



STELLAFANE

The 66th Convention of Amateur Telescope
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.
Friday, August 17th and Saturday, August 18th, 2001



"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 re-scheduled 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 two conventions because of clouds on Saturday night. **PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO ANYONE YOU THINK MAY NEED TO KNOW!**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A description of events is inside this bulletin.

Friday, August 17th:

- 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.
- 9:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Registration for optical competition.
- 10 p.m. Optical competition begins.
- 10 p.m. Registration gate closes.

Saturday, August 18th:

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

Saturday, August 18th -- continued:

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

- 9:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Registration for optical competition.
- 10 p.m. Optical competition begins.

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

Sunday, August 19th:

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

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION: Advance registration, for the weekend, is \$20 per person before July 28th. After that, the fee is \$25. We urge everyone to pre-register before July 28th. 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 28th. 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 groups are welcome. Groups absolutely must contact us prior to July 28th for pricing and arrangements!

SUMMARY:

- 1) Adults: \$20 before July 28th, \$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 11th.
- 5) Children's groups: Must contact us before July 28th!

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 that arrive after August 11th. All registrations after that time must be handled when you arrive.

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 2002 MAILING LIST: The only way to get on the mailing list for the 2002 convention is to send in a registration card. If you are pre-registering for the 2001 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 2002 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 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 |
| 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 | 802-875-2794 | 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 |
| Chester Inn. Assoc. | 802-875-6211 | |
| Fullerton Inn | 802-875-2444 | Chester |
| Chester Inn | 802-875-2444 | Chester |
| Gaffron/Hargrove | 802-885-1699 | |
| Glen Finert Farm | 802-875-2160 | Chester |
| 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 | 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 |

2002 STELLAFANE CONVENTION

The 2002 Stellafane Convention is August 9th and 10th.

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 4th-Annual Stellafane Horseshoe pitching contest is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday near the McGregor Observatory. There will be adult and junior competitions. "Astro" prizes will be awarded.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

There are several one hour astronomy related activities for children which will take place in the McGregor Observatory. Please consult the schedule 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. 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. The 10" refracting turret telescope can also be inspected.

FRIDAY EVENING TALKS

Friday evening, August 17th, 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.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT CONVENTION

If you would like to volunteer to help at the convention on Friday and/or Saturday please go to www.stellafane.com.

TELESCOPE OPTICAL COMPETITION

Note the optical competition has been re-scheduled for Friday night! **There will be no optical judging Saturday night unless the optical competition is interfered with by clouds on Friday.** Please report to the Pink Clubhouse at 9:30 p.m. Friday to register for the optical competition. Optical judging will be broken into categories according to telescope aperture and optical design. Telescopes in the competition must be fitted with an eyepiece that will provide at least 30x per inch of aperture.

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.

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 home-made 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 and 10:00 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 still must 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.

2001 Judging Committee:
David Kelly & Scott Milligan; Co-chairmen

2000 COMPETITION WINNERS

MECHANICAL DESIGN, ADULT AWARDS:

| | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st | Joseph Derek, Jr.: | 12 ½" Newtonian |
| 2nd | Al Francis: | 12 ½" Newtonian |
| 3rd | J. Biretta, J. Hutton & R. Wessling: | 8" Schiefspiegler |
| 4th | C. J. Park: | 6" Newtonian |

MECHANICAL DESIGN, JUNIOR AWARDS:

| | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------------|
| 1st | Ryan Hannahoe: | 6" Newtonian |
| 2nd | Alex Smith: | 6" Newtonian |
| 3rd | Emilie Spaulding: | 4 ¼" Newtonian |
| 4th | Jason Midiri: | 6" Newtonian |
| 5th | Kristin Cecce: | 1" Refractor |

CRAFTSMANSHIP:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Normand Fullum: | 7" Newtonian |
| 2nd | Joseph Derek, Jr.: | 12 ½" Newtonian |
| 3rd | C. J. Park: | 6" Newtonian |
| 4th (tie) | Ray Harder: | 14 ½" Newtonian |
| 4th (tie) | Kelly Jons: | 3" Refractor |

SPECIAL AWARDS:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Michael Hill: | Solar Spectroscope |
| Barry Crist: | 1 ½" Newtonian |

INNOVATIVE COMPONENT:

| | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1st | Emilie Spaulding: | Dual Position Mount |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------|

ROBERT COX AWARD:

J. Biretta, J. Hutton & R. Wessling: 8" Schiefspiegler

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

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.

John Dobson, San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers
"Cosmology Question and Answer Session"

Barry Santini, Seaford, NY
"Refractive Surgery Optimized for Amateur Astronomers"

Michael Hill, Marlborough, MA
"Construction of a Spectroheliograph"

Dr. Peter Chen of NASA Goddard
"Fun with Lightweight Composite Mirrors and Telescopes"

STELLAFANE ATM LIBRARY

The Stellafane ATM library in the McGregor Observatory will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. both Friday and Saturday and in the evening if it's cloudy.

STELLAFANE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Stellafane is currently engaged in legal negotiations with the State, which has been very receptive to our concerns thus far, regarding the lighting at the Springfield prison. Tax deductible contributions to the Stellafane Legal Defense Fund can be mailed to: Stellafane, PO Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156.

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

The evening program will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday in the hillside amphitheater. Bob Morse will be MC.

- Greetings, announcements and raffle drawing.
- Stellafane Shadowgram: by David Levy.
- Presentation of Telescope Competition Awards.
- Stellafane Keynote Talk: "Urban Radio Astronomy" by Derrick Pitts. Working as an urban astronomy educator and planetarium director in Philadelphia for the past 20 years, Derrick Pitts will describe how he organized local resources using radio, television and the planetarium to create a unique partnership which provides an enjoyable astronomical experience for the local community.

CONVENTION DEDICATION

This year's Stellafane convention is dedicated to the memory of Roger Tuthill, well-known amateur astronomer, telescope maker, and entrepreneur from New Jersey. Known to a myriad of friends as "Tut", Roger Tuthill was a fixture at Stellafane for three decades where he will best be remembered for his strong handshake and warm, smiling greeting. He truly was, as his company's slogan proclaimed, everyone's "astronomical friend".

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

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.

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

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 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 pre-registered 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.

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 is located in the Pink Clubhouse.

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 conventioners 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 main camping/parking area. If you must avoid lights please bring your telescope to the telescope fields by the Pink Clubhouse. We ask that Conventioners 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!**

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

SPRINGFIELD PRISON UPDATE

The Springfield Telescope Makers are currently working with the State of Vermont on the issue of lighting at the prison. While the negotiations are still under way, the State appears to be very receptive to our concerns and is committed to working with us on reaching a lighting arrangement that will be acceptable to both parties. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in this matter! Keep tabs on the web page for additional updates.

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.

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 10:00 p.m. Please note the schedule change!** The mechanical competition will take place Saturday morning starting at 10:00 a.m. There will also be several historical telescopes set up near the Clubhouse, including Stellafane's original solar projection telescope.

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 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 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.

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 Conventioners.

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.

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.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BULLETIN

What information 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

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



