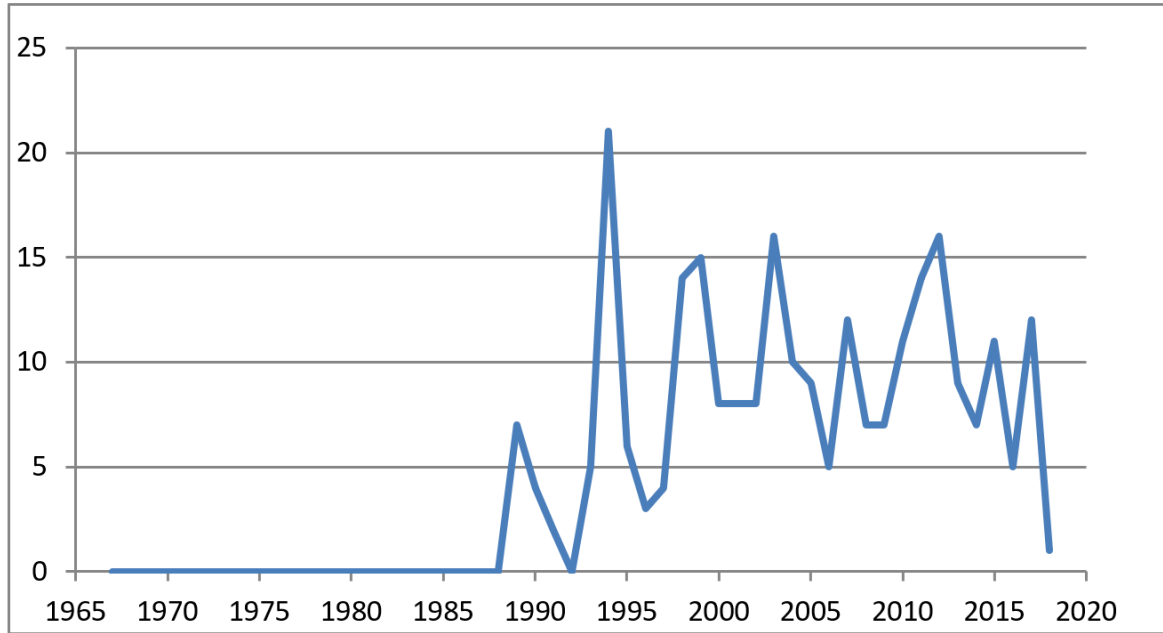
Messier Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Meteor
Scott Kranz

Meteor Observing Program



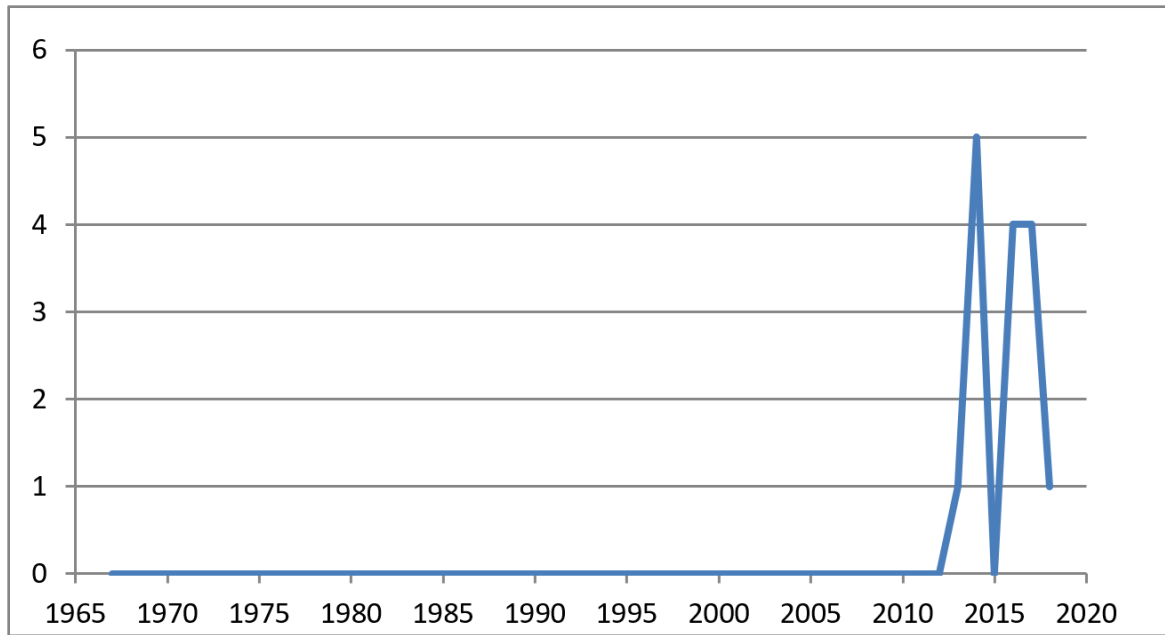
Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

