

Notes from the Annual Meeting

By all accounts the FPOA's Second Annual Family Picnic and Star-B-Q was a resounding success. Over 65 members and their guests enjoyed barbecued hamburgers supplied by the FPOA, and feasted on the variety of salads, cakes, and brownies supplied by our generous membership. The Board would like to publicly thank Association member Bob Ray for his generous contribution, which financed the picnic.

At the business portion of the general meeting, Dr. Denzil Verardo of the State Department of Parks and Recreation presented the FPOA with a grant for \$900.00 to be used for the purchase of some nice, comfortable chairs for the meeting room (Goodbye wooden benches!)

Also during the meeting the results of our annual election were announced. Both Denni Medlock and Frank Dibbell were re-elected to the Board. Founding member Kevin Medlock was elected to replace the retiring John Stewart. Officers for the 1988 calendar year will be appointed at the October Board meeting.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, the drawing to see who would win the C-90 astro telescope donated by member John Gleason. The winner? Al Fosgate of Paicines, California. Congratulations, Al! I should mention that the raffle, plus donations received

during the month of August, brought almost \$600.00 into our treasury.

After dark the 30-inch was opened for an evening of membership observation, and a re-play of that movie classic, "The Making of Fremont Peak Observatory", was shown in all of its silent, super-8 glory.

Again, thanks to all who helped make our Second Annual Meeting a success. I'm anxiously looking forward to the Third Annual Picnic and Star-B-Q!

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REMEMBER: Tax time will be upon us, and what better way to reduce your tax liability while promoting public education in Astronomy than by sending in a tax-deductible donation to the FPOA? Checks may be made out to the "FPOA", and sent to the address on the cover of this newsletter. Thank you!

FPOA Board of Directors

President	Frank Dibbell	408-255-6386
Vice-President	Charlie Carlson	408-923-7592
Exec. Secretary	Rick Morales	408-623-4255
Admin. Secy.	Denni Medlock	415-654-6796
Treasurer	John Stewart	415-527-7036

Members-at-large

John Gleason	415-792-8248
Charles Whitworth	408-578-2199
Bob Fingerhut	408-263-4455
Bob Schalck	415-782-1537

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 public education and interpretive services in Astronomy using the resources available at Fremont Peak State Park.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

1988 will be a very big and exciting year for our Association, and we want to fill you in on some of the things we have planned.

Number 1: We are putting the finishing touches on a "Membership Packet" that will include, among other things, a copy of the Association By-Laws, a current Membership Directory, and the "official" Rules and Regulations governing the use of the 30-inch telescope. We expect to have this package ready by March.

Number 2: We are assembling a more "formal" summer program for the 1988 season. We will expand our slide set to provide different shows, and we will be actively seeking the occasional "VIP" to be a guest speaker.

Number 3: The Observatory building will be expanded to include a redwood deck on the west side, for the purpose of setting up the Association's smaller scopes to handle the "overflow" during our Public Nights.

Number 4: Improvements to the general meeting room - the addition of more comfortable chairs to replace the hard wooden benches on loan from the State, and the addition of some display cabinets to exhibit the works of Association members.

Updates on the progress of these various projects will be carried in the FPOA Newsletter.

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An Important Message...

by John Gleason

Certified members of the FPOA enjoy a unique privilege unavailable to most amateur astronomers: direct access to a 30-inch telescope. In order to ensure the safe and continued operation of the building and equipment, we must have rules governing its use.

Since the scope has been put into operation and opened up for membership use, a number of potentially serious rules infractions have occurred, some of which have caused damage: burns to the carpeting in the observing room, soft drink spray on the mirror, failure to lock the roof when open, leaving the building open and unattended, and failure to fill out the observing log.

The Board must assume some responsibility for these infractions, because eventhough observatory rules were verbally stated during telescope certification, they have not been formally published and posted. To correct this oversight, the basic rules of use of the observatory are included in this article. The FPOA Board will be making regular inspections of the observatory to check for compliance to these rules. Association members who abuse the observatory will find their privileges revoked.

RULE 1: There is to be no eating, drinking, smoking, space heaters, or dew guns allowed within the building. If you have specialized electrical equipment that you need to run your observing program, obtain clearance through the

In addition to obvious astronomical items such as eyepieces, the FPOA needs two heavy-duty screen doors, display cases, and cabinets. If you have a lead on where we might obtain one of these items, or if you would like to donate one of them, please contact Frank Dibbell. Any leads will be appreciated!

scheduling chairman first.

RULE 2: No vehicular parking at the observatory building. A hot catalytic converter could touch off a fire in the dry grass.

RULE 3: As part of our contract with Kevin Medlock, the Observing Log must be filled out at the end of each observing session. The log contains notes about what you did that evening, number of guests present, and if any problems were noted with the equipment or structure. Accidents and/or damage will be reported immediately to the Scheduling Chairman.

RULE 4: Cleaning, optical collimation, and mechanical adjustments to the 30-inch scope are prohibited. If something is wrong, note it in the log and report it.

RULE 5: Telescope time can be obtained by certified members through the Scheduling Chairman, John Gleason. He may be reached at 415-792-8248. Leave your name and number on his answering machine and he will return your call. Certified members can sign up for 2 nights of telescope time in a 30-day period.

Questions regarding these rules can be directed either to John Gleason, or to the Association President, Frank Dibbell. A more complete list will be published next March, and will be distributed to every member of the Association. Additionally, copies will be posted in the observing room.

I urge every member of the Association to take personal pride in the work we all

have done in the past two years. Following our basic guidelines will benefit not only the Association, but our goal of public education in Astronomy.

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Board Selects New Officers

The FPOA Board appointed its officers for the 1988 calendar year at its October meeting. The 1988 officers are: Frank Dibbell, president; Kevin Medlock, vice president; Rick Morales, executive secretary; Denni Medlock, treasurer.

The next FPOA Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 8th.

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A Note from the President...

An unfortunate incident occurred at the October 17th Public Observing Night, a repeat of which could jeopardize all that we have done to promote public education in Astronomy these past several years.

Please keep in mind that the privilege to set up behind the Ranger's house is by invitation; you must have the prior approval of Rick Morales before doing so. Furthermore, if it is a "Public Night", your presence there is an implicit invitation to the visiting public to ask you questions about your scope, etc. It is also an opportunity for you, as an experienced observer, to assist the public in proper Star Party etiquette in a polite manner. Name-calling, slurs, or other epithets directed towards invited guests will not be tolerated by either the State Park Service or the Association. Such behavior will result in loss of the privilege to set up behind the Ranger's house, and expulsion from the Association.

Remember, as Association members we are volunteers of the State Park system, providing a service to the public.

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