

STARFEST 2008

August 7 – 10, 2008

The **North York Astronomical Association** invites you to attend its twenty-seventh annual Starfest. Starfest is Canada's largest annual observing convention and star party. It attracts over eight hundred astronomy enthusiasts from Ontario, and neighboring provinces and states. It has been ranked among the top seven star parties in North America by *Sky & Telescope* magazine, and among the top ten star parties in the world in the *BBC Sky at Night Magazine*. Starfest offers a wide variety of observing-oriented activities that address the needs and interests of experienced observers and astrophotographers, as well as those new to the hobby. Activities include observing sessions, formal and informal presentations, workshops, commercial exhibits, and a children's program. You are invited to bring your telescope and astronomical images, and share your observing experiences with others.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 5		
2:00 p.m.	Campground Open	
10:00 p.m.	Observing Session Begins	
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6		
6:00 p.m.	Registration Opens	
10:00 p.m.	Observing Session Begins	
12:00 a.m.	Registration and Gate Close	
THURSDAY AUGUST 7		
9:00 a.m.	Registration Opens	
	Main Tent	
8:30 p.m.	Astro-Rap: This is an opportunity for attendees to take the stage, and make a presentation. No experience required!	
10:00 p.m.	Observing Session Begins, Registration Closes	
12:00 a.m.	Gate Closes	
FRIDAY AUGUST 8		
9:00 a.m.	Registration Opens	
Morning Activities		
10:00 a.m.		Commercial Exhibits Open
	Main Tent	Small Tent
10:00 a.m.	Steve Barnes – Searching for planets in the Atacama Desert	James Kelley - An introduction to machine mirror-making using the Mirror-o-Matic
11:00 a.m.	- Lynda Gribek: Show me your sky and I will show you mine!!!	Brian O'Rourke The Benefits of Binocular Viewing
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
Afternoon Activities		
1:30 p.m.	Susan French: A Few of my Favorite Things	Malcolm Park: Using a laptop in the field
2:30 p.m.	Alan French: Exploring the Near Sky	Dr Brady Johnson: Introduction to digital camera imaging of solar system objects with emphasis on the Moon

2:30 p.m.	"Sunspot" Solar Observing Session - Next to Baseball Field	
3:30 p.m.	Alison Rose: Galileo's Sons	Paul Markov - Back Yard Observatory Construction
6:00 p.m.	Commercial Exhibits Close	
Evening Activities		
7:00 p.m.	Starfest International Salon Of Astrophotography	Commercial Exhibits Close Friday Night at the Movies
8:00 p.m.	Doug Welch: The Young and the Restless - Exploring the Universe with Light Echoes	
10:00 p.m.	The Sky Tour Observing Session	Red Light Café Opens
12:00 a.m.	Registration and Gate Close	
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9		
9:00 a.m.	Gate and Registration Open	
Morning Activities		
	<u>Main Tent</u>	<u>Small Tent</u>
10:00 a.m.	- Tom Trusock: New Tools for Observing the Universe Around You: The Gearhead's perspective	Kidfest* - (ages 3 – 6)
		Why is the Sky Blue?- Join Brian and Diane as they explain, with the help of some basic experiments, why the sky is blue, the clouds are white, and sunsets red. [Recommended for the truly younger astronomers - ages 3-6.]
10:30 a.m.		Kidfest* - (ages 7 – 9)
		Let the Game begin! – Join us in a race to navigate through space; but watch out!! Dangers are everywhere, Novae, asteroids, and Black holes. Catch the Solar winds and reach your destination.
		Mercedes will be your game master, in this fun filled, and educational activity!! [Recommended to astronomers age 7-9]
11:00 a.m.		Commercial Exhibits Open
11:00 a.m.	Phoenix Mission Debriefing: With the successful landing of the Mars Mission Phoenix, Ivan Semeniuk will present some of the latest information on the search for water at the poles of Mars.	Kidfest* - (ages 9 +)
		Getting around the Universe! - Traveling through the Universe can be trickier than you think. All sorts of things get in your way. Discover what these are as Alexi assists you on your travels through the wonders of our galaxy and beyond.
		Immerse yourself in this exciting and fun filled game and survive! [Recommended for all astronomers age 9+]
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
Afternoon Activities		

1:30 p.m.	Solar Eclipse Panel Discussion - Terence Dickinson - Steve Barnes - Andreas Gada - Richard and Cathy McWatters	Ken Davy: Kids like to observe as well!
2:30 p.m.		
3:30 p.m.		
5:00 p.m.	DINNER	Commercial Exhibits Close
Evening Activities		
7:00 p.m.	Door Prize Draws Announcements	
8:00 p.m.	Ivan Semeniuk: The Ring of Truth: Looking for Dark Matter, Black Holes and Extra Dimensions at the Large Hadron Collider	
10:00 p.m.	The Sky Tour (alternate weather date) Observing Session Begins	Red Light Café Opens
12:00 a.m.	Registration and Gate Close	

- Parent or Guardian attendance mandatory up to the age of 9 and recommended for age 10 and above.

PRESENTATIONS

Starfest 2008: Explore the Universe!

Whether it is the gray-haired veteran at the helm of a metres-wide telescope or a youngster with their first small telescope in their back yard, the excitement and anticipation of discovery is equally familiar to both. We are all explorers of that vast expanse of night sky, seeking either new discoveries of important scientific truth or simply new additions to our growing list of cosmic finds.

