



STELLAFANE

The 65th Convention of Amateur Telescope
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.
Friday, July 28th and Saturday, July 29th, 2000



"For it is true that astronomy, from a popular standpoint, is handicapped by the inability of the average workman to own an expensive astronomical telescope. It is also true that if an amateur starts out to build a telescope just for fun he will find, before his labors are over, that he has become seriously interested in the wonderful mechanism of our universe. And finally there is understandably the stimulus of being able to unlock the mysteries of the heavens by a tool fashioned by one's own hand."

Russell W. Porter, March 1923 -- Founder of Stellafane

Please take the time to read this entire bulletin, especially if you are a newcomer to the convention. We have tried to organize the bulletin in a logical manor but the info that you're looking for might not be exactly where you think it is. The Stellafane Convention is a gathering of amateur telescope makers. The Convention was started in 1926 to give amateur telescope makers an opportunity to gather to show off their creations and teach each other telescope making and mirror-grinding techniques. If you have made your own telescope, we strongly encourage you to display it in the telescope fields near the Pink Clubhouse. If you wish, you can enter it in the mechanical and/or optical competition. There are also mirror grinding and telescope-making demonstrations, technical lectures on telescope making and the presentation of awards for telescope design and craftsmanship. Vendor displays and the retail sale of commercial products are not permitted. **Be sure to note the Stellafane Lighting Policy.** Web page: www.stellafane.com. Enjoy the convention!!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A description of events is inside this bulletin.

Friday, July 28th:

- 9 a.m. Registration gate opens.
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Shuttle bus operates.
- Noon - 6 p.m. Mirror grinding demo under the tent.
- 1:30 p.m. Horseshoe pitching contest.
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Library open in McGregor Obs.
- 3 p.m. Astronomy activities for kids in McGregor Obs.
- 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Hartness House museum open.
- 8:30 p.m. Informal tent talks begin.
- 10 p.m. Registration gate closes.

Saturday, July 29th:

- 7 a.m. Registration gate opens.
- 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Swap tables open.
- 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Telescope competition registration.
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Shuttle bus operates.
- 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mirror grinding demo under the tent.

Saturday, July 29th -- continued:

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Telescope mechanical competition.
- 11 a.m. Astronomy activities for kids in McGregor Obs..
- Noon - 1 p.m. Presentation in the McGregor Obs.
- 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Technical talks under the tent.
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Library open in McGregor Obs.
- 2 p.m. Astronomy activities for kids in McGregor Obs.
- 4 p.m. Informal social hour in the Pink Clubhouse.
- 7 p.m. Evening program begins in the amphitheater.
- 9:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Registration for optical competition.
- 10 p.m. - Midnight: Optical competition.

Sunday, July 30th:

- 8 a.m. - Noon: Convention cleanup.
- 9 a.m. - Noon: Hartness House museum open.

A **SHUTTLE BUS** will operate between the main camping/parking area and the Stellafane Pink Clubhouse area Friday afternoon and all day on Saturday.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

We urge everyone to pre-register before July 7th. This is especially important if you wish to camp since camping permits are only available through advance registration to people who have also prepaid their admission fee.

Mark the appropriate information on the enclosed registration card and mail it with a check for the full amount payable to the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, to *Stellafane, P. O. Box 50, Belmont, MA 02178*. Everyone except family members under 16 years of age must pay to attend the Conv. Advance registration is \$20 per person before July 7th; after that, and at the gate, the fee is \$25.

Note: Absolutely no registrations will be processed that arrive after July. 20th!!! All registrations after that time must be handled when you arrive.

The camping fee is an additional \$25 per campsite. Campsites are limited to one vehicle and one tent. This rule is strictly enforced!

We will **NOT** confirm registrations. You will only hear from us in the event that we are unable to fulfill your request and have to return your registration fee. Otherwise, your registration materials will be waiting for you when you arrive at the Stellafane gate.

LARGE CAMPERS: Campers and RVs longer than **17 FEET** require a special camping permit. Only a small number are available. If you require such a permit, please check the appropriate box on the registration card. You will be sent the permit by mail before the Convention.

