



## NAKED EYE ASTRONOMY *from Page 1*

In addition, the Zodiacal Light was quite obvious. It extended to almost 40 - 50° above the horizon. The Milky Way was traceable from Perseus to Canis Major. Finally, because of the darkness of the location and lack of lights to the northeast I was able to see hints of twilight almost two (2) hours before sunrise. The twilight was visible before the astronomical twilight limit. All in all it was a great experience, and it is one I hope to repeat.



*Zodiacal Light Image taken by FPOA member Ardi-an Fernandez looking East from Fremont Peak.*

I am telling this story of my naked eye observing session in hopes that more of you will do the same. In this extreme high tech era of computer controlled telescopes and other observing gadgets by the hundreds it seems that we have forgotten why we became interested in astronomy in the first place. I, for one, am interested in the rest of the universe beyond the Earth's atmosphere. Thus, I sometimes like to observe with no more than my glasses corrected naked eyes. Although I do enjoy naked eye astronomy, I should note that I also have more than enough telescopes, binoculars, and camera equipment.

If you believe that naked eye astronomy is not worth the effort, consider the following examples of some of my naked eye sky observations:

- In November 1989 I was able to observe an Aurora Borealis that was so bright it overpowered the brightness of the last quarter moon. All four (4) auroral colors were present – white, red, green, and purple, and the aurora covered essentially the entire sky.

- In June 1995, while in the United Kingdom, I was able to observe twilight due north at local midnight. To make things even better both Capella and Beta Aurigae were visible just above the end on twilight.
- In July 2003 I travelled as far out into the desert of Utah as possible to see a truly dark sky. Not only were stars down to magnitude +6.5 visible to my aged eyes, but the central bulge of the Milky Way was quite apparent. I really felt like I was looking at our galaxy finally.
- In 2003 I was able to watch both MIR and the ISS travel across the sky at the same time with both satellites approaching each other within about 5° on the celestial sphere.
- During the Transits of Venus in 2004 and 2012 I was able to see (with the appropriate solar filter) Venus as an extended, not a point source, object.
- Numerous eclipses of the sun & moon, meteor showers & storms, comets, the green flash & once the blue flash, and many bright meteors.

As you can see there are many wonders to observe without the need of some form of optical aid. You should not be dismayed, if you find yourself separated from your telescope. There are still many wonders in the heavens to observe. As a final note, here are two (2) naked eye challenges for you. See if you can spot M33 (The Pinwheel Galaxy) and the planet Uranus, now hiding up in Pisces. I believe I have seen them, but I'm not positive.

Pat

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## Star-B-Que 2013

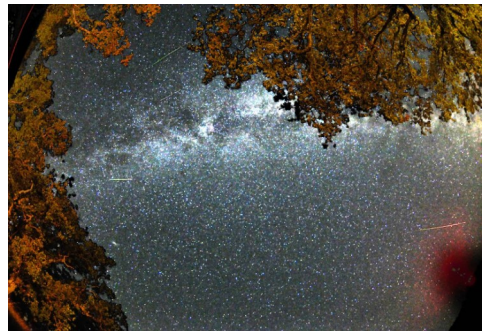
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Star-B-Que is a time to meet old friends and make new ones, to share some food, enjoy a raffle of astronomical items, an astronomical lecture with a guest speaker and best of all a beautiful night sky with friends.

This year's Star-B-Que provided all these things with food provided by FPOA and potluck dishes brought by our guests, great raffle prizes donated by Orion Telescopes and Lumicon, and a lecture entitled "Rocks Falling from the Sky" by FPOA member Peter Jenniskens of the SETI Institute. The following page highlights some of the activities and people who enjoyed a day at the observatory in Fremont Peak State Park. A complete album of Star-B-Que pictures can be seen at the Shutterfly website : <https://fpoaimages.shutterfly.com/1405>

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## Observer Membership News

By Rob Hawley

Lumicon is offering a \$25 Gift Certificate to all to new and to members who renew before the end of the year. I will send details to you when you renew.

December is the time that most members renew their annual membership (and Life Members with Observer status renew it). This year my travel schedule may add some delays to the processing of your renewals. I will paint the worst case picture here. The FPOA Board will be improving on this.

- Renewals received at our PO Box after December 1st may not be processed until February.
- Renewals received at my home address (the preferred snail mail address) after December 15th will not be processed until February.
- We will continue to process any PayPal renewals while I am away.

Thus, I strongly suggest Observers, in particular, use PayPal this year this year for your renewal (or act early).

Once I get back I will contact anyone with a delayed paper renewal that has a postmark before December 31st to see if they would like to participate in the Lumicon program.

Thanks for your understanding.

## 2013 Membership Renewal

Renewals are easy. You can use the forms on the membership page <http://www.fpoa.net/membership.html> to pay with either PayPal or via a credit card. For those preferring paper you can just send a check (that has your current correct address) to : FPOA Membership, c/o Rob Hawley, 1233 Hillcrest Dr, San Jose CA 95120

If you email has changed then please be sure to include that in either the PayPal payment as a comment or a note with your check.

### EMAIL DELIVERY OF THE OBSERVER

Dear FPOA Members,

We have been delivering the Observer via email for the past several years. This obviously saves the Association postal expenses, and assures the quickest delivery to you. However, several of you no longer have valid email addresses, due to ISP changes, moves, etc. If you would like to continue to receive, or begin to receive, notification of the Observer via email, please send your current email address to membership at fpoa.net

**Fremont Peak Observatory Association**  
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The Fremont Peak Observer is published four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall). Articles from members are encouraged and should be emailed to <schedule at fpoa.net > Articles should be in plain text or MS Word format. Deadlines are Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1 and Nov 1, respectively.

### FPOA on the Internet

<b>Phone Number:</b>	831-623-2465
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