NASA Observing Challenges
Aaron Clevenson

Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

NEO
Dolores Hill and Carl Hergenrother

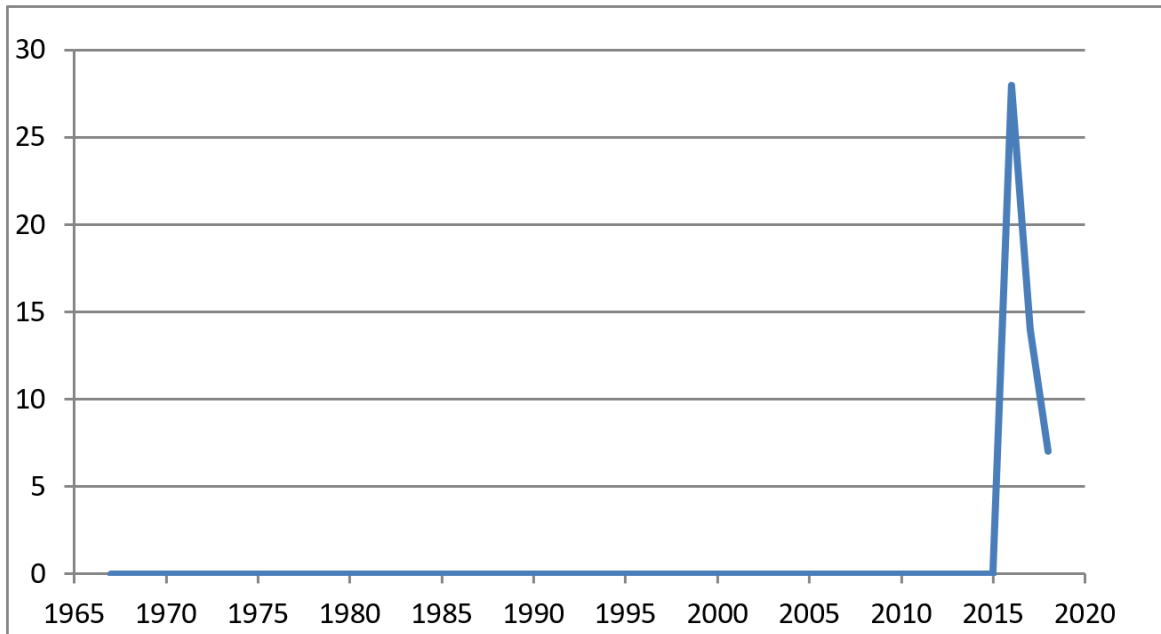
Target NEOs Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Observer
Aaron Clevenson

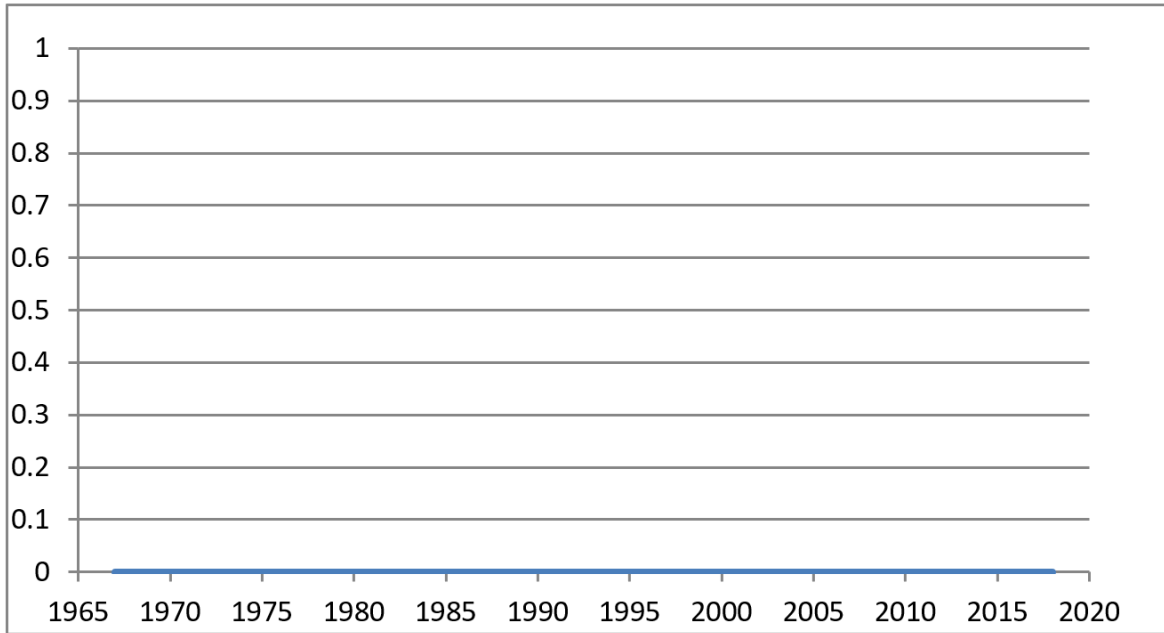
Observer Award



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Occultation
Steve Conard

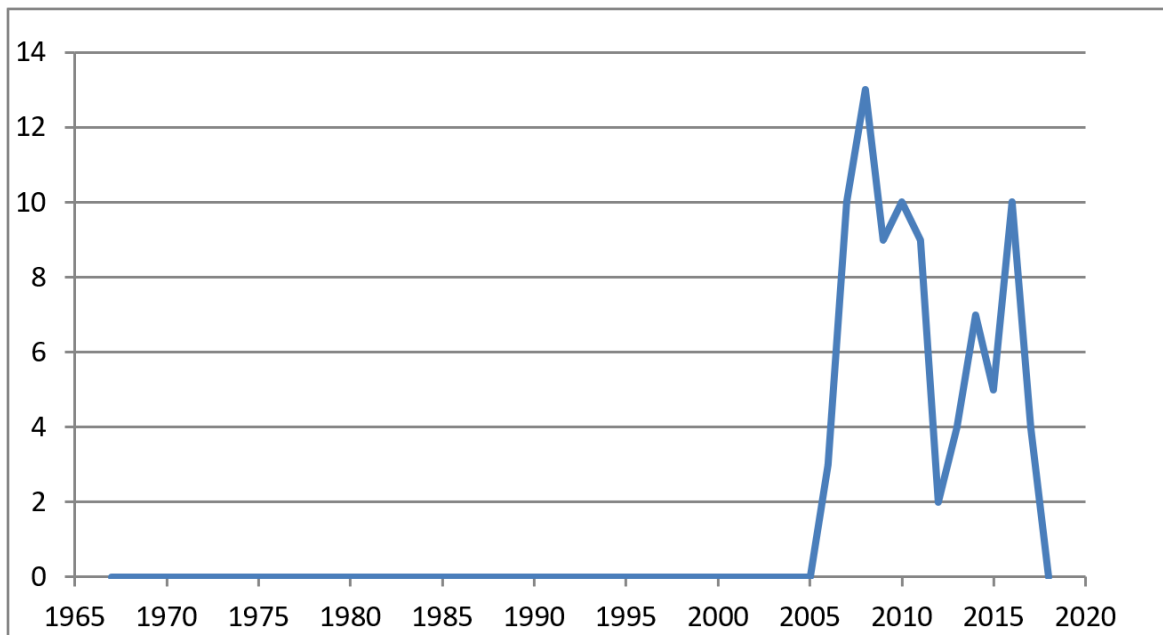
Occultation Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

