

# DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

42° 24' 37.7" N. Latitude

Crowell Recreation Center



83° 15' 24.5" W. Longitude

## NEWSLETTER

JULY / AUGUST

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The society will have a reduced meeting schedule for the months of July and August. Please make note of the dates. Observing sessions at camp Wathana for the months of September, October and November will be listed in the next newsletter.

The Warren Astronomical Society will hold public observing sessions at MetroBeach Metropark on Saturday July 16 and Friday August 12 (Pleiades). Members of the D.A.S. have been invited to attend. For further information contact Riyadh Matti (548-7511) or Ken Strom (652-1744). Ask about the August 12 date because it may be questionable.

The Skywatchers Hotline was not working for two to three weeks in June because the answering machine was stolen from Mr. Lloyds house. Unfortunately thieves broke into Mr. Lloyds house and stole personal possessions of sentimental value and the society's telephone answering machine used for the hotline. Mr. Lloyd and the family were not at home at the time of the robbery.

By the time the newsletter is published the hotline will be back in service. Call the hotline: for all events and meetings (837-0130).

Jack Brisbane

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 8 General meeting and workshop activities 8:00 PM.

July 16 Public observing session at MetroBeach Metropark held by the Warren Astronomical Society.

July 22 General meeting and workshop activities 8:00 PM.

July 27 Astronomical League Conference (ALCON), Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs Iowa.

August 5 General meeting and workshop activities 8:00 PM.

August 5-6 Starfest 88, New York Astronomical Association, Mount Forest Ontario.

August 12-14 Stellafane, Springfield Vermont (see article).

August 12-13 Astronomy Rendezvous and Conference, Twin City amateur astronomers, Bloomington-Normal Illinois.

August 26 General meeting and workshop activities 8:00 PM.

## MEMBERSHIP INTEREST

We had about nine members at the Apollo Rendezvous. The principal speaker was Dr. John Fabian, former space shuttle astronaut. In reply to a question, his expectations on the resumption of the space shuttle flights is that a test is expected in mid July and if that turns out OK, a flight may resume in mid August.

A member of our group was a winner of a door prize. Ed Dvorak was the lucky one and received a book entitled "Monsters in the Sky". The book is about true anomalies of the universe such as supernovas, comets, black holes and etc. The original was written in Italian by author Paslo Maffei and translated into English in 1977.

Kim Dyer of the WAS and a young companion of his were also winners of door prizes.

The Shallow Sky Bulletin which is published by the Comet Rapid Announcement Service, is available to anyone who will send a SASS (self addressed stamped envelope) to:

S.M. SMITH/CRAS, PO Box 11002, Cleveland, OH 44111-9042.

This publication is about newly discovered bright comets and also lists their empherides. Your address should be centrally located on the SASE and the return address in the upper left hand corner is not necessary. Other noteworthy items are also included.

To all newcomers and friends of DAS members, annual dues are:

regular \$32.50 (18 years or older), family \$37.50, junior \$22.50. Included is a subscription to Sky & Telescope magazine and the Reflector, a quarterly published newsletter of the Astronomical League. Both are mailed to your home.

For membership renewal, forward card from Sky & Telescope Magazine along with dues to:

Ted Jasina, 1211 Beaupre, Madison Hgts, MI, 48071

TIPS FOR MICHIGAN FANS

Michigan wins 3 national competitions. According to senator Don Riegles special report, Michigan has won a vary competitive \$14 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop and manage the most advanced high speed supercomputer in the world. Fight of our colleges and universities will be plugged into the computer, known as NSFnet.

Another accomplishment is that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA, hos decided to locate two major new space centers in Ann Arbor. The center will be funded by a \$5.1 million grant from NASA and 1.5 million from other sources, including private industry and non-profit institutions. It should be in operation this fall.

The other accomplishment is the opening, last December, of the Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS). From a field of 19 other states, Michigan won this major industrial research center.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The D.A.S. is a non-profit organization with membership open to any individual who is interested in astronomy. Guests are alwc./S welcome without charge or obligation. Our purpose is to encourage and promote the study of astronomy and related sciences.

The D.A.S. meets each Friday evening at the Crowell Recreation Center located at 16630 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan. The Center is 1/4-mile south of Mc Nichols (Six Mile Road), on the east side of Lahser Road at the traffic signal light. This facility is a modern, well equipped building with ample off-street, lighted parking. It is operated by the City of Detroit Recreation Department and it is their finest facility serving this side of the city. Since we are their guests, it is important to be considerate in the use of the Crowell Recreation Center to insure our continued welcome.

