

STELLAFANE

1926-1986

Saturday, August 2, 1986

The 51st Convention of Amateur Telescope
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.



Friday evening, August 1st, 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 talk during this session, you must submit a brief description of your planned presentation with your registration form. Talks are limited to 10 minutes and 20 slides. A 35-mm slide projector is available. Following the informal talks there will be observing (weather permitting) with the Porter Turret Telescope in front of the clubhouse.

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 convention-goers on Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. until noon, and Sunday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Light meals and snacks are available at Stellafane Friday evening and throughout the convention on Saturday. Barbequed chicken dinners are available for Saturday's lunch and dinner. Cooking is allowed in the camping area, and drinking water will be provided at the camping site beginning Friday afternoon. Camp stoves, charcoal grills, and the like are allowed, 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 also enter it in the competition. Awards are 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 begins at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, so please register your telescopes at the clubhouse and have it on display as early as possible. Registrations will not extend beyond noon. We try to have the judging completed in time for all to attend the afternoon talks. Judging for optical excellence begins immediately following the evening program (weather permitting). Only telescopes that are operative both mechanically and optically will be accepted in the competition. However, telescopes do not have to be judged in both categories. We also welcome all home-made telescopes in the display area; they do not have to be entered in the competition. The Porter Youth Award acknowledges the junior exhibitor (under 16 years of age) who shows the most promise for a career in science and technology.

SWAP TABLE

The swap table is where convention participants can trade or sell their astronomical and telescope-related items such as eyepieces, lenses, cameras, mirror-making materials, and observing accessories. This table is not for commercial sales. Participants must be responsible for their own material at the table, which is located near the clubhouse and operates all day Saturday until 7:30 p.m.

CAMPING/PARKING AREA

Much has happened in recent months concerning the parking and camping area at the convention as the note on the last page explains. Convention officials at the registration gate will direct participants to the appropriate camping and parking areas. Controlled traffic is allowed to the clubhouse for unloading and picking up telescopes. Unless otherwise allowed by a convention official, there is no parking allowed around the clubhouse. There is no assurance that light-free conditions will be maintained in the camping area. If you must avoid lights, especially car headlights, please bring your telescopes and cameras to the display field by the clubhouse. Furthermore, since there will also be observing from the camping area, we ask everyone to be considerate of others and avoid any unnecessary use of bright lights at night.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

This year's afternoon program, which begins under the tent behind the clubhouse at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, centers around a theme of color-corrected refracting telescopes for the amateur.

The Schupmann Telescope -- James A. Daley

This much-neglected design dating from the 19th century is a superb planetary telescope because of its freedom from axial and lateral color aberrations. The speaker has built numerous Schupmanns and is one of the world's leading experts on the telescope's history, design, and fabrication.

A Simple Eyepiece with No Color -- Berton C. Willard

Easily built from three simple, low-cost lenses of only one glass type, this eyepiece is excellent for planetary observations since it has zero axial color.

Design and Construction of a Super Planetary Telescope Objective -- Roland Christen

The amateur telescope maker can design and build a superb objective lens by choosing practical glasses that are readily available and not too costly.

Glass Choice for Improved Color Correction -- David Shafer

Roland Christen has done imaginative and pioneering work with "oiled" apochromatic triplet objectives and sub-aperture lenses to correct secondary color. The speaker will build upon Christen's work and suggest different glasses that should prove easier to work with because of their physical and chemical properties.

Astrographic, Apochromatic, and Other High Performance Telescopes -- Michael Simmons

This talk will include a discussion of the specifications and performance of several of the speaker's designs. Several of these telescopes have been displayed at previous Stellafane conventions.

EVENING PROGRAM

Words of Welcome

Presentation of Awards

Stellafane Shadowgram -- Walter Scott Houston

Of Comets and Things -- Dr. Brian Marsden

As 1986 has unofficially become The Year of the Comet, there could hardly be a more appropriate keynote speaker than Brian Marsden, who heads the International Astronomical Union's Center for Astronomical Telegrams and also the Minor Planet Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Marsden's office is the worldwide clearing house for comet discoveries, and Marsden is a leading expert on the orbits of comets and minor planets. An engaging speaker, Marsden has long advocated amateur involvement in serious cometary research.