GETTING ON THE 2001 CONV. MAILING LIST: The **ONLY WAY** to get on the mailing list for the 2001 convention is to send in a registration card. If you're pre-registering for the 2000 convention you'll automatically be put on the mailing list for next year. If you're not pre-registered pick up a registration card during the convention at the registration or t-shirt table and **MAIL** it in. That will assure that you'll receive the 2001 convention mailing.

GATE POLICY: Anyone arriving after 10pm on Friday will not be admitted unless they are pre-registered or have already registered at the gate earlier that day. If you plan to arrive between 10pm Friday and 7am Saturday you **MUST** be pre-registered!!!

SUMMARY AND CONVENTION COST SCHEDULE:

- 1) Adults: \$20 before July 7th, \$25 after.
- 2) Child Registration (under 16 years of age): Free.
- 3) Camping: \$25 per site by mail only with an adult reg.
- 4) No reg. requests will be processed after July 20th.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT CONVENTION

Would you like to volunteer to help at the convention? If so please go to www.stellafane.com or include a note when you register. Thanks!

MOTELS, HOTELS AND CAMPGROUNDS

The following is a lodging list in the Springfield area. We suggest you make your reservations as soon as possible since many are filled long before the Convention. For additional info. contact the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, 14 Clinton St, Springfield, VT 05156.

Phone: 802-885-2779, Fax: 802-885-6826

Web: www.springfieldvt.com, spfldcoc@vermontel.net

Lodging	Phone	Town
Ascutney Mtn. Resort	800-243-0011	Brownsville
Baker Road Inn	802-886-2304	Springfield
Hartness House Inn.	802-885-2115	Springfield
Holiday Inn	802-885-4516	Springfield
Inn at Weathersfield	800-477-4828	Weathersfield
Old Farm Town Inn	802-875-2346	Gassetts
The Old Tavern	800-843-1801	Grafton
The Pond House	802-484-0011	Brownsville
Quail Hollow Inn	802-875-2467	Chester
The Castle	800-697-7222	Cavendish
Cavendish Point	802-226-7688	Cavendish
Rockingham Inn	802-463-4536	Bellows Falls
Abby-Lyn Motel	802-886-2223	Springfield
Martin's Ole House	802-555-5555	

Bed & Breakfasts	Phone	Town
Bull Run Farm	802-886-8470	N. Springfield
Blue Haven	802-463-9008	Westminster
Flat Iron Farm	802-484-9038	Brownsville
Chester House Inn	802-875-2205	Chester
Fullerton Inn	802-875-2444	Chester
Chester Inn	802-875-2444	Chester
Glen Finert Farm	802-875-2160	Chester
Greenleaf Inn	802-875-3171	Chester
Gwendolyn's	877-493-6365	Perkenville
Henry Farm Inn	802-875-2674	Chester
Hugging Bear	802-875-2412	Chester
Inn at High View	802-875-2724	Chester
Inn Victoria	802-875-4288	Chester
Kimberly's Cherub	802-875-3773	Chester
Madrigal Inn	802-463-2231	Westminster
Maple Hedge	603-826-5237	
Mill Brook	802-484-7283	Brownsville
Moor's Inn	802-869-2020	Saxtons River
Motel in the Meadow	802-875-2626	Chester
Night with a Native	802-875-2616	Chester
Rose Arbor	802-875-4766	Chester
Roswell's Inn	802-875-3658	Simonsville
Second Wild	802-875-3438	Chester
Stone Cottage	802-875-6211	Chester
Stone Hearth Inn	802-875-2525	Chester
Stone Village	802-875-3914	Chester

Campgrounds	Phone	Town
Getaway Mtn.	802-674-2812	Ascutney
Running Bear	802-674-6417	Ascutney
Wilgus St. Park	802-674-5422	Ascutney
Horseshoe Acres	802-875-2960	Andover
Caton Place	802-226-7767	Cavendish
Meadowbrook Farm	802-226-7755	Cavendish
Squirrel Hill	802-228-8800	Ludlow
Crown Point	802-263-5555	Perkinsville
Coolidge St. Park	802-672-3612	Plymouth
Tree Farm	802-885-2889	Springfield
Ascutney St. Park	802-674-2060	Windsor

2001 STELLAFANE CONVENTION

The 2001 Stellafane Convention will be held on August 17th and 18th.

