2009 STELLAFANE CONVENTION

BEGINNER PRESENTATIONS

"ATM Demo" by the *Springfield Telescope Makers*

Friday, August 14th, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in the Flanders Pavilion

There will be a HANDS ON mirror making demonstration Friday from Noon until 6 pm in 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 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 pm.

"Solar System Walk" by Thomas Gorka

Friday, August 14th, 4:00 p.m., Starts behind the Pink Clubhouse

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. 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. Please note that this tour requires ~ 1 mile of walking up and down hils.

"Stellafane for Beginners", by Kim Keegan & Dennis Cassia

Friday, August 14th, 5:00 p.m. in the McGregor Observatory

Are you familiar with these terms: "The Pink", "Tent Talks" or "The Turret"? If not, if this is your first Stellafane or if you are retuning 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.

"Harrington on Binoculars", by Phil Harrington

Friday, August 14th, 9:00 p.m. in the McGregor Observatory

Binoculars are a great way to enjoy the beauty of the summer sky, whether you are a beginner or a veteran stargazer. In this presentation, Phil Harrington will define several binocular-related terms and discuss consumer tips to help the audience weed out astronomically worthy binoculars from the vast ocean of models currently sold worldwide. Afterward, join Phil outside for a tour of the night sky through your binoculars.

"Telescope Field Walk", by John Vogt and Cark Malikowski

Saturday, August 15th, 10:30 a.m., meets in front of the Pink Clubhouse.

During the "Telescope Field Walk", John Vogt and Carl Malikowski, experienced Amateur 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.

Schedule continues on other side.

BEGINNER PRESENTATIONS

(Continued)

"Tour of the Russell Porter Turret Telescope"

Saturday, August 15th, 11:30 a.m., 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 of the observatory building, protected from the cold temperatures of long winter nights and biting mosquitoes of summer nights. Brad Vietje, member and past president of the Springfield Telescope Makers, will talk about the history of the Turret Telescope, demonstrate how the telescope is used and observe the Sun, if the weather permits and the Sun obliges by displaying some sunspots.

"Solar System Walk" by Thomas Gorka

Saturday, August 15th, 12:30 p.m., Starts behind the Pink Clubhouse

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. 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. . Please note that this tour requires ~ 1 mile of walking up and down hils.

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

Saturday, August 15th, 1:30 p.m. in the McGregor Observatory

Using stunning images of constellations, planets, and celestial objects, Richard Sanderson will lead an interpretive 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.

"An Introduction to Telescopes for All Ages", by Sue and Alan French

Saturday, August 15th, 5:00 p.m. 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 Sue 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, August 15th, 10:00 p.m. 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 physics & astronomy instructor at Clay Science Center, will show 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.

Schedule continues on other side.