



PMPO

Spring 2008 - Volume 19

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

Board Members: Tom Burton, Robert Carlyle, Donna Dose, Bruce Graves, Jim Hamerly, Rob Hawk, Susan Humason, Jerry Johnson, Scott Kardel, Bonnie Phelps, Michael Pique, Bob O'Neill, Alan Serry, John Tainer/Elizabeth Getzoff, Earl Walls

A Message from the Chair

2007-2008 was a historic year for the residents of Palomar. On the heels of the October 2003 wild fires came the much more threatening October 2007 fires. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department as well as to all of the assisting agencies that protected and provided for much of the Mountain during those difficult days for all. The local Poomacha Fire destroyed 143 homes and 77 outbuildings (some on our Mountain, including several belonging to members of our Board). In total, there were nearly 1,500 homes lost, a half-a-million acres burned, over half-a-million people displaced, and over \$1B in damage to Southern California. This recent threat should prompt all of

us to make serious commitments to fire prevention and brush clearing on our properties. The question is not whether we will have another fire, it's simply when, and how prepared will we be?

We had a very successful "Thank You" dinner in November for our local Fire Fighters generously hosted by the Palomar Christian Conference Center. Nearly 50% of our community residents showed up to say thank you to those who fought to save the Mountain.

The PMPO is active in three related areas: Encouraging residents to clear brush, with the assistance of Cleveland National Forest personnel; a campaign to regularly monitor local water well levels to build up data on water levels;

and the Easement Project. You'll see many of our activities represented in the following newsletter articles so I won't try and summarize them here. Be sure to also check our web site for updates:

<http://mypalomarmountain.com/pmpo/>.

This year we celebrate over 150 years of service from our 15 Board members. As always, we are here to serve the Community and are always open to your suggestions, comments, and feedback.

Jim Hamerly, Chairman
(jim@hamerly.net)



Mark Your Calendars

All Mountain
Residents & Visitors are
Welcome to Attend...

PMPO
Pancake
Breakfast

Saturday May 24, 2008
Palomar Mtn Lodge
8am-11am
The Annual Meeting
follows Breakfast.

Section 14 & 15 Dual Survey Problem

by Michael Pique

All of Birch Hill and most of Crestline are located in Section 14, and in 1975 a government re-survey moved Section 14's southern corners several hundred feet, costing many Palomar residents along the entire mile-long National Forest boundary their right to build on their properties. Moreover, the re-survey moved the boundary between the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department and the Crestline Group Camp, making construction of the Community and Safety Center more difficult. One current hope is to negotiate a land-exchange between a private donor and the federal government. However, actually doing this is beyond my expertise and abilities. If you are a person willing to learn how to do this and arrange appropriate meetings, do please let the PMPO know.

Another route is by continuing our decade-long search for old stone boundary markers on the southwest slope of Palomar. This month and next month would be a great time to do this, before the brush burned by October's fires grows back and covers up what we're looking for.

If you are able to take a day or two and hike down with me, please call me at (858) 354-4391 and we'll go exploring.

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**Palomar Mountain
Planning Organization
(PMPO)**

Box 145

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145

This newsletter is produced annually
and distributed in May of each year.

Without the help of many volunteers,
this newsletter would not be possible.

Coordinator: Susan Humason

Editors: Elizabeth Getzoff & Michael Pique

Article Contributors:

Jim Hamerly, Michael Pique, Rob Hawk, George E. Lucia, Tom Burton, Scott Kardel, Bonnie Phelps, Pastor Dr. John Shackelford, Robert Carlyle, Alan Serry, Bill Leininger, Elizabeth Getzoff

Assemblers:

Thanks go out to the many individuals that help each year with the assembly and mailing of the newsletter. They all make it possible to get the newsletter out on a timely basis.

