



# The FREMONT PEAK **OBSERVER**

Editor: Donn Mukensnoble

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## **New Superintendent Named**

Lynn Rhodes joins the Monterey District and will be working with all the parks in the area. She is especially interested in getting feedback on the planned parking area changes and other physical plant improvements. Please welcome her to the FPOA when she is on-site.

## **Star-B-Que Planning**

The 14th annual FPOA/AANC Star-B-Que and Star Party is scheduled this year for Saturday, July 29.

Our world-reknowned chefs will return to prepare another sumptuous repast (OK, there will be burgers and dogs, like last year) for the enjoyment of all. The popular Astronomical Dessert Contest returns, as well, so start thinking about your themed entry.

As in previous years, the AANC will present its awards to recognize contributions by amateur and professional astronomers. The popular Raffle will also be held after dinner, followed by a panel-style trivia contest highlighting obscure facts about the FPOA, the sky, and related topics.

The election of three Board members will be performed; this year Rick Morales, Denni Medlock, and Doug Padrick are up for re-election.

Towards nightfall, there will be a twilight talk by a guest speaker followed by observing with the 30" Challenger telescope and other instruments. It may be before Perseid maximum but July has always been a good meteor month too. This could also be your first opportunity to see M42 this season.!

Volunteers and suggestions are always welcomed, so feel free to contact any board member.

## **Carpe Noctem - Sieze the Night!**

Daylight Saving Time has begun for California - and astronomers are confounded. Not only is less nighttime available, it starts later too! Join the "more enlightened" state of Arizona in resisting this yearly inconvenience to our observing time.

Write to your Governor, Congresscritter, Senator and, yes, even the NIST, to demand this hour back! Don't delay, or they may take another hour of **your** valuable night when you're not watching...

(since April 1 fell between newsletters, consider yourself Fooled)

## **Pat's Back - to stay!**

Board member, longtime FPOA member, and aficionado of funny hats Pat Donnelly has finished his long-term assignment in New York state and has officially retired - from work that is. He'll still be around the FPOA and has pledged to spend some of his new free time working on new stumpers for the Astro-trivia contest this coming Star-B-Que. He also has a new email address, [kungfugina@aol.com](mailto:kungfugina@aol.com). For those wondering about it, he's not taking up a new sport; the name was picked by his daughter, Gina...

## **Work Party scheduled**

It's time for the pre-Star-B-Que fix-up session at the observatory. Join volunteers on June 17th starting at 10:00am at the observatory to clean, paint, vacuum, nail down the walkway, and other tasks.

The 30" may also undergo some much-needed maintenance to the declination clutch tension clamp.

Please bring your own 'standard' tools (hammer, screwdrivers, etc.) and be prepared to paint as well.

## No Matter Where You, Go, Here We Are

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A visit by Carter Roberts and his handy GPS receiver has pegged the Fremont Peak Observatory on the map at north latitude 36°45'36.55" and west longitude 121°29'55.12", both with an accuracy of ±15ft. Altitude was measured as 2749ft. or 838 meters for those more comfortable with that standard. For the record, the measurement was made from the center of the south wall on top of the sill.

## Board Minutes, April 2000

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Meeting held at Fremont Peak Observatory on 08 April 2000, called to order by Ron Dammann at 2:43pm. Board members attending were Doug Padrick, Denni Medlock, Bob Black, Pat Donnelly, Donn Mukensnoble, and Denni Medlock. Also present were CAL Mary Pass, Bonita Gibson, and Robert Hoyle.

Minutes of March 11th read and accepted.

Treasurers Report: Denni said there was about \$13,000 in the CD account and \$6,310.64 in the checking. There are about \$300 in checks from renewals yet to be deposited.

Membership Report: Bob tallied 140 members thru the year 2000. Bob will send membership cards via first-class mail for those who have volunteered their dues, otherwise they will go with the newsletter.

Instrumentation: Rob Toebe was not present; it was reported the dec lock is not clamping enough to hold the telescope. Setting circles working OK.

Facilities: Some work has been done by Rick and Loren Dynneson to repair the roof where the wind had lifted up and bent the southeast corner. The new metal door in the meeting room was painted and touch-up was done to the wall paint in the observing room. Discussion was held about future

work parties, including the need to bring tools.

Newsletter: Donn needs material for the May/June issue [NOTE: He didn't get any - Ed.]

Programs: Jack Murphy will do the solar programs on 4/28 and the first astronomy weekend of the month.

CAL Report: Mary said that Cameron is scheduled for training for the good part of the next two months. She gave kudos to the newsletter editor for the March issue. A new Monterey District Superintendent has been selected. She is Lynn Rhodes. She has already visited Fremont Peak and identified maintenance items she would like fixed. Discussion about phone lines to the observatory followed, including why do we want/need a telephone at the observatory, whether the lines would have to be trenched and buried, do we want Internet access, what about abuse of the phones, and if pay phones would work were all covered. Mary suggested that we consider what goals we want to pursue and prioritize them.

Old Business: Discussion about refunding the unused portion of the donations given to FPOA for the observatory roof fund. Should we return monies to SJAA? What about other donors? Ron said he would talk with Dave North of the SJAA.