The meetings consist of talks, lectures, films, slides, mirror making, sharing and fellowship with Astronomy as our common denominator. Scheduled events and features will begin at 8:30 p.m. The officers and Board of Directors meet privately on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the mirror polishing room. The regular business meeting for the general membership is held on the second Friday of each month and starts promptly at 8.00 p.m. We ask that the last person be out oi the building by 10.30 p.m. to accommodate the building custodian.

During the summer months of July and August the Regular and Board of Director Meetings are suspended. Formal programs are reduced and emphasis is placed on scheduled star parties.

The Omaha Astronomical Society will host the joint meetings of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers and the Astronomical League at Iowa Western Community College near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The two groups will convene July 27, 1988, and spend four days on the new and modern campus, located in a rural setting on the northeast edge of the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area. Registration and most other events will take place in the Continuing Education Center. To secure your pre-registration rate of \$20, mail your check prior to July 1 to: Mike Barker, 500 Glen Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51501. After that date mail \$25. Meal and dormitory charges will be paid on arrival. There is a one time linen fee of \$2 if you stay in the dorm and you must supply your own pillow. Dorm rooms are \$8 per night (single) or \$6 per person per night (double). Breakfast is pick and pay cash. Lunch and dinner are \$3 each. The Saturday evening meal may be more formal with an extra charge and an after dinner speaker. Four miles away is the Madison Avenue exit on I-80 which has full service motels, restaurant, grocery store and service stations. Two inns given are:

HEARTLAND INN 800-3 4-3277	Rates before July 1 \$28 and \$33.50	After July 1 \$31.50 and \$37.50
WESTERN INN 712-322-4499	Rates before July 10 \$40.33 and \$42.51	

For more information contact one of the following:

Chairman

Robert D. Allen (712) 328-0651 or George E. Allen (402) 333-1097

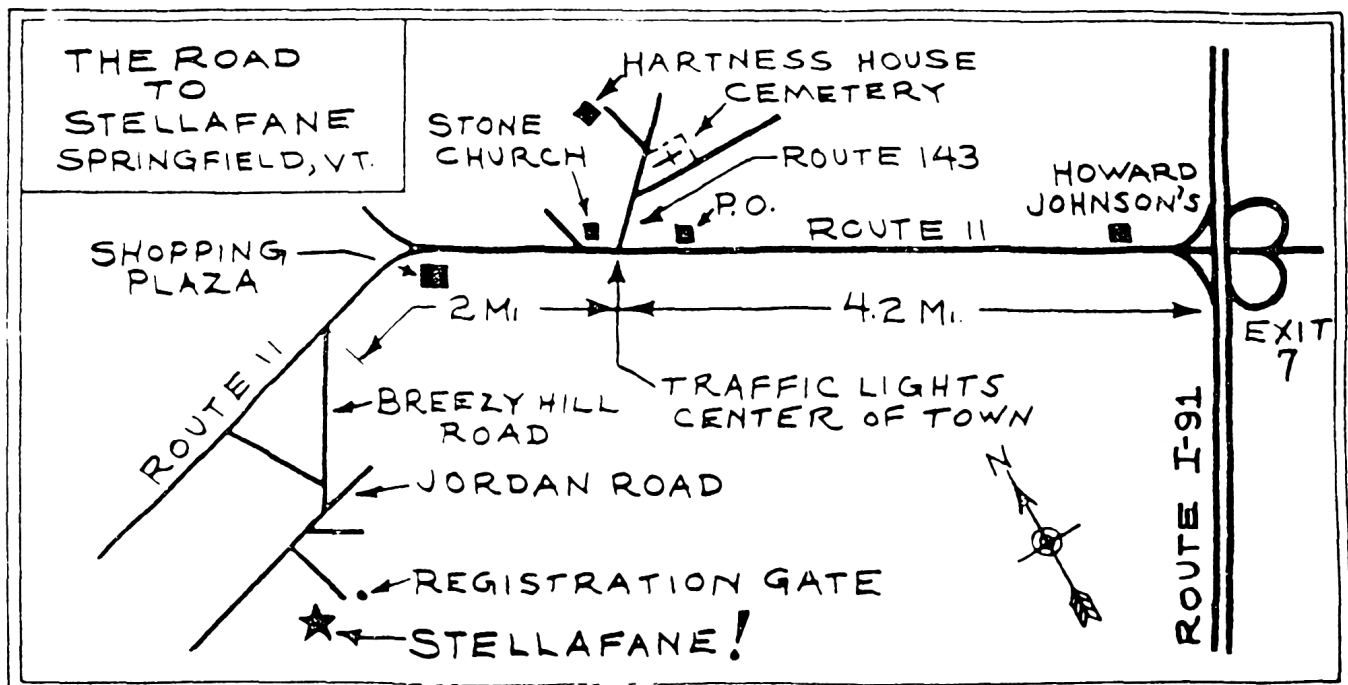
Speakers Chairman

Jerry Sherlin (712) 276-0671

Registrar

Marty Baker (712) 322-3528

After July 26, Noon, call the registration desk for all questions and/or transportation (712) 325-3263



