

The FPOA will not be using the amphitheater steps for the Sept 8th General Meeting event, and available seating is limited. Bringing additional chairs will ensure that all visitors will have a place to sit.

President's Message

By Patrick Donnelly

It is the summer of 2018 for the FPOA, and as such, the season of the planets is upon us. Strung out across the southern skies, all four (4) of the bright planets are visible. In the west Venus is a grand sight. She will reach greatest eastern elongation in August and be visible through the end of the observing season. In the south Jupiter will be on display until the end of September. In the south-east Mars will be bigger and brighter than it has been in 17 years. However, it will still be a telescopic object, if one wants to see any details on its surface and will be nowhere as big as the full moon. Between Jupiter and Mars Saturn will be visible just above the teapot in Sagittarius. In addition, to this parade of bright planets, Mercury will be visible after sunset in the west in July.

There are also other interesting sights to observe this year. Just above and to the right of Saturn the asteroid Vesta will reach opposition approximately two (2) days before Saturn. Vesta will be the brightest it has been in over 80 years and will be visible throughout the observing season. Another interesting sight will be the Perseid Meteor Shower. The shower will reach its maximum hourly rate on August 11-12, which is also a public program night. It should be an excellent show since the moon will be new and nowhere to be found that night. I wonder if we will have time to do much deep sky observing.

The FPOA Annual Members Meeting will be held on September 8, 2018. Our guest speaker for the night is Dr. Raja GuhaThakurta. He will give a talk entitled "Galaxies, Dark Matter, Cannibalism, Gravitational Waves, and Black Holes." The annual meeting will have the Bar-B-Que from 4-6 PM, the astro-gastro contest and the trivia contest.

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2018

FPOA Program Dates

Saturday Evening Programs

Apr 7, 14, 21 May 5, 12, 19
Jun 9, 16, 23 Jul 7, 14, 21
Aug 4, 11, 18 Sept 1, 8, 15
Oct 6, 13

Solar Programs

Mar 24 Apr 7 May 5 Jun 9
Jul 7 Aug 4 Sept 1 Oct 6

Board Meetings

Jan 13 Feb 17 Mar 24 Apr 14
May 12 Jun 16 Jul 14 Aug 11
Sept 8 Oct 6 Nov 10

Special Events

Annual Meeting / BBQ Sept 8

Please check <http://www.fpoa.net/schedule.html> for changes or updates to this schedule.

Summer Observing

By Rob Hawley

Summer is always our busiest season. School is out and families come to see the night skies. While summer viewing with its 10:30 start time is not very friendly for small kids, skies are usually clear above, fog frequently darkens them from below, and one no longer needs a parka or a safety rope for high winds (just kidding).

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Summer Observing

from Page 1

This summer represents a unique opportunity for planet viewing. On July 7 each of the ancient planets was visible during the evening starting with Mercury, then Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and lastly Mars near closing.

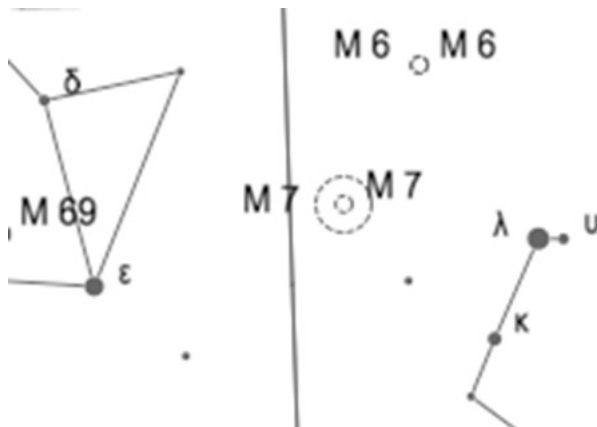
For myself planets are kind of [meh](#). I wait for Astro Twilight and the summer objects. About 10 years ago I did a YouTube video on the summer sky

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv5AD8GpdmihRqL82Au9-wA>

I will try to capture the best points here and add a couple of objects not in the video. I will be moving roughly from west to east.

