

STELLAFANE

1926-1982

Saturday, August 14, 1982

The 48th Convention of Amateur Telescope Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.



Friday evening, August 13th, at 8:30 p.m., Doug McGregor of the Springfield Telescope Makers will conduct the informal program under the tent behind the Stellafane clubhouse. If you wish to contribute a short, interesting talk at this session, you must submit a description of your planned presentation with your registration form. These talks are limited to 20 slides and 10 minutes speaking time. A 35-mm slide projector and 16-mm movie projector are available for your use.

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

The *Hartness-Porter Museum of Amateur Telescope Making*, located in the underground rooms of the Hartness Turret Telescope at Hartness House in Springfield, will be open for visitors on Saturday morning, August 14th, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, and Sunday morning, August 15th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Light meals and snacks are available at Stellafane on Friday evening and Saturday. Barbequed chicken dinners are available for Saturday's lunch and supper. Cooking is allowed in the camping area, and water will be provided at the site beginning Friday evening. Camp stoves, charcoal grills, and the like, are acceptable, but no open fires are permitted anywhere at the convention site.

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 mechanical and optical performance. 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 begin at 12:00 noon on Saturday, so please have your project registered and on display by that time. We hope 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 in both categories. We welcome homemade telescopes in the display area; they do not have to be entered in the competition.

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

JUDGING COMMITTEE

Berton Willard and Dennis di Cicco, Co-chairmen

Ralph Dakin	Jean Paul Prideaux	George Scotten
Donald Dilworth	Alan Rohrer	Walter Singer
George East	Diane Lucas	Roger Tuthill
George Keene	Tom Madigan	Paul Valleri

SWAP TABLE

The swap table, so successful in recent years, will be continued. Here convention participants may trade or sell their astronomical and telescope-related items such as eyepieces, lenses, cameras, telescope-making materials, and observing accessories. This table is not for commercial sales (any item belonging to a parent company or prepared specifically to be sold). Although participants must be responsible for their own material at the table, a convention official will be on hand to help keep an eye on things. The table, located near the Stellafane clubhouse, will operate all day Saturday until 7:30 p.m.

Steve Dodson's 22-inch reflector
the 1981 Stellafane.



AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Fred Lossing of Ottawa, Ontario, will monitor the afternoon talks, which begin at 2:00 p.m. under the tent behind the clubhouse. Mr. Lossing, a research chemist at the University of Ottawa, is "hooked on astronomy and telescope making, a constant attendee of Stellafane, and an admirer of its philosophy."

The IAPPP and Stellar Photometry for the Amateur — Robert C. Wolpert and Russell M. Genet, IAPPP

This talk will describe the work of the International Amateur-Professional Photoelectric Photometry group (IAPPP), which was formed recently to promote photoelectric astronomy, particularly among amateurs. Several homemade photometers will be displayed. The IAPPP is holding a seminar on August 11 to 13 at Harness House in Springfield. For more information on that meeting contact Mr. Wolpert at 144 Neptune Ave., North Babylon, N. Y. 11704.

The 1983 Indonesia Eclipse — Robert T. Little, New York, New York

Hundreds of amateur astronomers engage in the "hobby" of traveling around the world to view total solar eclipses. The next opportunity to stand in the shadow of the Moon will take place June 11, 1983, during a very favorable eclipse over Indonesia. Mr. Little, who recently returned from a scouting trip to Java, will discuss the upcoming event. His talk will be of interest to anyone planning to travel to the eclipse.

W. R. Brooks Observatory — John Bortle, Stormville, New York

John Bortle, well-known comet observer and author of the monthly *Sky and Telescope* column Comet Digest, will describe his observatory. Highlighted will be his recently completed 3-meter dome which houses an 8-inch f/1.5 Schmidt camera, and the construction of a 20-inch f/5 Dobsonian reflector.

Solar Physics for Amateurs — Ken Tapping, Ottawa Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Many types of observations are required to interpret the internal activities of the Sun. Mr. Tapping, an astronomer on the staff of the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, will explain the relationship between solar activity that can be observed by amateurs and events on and within the Sun.

EVENING PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies Steve Siok of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, will preside over the Twilight Talks, which begin at 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening by the clubhouse. Mr. Siok, a member of Skyscrapers, Inc., of Rhode Island, has been actively involved with the recently completed restoration of the club's Seagrave Observatory and with the construction of a 14-inch reflector for the club.

Words of Welcome

Stellafane Shadowgram — Walter Scott Houston

Quasars: Cosmic Jets and Whirlpools — Prof. Philip Morrison, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Prof. Morrison, book editor for *Scientific American* for nearly two decades and a well-known provocative speaker, will present an up-to-date look at Quasars. These powerful radio sources, which appear very much like stars, are possibly the most brilliant and distant single objects in the universe. Thousands have been discovered in the past quarter century, and many astronomers agree that an understanding of their nature will play a key role in solving the riddle of our universe.

CAMPING/PARKING AREA

Non-campers are asked to park in orderly lines in the designated space marked on the map at right. Controlled traffic is allowed to the top of Breezy Hill for unloading and picking up telescopes in the competition and display area. Telescopes not entered in the judging are also welcome in the camping area. In the past, for every telescope at the top of the hill, there have been two or three in the camping field.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no assurance that light-free conditions can be maintained in the camping field. If you must avoid lights, bring your telescopes and cameras to the clubhouse. Since observing will still be done from the camping area, please be as courteous as possible to others in the area. The site has been arranged to help keep lights of cars exiting the area from interfering with observers.

