

THE CONJUNCTION

Plate 19.

TELESCOPIC APPEARANCE OF THE MOON



July 10-12, 2015
NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

ASTRONOMY ENTHUSIASTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ENJOY A WEEKEND OF OBSERVING, LEARNING, AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP AT THE 33rd ANNUAL CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY ASTRONOMERS' CONJUNCTION. THE CONJUNCTION IS HELD AT THE NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER IN NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS. THIS LOCATION PROVIDES EXCELLENT FACILITIES IN AN ENJOYABLE, RURAL ENVIRONMENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

PROGRAM

FRIDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES - Please join us for dinner on Friday at 6:30pm at the **WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT**. This family restaurant is located at 39 French King Highway (Route 2) in Gill, MA. A field trip to a local private observatory featuring a 12.5-inch telescope will follow dinner. The observatory tour will be conducted by **Hughes Pack** and **Peter Talmage**.

OBSERVING SESSIONS - Bring your telescope for the observing sessions on Friday and Saturday evenings at our "Fuller's Pasture" dark-sky viewing site near the Environmental Center, conducted by **Kevin Collins**, president of the Amherst Area Amateur Astronomers Association. Please note that the Environmental Center will not be open on Friday evening.

SWAP TABLE - Sell unwanted astronomical items and hunt for treasures at the Conjunction's popular Swap Table, which runs all day Saturday beginning at 9am.

SATURDAY MORNING PROGRAM - All of Saturday's activities take place at the Environmental Center. Join us at 9:00am for coffee and goodies. At 10:00, **"Humans or Robots: The Future of Space Exploration"** will feature presentations by **Ed Faits**, president of the Arunah Hill Natural Science Center in Cummington, MA, and **Richard Sanderson**, Curator of Physical Science at the Springfield Science Museum. Faits and Sanderson are both members of the Springfield (MA) Stars Club. Following a debate-style format, the two will argue the pros and cons of manned versus unmanned space exploration. Order will be maintained by moderator **Ron Woodland**, Conjunction coordinator and expert astronomy educator. Comments and discussion from the audience will be encouraged.

THE "BARLOW BOB" GODFREY MEMORIAL SOLAR STAR PARTY - Named in honor of "Barlow" Bob Godfrey, a well known and highly enthusiastic popularizer of solar observing, our solar star party will feature spectacular close-up views of our nearest star through specially-filtered telescopes provided by **Sue and Alan French**, who are both highly accomplished observers and writers and are members of the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers in New York. Sue is the "Deep Sky Wonders" columnist for "Sky & Telescope" magazine and the author of *Celestial Sampler* and *Deep-Sky Wonders*.

COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT - A limited edition commemorative T-shirt designed by **Dave Gallup** will be available at the Conjunction. Our T-shirts sell out fast, so order yours when you register.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS -

"DANCE OF THE POLAR LIGHTS" by **Steve Hubbard**, member of the Amateur Astronomical Society of Rhode Island (Skyscrapers) and accomplished astrophotographer.

"BUILDING YOUR OWN ANTIQUE TELESCOPE" by **Dick Parker**, expert telescope maker and member of the Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford, the Springfield (VT) Telescope Makers and Skyscrapers.

"THE UNIVERSE ACCORDING TO CHAPLE" by **Jack Megas**, planetarium educator and founder of "The Conjunction." Jack will interview **Glenn Chaple**, author of *Exploring With a Telescope* (1988) and *Outer Planets* (2009) as well as the popular "Observing Basics" column for "Astronomy" magazine. An expert observer, Chaple has over 80,000 variable star observations to his credit.

OUTDOOR DINNER - Hot and cold buffet-style gourmet dinners will be available beginning at approximately 6 pm. Deadline for dinners is Thursday, July 9. Last-minute registrants must contact Dave Gallup at (413) 525-4697.

CAMPING - Camp sites are available at beautiful Barton Cove on the Connecticut River, home to nesting bald eagles and the site of a former dinosaur track quarry, which is located a short distance from the convention. Pay showers are available. You may begin setting up at 5pm on Friday.

SATURDAY EVENING KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - "ENCOUNTER WITH PLUTO" by **J. Kelly Beatty**. A Senior Editor for "Sky & Telescope" magazine, J. Kelly Beatty joined the staff of Sky Publishing in 1974 and also served as Editor of "Night Sky." He teaches astronomy at the Dexter-Southfield School in Brookline, Massachusetts. Beatty specializes in planetary science and space exploration, so the timing couldn't be better as he discusses New Horizons' historic close encounter with Pluto, which will take place only three days after the Conjunction. He conceived and edited *The New Solar System* (1981) and is the author of *Exploring the Solar System: Other Worlds* (2001). Beatty has received awards from the American Astronomical Society, the Astronomical League and the American Geophysical Union. He also is active in the International Dark-Sky Association.

