Francis Polignano Dr. Galgano GPS Project 12/12/13

I used this assignment as an opportunity to visit ten local craft beer destinations in the area. Among the destinations were eight breweries and two beer distributors all within thirty miles of Villanova's campus. The breweries included, Victory Brewing Co. – Downingtown, Yard's Brewing Co. – Philadelphia, Tired Hands – Ardmore, Forest and Main – Ambler, Free Will – Perkasie, Sly Fox – Phoenixville, Iron Hill – Phoenixville and Appalachian Brewing – Collegeville. The distributors I chose are two well-known distributors that offer a large selection of craft beer; they included Exton Beverage and The Beer Yard in Wayne. The survey of local beer destinations was the point portion of my project. To collect the data, a few friends and I spent a weekend traveling to the locations by car. We even ran into a Villanova grad at one of the breweries. I used the Trimble GPS unit to collect data. I chose this as my point portion of my project because I thought it would keep things interesting. I have been getting into craft beer lately so I was meaning to visit the breweries anyway.

The line portion of my project was a line feature from Villanova University to Victory Brewing Co. I traveled along Lancaster Ave the entire time, the line feature totaled 20.2 miles in length. I chose this because I was curious what the length was between the two points and also it was convenient for me.

The polygon portion was comprised of multiple polygons, however only one turned out accurate, even after post-processing. This was a survey of my running loop. Other attempted polygon features included a survey of the perimeter of my house and a survey of our garage. These were both not accurate. Since my running loop route was on a road, I was able to drive in my car to obtain the polygon data. Had it been off road, I would have had to walk the route. I chose this because it is a familiar route and relatively simple.

My data dictionary was built in GPS Pathfinder Office and included point, line and polygon features. Point attributes included, name of the brewery, data collector, how many beers they had on tap, whether they offered tours and what their IPA was. Polygon attributes included surface type, how many lanes (if applicable) and data collector. Line attributes included whether the road was a toll road or not, and data collector. The data dictionary was built on the computers in the lab room. Post processing was also done in the lab room; I followed the instructions given in the lab handout. I used the closest location I could correct from which happened to be blank. After I acquired my .COR file, I converted it to a .KMZ file which allowed me to append it to Google Earth.

Problems I ran into included, inaccurate data for some of my polygon features (both .SSF and .COR files proved inaccurate) and the GPS unit battery died once, which was an inconvenience.