



1988 Public Programs

The dates for our 1988 Public Programs have been set, along with the theme for each program. We need volunteers to assist in all phases of the programs, from those who will run the program to those who will operate the auxiliary telescopes (Association 4-inch refractor and 8-inch reflector). If you want to volunteer, call the FPOA's Executive Secretary, Rick Morales, at 408-623-4255, and give him your name, number, and program date(s) you are interested in helping with.

If you do volunteer, you will need to attend one of the special training sessions to learn how to operate Association equipment, and how to run a program (schedule posted elsewhere in this issue). Thank you all for your support in this upcoming year!

Want To Publish A Newsletter?

Ever thought of publishing a Newsletter for your local non-profit organization? The Fremont Peak Observatory Association is looking for a volunteer to take over production of its quarterly newsletter. Composing, printing, and mailing approximately 200 copies will take about 20-25 hours of effort every three months. If you are interested, please call Frank Dibbell at 408-255-6386 for more details.

The FPOA is also looking for an individual who would like to assume the position of Membership Chair. This job requires about 40-60 hours of effort between December and January of each year, and about an hour a month the rest of the year. If interested, call Frank at the above number for more details.

1988 SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

April 23:	8:00PM - Midnight.	National Astronomy Day.
May 7:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Venus, galaxies, clusters
May 21:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Moon, Venus, clusters
June 4:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Uranus and Neptune at opposition
June 18:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Moon, Venus, Uranus, Neptune
July 9:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Selected galaxies and clusters
July 23:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: The planets
August 6:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Meteor Showers Program
August 13:	3:00PM - Dawn	Subject: The FPOA 3rd Annual Starbecue
August 20:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Begin Mars Watch
September 3:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Mars (Guest Speaker planned)
September 17:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Mars (continued)
October 1:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: Selected Galaxies and clusters
October 15:	8:00PM - Midnight.	Subject: The Moon and the Planets

Programs are tentative; the dates are fixed, but the content may change. Final programs will be available at the Observatory by the end of March. Volunteers are needed to conduct the program, operate the 30-inch, operate the smaller scopes, and to assist in answering questions. Training will be provided to all volunteers.

Tidbits...

A note to our Life Members... You should all have your permanent, bronze membership cards by now. If for some reason you don't, please call Frank Dibbell at 408-255-6386.

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The Membership Directory will be ready for distribution around mid-March. This Directory is provided as a courtesy to FPOA members and is for non-commercial use only.

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Parking at the 'Peak

With the 1988 Public Program season almost upon us, it is time to review the rules for "parking" behind the Ranger's house on Public Program nights.

The general rule is, no overnight parking allowed. You may, of course, drive up behind the Ranger's house for the purpose of unloading equipment, and picking up same equipment.

Parking at the Observatory itself is expressly prohibited due to the potential fire danger inherent when a hot catalytic converter brushes against dry grass.

There are exceptions to parking behind the Rangers house. Requests to do so must be cleared with the Park Ranger prior to the evening of the Public Program. Call Rick Morales at 408-623-4255 to obtain permission.

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Notes From The Board

The February 13th Board Meeting was held at Bob Fingerhut's in Milpitas. Major items of interest... The FPOA has ordered some high-quality chairs for the Meeting Room with the grant money we received from the State Department of Parks and Recreation (Goodbye wooden benches!).

Plans are underway to install the plate glass "base" for the stained glass window in the sliding roof. Expected completion is the end of March.

The FPOA has purchased two new eyepieces with donated funds for the 30-inch: a 16mm Nagler and a 40mm wide field.

At the Observatory, minor work is underway to upgrade the winch used to open and close the sliding roof.

The Medlock's will be writing a "Telescope Certification Handbook", to be used in training program volunteers. Additionally, the Lease Agreement between the FPOA and the Medlocks for the use of the 30-inch scope was finalized.

Rick Morales and Frank Dibbell will begin a "publicity campaign" to spread the word of our upcoming summer of public programs.

The next Board meeting will be held at Fremont Peak Observatory on March 19th at 3:00PM. Should it be cloudy or raining, the meeting will be relocated to Bob Fingerhut's in Milpitas at 1:00PM. All members are welcome to attend.

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Remember: April 23rd is National Astronomy Day

SJAA Auction on May 7th

Remember, the SJAA Annual Auction will be on Saturday, May 7th, at the Los Gatos Red Cross. If you have an odd astronomically oriented whiz-bang you would like to donate to the FPOA, the FPOA will take it to the auction and (hopefully) raise some cash for our treasury. For more information, contact Frank Dibbell.

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A Membership Survey...

As a cooperating association supported by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, our goal is to provide "interpretive services" in Astronomy using the facilities available within Fremont Peak State Park. To meet this goal, we rely on the support of our membership. Support in this case can take many forms: financial contributions help us buy the equipment we need; volunteer labor built the Observatory, etc.

As a Board, we are interested in gauging how effective our services have been. We are also interested in knowing what your expectations are as a member of the Association. On the last page of this newsletter you will find a short survey that asks some of these questions. I would like to ask you to take a few moments to respond to the survey. The original copy need not be returned (in order to preserve your Newsletter!); you can simply answer the questions by number, or make a facsimile copy - whatever is easiest for you.

Completed surveys can be mailed to the return address on this envelope, can be given to any Board member, or can be dropped off at Rick Morales's house at the Peak. Your answers will help provide us with our future direction. Thank you.

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Telescope Certification Class Schedule

The first two 30-inch telescope certification classes for 1988 will be held on March 19th at 8:00PM, and April 9th at 8:00PM. Each class is limited to seven people.

To register for one of the classes, call Kevin Medlock at 415-654-6796. Priority will be given to those who sign up to volunteer for assisting at one of the public programs. Helpful hint: when you call to sign up, have a particular program night in mind for which you would be willing to assist. Another helpful hint: pick a May or June program night!

As this Newsletter is only published quarterly, future training class schedules will be posted at the Observatory itself. For other questions regarding instrument training, call Kevin Medlock at the above number.

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FPOA Officers and Directors

President	Frank Dibbell	408-255-6386
Vice-Pres.	Kevin Medlock	415-654-6796
Exec. Secy	Rick Morales	408-623-4255
Treasurer	Denni Medlock	415-654-6796
Directors:	Charlie Carlson	408-923-7592
	John Gleason	415-792-8248
	Charles Whitworth	408-977-0805
	Bob Fingerhut	408-263-4455
	Bob Schalck	415-782-1887

The **Fremont Peak Observer** is published quarterly, and is the official publication of the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association*. The 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.

Basic membership in the Association is \$10.00 per year, plus a one-time \$10.00 initiation fee. Membership in the Association runs the calendar year; there is no pro-ration of dues. For further information, contact any Board Member.

1988 FPOA Membership Questionnaire

Please take a few moments to answer the following questions, and return this questionnaire, or a reasonable copy of it, to

Fremont Peak Observatory Survey
10281 Parlett Place
Cupertino, CA 95014

1. How did you learn about the Fremont Peak Observatory Association?

- Newspaper article
- An associate
- Literature posted at the State Park
- By "accident"
- Other (please explain): _____

2. Do you feel that you are familiar with the goals and objectives of the Association?

- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not at all

Comments: _____

3. If we could add one new "thing" to our facility, what would you like it to be?

4. If we added one more benefit of membership, would would you like it to be?

5. What additional services would you like to see the FPOA become involved in (astronomically related)?

6. Parking at the 'Peak is a known problem. How would you resolve it?

What skills do you have to share in public programs?