

Editor - Denni Medlock

PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 1995

The new public program schedule for 1995 has been released. There are 21 public nights scheduled, making this one of the busiest years we've had.

Ranger Rick Morales is now taking signups for volunteers to give the Saturday night programs. Each program requires at least two people - one person to present the lecture/slide show, and one (but preferably two) people to handle the 30". Call in now and you can get the date(s) you want!

Remember, if you are certified and have used, or are planning to use, the 30" telescope this season you *must* give at least one public program.

The FPOA maintains a wide library of slides and videos on which to base a presentation. You need not be an expert on anything (few of us are anyway). All you have to do is want to share your love of astronomy with the public. It's fun, the FPO couldn't run without you and the people who come up the mountain to discover astronomy really love it!

Call Rick at (408) 632-6425 and leave a message indicating what date you wish to volunteer on.

Date	Activities/Volunteers
22 April 29 April 6 May	
20 May	
27 May 2 June 3 June	Friday Open Night Board Meeting/Work Party
17 June 24 June	
30 June	Friday Open Night
1 July	Board Meeting 4:00 PM
22 July	
29 July	5
5 Aug	Board Meeting 4:00 PM
18 Aug	Friday Open Night
19 Aug	Star-B-Que
26 Aug	Managa Tallia C. Manadia
2 Sept	Moon Talk - C. Wandke
16 Sept	Friday Onen Night
22 Sept	Friday Open Night
23 Sept 30 Sept	Board Meeting 4:00 PM
14 Oct	
21 Oct	Board Meeting
28 Oct	board Meeting
20 000	

Programs begin at 8:00 PM & last 30 - 45 min.
Telescope viewing follows

TIME TO SIGN-UP FOR CERTIFICATION CLASSES

With a new year on us already it's time to consider becoming certified to use the 30" telescope. Certification involves just a few hours of your time to becoming acquainted with the operation of the observatory building, the telescope and all of the related equipment. No one may use the 30" unless they are on Rick Morales' list of certified members. Classes are forming now. Please call Rick at (408) 623-2465 and leave a message that you are interested in becoming certified.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

Take a look at the address label on the envelope in which this issue of the *OBSERVER* came. If you have yet to renew for 1995 a bold TIME TO RENEW! will be printed above your name.

The FPOA is wholly member-supported. The association receives no monies from the State of California. All programs and activities are member financed and volunteer run.

Privileges of membership include the quarterly newsletter, *The Observer*, running for and voting in board elections, an invitation to the annual membership Star-B-Q in August and use of the 30" telescope after certification.

A membership form is printed on the back page of the newsletter. Remember, dues is now \$20.00 a year, with <u>no</u> first-time membership fee for those newly joining.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

Several items have recently been repaired at the observatory. One of the wheels on the sliding roof mechanism has been replaced with a roller bearing for better reliability. The 30" mirror and secondary have been cleaned, probably gaining us a magnitude or two!.

Dave Barosso is in the process of installing *The Sky* software for use with the telescope in finding objects. (We'll report much more on this topic in a later issue!)

WORK PARTY-VOLUNTEER BAR-B-Q SET FOR JUNE 3rd

The first major work party of the 1995 public season will be held on Saturday, June 3rd at the observatory. The FPOA will use this opportunity to spruce up the facilities by painting, nailing, weatherstripping, and generally cleaning the meeting room and observatory. The work will start at 10:00 am.

This will be followed by a FPOA sponsored Bar-B-Q for all volunteers. If you are interested in helping out that day just show up. All supplies and food will be supplied by the FPOA and the Parks Department. Everyone is welcome!

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METEOR OBSERVATION GROUP SCORES A PRIZE!

The FPO Meteor Observation Group captured a rare prize back in January. The observing group, consisting of Rick Morales, Mike Koop and one other (unidentified to this editor) person successfully snared a Quadratid meteor on film. Rick says this occurrence is so rare they may possibly be the only group to have ever done it! We are certainly not going to refute that claim unless proof can be given otherwise!

The Meteor Observation Group has also recently acquired a GIS camera system, which allows images to be digitalized. (And, no, I do not know what GIS stands for.)

FRIDAY NIGHTS OPEN . OBSERVING SESSIONS

A glance to the 1995 program schedule will show 4 Fridays this season listed as FRIDAY OPEN NIGHT. This is something new the FPOA is trying this year to encourage people to simply come up to the observatory and observe. On four new moon Friday evenings this year the 30" telescope will be open and attended. There will be no scheduled program; that is, slide show or speaker. Just an open eyepiece. Scheduled dates are June 2, June 30, August 18 and September 22.

Plan on taking advantage of this observing opportunity!

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FROM THE LOG

March 25th 1995 (26th & 27th, too!)

Opened observatory Saturday afternoon.

I came prepared to continue the continuing saga of the Fremont Peak digital setting circles. Armed with an authentic Kevin Medlock connection document, Barosso logic, BISQUE logic and now, a new player, McWilliams B Box supplied through JMI to BISQUE! No wonder nothing works! But first we must dutifully record other events going on here at this astronomical mountain top resort. Rob Toebe and Rick Morales showed up to repair the roof winch mechanism which has been feeling poorly as of recently. Of course the area in which they needed to work was right where I needed to work so we spent a wonderful afternoon of climbing all over each other with crowbars, sledge hammers, digital multimeters, RS232 connectors and extension cords. Rob and Rick took Kevin's winch assembly apart and then spent the rest of the afternoon trying to get it back together again. But we did eventually triumph and with some T.L.C. with hammers and crowbars supplied by Paul Mahany, who meanwhile had showed up, the roof now works quite well. As the sun set I worked at making all of the connections to the new BBOX supplied by BISQUE and company. The connections made, I excitedly booted the computer up, did the initializing and waited for the jump to hyperspace. Unfortunately, nothing happened. As I grabbed my meter and started troubleshooting I reflected that this situation was much like the Milineum....Milinneum? Falcon trying to make the jump to lightspeed. Meanwhile, Jack Zeiders and Rob showed up and wanted to use the telescope. So what if the hyperdrive doesn't work? Rob Toebe didn't seem to need it. We spent the rest of the night sight seeing and showing people around. Closed shop about 1:00 AM.

Dave Barosso

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Your tax-deductable check may be made out to the FPOA. Please do not send cash. Mail your application to: FPOA Membership, P.O. Box 787, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045