MIRROR GRINDING DEMONSTRATION

There will be a HANDS ON mirror making demonstration Friday at noon under the big tent in the main camping/parking area. **Please note the earlier starting time.** You can gain first-hand experience working on mirrors at every stage of grinding, polishing, and testing. Experienced ATMs will help explain each step of the process. There will be a series of short lectures on general topics to help the beginner. The demonstration will continue Saturday at 9:30 a.m. unless poor weather causes the swap tables to preempt the space under the tent.

HORSESHOE PITCHING CONTEST

The 3rd-Annual Stellafane Horseshoe pitching contest is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday near the McGregor Observatory. "Astro" prizes will be awarded. For more info contact: stm-secretary@home.com.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

There are several one hour astronomy related activities for children which will take place in the McGregor Obs. Please consult the schedule of events for the times.

HARTNESS HOUSE

The Hartness Museum of Amateur Telescope Making is located in the underground rooms of the Hartness Turret Telescope at the Hartness House in Springfield. Convention-goers can plan a visit to the recently expanded museum on *Friday* or *Sunday*. Please consult the map on the back page for directions and follow the signs in town. Admission is **FREE**. Many of the items on display are by or about Russell W. Porter, founding father of Stellafane and the ATM movement in the U.S. Included are 'scopes of his design like the Springfield and Garden telescopes. His artwork traces his arctic exploration years to his work on the 200" Palomar telescope, culminating in his famous cutaway drawings. Other items of interest are 'scopes and other equipment built by early *STM* members. The 10" refracting turret telescope can also be inspected.

FRIDAY EVENING TALKS

Friday evening, July 28th, at 8:30 p.m. Bob Morse of the *Springfield Telescope Makers* will conduct the informal talks under the tent located in the main camping/parking area. If you wish to contribute a short talk during this session, you must submit a brief description of your planned presentation with your registration payment or at www.stellafane.com. Talks are limited to 10 minutes and 20 slides. The time limit will be strictly enforced!! A 35-mm slide projector, overhead projector and a VCR will be available for your use

STELLAFANE ATM LIBRARY

The Stellafane ATM library in the McGregor Obs. will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. both Fri. and Sat. and in the eve if it's cloudy.

SWAP TABLES

The swap tables are where Conventioneers can trade or sell their surplus astronomical and telescope-related items. These tables are not for commercial sales. Participants are allowed a maximum 4-foot-square area on a table and they must be responsible for their own material. The Swap Tables operate all day Saturday from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the **NORTHEAST** edge of the main camping/parking area. Please consult the site map for the location.

TELESCOPE COMPETITION The Heart and Soul of Stellafane!!

If you have built a telescope, we strongly encourage you to bring it and enter it in the competition. **We welcome all home-made telescopes in the display area: they do not have to be entered in the competition!!!**

ENTERING THE COMPETITION: You must register for the comp. between 8:30 and 10:00 Saturday morning in the Pink Clubhouse. You can also register for the optical competition between 4:30 and 6pm Sat. You can drive up to the Pink Clubhouse area anytime Fri. or Sat. to drop off and pick up your telescope but there is no parking as space is very limited. The telescope judging for mechanical excellence will begin at 10 a.m. so please register your telescope and have it on display as early as possible. Only telescopes that are operative both mechanically and optically will be accepted in the competition. Telescopes do not have to be entered in both categories. **The judges will visit the telescopes in several small groups. You should attend your telescope until the end of the competition is announced via the loud-speaker!!!** Be prepared to describe any special construction techniques and components to the judges. Awards for mechanical design, craftsmanship, special gadgets, restoration of historical instruments and junior telescopes, made by persons under 16 years of age, will be awarded at the Saturday evening talks. Judging for optical excellence begins immediately following the Sat. evening program, weather permitting. Optical judging will be broken into categories according to telescope aperture and optical design. Telescopes entered in the optical competition must be fitted with an eyepiece that will provide at least 30x per inch of aperture.