# STELLAFANE



THE 53rd CONVENTION OF AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKERS ON BREEZY HILL IN SPRINGFIELD VERMONT.

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 12, AT 8:30 pm, AN INFORMAL PROGRAM UNDER THE TENT BEHIND THE STELLAFANE CLUBHOUSE.

SATURDAY AUGUST 13, AFTERNOON TALKS BEGIN AT 2:00pm THE EVENING PROGRAM SPEAKER WILL BE DR. CLYDE TOMBAUGH THE DISCOVERER OF PLUTO.

BARBEQUED CHICKEN DINNERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SATURDAYS LUNCH AND DINNER.

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registration fee is required to cover expenses of the meeting. You are urged to pre-register by mail before July 15th. Fill out the enclosed registration card and return it with a check for 8.00 (an optional \$10 registration fee helps pay for the loan used to purchase our new land and ensure conventions in the future) payable to the Springfield Telescope Makers to:

Stellafane. 60 Victoria Rd., Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

After July 16th, and at the gate. the registration fee will be \$7.28 per person. EVERYONE except family members under 15 years must pay to attend the convention. Although we have considered many options to raise the needed funds to secure the future of Stellafane conventions, we have decided to keep registration fees low. Please consider adding a few extra dollars to your registration check if at all possible to help our cause. If everyone chips in just a little, we will be able to retire our debt all that much sooner. Thank you.

If you can not attend this year's convention, but wish to remain on our mailing list, you must fill out the registration card, check the appropriate box and return it. It is pre-addressed and requires only a postage stamp.

## CAMPING REGISTRATION

Campers also MUST be registered for the convention: no camping registrations will be accepted unless they are accompanied by the convention registration described above. Camping is allowed only by advance registration. As of this mailing we are unsure of the total space we will have for camping. It will, unfortunately, be less than in past years -- please be prepared to use alternate campgrounds listed on the reverse side of this page. Campsites can only have one vehicle, and one tent (this rule will be strictly enforced this year!) Furthermore, some campsites are slightly removed from where you park your car. Camping is not permitted before noon on Friday.

To register, print your name and address on the enclosed white Camping Registration card (please print carefully as this card will be used to notify you if you receive a campsite or, if not, to return your camping fee). Enclose the card with your convention registration card and a separate check for \$15.00 (payable to the Springfield Telescope Makers and mail it to the address above. Your camping application must contain two checks: one for personal registration and another for the \$15.00 camping fee.

### LARGE CAMPERS

Space for campers over 17 feet in length is limited. Such campers will be allowed only by special permit. If you are bringing a camper over 17 feet long, you must note it on the back side of the camping registration card (just write "camper more than 17 feet" on the card.)

## MOTELS

The following is 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 (near the center of town) ..... (802) 885-2115
- Castle Inn (Proctorsville, Vt.) ..... (802) 226-7222
- Palomar Motel ..... (802) 885-4142
- The Abbey Lyn Motel ..... (802) 886-2223
- Old Town Fare Lodge..... (802) 875-2346
- Howard Johnson Motor Inn ..... (802) 885-4516
- for nationwide reservations..... 1-800-654-2000

ASTRONOMY RENDEZVOUS AND CONFERENCE

The Twin City Amateur Astronomers of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois are presenting the above event on Friday, August 12 through Sunday, August 1. There will be planetarium programs, a telescope display, computer demonstration area, amateur and commercial exhibits, flea market, paper presentations, workshops, round table discussions, observing sessions and of course meals and accommodations.

Below is a handy registration form one can use.

REGISTRATION FORM

Astronomy Rendezvous and Conference - 1988

Complete and return this form along with your fees to: A.R.C. '88, c/o Twin City Amateur Astronomers, P. O. Box 755, Normal, IL 61761. This form should be returned by mail no later than July 29, 1988.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Astronomical Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fees:	#	
Adults - \$12.50 each	( ) = \$	_____
Spouse or H.S. Student - \$7.50 each	( ) = \$	_____
Grade School or younger - free	( )	
Midday Luncheon - \$5.00 per person	( ) = \$	_____

TOTAL FEES SUBMITTED  
(MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: T.C.A.A.).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I'll be making a presentation...