If you have any information that you would like to contribute to future newsletters, please email the information to:
pimage1@sbcglobal.net - attn: PMPO Newsletter

PMPO

Treasurer's Report

Jan 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2007

by Alan Serry, Treasurer



Balance Carried Forward		\$39,483.12
Income:		
Donations	\$3,030.00	
Pancake Breakfast	\$345.50	
Interest	<u>\$695.75</u>	
Total Income		\$4,071.25
Expenses:		
Newsletter	\$695.63	
Pancake Breakfast	\$407.55	
General Expenses	\$520.00	
Total Expenses		\$1,623.18
Ending Balance		\$41,931.19

Special thanks to the Covingtons for offering
the PMPO the use of the
Palomar Mountain Lodge to hold our Annual
Meeting
and helping with the Pancake Breakfast.

Also, a big thank you to Donna Dose for her
many years of service in conducting
the Annual PMPO Pancake Breakfasts.

Fire Safe Council Receives Grant!



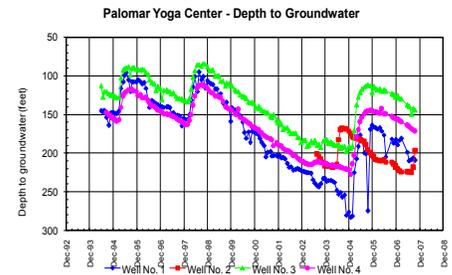
Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council has had their grant request approved for the 2008-9 season. That means that there will be funds available starting in the fall for fire mediation on a co-pay basis. Those interested in having work done on their property please contact Robert Carlyle at 760-742-1891 for an on-site evaluation.

Monitoring Groundwater on the Mountain *by Rob Hawk*

Water on Palomar is our most important resource. Unlike the City, where water is brought in from rivers hundreds of miles away, Palomar's water comes from underground storage of rainwater. Rain falling in the forest percolates through the soil to natural underground reservoirs in cracks and crevices in the rock, called aquifers. Wells drilled deep below the water table pump out this water for our use, like many straws drinking from the same cup. The amount of water in the cup is controlled by the amount of rain and snow-fall (precipitation) we get every year, and the amount of water we pump from wells, or that flows off the mountain to the sea. While this is an oversimplification of a complex system, the point is that if people use more than is recharged from rain, the water levels drop and wells and springs go dry.

To help understand the complexity of the groundwater system that everyone on the mountain shares, the PMPO is collecting well water level data from anyone with a well that is willing to provide it. These data will be matched with rainfall data to try to understand the sensitivity of the system to drought conditions, and to evaluate new projects relying on groundwater that may impact the community water supply. We are requesting that anyone who has a well provide monthly or weekly level measurements to the PMPO contact person Rob Hawk (at PO Box 157 by mail on the Mountain, tecdelver@cox.net or 619-287-4992). We would also like to get a GPS location of your well (Rob can do that, so contact him if you have any questions).

Alternatively, the PMPO is funding the Water Company employee to measure wells outside the system on a monthly or bi-monthly schedule. If you would like to volunteer your well to be measured, please fill out and sign the attached permission form and mail it to the PMPO. Please include a map showing the location of your well. We will pick wells that are representative for the program. If you have any questions, please call Rob Hawk or any PMPO Board member. Come to the May meeting to hear more detail or ask questions about the effort.



Well Monitoring Permission Form

I, _____ (print name),

legal owner of parcel No. _____

herein grant permission for an individual authorized by the

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization to enter my property solely for the purpose of

measuring water levels in my well.

(Signature)

(Date)

Mail Your Form to:
PMPO
PO Box 145
Palomar Mountain, CA 92060

or submit it to the PMPO
at the Annual Meeting

PMVFD – Focus on the Community Center

by George E. Lucia

On behalf of the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, I would like to thank the people of Palomar Mountain for your exceptional patience and cooperation during last October’s wildfires. Many of you put your own concerns aside to work hand in hand with PMVFD and with the many other emergency departments that came to the aid of our community.

