

Portland XVII Alt-Az Workshop

September 13, 14 and 15, 2024, Portland, Oregon

There is no registration fee for the workshop, and the only requirement is to inform us at (hbanich at gmail dot com and melvinbartels at gmail dot com) if you plan to attend in-person.

The 17th annual Portland Alt-Az Workshop will be held September 13, 14 and 15 at Dan Gray's Technical Marine Service (TMS) plant.

A BBQ lunch will be available for Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday lunch. A \$5.00 donation for each meal is requested to help pay for the food – and feel free to bring your own. A limited continental breakfast will be available Saturday and Sunday mornings, but bring your own coffee if you can't live without it.

The Alt-Az Workshop is held in a relaxed, informal environment. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions, discuss the presentations, and examine the telescopes that will be on display.

Just like last year, this will be a hybrid workshop - we'll have both in-person and Zoom-only presentations. All presentations will be seen live via Zoom to all attendees, and recordings will be available on YouTube soon after the workshop is finished.

Throughout its history, the Alt-Az Workshop has brought together advanced amateurs, professional telescope makers and astronomers in an informal collaboration. Our goal has been to adapt technologies used in the world's largest telescopes for the design and construction of low cost, high performance 1.0 to 2.0-meter amateur telescopes. We've never been closer to achieving this goal.

In addition, this year we're adding presentations about how we use the telescope we build, as well as talks from a beginner's point of view. The universe of users and beginners is much larger than the experienced group of telescope makers the workshop has been geared toward in the past, and our hope is that this broader perspective will be helpful for everyone.

Dr. Russ Genet founded the workshop, Howard Banich and Mel Bartels are co-chairs, and Dan Gray is the local host.

Workshop Location

6650 N. Basin Suite E/F
BLDG 4
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 285-8947

Accommodations near TMS:

Shilo Inn Rose Garden

1506 NE 2nd Avenue – 866-430-2692
Portland OR 97232

Monticello Motel Station

4801 North Interstate Avenue - 503-285-6641
Portland, OR 97217-3623

Super Value Inn

5205 North Interstate Avenue – 503-285-2556
Portland, OR 97217-3726

Portland XVII Alt-Az Workshop Agenda

September 13 through September 15 2024

Russ Genet – Founder, Dan Gray – Local Host, Howard Banich and Mel Bartels – Co-Chairs and Zoom Hosts

All times are Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)
(U.S. west coast time zone)

If possible, please wear earbuds or headphones while logged on to the Zoom presentations to reduce feedback.

Friday, September 13, 2024

4:45 pm - **Welcome to Portland XVII and its new format (start of Zoom meeting for day 1)** – Howard Banich

5:00 pm – **Observing by Sketching** – Howard Banich

6:00 pm - **Beyond the Celestial Showpieces – what's next for an intrepid observer** – Steve Gottlieb

7:00 pm – **BBQ** (for in-person attendees)

Saturday, September 14, 2024

8:30 am – **Morning Social at TMS** (for in-person attendees)

9:25 am - **Welcome to Portland XVII and its new format (start of Zoom meeting for day 2)** – Howard Banich

9:30 am – **3D Printing 21st Century Telescopes** – Robert Asumendi

10:30 am – **Sketching at the eyepiece** – Cindy Krach

11:30 am – **3-Axis Mount** – Tracy Wilson

BBQ Lunch Break: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

1:30 pm – **Etendue: 16" F2.9 scope, 30" upgrades, Ronchi software nulling and the Pan Mount** – Mel Bartels

2:30 pm – **Being a Beginner - Getting Started in Telescope Making** - Jerry Oltion

Break: 3:30pm – 3:40pm

3:45 pm – **Modifying a stock 10-inch telescope** – Lauren Wingert

4:45 pm – **The Peter Abrahams Astronomical History talk: Precursors to the Telescope** - Roger Ceragioli

End of day 1

Sunday, September 15, 2024

8:30 am – **Morning Social at TMS** (for in-person attendees)

9:25 am - **Welcome to Portland XVII and its new format (start of Zoom meeting for day 3)** – Howard Banich

9:30 am – **Astrometric speckle interferometry measurements of binaries, and follow up on Gaia newly discovered potential binaries** - Russ Genet

10:30 am – **Grinding my First Mirror** – Cindy Krach

11:30 am – **Using Smart Telescopes for Science** – Richard Berry

BBQ lunch Break: 12:30pm to 1:55pm

2:00 pm – **SuperBIT - Balloon Borne Telescope, and a 13 inch with a Novel Construction** – Chris Lansdale

2:30 pm – **Adventures in Making a 16-inch f/3 Telescope** – Rob Brown

Break: 3:20 – 3:40

3:45 pm – **Making a Shroud for a 30-inch f/2.7 scope** – Howard Banich

4:45 pm – **Latest Project** - Dan Gray

End of workshop