






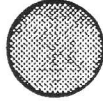






The Fremont Peak ***OBSERVER***

Promoting public education in Astronomy

September 1990

Volume VI No. 3

October	November	December
6 	3 	1 December Newsletter to press 
13 Public Program 	10 	8 
20 FPOA Board Meeting 3:00PM Observatory Open 	17 Observatory Open 	15 Observatory Open 
27 Public Program (Last of Year) 1990 AANC Conference 	24 	22 1991 Membership Dues Now Payable 

A New Look...

I have received some suggestions from FPOA members on how to make the newsletter "better". One thing that people mentioned was having some sort of calendar that was easy to read, and that would summarize important dates for the upcoming 3 months.

The Events Calendar above is one of the results of these suggestions. Note that it only lists Saturday dates. Note also that the lunar phase

is approximate; the actual phase might occur as much as 3 days before or 3 days after the particular Saturday. Hopefully, you will find this calendar useful.

Suggestions for improvements to the Newsletter, inclusions to the Calendar, etc. should be made to Frank Dibbell at (408) 974-7319.



The Annual Picnic

Over 100 members and their guests attended the 5th Annual FPOA Membership Meeting and "Star-B-Q". Attendees enjoyed the ambience of Fremont Peak State Park, great food, and a pleasant evening of astronomical observation. It was also a good time to renew friendships, and visit with those people you only see "once a year".

At the General Meeting, the "tongue-in-cheek" awards were presented, door prizes awarded, and two new board members were elected. After the General Meeting, Bill Borucki from NASA gave a talk at the Observatory on the "Search for Other Solar Systems".

"Tongue-in-cheek" awards

"Writer's Cramp Award": to Kurt Bomke for his prolific prose. Whether on vacation or just out observing with his 25-inch scope, he has kept my mailbox overflowing with his experiences, which have come in handy on more than one occasion when I've been short of articles for the Newsletter!

"In Absentia Board Member Award": to Donn Mukensnabe. Donn, a Board Member for the past two years, has had the misfortune of being out of town on his company's business for most of this year's Board Meetings.

"The Power Behind the Throne Award": to Paula Dibbell. Even though I write the newsletter, Paula does all the "grunt work", taking the proofs to the printers, stapling, folding, stuffing and stamping the envelopes - in short doing all the real work that needs to be done to get this newsletter out every quarter!

"Smokey the Bear Cub Reporter Award": goes to Kurt Bomke, Don Stone, Rob Toebe, and Skip Whitworth for their diligence in keeping me abreast of the fire which threatened our Observatory last June 21st. As it happens, I was out of the office that day, so I returned to a chronological history of events recorded on my

answering machine over the course of the afternoon.

"New Board Members"

This year, the board terms of Frank Dibbell, Kevin Medlock, and Denni Medlock expire. Kevin and Denni agreed to stand for re-election; Frank did not. The names of Pat Donnelly and Dave Barosso were entered into nomination, thus providing us with our first "contest" in four years! After the votes were tallied, the results: Kevin and Denni re-elected, Dave Barosso elected, were announced to the membership.

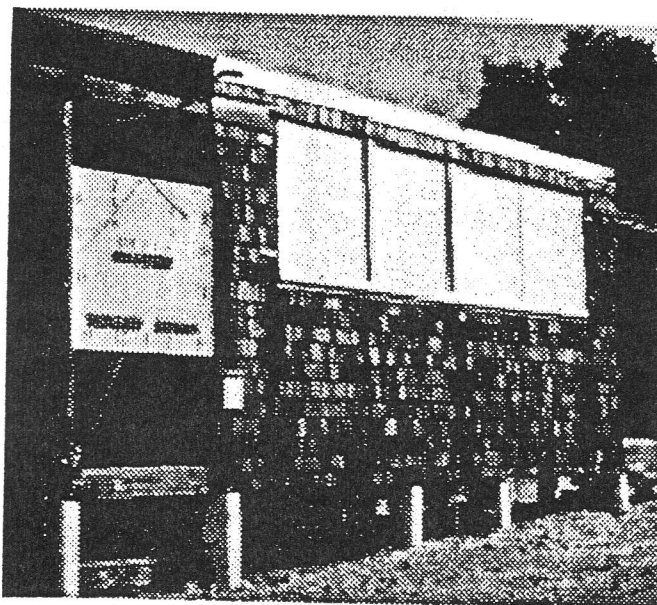
As these things are wont to happen, we also wound up with two resignations shortly after the election: Donn Mukensnabe, whose job will be taking him overseas for an extended period of time, and Charlie Carlson, who was our foreman and chief contractor for the construction of the Observatory and has recently moved to Boise, Idaho.

Pat Donnelly has been appointed by the Board to finish Donn's term of office. We currently have no candidates to fill Charlie's term, which ends December 1992. If you would like to be a Board Member, come to the next meeting, to be held October 20th at Fremont Peak Observatory, starting at 3:00PM.



Moved Recently...?

