



# PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

Spring 2012 - Volume 23

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

**Board Members: Heather Beer, Glen Borland/Cecelia Borland, Robert Carlyle, Mike Chesney, Steven Clark, Donna Dose, George Evangelou, Libby Getzoff/John Tainer, Bruce Graves, Doug Lande, George Lucia, Mike Pique, Alan Serry, Linda Thorne, and Michael Walsh**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to the 2012 edition of the PMPO newsletter. The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization is a nonprofit public benefit organization whose purpose is to not only to provide planning oversight for the Palomar community but also to organize responses to particular mountain needs. These needs range from road traffic and safety to representing the Palomar Mountain community in county planning issues.

The Board consists of fifteen members that are elected to three year terms. Five member positions come up for election every year and candidates are drawn primarily from Palomar Mountain property owners and business persons. At the end of their terms (May 2012), Alan Serry, Steve Clark and Mike Chesney will step down from the Board, therefore we will be seeking new Members to move the objectives of the PMPO forward. If you would like to participate in board activities please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members.

One of the key areas of focus for the Board this year has been engagement with the San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU). In 2011 the Board responded to the DPLU with recommendations on the county's 2020 General Plan revision. During this year the Board has met with DPLU representatives several times (including the DPLU providing a community update at the February Meeting) and we are well down the path to get DPLU agreement on most of the PMPO Recommendations.

Michael Walsh is our new Vice Chairperson, and he has stepped up to lead the engagement with the DPLU and is also very active in the Save Palomar Mountain State Park campaign.

Behind the scenes the PMPO has been working to adhere to the new IRS requirements surrounding status of 501(C)3 organizations.

Thanks to all of our officers: Michael Walsh (Vice Chair); Alan Serry (Treasurer) and Mike Pique (Secretary) and to all the Board Members for their participation on the Board and passion for our Mountain.

And last but not least, to all of the other people that have contributed to the activities of the PMPO, a hearty thanks.

Mike Chesney, PMPO Chairman      chair@pmpoinfo.com

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

*by Nedra Martinez, Sector Superintendent*

So, what the heck is going on with Palomar Mountain State Park these days? As I have said in the past, this is what I know as of today. Things keep changing on us and I just have to go with whatever the directions are as of that day.

Everyone is aware of the Park's budget cuts from the last several years. We started to feel the pain with the Palomar campground closing earlier this year. This way of life looks like it will continue for the next couple of years but no one expects it to last forever.

Thanks to Rick Barclay, Michael Walsh and the CRSPIA, or the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association, Board of Directors, the donor agreement was signed by CRSPIA on April 7th and mailed to Sacramento for Ms. Ruth Coleman's signature. This plan allows Palomar to stay open with funds that the Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park organization raises. It looks like Palomar will be staying open, at least for the next three years. Once Ruth Coleman signs the donor agreement, we will make an official announcement. In the meantime, I was able to get a grant from the Parks Department to rehire our Park aides. Starting the weekend of April 13th, the campground at Palomar will be reopening!

Finally, we couldn't do this without all the staff, volunteer and CRSPIA Board support. To all of you, thank you and if you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please feel free to contact me at either my phone 760-765-3020 or my email nmart@parks.ca.gov

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**PMPO**  
**Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday**  
**May 26, 2012**

**8am-11am**  
**PMVFD Station**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**to follow Breakfast**



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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: Steve Clark

Editors: Susan Humason

Proof Readers: Michael Pique, Libby Getsoff

Article Contributors:

Mike Chesney, Nedra Martinez, Alan Serry, Robert Carlyle, Doug Lande, Cliff Kelogg, Bonnie Phelps, Bruce Graves, Michael Walsh, Bill Leininger, and Andy Boden

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:  
dayoutings@earthlink.net - attn: PMPO Newsletter