REGISTER YOUR TELESCOPE VIA THE WEB: If you wish, you can register your telescope for the competition at www.stellafane.com. **Note that you must still check in at the Pink Clubhouse Saturday morning or your telescope will not be judged.**

2000 Judging Committee:
David Kelly & Scott Milligan; Co-chairmen

THANKS!!

The *Springfield Telescope Makers* would like to thank everyone who has given their support regarding the Springfield prison!

ASTRONOMY WITH A VIDEO CAMERA

John Martin, of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will give a presentation on his efforts at astro-imaging with the Schupmann telescope and a video camera in the McGregor Obs. at 12 noon on Saturday.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM

This year's Saturday afternoon program begins under the tent located in the main camping/parking area at 1:30 p.m. Gary Seronik of S&T mag. is the master of ceremonies.

Bob Gent, IDA representative and VP of the Astro. League
"Preserving Our Night Skies – an IDA Update"

Maurizio Di Sciullo of Fallo, Italy
"High Resolution Color Planetary Imaging"

Bryan Greer of Worthington, Ohio
"Thermodynamic Effects on 'Scope Performance"

Alan Adler of Palo Alto, CA
"Flexing Spherical Mirrors into Quality Paraboloids"

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

The evening program will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday in the hillside amphitheater in the main camping/parking area. Bob Morse will be master of ceremonies.

- Greetings, announcements and raffle drawing.
- Stellafane Shadowgram: by David Levy.
- Presentation of Telescope Competition Awards.
- Stellafane Keynote Talk: "No Small Dreams – The Story of Russell Porter and Palomar" by Tony Cook. An astronomical observer at the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, CA, Tony Cook will illustrate the evolution of the design of the 200" Hale Telescope using illustrations by Stellafane founder Russell Porter.

OPTICAL COMPETITION REGISTRATION

You can register for the optical competition Saturday 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 9:30 to 10 p.m. in the Pink Clubhouse. **All entrants for the optical competition must check in at the Pink Clubhouse between 9:30 and 10 p.m. even if they registered for the optical competition in the morning or your telescope will not be judged!!!**

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

If you require special accommodations at the convention site please contact us as soon as possible. Include a note when you register or go to: www.stellafane.com.

STELLAFANE LEGAL DEFENCE FUND

Tax deductible contributions to the Stellafane Legal Defense Fund can be mailed to: Stellafane, PO Box 610, Springfield, VT 05156

1999 COMPETITION WINNERS:

MECHANICAL DESIGN:

- 1st Craig Neun: 8" f-7 Newtonian
- 2nd Bob Novack: 10" f-7 Newtonian
- 3rd Joe Derek: 8" f-6 Newtonian
- 4th Robert Collara: 6" f-4 Newtonian

MECHANICAL DESIGN -- JUNIOR AWARD:

- 1st David Windish: 6" f-4 Newtonian
- 2nd Ben Innes: 4" f-5 Newtonian
- 3rd Tracy Lindloe: 6" f-8 Newtonian
- 4th Roxanne Attie-Moadel: 6" f-5 Newtonian

CRAFTSMANSHIP:

- 1st Bob Novack: 10" f-7 Yolo
- 2nd Victor Chiariza: 8" f-6 Newtonian
- 3rd Joe Derek: 12" f-6 Newtonian
- 4th Craig Neun: 8" f-7 Newtonian

SPECIAL AWARD:

- 1st Jim Daley: Rotating Mars Map
- 2nd Paul Schuler III: Spectroscope
- 3rd Alan Rifkin: Collapsing Tripod
- 4th Jeffrey Hines: Accessory Case

INNOVATIVE COMPONENT:

- 1st Jack McDermott: Use of PVC Piping

ROBERT COX AWARD: Jeffery Hines

The Optical Competition was clouded out. For more info. and photos of the competition please see the Stellafane web page: www.stellafane.com.

