

2011 Stellafane Convention



The 76th Convention of Amateur Telescope Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont
 Thursday, July 28th to Sunday, July 31st, 2011
 43° 16' 41" North Latitude, 72° 31' 10" West Longitude



"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, Founder of Stellafane, March, 1923

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 28th:

8 am-10 pm: Meteorite, Meteor, & Minor Planets Workshop at Hartness House
 3 pm-10 pm: Convention Early Entry

Friday, July 29th:

9 am: Registration Gate Open
 10 am-6 pm: Shuttle Bus Operates
 11 am: Astronomy Activities for Kids in McGregor Obs.
 12 pm-6 pm: Mirror Grinding Demonstrations⁵
 1:30 pm: Horseshoe Pitching Contest⁵
 3 pm-4 pm: Tour of the Turret Telescope <A1>^{1,4}
 3 pm-4 pm: Astronomy Activities for Kids in McGregor Obs.
 3 pm-4 pm: Astronomy for Young Adults in Amphitheater
 3:30pm-4:15pm: Seminar: Imaging with a DSLR Camera^{3,5}
 4:15 pm-5 pm: Just a Bunch of Amateurs^{4,5}
 4:15 pm-5 pm: Solar System Walk near Clubhouse <A2>^{1,4}
 5 pm-6 pm: Stellafane for Beginners in McGregor Obs. <A3>⁴
 5 pm-5:45 pm: Medical Effects of Light Pollution⁵
 5 pm-8 pm: Registration for Optical Competition¹
 5pm-8 pm: Hartness House Museum Open
 5:45 pm-6:30 pm: You Can Make the Universe More Accessible⁵
 6:30 pm-7:15 pm: John Winthrop's Observations of the Transits of Venus⁵
 7:15 pm-8:30 pm: Saving Hubble⁵
 8 pm: Imaging with a DSLR Camera (Demo) near Domed Obs.³
 8:30 pm: Informal Talks⁵
 10pm-11pm: Learning & Enjoying the Night Sky in McGregor Obs.⁴
 10 pm: Optical Competition Begins near Clubhouse¹
 10 pm: Registration Gate Closes

Saturday, July 30th:

7 am: Registration Gate Open
 7 am-5 pm: Swap Tables Open
 8 am-9:30 am: Registration for Mechanical Competition¹
 9 am-5 pm: Shuttle Bus Operates
 9:30 am-1 pm: Mirror Grinding Demonstration⁵

Sequences marked in brackets (ex: <A1>) are scheduled so that you can attend the entire sequence with similar topics, and will be near the next events at the end of the previous.

10 am-1 pm: Mechanical Competition near Clubhouse¹
 10:15 am-10:45 am: Stellafane for Beginners^{4,5}
 10:45 am-12pm: Saving Hubble⁵
 10:30 am-11:30 am: Telescope Field Walk near Clubhouse <B1>^{1,4}
 11 am-12 pm: Astronomy Activities for Kids in McGregor Obs.
 11:30 am: Tour the Turret Telescope (meet at Turret) <B2>^{1,4}
 12 pm-1:30pm: AAVSO Workshop: Monitoring Bright Stars for Fun & Profit^{3,5}
 12:30pm: Dipper Full of Stars in McGregor Obs.
 12:30 pm- 1:30pm: Solar System Walk near Clubhouse <B3>^{1,4}
 1:30 pm: Basic Collimation for Beginners in McGregor Obs.⁴
 1:30pm-2:15pm: Testing a Henry Draper Mirror & Some Testing History^{3,5}
 2:15pm-3pm: Unfinished Business: Installing a Hale-style Spectroheliometer at Stellafane^{3,5}
 3pm-3:45pm: Remote Controlled Astro Imaging & Real World Experience^{3,5}
 3:45pm-4:30pm: Current Industry Availability of Low Expansion Borosilicate Glass for Mirror Makers^{3,5}
 4:30pm-5:15pm: What We Learned about Epsilon Aurigae during its Recent Eclipse^{3,5}
 3 pm-4pm: Astronomy Activities for Kids in McGregor Obs.
 3 pm-4pm: Astronomy for Young Adults in Amphitheater
 5pm: Introduction to Telescopes for All Ages in McGregor Obs.⁴
 5 pm-8 pm: Registration for Optical Competition^{1,2}
 5:30pm-7pm: Saving Hubble if Evening Talks are held in Pavilion⁵
 7 pm: Evening Program Begins in Amphitheater
 8pm: Imaging With a DSLR Camera (demo) near Domed Obs.^{2,3}
 10 pm: Discover and Enjoy the Sky in McGregor Obs.⁴
 10 pm: Optical Competition Begins near Clubhouse^{1,2}
Sunday, July 31st:
 8 am-12 pm: Convention Cleanup
 9 am-12 pm: Hartness House Museum Open