This year, the North York Astronomical Association (NYAA) is opening up the heavens with talks from both the amateur perspective, such as Alan and Sue French's talks on backyard astronomy, to professionals, like Doug Welch, on the latest professional techniques for discovering new things about the universe.

Together, our speakers will take you on a voyage through the solar system, our Milky Way galaxy and beyond. Join us as we embark on our journeys of exploration and discovery.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ivan Semeniuk, "The Ring of Truth: Looking for Dark Matter, Black Holes and Extra Dimensions at the Large Hadron Collider" main tent Saturday 8:00pm, and "**Phoenix Mission Debriefing**" main tent Saturday, 11:00am

This year marks the start of the most impressive physics experiment in a generation. More powerful than any previous particle accelerator, the Larger Hadron Collider at CERN is likely to complete our picture of the Standard Model and may well push beyond it to reveal an entirely new class of particles and phenomena at the very roots of physical reality. The discoveries made there could be of such significance to astronomers and cosmologists that the LHC might well be called the "high energy Hubble". This presentation will provide an overview of progress on the LHC with images and

interviews from a recent site visit.

Ivan Semeniuk is US Bureau Chief of *New Scientist Magazine* and a 2007-2008 MIT Knight Fellow in science journalism.

Doug Welch, “The Young and the Restless: Exploring the Universe with Light Echoes” main tent Friday 8:00pm

Professional astronomers rely on a variety of techniques to tease out information from faint starlight and the light of distant galaxies. Using a technique known as ‘difference imaging’ of the sky with wide-field digital detectors has revealed a surprising and unexpectedly rich harvest of information. Lurking beneath the seeming static veneer of the night sky lies an accessible ‘memory’ of events which have important astrophysical implications. In his talk, Doug will describe the progress made in studying Milky Way supernovae light echoes and other unexpected finds. He will also explain how amateur astronomers might contribute to this work.

Doug is a professor in the department of physics and astronomy at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He also likes to spend time with like-minded friends out under the night sky.

2

OTHER SPEAKERS

Steve Barnes, “Searching for planets in the Atacama Desert” main tent Friday 10:00am

Planet hunting has exploded in the last decade. The Exo-planet count is now well over 200 and rising fast. Steve Barnes will discuss a new project he is working on, searching for earth sized planets in habitable zones around nearby stars. He will talk about building the necessary observatories in Chile’s Atacama desert and also discuss the science involved in the project. Steve will also share some amazing photos of the southern skies taken on his recent trips to Chile.

Stephen Barnes has been an amateur astronomer since childhood. He has turned his love of astronomy into a vocation and in 1996 opened [Sky Optics](#), a retail telescope store in Burlington, Ontario. Steve is also an award winning astrophotographer.

Lynda Gribek, “Show me your sky and I will show you mine!!!” main tent Friday 11:00am

When you explore the universe what do you see?

Sagittarius the Archer ... or a teapot?

Perseus, the Hero ... or a parasol?

The Centaur and the Wolf ... or a baby chicken?

When you arch to Arcturus, do you speed to Spica?

Which is more spectacular - M13 or Omega Centari?

Show me your sky and I will show you mine!!!

Lynda Widgeon Gribek is a nurse astronomer married to a retired engineer, Ken, who is also an astronomer. Their hobby started together on Hilton Head beach in 1994 when they both admitted that they could only recognize the Big Dipper in the sky. That was soon remedied by joining the local astronomy club and engaging in some intense self-guided study. That same year they were voted “Astronomers of the Year” in their club and they attended their first of twelve annual Winter Star Parties in the Florida Keys. After a trip to the U.S. National Observatory at Kitt Peak, Arizona to hone their astrophotography skills, it was clear that a personal observatory was in order. Like the Beverly Hillbillies in reverse, they moved from a civilized Augusta, Georgia suburban neighborhood to a raw, but dark-sky plot

of land in rural South Carolina, where they built their retirement home and separate observatories. They love many aspects of astronomy and support each other in their passion for the hobby. Lynda knows all 88 constellations, which comes in handy for Ken's Sunday crossword puzzle. Ken is always willing to drop what he is doing to grab the camera and tripod whenever something eventful is occurring in the sky. Lynda is always willing to share her knowledge of the night sky and Ken is always there to help her try to find it through the telescope.

Susan French, "A Few of my Favorite Things" main tent Friday 1:30pm

Long-time amateur astronomers collect a wealth of favorite sights over the years. These celestial wonders may be treasured for their beauty, for their nature, or even for the circumstances under which they were seen. Sue French will share some of her most memorable deep-sky observations, garnered over the last three decades.

Sue French is a Contributing Editor for *Sky & Telescope*, former columnist for *Night Sky*, and author of the book *Celestial Sampler*. She has been an avid deep-sky observer for 32 years and public star party coordinator for the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers for 29 years. Sue worked as a planetarium educator for 18 years and has served in various positions at Dudley Observatory. She lives in upstate New York with her husband, Alan, a telescope maker and optical judge at Stellafane. Sue and Alan received the Astronomical League award for outstanding contributions to astronomy and have asteroid 17638 Sualan named for them. You'll find Sue observing deep-sky wonders on any clear, moonless night.

Alan French: "Exploring the Near Sky" main tent Friday 2:30pm

The denizens of the deep sky get the most attention, but there are many fascinating things to observe closer to home. Indeed, it is the variety of sights that helps make our hobby so enjoyable. Often we tend to focus our observing in just a few areas, and pass over others. Alan will explore interesting sights to enjoy - from Earth's atmosphere to the farthest reaches of the solar system and beyond. Some will be quite familiar, while others may give you new ways to enjoy the beauty and wonder of the sky.