CONVENTION DEDICATION

This year's Stellafane convention is dedicated to the International Dark Sky Association for their tireless work in preserving our night sky. www.darksky.org, 3225 N. First Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719, 520-293-3198.

POST-CONVENTION NEWSGRAM FUND-RAISER

The post-convention Newsgram will contain highlights of the convention. The Newsgram will be mailed out by the end of October. All proceeds from this donation to be dedicated to convention site maintenance. To receive the Newsgram do one of the following:

- 1) If you're pre-registering for the convention just check off the appropriate box on the registration card and add \$10 to the registration cost.
- 2) If you're attending the convention but are not pre-registered please pick up a registration post card at the t-shirt or registration tables, check off the appropriate box and **MAIL** it in with \$10 by Sept. 30th.
- 3) If you're not attending the convention but would still like the Newsgram please **MAIL** \$10 to *Stellafane, P. O. Box 50, Belmont, MA 02178* by Sept. 30th.

HELP THE STELLAFANE WWW PAGE

If you are interested in contributing to the Stellafane www page please do so! Send articles, reports and especially **IMAGES** of the convention. Thanks! www.stellafane.com

STELLAFANE EAST: MAIN CAMPING/PARKING AREA

Work continues on the land purchased several years ago for the Convention by the *Springfield Telescope Makers*. After a decade of limited space we can now accommodate almost all the campers who request a site and we hope this will continue. Nevertheless, camping and parking space will still be tight. People interested in camping must read the special instructions in the registration section of this mailing. Controlled traffic is allowed to the Pink Clubhouse area for unloading and picking up telescopes. Unless otherwise allowed by a Convention official, there is no parking around the Pink Clubhouse. There is no assurance that light-free conditions will be maintained in the main camping/parking area. If you must avoid lights please bring your telescope to the telescope fields by the Pink Clubhouse. We ask that Conventioneers who are not camping to please try to park in the **day parking** sections. Please see the site map of the main camping/parking area for camping and parking locations as well as the locations of specific events. Campfires are not permitted.

FOOD SERVICE & COOKING

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are available throughout the Convention at the food tent next to the Bunkhouse. There is also limited ice available. **If you choose not to make use of the food service you must make provisions for your own food and water** -- there are supermarkets downtown. Cooking is allowed in the camping area. Camp stoves, charcoal grills and the like are allowed but **no camp fires!**

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found for the main camping/parking area is located at the t-shirt table next to the Bunkhouse. On Breezy Hill it's in the Pink Clubhouse.

QUESTIONS REGARDING CONVENTION

Check out the FAQ section at: www.stellafane.com.

PARKING NEAR THE PINK CLUBHOUSE

Parking at the Pink Clubhouse is **VERY** limited. We try to reserve the few spots available for those who are unable to walk up the hill or can not take the Shuttle-Bus. If you are entering a telescope in the competition and must drive up to deliver your 'scope please drop it off and move your car to the main camping/parking area as quickly as possible. We very much appreciate your cooperation in this area.

STELLAFANE ENDOWMENT FUND

The endowment fund will one day guarantee that Stellafane can pay unavoidable costs in the event that the convention cannot be held. For information please go to the Pink Clubhouse or www.stellafane.com. All contributions to the legal defense fund are tax deductible.

STELLAFANE PINK CLUBHOUSE AREA

The Clubhouse and the Turret Telescope are located at the summit of Breezy Hill. The shuttle bus will operate between this area and the main camping/parking area to aid you in your visit to the summit. The Turret Telescope will be operating during the day for solar viewing as well as observing at night. You can also visit the Pink Clubhouse throughout the Convention. Telescopes, some of which will be participating in the mechanical and/or optical competition, will be set up in the observing fields. The mechanical competition will take place Saturday morning starting at 10:00 and the optical competition will begin that evening at 10:00. There will also be several historical telescopes set up near the Clubhouse, including Stellafane's original solar projection telescope.

