



STELLAFANE

1926-1994

Saturday, August 6, 1994

The 59th Convention of Amateur Telescope
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.

Friday evening, August 5th, at 8:30 p.m., Bob Morse of the Springfield Telescope Makers will conduct the informal talks under the tent in the central camping 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 is available. Following the informal talks there will be observing (weather permitting) with the Porter Turret Telescope at the top of Breezy Hill.

The Hartness-Porter Museum of Amateur Telescope Making is located in the underground rooms of the Hartness Turret Telescope at Hartness House in Springfield. Convention-goers can plan a visit to the museum on Friday or Sunday. Light meals and snacks are available at Stellafane throughout the convention. Barbecued chicken dinners are available for Saturday's lunch and dinner. Cooking is allowed in the camping area, and drinking water is available at several locations in the camping area. Camp stoves, charcoal grills, and the like are allowed, but no open fires.

TELESCOPE COMPETITION

Stellafane is a non-commercial convention of amateur telescope makers. We do not have vendor displays or allow the sale of commercial products on the convention grounds. 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 restoration of historical instruments and 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 telescope at the clubhouse and have it on display as early as possible. Registrations will not extend beyond 10:30 a.m. 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). Optical judging will be broken into categories according to telescope aperture and optical design. 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.

1994 Judging Committee:

George East

James Flood

Michael Heliba

Christopher Houghton

David Kelly

John Martin

Scott Milligan

Philip Roundsville

Thomas Spirock

Paul Vallelli

Berton Willard

Ronald Woodland

CAMPING/PARKING AREA

Work continues on the land purchased for the Stellafane convention several years ago 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. Convention officials at the registration gate will direct participants to the appropriate camping and parking areas. Controlled traffic is allowed to the clubhouse on Breezy Hill for unloading and picking up telescopes. Unless otherwise allowed by a convention official, there is no parking around the clubhouse. There is no assurance that light-free conditions will be maintained in the camping area. If you must avoid lights, please bring your telescopes and cameras to the display field by the pink clubhouse on the summit of Breezy Hill. A shuttle bus will operate between the camping area and the summit Friday afternoon and all day on Saturday, making it easy to visit the telescope display area, the pink clubhouse, and the Porter Turret Telescope.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

This year's Saturday afternoon program begins under the tent in the central camping area at 2:00 p.m. Scott Milligan of the Springfield Telescope Makers is the master of ceremonies.

The Hubble Space Telescope: an Amateur's Odyssey

-- Pete Kandefer, New Hartford, Conn.

Composite Construction Techniques for Telescopes

-- John Dethoff, Reading, Penn.

Even You Can Assemble a Telescope

-- Peter Talmadge, Kennebunkport, Maine

EVENING PROGRAM

Robert (Bob) Morse of the Springfield Telescope Makers will be the master of ceremonies for the evening program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the hillside amphitheater in the main camping/parking area.

Announcements

Presentation of Awards

Stellafane Keynote Talk

New Results from the

Hubble Space Telescope

-- Robert Williams, Director, Space Telescope
Science Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

Following NASA's spectacular Suttle mission to refurbish the ailing Hubble Space Telescope last December, the orbiting observatory has been living up to its original expectations. Dr. Williams will describe the current status of the telescope and show images highlighting some of the scientific results that have come in the wake of the repair mission.

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 5th:

9:00 a.m. Registration gate opens
2:00 p.m. Shuttle bus service begins
4:00 p.m. Telescope Museum opens at Hartness House
6:00 p.m. Shuttle bus service ends
8:00 p.m. Telescope Museum closes
8:30 p.m. Informal tent talks

Saturday, August 6th:

8:00 a.m. Registration gate opens
8:00 a.m. Swap tables open
8:30 a.m. Telescope competition registration begins
9:00 a.m. Shuttle bus service begins
10:00 a.m. Telescope mechanical judging begins
10:30 a.m. Telescope competition registration ends
2:00 p.m. Technical talks begin under the tent
4:00 p.m. Informal social hour begins at pink clubhouse

5:00 p.m. Swap tables close
5:00 p.m. Shuttle bus service ends
7:30 p.m. Evening program begins in amphitheater
9:30 p.m. Late registration for optical competition begins
10:00 p.m. Registration for optical competition ends
10:00 p.m. Optical judging begins

Sunday, August 7th:

9:00 a.m. Telescope Museum opens at Hartness House
12:00 p.m. Telescope Museum closes

Special Notes:

A mirror-grinding demonstration will take place Friday afternoon under the tent.

Porter Turret Telescope opens at dark (weather permitting)

The Pink Clubhouse is open throughout the convention

Volunteers are needed to help with cleanup on Sunday morning: please assemble under the tent.