Now that life is getting back to normal for most of us, the fire department is working on plans to enhance the fire station. This includes installing the Walls Fire Administration Building to serve as offices, meeting room and bunkhouse for overnight firefighters, and upgrading the historical cabin to serve as the Graves Community Center. Clean up and repairs have already begun on the cabin, thanks to the hard work of a few of our mountain residents.

The realization of a Community Center would mean the fulfillment of a dream that began more than 30 years ago. There have been many obstacles along the way, and there is still much to be done.

We would love to hear what you envision for your Community Center. We hope you will participate in its creation. Please start by completing the form below and return it to PMVFD by fax to (760)742-0574 or email to clkellogg@earthlink.net, mail to PMVFD, P.O. Box 235, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060, or send it to the PMPO and someone will forward it to PMVFD.

Yours in safety,
George E. Lucia, Sr., Fire Chief



I WOULD LIKE TO HELP BUILD THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN GRAVES COMMUNITY CENTER

Name: _____



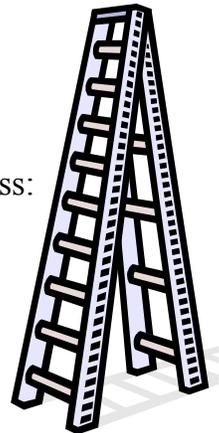
I can donate materials: _____

I can donate labor: _____

Please include me on the PMVFD Email mailing list so I can be updated on the progress:

Name: _____

Email Address: _____



Please call me if you are planning a “work party”.

Phone number: _____

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!! What kinds of events/meetings would you like to see held at the Community Center? Would you use the facility? (use additional sheet if more space if needed) _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS TO THE PMPO, OR MAIL TO PMVFD, P.O. BOX 235, PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060, OR FAX TO (760)742-0574, OR EMAIL TO clkellogg@earthlink.net.

Thanks!

An Update from the Palomar Observatory

by Scott Kardel

Nights at Palomar Observatory continue to be productive with astronomers and telescopes working just about all night, every night.

June 3rd marks the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the 200-inch Hale Telescope. It continues to be remarkably productive. The telescope is often armed with something known as adaptive optics. Adaptive optics can correct for any distortions caused by Earth's atmosphere giving the telescope a view as if it was in space. Last summer we used this technology in a new way and took the highest resolution images ever taken from any telescope, anywhere.

Astronomers from around the globe have been working on new instruments for the 200-inch

telescope that will be used to measure the light of stars and galaxies in ways that haven't been done before. Two of these instruments will be used this year to hunt and even photograph planets that orbit other stars. Another one will be used to map the faint gas clouds that exist between galaxies – giving us a new understanding of the universe and the mysterious dark matter in it.

The robotic 60-inch telescope continues to hunt down various forms of exploding stars. It is linked up with a NASA satellite, known as Swift, that alerts the Palomar 60-inch when one of these explosions, known as a gamma-ray burst, takes place. The events do not last long, so speed is of the essence. Within moments the Palomar telescope can respond to the alert, without even the assistance of an astronomer, and be observing the event. These observations have been very important in understanding the circumstances of these colossal

explosions. Back in March, the brightest of these gamma-ray bursts was detected. It was briefly visible, even without a telescope, from halfway across the observable universe – at a distance of seven and a half billion light years.

Remember the observatory is open daily to visitors from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. We are giving tours on most Saturdays through October at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Please remember that by turning off unneeded outside lights you can save on electricity costs and help to keep the sky darker for everyone to enjoy.



For more information on the observatory visit our website at:
<http://www.palomar-observatory.org>

General Plan 2020

by Tom Burton

The ABC's of Palomar Land Use

How will YOUR land be used in the future? What services will be available on Palomar? How many people will live here? All these questions (and MANY more) will be determined by General Plan 2020 being worked on now by the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use. They have asked the input of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization—who, in turn, are interested in getting your input and a Community consensus. A meeting was held on May 3, 2008 at the LODGE with County task force leaders, to address the Mountain's future.