STELLAFANE LIGHTING POLICY

Stellafane does not allow open white lights, on clear nights, during the hours of darkness, except for ½ hour after the Fri. and Sat. talks end. Vehicular travel after dark is strongly discouraged and is done only at the risk of the operator. We thank you for your cooperation.

PORTER TURRET TELESCOPE

The Porter Turret Telescope will operate during the day for solar viewing as well as observing at night.

CONVENTION SITE INFORMATION

The INFORMATION CENTER is located next to the Bunkhouse in the main camping/parking area coincident with the t-shirt table.

PHONE SERVICE: There is a pay telephone located in the Bunkhouse that is available for use by Conventioneers.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE: There are several doctors at the Convention site on call at all times. They can be contacted at the Pink Clubhouse or the Information Center. There are first-aid kits located at both locations in addition to telephones to contact the local hospital. Please report to either location with any medical emergency.

CONVENTION STAFF are identified by their **light-blue** t-shirts with the Stellafane logo on the front and *Springfield Telescope Makers* on the back. Locations that are continuously staffed by Convention personnel are the Pink Clubhouse, the registration table and the Bunkhouse in the main camping/parking area. Please report to any of these locations with questions.

RAFFLE DRAWING: There is a raffle drawing Saturday evening just before the keynote talk. Astronomical prizes are donated by noted vendors from across the country. You can find out what prizes will be raffled off and purchase tickets at the t-shirt table.

WHERE IS THE STELLAFANE SITE MAP??

You'll receive a map of the convention when you arrive.

A NOTE TO FIRST-TIMERS

If this is your first visit to the Stellafane Convention, especially if you are camping, there are several things you should know. First, our camping is very primitive. Only portable chemical toilets are available. **You should bring your own drinking water.** There are no showers, no electrical hookups and no isolated campsites. You are likely to be camping back-to-back with others and while this usually makes for good friendships, it can cause other side effects. The Convention site is often hot and dusty. Furthermore, the land is all carved out of a rugged Vermont hillside. Bring comfortable clothes and walking shoes. Sunscreen by day and insect repellent by night should be the first order of business and always be prepared for a possible thunder shower. White lights are not permitted on the grounds after dark as there will be people observing throughout the Convention site. Bring a **RED FILTER** for your flashlight! If you forget to bring a red filter you can stop by the t-shirt table or the Pink Clubhouse to get one. Please see the Food Service & Cooking section for food accommodations. We do our best to see that everyone has a happy and comfortable Convention but don't be surprised by our rustic conditions -- they are part of the Stellafane tradition.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BULLETIN

What info would you like to see in this bulletin that's not here? Please let us know. Write to: *Stellafane, PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156* or go to www.stellafane.com. Thanks!

STELLAFANE WWW HOME PAGE

<http://www.stellafane.com>

THE ULTIMATE STAR PARTY?

Although the oldest and perhaps best known, the Stellafane Convention is but one of the growing number of astronomy conventions in North America. Our reputation and the fact that publications list the Stellafane Convention along with star parties in their calendars of events causes some people to arrive at the meeting expecting the ultimate observing experience. In truth, the Stellafane Convention began in the 1920's as a meeting of amateur telescope makers. There has always been observing but it does not have the emphasis that it does at gatherings such as the Texas Star Party or Florida's Winter Star Party. The Convention is on the outskirts of town and minor light pollution is visible in the sky over Stellafane.

DIRECTIONS FROM I-91:

Take Exit 7 to Route 11 West. Staying on Route 11 for 4.5 miles, you'll come to the Springfield Plaza and McDonald's in the center of town (see map below). One and one half miles past McDonald's on Route 11, look for a sign that will point to the left turn at Breezy Hill Road which will take you up to the Convention site. Note that the Breezy Hill Road turn off of Route 11 is directly across from "Green Mountain Classic Cars." If you see the Palomar Motel on the right, you've gone too far on Route 11. Head straight up the hill. The road will come to a "T" just past the end of the pavement -- make a right. Then, make the first left. You'll quickly come to a SHARP RIGHT turn -- be careful! Go up the hill to the registration booth.

HAVE A GREAT CONVENTION!!!

The Springfield Telescope Makers

