

Directions

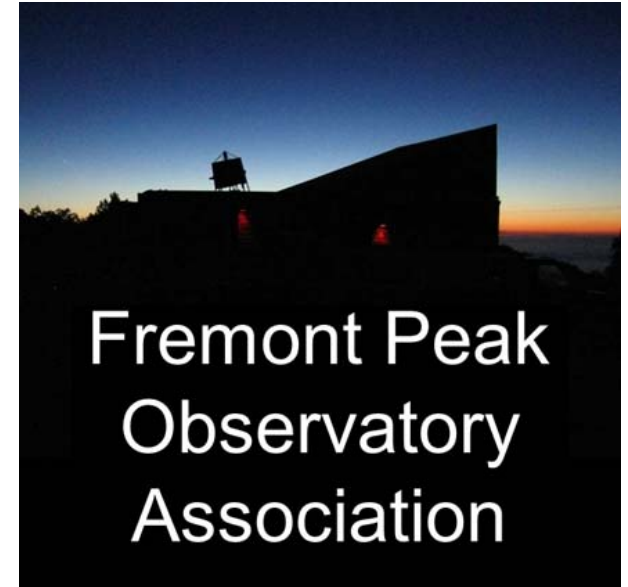
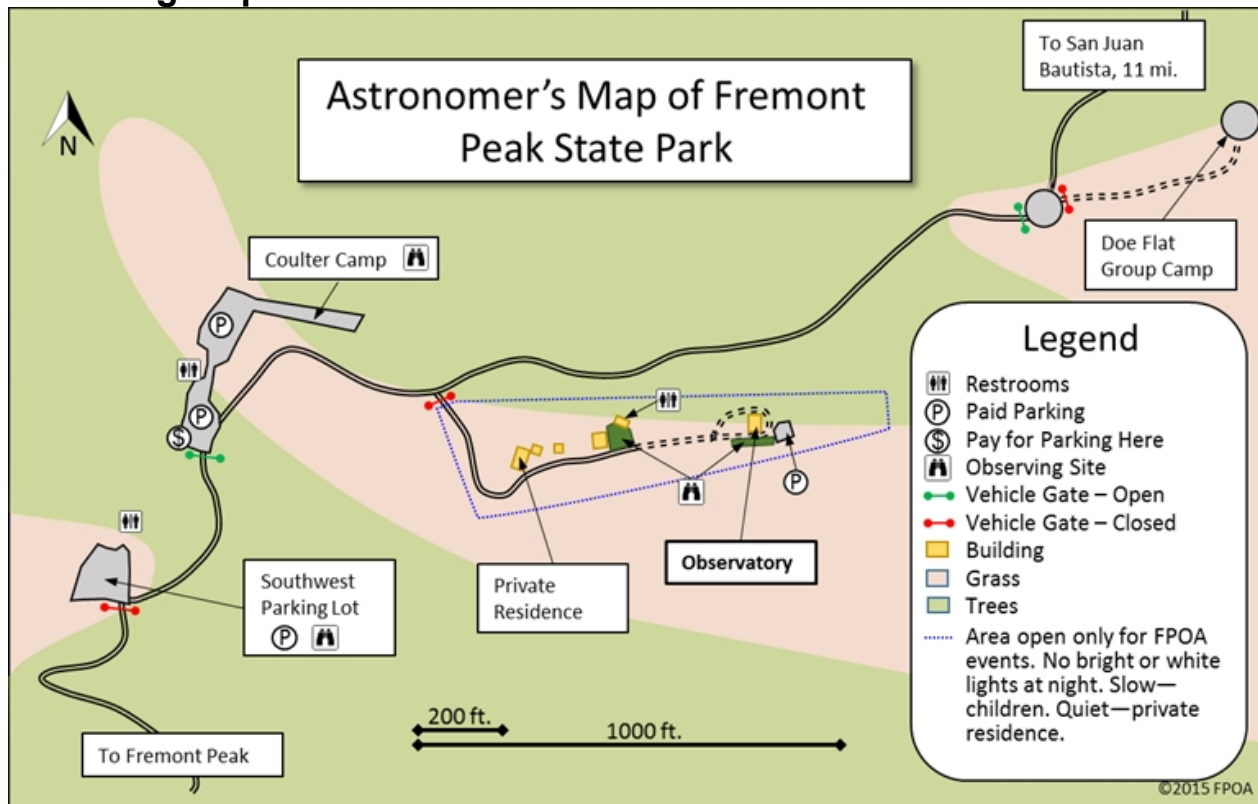
Fremont Peak State Park is south of San Juan Bautista at 36° 46' north, 121° 30' west.

