

*The
FREMONT
PEAK*

OBSERVER



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Editor - Denni Medlock

SUMMER PROGRAM HEATS UP

The Peak has been offering some superb and unexpected weather and seeing conditions this year. After a long, wet winter and spring the pattern has settled into one of steady conditions and clear nights. From early May reports of warm evenings and steady seeing have been coming in from those up using the observatory or camping over at Coulter. This has resulted in large crowds, presumably observers and tourists alike making up for lost time.

Two major events are coming up on the FPOA schedule for the summer. The FPOA/AANC/CDPR annual Star-B-Que will be held at the observatory on August 19. The flyer for this event is located inside. Don't forget to RSVP your reservations to Rick Morales (408-623-2465) before August 17. The event is free but we need to know how many people are coming to plan for the food.

The second is that starting in September, Friday nights will once again be reservable by certified FPOA members. The open Friday night sessions were a success of a sort. Instead of drawing FPOA members up

to observe through the 30" as they were designed, the sessions instead drew mainly campers and tourists, turning the situation into more of a public program atmosphere which we are structured only to handle on Saturday nights.

So, once again, if you are a certified FPOA member, you are welcome to reserve the 30" on Fridays starting in September.

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Note to those reserving the 30" telescope:

If you wish to reserve the 30" but know you will be leaving before midnight, please inform Rick Morales of this when you reserve. (This particularly happens after public programs.) There is a cadre of observers who would love to take it over for the remainder of the night but cannot if it is already reserved. Just the courtesy of pre-releasing the telescope when you reserve will up the observing time on the instrument.

Public Program List on Page 2

Public Program Schedule, 1995

The following person(s) are listed as signed up to operate the public program. Each program requires at least two people to run the program - one to give the talk, one to operate the telescope. If you are certified to use the 30" telescope you are required to give at least one public program a season. On the list below you will find several dates are in need of volunteers. To volunteer, please call Rick Morales at (408) 623-2465.

Date		Activities/Volunteers
July	29	Mark Peairs (talk) Doug Padrick
August	5	Paul Mortfield
	19	Peter Lord Doug Meyers Jim Tuttle
	26	Homer Bosserman Allan Andrews et al.
Sept.	2	Craig Wanke, Chris Angelos, Paul Mortfield
	16	Duncan McNeil Doug Padrick
	23	Morris Jones Peter Lord
	30	Denni and Kevin Medlock
Oct.	14	Morris Jones Peter Lord
	21	(OPEN)
	28	(OPEN)

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

Board Meeting Schedule

August	5	4:00 PM	Observatory Meeting Room
September	23	4:00 PM	Observatory Meeting Room
October	21	TBA	TBA

All are welcome to attend

You are invited to attend the

FPOA/AANC STAR - B - Q

**Potluck Picnic and Super Star Party
at Fremont Peak State Park
Saturday, August 19, 1995**

Hamburgers Hotdogs Raffle Speaker Awards Telescopes
Observing Through the 30" Challenger Telescope

The Fremont Peak Observatory Association (FPOA), the Astronomical Association of Northern California (AANC) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) are co-hosting a potluck picnic/barbecue and super star party at Fremont Peak State Park. This is a GREAT way to meet other amateur astronomers and talk to members of other astronomy clubs.

The FPOA and AANC will provide the hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks, relish and utensils. Bring a dish to share. There will also be a contest for the best dish with an astronomical theme. In the past there have been such entries as IO pizza, cosmic strings (spaghetti), solar cheese cake, black hole pie, etc. BE CREATIVE!

COST: Fremont Peak State Park charges \$3 per car for daytime use. If you wish to camp overnight the charge is \$7. Self-serve pay envelopes are provided. Raffle tickets (optional) are \$1 each. Proceeds go to the FPOA observatory and their public astronomy program.

ARRIVAL TIME: If you have a telescope plan to arrive early (1 - 2 PM). There is limited space for telescopes behind the ranger's house where the potluck is held. ALL VEHICLES MUST LEAVE THIS AREA AFTER UNLOADING. Most people will be setting up at the Coulter-Madrone group sites. The gate to the ranger's driveway will be closed after 5 PM.

POTLUCK: Begins at about 5 PM. FPOA will be holding board member elections from 3 PM on. There will be various games throughout the afternoon. If you have a water pistol or supersoaker, bring it for the fourth annual Douse-Off!

RSVP: PLEASE RSVP by calling the FPOA hotline at (408) 623-2465 and leaving your name, number of guests, name of your astronomy club and whether or not you are a FPOA member. (non-astronomy club members welcome, too!) RSVP by Aug. 17th.

ETIQUETTE: Please, red flashlights only! Most people are happy to show you objects in their telescopes but always ask first. Please leave pets at home. No loud music.

DIRECTIONS: Hwy 101 to Hwy 156 E. (So. of Gilroy). Go two miles on Hwy 156 E. Look for Fremont Peak SP sign. Turn right at yellow flashing light. Proceed 11 miles on Rt. G-1.

Around the Observatory

Solar Equipment Repaired

Director of Instruments Rob Toebe has been busy upgrading the FPOA's Solaris mount and reports it's a lot more stable now. This will allow our solar program to operate without further concerns about equipment while trying to put on a show for the public. (When you've spent the effort to get a sunspot or prominence centered in the eyepiece you want it to *stay* centered in the eyepiece for the twenty people in line behind you.)

Call For Donations For CD-Rom

The FPOA is asking interested members to donate towards the association obtaining a CD-Rom player to install on the observatory's PC. The cost would run around \$150. All donations are tax-deductible. Please send all donations to: FPOA, P.O. Box 787, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045. Thanks!

The Sky Program Installed

The SKY program has been installed on the meeting room computer and may be run for any public program or by any member while at the observatory.

Concern Over Equipment Storage

Evidently the nonproper storage of FPOA equipment, e.g., eyepieces, star charts and binoculars is an issue that elicits a common, "I didn't do it!" claim by those who have been reserving and using the facilities.

But very often the equipment is found casually tossed into the cabinet, or even worse, left exposed on the table missing lens caps. Because of the damp conditions that can be found at the Peak these practices cannot continue if we are to maintain a high quality of equipment to offer the public and our members.

Those who have signed-up to use the 30" are fully responsible for all equipment used, whether or not that person personally took the equipment out. The use of binoculars is an especially abused situation. If you are the person on the reserve list you are charged with properly returning all equipment at the end of the evening.

To serve as a reminder an equipment check list will be placed in the observing room which all users are expected to fill out before and after each facility use. It is hoped that by following this procedure the FPOA equipment will no longer suffer from neglectful abuse.

FPOA Board of Directors, 1995

<i>President -</i>	<i>Donn Mukensnoble</i> <i>(510) 462-4602</i>
<i>Secretary -</i>	<i>Chris Angelos</i> <i>(408) 688-3562</i>
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<i>Membership Chairperson:</i>	<i>Bob Black</i> <i>(415) 592-2166</i>
<i>Newsletter:</i>	<i>Denni Medlock</i> <i>(510) 278-6563</i>