Alan, like many youngsters of his generation, was excited by the space program. Because of his interest, his parents gave him his first telescope - a Gilbert reflector - in 1957. In 1965 his father brought a copy of "How to Make and Use a Telescope," by Wilkins and Moore, home from the library, which sparked Alan's interest in telescope making. He has been enjoying telescopes and the night sky ever since, and attends many conventions and local star parties with his wife, Sue. He has been a member of the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers since 1972 and has been very active in the club. He is now serving as Vice President, and with his wife coordinates public star parties at two locations. He is also Vice President of Dudley Observatory and chair of their Education Committee, a board member at George Landis Arboretum, and a member of the Town of Glenville Park Planning Commission.

Alison Rose, "Galileo's Sons" main tent Friday 3:30pm

Alison Rose created Inigo Films in 2001. She produced, directed and wrote *Galileo's Sons*, about the Vatican Observatory, which was completed in 2003. It distilled the history of astrophysics, and the Jesuits, the trial of Galileo and the implications of science for religious faith into an enthralling 46-minute story which was a critical and commercial success. *Galileo's Sons* won several awards including a Gemini Award for excellence in Canadian television. It was produced in association with Vision TV, Space and Knowledge Network, and was acquired by American Public Television (PBS) in the United States, History in Latin America, and by broadcasters in Europe and Australia. *Galileo's Sons* has also sold extensively to colleges, universities and secondary schools in the United States and Canada. Alison will be presenting *Galileo's Sons* at Starfest.

Alison has degrees in Journalism and Political Science, and her work has won top awards in each field in which she has worked, including a National Newspaper Award, a National Magazine Award gold, and a Gemini Award for excellence in Canadian television.

Tom Trusock, "New Tools for Observing the Universe Around You: The Gearhead's perspective" main tent Saturday 10:00am

Over the last several years, a dizzying array of new tools have been made available to the amateur astronomy community to enhance their nightly explorations. Keeping up with the rapidly growing array of options has increased the learning curve for many, making it seem an increasingly difficult task just to keep up. Tom Trussock, a teacher and technology reviewer for Cloudynights.com, will take his listeners through what's available and perhaps give them a clearer view of the direction to go in their own astronomy experience.

Tom has been interested in astronomy since he was a child in the early 1970s and an active observer since he first borrowed his father's binoculars to look at the night sky. He considers his amateur career to have really begun over a decade ago when his passion gradually turned into an obsession. In addition to contributing to Cloudynights.com, he has also contributed to *Astronomy Magazine* and the publication *BBC Sky At Night*.

Solar Eclipse Panel main tent Saturday 1:30pm

On August 1, the moon's shadow crosses Earth from the North Pole, to China and into Mongolia. A dedicated bunch of eclipse chasers from around the world will be traveling to these regions just to catch sight of this rare and spectacular event. Among those joining in the chase will be Steve Barnes, Cathy and Richard McWatters, Andreas Gada and Bonnie Bird. They will share their odysseys of traveling to exotic locations to catch a glimpse of the dark side of the moon.

Steve Barnes, is a telescope shop owner and a photographer.

Andreas Gada and Bonnie Bird are both experienced eclipse chasers with some amazing images to show for it.

Cathy McWatters is a professional astronomy educator and, along with Richard McWatters, are experienced eclipse chasers.

The panel will be moderated by SkyNews editor and astronomy author Terry Dickinson.

James Kelley, “An Introduction to machine mirror making using the Mirror-o-Matic” small tent Friday 10:00am

Ever dreamed of making your own telescope but lack the time, patience or physical mobility to devote to grinding a mirror the old fashioned way? Well, computer consultant and software architect James Kelley had the same problem until he discovered Dennis Rech's invention, the Mirror-o-Matic. Built for an average cost of less than \$500 over a couple of weekends, it can be used to turn an eight or 10-inch Pyrex blank into an f/5 spherical shape ready for figuring in as little as 15 to 20 hours. James will be demonstrating his own Mirror-o-Matic, discussing its construction and usage including the building of various tile and polishing tools. He will also discuss various hogging, fine grinding and polishing techniques.

James know a thing or two about good machines as he spends his spare time working on a vintage 1976 Datsun B210 race car and crews on his girlfriend Candace's race team. Returning to amateur astronomy after a 30-year hiatus, he was able to use the Mirror-O-Matic to realize his dream of building his own telescope.

Brian O'Rourke, “The Benefits of binocular viewing” small tent Friday 11:00am

The versatility of binoculars in amateur astronomy is not always appreciated. Learning key landmarks and guide posts is key to returning time and again to the hidden treasures of the universe and that's where binoculars shine. Brian O'Rourke's talk will focus on the use of binoculars in astronomy, from the basics of bino-viewing, to how a wide field of view study is important for orienting oneself to the night sky, to how binocular viewing continues to be useful for viewing extended objects, even after purchasing a telescope.

Brian's obsession with binocular viewing began on a rooftop in downtown Toronto with a borrowed pair of binoculars. It eventually led him to the dark skies of Dornoch (Ontario) and his very own observatory. Although he now has a telescope, binocular viewing remains a regular part of his observing sessions.