Tom Burton is Chair of the PMPO Subcommittee, that has been monitoring these County processes for over a decade. As you have read in the PMPO newsletter for years, based on prior Community input, we have been advocating the "THREE C's": Commercial, Clustering, and Country Town. The meeting focused on how our Community would like the County to articulate this vision.

We will be summarizing what took place at the meeting at our Annual Pancake Breakfast Meeting.

IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY CONTACT A PMPO MEMBER OR TOM BURTON, WHO ALSO MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST. Tom's email is: tburton@twbcoach.com. His Palomar number (Thursday to Saturday most weeks) is (760) 742-1377 and his City office is (949) 250-0755.

PMPO Soliciting Board Members for May Election

Volunteers are solicited for PMPO Board seats to be voted on during our Annual Meeting following the Pancake Breakfast on May 24th. Contact Jim Hamerly if interested.

Membership on the PMPO Board is open to any individual resident, property owner, or business person in the Palomar Mountain area of the county of San Diego interested in contributing time and effort to achieve the purposes of this Organization. Members may be re-elected for more than one term. Members serve without compensation.

You can find out more at the PMPO web site, which list the various Committee activities, the Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws. Members must agree to and fill out a Conflict of Interest Policy Statement.

Five current Board seats expire May 2008; those eligible for re-election include: Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff (alternate) / John Tainer, Jim Hamerly, Jerry Johnson, and Bonnie Phelps.

Jim Hamerly
PMPO Chairman
jim@hamerly.net



Yale / La Jolla Indian Reservation Well Pumping & Land Transfer Project

by Elizabeth Getzoff

The PMPO has a long history of protecting Palomar Mountain's water supplies. In 1992, William Yale drilled a deep well on land next to Cedar Creek to pump and export water, but failed to complete San Diego County's requirements for a Major Use Permit. In 2004, Mr. Yale and the adjacent La Jolla Indian Reservation revealed joint plans to export this water through a pipeline down Palomar Mountain. Over significant objections from the Palomar community, the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted environmental approval in 2005.

On August 23, 2007, the land and well became part of the Reservation, which, as a sovereign nation, is not subject to County regulations. Even though this project sets an unfortunate precedent for export of pumped well water from Palomar Mountain, the PMPO will continue to work to defend the environment and maintain sufficient water for fire safety and community use.

Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors

The regular meetings of the PMVFD Board of Directors are held on either the first Friday or the first Saturday of each month. Our meetings are all open and everyone is invited to attend. Agendas are posted at the Post Office 72 hours before each meeting. If there are special meetings called, agendas will be similarly posted. You can also get a copy of the agendas by subscribing to the PMVFD E-mail site [pmvfd_web-subscribe@yahoo.com].

The Board of Directors is very proud of its Fire Department and great job they do in keeping our community safe on a daily basis. We wish to especially thank Chief George Lucia and our firefighters for the great job they did in fighting the Poomacha Fire. Extra thanks to Chief George for getting us supplies of Barricade Gel and teaching us how to use it. We also wish to thank CERT team members and Palomar Mountain resident volunteers for their essential support during the October wildfires.

One of our major accomplishments this year was to hire a full-time Firefighter/Administrator. Battalion Chief Cliff Kellogg's presence in the station on a daily basis has made the department run much smoother.

This year's Annual Fundraiser will be chaired by Tricia Lucia. It will be held on the Saturday before Labor Day. Please call Tricia or get in touch with a Board member if you wish to be a volunteer. Mark your calendars for **August 30th 2008** for this very special event.



Palomar Easement Project (PEP)

A valuable lesson have been learned from the recent fires is that recorded easements are an asset for rebuilding. Legal issues have begun to surface more frequently as more properties are sold, people want to refinance, or pull a permit to remodel.

Progress is being made on ‘connecting the dots’ by working together to get recorded easements for many properties on Palomar. Most property is burdened with easements for roads but often the proper language giving the right for nearby owners to use the road was missing from the deed. This is quite a project with many hours already invested.