M 6 and M 7

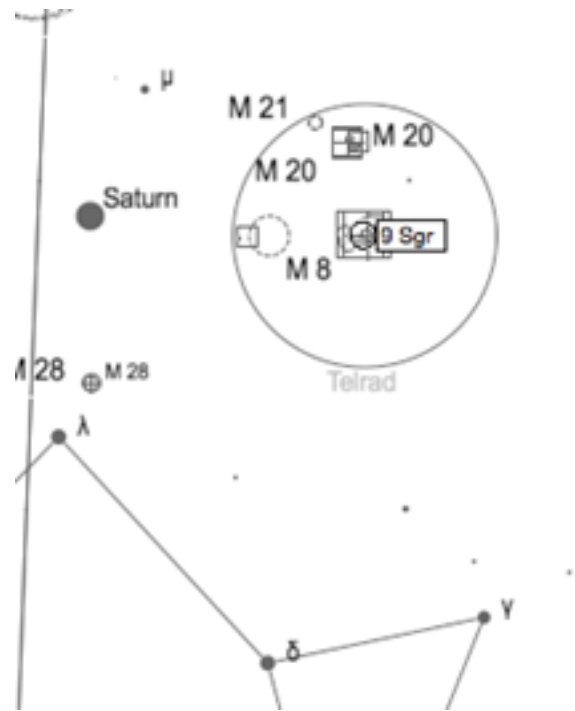
The first is a visual (or bino) object. As the sky gets dark look to the south. Just east (left) of the two “stinger” stars of the scorpion you will see two fuzzy patches. These are the two open clusters M 6 and M 7.



M8 Lagoon

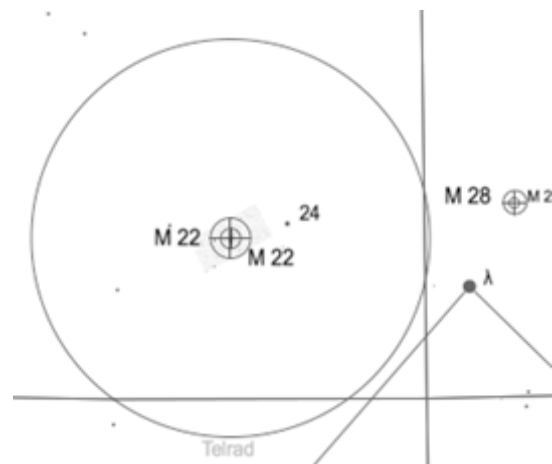
The first deep sky object we usually go for is the Lagoon Nebula. M8 is usually directly visible to me above n Sag and 2 o'clock from l Sag.

I love the complexity of this object. It is a Open Cluster, Dark Nebula, and Emission Nebula all in the same field of view. I prefer an O III filter to improve the contrast, but heh I like filters.



M22 Globular Cluster

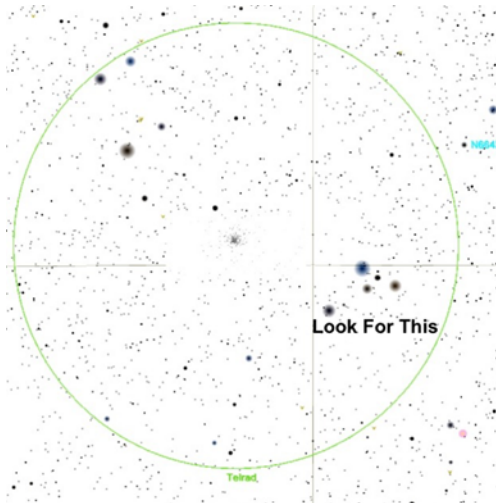
One of the best Globular Clusters is M22. In the southern hemisphere where it is high it far more spectacular even though it is eclipsed by far brighter Omega Centauri and 39 Tuc. In the north the only rival is M13 which by summer is firmly in the “no go” region of the sky for the Challenger. Don't forget the smaller M28.



This object is easy to find. Just place the Telrad slightly east (left) of Lambda (top of the teapot) and then look in the finder.

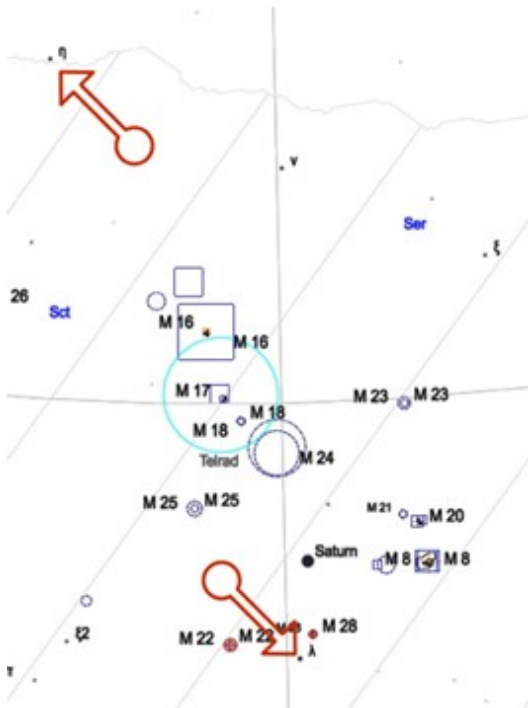
You will see M22 as a fuzzy blob distinct from the stars around it. Look for the distinctive star pattern to orient yourself.