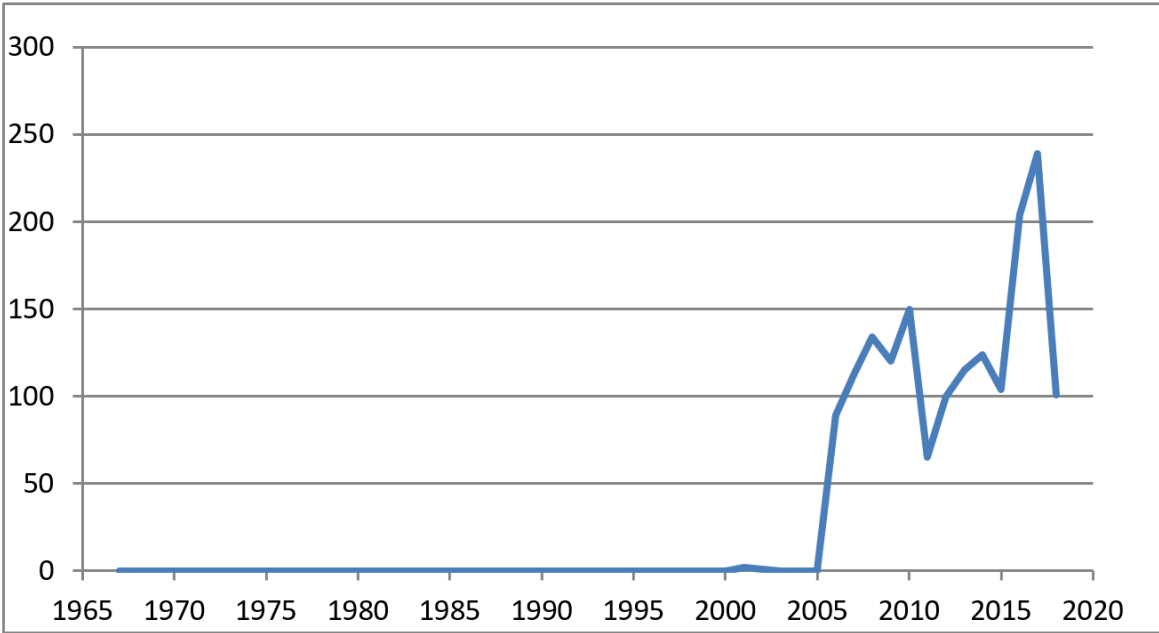
Open Cluster
Cliff Mygatt

Open Cluster Observing Program



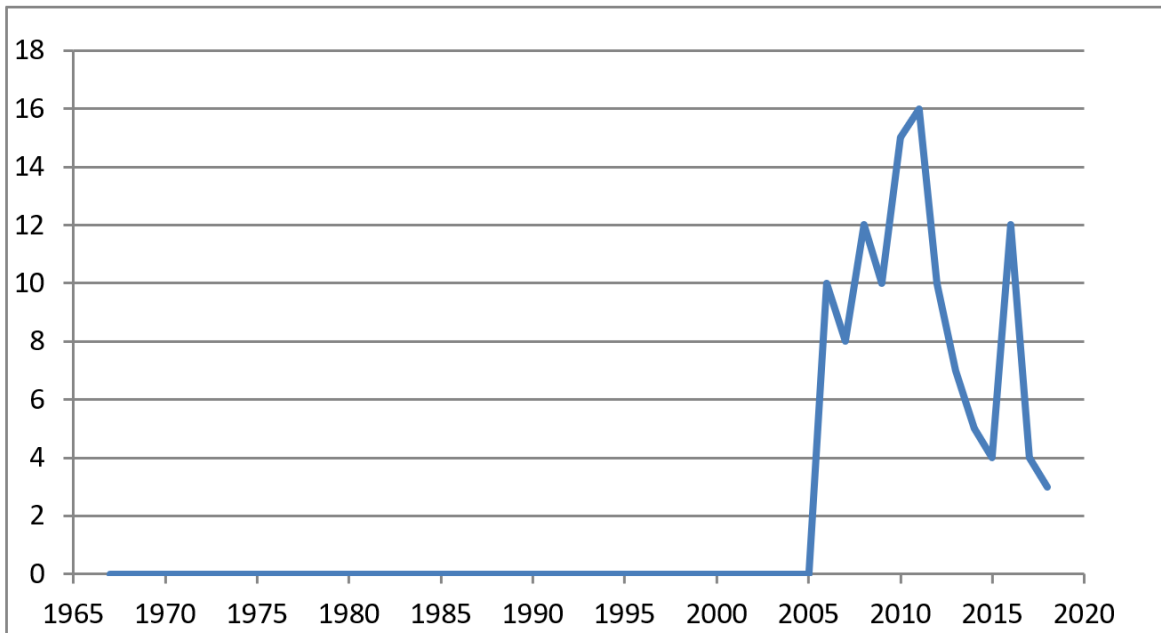
Observing Program Name: Outreach
Coordinator Name: W. Maynard Pittendreigh

Outreach Observing Award (note the scale on the left)



Observing Program Name: Planetary Nebulae (Northern and Southern)
Coordinator Name: Ted Forte