¹ - Event takes place in or near the Pink Clubhouse.

² - Only if clouded out on Friday!

³ - Advanced Amateur Telescope Maker talk.

⁴ - Event for Amateur Astronomers/Telescope Makers

⁵ - Event Takes Place in or near Pavilion

AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKING - MIRROR GRINDING DEMONSTRATION

There will be a HANDS-ON mirror making demonstration Friday from Noon until 6 pm outside of and to the North of the Flanders Pavilion. 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. The demonstration will continue Saturday at 9:30 am and will continue until 1 pm.

AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKING - SHORT TALKS

There will be a series of short talks on various ATM topics Friday in the Flanders Pavilion, every hour on the hour, during the ATM demo. The purpose of these talks will be to describe, in detail, the procedures that will be demonstrated during the ATM demo and to introduce beginner ATMs to various introductory subjects. Please check stellafane.org for the titles of the talks as the convention approaches.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

There are several astronomy related classes for children ages 5 to 12 which will take place in the McGregor Observatory Programs for teens ages 12 to 16 will be offered near the amphitheater, weather-permitting. Please consult the schedule for the times.

HORSESHOE PITCHING CONTEST

The 14th Annual Stellafane horseshoe pitching contest is scheduled for 1:30 pm Friday near the Pavilion. There will be a kids competition. "Astro" prizes will be awarded.

STELLAFANE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund will one day guarantee that Stellafane can pay unavoidable costs due to a catastrophic event or if the convention cannot be held. For info please go to the Pink Clubhouse or stellafane.org. All contributions to the endowment fund are tax deductible. *Thanks!*

THE FAMOUS STELLAFANE RAFFLE

Help support the convention and have fun by participating in our raffle. Thousands of dollars in prizes, including books from Willman-Bell and eyepieces from Televue, are provided yearly by gracious contributors. Tickets are available at the T-shirt table and from designated STM members roaming the grounds. Your dollar goes a long way!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FLANDERS PAVILION

Following the tradition set down by our founder, Russell W. Porter, the *Springfield Telescope Makers* continually work to improve the Stellafane convention. Our new Flanders Pavilion has been a big hit! However, the *Springfield Telescope Makers* need your help to raise the funds necessary to pay off the loan that was needed to complete the Pavilion. If you are interested in donating to this project please go to stellafane.org for details. Thanks!

FRIDAY EVENING INFORMAL TALKS

Friday evening, July 29th, at 8:30 pm Carl Malikowski, of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will conduct the informal talks in the Flanders Pavilion. If you wish to contribute a short talk during this session, you must submit a brief description of your planned presentation with your registration payment or at stellafane.org. Talks are limited to 10 minutes and 20 slides. The time limit will be strictly enforced! A 35-mm slide projector, overhead projector, VCR, and a digital projector will be available for your use. Note that if you plan to use the digital projector, you must bring your own laptop.

SATURDAY TECHNICAL TALKS

The Saturday afternoon program begins in the Flanders Pavilion at 2 pm Wayne Zuhl, of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will be Master of Ceremonies.

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAM

The evening program will begin at 7 pm Saturday in the hillside amphitheater. Bob Morse, of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will be master of ceremonies.

- Greetings, announcements and raffle drawing
- Stellafane Shadowgram: Alan Rohwer
- Presentation of telescope competition awards
- **Stellafane Keynote Talk: Dr. Jane Luu**

Dr. Luu will speak on **Pluto, Comets, and the Kuiper Belt: Taking an Inventory**. The last twenty years have seen profound changes in our perception of the inventory of the Solar System. Pluto lost its planethood, the Kuiper Belt joined the Oort Cloud as another reservoir of comets. Most recently, even the asteroid belt is now recognized as another place where comets can originate. This talk will discuss our latest view of the small icy bodies in the Solar System and explain their interrelations. Dr. Luu is a member of the technical staff at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and co-discoverer of the Kuiper Belt.

