STELLAFANE



The 67th Convention of Amateur Telescope Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont. Friday, August 9th and Saturday, August 10th, 2002

"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

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. For additional information please check out the home page www.stellafane.com. Enjoy the convention!

PLEASE NOTE AN IMPORTANT SCHEDULE CHANGE DURING CONVENTION: The optical judging has been rescheduled for Friday night! There will be no optical judging Saturday night unless clouds interfere with the optical competition on Friday. It is hoped there will be a better chance of getting the optical judging completed if there are two nights available instead of one. There has been no optical judging the previous three conventions because of clouds. Also, please check the **NEW POLICIES REGARDING OPTICAL JUDGING ENTRIES** section for additional details.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A description of events is inside this bulletin.

Friday, August 9th:

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 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.

3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Special kids program in the Pink House.

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Hartness House museum open.

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Registration for optical competition.

8:30 p.m. Informal tent talks begin.

10 p.m. Optical competition begins.

10 p.m. Registration gate closes.

Saturday, August 10th:

7 a.m. Registration gate opens.

7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Swap tables open.

8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Registration for mechanical comp.

Saturday, August 10th -- continued:

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Shuttle bus operates.

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mirror grinding demo under the tent.

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Telescope mechanical competition.

11 a.m. Astronomy activities for kids in McGregor Obs.

2 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.

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Registration for optical competition. Ψ

7 p.m. Evening program begins in the amphitheater.

10 p.m. Optical competition begins. Ψ

Sunday, August 11th:

8 a.m. - Noon: Convention cleanup.

9 a.m. - Noon: Hartness House museum open.

 Ψ The optical competition on Saturday will take place only if the competition is clouded out on Friday!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION: Advance registration, for the weekend, is \$20 per person before July 20th. After that, the fee is \$25. We urge everyone to pre-register before July 20th. 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.

CAMPING: The camping fee is an additional \$25 per site. Campsites are limited to one vehicle and one tent.

CONFIRMATIONS: We will **NOT** confirm registrations. You will only hear from us in the event that we are unable to fulfill your registration request.

LARGE CAMPERS: Towed campers and RVs longer than 17 FEET require a special camping permit. If you require such a permit you must contact us before July 20th. Large campers are absolutely required to arrive and be in place at the convention site between 12 Noon and 4 p.m. on Thursday and, once parked, may not move until Sunday morning! Please note that only people with a large camper and a large camper permit will be admitted on Thursday. No exceptions! Large campers that do not have a permit will not be admitted to the convention site at any time! Please check the appropriate box on the registration card and mail it in as soon as possible.

CHILDREN'S GROUPS: School groups, scouts and similar children's groups are welcome. Groups absolutely must contact us prior to July 20th for pricing!

WHAT TO DO: 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 02478. Everyone, except family members under 16 years of age accompanied by an adult, must pay to attend. Absolutely no registrations will be processed after August 4th. All requests after that time must be handled when you arrive.

SUMMARY:

- 1) Adults: \$20 before July 20th, \$25 thereafter.
- 2) Family members under 16 with an adult: Free.
- 3) Camping: \$25 per site with an adult registration.
- 4) No reg. requests will be processed after August 4th.
- 5) Children's groups: Must contact us before July 20th!

CONTACT INFORMATION: For information regarding convention registration you can write to the above address or email us at: stellafane www@yahoo.com.

GETTING ON THE 2003 MAILING LIST: The only way to get on the mailing list for the 2003 convention is to send in a registration card. If you are pre-registering for the 2002 convention, you'll automatically be put on the mailing list for next year. If you are 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 2003 convention mailing.

MOTELS, HOTELS AND CAMPGROUNDS

The following is a lodging list in the area. We suggest you make your reservations as soon as possible. For additional information contact the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce, 14 Clinton St., Springfield, VT 05156.