Malcolm Park, “Using a Laptop in the Field” small tent Friday 1:30pm

Recently, many amateur astronomers have found themselves gravitating towards go-to telescopes, and controlling these scopes with their laptops. With advances in technology over the last few years, this is becoming much more accessible to people with modest technical skills. There are a number of issues that can arise for anyone controlling a

telescope with a laptop in the field. Malcolm will discuss his experience and offer ideas for solutions to problems that can arise, as well as demonstrate some of the ways that he controls with his laptop. This will be an interactive, open forum in the small tent, with questions and answers to hopefully help make using a laptop in the field more enjoyable. The equipment used will be a portable German Equatorial go-to mount, with a laptop and some interesting accessories.

Malcolm is president of the North York Astronomical Association, and is an avid amateur astronomer and published photographer.

Dr. Brady Johnson, “Introduction to digital camera imaging of solar system objects with emphasis on the moon” small tent Friday 2:30pm

Almost everyone who gets into telescope observing thinks to themselves, at one time or another, how nice it would be to capture a picture of what it is they’re seeing. Brady Johnson knows about that desire and will give people an idea of how to attach digital SLRs, point-and-shoot and video cameras to telescopes to take high-magnification, high-resolution images of solar system objects. Emphasis of his talk will be on photographing the moon using such diverse techniques as afocal imaging, prime focus and eyepiece projection along with a round-up of the various adapters, optics and accessories needed for this type of photography. Much of the talk will focus on acquiring the images but Brady will also talk about alignment, stacking and processing.

Brady Johnson is co-owner and president of KW Telescope in Kitchener-Waterloo. He is also an experienced amateur astronomer with a keen interest in astrophotography.

Paul Markov, “Back Yard Observatory Construction” small tent Friday 3:30pm

A backyard observatory will greatly increase the amount of observing and imaging you can do and will make these pursuits much more enjoyable. In 2007 Paul celebrated his 25th year as an amateur astronomer by “building” a backyard observatory, mostly driven by the need for a permanent CCD imaging setup. His observatory is actually a converted garden shed, so only limited carpentry skills were required for building the floor and the pier. Paul built his observatory, without rushing, in just four weekends. He had some assistance.

In this presentation he will discuss the many aspects of building a backyard observatory such project planning, building selection, ground preparation, floor construction, pier types, operation and maintenance, and will touch on remotely controlling a telescope and CCD camera. The information presented will be of interest regardless of the observatory structure you choose.

Paul has been a member of the RASC Toronto Centre since 1982 and is primarily a visual deep sky observer, however he has been distracted by CCD imaging for the past three years and has nearly forgotten what an eyepiece looks like!

Ken Davy, “Kids like to observe as well!” small tent Saturday 1:30pm

For many amateur astronomers, their love of the stars started in childhood. On Saturday in the small tent, imaginations will be fired up by kid-at-heart Ken Davy as he works with astronomers in the making to plan an evening of observing. We will look at star charts and planispheres together to figure out what can be seen Saturday night with binoculars and small telescopes. Parents are asked to attend too.

Ken began his own astronomy adventures in 1992 at his home in Brampton. Rooted in visual and computer-free observing, he completed his RASC Messier certificate in 1997 and believes in star hopping as essential for novices. He started the Kidfest program and, along with Tony Ward, conducts The Sky Tour at Starfest.

STARFEST INTERNATIONAL SALON OF ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

Competitions provide an opportunity to improve technical skills and broaden the ability to see in a more sensitive and artistic manner. Competitions allow makers to show their work to objective judges, to see the work of their peers and to exchange ideas, problems and information in an informal, friendly atmosphere. However, competitions do represent the subjective opinions only of the judges and should not be taken either personally or overly-seriously. Competitions should be fun and these Rules should be interpreted liberally and fairly but also consistently.

The rules are posted online at www.nyaa.ca (click on Starfest, Imaging Salon)

Definitions

1. An image must originate as a photograph (image-capture of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion (i.e. film) or acquired digitally.
2. All components of an image must have been captured by the entrant. An image or any component of an image, whether digital or film, may not be entered having originated otherwise.
3. All images and components of an image must be the entire work of the entrant. All work in creating an image that involves the application of more than nominal skill must be done by the entrant.

Divisions

1. There will be 2 divisions of entrants.
2. There will be 2 categories per division. Solar System (SS), and Deep Sky (DS)
3. B (Beginners) Division: Images will be chosen as Top, Runner-up or Honorable Mention in 2 categories, for which a ribbon will be awarded.
4. A (Advanced) Division: Images will be chosen as Top, Runner-up or Honorable Mention in 2 categories, for which a ribbon will be awarded.
5. Note: In the event that there are not enough entries, categories and divisions will be combined.

Best of Show

The best of show image will be selected from among the 2 divisions and 2 categories.

The winner will be presented with the Paul Smith Award and a prize that has yet to be determined.

