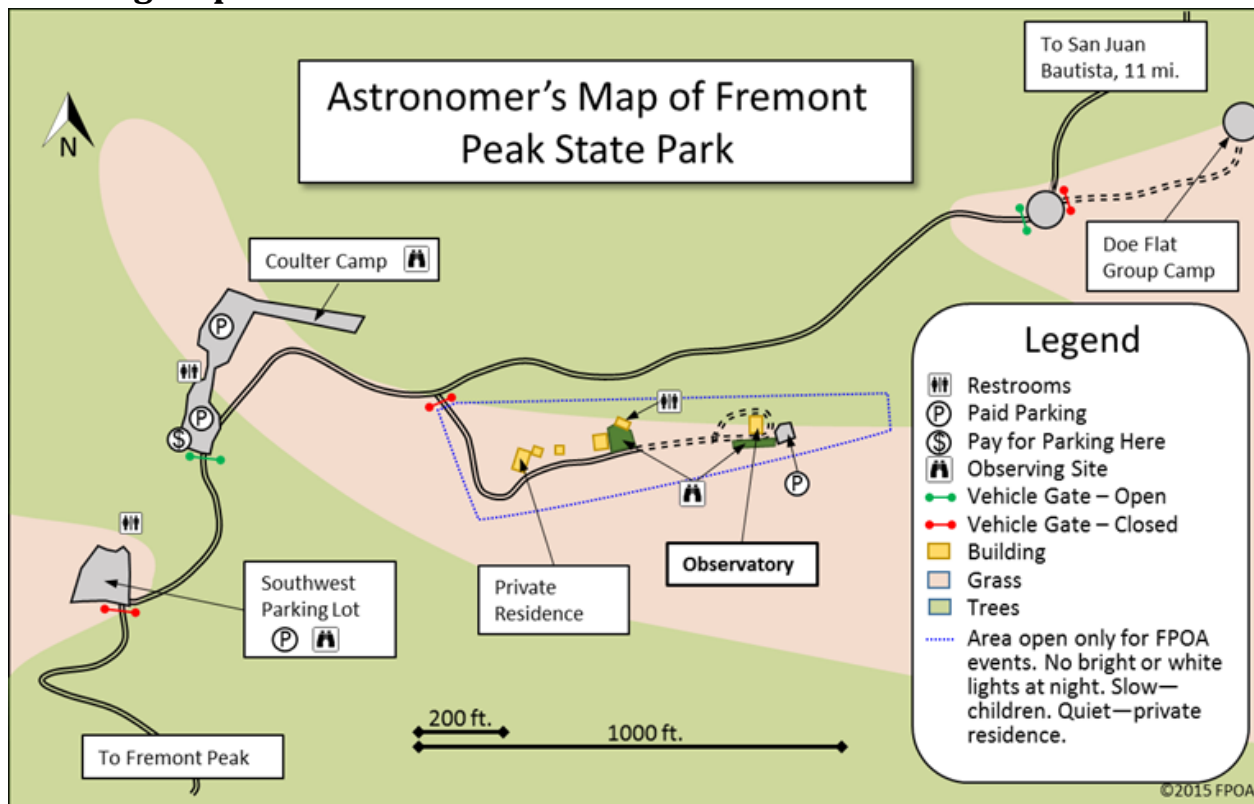


Directions

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

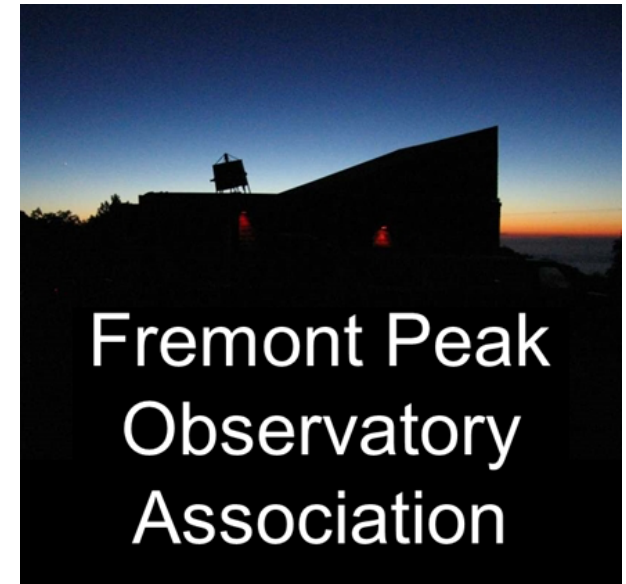
From Hwy. 101, about 11 miles south of Gilroy, take the eastbound Hwy. 156 exit. Go 3.0 miles, to a traffic light, and turn right onto county Hwy. G-1 (San Juan Canyon Road). After 200 yards or so the road forks, take the left fork. It then *immediately* forks again; this time go right. You should see 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.

Observing Map



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, we prefer you make arrangements with FPOA in advance (email to schedule@fpoa.net at least day before). 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.



Contact:

Recorded Message: 831-623-2465



Email: info@fpoa.net

Web Site: www.fpoa.net including program status

Other Contacts

Fremont Peak State Park: 831-623-4255 or

www.parks.ca.gov

Camping Reservations:

www.reservecalifornia.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 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 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. 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.

2023 Evening Program Schedule

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

Jan/Feb	Closed	July	8, 15, 22
March	18, 25	August	12
April	15, 22	September	9, 16, 23
May	13, 20, 27	October	7, 14, 21
June	10, 17, 24	Nov / Dec	Closed

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

We sometimes close due to weather. Check our status on our website.

2023 Daytime Solar Program Schedule

Solar observing is offered at the observatory from 2 to 5 PM on these dates:

March	18	July	15
April	15	August	12
May	13, 27	September	9
June	10, 24	October	14 (8-11AM)

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