

THE FREMONT PEAK OBSERVER

Vol. I No. 2

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call For Volunteers

The *FPOA* still needs volunteers to help in construction of the 30 inch Observatory. We especially need individuals with pickup trucks, who can donate some of their time to help transport materials up to the site.

We also need construction materials. If you have a line on lumber, nails, concrete, etc., let us know! John Stewart is co-ordinating this, so if you can help out, give him a call at (415) 527-7036.

Star Party

The next Major Fremont Peak Star Party will be held on August 10th. This is also the date of our Telescope Sale. Come prepared for an exciting evening of celestial viewing. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Telescope Sale

On Saturday, August 10th, commencing at 2:00 PM, the *FPOA* will be sponsoring a Telescope Sale, where we will be selling the equipment donated to us by Celestron International. Equipment will be sold as is, and on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment can be cash or check, and 6% California State Sales tax will be charged on all items.

This promises to be a very big and exciting event! See the full page announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter for more details.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

by Frank Dibbell

The Board wishes to extend a special recognition to the following people who joined the *Association* as Sustaining members:

Melanie Barham
Charles B. Carlson
Kim McKelvey

The Board also wishes to recognize those who joined as Lifetime members, and thank them

for their additional support:

Donn F. Mukensnoble
Earl Watts
Charles Whitworth
Tom Bullock
Larry Clark

We are in the process right now of getting the permanent membership cards engraved for the Life members. Life members should be receiving them within the next several weeks. We haven't forgotten the parchments, either! They are in the works, as well.

The *FPOA* Board of Directors has decided to eliminate the "Family" membership as a separate classification. We decided that General, Contributing, and Sustaining memberships will carry implicit "family" coverage. For those who signed up as "Family" members, your membership classification is now "General", and your family is still covered. For those who signed up as "Contributing" or "Sustaining" members, your families are now covered as well. This also makes my paperwork a bit easier!!!

PROGRESS REPORT

by the FPOA Board

The "Paper Mill"

According to our executive Secretary, Rick Morales, we are all caught up on our *Association* paperwork. The most important document is our contract with the State of California, and it is currently being written. The Board should have the language for the contract worked out by the 27th of July.

We have received our tax-exempt status from the IRS. For those who are interested, our Employee ID number is 94-2953669.

Observatory Status

The California State Park Service has approved the architectural drawings for the 30" Observatory. Due to some additional paperwork that needs to be filed and approved,

ground-breaking has been rescheduled for September. This will still give us adequate time to get the 30" operational by November for Comet Halley viewing.

Proceeds from the upcoming telescope sale should cover most of our material expenses. We still need, however, volunteers to help with construction.

The 30" Scope

The 30 inch scope is a dual purpose telescope designed to be either an f4.8 Newtonian or f14.6 Cassegrain. It will be installed initially with only the Newtonian focus operational; the Cassegrain focus will be added on at a later date. The 30 inch will be equatorially mounted on an English Cross-axis mounting.

Items preceded by a double asterisk (**) indicate a change in status from lasttime:

- The tube assembly is complete
- The primary mirror is complete (unaluminized)
- The secondary mirror support is under construction
- The primary mirror cell is complete
- ** The northern polar axis bearing is complete
- The southern polar axis bearing is complete
- The declination bearing housing is complete
- The 24 inch R.A. drive gear has been cut
- ** The vacuum tank necessary to aluminize the big mirrors is complete.
- ** Waiting delivery of the Newtonian secondary from Coulter Optical.

The 22" Scope

The 22 inch scope is set up as an f4.5 Newtonian. It will be equatorially mounted on a standard fork mounting. Items preceded by a double asterisk (**) indicate a change from last time:

- The tube assembly is complete
- ** The primary mirror is complete (see comments below)
- The primary mirror cell is complete
- The secondary mirror and support is complete

— The mounting is complete

— The R.A. drive gear needs to be cut.

Initial testing indicated that there was a slight depression of roughly six inches in diameter in the center of the mirror. This was not a problem, since it would fall well within the shadow of the secondary. Further testing, however, indicated that the depression was closer to eight inches in diameter, rather than the previously thought six. So, its back to the lap!

THE GREAT CELESTRON INVENTORY PARTY

by Denni Medlock

When the *FPOA* was given a moving van full of telescopes and related equipment over Memorial Day weekend, we really had no idea of what and how much we actually had. The Board called for an inventory of the equipment on Sunday, June 9th, during which we would assemble and catalog the numerous items to get a fair idea of what we *really* possessed.

Fifteen volunteers showed up, as early as 8:00 AM, at Howard Medlock's house, where the equipment had been in storage since its donation. Soon boxes of telescopes were being carried out of the house and garage, and were being set up and assembled on the front lawn. Kevin Medlock, Bob Fingerhut, and John Gleason acted as the Celestron "experts", helping to identify telescope models and missing parts. Chris and Shea Pratt, Bill Smith, John Stewart, Charles Thomson, Mike Traub, Earl Watts, Jack Peterson, and Steve Greenberg provided the necessary muscle for moving and assembly of the various telescopes.

My job was to tag and list the equipment and its condition after each scope was checked out. Surprisingly, as we went along, we found very few which were damaged or missing much more than an eyepiece, star diagonal, or finderscope. Damage seems to have been limited to the original boxes, which for the most part are pretty "ragged".

