



STELLAFANE

The 62nd Convention of Amateur Telescope Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.
 Saturday, August 2, 1997



"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

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A description of events is inside this bulletin.

Friday, August 1st:

9 a.m. Registration gate opens.
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Shuttle bus operates.
 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Telescope making demo under the tent.
 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Hartness House museum open.
 8:30 p.m. Informal tent talks begin.

Saturday, August 2nd:

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. Telescope making demo under the tent.
 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Technical talks under the tent.
 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, August 3rd:

8 a.m. Clean up crew organizes under the tent.
 9 a.m. - Noon: Hartness House museum open.

Special Notes:

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

The Porter Turret Telescope will operate periodically during the day for solar viewing as well as observing all night, weather permitting. The Pink Clubhouse is open throughout the Convention.

Volunteers are needed to help with clean up beginning at 8 a.m. on Sunday. Please assemble under the tent.

A SHUTTLE BUS will operate between the main camping/parking area and the Stellafane Pink Clubhouse area Friday afternoon and all day on Saturday, making it easy to visit the telescope display area, the Pink Clubhouse and the Porter Turret Telescope.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

We urge everyone to pre-register before July 14th. Please note that camping permits for the Convention site are issued only through advance registration to people who have also prepaid their admission fee. Mark the appropriate information on the enclosed registration card and mail it with a check for the full amount payable to the Springfield Telescope Makers to: Stellafane, P. O. Box 50, Belmont, MA 02178.

Everyone except family members under 16 years of age must pay to attend the Convention. Advance registration is \$12 per person before July 14th; after that, and at the gate, the fee is \$15. Note: Please do not send any registration material to the above address that will arrive after July 28th. All registrations after that time must be handled at the registration gate. The camping fee is an additional \$25. Campsites are limited to one vehicle and one tent. This rule is strictly enforced!! Everyone who returns a registration card to the above address, whether or not they are registering for this year's Convention, will be on the mailing list for the 1998 Convention.

CONVENTION COST SCHEDULE:

Adults: \$12 before July 14th, \$15 after July 14th.

Child Registration (under 16 years of age): Free.

Camping: \$25 per site.

LARGE CAMPERS: Because of limited space, campers and RVs longer than 20 feet require a special camping permit. Only a small number are available, on a first-come basis. If you require such a permit, please check the appropriate box on the registration card. You will be sent the permit by mail before the Convention.

GETTING ON THE MAILING LIST: If you pre-register for the 1997 Convention, you are automatically put on the 1998 mailing list. If you are not pre-registered and would like to be on the mailing list, please pick up the registration post card from the registration or information table and **MAIL** it in with the proper information.

MOTELS AND HOTELS

The following is a partial list of inns and motels in and around the Springfield area. You must make your own reservations, and we suggest this be done as soon as possible since many are filled long before the Convention.

Hartness House	802-885-2115
Castle Inn	802-226-7222
The Abbey Lyn Motel	802-886-2223
Old Town Farm Lodge	802-875-2346
Greenleaf Inn	802-875-3173
Howard Johnson Motor Inn	802-885-4516
Maple Hedge Inn	603-826-5237

MIRROR GRINDING DEMONSTRATION

There will be a HAND-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, August 1st, 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: bob_morse@bbs.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. **NOTE: This is a new location from last year!!**

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 Mythical World of Telescopes" by Alan French.

"Design and Fabrication of a Doublet APO Using Fluorite Glass" by Bob Douglas.

Other talks to be announced.

QUESTIONS REGARDING CONVENTION

Please direct any questions regarding the Convention to the Club secretary at: tjs2481@mcgahertz.njit.edu

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 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.

1997 Judging Committee:

David Kelly & Scott Milligan, Co-chairmen

George East	Thomas Spirock	Berton Willard
James Flood	Ed Turco	Ron Woodland
Chris Houghton	Paul Valleli	
George Scotten	Gary Walker	

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 Keynote talk:

"So Many Galaxies ... So Little Time"

By Margaret Geller. A professor of astronomy at Harvard University, Dr. Geller will discuss her fifteen year effort to map the nearby universe which resulted in the discovery of large scale patterns in the distributions of galaxies.

1996 COMPETITION WINNERS:

OPTICAL EXCELLENCE – UNDER 12 1/2"

- 1st – David Groski, 8: f17 Newtonian
- 2nd – Allon Wildgust, 8: f5.4 Newtonian
- 3rd – Bill Tomaszewski, 6: f8 Newtonian

OPTICAL EXCELLENCE – OVER 12 1/2"

- 1st – Steve Eldridge, 16" f/6.2 Newtonian
- 2nd – Robert Midiri, 16: f6.9 Newtonian

OPTICAL EXCELLENCE – JUNIOR AWARD

- 1st – Chris Sousa, 8: f9 Newtonian
- 2nd – Joan O'Reilly, 6: f8.5 Newtonian

MECHANICAL DESIGN:

- 1st – Allon Wildgust, 8: f5.4 Newtonian
- 2nd – Arunah Hill Group, 13" Refractor
- 3rd – Kelly Jons, 2 1/4" Folded Refractor
- 4th – Doug Arion, 6: f7.5 Newtonian

MECHANICAL DESIGN – JUNIOR AWARD

- 1st – Rachel Hubbard, 6: f4.2 Newtonian
- 2nd – Chris Sousa, 8: f9 Newtonian
- 3rd – Joan O'Reilly, 6: f8.5 Newtonian
- 4th – Elizabeth Ward, 6: f6 Newtonian

CRAFTSMANSHIP:

- 1st – John Desbiens, 12 1/2" f6.4 Newtonian
- 2nd – Allon Wildgust, 8: f5.4 Newtonian
- 3rd – Kelly Jons, 2 1/4" Folded Refractor
- 4th – Doug Arion, 6: f7.5 Newtonian

SPECIAL AWARD:

Nick Bulzacchelli, Equatorial-Sundial.

INNOVATIVE COMPONENT:

Bill Tomaszewski, 6: f8 Newtonian.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Please ask at the Registration Gate or the Information Table for times and locations.

FOOD SERVICE & COOKING

Light meals and snacks are available throughout the Convention at the food tent next to the Bunkhouse located in the main camping/parking area. Barbecued chicken dinners are available for Saturday's lunch and dinner. 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. 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!*

CONVENTION DEDICATION

This year's Convention will be dedicated to the memory of King Smith, Sr., past owner of the Hartness House, who spent many years upkeeping the Hartness Turret Telescope, who passed away this winter.