General Rules

1. The competition is open to all with the exception of the judges.
2. Entrants may submit images in either category or just one category, for a total of 2 images submitted.
3. Judging will be by a panel of three judges.
4. Images must contain an Astronomical subject.
5. Images are to be submitted in digital format. Emulsion images must be scanned into digital.
6. By virtue of submitting an entry, the entrant certifies the work as not infringing on anyone else's copyright and permits the NYAA to reproduce, in printed or electronic form, all or part of the entered material free of charge for publication and/or display in media related to the promotion of Starfest and to effectively operate and promote the competition.
7. The NYAA assumes no liability for any misuse of copyright and is not responsible for any loss of, or damage to, any images submitted.
8. The entrant is responsible for ensuring his/her entries are delivered to the competition organizer by email to starfestsalon@nyaa.ca.
9. No identifying information (e.g. title, photographer) will be included in the image itself.
10. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING IMAGES IS: July 1st 2008
11. Please include technical details of the image(s) in the body of the email.
12. The judges will select HMs, Runner-up and Top Image, if any of the entries are deemed so worthy. These awards will total approximately 10% of images submitted.
13. The Top image, if awarded, will be selected from the images scoring the highest in the competition. The Runner-Up image, if awarded, will be selected from the images with scores equal to or in the next highest group in relation to the Top image. Honourable Mention (HM) images will be selected from the next highest scoring images.
14. All entries must conform with the technical rules, and failure to so comply will result in the entries being disqualified.
15. IMAGES TAKEN SINCE JULY 2007 ONLY PLEASE.

Technical Rules

1. The image must be in JPEG format and no more than 1024 pixels wide and 1024 pixels high (i.e. at most 1024 pixels wide and at most 1024 pixels high). [Note that only the pixel dimensions matter, the resolution (pixels/inch) is irrelevant for displayed images.]
2. IMPORTANT. Please adhere to this file naming format: Division-Category-Name-Title.jpg where
DIVISION is either B (beginner), or A(advanced)
CATEGORY is either SS (Solar System), or DS (Deep Sky)
NAME is the full name of the entrant (spaces are allowed)
TITLE is the title of the image (spaces are allowed)
Please note that there is a hyphen as a separator.
For example: A-DS-Malcolm Park-Alnitak Region.jpg

Instructions to Competition Chair and Judges.

1. The primary role of the Competition Chair is to conduct the competitions in accordance with the Rules. Accordingly, the interpretation of the Rules is within the Chair's' responsibility. Ultimately, how the rules should be applied in a particular case before a competition is completed is the decision of the Competition Chair. If an issue regarding the interpretation of the Rules arises after a competition is completed, the decision should be made by the Chair.
2. The primary role of the Judges is to award marks to each image submitted to them for marking and to break ties if called upon by the Competition Chair to do so.
3. The decision to disqualify an image, before or during a competition, is to be made by the Competition Chair (NOT by the Judges). All images not so disqualified, or if there is uncertainty as to whether an image is to be disqualified, should be awarded marks by the Judges even if one or more of the Judges believes that an image should be disqualified. After a competition has been completed, the decision to disqualify an image is to be made by the Chair. If feasible, anytime an image is disqualified the entrant will be given the opportunity to submit an alternate image.
4. Decisions regarding how many images should receive awards and whether ties need to be broken are to be made by the Competition Chair. The 10% award is a rule of thumb and may be deviated from in circumstances deemed appropriate by the Competition Chair. Ties for Top and Runner-up always should be broken unless the Judges are unable to make a differentiation. In general, it is desirable that all images tied for HMs receive an award but this depends on the numbers. Where feasible, it is desirable that these rules of thumb be applied liberally but if the numbers so require then ties should be broken by the Judges.
5. Judges should refrain from commentary and discussion regarding a specific image prior to its being marked. Of course, after the marks have been awarded the Judges are free and indeed encouraged to discuss and comment on the reasons for their marks, but the marks awarded should not be changed as a result unless there has been a fundamental misunderstanding.
6. A panel of 3 judges will judge the competition.
7. The panel of judges will consist of qualified persons selected by the Chair.
8. Evaluations will be recorded as a score between 1 and 10 by each judge. The combined scores of the 3 judges will be the score for that image.
9. Image titles will be read aloud at the judging to introduce the mage to the judges. Imagers' names will not be mentioned.
10. Insofar as is practical, at the commencement of the judging, approximately 5%-10% of the entries, chosen at random by the Chair, should be exhibited expeditiously to the Judges so that they can obtain a sense of the quality of the entries before actually awarding marks.
11. A judge may not enter the competition.

OBSERVING SESSIONS

Bring your telescope and binoculars, and join us for our evening observing sessions.

Starfest Radio

Tune your radio to an FM frequency (to be determined) for cool music, interviews and announcements

THE SKY TOUR

If you feel like you are "lost in space" under the night sky, the Sky Tour may help you. Between 10:00 p.m. and midnight on Friday (Saturday will be the backup night), Ken Davy, Tony Ward, and other experienced observers will give a tour of the night sky, using various types of telescopes. The Sky Tour will be conducted in the field just west of the main tent.

"SUNSPOT" SOLAR OBSERVING SESSION

Join us for a solar viewing session on Friday 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. next to the Baseball Field. A variety of telescopes and filters will be used to observe the sun.

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

Astronomical dealers will be on hand to demonstrate and sell the latest from the world of astronomy. If there is something that you've been thinking of adding to your observing equipment and want to examine, or possibly test, under actual observing conditions, this is your golden opportunity. Commercial exhibits are located in the open field to the west of the main tent and along the roadway just north of the main tent. Commercial exhibits are open on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00am to 5:00pm

SWAP TABLE

Participants will have the opportunity to buy, sell or trade astronomical articles on Saturday, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The swap tables will be located south of the Food Booth. These tables are not for commercial sales. Individuals will be responsible for their own property at the tables.

