

# STELLAFANE

1926-1983

Saturday, August 6, 1983

The 49th Convention of Amateur Telescope Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.

Friday evening, August 5th, 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 6th, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, and Sunday morning, August 7th, 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 10 a.m. on Saturday, so please have your project registered and on display by that time if possible. Last registration will be at 12:00 noon. 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

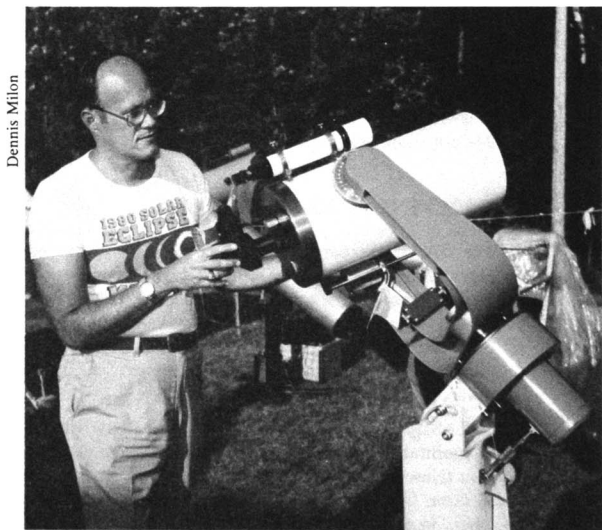
Berton Willard and Dennis di Cicco, Co-chairmen

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

## 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.

George East and his award-winning Maksutov at the 1982 convention.



## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Glenn Chaple, Jr., of Townsend, Massachusetts, will monitor the afternoon talks, which begin at 2:00 p.m. under the tent behind the clubhouse. Mr. Chaple is a science teacher at Groton-Dunstable Regional Secondary School and an editor for both *Deep Sky Magazine* and *Odyssey*.

*Wethersfield II* — Phil Dombrowski, Glastonbury, Connecticut

On November 8th, 1982, at about 9:15 p.m., Wethersfield, Connecticut, acquired a unique status — for the second time in less than a dozen years a meteorite crashed through the roof of a home there (a different house in each case). Mr. Dombrowski was one of the first people to interview the homeowners about the incident. He also interviewed a number of witnesses to the meteorite's fiery passage through the atmosphere.

*Professional Optical Production Techniques* — Peter Ceravolo, Toronto, Ontario

With a background in amateur telescope making, Mr. Ceravolo recently completed his apprenticeship as an optician with Applied Physics Specialties in Toronto. He will discuss production techniques of lenses, prisms, and mirrors and describe some of the professional equipment used to make them.

*Some Considerations of Modern Optical Systems* — Mike Simmons, Tucson, Arizona

Mr. Simmons, a well-known optical designer who will be attending his 20th consecutive Stellafane, will talk about the performance of a number of optical designs, both new and old. He will also address some of the ways people can improve the performance of the systems they are currently making (or using). Many will find his comments regarding the virtues of surface accuracy and central obstruction size very surprising.

*Solar H-alpha Photography: Trying for Professional Results with Amateur Equipment* — John Hicks, Keswick, Ontario

For more than a year Mr. Hicks has been experimenting with methods to enhance hydrogen-alpha "filtergrams" of the Sun made with modest amateur equipment. Mr. Hicks has had a number of his photographs published in astronomical journals, and has received an award for his work from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

## EVENING PROGRAM

*Words of Welcome*

*Presentation of Awards*

*Stellafane Shadowgram* — Walter Scott Houston

*SETI: The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence* — Prof. Paul Horowitz, Harvard University

With current microwave technology we could communicate with another society no more advanced than our own anywhere in the galaxy. An interstellar telegram to any of the million nearest stars would cost less than \$1 per word. Dr. Horowitz will review some of the reasons why most scientists believe that other intelligent life inhabits our galaxy. He will describe how we might detect such life and discuss past, present, and planned searches for it. Dr. Horowitz is no stranger to Stellafane. In 1969, while an undergraduate at Harvard University, he brought a 4-inch Maksutov telescope to the convention and went home with second prize. He is currently a professor of Physics at Harvard and last spring began a search for extraterrestrial intelligence, funded by the Planetary Society, with the 84-foot radio telescope at Harvard, Massachusetts.

## CAMPING/PARKING AREA

The size of the camping/parking area has been reduced from recent years. Accordingly, there may be some rearrangement of the parking area. Persons not registered to camp at the convention site are asked to park where instructed by convention officials at the registration area. Controlled traffic is allowed to the top of Breezy Hill for unloading and picking up telescopes. Telescopes not entered in the competition are welcome in the camping area.

**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.

