

Imaging the Sky '99

HOW TO MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU: PRACTICAL DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL IMAGING SYSTEMS

Friday and Saturday, **November 5th and 6th**,
at the **Tokyo International University of America's** campus in **Salem, Oregon**
(near the State Capitol, across the street from Willamette University).

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Dear ITS '99 Participant

Thanks for joining us at Tokyo International University of America for this year's Imaging the Sky conference. As in the past, we have chosen a theme for our conference. Last year, we concentrated on the ins and outs of color imaging. This year, we will be focusing on the practical details involved in creating a successful complete imaging system. For those of you who are just starting out in CCD work, this provides an excellent opportunity to find out what it's all about *before* you spend those big \$\$\$.

Just what is needed to be able to take successful images? Requirements for this are dictated by what we are trying to accomplish. Whether it be achieving near-photo quality images, or collecting scientific data for further reduction, as imagers we need to assemble some sort of system to achieve our goals. This goes far beyond merely plugging a CCD camera into a telescope and expecting instantaneous results.

This year, we are once again bringing together an international panel, which will include advanced imagers as well as representatives of two of the more prominent CCD camera manufacturers, who will share with you their efforts in putting together *their "complete system"*, including hardware, software, procedures, and in some cases locations.

Our format will be a series of talks, roundtable discussions, as well as casual hands-on demonstrations that hopefully will lead to a significant dialogue among all participants. Our goal at these conferences is for everyone to be a teacher as well as a student. Some of you have chosen one imaging system or one piece of software over another for your own particular reasons. Sharing your experiences will help others plan their own imaging systems with greater ease.

You are encouraged to bring samples of your work. We will have computers (PC) available for use in demonstration and analysis, using different software programs. You are also highly encouraged to bring your problems and questions. (Failures are as much a part of the learning process as are successes!)

We will be meeting in the **main auditorium** of the TIUA building (there will be signs directing you from the lobby of the building.) Free parking is available right next to the TIUA building. Contact one of the committee members if you need to unload anything upon arrival.

We will be beginning the activities with registration and a **pre-conference get-together** in the lobby in front of the auditorium, starting around **noon on Friday** (with refreshments around 2:00 PM). This is a time to get acquainted, catch up with old friends, exchange ideas, and so on. In addition, your registration fee also includes lunch on Saturday. Dinner both Friday and Saturday nights may be purchased in the TIUA cafeteria.

If you need information on places to stay, try <http://www.salemlodging.com>. This will give you information on the hotels and motels in the area, as well as maps on where they are located. For up to date schedules and other information, check our latest web page at http://www.rca-oms.org/rca/its_99/its_info.html.

Thanks for your interest. We look forward to seeing you, and hope that this will be an enjoyable and productive experience for all.

Jim Girard
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Schedule

Friday

- Noon- 2:45 PM *Registration; demos (refreshments)*
- 2:45 - 3:00 PM Welcome to ITS '99 - **Jim Girard**
- 3:00 - 3:50 PM What Do You Want to Do? Projects and Goals for CCD Astronomy - **Richard Berry**
- 4:00 - 4:50 PM Optimizing Integration Times and Guiding Techniques - **Rob West**
- 5:00 - 5:30 PM CCD Resolution Enhancement Techniques Using Track & Stack - **Jim Burnell**
- 5:30 - 7:00 PM *Dinner Break (Available on your own in TIUA Cafeteria)*
- 7:00 - 7:50 PM A Systems Approach to Photo Quality CCD Imaging - **Adrian Catterall**
- 8:00 - 8:50 PM New Techniques for High Resolution Color CCD Imaging of the Deep-Sky - **Robert Dalby**
- 9:00 - 9:30 PM The STV: A Stand-Alone Digital Integrating Video Camera and Autoguider - **Michael Barber**
- 9:30 - ??? Presentation of Individual Projects and Accomplishments - **ITS Participants**

Saturday

- 8:30 - 9:00 AM *Registration; coffee, juice, pastries*
- 9:00 - 9:50 AM CCD Spectroscopy Systems for Amateur Astronomers - **Alan Holmes**
- 10:00 - 10:45 AM An Automated System For Supernova Data Collection - **Tim Puckett**
- 10:45 - 11:00 AM *Break (Refreshments)*
- 11:00 - 11:50 AM Optimizing CCD Cameras - **Wayne Brown**
- Noon - 1:30 PM *Lunch (included in registration) TIUA Cafeteria*
- 1:30 - 2:15 PM Mobile CCD Imaging Systems: Results from La Palma - **Adrian Catterall**
- 2:15 - 3:00 PM Achieving Critical Focus - **Bill McLaughlin**
- 3:00 - 3:15 PM *Break (Refreshments)*
- 3:15 - 4:00 PM Optimizing Mechanical and Optical Systems For CCD Imaging - **Mel Bartels**
- 4:00 - 4:45 PM Problems with High Resolution CCD Imaging: Seeing vs. Vibrations - **Robert Dalby**
- 5:00 - 6:00 PM Directed Panel Discussion: The Future of Amateur CCD Astronomy; **Richard Berry**, moderator; **Michael Barber, Alan Holmes, Wayne Brown**, (plus others, TBD)
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM *Dinner Break (Available on your own in TIUA Cafeteria)*
- 7:00 - 10:00 PM Optional Panel Discussions, Individual Discussions