New Business: It is time to renew our contract with the Park Department. It was unanimously agreed to renew for another three years. Bob Black will handle this process.

Star-B-Que: It was suggested that we invite the planning commission, State Parks Directors, also Soledad prison wardens, prison architects etc. Obtaining a P.A. system for the event was covered.

Nominating committee for Board elections formed. Contact Donn if you want to be on the slate. Rick will look at bylaws; we may need to revisethem.

Adjourned at 5:18pm.

## Board Minutes, May 2000

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Meeting called to order on 06 May 2000 by Ron Dammann at 2:50pm. Board members attending were Bob Black, Pat Donnelly, Rick Morales, and Donn Mukensnoble. CAL Mary Pass and member Ken Lum also were present.

Minutes from April 2000 were read and accepted with minor corrections.

Treasurers Report: Denni not present. Receipts for expenses were turned in with Ron Dammann to be reimbursed.

Membership Report: Bob said there are now 157 members and that the renewals were starting to come in. There are also five new members this month. Bob supplied a list of members wishing to have their names listed in the newsletter.

Instrumentation: Rob Toebe not present. The dec clutch continues to be a problem, and the mirror is in need of cleaning as well. The new diagonal mirror is still to be installed. The PC in the meeting room no longer recognizes the CD-ROM drive.

Facilities: Doug not present. Rick discussed the need for a work party soon and schedule was finalized for 17 June. He asked that everyone bring tools. After the meeting, everyone pitched in to assemble and place the computer desk for the meeting room.

Newsletter: Donn again appealed for articles, said the closing date for the June issue was 13 May, [NOTE: He didn't -- even after holding press. Ed.]

Programs: Jack was not present, but it was reported that the AC outlet where he sets up is not live, so the Solaris clock drive does not work. A motion was MSP to obtain a DC inverter or other independant source of power. Rick mentioned that the meteor program is effectively shut down due to the loss of the camera and image intensifer equipment.

CAL Report: Mary said that she needs the original contract amendments notes for her records. C DPR does not have them any longer. Bob has these and will supply them. There is a new maintenance assistant for the district, Max Castillo. He will be primarily assigned to Fremont Peak and she mentioned he comes to the park system highly recommended. There is an old Macintosh system in the shop that should be taken care of; they are cleaning up and no longer want to store it. Ron Dammann covered the bylaws issues from previous meetings: The board must be composed of FPOA members; Training mentioned in the bylaws is to be considered to be for the operation of the telescope only.

Old Business: Donn delivered the computer desk for the PC. Board voted to authorize purchase of an inverter for the Solar Program. Telescope Work Party was discussed, as was Star-B-Que planning.

New Business: The upcoming May 13th meeting between amateurs and DPR was mentioned, which led to a discussion on the responses to the proposed changes to the parking areas, including the SW lot. Many of the comments received by Bob Black were very strongly in opposition to the design and cited several good points, including a tripping hazard. Mary noted that this was good input and just the kind of feedback the parks department was looking for. She mentioned that DPR is working to communicate better and faster with the various groups that have an interest in Fremont Peak, including the FPOA. Use of email and other means was discussed.

Adjourned 5:07pm.

[For those eagle-eyed readers who noted that there areno March minutes published, this is because I missed that meeting and have not obtained a copy of them. They should appear in a future issue - Ed.]

### *In Memorium*

The Association is sad to report the deaths of longtime members Doug Wells (Charter Life) and John Zaitz. They will not be forgotten.

## FPOA Public Schedule 2000

March	04	Volunteer Training
	11	Board Meeting
April	08	Board Meeting, Work Party (10 am), Solar, Public Programs*
	29	Public Program*
May	06	Board Meeting, Solar, Public Programs
	27	Public Program
June	03	Board Meeting, Solar, Public Programs
	10	Public Program
	24	Public Program
July	01	Solar, Public Programs
	08	Board Meeting, Public Program
	22	Public Program
	29	Public Program, <b>Star-B-Que</b>
August	05	Solar, Public Programs
	19	Public Program
	26	Public Program, (Board Mtg if needed*)
September	02	Solar, Public Programs
	09	<b>FPOA Member Appreciation Night</b>
	23	Board Meeting, Public Program
	30	Public Program
October	07	Solar, Public Programs
	21	Work Party (10 am), Public Program*
	28	Board Meeting, Public Program*
November	18	Board Meeting (offsite, TBD) * - Call FPOA Hotline 831-623-2465 beforehand to verify program schedule

To volunteer for a public night, you must have completed the docent training course. Contact Cameron at 831-623-4255 to reserve dates; ideally one month but at least two weeks prior to the date desired.

## Member Appreciation Night

The 2nd annual FPOA Member Appreciation night and Star Party has been set for the evening of 09 September. A barbeque starting at 6pm, stimulating conversation, and viewing are on the agenda this year.

Make plans now to attend. Last year's event brought only a few people, so those present had a lot of food!

This year the moon will be first-quarter and only 1.2° away from Neptune on the day. Also, Venus will grace the twilight sky with Jupiter and Saturn rising later in the evening. September has always been a time of good seeing at the Observatory so this is an excellent chance to get a good look at the outer planets and their cadre of surrounding moons.

Those planning to attend should RSVP to the FPOA phone to ensure enough supplies are ordered.

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