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES - On Sunday morning you may sleep late, enjoy the beautiful hiking trails at the Environmental Center or take a 12-mile interpretive riverboat ride on the Connecticut River aboard the **Quinnnetuket II**. Riverboat rides begin at 11am, 1:15pm, and 3pm, and tickets are \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors, and \$6 for children 14 and under. Reservations should be made a week in advance by calling (800) 859-2960.

CONJUNCTION COORDINATORS

*Dave Gallup Phil Harrington Jack Megas
Rich Sanderson Donna Szaban Ron Woodland*

*The Conjunction wishes to thank the staff at Northfield Mountain,
especially Kim Noyes, for helping to make this event possible.*

Please complete this form and return it, with payment, by July 3. Make checks payable to
Donna Szaban and return to her at 215 Fairlawn Street, Springfield, MA 01119.

Name _____ Club Affiliation _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

	Number of Participants	Price Per Person	Subtotal
Registration (free for ages 17 and under; \$22 after July 3).....	_____	\$20.00	_____
Camping Friday night (\$6 individual/\$14 family).....	_____		_____
Camping Saturday night (\$6 individual/\$14 family).....	_____		_____
Saturday Evening Buffet Dinner.....	_____	22.00	_____
Saturday Evening Buffet Dinner (under 12).....	_____	12.00	_____
Conjunction T-Shirt: ____ M ____ L ____ XL (\$15.00 at the convention).....		\$13.00 each	_____

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED (check or money order) _____

- ☐ Check if you plan to attend the Friday dinner. Number in your group: ____
- ☐ Check if you cannot attend the Conjunction this year but wish to remain on the mailing list.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN

During the Conjunction, the Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center will offer activities appropriate for a variety of ages and interests. Step aboard the Quinnetuket II for an interpretive riverboat ride on the Connecticut River. This is a very popular activity, and anyone interested should make reservations with Northfield Mountain in advance. A fee is charged. Other activities include hikes along self-guided nature trails at Northfield Mountain and nearby Barton Cove. For more information about Northfield Mountain activities, or to make riverboat reservations, call (800) 859-2960.

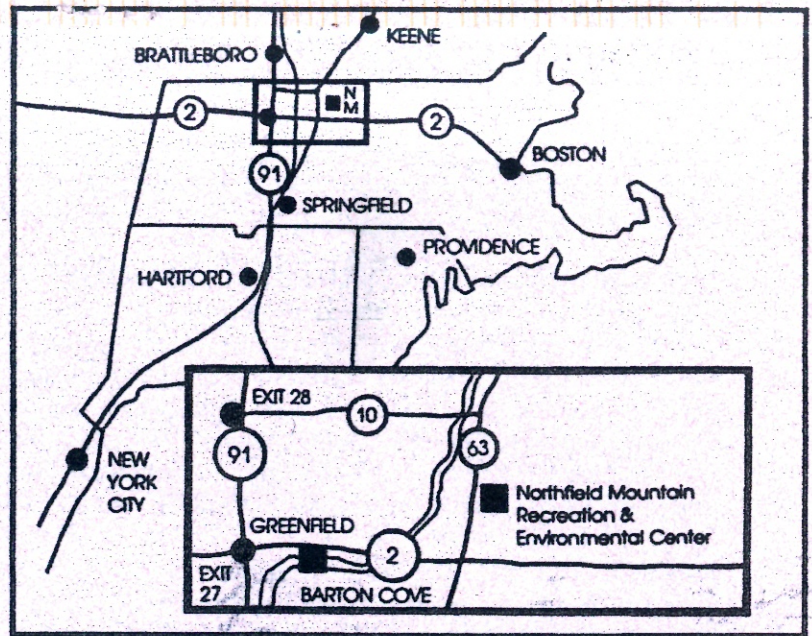
Conjunction e-mail:

rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org

Conjunction web site:

<http://www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction>

Cover illustration: "Telescopic Appearance of the Moon" from *Astronomical Recreations* by Jacob Green, Philadelphia, 1807 (America's first celestial atlas).



**Northfield Mountain Recreation &
Environmental Center**
99 Millers Falls Road (Route 63)
Northfield, MA 01360