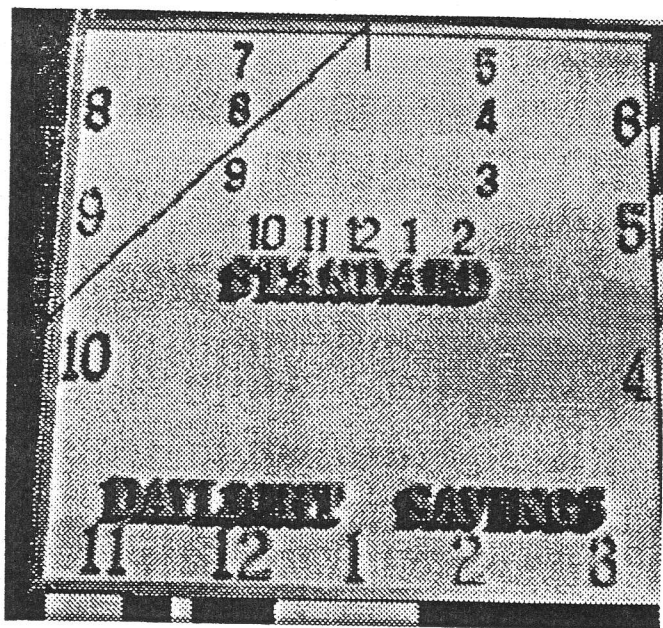
Let us know your new address. Send in a change of address form (available at your local post office), or call Rick Morales and give him the information over the phone.



Sundial on the south wall of the observatory

Fremont Peak Sundial

Fremont Peak Observatory has a new "ornament" gracing the south wall of the Observatory: a large sundial that tells both Pacific Standard and Pacific Daylight time! The sundial was built by long-time Association and Board Member Charlie Carlson, who makes sundials as a hobby. In addition to being a fully functioning device, it is quite a work of art. Unfortunately, these published pictures cannot do the sundial justice.



Closeup of the sundial. Can you tell at what time the picture was taken? (Photos by Rick Morales)

The sundial was an FPOA-sanctioned and funded project. Other FPOA projects in the works include installing digital setting circles on the 30-inch, and obtaining a solar filter for daytime solar observing programs. If you have an idea for a project that you would like to see the FPOA undertake, draw up a simple proposal and present it to the Board.

* * * * *

TidBits...

Ranger Rick Morales, the FPOA's executive secretary and our primary link with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, wants to thank all those members who helped put on our public programs this past year, and extends an invitation to them to take part in our proposed training this winter. At the last Board Meeting, it was suggested that we make a series of "professional", less informal programs that don't make use of the same old slide show every time. We will be working on about a half dozen such programs this winter, to be used next year.

(continued on next page...)

FPOA Officers and Directors

President	Frank Dibbell	(408) 974-7319
Vice Pres.	Dave Ambrose	(408) 449-1778
Exec. Secy	Rick Morales	(408) 623-4255
Treasurer	Denni Medlock	(415) 654-6796

Directors:

Charlie Carlson	(408) 923-7592
John Gleason	(415) 792-8248
Kevin Medlock	(415) 654-6796
Bob Fingerhut	(408) 263-4455
Donn Mukensnabe	(408) 923-5244

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 runs for the calendar year; there is no pro-rationing of dues. For more information, write to:

Fremont Peak Observatory
 PO Box 1110
 San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Park Fees

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has asked that we improve fee collections for use of the Park. While the Observatory is free to Park visitors, the Park itself is NOT free; overnight use of the Park costs \$5.00. Rick has constructed a Fee Collection Box, and placed it by the workshop for the convenience of those who set up in that area. Rick reports that this has been highly successful to date. Please note: *this money does not go to the FPOA; it goes to the State of California.*

The Drought

The drought has finally hit home at the Peak. The spring that feeds water to the tanks at the pump house has run dry. Until the rains come, campers, astronomers, picnickers, etc. will have to bring their own water. The flush toilets near the Observatory have been closed to conserve water, but never fear: the "pit" toilets, as always, are still open.



Telescope Signup Rules

Recently I have had a number of people call me who wanted to schedule time on the 30-inch, but didn't know how to go about doing it. I'll take this opportunity to re-iterate the *30-inch Telescope Scheduling Rules*:

- If you want to reserve time, call John Gleason at (415) 792-8248. He maintains the Telescope Signup List. When you call John, have a primary and secondary date in mind (someone may already have the date you want). Please be sensitive to the fact that he is neither a "walking almanac" nor a meteorologist; i.e. he probably won't know what percentage of the moon is illuminated, and your guess for the

weather at the Peak is as good as his. One final note: John works evenings, so he has an answering machine that can take your call. Leave the specifics on his machine and he will get back to you.

- Reservations can be made up to 60 days in advance for individuals, 90 days for institutions. If you find that you can't make it for a night you scheduled, please call John and remove your reservation. Each certified member is allowed to reserve the scope 2 days each month.
- The telescope can be reserved "at the last minute". That is, if you happen to be at the Peak, and no one has signed up for the scope (or no one shows up), you may "sign up" for it by letting Rick Morales (the Park Ranger) know your intent. "Last Minute" use does not count toward your 2 reserved days a month.
- Public Program volunteers have use of the scope upon conclusion of the Public Program.
- Always, *always* fill out the Log, even if the weather is too bad to open the Observatory (that way we know that there was an intent to use the scope on a given night).
- Only certified members may sign up for the 30-inch scope. Certification carries with it an obligation to assist in at least one public program per year.
- Certification can be scheduled with Rick Morales.

