

STELLAFANE

1926-1979

Saturday, July 28, 1979

The 44th Convention of Amateur Telescope
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont



On Friday evening, July 27th, at 8:30 p.m., Walter Wheeler of the Springfield Telescope Makers will monitor the informal talks under the tent. If you wish to contribute a short, interesting talk at this session, then you must submit a description of your planned presentation with your registration form. These talks are limited to 25 slides and 15 minutes speaking time. A 35-mm slide projector and a 16-mm movie projector are available for your use.

Following the informal talks there will be observing (weather permitting) with the Porter Turret Telescope.

The *Hartness-Porter Museum of Amateur Telescope Making*, located in the underground rooms of the Hartness Turret Telescope at Hartness House, will be open for visitors on Saturday morning, July 28th, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, and on Sunday morning, July 29th, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.

Light lunches will be available at Stellafane on Friday evening and barbequed chicken dinners will be available for Saturday's lunch and supper, as well as other snacks. Cooking is also allowed in the camping areas, and water will be provided at the site beginning on Friday evening.

TELESCOPE COMPETITION

This is a convention of amateur telescope makers. If you have built a telescope, we encourage you to bring it and enter the competition. Awards will be presented for various telescope designs including reflectors (Newtonian and Cassegrain), refractors, and catadioptrics. There are also awards for the best junior telescope (made by a person under 16 years of age) and other special categories. Judging for mechanical excellence will commence at 12:00 noon, so please have your project registered and on display by that time. It is hoped that judging will be completed in time for all to attend the afternoon talks under the tent. Judging for optical excellence will begin immediately following the evening program. Only telescopes which are operative, *both* mechanically and optically, will be accepted in the competition. However, telescopes do not have to be judged for both mechanical and optical awards.

A special *Porter Youth Award* will be presented to the junior exhibitor (under 16 years of age) who shows the most promise for a career in science and technology.

JUDGING COMMITTEE

Dennis di Cicco and Berton Willard, Co-chairmen

Fred Chellis
Ralph Dakin
Donald Dilworth
George East

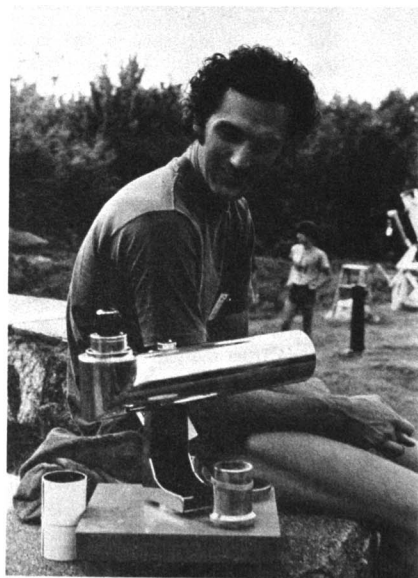
George Keene
Diane Lucas
Dennis Milon
Jean Paul Prideaux

Alan Rohwer
Walter Singer
Roger Tuthill
Paul Valleli

SWAP TABLE

This year's Stellafane convention will include a swap table where convention participants can trade or sell astronomical and telescope related items such as eyepieces, cameras, telescope making materials, and observing accessories. This table is not for commercial items where the object offered belongs to the parent company. Although participants must be responsible for their own material, a convention official will also help watch over the table. The table will operate all day Saturday until 7:30 p.m., and will be located near the clubhouse.

Peter Talmage and his
1978 award-winning refractor



AFTERNOON PROGRAM

George Keene of Rochester, New York, will monitor the afternoon talks under the tent from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Construction of Domed Observatories — Richard E. Albrecht, Rochester, New York

From his experience building 13- and 15-foot domes, Mr. Albrecht will suggest economical methods of construction, and ways to avoid some common errors in building an observatory.

Astrophotography Using Ektachrome 400 and a Cold Camera — Robert E. Little, Brooklyn, New York

Mr. Little has recently tested the new Kodak Ektachrome 400 film in a cold camera on his 8-inch telescope. His results, and other pictures, will be shown along with some suggestions for exposures, filters, and guiding.

A Computer Controlled Telescope — Randy Shipley, Massachusetts, and Roger Tuthill, New Jersey

The speakers will demonstrate an experimental model of a computer controlled telescope. The telescope's right ascension and declination are displayed, and a keyboard commands the motions of the telescope.

Nebula Filters — Dennis di Cicco, Watertown, Massachusetts

Mr. di Cicco will discuss the how's and why's of these recently developed filters designed to block light pollution while transmitting the light of many deep-sky objects. Visual and photograph test results of many currently available filters will be given.

After the evening program, the Porter Turret Telescope will be open for observing (weather permitting). Judging for optical excellence will also be taking place at this time. *Please remember to use a red filter on your flashlight.*

EVENING PROGRAM

Jack B. Newton of British Columbia, is the Master of Ceremonies this year and will preside over the Twilight Talks beginning at 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

Words of Welcome — Gov. Joseph B. Johnson

Stellafane Shadowgram — Walter Scott Houston

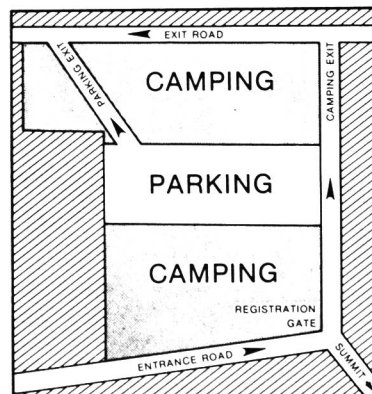
Sophisticated Designs in Ancient Cosmology — Zvi Gezari, Rocky Point, New York

Before the advent of the telescope, advanced techniques were used by the ancient people of China, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and parts of Western Europe, to observe and chart celestial events in an effort to gain a better understanding of the world around them. Mr. Gezari will show slides of structures he has built during recent years that represent some unique examples of sundials, as well as a full-scale mechanized astronomical observatory that existed in China one thousand years ago.

CAMPING/PARKING AREA

Non-campers are asked to park in orderly lines in the designated space (see map at right). *There are NO open fires allowed anywhere on the convention site.* Controlled traffic will be allowed to the summit for unloading and picking up telescopes entered in the competition. Telescopes not in competition are also welcome at the convention. In the past, for every telescope entered in judging there have been two or three in the camping area used for observing and photography.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no assurance that light-free observing conditions will be maintained in the camping area. If you must avoid automobile lights, please bring your telescopes and cameras to the summit. Since there will still be observing done from the camping area, be as courteous as possible to others. This goes for *both* observers and drivers. The camping area has been arranged to help keep lights of cars exiting from the parking area from interfering with observers.



A Statement on Commercial Exhibits

To maintain the strict spirit of amateur telescope making unique to Stellafane conventions, no exhibits of a commercial nature will be allowed at the convention site (this includes the camping area). A commercial exhibit will be interpreted as: a display of any commercial products which are the property of the parent company, handing out of any company literature by company representatives or other persons, and solicitation for periodical subscriptions and other business ventures.