Please complete this form for any presentations you wish to make. Please note that all presentations other than workshops are limited to 15 minutes max.

Workshop or Paper presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Time requirement if a workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

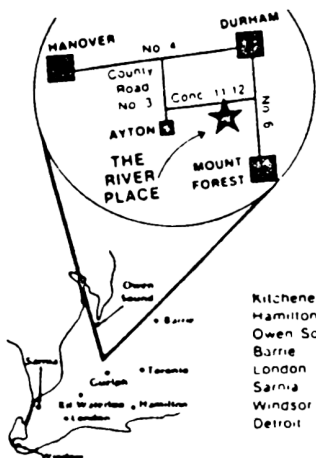
Abstract:



# THE RIVER PLACE

## How To Find Us

We are located 8 1/2 miles north of Mount Forest and 1 1/2 miles west of Highway No. 6 on NOR MANBY TOWNSHIP ROAD CONC 11 and 12



Kitchener	60 miles
Hamilton	70 miles
Owen Sound	35 miles
Barrie	70 miles
London	100 miles
Sarnia	150 miles
Windsor	240 miles
Detroit	250 miles

# STARFEST '88.

AUGUST 5-6, 1988

The New York Astronomical Association invites all astronomers to attend its seventh annual observing convention. The weekend includes observing sessions, formal and informal slide presentations, workshops and a Twilight Talk. Observers are invited to bring their slides and telescopes and share their observing experiences.

### STARFEST '88 - REGISTRATION

To register please complete this form, and send it with your payment to STARFEST '88, 16 Beaurfield Ave., Toronto, Ont., M4G 3R3. Make cheques payable to the North York Astronomical Association.

NAME (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV' \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

CAR LICENCE \_\_\_\_\_ No. of People \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nonparticipating Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I will arrive Friday \_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_ (Please check which day.)

Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_ at \$10.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Reservations - Adults \_\_\_\_\_ at \$9.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Child (under 10) \_\_\_\_\_ at \$4.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please calculate camping/entrance fee using applicable rate.

Individual Rate - No. of People \_\_\_ x No. of Nights \_\_\_ x \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family Rate - No. of Nights \_\_\_ x \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hydro Hookup - No. of Nights \_\_\_ x \$1.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Trailer Site With Full Hookup - No. of Nights \_\_\_ x \$14.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance Fee - No. of People \_\_\_ x No. of Days \_\_\_ X \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Non Campers)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Another item of interest to our members is that the subscription rate for Sky & Telescope magazine has been raised to \$16 per year as of the 1st day of January of this year. Our treasurer has only recently been notified of this change. A future board meeting will have to determine how that will affect our dues structure.

I would like to remind our membership that the dues can also be looked upon as a contribution to the society.

your editor  
Mike Cyrek  
17149 Caldwell  
Detroit, MI 48212

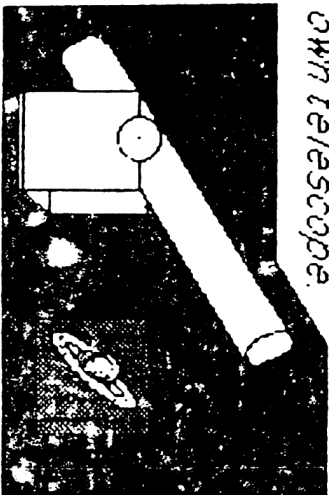
# Making Your Own Telescope



With  
**John Dobson**

At the Vivekananda  
Monastery and Retreat  
August 19-27

A week-long program in  
which participants will  
design and construct their  
own telescope.



(Proportionate model of a Dobsonian 8" telescope. How Saturn would appear through this scope.)

## Making Your Own Telescope

is a unique opportunity for anyone interested in the wonders of the night sky. During this one-week program, participants will make their own reflector telescope under the guidance of one of the best authorities on amateur telescope making, John Dobson. The "Dobsonian" scope revolutionized the world of amateur astronomy, making it possible to build large telescopes cheaply.

Mr. Dobson has recommended that one of three sizes be chosen for construction-- 6" 8" or 10" scopes (refers to the mirror diameter). Materials needed will be provided for by the monastery. All you need to bring is yourself and clothing for a weeks stay. Costs for this event are:

6"-\$200 8"-\$250 10"-\$300

The suggested donation for a weeks stay, incl. food and lodging; **\$150** (not included above). If you are interested in participating in this unique event, write or call the retreat director.