THE PORTER/HARTNESS MUSEUM OF AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKING

The Porter/Hartness Museum of Amateur Telescope Making is located in the underground rooms at the Hartness House Inn. Visit the museum on Friday or Sunday (see the schedule of events). **Admission is free**. Follow the signs in town. Many of the items on display are by or about Russell W. Porter, including the Springfield and Garden telescopes. His artwork traces his arctic exploration years to his work on the 200" Palomar telescope, culminating in his famous cutaway drawings. Other items of interest include early telescopes and mirror making parts. The Hartness turret telescope, with its 10" Brashear objective, may also be inspected.

JEANNE KRZYWICKI LIBRARY

The Jeanne Krzywicki Library, in the McGregor Observatory, will be open throughout Convention, unless the room is otherwise occupied by convention events.

2011 STELLAFANE CONVENTION
BEGINNER PRESENTATIONS

"Tour of the Russell Porter Turret Telescope" by Jay Drew, Brad Vietje, & John Gallagher

Friday, July 29th, 3:00 pm & Saturday, July 30th, 11:30 am; meets at the Turret Telescope

Located at the summit of Breezy Hill, immediately to the North of the Stellafane Pink Clubhouse, the Russell Porter Turret Telescope is one of three known "turret telescopes." The primary advantage of this type of telescope is that the observers are inside the observatory building, protected from the cold temperatures of long winter nights and biting mosquitoes of summer nights.

Brad Vietje, and John Gallagher, both members and past presidents of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, and Jay Drew, past coordinator of the *Springfield Telescope Makers* Mirror Making Class, will talk about the history of the Turret Telescope and demonstrate how the telescope is used to observe the Sun, if the weather permits and the Sun obliges by displaying some sunspots.

"Solar System Walk" by Allen Tinker

Friday, July 29th, 4:15 pm & Saturday, July 30th, 12:30 pm; starts behind the Pink Clubhouse near the green shed.

To illustrate the vast size of outer space, the *Springfield Telescope Makers* have constructed a scale model of the solar system, based on the Sun being 12 inches in diameter. At that scale, the Earth would be approximately 1/10 of an inch in diameter and 107 feet from the Sun. Jupiter would be 1.2 inches in diameter and approximately 560 feet from the Sun. The "Solar System Walk" begins behind the Pink Clubhouse and proceeds down the road going towards the Stellafane camping area. At the appropriate distance, from the scale model of the Sun, there are stations with the appropriate planet, built to scale, and a short description of each planet. The Solar System walk can be taken on your own at any time during the convention. However, a guided walk is available at the times mentioned above, when docent Allen Tinker will provide additional information about the "Solar System Walk" and each particular planet. The walk takes approximately 3/4 of an hour, if you walk all the way to the planet Neptune, with a total distance of 3232 ft, or a little over 1/2 of a mile.

"Stellafane for Beginners," by Kim Cassia, Dennis Cassia, & Gary Cislak

Friday, July 29th, 5:00 pm in the McGregor Observatory & Saturday, July 30th, 10:30 am in the Pavilion

Are you familiar with these terms: "The Pink," "Tent Talks" or "The Turret?" If not, if this is your first time attending the Stellafane convention or if you are returning and want to learn more about who the *Springfield Telescope Makers* are, as well as what is going on during the convention, then this presentation is for you. Topics include, but are not limited to: a short history of Stellafane, a description of our site, including the buildings and landmarks, descriptions of the scheduled talks and activities, services available at Stellafane, local services off site, etc., in addition to answering any questions you may have about the convention.

"Learning and Enjoying the Night Sky," by Dave Siegrist

Friday, July 29th, 10:00 pm in the McGregor Observatory

Dave Siegrist, a member of the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.*, will introduce participants to observing the sky, including identifying the constellations, the Milky Way, etc.

"Telescope Field Walk," by Carl Malikowski and Liz Sharpe

Saturday, July 30th, 10:30 am; meets in front of the Pink Clubhouse.

