

# STELLAFANE

1926-1984

Saturday, July 28, 1984

The 50th Convention of Amateur Telescope Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.

Friday evening, July 27th, 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 and 16-mm movie projector are available.

Following the informal talks 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 12:00 noon, and Sunday morning from 9:00 until 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 site beginning Friday afternoon. Camp stoves, charcoal grills, and the like are allowed, but open fires are not 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. on Saturday, so please have your project registered at the clubhouse and on display as early as possible. Registrations will close at 12:00 noon. We try to have the judging completed in time for all to attend the afternoon tent 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 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.

## JUDGING COMMITTEE

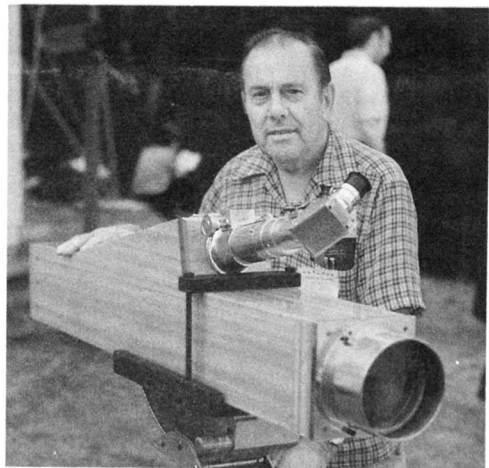
George Scotten and Dennis di Cicco, Co-chairmen

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

## 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 intended for commercial sales. Participants must be responsible for their own material at the table, which is located near the Stellafane clubhouse and operates all day Saturday until 7:30 p.m.

Dick Gerry's 5-inch f/15 folded refractor tied for 1st prize at last year's convention.



Roger W. Sinnott

## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

*A 14 1/4-inch Newtonian for Astrophotography* — Gary Frey, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Some 280 hours of design work and 400 hours of construction have gone into Mr. Frey's telescope. In addition to describing the instrument, he will also review several unusual machining techniques used while making the instrument. Mr. Frey ground his first mirror for an 8-inch, f/6 telescope at age 13 and has since gone on to build a number of other instruments. He is a past president of the Detroit Astronomical Society.

*Microcomputer Control of Telescopes* — Russell M. Genet, Fairborn, Ohio

Since the mid-1970's there has been growing interest in computer control of amateur telescopes. Dramatic advances in this field have taken place in the past few years with the explosive growth of sophisticated home computers. Mr. Genet, a well-known author of books on computers and photoelectric photometry, will cover some of the fundamental issues about computer control of telescopes. He hopes to have several working examples on hand at the convention.

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

In an update of his afternoon tent talk at the 1980 Stellafane, Mr. Healy will review some of the photographic techniques that have helped make him one of today's best-known astrophotographers. Topics will include his recent work with new films, filters, and hypersensitizing procedures. During the informal talks on Friday evening, when the tent is dark, Mr. Healy will show some of his deep-sky slides.

*A Simple Flat-Field Eyepiece* — Thomas L. Clarke, Miami, Florida

Many ATM's have been turning their attention to eyepieces in an effort to obtain better performance from their telescopes. Mr. Clarke will consider some of the aberrations encountered when designing an eyepiece. He will also discuss the advantages of his new design, which was described in the Winter, 1983, issue of Telescope Making.

## EVENING PROGRAM

*Words of Welcome*

*Presentation of Awards*

*Stellafane Shadowgram* — Walter Scott Houston

*The Stellar Frame Connection* — Ben Mayer, Los Angeles, California

This year's feature talk is perhaps best summarized by its subtitle — *Memoirs of a Love Affair with the Stars and a Chronicle of an Ongoing Celestial Romance*. Mr. Mayer "discovered" amateur astronomy about a dozen years ago. Since then he serendipitously photographed Nova Cygni in 1975. His night-long sequence was the first ever to capture a nova as it exploded. In an effort to record other such events, he launched the PROBLICOM sky survey, which has now discovered two more novae. He is an expert deep-sky astrophotographer and the author of *Starwatch*, a book that introduces people to the stars. In 1982 he received the Amateur Achievement Award from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. But apart from all this, Stellafaners may best remember Mr. Mayer for his feature talk at the 1978 convention. It was one of the most memorable ever delivered at the convention.

## CAMPING/PARKING AREA

The camping/parking area has been rearranged somewhat from past years, and it is hoped that this will create some additional camping sites. Those not registered to camp at the convention site are asked to park where instructed by convention officials at the registration gate. Controlled traffic is allowed to the top of Breezy Hill for unloading and picking up telescopes. Instruments not entered in the competition are welcome in the camping area.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is no assurance that light-free conditions will be maintained in the camping field. If you must avoid lights, bring your telescopes and cameras to the display field around the clubhouse. Since observing is done in the camping area, please be considerate of others and avoid any unnecessary use of bright lights.