KIDFEST

KIDFEST is a special program for younger astronomers. The Kidfest Crew this year Explores the Universe with our young astronomers. From 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Saturday in the Small Tent there will be three presentations (10 - 15 minutes in length). We will look into the movement of astronomical bodies. As usual a craft will follow each of the presentations.

Kidfest Presentations

- 10:00 a.m. **Why is the Sky Blue?** -- Join Diane and Brian as they explain, with the help of some basic experiments, why the sky is blue, the clouds are white, and sunsets red. [Recommended for the truly younger astronomers - ages 3-6.]
- 10:30 a.m. **Let the Game Begin!** Join us in a race to navigate through space, but watch out! Dangers are everywhere, Novae, Asteroids and Black Holes. Catch the Solar winds and reach your destination. Mercedes will be your game master in this fun filled and educational activity! [Recommended to astronomers age 7-9]
- 11:00 a.m. **Getting Around the Universe!** Traveling through the Universe can be trickier than you think. All sorts of things get in your way. Discover what these are as Alexi assists you on your travels through the wonders of our galaxy and beyond. Immerse yourself in the exciting and fun filled game and survive! [Recommended for all astronomers age 9+]

Parent or Guardian attendance is mandatory up to the age of 9, and recommended for ages 10 and up.

ASTRO-RAP

On Thursday night, you are invited to join us in the Main Tent. You take the stage to talk about your interests and accomplishments, be they in astrophotography or astronomy in general. Bring your images and share your experiences with others.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

On Friday night at 7:00 p.m. a movie with an astronomical theme will be shown in the Small Tent.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – (US\$ @ par)

A registration fee of \$50.00 (individual rate) or \$80.00 (family rate) is charged to cover the expenses of the convention. Family registration is defined as two adults in a legally recognized relationship and their dependant children (age 12 and under). Dependent children ages 13 - 19 are an additional \$20.00 per child. Brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, in-laws, or best friends (regardless of age) do not qualify for the family rate. You are urged to pre-register by mail before **July 11, 2008**. Please complete and return the attached registration form, with payment, to the address indicated. After **July 11, 2008** and at the gate, the registration fee will be \$60.00 per person or \$90.00 per family and \$25.00 per dependant child (age 13 – 19). Registration confirmations will be mailed, or emailed (if your email address is included on the registration form) to you, if payment is received prior to **July 11, 2008**.

DOOR PRIZE DRAW RULES

On Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. the door prize draw will be held in the Main Tent. Thousands of dollars of astronomical merchandise, provided by the astronomical retailers and manufacturers participating in Starfest, will be given away. You must claim your prize at the time your name is drawn. If you are not present when your name is drawn, another name will be drawn until the prize is given away. Your name is automatically entered into the draw if you paid a registration fee as follows: One draw ticket per individual registration, two draw tickets for each family registration, and one draw ticket for each youth registration.

CAMPGROUND REGISTRATION

This is a camping weekend, so bring your tent or trailer. The River Place is a private campground with a pool, children's play area, and a few flush toilets and coin-operated showers. Please complete the camping section of the registration form and enclose payment. If you are not camping, but staying elsewhere, please complete only the entrance fee of the camping/entrance section of the registration form, as well as the Starfest convention registration.

ELECTRICAL HOOKUPS

Electrical Hookups, apart from trailer sites, are for astronomical equipment only and should not be used for electrical appliances such as portable coolers.

TRAILER SITES

A limited number of trailer sites are available by **advance reservation only**, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please indicate the size of your trailer and your hookup requirements (water, sewer, electrical) on the registration form, as well as your phone or email address in case we need further details. Trailer sites will be assigned two weeks prior to Starfest based on the order in which registrations were received. You will be notified of your site assignment at this time. Please note that some trailer sites are obstructed by trees. If you feel your assigned site is not suitable you will be given two options:

- set up your trailer in the general camping area (without hook ups) at a reduced cost
- leave, with our apologies and a full refund.

MEALS

A buffet style dinner will be served in the Main Tent on Saturday evening. The buffet offers roast beef, roast chicken and dressing, seafood Newburg, mini red potatoes, vegetable medley, two salads, assorted breads, various deserts, coffee, tea and soft drinks. To reserve your dinner, please indicate on the registration form the number required, and enclose payment. We cannot guarantee a dinner unless you reserve one in advance.

During the day, the Red Light Café provides breakfast, light meals and snacks on a pay-as-you-go basis. Menu items include Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Chicken burgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage on a Bun, French Fries, Onion Rings, Cheese balls, Perogies, Fish & Chips, Shrimp & Chips, Chicken Fingers & Chips, BBQ Beef & Fries, Butter Tart Squares, Belgian Waffles, Muffins, Ice Cream Bars and Drumsticks, Soft Drinks, Juices, Milk, Chocolate Milk, Coffee and Tea. The breakfast menu includes – Scrambled Eggs, Sausages, Home Fries, Waffles, Breads, Juices and Coffee. The Café is open late on Friday and Saturday nights and provides coffee and doughnuts, etc. and a chance to sit and chat with friends.

Cooking is allowed in the camping area on camp stoves and charcoal grills. Open fires are not permitted. Restaurants are located in Ayton, Mount Forest, Durham, and Hanover, within a 1/2-hour drive of The River Place.

Because of the large number of people attending Starfest, picnic tables are in short supply. We suggest you bring your own folding table and chairs.

STARFEST MERCHANDISE

A limited quantity of Starfest T-shirts, Sweatshirts, baseball caps, toques and pins will be available. To avoid disappointment, order your promotional items with your pre-registration.