Phone: 802-885-2779, Fax: 802-885-6826 Web: www.springfieldvt.com Email: chamber@springfieldvt.com

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 Express	802-885-4516	Springfield
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	802-875-2794	Chester
The Castle	800-697-7222	Cavendish
Cavindish 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	~F8
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
Chester Inn. Assoc.	802-875-6211	Chester
Fullerton Inn	802-875-2444	Chester
Chester Inn	802-875-2444	Chester
Gaffron/Hargrove	802-885-1699	Springfield
Greenleaf Inn	802-875-3171	Chester
Gwendolyn's	877-493-6365	Perkinsville
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	Westminister
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		Windsor
Ascuttley St, Park	802-674-2060	vv IIIUSOI

2003 STELLAFANE CONVENTION

The 2003 Stellafane Convention is August 1st and 2nd.

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. 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. 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 5th-Annual Stellafane horseshoe pitching contest is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Friday near the McGregor Observatory. There will be adult and kid's competitions. "Astro" prizes will be awarded. The winner of the kid's competition will receive a telescope kit from "Stargazer" Steve Dodson and will build the telescope Saturday.

JEANNE KRZYWICKI ATM LIBRARY

The Jeanne Krzywicki ATM library, in the McGregor Observatory, will be open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. both Friday and Saturday and in the evening if it's cloudy.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

There are several astronomy related classes for children which will take place in the McGregor Obs. Please consult the schedule for the times. The *Springfield Telescope Makers* would like to extend a special thanks to Kris Larsen, who has been taking time out of the convention to spearhead the children's activities since 1995

YOUTH PHOTO SESSION

Young astronomers, 17 years of age and under, are invited to a special photo session in the Pink Clubhouse between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Friday. Youngsters who bring their telescope will receive their photo taken with and autographed by Carolyn Shoemaker and David Levy, free! If you haven't yet brought your child to Stellafane this would be an excellent year to start!

GATE POLICY

Anyone arriving after 10 p.m. 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 10 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. Saturday you **MUST** be pre-registered!

STELLAFANE LIGHTING POLICY

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

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. Conventioneers can plan a visit to the 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.

FRIDAY EVENING TALKS

Friday evening, August 9th, 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.

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 and must be responsible for their own material. There are some tables provided but space is limited. 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.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM

This year's Saturday afternoon program begins under the tent at 2 p.m. Wayne Zuhl, of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will be the master of ceremonies.

Ryan M. Hannahoe, Leesport, PA

"Astronomical League's Youth Activities Committee Report"

Matt BenDaniel, Medford, MA

"Astrophotography: Comparing Film and CCD"

Ken Slater, Westborough, MA

"Building and Using a Foucault Tester"

Cliff Haas, Rocky Hill, CT

"Protecting Your Right To The Night"

CONVENTION DEDICATION

This year's event is dedicated to Youth in Astronomy.

NEW POLICIES REGARDING OPTICAL JUDGING ENTRIES

Registration for the optical competition will take place on Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Pink Clubhouse. In addition, you are encouraged to register your telescope via the Stellafane web page. Keep in mind that if you register your instrument via the web, you must still check in at the Pink Clubhouse Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. or your telescope will not be judged! Set up your scope on Breezy Hill before you check in at the Pink Clubhouse and inform the judges of the location of your scope. If the position of your scope changes it is your responsibility to report its new location to the judges in the Pink Clubhouse. Failure to do so will result in your scope not being judged!

All scopes in the competition must be fitted with an eyepiece with a focal length, in millimeters, approximately equal to the focal ratio of the instrument. Your instrument must be properly collimated before judging begins at 10 p.m. Also, be prepared to point your scope at the star Altair when the judges arrive.

If the weather permits the completion of the judging on Friday night the optical judging will be closed for the duration of the convention and optical awards will be presented during the evening program, Saturday night. If the optical judging can not be completed Friday night, it will be continued on Saturday night, weather permitting. Additional optical entries may be accepted on Saturday, at the discretion of the judges. To inquire about this possibility, please ask a judging representative in the Pink Clubhouse from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. or from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday.