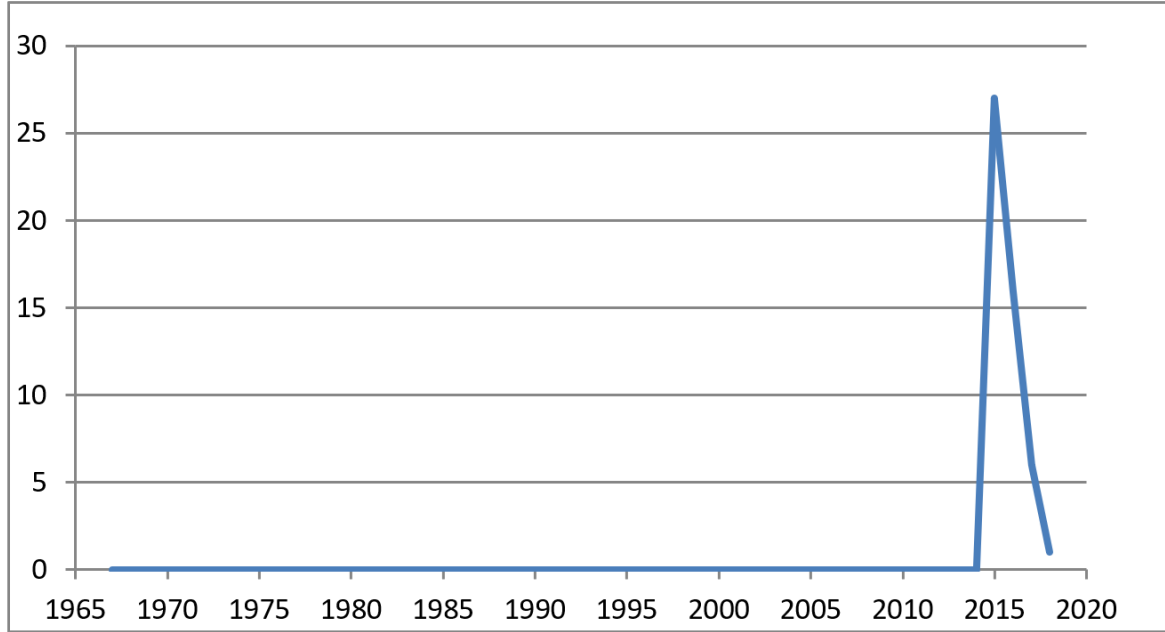
Planetary Nebula Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Radio Astronomy
William Bogardus

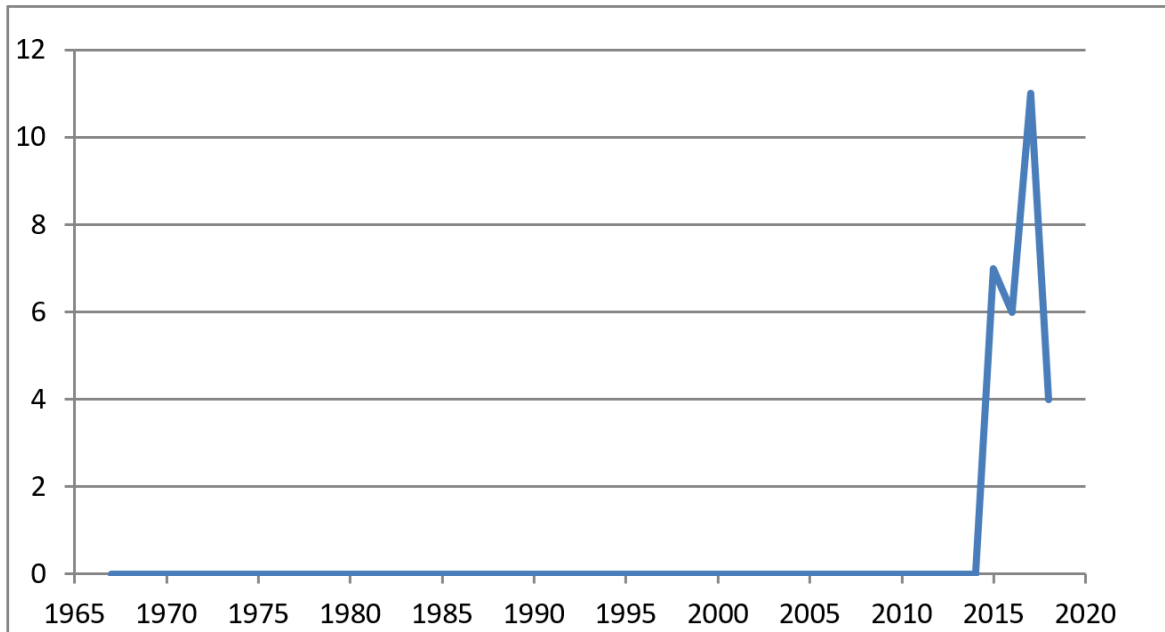
Radio Astronomy Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Sketching
Cindy L. Krach

Sketching Observing Award



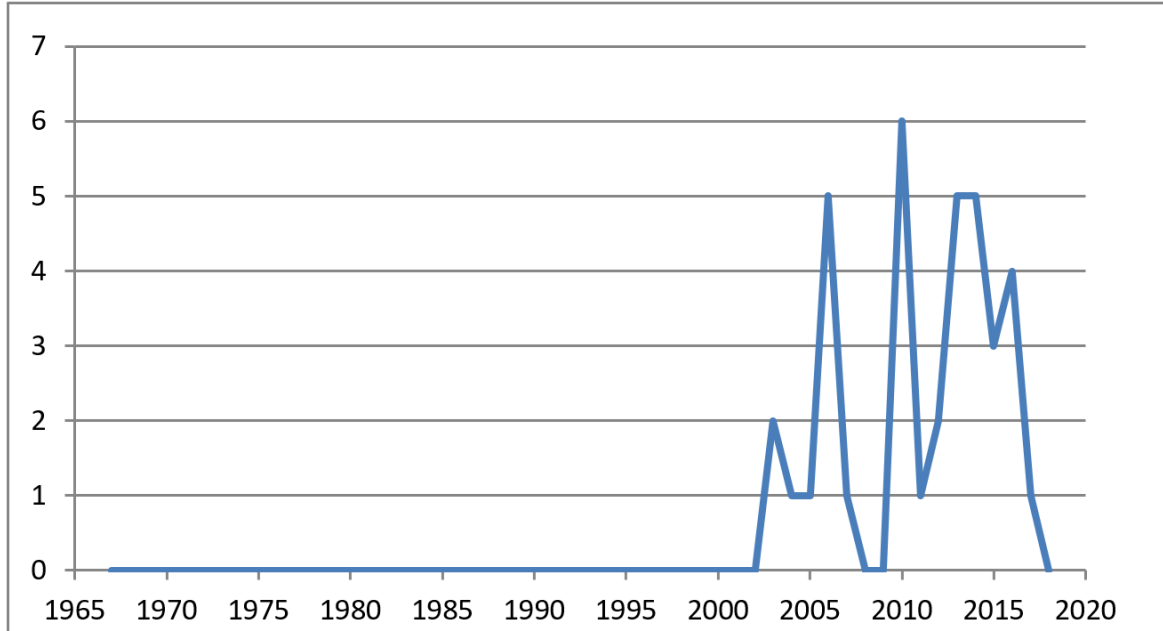
Observing Program Name:

Sky Puppies

Coordinator Name:

W. Maynard Pittendreigh

Sky Puppies Observing Program



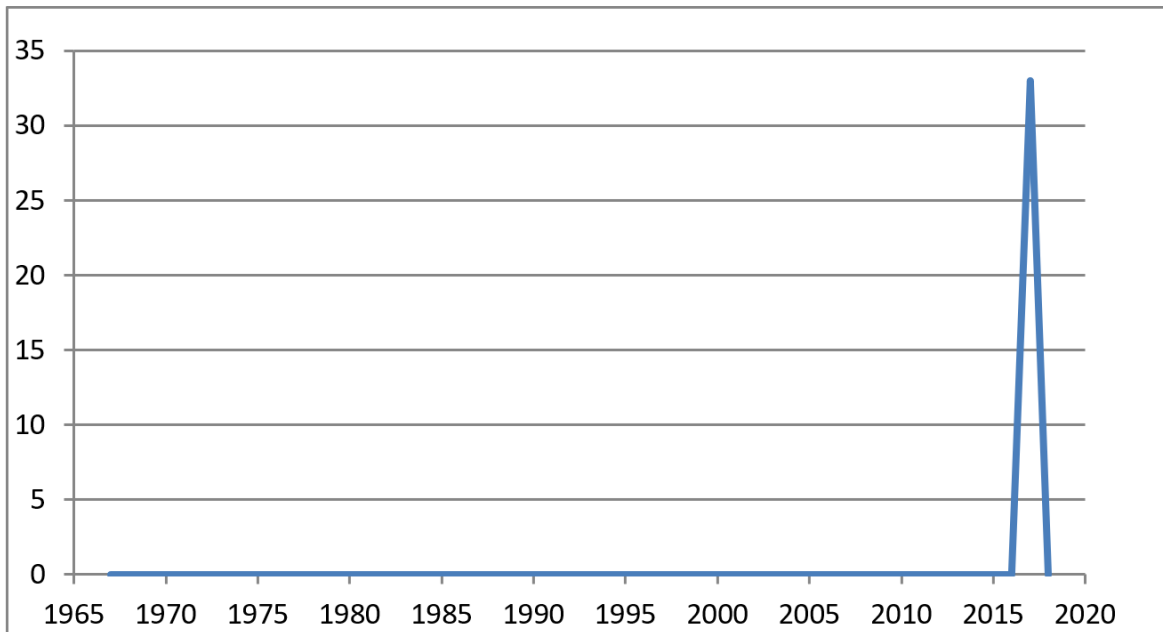
Observing Program Name:

Solar Eclipse 2018

Coordinator Name:

Aaron Clevenson

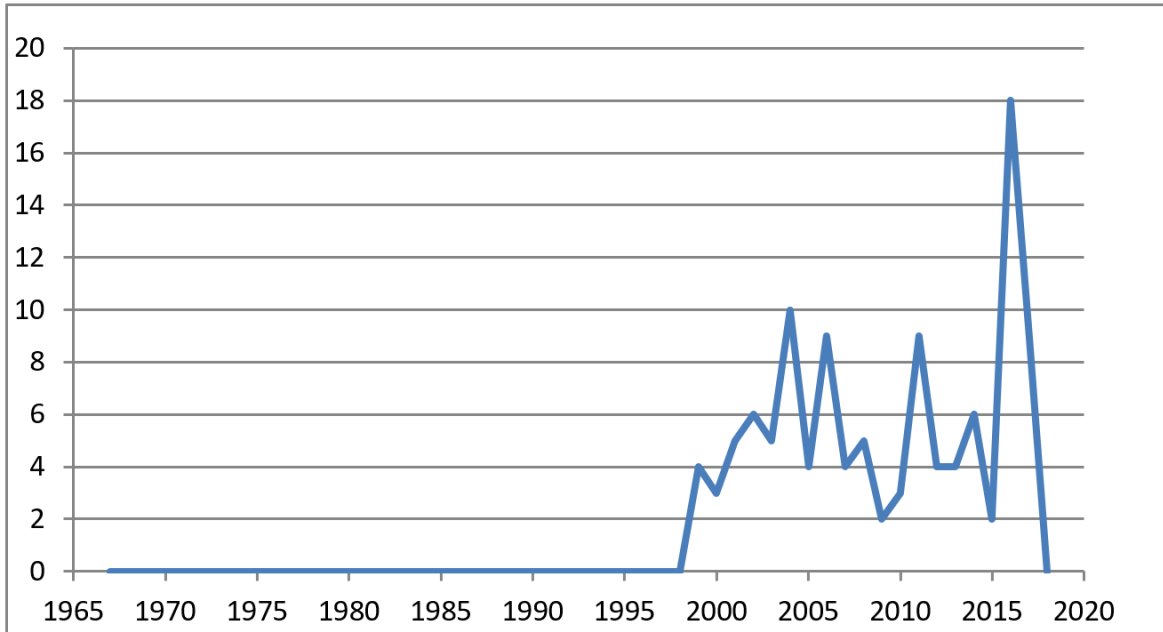
Solar Eclipse 2017 Special Observing Award