The PMPO had given their blessing for us to work to make property owners aware of these issues and help resolve them BEFORE a fire. We can work cooperatively to file legal documents granting appropriate access easements and property adjustments to create accurate legal descriptions of the properties we already own, to avoid costly and contentious litigation during an already stressful time during rebuilding. This effort, road by road, when successful, would be a tremendous asset to property owners. We have started on the far east side of the Mountain with the first quarter corner ready for recording.

More information is available through the website www.mypalomarmountain.com/pmpo and click on ‘Easement Project’. We welcome new home owner Cecilia Borland, as our ‘Easement Coordinator’. She will be working directly with the title company and surveyor to keep all moving forward. Bruce Graves will also assist in contacting residents.

You’re invited to come to the May meeting to find out more details and see how we can help one another clear up some of these issues.

Bonnie Phelps, bonnie@palomarproperties.com
Realtor, Resident

Bruce Graves bruceg1288@earthlink.net
PMPO past Chairman, Resident

Tom Burton, tburton@twcoach.com
Attorney, Weekender

Rob Hawk, tecdelver@cox.net
Deputy City Engineer, City of San Diego and Weekender

Cecilia Borland cecilia@idafab.com
Easement Coordinator, Homeowner

Members of the PMPO Board of Directors

Old Maps or Surveys?

Do you have old maps or surveys of Palomar tucked away? Perhaps they could be an asset in clearing up some of the road easement issues. You are invited to bring them with you to the Pancake Breakfast or one of the PEP members.

Palomar Mountain Community Church *by Pastor, Dr. John Shackelford*

Palomar Mountain Community is a non-denominational fellowship of Christians who worship and serve the Lord with enthusiasm and joy. We believe that the Bible is God’s Word and our authority for teaching and living, and that through His Son, Jesus, we are loved, forgiven and enabled to live life with a new perspective and power. God loves you and so do we!

We worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the Observatory Recreation Hall at the end of Canfield Road. Come early and enjoy a cup of coffee and enjoy time with your friends and neighbors. Dress is casual. You may contact the Pastor, Dr. John Shackelford, at 619-440-2450, or by email at jdshack@cox.net Or, on the mountain, through Ken Morrish, chairman of our Board of Elders at 760-742-1990.



Community Tidbits... *from Bonnie Phelps*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Looking for something fun to do? Check out our interactive calendar of events. When your organization has something coming up, you can go into this webpage and enter the event yourself. <http://my.calendars.net/palomarmountain>. It is simple, and fun to do, and will keep us all up-to-date on the latest Mountain happenings!



FREE FIREWOOD

Interested in cutting your own firewood? There is a lot of free oak available. We have access to some dry oak and also have a lot of green oak for you to cut and let season a year or two. Property owners appreciate you removing the downed wood, and it benefits you to have good oak on hand when the temperature drops! Let's connect and you can cut!

MOUNTAIN YELLOW PAGES

Do you have a product or service that you need or could provide on the Mountain? www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages Additions and corrections are welcomed.



COMMUNITY WEBSITE

For the People of Palomar and those who "Claim the Mountain" as their own.

Designed to serve all the needs of the community, this growing website has many new pages and photos this year. It is very user friendly so you can find links to search the archives or visit other community websites. Additions are constantly being made to have this page as your one-stop source for Mountain information. Lots of great connections for fun mountain 'stuff', and oh, so much more!

Do you have a website that is not linked yet? Please feel free to send it along. Or, if you would like a free webpage, just let me know!

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN NEWS BROADCAST

Since 1998, property owners and residents have been able to subscribe to a free e-news broadcast. Serving the Mountain in a way similar to a newspaper, you receive messages to keep informed of the happenings of our community. If you were getting the news in the past, and haven't recently, sorry, those spam blockers have been working overtime! Many of you have also changed your address throughout the years. If you wish to keep up on the latest, simply visit: www.PalomarMountainNews.com to subscribe or update your address. You'll have a reply with suggestions to get set up so the Mountain News doesn't get blocked, or sent to your 'junk e-mail box'. We'll keep the news of your favorite Mountain heading your way!

