

# The Fremont Peak **OBSERVER**

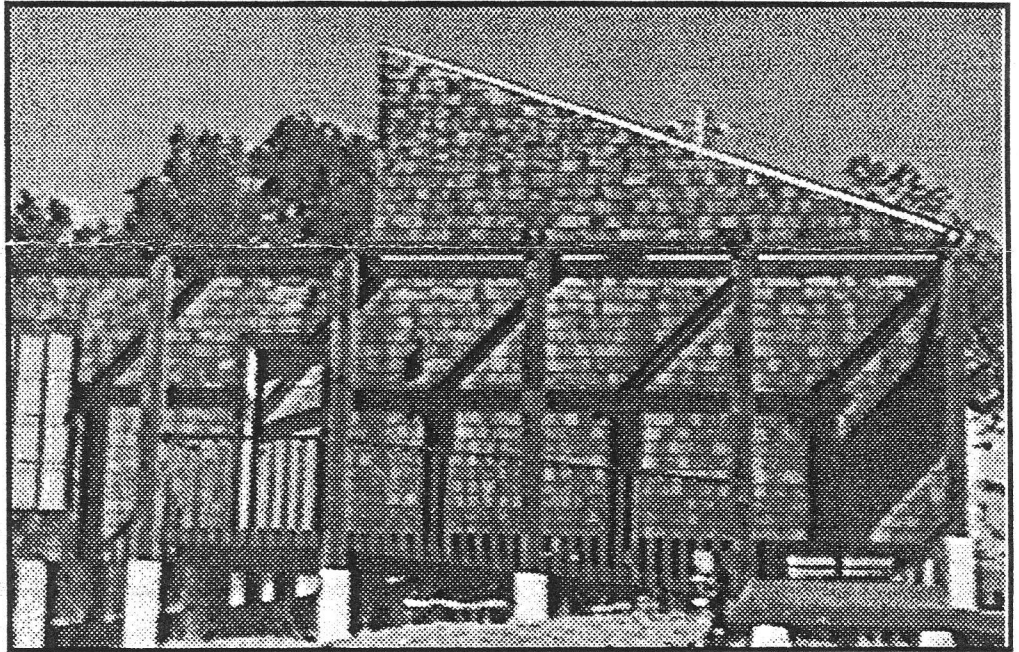
Promoting public education in Astronomy

Fall 1991

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## Technology of the 90's

The FPOA "presses" have entered the next stage of technological development, so to speak. With the acquisition of a video capture board for my Macintosh, I am now able to digitize video signals and put pictures directly into the newsletter. The "photo" at right is an example of this "new" technology. I brought my SONY 8mm camcorder to the Peak last month and videotaped the observatory. I then plugged my camcorder video output into my video capture board in my Mac, and in 20 seconds had a digital picture in the proper format for placing into this newsletter!



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## The Year in Review

The Observatory was a busy place again this year. We had 21 public program nights and over 25 different FPOA volunteers helped with these programs (getting volunteer help is easy when volunteering is a prerequisite to signing up for private time on the 30-inch!).

Several local groups also used the Observatory for special programs: The San Jose Astronomical Association, the Stockton Astronomical Association, and the Tri-Valley Stargazers. Additionally, many educational institutions benefited this year: Hartnell  
*(cont. on page 2...)*

## New FPOA Phone!

### New procedure for 30-inch scope signups...

Fremont Peak Observatory now has its own phone at the Peak! Coupled with an answering machine, you may now call to get messages on observing conditions, upcoming public programs, and other information about the Peak's astronomical activities.

Also, effective December 1st, use this number to reserve time on the 30-inch scope. As the phone will not be "manned", leave your name, number, and first and second choice nights on the answering machine. Rick Morales will be checking the reservation requests daily, and will contact you to confirm your reservation, usually within 24 hours of your request.

Oh, the new number, you ask? The Observatory's phone number is: (408) 623-2465.

## The Year in Review *(from page 1)*

College Astronomy classes, San Andreas High science classes, Mountain View High School Science Club, as well as several Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops.

FPOA volunteers as well enjoyed the use of the Observatory on non-program nights, if the entries in the Log Book are any indication. Entries by several users and the number of objects seen through the course of one night amazes me!