During the "Telescope Field Walk," Carl Malikowski and Liz Sharpe, members of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will guide small groups through the fields around the Pink Clubhouse, where the telescopes that will be participating in the mechanical competition will be set up. They will describe the various types of optical designs and mounting configurations that will be on display, point out the subtle details that go into award winning telescopes and be available to answer your questions.

"Dipper Full of Stars: A Tour of the Night Sky," by Richard Sanderson

Saturday, July 30th, 12:30pm in the McGregor Observatory

Using stunning images of constellations, planets, and celestial objects, Richard Sanderson will lead an interpretative tour of the summer nighttime sky. He will describe how the sky appears to move throughout the night and from season to season, and explain the significance of the North Star. He will speculate about life on other worlds and show many of the prominent summer constellations. The presentation is aimed at beginners of all ages.

"Basic Collimation for Beginners," by Phil Harrington

Saturday, July 30th, 1:30 pm in the McGregor Observatory

"Collimation," the process of ensuring that the optics of a telescope are aligned correctly, is critical to ensure that a telescope is providing the best images that it is capable of. This process may appear to be in the genre of advanced amateur astronomers but, in reality, is not nearly as difficult as you might think. This hands-on workshop will discuss the basic steps beginners can take to ensure that the optics of their telescope are properly aligned and adjusted. If you are interested in learning how to collimate the optics of your telescope, **set your telescope up in the observing field immediately to the South of the McGregor Observatory before 1:30 pm on Saturday, August 7th**. Then, attend the brief class room lecture on basic collimation in the McGregor Observatory at 1:30 pm. After this brief lecture, Phil Harrington will escort the group, weather permitting, out to the observing field to inspect each participant's telescope and demonstrate the collimation process.

"An Introduction to Telescopes for All Ages," by Glenn Chapel & Alan French

Saturday, July 30th, 5:00 pm in the McGregor Observatory

Adults and youngsters often become interested in astronomy and acquiring a telescope for exploring the heavens. With the plethora of telescopes on the market, buying your first telescope, or a telescope for a child, can be intimidating. In this program, Glenn Chapel and Alan French will cover telescope basics (types, mounts, and eyepieces), telescopes suitable for children, and introduce you to observing and finding sights in the night sky.

"Discover and Enjoy the Sky," by John Briggs

Saturday, July 30th, 10:00 pm in the McGregor Observatory

The beauty of the night sky is a driving motivation for telescope making, the Stellafane convention and astronomy in general. John W. Briggs, a member of the *Springfield Telescope Makers* and a physics & astronomy instructor at Clay Science Center, will show participants how to become oriented in the sky using popular references, recent new software and other tools of astronomy. The presentation will be appropriate for all ages. Weather permitting, after the program the group will use the historic 5-inch Alvan Clark refractor, originally installed at Abbot Academy in 1875.

2011 STELLAFANE CONVENTION
TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

“Deep Sky Imaging with a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera” by Al Takeda

Friday, July 29th, 3:30 pm-4:15pm in the Pavilion

Demonstration: Friday, July 29th, 8 pm near the Domed Observatory (Saturday, 8pm if clouded out)

While the dedicated thermally electrically cooled (TEC) large sensor CCD camera is the instrument of choice for the professional and advanced astro-imager, the prices can be prohibitive for most astrophotographers. The alternative is the DSLR, which can double as a daytime and a nighttime astronomy camera. In this presentation, Al Takeda will discuss the DSLR camera's ability to capture deep sky images. Topics will include the type of DSLR to choose, which lenses would work, adapters needed for a telescope, what targets to choose, the imaging session, and post processing of the images. Al will demonstrate those capture techniques in real time on Friday evening (Saturday evening if clouded out) using his astro-imaging system.

“ Just a Bunch of Amateurs” by Jeff Hutton

Friday, July 29th, 4:15pm - 5:00pm in the Pavilion

The descriptor of "amateur" is often used in a derisive way, to describe a person who lacks serious involvement in an area, or even incompetence. Did you know that an amateur astronomer was the first to suggest the true nature of galaxies 50 years before Edwin Hubble? Today, amateur astronomers are at the forefront of astronomical discovery. It's even possible for an amateur to get observing time on the Hubble Space Telescope. Contributions by William Parsons, O.M. Mitchel, Russell Porter and present day amateurs will be highlighted by Jeff Hutton, Director of Secondary Education at Xavier University and volunteer presenter at the Cincinnati Observatory Center.