At one point we had over one hundred telescopes set up on Howard's front lawn! An occasional passerby would stop and ask if we were holding a yard sale. One couple asked, and then commented, "Oh, you're only selling

telescopes", then sped away. Sorry we didn't have what they were looking for, but *we* were sure having a lot of fun with the gold mine!

Teamwork and cooperation were very much in evidence throughout the ordeal, despite the fact that there were fifteen people laboring on a very warm afternoon. The job was accomplished very efficiently, and with a very high degree of accuracy (more importantly, no one yelled at me despite the fact I was swamped trying to keep up with assigning item numbers to telescopes!).

By the time everything was tagged, boxed, and carted back into the house not only were we bushed, but the front yard looked like a snow storm of styrofoam peanuts had hit it! Cleaning those up finished us off and afterwards we thankfully retreated to the closest ice cream store.

The results of the inventory are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter, along with the announcement of the upcoming sale. There are many outstanding bargains to be had, and the sale of each scope brings us one step closer to the completion of our Observatory. Many thanks to **Celestron** and all of the *FPOA* volunteers who have gotten the effort to this point. Hope to see you at the sale!!!

SCOPES FOR SALE!!!

by Frank Dibbell

The following list is not entirely complete; we had numerous box loads of spare parts left over, which Association Member Earl Watts is using to assemble complete scopes and tripods. While these are not included in the list, they will be present at the sale. Sale prices quoted run roughly 30 to 35% of list price. These are **REAL** bargains!

An explanation of the abbreviations used:

R.P.: Regular Polaris Mount

S.P.: Super Polaris Mount

ALT: Alazimuth Mount

EQ: Equatorial Mount

comp: Complete Scope

incompl: Incomplete Scope (missing eyepiece, etc)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	SALE PRICE
Binoculars 8 x 21	2	45
C-100 ALT comp	1	450
C-130 Newtonian, 5" - comp	1	275
C-5 Telephoto only	1	180
C-60 ALT comp	10	120
C-60 R.P. comp	10	200
C-60 S.P. comp	1	225
C-80 R.P. comp	14	400
C-80 S.P. comp	2	425
C-90 S.P. comp	1	425
C-90 Astro incompl.	1	250
C-90 Spotting Scope	3	250
CO-20-60 zoom w/ALT mount	1	125
CO-40 ALT comp	8	50
CO-60 ALT comp	5	120
CO-60 R.P. incompl.	1	175
DC-60 ALT incompl.	1	150
DCO-60 ALT comp	7	175
DCO-60 R.P. comp	2	200
Mount ALT w/tripod	1	100
Mount w/tripod	1	150
Mount, S.P. w/tripod	4	250
Reflector, 3" Cometron ALT comp	1	100
Reflector, 3" dented tube	1	30
Reflector, 4" incompl.	1	75
Refractor, 4" ALT comp	1	450
Refractor, 40mm ALT comp	1	60
Refractor, 60mm no finder	1	50
Refractor, 70mm EQ comp	2	350
Refractor, 80mm R.P. incompl.	1	200
Refractor, 90mm S.P. comp	1	500
Spotting Scope, 50mm comp	1	75
Spotting Scope, 60mm comp	4	150
Telephoto, 500mm	1	65
Tripod, C-8	4	125

The purpose of the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* is to provide educational and interpretive services of astronomically related topics to visitors of Fremont Peak State Park. The *Fremont Peak Observer* is published quarterly, and is the official publication of the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association*. Articles and other items for publication should be sent to:

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

FPOA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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TELESCOPE SALE !!!

The *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* will be sponsoring a fund-raising telescope sale at Fremont Peak State Park on Saturday, August 10th, 1985. The sale begins at 2:00 PM, and is open to everyone!

The equipment we are selling has been donated to us, the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association*, by **Celestron International**. All the scopes were either demonstrator models, or were factory returns; they are all functional, high-quality instruments. Proceeds from the sale will be used to finance the construction of the 30" Observatory.

To give you an idea of the kinds of bargains you will find:

- Over 20 C-60 refractors (altazimuth and regular Polaris mounts), which retail for up to \$500.00, on sale for \$120.00 to \$200.00!!!
- Over 16 C-80 refractors (all Polaris mounts), which retail for up to \$1000.00, on sale for \$300.00 to \$400.00!!!
- Over 20 40mm and 60mm COMETRON refractors (altazimuth mounts), which retail for up to \$425.00, on sale for \$50.00 to \$175.00!!!
- Several C-8 tripods, regularly \$300.00, on sale for \$125.00!!!
- Several Super Polaris mounts with wood tripod for \$250.00!!!

Items will be sold on a first-come, first served basis. We have roughly 80 telescopes, so supplies are limited. Terms are cash or check, and equipment will be sold as is. Sales tax of 6% will be charged on all purchases. There will be people on hand to show you how to set up your new scope, and to give you some pointers on its use. For further information, contact Frank Dibbell at (408) 746-6493 during normal business hours.

Fremont Peak State Park is roughly a one hour drive south of San Jose. To reach the park:

- Take US101 South to California Highway 156E (San Juan Bautista)
- Drive east on 156E approximately 3 miles
- Follow the signs to the park