The work done at the Observatory by our volunteers in maintaining the grounds and equipment was very beneficial to our operation this past year. A special note of thanks to Dave Barosso for the work he did in refiguring the 30-inch primary, and in tracking down several minor optical problems with the large scope.

I want to thank everyone involved with our public programs this year for their time and effort. Your work made the public's visit to the Peak memorable as well as enjoyable. I constantly receive favorable comments from park visitors about their experience at the Observatory. Thanks again, and I look forward to working with you again in 1992!

-Rick Morales, Executive Secretary

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## The 1991 Annual Picnic

This year's annual picnic, meeting, and "Star-B-Q" was well attended, with over 60 FPOA members and their families and guests enjoying the food, renewing old acquaintances, and generally having a good time. We didn't have a formal speaker this year, but we did give out some wonderful door prizes (planispheres, star atlases, etc.), and we also presented several of our truly unique FPOA Awards for Dubious Achievement.

The Awards and their recipients this year were:

"*Hands of a Surgeon*" award given to Dave Barosso for his skill and dexterity in refiguring the 30-inch mirror

"*Terminator II*" award given to Bob Black for killing  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  flies at the July 20, 1991 Board Meeting

"*Phantom of the Board*" award given to Kevin Medlock, for being present in spirit more than in body at this past year's Board Meetings

"*Great Comet Caper*" award given to Landon Noll for his "discovery" of a comet near M81/M82. Landon was flying down the hill to report his findings when he was tagged by a suspicious San Juan Police Officer, who initially didn't believe his story, even after Landon took him back up the hill to show him. The so-called comet turned out to be an obscure NGC object.

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## Notes From The Board...

The FPOA Board of Directors elected its slate of officers for the 1992 calendar year:

President: Frank Dibbell

Vice-President: Bob Black

Executive Secretary: Rick Morales

Treasurer: Denni Medlock

Other board business:

Kevin Medlock was appointed to the position of Board Member Emeritus in recognition of the work he has accomplished over the past seven years in the FPOA. To fill his now vacant slot, the FPOA board appointed John Stewart to serve out Kevin's term. John is a founding member of the FPOA and its first treasurer. He was instrumental in setting up the finances of the FPOA, getting us our tax-exempt status, and maximizing the money we earned from fund-raising. Welcome back, John!

The next FPOA Board Meeting will be held on January 11, 1992 in San Jose. If you are interested in attending, call Pat Donnelly (408-778-2741) for directions.

# Adios, Dave...

Long time FPOA member and current President Dave Ambrose has left the area to accept a job in San Diego. In addition to running the FPOA this past year, Dave was working with Kevin Medlock and Dave Barosso on a project to add encoded setting circles to the 30-inch scope. We all wish Dave success in his new endeavor. If you wish to write to Dave, his new address is:

13933 Eastern Avenue  
Poway, CA 92064

Frank Dibbell was appointed by the FPOA Board to fill Dave's board position. The Board also appointed Frank as interim President until the November Board meeting, at which time the officers for 1992 will be elected by the Board.

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## FPOA Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	Frank Dibbell	(408) 974-7319
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	Bob Fingerhut	(408) 263-4455
<b>Exec. Secry</b>	Rick Morales	(408) 623-4255
<b>Treasurer</b>	Denni Medlock	(415) 654-6796
<b>Directors:</b>		
	Robert Toebe	
	Robert Black	(415) 592-2166
	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:

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

## >>>>>FPOA 1992 Renewals Due Now!<<<<<

### FPOA Membership Renewal - 1992

Please help us contain our administrative costs by using this form to renew your membership. Make any corrections to the attached label, send this form and your check made out to "FPOA" to the address provided below. If you are a Life member, please disregard this notice.

Rick & Debra Morales

1991

P. O. Box 1063

San Juan Bautista CA 95045

Home Phone: 408-623-4255

Make corrections  
as necessary...

...and send it all here

Please renew my membership in the Fremont Peak Observatory Association as indicated below

- General \$10.00 fee
- Contributing \$30.00 fee
- Sustaining \$50.00 fee

Please include my name and number in the FPOA Directory **YES NO** (circle one)

Frank Dibbell, FPOA Renewal  
10281 Parlett Place  
Cupertino, CA 95014