“Medical Effects of Light Pollution” by Dr. Mario Motta

Friday, July 29th, 5:00pm - 5:45pm in the Pavilion

Amateur astronomers are very much aware of the deleterious effects of excessive night lighting. Beyond sky glow, energy waste, and environmental degradation, however there are other less well known adverse effects on human health. Excess night lighting can cause disability glare and sleep disturbances, and can affect mood and memory, disturb circadian rhythm and can even lead to a rise in the level of certain cancers. Dr. Motta, a member of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will use published data on increased breast cancer risk to demonstrate this effect

“You Can Make the Universe More Accessible” by Noreen Grice

Friday, July 29th, 5:45pm - 6:30pm in the Pavilion

According to recent census statistics, one out of every five Americans has a disability. However, having a disability does not have to exclude people from enjoying and actively participating in astronomy events. In this presentation, Noreen Grice will feature creative strategies on how to make astronomy outreach and star parties more accessible for people of all ability.

“ John Winthrop’s Observations of the Transits of Venus: Politics and the Dimensions of the Solar System” by Dr. Sara Schechner

Friday, July 29th, 6:30pm - 7:15pm in the Pavilion

In May 1761, John Winthrop packed up two students, two telescopes, a clock, and an octant, and embarked for Newfoundland, to observe the Transit of Venus. Winthrop's departure was hasty. Only days before had the President and Fellows of Harvard College approve Professor Winthrop's request to take the college apparatus behind enemy lines during the French and Indian War, to serve the cause of science. Winthrop knew he had no time to waste if he were to reach St. Johns and properly calibrate his equipment before the Transit.

In 1761 Winthrop was the sole North American astronomer in a global network helping to determine the distance from the Earth to the Sun. The expedition was a major achievement for colonial astronomy. Winthrop, however, was unsatisfied and looked forward to a second chance to observe a transit in 1769. Benjamin Franklin urged him to go to Lake Superior, but preparations for the transit were thwarted by two events: the loss of Harvard's apparatus in a 1764 fire; and pre-Revolutionary War politics in the American colonies. In the end, Winthrop was forced to content himself with observations in Cambridge.

Dr. Sara J. Schechner, the David P. Wheatland Curator of the Harvard Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments and past chair of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society, will discuss John Winthrop, and the political obstacles and scientific achievements of John Winthrop's observations.

“AAVSO Workshop: Monitoring Bright Stars for Fun and Profit” by Arne Henden (Director, AAVSO)

Saturday, July 30th, 12:00pm - 1:30pm in the Pavilion

Professional astronomers keep building bigger and better telescopes, trying to image fainter objects to understand the beginning of the Universe. At the same time, thousands of important, nearby stars are being neglected. Naked eye stars like Epsilon Aurigae have unknown companions; hundreds of small-telescope stars have transiting exoplanets; a dozen novae occur every year in our galaxy. You don't always need to take the one-millionth color image of M51 to enjoy the sky! During this workshop, Arne Henden will show you a few simple hardware setups that can be used from your backyard to monitor these stars, and give some scientifically valuable projects to which you can contribute valuable observations.

2011 STELLAFANE CONVENTION
TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

“Testing a Henry Draper Mirror and Some Testing History” by Richard Parker

Saturday, July 30th, 1:30pm – 2:15pm in the Pavilion

In June of 2010, Richard Parker, member of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, had the opportunity to test one 15 inch mirror made by Henry Draper in 1862. Henry Draper was, perhaps, the first person in America to recognize the importance of the amateur in making telescopes and pioneered the development of (not the invention of) silvered glass mirrors in the US. This talk will show the results of the test of this mirror and outline the history of what was known technology for making and validating mirrors at that time.

