

The Fremont Peak **OBSERVER**

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Promoting public education in Astronomy

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Fremont Peak, Jr

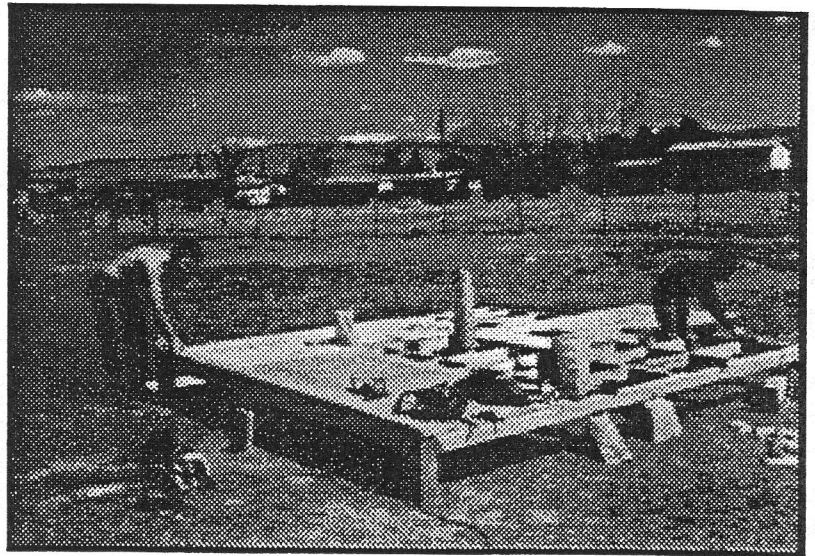
Master sundial builder and FPOA Founding Member Charlie Carlson is at it again! This time, he is building his own observatory in the back yard of his new home in Boise, Idaho. He told me that he has reasonably dark skies at his house; he is able to see magnitude 11 and 12 galaxies easily, and magnitude 13 with averted vision (I assumed he meant with his scope!). "It compares quite favorably with the skies at Fremont Peak", he noted.

Charlie has recently joined the Boise Astronomical Society, which is a pretty lively group with some good sized scopes and knowledgeable observers. The B.A.S. has an observing site in a field a mile off I84 about 10 miles southeast of Boise. They also have plans to put a 25-inch NGT scope in a permanent observatory about 20 miles west of town. "Of course", he says, "I'll have to get involved in that! Sherri can't wait for me to be gone every weekend again!"

The observatory he is building in his back yard is a 12'x12' roll-off roof building, a scaled back version of the FPOA's building. "As you remember", he writes, "5 years ago (in March) we started the FP Observatory. What did it do all the time? Rain! Just what it is doing to me now! Yesterday it rained all day, and the tarps covering the floor filled with rain water. Overnight the temperature dropped to 30-degrees F., so now the floor is an ice pond." He

IMPORTANT DATES

July 20	FPOA Board Meeting (3:00)
Aug 10	Perseid Meteor Shower
Aug 17	Annual Star-B-Q



Charlie's 12' roll-off roof observatory under construction in his back yard in Boise (photo by C. Carlson)

also mentioned something about cutting his cable TV line while digging the hole for the pier.

In June, Charlie will be attending the B.A.S.'s annual trip to Bruneau Dunes National Park. The park has the largest sand dunes in North America, and has some excellent observing conditions. We wish you clear skies, Charlie, and hope to hear from you again when your observatory is operational!

Reserving Time on the 30-inch?

Remember, Bob Fingerhut is the person to call to reserve time on the FPOA 30-inch scope. He can be reached at (408) 263-4455

RSVP!

To the Annual General Meeting and Picnic on Saturday, August 17. Call Debra Morales at (408) 623-4255.

August 17 Star-B-Q!

The FPOA's annual "STAR-B-Q" will be held on Saturday, August 17th, 1991. In addition to being our annual general meeting where we hold elections and hand out "awards", it is also a family barbecue and star party.

This year's feast will include the traditional barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs and soft drinks, supplied by the FPOA. We are asking members to bring small side dishes such as salads, fruit, desserts. Debra Morales is coordinating this effort; call her at (408) 623-4255 to RSVP and to sign up for a side dish.

And yes, we will have door prizes again this year. Pick up your free door prize ticket when you arrive at the Peak.

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Shedding Light on h-alpha Filters...

Progress on obtaining an h-alpha filter for the Association is proceeding slowly. We are negotiating a deal on a "standard" h-alpha filter that we can adapt to the Association's 4-inch refractor. However, an interesting new option has come up recently: Tele Vue has recently announced *SOLARISTM*, a complete solar observing telescope.

The *SOLARISTM* unit is self-contained, provides full-field views of the sun, would be immediately usable without any modifications, and would be a few hundred dollars cheaper than our original proposal.

A decision will be made as to which option to take at the next board meeting (July 20th at the Peak). If you feel strongly one way or the other about this issue, please make it a point to attend the meeting to make your views heard. If you can't make the meeting, call one of the Board Members (listed in the box in the next column over) and express your views.

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Do You Want To Be A Board Member?

The terms of office of Pat Donnelly and Bob Fingerhut expire this year. If you are interested in running for a position on the FPOA Board, or know someone you think is qualified, contact the Nominating Committee (Rob Toebe and Dave Barosso). Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting at the Peak on August 17th.

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30-inch Woes

The recently re-figured mirror works quite well now. A nagging collimation problem has been traced to a too-small diagonal with a turned-down edge. Solutions to this problem will be discussed at the July 20th Board Meeting.

FPOA Officers and Directors

President	Dave Ambrose	(408) 449-1778
Vice Pres.	Bob Fingerhut	(408) 263-4455
Exec. Secry	Rick Morales	(408) 623-4255
Treasurer	Denni Medlock	(415) 654-6796
Directors:		
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	Kevin Medlock	(415) 654-6796
	Dave Barosso	(209) 887-2106
	Pat Donnelly	(408) 778-2741

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:

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