



The FREMONT PEAK **OBSERVER**

Editor: Donn Mukensnoble

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Observatory Update. . .

The ongoing maintenance of the Observatory continued with the replacement of the 14-year-old tar and gravel roofing on the lecture room with 'torch-on' plastic material. Once heat-sealed, this forms an impervious barrier to moisture. Flashing around the rear gutter was also replaced.

Additional winterizing of the facility consisted of extending the flashing on the rolling section and installation of flexible plastic tubing at the top of the south shutters to prevent water from being blown into the observing room by winter storms [knock on wood; the weather has been rather mild! So far..]

Thanks to Ron Dammann, Loren Dynneson, Rick Morales, and the other volunteers for their time and effort in getting this important work completed.

EXTRA -- EXTRA -- EXTRA -- EXTRA

1999 Dues are Due !!

January is Membership Renewal Month for those who are not Life Members. To determine if you need to renew your membership, check the address label on the envelope this newsletter came in. If it says "1999" or earlier, then you need to renew! (Life members show as "9999")

If you choose not to renew, then your subscription ends with this issue -- Please don't let that happen! We value your support; your dues allow the Association to continue its mission of promoting public awareness in astronomy. Send your tax-deductible check in today.

Thank You

Cameron is Coordinating

Ranger Cameron Bowers will be picking up the duties of Volunteer Coordinator for the Observatory and will be handling scheduling of telescope time as well as keeping track of who has volunteered to present public programs throughout the year. As some of you may recall, Rick Morales performed this task when he was ranger at the Peak.

Much thanks are in order for Rob Toebe, who for the last couple of years has been doing double-duty as Director of Instruments as well as the those of volunteer coordinator.

Rob will continue to certify members to operate the 30" telescope, which is required in addition to docent training before you can volunteer to present the program on a public night.

Into the New Millenium

Another year is upon us, and with a new January begins the gearing up for a new year of presenting astronomy to the public. The board will be holding its first meeting sometime in early March to set the program schedule for 2000 (2K) as well as special events such as the Star-B-Que and FPOA Member Appreciation events.

Docents will have to be trained and certified, the telescope and building will have to be made ready for the programs to come; there are plenty of other activities to be performed. Volunteers are needed!

Anyone who would like to participate in the FPOA is encouraged to attend the board meetings and add their knowledge and viewpoints to the organization. The year 2000 is now- the future is here.

Keeping Track of the Public

How many people visited the Fremont Peak Observatory in 1999? Take a guess. Over 2000 logged, though the actual number is most likely far higher. This is an important number to know, for a number of reasons. First, it shows that the public is taking advantage of the facility and the programs. Second, it lets the Volunteer Coordinator plan staffing for the upcoming year's programs better. That is why logging accurate visitor counts on public nights is very helpful, as well as keeping up the FPOA logbook.

There is a separate form which must be completed each public evening that summarizes this information for the state coordinator.

At the same time, it is also important to note who is **giving** the program, as well as the names of any guest astronomers who have set up their own telescopes in front of the observatory. The reason for this is an insurance requirement, since persons participating in the program are considered as volunteers. Otherwise any liability claims could fall upon the FPOA to resolve.

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The **Fremont Peak Observer** is published quarterly by the Fremont Peak Observatory Association; a non-profit cooperating association. For more information, contact any Board Member or write to FPOA, P.O. Box 787, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

Application for Membership in the Fremont Peak Observatory Ass

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Optional Information:

Home Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ e-Mail: _____
 Work Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

May we list you in the FPOA Directory? Yes / No (for non-commercial purposes only)

Please enroll me as a member of the FPOA in the following category:

____ General \$20.00 per year Is this a renewal? Yes / No
 ____ Student \$10.00 per year (Include copy of current student card)
 ____ Life \$350.00 one time (\$315 for applicants over the age of 60)
 Additional (optional) contribution: \$ _____ for _____

Your tax-deductible check may be made payable to FPOA. Please do not send cash.
 Mail it with your application to: FPOA, P.O. Box 787, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045