“Unfinished Business : Installing a Hale-style Spectroheliograph at Stellafane” by Matt Consodine

Saturday, July 30th, 2:15pm – 3:00pm in the Pavilion

In 1929, Russell Porter envisioned the installation of a Hale-style spectroheliograph on Breezy Hill. Efforts were begun to make that happen, but a variety of circumstances conspired to prevent it from coming to fruition. Decades later, an example owned by Gustavus Cook - and coincidentally reviewed by Porter - became available. In this talk, Matt Consodine, member of the *Springfield Telescope Makers*, will give an overview of the instrument, the restoration needed and its pending installation at Stellafane.

“Remote Controlled Astro-Imaging and Real World Experiences” by Paul Shulins

Saturday, July 30th, 3:00pm – 3:45pm in the Pavilion

As an amateur astronomer, Paul Shulins has been imaging for more than 30 years. Recently, with the advent of CCD cameras, Go-To mounts, and the internet, it has become feasible to do remote imaging from the comfort of your own home. Paul started exploring remote imaging about 10 years ago, with the purchase of a fiberglass dome and the electronics to remotely control the dome, telescope and camera. Initially Paul located the dome about 15 minutes from his home, in Massachusetts, in a dark area of town. Over the next decade Paul learned about the challenges and benefits of unattended imaging and wrote custom software to control the electronics, used the internet to access the equipment, and took advantage of imaging on weeknights, when he normally would not be able to afford to image due to his day job. About a year ago, Paul moved his observatory to the western Arizona high desert. Operating the dome almost every night from his home in Massachusetts, Paul is able to acquire more data than he can handle. While his focus is shifting to developing image processing techniques, his real joy comes with operating the hardware, and getting the best data possible. Paul’s talk will focus on setting up a remote observatory, some of the logistics he faced getting the bugs out, and what the benefits and drawbacks are to going this route. Paul will give practical advice and show photos of the observatory, and diagrams depicting how his systems has come together to make things operate.

“Current Industry Availability of Low Expansion Borosilicate Glass for Mirror Makers” by Bart Fried

Saturday, July 30th, 3:45pm – 4:30pm in the Pavilion

Bart Fried will discuss the past and current sources of glass for mirror making blanks and definitions of various brand names for material and their properties.

“What we Learned about Epsilon Aurigae during its Recent Eclipse” by Arne Henden

Saturday, July 30th, 4:30pm – 5:15pm in the Pavilion

Every 27.1 years, epsilon Aurigae is eclipsed by a mysterious dark cloud. The most recent eclipse started in 2009, and ended in late Spring of 2010. Thousands of amateur astronomers contributed observations of the eclipse, and professional astronomers worldwide trained their telescopes on this unique event. During this presentation, Arne Henden, the director of the AAVSO, will talk about the competing models of the system and what we think happens every three decades!

Saving Hubble, by David Gaynes

Friday, July 29th, 7:15pm-8:30pm; Saturday, July 30th, 10:45am-12pm; Saturday, July 30th, 5:30pm-7pm(if evening program is held in Pavilion) in the Pavilion

It’s 2004 and humankind is poised to take a giant leap backward when NASA threatens to cancel the famed Hubble Space Telescope. But when the facts don’t add up, professional scientists and ordinary citizens unite to save their beloved telescope from becoming space junk. Astronauts, Astronomers, Physicists and Farmers reflect on exploration, curiosity, and hope in this love letter to the cosmos. David Gaynes spent 7 years making this soon-to-be-released documentary, a story about one of science’s great achievements and humanity’s unstoppable curiosity.

Portions of the film were recorded at Stellafane in 2008 and this sneak preview is one of the film’s first public screenings!

2011 STELLAFANE CONVENTION
IMPORTANT POLICIES

Generator Policy

Due to noise, the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* ask that portable generators not be used during the *Stellafane* convention. There are outlets along the walls of the both the McGregor Observatory and the Flanders Pavilion that may be used for recharging batteries; however, the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* accepts no responsibility for unattended property.

Policy for PETS

The *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* welcomes you to bring your pets to the *Stellafane* convention, provided the following rules are followed:

- Pets must be confined, leashed or otherwise under the physical control of a person at all times. Leashes may not exceed 6 feet in length. Pets that are tethered at the campsite cannot be left unattended for more than 30 minutes. Pets may not be tied to trees, bushes, tables or shelter facilities, even when the owners are present.
- Pets must be well-behaved at all times. Pets must be confined in the owner's camping unit during quiet hours (11 PM - 8 AM).
- Pet owners are required to pick up after their pets and properly dispose of all pet droppings in trash receptacles.
- Any pet that is noisy, dangerous, intimidating or destructive will not be allowed to remain at the Convention.