Looking forward to seeing you 'round the Mountain!

Bonnie Phelps, Editor since 1998

<http://www.PalomarMountainNews.com> --- 760-742-1742 or 888-718-5358 --- bonnie@bonniephelps.com

Palomar History Books

Another book is in the works with history of our favorite mountain. The latest edition will include photos in Darby's Palomar Ski Resort. How fun is that!

Do you have stories and photos to contribute of days gone by? More material is always needed and will increase everyone's appreciation of Mountain history.

We're in the process now of finishing up corrections to the first three books that we printed so plan a second printing soon. Proceeds benefit the Fire Safe Council with thanks to all. Check out www.mypalomarmountain.com/historical/books and we'll let you know when the next book is hot off the press!

PMPO Needs Your Financial Support...

All property owners, residents, and any parties interested in the Palomar community are members of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization. PMPO is recognized by both Federal and State Taxing Authorities as a tax-exempt organization. This means that your gifts are income tax deductible.

If you have followed our activities over the years, you know we get a big bang for each buck. There are large threats on the horizon most of the time. We need to be ready. Your financial support represents our readiness. We study issues of importance to Palomar Mountain and communicate them to our community along with involved governmental agencies. These efforts have produced significant results.



Palomar Mountain
Planning Organization
-- 2008 Contribution --

RETURN TO:
PMPO, Box 145
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145
PMPO IS RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL
AND STATE AUTHORITIES
AS A TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION (501-(c)3).
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I AM CONTRIBUTING: \$ _____

Thanks to All of the
PMPO Board & Volunteers
for their ongoing dedication and
support in helping to better our
Mountain Community!

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For over a century now, folks have been coming up to Bailey's for a special slice of San Diego's back country. Bailey's sixty-acre mountaintop environment is a unique blend of cool forest and rich meadow. The historic General Store, Dance Hall, and the newly restored Hotel provide an authentic look and feel to a valley that has changed little over the last 100 years. Lodging at the Bailey House, camping, and cabin rentals are available.

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alserry@msn.com

Traffic Safety Update

by Alan Serry, PMPO Traffic Safety Officer

Motorcycle and Vehicle Safety

Motorcycle and vehicle safety issues related to crossing the center line on the South and East Grade roads are of major concern to residents and visitors to Palomar Mountain. Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department spends countless hours and dollars attending to avoidable accidents on the South and East Grade roads. The CHP has been approached on several occasions in the past 5 years. It has been determined that the CHP is unable to address the issue and has informed me that there is a shortage of manpower and funds to accommodate effective patrols. CHP also indicated that there are not enough 'incidents' to warrant additional enforcement.



Please report any violations to the CHP Oceanside office at 760-757-1675. When immediate response is needed, call the San Diego CHP Dispatch at 858-637-3800.

The idea of Center Line Rumble Strips (CLRS) was introduced by PMVFD Chief George Lucia. Data show that most fatal accidents are caused by vehicles that have crossed the center line. Chief George made the appropriate contacts and obtained a commitment from San Diego County to install the CLRS on South and East Grade Roads.

These rumble strips have been used effectively in other areas to deter vehicles from drifting into oncoming traffic.

Below is information on Center Line Rumble Strips: Rumble strips, (also known as audio tactile profiled markings), are a road safety feature that alerts drivers to potential danger by causing a tactile vibration and audible rumbling, transmitted through the wheels into the car body. A series of rumble strips is applied in the direction of travel along the centerline to alert drivers when they drift from their lane. Rumble strips are usually made by scalloping a section out of the roadway in a regular pattern.

At press time, CLRS have already been installed on Highway 76 with a promise by SD county to complete both South and East Grade roads by early summer 2008.

