

# STELLAFANE

1926-1980

Saturday, August 9, 1980

The 45th Convention of Amateur Telescope  
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont



On Friday evening, August 8th, at 8:30 p.m., there will be informal talks under the tent behind the Stellafane Clubhouse. If you wish to contribute a short, interesting talk at this session, then you must submit a description of your planned presentation with your registration form. These talks are limited to 25 slides and 15 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.

The *Hartness-Porter Museum of Amateur Telescope Making*, located in the underground rooms of the Hartness Turret Telescope at Hartness House, will be open for visitors on Saturday morning, August 9th, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, and on Sunday morning, August 10th, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.

Light lunches will be available at Stellafane on Friday evening and barbequed chicken dinners will be available for Saturday's lunch and supper, as well as other snacks. Cooking is also allowed in the camping areas, and water will be provided at the site beginning on Friday evening.

## TELESCOPE COMPETITION

This is a convention of amateur telescope makers. If you have built a telescope, we encourage you to bring it and enter in the competition. Awards will be presented for the telescopes exhibited. 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 commence at 12:00 noon, so please have your project registered and on display by that time. It is hoped 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 for both mechanical and optical awards.

A special *Porter Youth Award* will be presented to the junior exhibitor (under 16 years of age) who shows the most promise for a career in science and technology.

### JUDGING COMMITTEE

Dennis di Cicco and Berton Willard, Co-chairmen

Fred Chellis  
Ralph Dakin  
Donald Dilworth  
George East

George Keene  
Diane Lucas  
Tom Madigan  
Jean Paul Prideaux

Alan Rohwer  
Walter Singer  
Roger Tuthill  
Paul Valleli

## SWAP TABLE

The swap table so popular last year will be continued at this year's convention. It is a table where convention participants can trade or sell astronomical and telescope-related items such as eyepieces, cameras, telescope making materials, and observing accessories. This table is not for commercial items where the object offered belongs to the parent company. Although participants must be responsible for their own material, a convention official will also help watch over the table. The table will operate all day Saturday until 7:30 p.m., and will be located near the Stellafane Clubhouse.

Walt Hamler and his 1979 first-prize Newtonian: an 8-inch f/5 and 4¼-inch f/13 guide scope.



Photo by Fred Espenak, Jr.

## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

George East, Jr., of Randolph, Massachusetts, will monitor the afternoon tent talks from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

*Touring the Universe* — David Healy, Manhasset, New York

Mr. Healy's name is well known among astrophotographers. His experiences with photographing the heavens range from the light-polluted skies of Long Island, to the inky blackness of Naco, Arizona. His work has been spotlighted in every major astronomical publication in the United States as well as in other books and periodicals. With the dark-tent conditions on Friday night, Mr. Healy will begin the informal tent talks by showing some of his spectacular deep-sky photographs. On Saturday afternoon he will tell how the photographs were made.

*Double Stars* — Glenn Chaple, Townsend, Massachusetts

Mr. Chaple has long been a champion of the small telescope. For many years he has scanned the skies with a 3-inch reflector, specializing in double stars. He will deliver a brief history of double star observing, then give some tips for those interested in pursuing this aspect of observational astronomy.

*An Evaluation of Nine Films for Astrophotography* — George Keene, Canandaigua, New York

Mr. Keene's writings on telescope making and astrophotography have been inspiration to many Stellafaners. He will discuss the results of his recent tests on three black-and-white and six color emulsions manufactured by Eastman Kodak Company as used for astrophotography. Both laboratory and field tests with exposures ranging between one and 1,000 seconds were conducted. The talk will supplement his article on the same subject which appeared in last May's issue of *Sky and Telescope*.

*Work with a Blink Comparator* — Gerald Dyck, N. Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Mr. Dyck has been experimenting with a projection blink comparator (PROBLICOM) similar to the one developed by Ben Mayer (Stellafane's featured speaker in 1978). In addition to sky patrol work, Mr. Dyck has applied blink comparison to planetary motion, solar rotation, variable stars, lunar occultations, solar eclipses, and the changing lunar terminator. Some of his results will be shown.

*The HBO-400* — Bob Haughton and Jack Crossman, Ottawa, Canada

A home-built observatory for under \$400 (thus the HBO-400) will be the topic of these two speakers. Their brief talk will cover the design and construction of an 8-foot diameter dome-type observatory. A question and answer period will follow the talk.

## EVENING PROGRAM

George Keene of Canandaigua, New York, is the Master of Ceremonies this year and will preside over the Twilight Talks beginning at 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

*Words of Welcome* — Gov. Joseph B. Johnson

*Stellafane Shadowgram* — Walter Scott Houston

*Africa was Darker-An Eclipse Safari to Kenya and Egypt* — George T. Keene

In addition to being the Master of Ceremonies and delivering an afternoon talk under the tent, Mr. Keene will complete his triple play by highlighting the evening program with an illustrated talk about last February 16th's total solar eclipse which crossed Africa and India. He was a photographic consultant with the *Star and Sky* magazine expedition to Kenya where he stalked wild game animals and the moon's shadow. On the way home they stopped to wonder at the antiquities of Egypt.

## CAMPING/PARKING AREA

Non-campers are asked to park in orderly lines in the designated space (see map at right). *There are NO open fires allowed anywhere on the convention site.* Controlled traffic will be allowed to the summit for unloading and picking up telescopes entered in the competition. Telescopes not in the competition are also welcome at the convention. In the past, for every telescope entered in judging there have been two or three in the camping area used for observing and photography.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is no assurance that light-free observing conditions will be maintained in the camping area. If you must avoid automobile lights, please bring your telescopes and cameras to the summit. Since there will still be observing done from the camping area, be as courteous as possible to others. This goes for *both* observers and drivers. The camping area has been arranged to help keep lights of cars exiting from interfering with observers.

