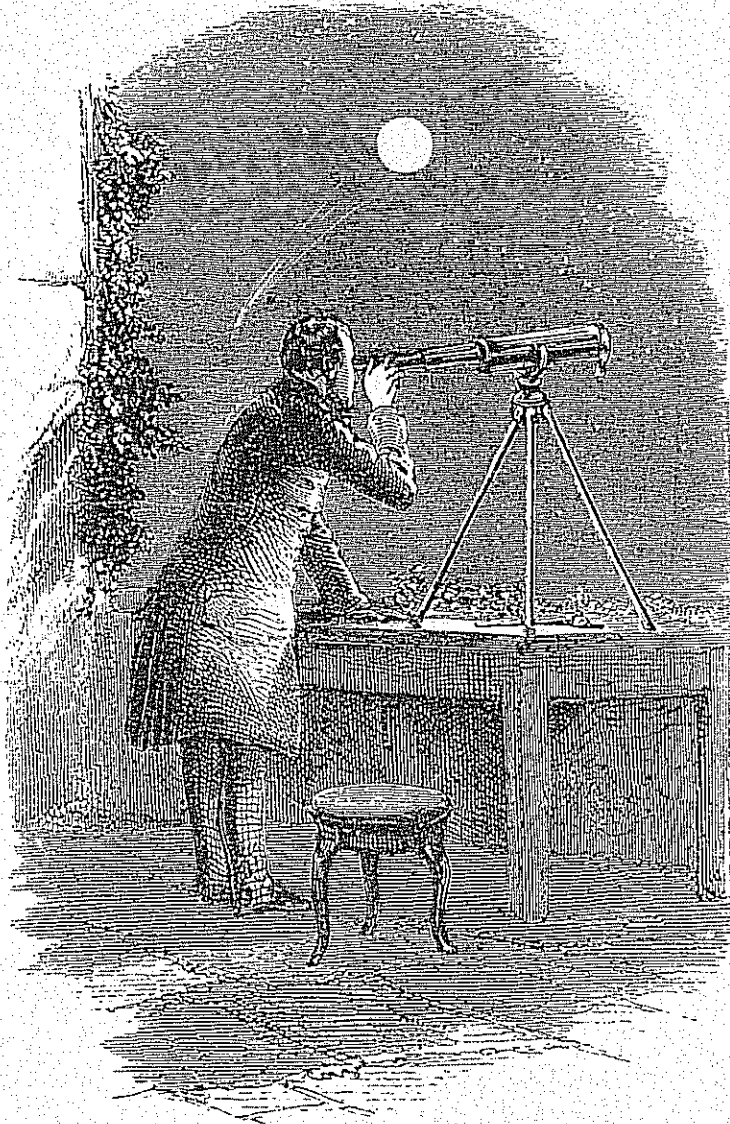


THE CONJUNCTION



July 8-10, 2016
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 34th 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.

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. Jupiter, Mars and Saturn will dominate the heavens, together with the thin, waxing crescent moon. 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 9am for coffee and goodies. At 10:00, Ron Woodland and Rich Sanderson will present, "**The Solar Eclipse Experience**," which will focus on eclipse expeditions and other aspects of total solar eclipses, in anticipation of next year's event. Ron is an experienced stargazer and astronomy educator and Rich is the curator of physical science at the Springfield Science Museum. Both are members of the Springfield Stars Club. If you have had the good fortune to witness a total eclipse of the sun, you are invited to share your stories.

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 and Conjunction supporter, 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, writers and 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 -

"THE REAL MARTIAN: EARTH EXPLORES THE RED PLANET" by **Jim J. Zebrowski**, NASA Ambassador, passionate stargazer and president of the Aldrich Astronomical Society.

"STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT: A SURVEY OF THE 20 BRIGHTEST STARS" by **Jack Megas**, planetarium educator, Springfield Stars Club member and founder of the Astronomers' Conjunction.

"SMARTPHONE APPS FOR STARGAZING" by **Tim Connolly**, electron microscopist, astrophotographer and member of the Springfield Stars Club, the Amherst Area Amateur Astronomers' Association and the Arunah Hill Natural Science Center.

OUTDOOR DINNER - A buffet-style dinner will be provided by the Diemand Chicken Farm, beginning at approximately 6pm. Deadline for dinners is Thursday, July 7. 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 - "BLACK HOLE: HOW AN IDEA HATED BY EINSTEIN WAS FINALLY PROVEN BY A GRAVITY-WAVE SONG" by Marcia Bartusiak. Combining her skills as a journalist with an advanced degree in physics, Marcia Bartusiak has been covering the fields of astronomy and physics for more than three decades. She is a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is the author of six books, including *Thursday's Universe*, *Through the Universe Darkly*, and *Einstein's Unfinished Symphony*, which focuses on efforts to detect gravity waves. Her most recent book is *Black Hole: How an Idea Abandoned by Newtonians, Hated by Einstein, and Gambled on by Hawking Became Loved*. Marcia's talk will focus on the history of the black-hole idea, finishing with a discussion about the recent historic detection of gravity waves.

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 **Quinnetucket 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. For more information, visit: <http://www.gdfsuezna.com/riverboat-cruise/>

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 2. **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 2).....	_____	\$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.

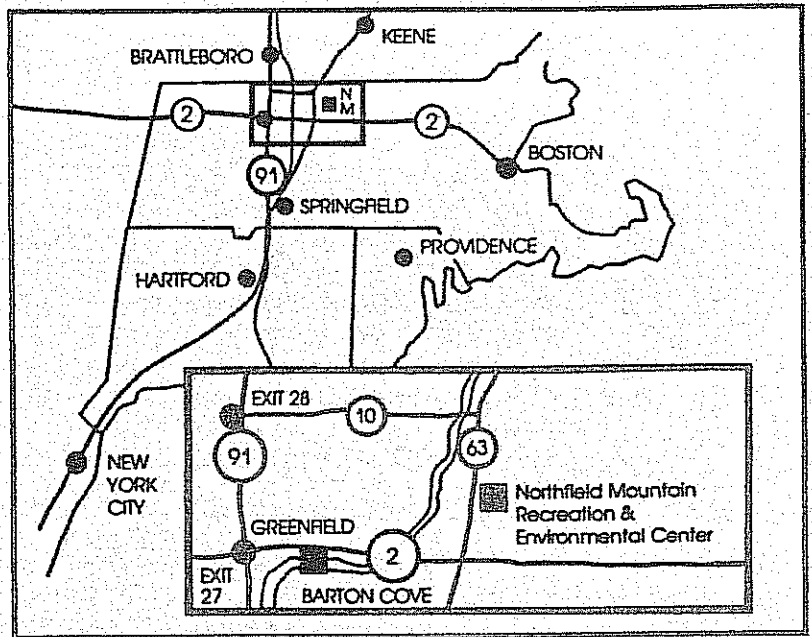
Conjunction e-mail:

rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org

Conjunction web site:

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

Cover illustration: "A Nocturnal Sky" from
The Solar System by Thomas Dick, 1847.



**Northfield Mountain Recreation &
Environmental Center**
99 Millers Falls Road (Route 63)
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THE CONJUNCTION

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