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Solar System
Bryan Tobias

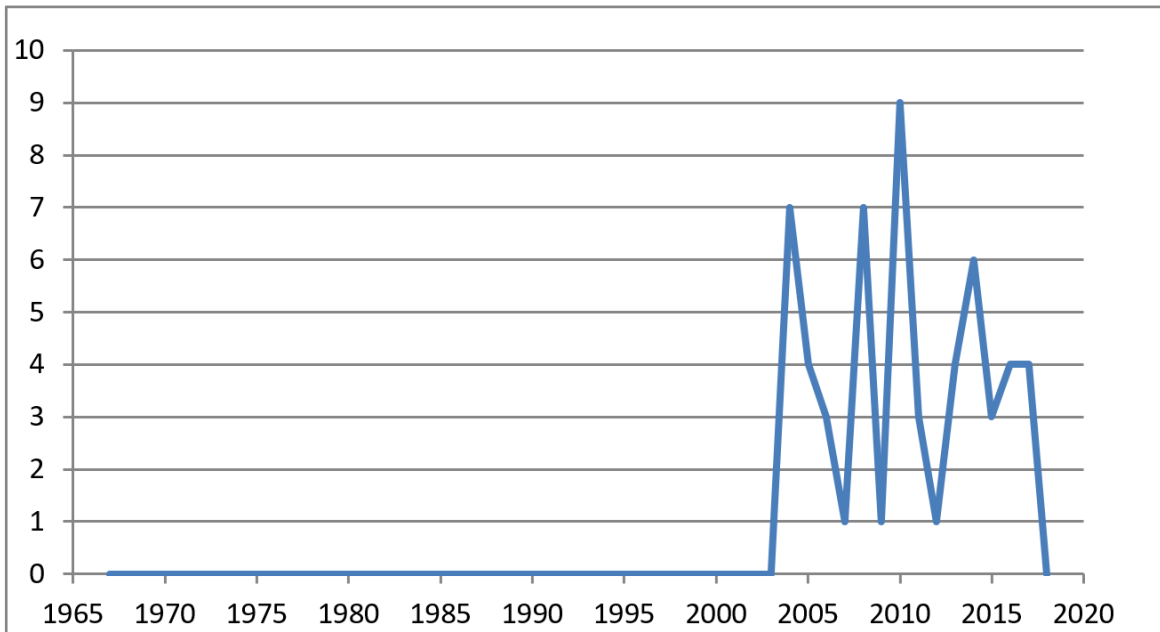
Solar System Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

