

## **Stargazing on Mount Pinos**

**July 10-11, 2010 & August 7-8, 2010**

**Mt. Pinos is considered one of the best spots in Southern California to view the stars because of its very low light, low pollution, dry air, and frequently clear skies. Its altitude is over 8,300 feet. Our campouts occur on the new moon, so the stargazing is amazing. Come for the day and evening, or camp out; there is no fee for campsites on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring dinner, snacks, tent and camp supplies, firewood, a telescope (if you have one), and LOTS of warm clothes (gloves, hat, winter jacket) as the temperature drops significantly when the sun sets.**

**There is a nice hiking trail from the Chula Vista parking lot to the peak of Mount Pinos, about 1.4 miles total walking distance (one way). If it's a clear day, you can get a very nice view of the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding mountains. It's an easy trail; even tennis shoes will do fine. Remember to bring water!**

**Plan to stay up late but for those that must leave, try to make it until at least 10 or 11 PM. Bring a **RED** flashlight; white lights mess up your night vision. There are a lot of cool things to see and usually a large bunch of friendly people with telescopes that will let you look through them; just ask nicely.**

**Campsite: The Chula Vista campground is located 500 feet from the Chula Vista parking lot at the top of Mount Pinos. This is a walk-in campground offering 13 sites with picnic tables, fire rings, and vault toilets. The first-come, first-served camp is shaded by Jeffrey pines. Marc Moss will be staking out a spot for the Triunfo Federation.**

### **Driving Directions to Mt. Pinos:**

**From Los Angeles, take Interstate I-5 north and exit at Frazier Mountain Park Road (about 35 miles past the Castaic Junction or Magic Mountain). Turn left from the Frazier Park off ramp and drive west. Your basic objective is to remain on this road until it ends; do not turn right or left at any point, and you will reach the Mt. Pinos parking lot and campsite. Specific directions follow:**

**You will reach a 4-way stop in the center of Frazier Park. Continue west (straight) on Frazier Mountain Park Road. You will pass Lockwood Valley Road on your left after 3 miles and Frazier Mountain Park Road will veer to the**

right and become Cuddy Valley Road. You will eventually come to a "Y" intersection where Mil Potrero Highway meets Cuddy Valley Road with a sign indicating directions to Pine Mountain Club and Mt. Pinos. Stay on Cuddy Valley Road. Cuddy Valley Road will become Mt. Pinos Road at this "Y" intersection. Follow Mt. Pinos road about 9 miles. You'll pass through two yellow snow gates. One gate is at about 2 miles in and the other snow gate is about 6 miles in. You'll eventually reach a road sign that says, "Pavement Ends." The Mt. Pinos parking area (Chula Vista) is just beyond this sign.

If you are planning on leaving that night then park next to the exit or on the road outside the parking lot as the car lights will greatly disturb the astronomers. When you leave in the dark, try to leave the parking lot with your parking lights then turn on your lights as you head down the hill. It helps the other stargazers maintain their night-vision and also there are some people doing astral photography. Try to get there before sunset and earlier if you want to hike or just relax.

A so-called Adventure Pass is *not* required for walk-in camping during the summer. For more information, see: [http://astro-tom.com/avac/observing\\_sites/mount\\_pinos.htm](http://astro-tom.com/avac/observing_sites/mount_pinos.htm)

Questions? Call Stephen Levine at (818) 426-6266 or Marc Moss at (818) 939-3980. *See you there!*