

PREMONT PEAK OBSERVER

A NEW LOOK...

The "Fremont Peak Observer" starts the new year off with a brand-new look! I have recently acquired a home computer and some desktop publishing software, along with a database package for tracking FPOA membership, etc.

What does all this mean? Well, for one thing, it will be easier to produce newsletters. For another, all membership information now exists in only one file, from which mailing labels, renewal notices, etc. can be produced.

There is a dark side to all this, however. I spent most of the month of January loading all the membership information into the new database and "debugging" the programs which produce my mailing labels, Membership Directories, etc. It is possible (albeit remote!) that I might have made a mistake on a name or address. I urge you to take a moment to look at the name and address as it appears on your mailing label. If your name isn't spelled right, or the address is wrong, please let me know and I'll correct it.

* * * * *

WAA HONORS FPOA

by Denni Medlock

The Fremont Peak Observatory Association has been awarded the Western Amateur Astronomers (WAA) 1987 Society Service Recognition Award. This newly instituted award is for outstanding service in providing organized amateur astronomical activities in local, regional, and national settings. The award recognizes the work by individuals or groups for their efforts in promoting amateur astronomy, public education, or other related activities.

Nominated by Norm Sperling of "Everything in the Universe", the FPOA was chosen for the regional award by the WAA board at its winter meeting. Stony Ridge Observatory in California received the national award for its early work in the lunar space program. The Orange County Astronomical Association received the local service award for its public observatory, which houses a 22-inch telescope.

The FPOA will formally receive the certificate for this award at the WAA/ASP convention, which will be held in Pomona July 11th through the 16th. For more information on the WAA/ASP convention, contact Denni at 415-654-6796.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Moved recently?

If your mailing label still has your old address on it, please call Frank Dibbell at 408-746-6493 during normal business hours (Mon-Fri, 8-5).

The "Fremont Peak Observer" will be moving to expanded quarters sometime around March-April. A new address and telephone number will be announced in the next Newsletter.

The FPOA Board wishes to publicly acknowledge the very generous donation made by Dr. Jack Marling of LUMICON, of two 12x80 Superfinders for the 30-inch scope, and a 20mm Nagler eyepiece!

The Board also expresses its gratitude to the many of you who have assisted us by your generous financial contributions to the Association. We thank you all!

TELESCOPE CERTIFICATION CLASS

All FPOA members wishing to become qualified 30-inch telescope users are invited to attend an upcoming class given by Kevin Medlock. Operations of the instrument plus check-in, check-out procedures for the observatory will be demonstrated.

The first class will be held at the observatory on February 28th at 4:00PM, after the Saturday work party. No registration is necessary. If you need further information, call either Kevin or Denni at 415-654-6796.

Remember, any member wishing to operate the 30-inch must attend a Certification class and be qualified before being allowed "solo" on the scope.

* * * * *

WEEKEND WORKERS STILL NEEDED

Weekend work parties are back in full force to put the finishing touches on our observatory. The major effort is complete, but a lot of the little details need yet to be done. If you want to help, and say that you really had a "hand" in building the observatory, come down to the Peak where foreman Charlie Carlson and his able-bodied assistant Donn Mukensnable will set you up with some work!

To update you on the status of the observatory: we now have power, thanks to PG&E. Also, many thanks to Denni Medlock and John Stewart for scaring up carpeting at 2.50 a yard!

Kevin designed a beautiful winch assembly for opening and closing the roof. John Gleason, Kevin, and Rick Morales are building an observing platform to be used with the 30-inch, to make access to the newtonian focus much easier.

We are even getting more media attention: celebrities Kevin and Denni Medlock appeared on "Bay Area Backroads" (Ch4, 6PM Sunday) to give a

little talk on Fremont Peak Observatory. A tape of the segment will be shown at the next FPOA Star Party.

* * * * *

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The 7th Annual Bay Area Astronomical Auction, sponsored by the San Jose Astronomical Association, will be held this year on May 2nd at the Los Gatos Red Cross. This represents an excellent opportunity for the FPOA to raise funds to finish the observatory building. The auction, an event which has become an important gathering for local amateur astronomers, usually draws a large "bid-crazy" crowd.

If you have old items of an astronomical bent, you may donate them to the FPOA, and the proceeds received from their sale will benefit the observatory. To donate items, you can either bring the item to the observatory by April 25th, or you can register the items at the auction under the name "FPOA".

If you wish to register the items at the auction, we strongly recommend that they be pre-registered. To pre-register items, send a SASE to AUCTION, c/o Jim Van Nuland, 3509 Calico Ave., San Jose CA 95124, and request an "Item Registration Form".

* * * * *

FPOA Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Frank Dibbell	735-9597
<i>Vice-President</i>	Charlie Carlson	923-7592
<i>Exec. Secretary</i>	Rick Morales	623-4255
<i>Admin. Secretary</i>	Denni Medlock	654-6796
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Stewart	527-7036

Members-at-large

John Gleason	790-9250
Charles Whitworth	578-2199
Bob Fingerhut	263-4455
Bob Schalck	782-1537

The FREMONT PEAK OBSERVER is published quarterly, and is the official publication of the Fremont Peak Observatory Association.

The Fremont Peak Observatory Association is a tax-exempt, not for profit organization dedicated to providing education and interpretive services in Astronomy using the resources available at Fremont Peak State Park