In the eventuality that the competition will have to be continued Saturday, some 'scopes that were judged on Friday might need to be judged again. Please inquire with the judges if your scope will need to be available again on Saturday. If the optical judging cannot be successfully completed by the end of Saturday night, a partial field of optical excellence awards may be given, at the discretion of the judges.

Please note that it is the intention of the Stellafane judging committee to have the optical competition completed Friday night, weather permitting. Therefore, to ensure that your instrument is judged you must be registered for the Friday night judging.

REGISTER YOUR TELESCOPE VIA THE WEB

If you will be in the telescope competition, you are encouraged to register via www.stellafane.com. Note that you must still check in at the Pink Clubhouse before the competition or your telescope will not be judged!

STELLAFANE WWW HOME PAGE

www.stellafane.com

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 email: stellafane_www@yahoo.com.

TELESCOPE MECHANICAL COMPETITION THE HEART AND SOUL OF STELLAFANE!

If you have built a telescope, special gadget or restored a historical instrument, we strongly encourage you to bring it and enter it in the competition. We welcome all homemade telescopes in the display area. They do not have to be entered in the competition!

REGISTRATION: Registration for the mechanical competition will be between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Saturday morning in the Pink Clubhouse. In addition, you are encouraged to register your telescope via the Stellafane web page. Keep in mind that if you register your instrument via the web, you must still check in at the Pink Clubhouse Saturday morning or your telescope will not be judged. You can drive up to the Pink Clubhouse area 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 as early as possible.

COMPETITION: Only telescopes that are operative both mechanically and optically will be accepted in the mechanical 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.

2002 Judging Committee:

David Kelly & Scott Milligan; Co-chairmen

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

The evening program will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday in the hillside amphitheater. Bob Morse, of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will be Master of Ceremonies.

- -- Greetings, announcements and raffle drawing.
- -- Stellafane Shadowgram: by David Levy.
- -- Presentation of Telescope Competition Awards.
- -- Stellafane Keynote Talk: "Comet Hunting the New-Old Fashioned Way" by Carolyn Shoemaker. Working as a photographic comet hunter with 32 comets to her credit, an all-time record for a person, Carolyn Shoemaker will be talking about the comet survey that she conducted with her husband, Gene Shoemaker, for many years at the Palomar observatory.

2001 COMPETITION WINNERS

MECHANICAL DESIGN, ADULT AWARDS:

1stBob Novak:16" Cassegrain2ndVictor Chiarizia:16" Newtonian3rdCarl Lancaster:18" Newtonian4thAlan Hall:8" Newtonian

MECHANICAL DESIGN, JUNIOR AWARDS:

1st Ewan Douglas: 6" Newtonian

CRAFTSMANSHIP:

1stNormand Fullum:8" Newtonian2ndCarl Lancaster:18" Newtonian3rdBob Novak:16" Cassegrain4thVictor Chiarizia:16" Newtonian5thBrad Vietje:8" Newtonian

SPECIAL AWARDS:

1st Brian Lula: Motorized Equatorial Mt.
2nd - Tie: Bob May: 200" Focal Length Refractor
2nd - Tie: Barry Crist: 2" Scale Model 'Scope

INNOVATIVE CONCEPT:

1st Pierre Lemay: Folding Tripod

INNOVATIVE COMPONENT:

1st Joe Derek: Motorized Rotating Tube

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

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 optical competition will begin Friday evening at 10 p.m. Please note the schedule change! The mechanical competition will take place Saturday morning starting at 10 a.m. There will also be several historical telescopes set up near the Clubhouse, including Stellafane's original solar projection telescope.

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!

CONVENTION NEWSGRAM FUND-RAISER

The post-convention Newsgram will contain highlights of the convention. The Newsgram will be mailed out by the end of November. All proceeds from this donation are 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 preregistered please pick up a registration 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 02478 by Sept. 30th.

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. You can find out what prizes will be raffled off and purchase tickets at the T-shirt table.

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.

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 all conventioneers who request a camping 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 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. Campfires are not permitted.

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.

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 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.

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 endowment fund are tax deductible.

HAVE A GREAT CONVENTION!

The Springfield Telescope Makers