From Hwy. 101, about 11 miles south of Gilroy, take the eastbound Hwy. 156 exit. Go 3.0 miles, to a traffic light, and turn right onto county Hwy. G-1 (San Juan Canyon Road). After 200 yards or so the road forks, take the left fork. It then *immediately* forks again; this time go right. You should see a small brown sign saying "Fremont Peak State Park 11 miles." The road follows up the canyon and the winds up a ridge into the park.

Parking and Accessibility

There is no parking for visitors immediately next to the observatory. To visit the observatory, park in any of the public parking areas (see map), pay your entrance fee (see map), and walk along the road to the observatory. For handicapped access, please make arrangements with FPOA in advance (leave message at 831-623-2465 or send email to schedule at fpoa.net). It is recommended that you carry a flashlight (dim ones with red light preferred) and use it if necessary while negotiating the pathways from the parking areas to and from the observatory. Please don't shine lights in people's eyes—it affects their night vision.

Observing Map



Contact:

Recorded Message: 831-623-2465

Email: [info at www.fpoa.net](mailto:info@www.fpoa.net)



Web Site: www.fpoa.net

Other Contacts

Fremont Peak State Park: 831-623-4255 or

www.parks.ca.gov

Camping Reservations: 800-444-7275 or

www.reserveamenca.com



About FPOA

What We Do, and How We Do It

Fremont Peak Observatory Association volunteers spread the word about the wonder of the night sky, educate the public through presentations and observing sessions, and provide quality observatory facilities. We are not a club.

The Fremont Peak Observatory is a labor of love and an ongoing project of amateur astronomers from the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas. The observatory was funded, built, and continues to be maintained and operated by the Fremont Peak Observatory Association (FPOA), an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of over 100 amateur astronomers.

For the Public

FPOA is a favorite destination of families as well as school, scout, and church groups. Each year over 2,000 members of the public are treated to a personalized multimedia presentation by an FPOA astronomer while the Saturday evening sun sets over the Pacific. As darkness falls and the stars emerge, they gaze in wonder at night sky's splendors through the eyepiece of the **30" diameter Challenger** telescope, and a variety of sophisticated amateur telescopes, before returning to their campsites and homes. If you have never seen the the Milky Way under dark skies away from city light pollution, come visit us to see why astronomers have been traveling to Fremont Peak State Park for decades.

For Schools and Colleges

As part of our mission, we collaborate with **schools** in the Monterey Bay, Hollister, and San Francisco Bay area to tailor a rich educational experience for K-12 and college students, both

curriculum with local astronomy-related resources. FPOA provides Salinas-based **Hartnell College** students internship opportunities as part of their Science/Math Summer Internship Program.

For the Astronomy Enthusiast

Besides offering a good dark sky site and observatory with high schedule availability, FPOA is a great way to network with other observers. We also provide meaningful opportunities to perform public outreach, opening people's eyes and minds to the universe.

Some History

Astronomers have been coming to Fremont Peak State Park for decades, seeking dark skies away from city light pollution. In the early 1980's, telescope maker Kevin Medlock was looking for a home for the 30" f/4.8 Newtonian telescope he was completing. California State Parks cooperated with the astronomer group to approve the building of an observatory at Fremont Peak State Park.

A building design was donated, \$25,000 in seed money was raised (from the sale of equipment donated by Celestron Corp.), and ground was broken for the observatory on an open hill behind the ranger's residence.

Fremont Peak Observatory opened in 1986, and has operated every summer since, despite having battled the frequently brutal weather on the 3,000 foot peak. Devoted astronomers continue to maintain the observatory and "Challenger" telescope, contributing time, energy, and money, to keep Fremont Peak Observatory one of the finest amateur-operated astronomy centers in the United States.

Programs

Availability

The Observatory is open to the public for scheduled viewing and educational programs from April through October on Saturday evenings that don't include a full moon (usually three Saturdays each month). We also offer special programs for educational groups (to schedule, leave message at 831-623-2465 or send email to schedule at fpoa.net). When the summer advection fog rolls in from Monterey Bay and covers the lights of Hollister and Gilroy, the skies above Fremont Peak are as dark and star-filled as any place to be found within 100 miles of the San Francisco Bay area.

2015 Evening Program Schedule

Evening programs start around sunset and include an presentation in the observatory classroom and observing through the 30" Challenger and other telescopes. Dates are:

April	11, 18, 25	August	8, 15, 22
May	9, 16, 23	September	5, 12, 19
June	13, 20	October	3, 10, 17
July	11, 18, 25	November	Closed

Presentations are at 8:30 pm from May through August, and 8:00 in other months.

2015 Daytime Solar Program Schedule

Solar observing is offered at the observatory from noon to 3:00pm on these dates:

April	21	August	15
May	18	September	12
June	16	October	10
July	18	November	None

Caution: Never look at the sun without proper eye protection.