



# STELLAFANE

The 63rd Convention of Amateur Telescope  
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.  
Friday, July 24th and Saturday, July 25th, 1998



*"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 relative new-comer to the convention. We have tried to organize the bulletin in a logical manner 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. Please check out the "NEW GATE POLICY" in Convention Registration section. Enjoy the convention!!

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A description of events is inside this bulletin.

### Friday, July 24th:

- 9 a.m. Registration gate opens.
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Shuttle bus operates.
- 1:30 p.m. Horseshoe pitching contest.
- 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Mirror grinding demo under the tent.
- 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Astronomy activities for kids.
- 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 25th:

- 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.
- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Telescope mechanical competition.
- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mirror grinding demo under the tent.

### Saturday, July 25th -- continued:

- 11 a.m. - noon. Astronomy activities for kids.
- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Technical talks under the tent.
- 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Astronomy activities for kids.
- 4 p.m. Informal social hour at 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. - 12 Midnight: Optical competition.

### Sunday, July 26th:

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

### Special Notes:

The INFORMATION BOOTH is located at the t-shirt table next to the Bunkhouse.

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

## MIRROR GRINDING DEMONSTRATION

There will be a hands on mirror making demonstration Friday at 2 p.m. 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. There will be a series of short lectures on general topics to help the beginner. The demonstration will continue Saturday at 10 a.m. unless poor weather causes the swap tables to preempt the space under the tent.

## FRIDAY EVENING TALKS

Friday evening, July 24th, 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 form. 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. If possible, you are encouraged to submit a description of your talk to Bob Morse at: [bmorse@keene.k12.nh.us](mailto:bmorse@keene.k12.nh.us)

## SWAP TABLES

The swap tables are where Convention participants can trade or sell their surplus astronomical and telescope-related items such as eyepieces, lenses, cameras, mirror-making materials and observing accessories. 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 map of the main camping/parking area for the location of the swap tables.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM

This year's Saturday afternoon program begins under the tent located in the main camping/parking area at 2 p.m. Scott Milligan of the Springfield Telescope Makers is the master of ceremonies.

"The Two-Micron All Sky Survey"

by Dr. Mike Skrutskie of Amherst, MA

"Optical Testing With a Home-Made Interferometer"

by Bob Collara of Bedford, MA

"Using the HST to Study NGC-1808"

by Jim Flood of Clark, NJ

"Designing Palomar: A New Look at Old Plans"

by Tony Cook of Griffith Obs, Los Angeles, CA

## 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 try to have the judging completed in time for all to attend the Saturday afternoon talks. 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 mechanical competition between 8:30 and 10:00 Saturday morning in the Pink Clubhouse. You can drive up to the Stellafane Pink Clubhouse area anytime Friday or Saturday 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 at the Pink Clubhouse 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 so you should attend to your telescope throughout the competition. 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 Saturday 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.

1998 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 in the main camping/parking area. Bob Morse will be master of ceremonies.

-- Greetings, announcements and raffle drawing.

-- Presentation of Telescope Competition Awards.

-- Stellafane Shadowgram, by David Levy.

"Vermont Nights: Past and Future."

-- Stellafane Keynote talk, by Dr. Steven Dick

"The Biological Universe." An astronomer and historian at the U.S. Naval Obs. in Washington, DC, Dr. Dick will discuss why most scientists and the public now believe the universe is filled with life.

## 1997 COMPETITION WINNERS:

### MECHANICAL DESIGN:

- 1st John Telesca, 18" f4.5 Newtonian-Dob.
- 2nd Robert Novak, Stevic-Paul T.C.T.
- 3rd Dan Davidson, 6" f9 Refractor.
- 4th Kelly Jons, 4" Folded Refractor.

### MECHANICAL DESIGN – JUNIOR AWARD

- 1st Patti Vogt, 4 1/4" Newtonian.
- 2nd Emma Garrison, 3" f6 Newtonian.
- 3rd Sara Schepis, 4 1/4" Refractor.
- 4th Neil Zimmerman, 3" Refractor.