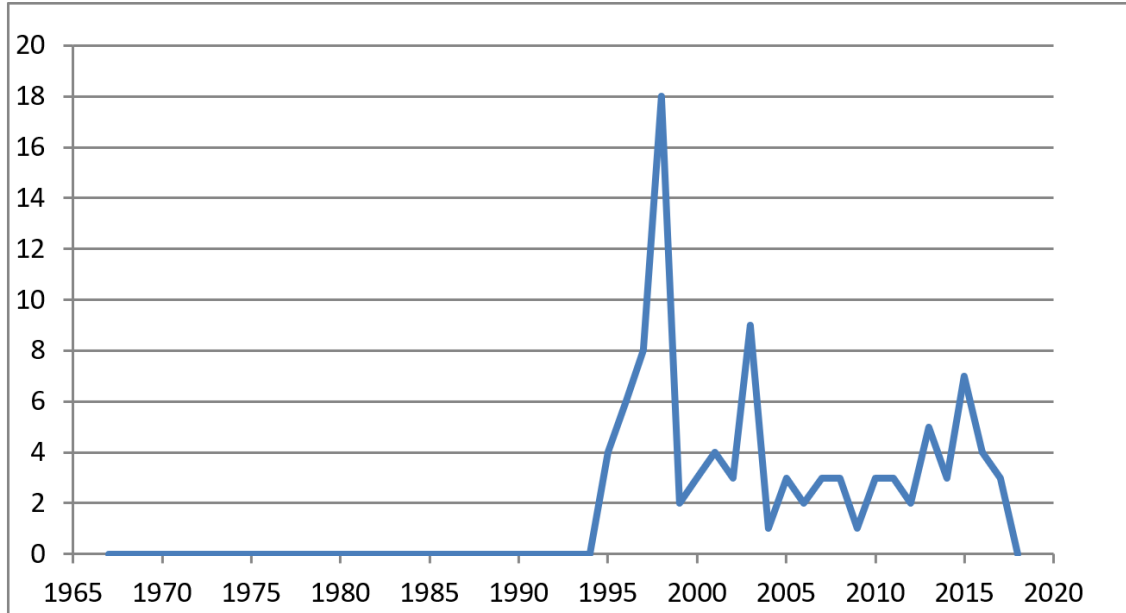
Southern Skies Telescopic
Kathy Machin

Southern Skies Telescopic Observing Program



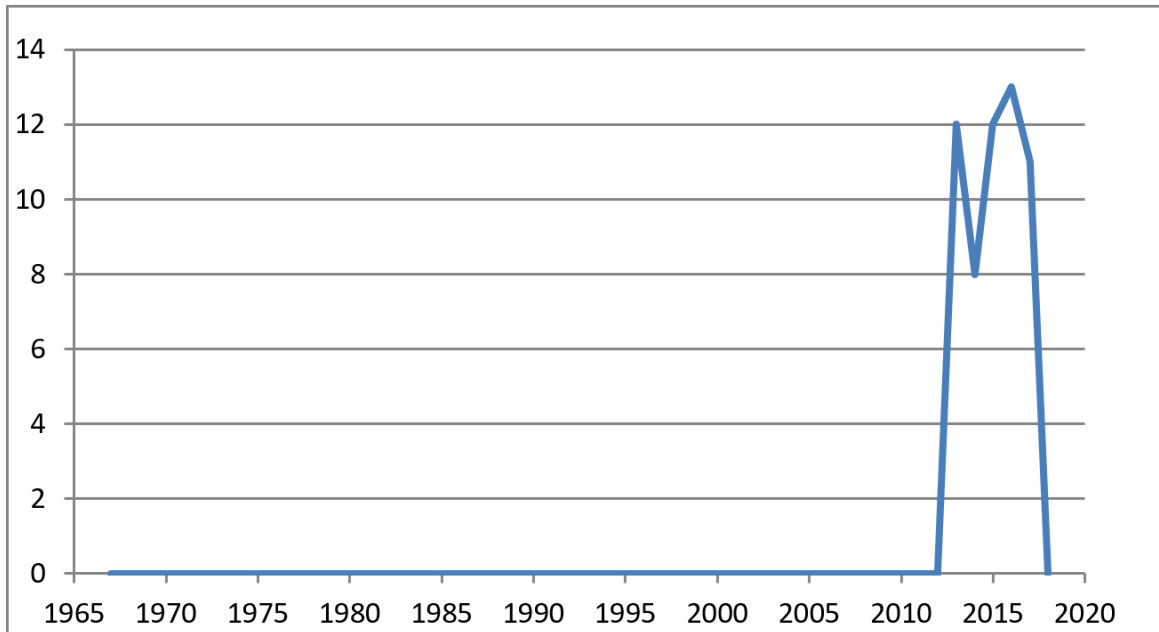
Observing Program Name: Southern Skies Binocular
Coordinator Name: Cindy La Russa

Southern Skies Binocular Observing Program



Observing Program Name: Stellar Evolution
Coordinator Name: Bill Pellerin

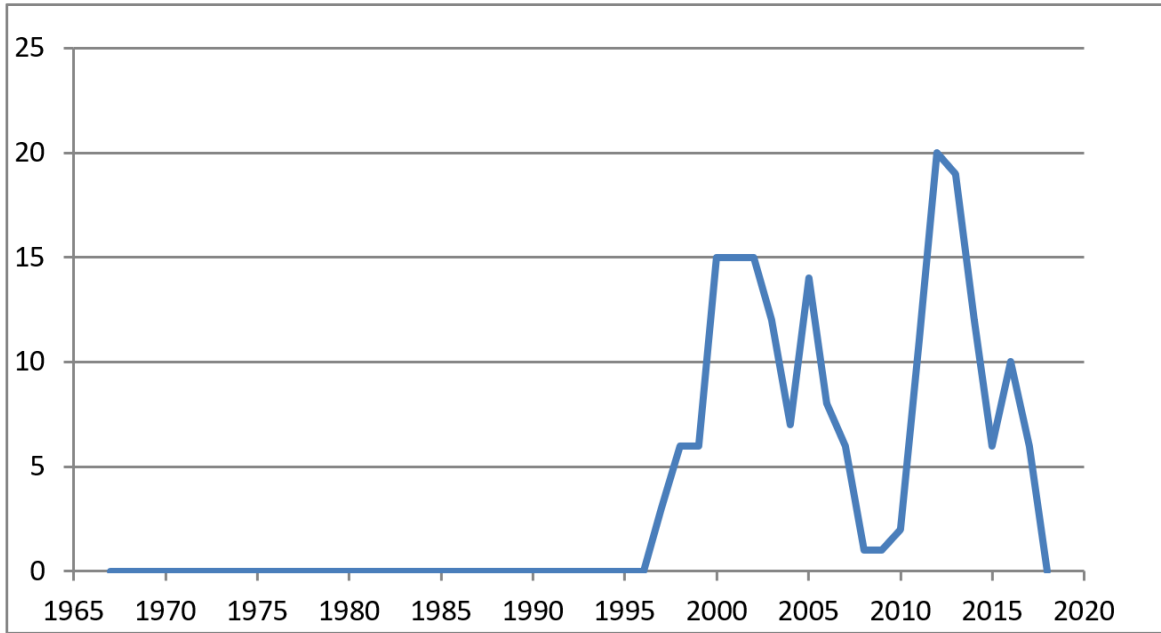
Stellar Evolution Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Sunspotter
Scott Kranz

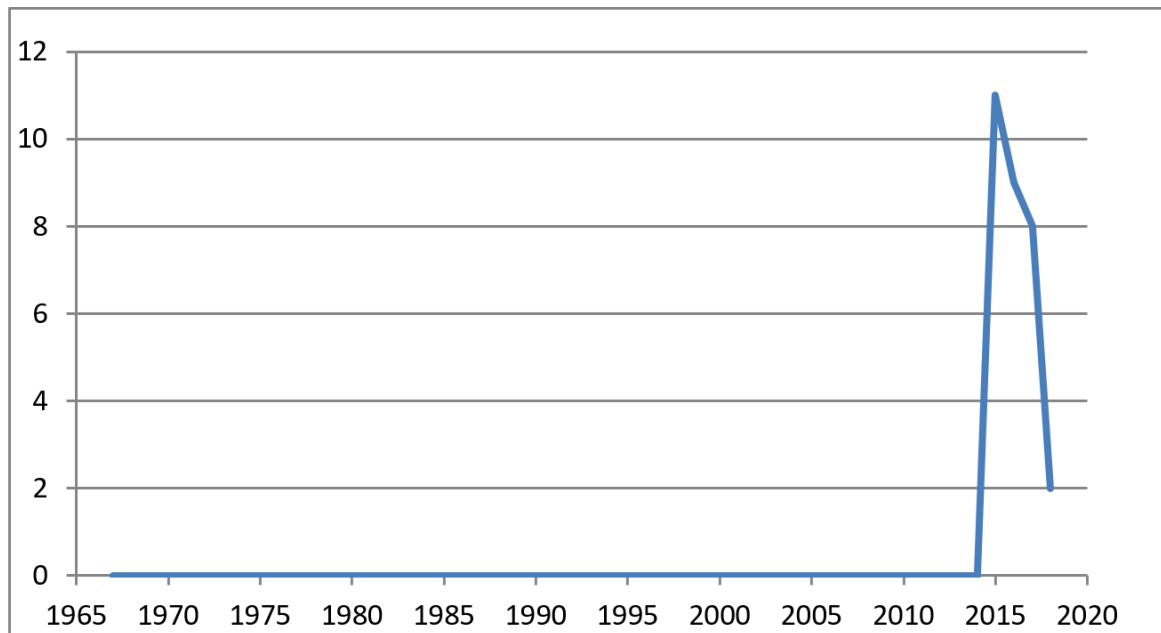
Sunspotter Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Two in the View
Bob Scott

