

STELLAFANE

1926-1985

Saturday, August 17, 1985

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

Friday evening, August 16th, 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

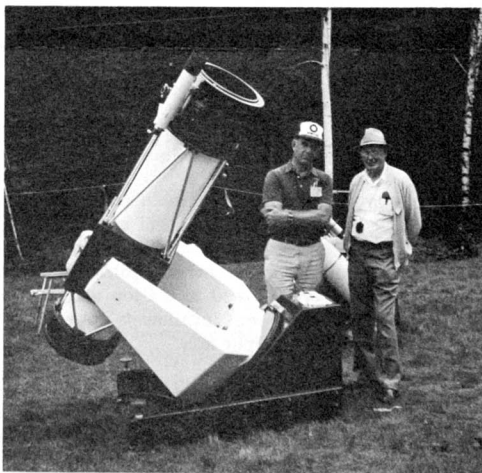
George Scotten and Dennis di Cicco, Co-chairmen

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.

George Fortier (left) and Herbert Widdop with Fortier's 1984 multi-award-winning 12½-inch f/6 reflector.



AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Archaeoastronomy in New England — Richard Lynch, Greenville, Rhode Island

Did the ancients have a better understanding of astronomy than they are often given credit for? In recent years there has been growing interest in astronomy of ancient cultures throughout the world. With this illustrated talk, Richard Lynch will take us on a tour of early sites in New England that may have astronomical significance.

Panel discussion on Halley's Comet

It is not news to Stellafaners that Halley's Comet is returning. In fact, if the weather cooperates, many observers may get their first views of the comet during the early morning hours at this year's convention, where the dark Vermont skies and large telescopes will help in viewing the faint comet as it rises out of the mid-August morning twilight.

A special feature of the 1985 Stellafane will be a panel discussion concerning the current apparition of Halley. Moderated by comet expert John Bortle of New York, the panel will include Daniel Green, Dr. Edward Brooks, and Stephen O'Meara. Bortle, one of the leading comet observers in the United States, writes a monthly column on the subject in *Sky & Telescope*. Green, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, is editor of the *International Comet Quarterly* and also a veteran comet observer. Boston College's Dr. Brooks is a meteorologist who is especially well known for his eclipse weather predictions. He has recently written several articles on weather prospects for viewing Halley around the world and in the southern United States and Mexico. O'Meara specializes in observing objects in the Solar System. Last January he became the first person in more than 74 years to observe Halley visually when he recovered the comet with the 24-inch Planetary Patrol Telescope on Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Your questions to these experts will make this one of the 1985 convention highlights.

EVENING PROGRAM

Words of Welcome

Presentation of Awards

Stellafane Shadowgram — Walter Scott Houston

Bob Cox's Time Machine — Robert E. Cox, O'Fallon, Missouri

The 1985 Stellafane marks the 50th convention of telescope makers on Breezy Hill. The first occurred in 1926, and, after an interruption around World War II, they have been held annually since 1954. Over the years telescope maker, author, and photographer Bob Cox has been a frequent participant at Stellafane, as well as other telescope-making conventions around the country. Through his slides and memories we will have an interesting look back at the people and events that have made Stellafane the internationally recognized home of amateur telescope making.

Bob began grinding his first telescope mirror in 1933 at age 16. As a professional optician he worked for several firms before retiring as a Senior Engineer at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis. For more than 20 years Bob conducted the Gleanings department in *Sky & Telescope* and currently he writes for *Telescope Making*.

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.