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M22 Finder Pattern

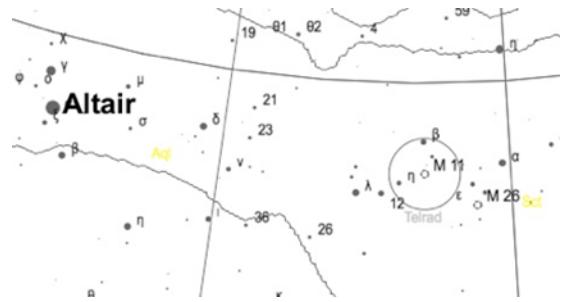
M17 (Swan)



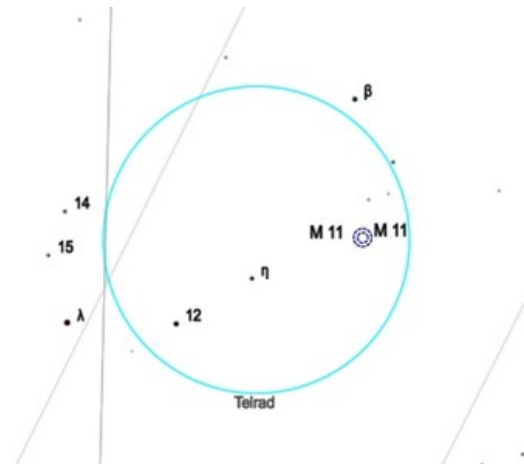
This one is harder to find. I place the telrad about 1/2 way between Lambda sag (top of the teapot) and h ser. The latter is only a mag 3.3 so you will have to look more carefully. Still it will be visible. At that point you can usually find the nebula in the magnifying finder.

It will also be at 10 o'clock from M24 (the star cloud) which should be visible to your eyes.

M 11 Wild Duck



The last object for this paper is the Wild Duck (Open) Cluster. I will leave it to the reader to see if they think this looks like a duck. Coming down the Milky Way from Altair you will notice a 3/4 ring of stars.



The duck is in a gap between the stars of this ring.

One last tidbit. The duck is close to where the GeoStationary Satellites are visible. If you are using a telescope with a motor drive you may notice some dots going retrograde. Those are probably Satellites. The timing will have to be right (between nautical and astro dusk is best). The particular satellite will take some investigation. For this image I am only showing the location of the path relative to M11. Note that you will have to take image rotation/reflection from your optics into account. For more info see <http://almadenobservatory.net/17geo/index.html>

2018 Membership Renewal

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

President's Message *From Page 1*

Following the cleanup of the picnic area, the raffle and program will begin. At this time we ask our guests to bring a chair. **The FPOA will not be using the amphitheater steps, and available seating is limited. Bringing additional chairs will ensure that all visitors will have a place to sit.**

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has approved the FPOA request for an extension of the existing contract between the DPR and the FPOA. This means that FPOA can continue operating as it has been doing until April 2022. Also, this clears the way to allow continued planning for a 2019 residing of the observatory. The residing is necessary for two (2) reasons. First, the old siding is over 33 years old and is worn out. Also, there is a desire to make the observatory more fire resistant. The new siding will give us this extra protection.

One final note – The FPOA is always looking for volunteers to help with the solar and public programs. Any help you can give is appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at the peak.

Accessing Members Only Page

Several years ago our member's only information used to be accessed with the URL <http://members.fpoa.net>. Due to some technical problems with the host we moved to several years ago we have never been able to get that to work.

Members information can now be accessed at <https://fpoa.net/members.fpoa.net>. **The https is required!**

FPOA on the Internet

Phone Number: 831-623-2465
Email Address: info at fpoa.net
Website: www.fpoa.net
Members Only Page: <https://fpoa.net/members.fpoa.net/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/fpoa.observatory/
Twitter: twitter.com/fpoa_info.

EMAIL DELIVERY OF THE OBSERVER

Dear FPOA Members,
The Observer is now only delivered electronically. New editions are posted on our website. If you would like to be notified when a new edition is available please be sure we have your current email address. Since most annual memberships are now renewed via PayPal we will use that address by default. If you would like us to notify you at a different address or your email changes then please send your new email address to membership at [fpoa.net](mailto:membership@fpoa.net)

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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.