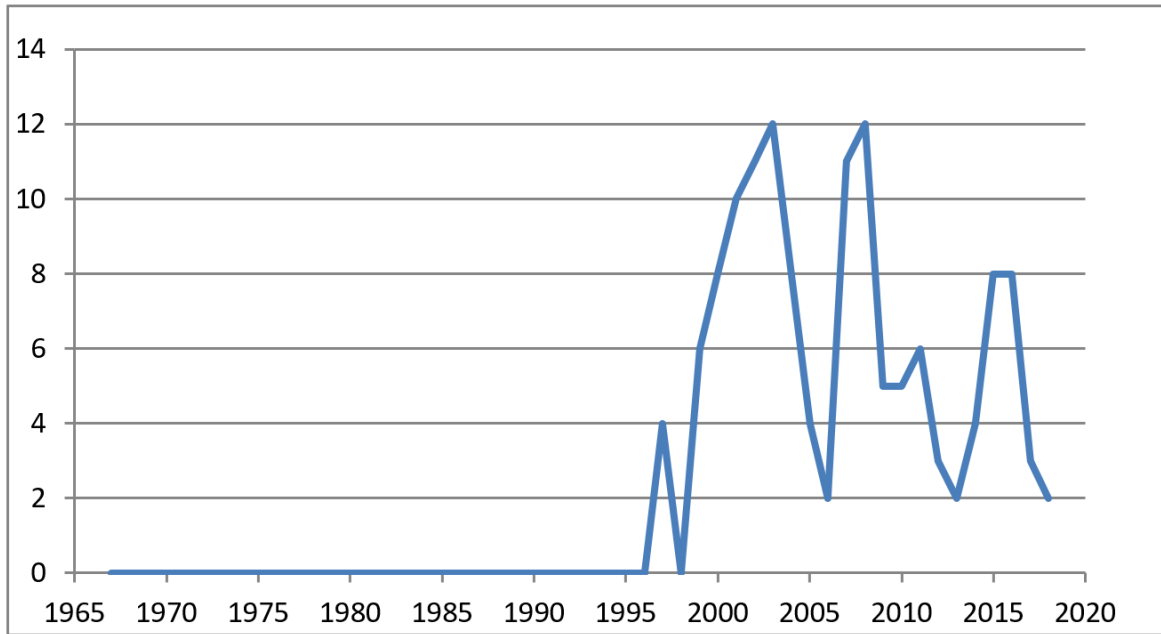
Two in the View Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Universe Sampler
Amelia Goldberg

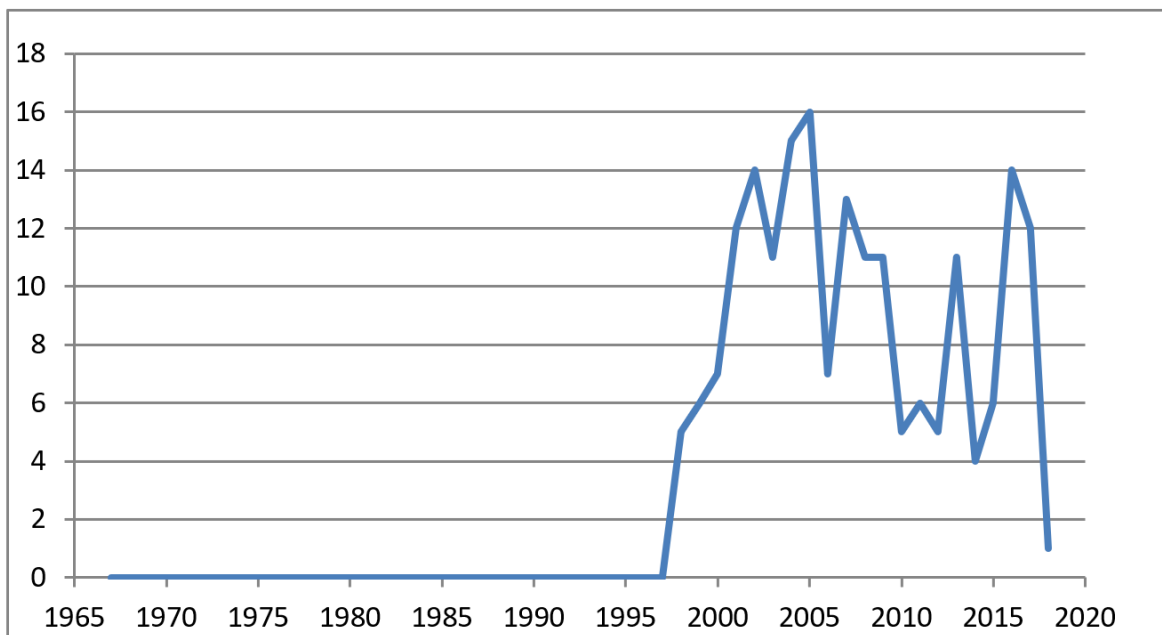
Universe Sampler Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Urban
Terry N. Trees

Urban Observing Program



Observing Program Name:
Coordinator Name:

Variable Star
Robert Togni

Variable Star Observing Program