Failure to comply with the above rules will result in you and your pet being asked to leave the convention and may be escorted from the premises by convention security. The *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* thank you in advance for helping to make the *Stellafane* convention more enjoyable for everyone. Enjoy the convention!

Please bring your own batteries if necessary. They are not available through the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.*

Red filter paper for flashlights is available in both the Bunkhouse and the Pink Clubhouse.
Thank you!

STELLAFANE LIGHTING POLICY

Stellafane does not allow open white lights on clear nights, except for ½ hour after the Friday and Saturday evening talks end. Vehicular travel after this time is strongly discouraged and is done only at the risk of the operator. We thank you for your cooperation.

FAMILY SERVICE RADIOS

The convention staff uses family service radio channel 7 to facilitate communications during the convention. Please avoid using this channel when you are at the convention site. Of course, if you have an emergency please contact the staff via channel 7.

Please see the Swap Table Policies on the back of the bulletin.

POLICIES REGARDING OPTICAL JUDGING ENTRIES

REGISTRATION for the optical competition will take place on Friday from 5 pm to 8 pm in the Pink Clubhouse. In addition, you are encouraged to register your telescope via the Stellafane web page. Keep in mind that if you register your instrument via the web, you must still check in at the Pink Clubhouse Friday from 5 pm to 8 pm or your telescope will not be judged! Set up your scope on Breezy Hill before you check in at the Pink Clubhouse and inform the judges of the location of your scope. If the position of your scope changes it is your responsibility to report its new location to the judges in the Pink Clubhouse.

All telescopes in the competition must be fitted with an eyepiece with a focal length, in millimeters, approximately equal to the focal ratio of the instrument. Your instrument must be properly collimated before judging begins at 10 pm. Also, be prepared to point your scope at the star Altair when the judges arrive. Please note that the judges may inspect your telescope more than once. Therefore, you should remain on the field with your instrument until the preliminary results are announced via loudspeaker.

If weather permits the completion of the judging on Friday night, the optical judging will be closed for the duration of the convention and optical awards will be presented during the Saturday evening program. If the optical judging cannot be completed Friday night, it will be continued on Saturday night, weather permitting. Additional optical entries may be accepted on Saturday, at the discretion of the judges. To inquire about this possibility, please ask a judging representative in the Pink Clubhouse from 8:30 am to 10 am or from 5 pm to 8 pm on Saturday.

In the event that the competition will have to be continued Saturday, some telescopes that were judged on Friday might need to be judged again. Please inquire with the judges if your scope will need to be available again on Saturday. If the optical judging cannot be completed by the end of Saturday night, a partial field of optical excellence awards may be given, at the discretion of the judges.

Looking for Darker Skies?

For the darkest skies, away from automotive lights, set up near the Pink Clubhouse, as far south as possible.

TELESCOPE MECHANICAL COMPETITION: THE HEART AND SOUL OF STELLAFANE!

If you have built a telescope or special gadget, or restored a historical instrument, we strongly encourage you to bring it to Stellafane and enter it in the competition. **We welcome all home-made telescopes in the display area. They do not have to be entered in the competition!**

REGISTRATION: Registration for the mechanical competition will be between 8 am and 9:30 am Saturday morning in the Pink Clubhouse. In addition, you are encouraged to register your telescope via the Stellafane web page. Keep in mind that if you register your instrument via the web, you must still check in at the Pink Clubhouse Saturday morning or your telescope will not be judged. You can drive up to the Pink Clubhouse area 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 am, so please register your telescope as early as possible.

COMPETITION: Only telescopes that are operative both mechanically and optically will be accepted in the mechanical competition. Telescopes do not have to be entered in both categories. The judges will visit the telescopes in several small groups. You must attend your telescope until the end of the competition is announced via the loudspeaker. 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 less than 16 years of age, will be awarded at the Saturday evening talks.