GET INTO THE CLUB

Astronomy is a community activity. The North York Astronomical Association is an organized group of amateur astronomers who enjoy observing, astrophotography and many other astronomy related activities. To satisfy the needs and interests of our members the club maintains two observing sites, and holds monthly meetings and observing sessions. Membership in the NYAA is open to all. Membership: \$40 individual, \$45 family. In addition, there is a \$20 site access fee which allows unlimited access to our two observing sites, one near Schomberg (approx. 45 mins. West of Toronto) and the other at Oak Heights (1 hour east of Toronto).

INTERNET REGISTRATION/CONFIRMATION

Our website has been configured to allow you to register over the Internet. Complete details and an online registration are available on our website at <http://www.nyaa.ca> If you include your email address when registering online you will receive electronic confirmation.

CREDIT CARDS

We accept VISA, MasterCard and AMEX. Please note: all prices quoted are 'cash discounted'. A 4% administration fee will be added when payment is made via credit card.

PRIVACY POLICY

Protecting your privacy has always been a priority of the North York Astronomical Association. Please be assured that all information about you and your family is kept strictly confidential and is collected, used and only disclosed, where necessary, to facilitate your participation in Starfest.

REFUND POLICY

Cancellations will be refunded in full if notification is received by July 20, 2008.

If you cancel after **July 11, 2008** or are a "No Show", a partial refund will be issued 6 – 8 weeks after Starfest as follows: 1. Registration fee less a \$25 (or \$35 if you ordered promotional items) administration fee; 2. Dinner fee, if we were able to resell your dinner tickets; 3. Camping fee; 4. If you ordered Starfest Promotional items they will be mailed to you via parcel post.

If while at Starfest you decide to leave before the end of the conference and are out of the park **before 2:00 p.m.**, the camping fee for that day and any unused days will be refunded at the registration desk when you leave.

STARFEST COORDINATES

Longitude: 80° 50' 27" W, Latitude: 44° 04' 28" N, Elevation: 400 metres.

STARFEST 2009

Starfest 2009 will be held August 20 – 23, 2009.

NYAA HOME PAGE

An electronic version of this brochure, and on-line registration is available on the Starfest website at: www.nyaa.ca

STARFEST 2008 - Advanced Registration Form (C\$&U\$@par)

To register, please complete this form and send it with your payment to: STARFEST, 235467 Concession 2C, Williamsford Ontario, N0H 2V0. **Make cheques payable to STARFEST.** You can also register via the Internet. Complete details and a registration form are available at www.nyaa.ca. **Please note all prices are cash discounted.**

Name:

Address:

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Car License: _____ No. of People: _____ Phone/Email: _____

_____ (included in this registration)

I will arrive on Mon__ Tue__ Wed__ Thur__ Fri__ Sat__

Both a Starfest Registration Fee and a Camping or Entrance Fee are charged for all participants.

STARFEST REGISTRATION FEE (see convention registration section for detailed explanation)

Individual Registration _____ at 2 \$50.00* each \$ _____

-- OR -- Family Registration (mama, papa and children age 12 and under) _____ at \$80.00* each \$ _____

Youth Registration (children age 13 – 19, when accompanied by their parents) _____ at \$20.00* each \$_____

Names of Family members / others included in this registration: _____

Dinner Reservations - Adult _____ at \$25.00 each \$_____

- Child (12 & under) _____ at \$14.00 each \$_____

CAMPING OR ENTRANCE FEE

Please calculate camping --- OR --- entrance fee using applicable rate.

Individual Camping Rate No. of People ___ x No. of Nights ___ x \$14.00 \$_____

Family Camping Rate - No. of Nights ___ x \$20.00 \$_____

Electrical Hookup for astronomical equipment** - No. of Nights ___ x \$2.00 \$_____

Trailer Site with Full Hookup – (Length of Trailer _____) - No. of Nights ___ x \$24.00 \$_____

-OR -Entrance Fee (Non-Campers) No. of People ___ x No. of Days ___ x \$10.00 \$_____

(NOTE: If you are camping overnight and staying past 2 p.m. the next day, you will owe a camping or entrance fee for the second day as well. E.g. if you arrive on Friday and stay until Saturday afternoon you owe camping or entrance fees for two days.)

Promotional Items

T-shirts: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ @ \$19.00 ea = _____ + XXL ___ @ \$24.00 ea = _____ \$_____

Sweatshirts: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ @ \$46.00 ea = _____ + XXL ___ @ \$49.00 ea = _____ \$_____

Baseball Caps _____ x \$16.00 \$_____

Toques: Black: ___ Navy: ___ Red: ___ Cream: ___ \$14.00 \$_____

Pins _____ x \$10.00 \$_____

NYAA Membership

Individual: ___ @ \$40.00 Family : ___ @ \$50.00 Observing Site Access Fee: ___ @ \$20 \$_____

Sub Total \$_____

Currency: C\$_____ U\$_____

Visa ___ MasterCard ___ AMEX ___ _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature: _____ Credit Card Administration Fee 4% of SubTotal \$_____

Total \$_____

* NOTE: After July 11, 2008 and at the gate, the registration fee will be \$60.00 per adult, \$90.00 per family and \$25.00 per child age 13 - 19.