**Vivekananda Monastery**  
6723 122nd Ave.  
Fennville, Mi., 49408.  
616-543-4545

**"Astrophot for Children Under 80"**  
(Seminars on Reality) is designed to acquaint you with this "new criteria" and to closely examine the world view of modern science.

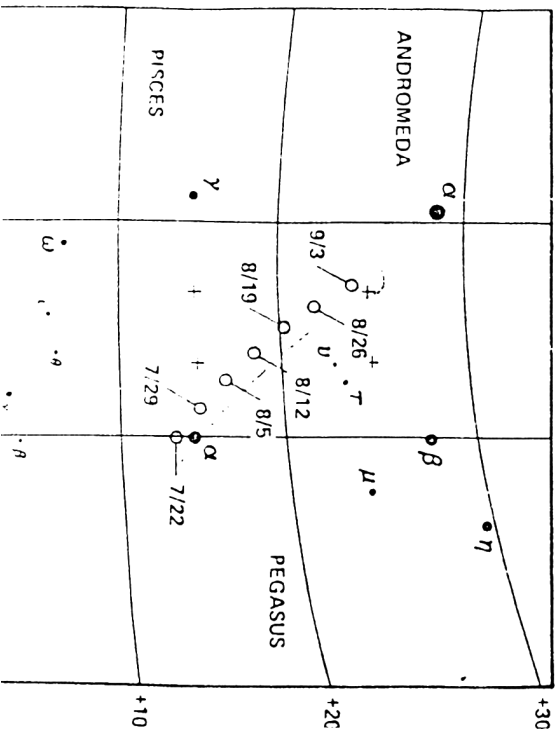
*Subjects include:*

- \* From Hydrogen and Gravity to Galaxies and Stars
- \* The Birth, Growth, and Terminal Aliments of Stars
- \* Slides, Tides, Planets, and People
- \* Heisenberg's Breath of Uncertainty
- \* Space and Time as Opposites
- \* From the Borders of the Universe.

**John Dobson**, telescope designer, physicist, astronomer, and philosopher will conduct this 4-day course over Labor Day weekend.

Food and lodging are available on the monastery grounds. Reg. \$25/person. Total requested, \$75/person.  
Contact: Retreat Director,  
**Vivekananda Monastery**  
6723 122 ave Fennville, Mi. 49408

## THE UPSILON PEGASID METEOR SHOWER RADIANT DRIFT



## The Fourteenth Annual Upsilon Pegasid Meteor Shower Watch

1988

This year the conditions will be excellent for the maximum of the Upsilon Pegasid meteor shower. The current focus of the research is on photographic patrol of the shower radiant.

### The 1982 Upsilon Pegasid Fireball

On August 19, 1982, the European Meteor Network photographed a -14.0 Upsilon Pegasid Fireball with five Czech cameras of the network. The reduction of this data confirmed the orbital elements of the shower and answered many of the questions concerning this new shower. However, many questions still exist concerning rates, size of the radiant, and duration. A good spectra is also needed.

### Photographic Techniques

The ideal camera for photographing this meteor shower is a 35mm with a fast F/ratio 50mm lens. Do not use either a telephoto or wide angle lens. Point the camera directly at the radiant, which is in the Square of Pegasus. The recommended films are Kodak 2475 and T-Max 400. Keep the exposures short - five minutes or less. If a bright meteor occurs, close the shutter within 15 seconds. Be sure to bring along extra cable release and check the lens for dew between exposures. Process the film for four times the normal development time. If you choose not to develop the films yourself, send them to a professional photo lab requesting "develop only." Do not trust your films to the local drug store. Color films are not recommended but if you wish to try them, use the new Kodacolor VR 1000 with 3 full F stops pushed development: Take along your mosquito repellent.

### Dates of the Shower

The maximum of the Upsilon Pegasids is thought to be August 8th. Full moon occurs on July 29 so the maximum of the Upsilon Pegasids and Perseid occurs in dark skies. The weekends of Jul 22 and August 12 will be in dark skies and therefore ideal. Please make a maximum effort on these dates. Also weekend of August 19.

### Characteristics of the Upsilon Pegasids

The velocity of these meteors is slightly slower than the Perseids and slightly faster than the Delta Aquarids. The average magnitude is slightly fainter than that of the Perseids. The most commonly reported color is yellow-white. Most shower members have not left any significant trains.

### Information and Reports

For further information and reporting of observations of the shower, writ to the following address:

Hal Povenmire  
215 Osage Drive  
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937  
Phone: (407) 777-1303 (not collect)