WHERE TO SET UP YOUR TELESCOPE

We strongly recommend that you set up your telescope in the fields around the Pink Clubhouse or in the field to the south of the McGregor Observatory. You may not set up your telescope in a designated parking area. Please consult the site map, which you will receive when you arrive, as well as the signs posted throughout the convention site for the designated parking locations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

convention@stellafane.com

SATURDAY MORNING SWAP TABLES

The Swap Tables (located at the NORTHEAST edge of the main camping/parking area) are provided to give amateurs an opportunity to trade, buy or sell their surplus astronomical and telescope related items. They operate from 7 am to 5 pm on Saturday, July 30th.

POLICY OF THE *SPRINGFIELD TELESCOPE MAKERS* REGARDING COMMERCIALISM AND THE SWAP TABLES AT THE CONVENTION

The *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* has clarified its policy regarding commercialism and Swap Table sales at the Stellafane convention. For the sake of historical continuity, to preserve the uniqueness of the Stellafane convention and to encourage conventioners to build their own instruments, the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* do not allow commercial sales, of any kind, at the Stellafane convention. All swap table sales must comply, in concept, with the above objective but are also specifically subject to the following criteria:

- 1) Only surplus astronomical, telescope and telescope making related items may be sold.
- 2) Each person will be allowed 16 square feet of table or ground space.
- 3) Items which have the appearance of being specifically purchased or manufactured for sale at the Swap Tables may not be sold.
- 4) All sales must take place within the designated Swap Table area only between 7 am and 5 pm, the Saturday of the Stellafane convention.

The *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* may choose to grant a limited exception to the above policies to astronomy related organizations for their fundraising. Any request for an exemption must be made, in writing, at least one month prior to the convention. If granted, the President of the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* will notify the requesting organization in writing.

Any member of the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* has the authority to determine whether a party is in compliance with the established regulations. Any person who is found to be in violation of the stated policies will be required to comply. Failing compliance, the offending party will be asked to leave the convention and may be escorted from the premises by convention security.

The *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.* encourages those with questions regarding this policy to contact the Club via the Stellafane web page (stellafane.org). During the convention, any questions regarding this policy, the appropriateness of items being displayed, or any information being disseminated should be directed to a member of the *Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.*

2010 COMPETITION WINNERS

OPTICAL - SMALL NEWTONIAN, ADULT AWARDS:

- 1st: Karen M. Cutler 8" f/7 Newt-Dob
2nd: David M. Groski 4" f/8 Newt-Fork Mount
(Restoration of Fecker Celestar ~1957)
3rd: Gary H. Fick 6" f/8 Newt-Dob

OPTICAL - COMPOUND, ADULT AWARDS:

- 1st: Robert C. Pfaff 12 ½" f/11.5 Schmidt-Cassegrain on a GEM

MECHANICAL DESIGN, ADULT AWARDS:

- 1st: Gerry J. Logan 6.3" f/12 APO Refractor on Springfield Mount
2nd: Robert C. Pfaff 12 ½" f/11.5 Schmidt-Cassegrain on a GEM
3rd: Ross D. Sackett 6" f/5 Newt on hybrid Dob-Fork
4th: Michael Hill 10" f/5 Newt-EQ Fork

CRAFTSMANSHIP:

- 1st: Gerry J. Logan 6.3" f/12 APO Refractor on Springfield Mount
2nd: Ross D. Sackett 6" f/5 Newt on hybrid Dob-Fork
3rd: Robert C. Pfaff 12 ½" f/11.5 Schmidt-Cassegrain on a GEM
4th: Thomas A. Lumenello 5" f/7.5 Folded Refractor

SPECIAL AWARDS – ANTIQUE RESTORATION:

- David M. Groski 4" f/8 Newt-Fork Mount
(Restoration of Fecker Celestar ~1957)

SPECIAL AWARD:

- Alex Ferreira Mirror Grinding Machine
Janis M. Romer Painting

INNOVATIVE COMPONENT:

- Ken Slater Adjustable Cradle Tube Clamp

For photos and additional information please see the Stellafane web page.

HAVE A GREAT CONVENTION!

The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.



First Aid Kits: Located in the Bunkhouse, McGregor Obs., and Clubhouse

Lost & Found: Located at the Tee Shirt Stand

In Case of Emergency: Contact Security (by the gate) or any STM member