** A limited number available, in select areas, on a first come first serve basis. Please bring a long extension cord.

MOTELS and BED & BREAKFAST

Motel and Bed & Breakfast accommodations are available, within a thirty-minute drive of the River Place, in Mount Forest, Durham, Hanover, Palmerston and Walkerton. Rates and Email contact information are available on our website at www.nyaa.ca. Please make your own reservations.

Motels

Forest Plaza Motel	284 Main St. N., Mount Forest, N0G 2L2	(519) 323-1101
Canadiana Motel	617 10th St., Hanover, N4N 1S1	(519) 364-1580
Travellers Inn	244 7th Ave. S., Hanover, N4N 2H1	(519) 364-1911
Varney Inn Motel	R.R. #3, Durham, N0G 1R0 (Hwy #6)	(519) 369-9982
Ranton Place Hotel	120 King St., Palmerston, N0G 1P0	(519) 343-3906
Elm Park Motel	R.R. #2, Palmerston, N0G 2P0	(519) 343-2540
Hillside Motel	15 Maple St., Walkerton, N0G 2V0	(519) 881-1470
Walkerton Inn	1305 Yonge St.S., Walkerton, N0G 2V0	(519) 881-0629
Lighthouse Motel	1864 Hwy #9, Walkerton	(519) 881-0202

Bed & Breakfast

Silver Creek	17 Yonge St. S., Walkerton, N0G 2V0 (Box 957)	(519) 881-0252
Forest Edge	R.R. #3, Durham N0G 1R0	(519) 369-5661
Backdoor	240 Garafraxa St., Durham, N0G 1R0 (Box 426)	(519) 369-6507
Country Lane	9792 Creek Rd. (R.R. #3), Clifford, N0G 1M0	(519) 327-8236
Little Pond	211572 Baseline Rd. (RR#4) Mt. Forest N0G 2L0	(519) 323-4458
Andrews Berry Farm	6765 Hwy # 89 (RR #4) Mt. Forest, N0G 2L0	(519) 323-2097
Washer's Eden	270 Fergus St. N., Mt. Forest, N0G 2L2	(519) 323-0028
Viewfield Inn	951 Old Durham Rd. (RR #2) Walkerton N0G 2V0	(519) 881-0879
Still Life Retreat	394591 Concession 2 (RR #1) Durham, N0G 1R0	(519) 369-3663
Dr. James Gunn Inn	283 Durham Rd. E., Durham, N0G 1R0 (Box 925)	(519) 369-6876

STARFEST Rules of Conduct

To make **STARFEST** a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, we would appreciate that you (and your dependants) abide by the following rules of conduct. The NORTH YORK ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION **reserves the right to eject any person not willing to comply with these rules of conduct.**

1. **WALK DON'T DRIVE** while inside the campground. It's a great way to meet people and make new friends. When walking on roadways please **walk on the left side of the road** so that you can see on-coming traffic. At night please bear in mind that the driver in an on-coming car may not see you as well as you see the car. Please **keep your red flashlight on so you can be seen; never play chicken with the cars. You will lose. Always yield the right of way.**
2. **DRIVE CAREFULLY.** People and telescopes are everywhere.
3. **DON'T MOVE CARS AT NIGHT** unless required by a medical emergency. If you must move your car, please use red filters to cover your headlights and backup lights. Red filters are available at the registration desk or in the main tent.
4. **PARKING FOR NON-CAMPERS.** If you are not camping, please park your car in the designated parking area, near the registration tent. If you have a telescope to set up, please do so in the special observing area set up for non-campers. Only campers may park in the camping area.
5. **RED LIGHTS AT NIGHT.** White lights are not allowed anywhere in the observing area at night. Please:
 - cover your flashlight with a red filter and keep the beam aimed at the ground
 - cover your trunk and car interior lights with red filters if you are going to be accessing your car during the night
 - DO NOT USE propane or naphtha camping lanterns
 - NO CAMPFIRES
 - shield computer monitors, keep screen intensity to a minimum, and use night vision mode or a red filter.
6. **Lasers.** If you are an owner of a laser, we strongly request that you leave it at home. While useful in an educational sense, this does not make them any less controversial. As this is a dark sky location, we have implemented a zero tolerance policy, no laser beams at Starfest after midnight.
7. **WE WILL NOT TOLERATE:**
 - conduct which is offensive and disturbing to others
 - loud noise or music
 - excessive consumption of alcohol or use of other intoxicating substances.
8. **STARFEST IS AN ASTRONOMY CONFERENCE ... NOT A ROCK CONCERT.** You are encouraged to share your interest in astronomy, not your taste in music. Please use headphones if you must observe with music.
9. **PETS** We love them, **but would prefer you leave them at home.** If you feel compelled to bring your pet please ensure they are properly restrained, you clean up after them and they do not disturb others at Starfest.
10. **PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF THE SEASONAL CAMPERS.** Do not trespass or remove anything from their campsites (seasonal campsites will be clearly marked).
11. **THEFTS CAN OCCUR,** so please protect your valuables.
12. All vendors operating in the River Place Campground during Starfest must be vetted by the NORTH YORK ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION.
13. Please obey all River Place Campground rules.

14. **Children and Teens.** Parents will be held accountable for the actions of their dependant children while at Starfest. Please review these rules of conduct with them and ensure they are in compliance. In particular, it's ok to hang out and chill with your friends, but not inside the recreation hall. The Red Light Café and Small Tent may be used providing nothing is damaged, nothing walks off and the area is left clean and tidy.
15. The NORTH YORK ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION does not accept any responsibility or liability for damage or injury to you or your equipment.