### CRAFTSMANSHIP:

- 1st Pat Passalacqua, 6" f-9 Newt. on German Mt.
- 2nd John Telesca, 18" f4.5 Newt-Dobsonian.
- 3rd Dan Davidson, 6" f9 Refractor.
- 4th Kelly Jons, 4" Folded Refractor.

### SPECIAL AWARD:

- 1st Martin Mamar, Portable Obs.
- 2nd Bob Crelin, Comet Orrery.
- 3rd Cap Hausfield, Sundial.

### INNOVATIVE COMPONENT:

- 1st Friz Garrison, 4 1/4" f6 Aceylic Tube Newt.

## STELLAFANE EAST:

### MAIN CAMPING/PARKING AREA

Work continues on the land purchased several years ago for the Stellafane 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 camping 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 telescopes and cameras to the telescope fields by the Pink Clubhouse. We ask that Conventioneers who are not camping 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 on the Convention site.

### STELLAFANE ATM LIBRARY NEEDS BOOKS!!

The newly established "Stellafane Browsing Library", dedicated to Jeanne Krzywicki, is in need of ATM and astronomy books. If you'd like to donate any books, ect. please contact Maryann Arrien at 800-484-7333 pin# 1397 when prompted or marrien@computer.net or 71174.3564@compuserve.com or just bring material to the t-shirt table at convention.

### HORSESHOE PITCHING CONTEST

The First-Annual Stellafane Horseshoe pitching contest is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday near the McGregor Observatory. Report to that location to sign up.

### 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 Sept. 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 Aug. 15th.
- 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 Aug. 15th.

### 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 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 AND SECURITY: 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.

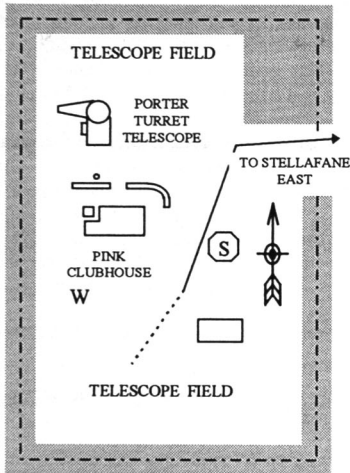
### STELLAFANE WWW HOME PAGE

<http://www.stellafane.com>

## STELLAFANE PINK CLUBHOUSE AREA

The Stellafane Pink Clubhouse and the Porter 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 Porter Turret Telescope will be operating during the day for solar viewing as well as observing all night. You can also visit the Pink Clubhouse throughout the Convention.

Map of the Stellafane Pink Clubhouse Area:



Telescopes, some of which will be participating in the mechanical and/or optical competition, will be set up in the observing fields throughout the Convention. 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.

### 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.

## 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 below 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.

### 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 -- there are supermarkets downtown. Cooking is allowed in the camping area and drinking water is available at several locations. Camp stoves, charcoal grills and the like are allowed but *no camp fires!*

### STELLAFANE HISTORY CORNER

The name *Stellafane*, originally stellar-fane, is Latin for "shrine to the stars" and was adopted by Russell Porter when the clubhouse was constructed in 1923. It officially refers to only the building but, over the years, has commonly been used to refer to the convention. To avoid confusion, the building was given the unofficial nickname "The Pink-Clubhouse" for obvious reasons.

Why a "pink" clubhouse? Two stories are told on that subject. The first is that, due to lack of funds upon the completion of the construction of the clubhouse, the club asked a local hardware store owner for a donation of paint. The proprietor agreed so long that he could choose the color which turned out to be "Stellafane Pink" and it's been kept that color ever since. The second is that Russell Porter requested that the clubhouse be painted "spruce-gum pink" which is white with just a tint of pink. Upon his next arrival on the hill he found that the member's misunderstood his request and painted the clubhouse the hot "Stellafane pink" that we see today. Again, thanks to tradition it's still that color today. It's not known which, if either, story is true.

### WHERE IS THE STELLAFANE SITE MAP??

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