Residents and visitors are all reminded to remain in their respective lanes. Too many times we experience drivers drifting over the line not only on the South and East Grade roads, but on other smaller community roads. Traffic safety is EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

Open Range

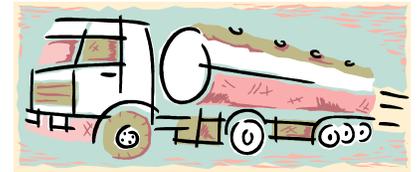


Cattle on East Grade Road is another safety concern which has been brought to the attention of the PMPO.

Per San Diego County Traffic

Engineering Services, most of the South and East Grade Roads remain open range. This means you may encounter cattle on the roadway.

Please continue to be aware of this and drive accordingly, SLOW DOWN.



Oversized Trucks & Vehicles

Oversized trucks and vehicles on South Grade Road have been brought to the attention of the PMPO.

Per San Diego County ordinance 7393 Section 72.243.11:

“Vehicles restricted from a portion of South Grade Road. Tandem axle tractors in combination with tandem axle trailers and single rear axle tractors or pickups pulling a tandem axle trailer with a distance greater than 23 feet between the rear axle of the pulling vehicle and the front axle of the tandem trailer shall not be permitted on the section of South Grade Road between SH76 and East Grade Road (County Road H03A)”.

The issue has been presented to the responsible parties and they are in the process remedying this safety concern.

Please report any violations to the CHP Oceanside office at 760-757-1675. When immediate response is needed, call the San Diego CHP Dispatch at 858-637-3800.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) *by Bill Leininger*

Are you ready?

Is your home ready for a disaster?

Do you know how to help your friends and neighbors if there's a fire, earthquake, or blizzard?

Now you can get involved!

The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department has a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), whose members are trained to assist the professional first responders in disaster situations and with events where additional trained personnel could make a difference.

Starting 18 months ago, all 16 members have gone through the basic CERT training, which involves: personal preparation, small fire suppression, first aid and triage, and light search and rescue. During all classes, exercises, and real events, team member safety is given the highest priority. All members are issued standard personnel protective equipment (look for our bright green helmets and vests), and supplies to let us immediately support the PMVFD and Palomar Mountain community in an emergency.

Along with the entire mountain, our biggest past event, was the Poomacha Fire. CERT helped man the phones and radios at the fire station, coordinated supplies, guided off-mountain specialists around the mountain, as well as numerous other activities. Additionally, we've been employed to provide extra personnel at the fire station during the extreme weather situations (windy, wet, hot, or cold!). And, we've done education and training with other CERT groups around the county.

In the next year, we'll be working on helping get Barricade gel (fire retardant gel a homeowner can spray on their home with a garden hose) out to more parts of the community, and we'll be organizing more coordination across the mountain. Throughout the year, we'll be having regular exercises and drills to keep our skills sharp so we can help the PMVFD wherever they need us.

Interested in becoming part of the Team? We'd love to have you! For more information about how to join and upcoming classes and meetings, please contact me:

Bill Leininger, bill_leininger@alumni.williams.edu, – 760-807-6923

Information is also available from:

Chief George Lucia – palomarmtnfire97@aol.com, - 760-644-9933

Battalion Chief Cliff Kellogg – ckellogg@earthlink.net, – 760-742-3701

Disaster Preparedness information is available at www.readysandiego.org



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Forestry
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760.742.1891

Tree Work, Firewood, et al.

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Palomar Mountain Planning Organization
P.O. Box 145
Palomar Mountain, CA 92060-0145

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Annual Meeting

Breakfast 8am-11am • Annual Meeting immediately follows Breakfast

Saturday, May 24th, 2008

at the Palomar Mountain Lodge

Breakfast Menu:

Fresh orange juice, strawberries,
hot mountain pancakes,
bacon & sausage and steaming coffee

\$2.00 - Adults
\$1.00 - Children



Come on out, meet your
neighbors, enjoy a delicious
breakfast and hear about
what's happening
on Palomar!