### PMPO Board of Directors

Standing: (L to R) Michael Walsh, Bruce Graves, Glenn Borland, Steve Clark,  
George Lucia, Elizabeth Getzoff, Alan Serry, Linda Thorne, Heather Beer  
Seated: Doug Lande, Michael Pique, Donna Dose  
Not pictured : Robert Carlyle, Mike Chesney, George Evangelou

*Photo 28 May 2011*



*Thank You, Donna!*



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

## PMPO

### Treasurer's Report

**Jan 1, 2011 to Dec 31, 2011**

*by Alan Serry, Treasurer*



<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$39,639.56</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Donations	\$1,804.00
Interest	\$75.64
Pancake Breakfast	<u>\$484.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,363.64</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Newsletter & Postage	\$625.31
Pancake Breakfast	\$439.12
Postage	\$308.00
Directory Printing	\$300.00
General Expenses	<u>\$56.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,728.43</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$40,274.77</b>

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

# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN ECOLOGY

By Doug Lande

Do you like breathing clean air, drinking clean water, and eating clean food? If the answer is yes, then you are an environmentalist. Nature gives us the air, water, and indirectly most of the food that we depend on to enable a good quality of life. These three things are the most basic rights of man and nature - clean air, water, and food. These three things are now in decline or under threat for most people, and for most natural areas on the earth. More and more people compete for more difficult to obtain energy, mineral, and food resources. Population growth, unrestrained capitalism - and their step-child anthropogenic global warming, put man and nature at increasing risk of diminishment and degradation. A diminishment of our western forests is one regional example, and Palomar Mountain is an example of that region. We have been working on a diminishing forest and maintaining it for many years. We avoided the catastrophe of the whole community consuming wildland fire with planning and work, some good luck, and some good (though always imperfect) firefighting.

Our State Park has been on the State Park closure list. It needs to stay open and managed for many reasons - the most important might be because it's a piece of nature we can continue to enjoy and manage in a way that's been successful in helping to provide these most basic rights of man and nature. Palomar Mountain is one of the best clean water producers for the County. That alone is enough reason to maintain Palomar Mountain State Park.

Ecology is the next step in understanding the relationships in nature. When our basic rights have been maintained the ecologist has more to study, the harvester more to harvest, and the nature lover more to admire.



## FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Those interested in having a site evaluation or any help with their property's fire safety, please contact Robert Carlyle at 760-742-1891.



Check the bulletin board by the Post Office for notices.

## 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.

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) studies and tackles issues of importance to Palomar Mountain, its residents, and visitors. Your financial support represents the Mountains' ability to make its voice heard and have its concerns expressed to the applicable local government agencies.



### Palomar Mountain Planning Organization -- 2012 Contribution --

RETURN TO:

PMPO, Box 145

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145

PMPO IS RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL

AND STATE AUTHORITIES

AS A TAX EXEMPT 501-(c)3 ORGANIZATION.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

OR DONATE ONLINE AT [WWW.PMPOINFO.COM](http://WWW.PMPOINFO.COM)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM CONTRIBUTING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## REPORT FROM THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (PMVFD)



*by Cliff Kellogg*

A lot of changes are taking place at the Fire Department these days. The big news is we have a site plan for the property submitted to the County and are in the process of acquiring our long-awaited permits. We are very excited to be getting this done.

Your Fire Department responded to 146 calls last year; the busiest year ever. We averaged 2.81 calls per week during 2011. The majority of calls were on the South Grade (44 calls total). We responded to 34 motorcycle accidents in 2011, 43 medical aid calls, and 22 structure/vegetation fires and ringing alarm calls. The busiest month was August. Our busiest day of the week were Sundays.

We currently have 28 members, all of whom are part of the San Diego County Fire Authority. Most of our responders live off the mountain; the majority are young men and women who volunteer at our Station to help advance their careers. Twenty of our members are EMTs. We continue to staff the Station 24 hours a day, seven days per week with a minimum of two firefighter/EMTs.

You may have noticed our new antenna addition next to the Station. We now enjoy one of the best volunteer fire department communication systems in the county. Next we want to upgrade the communications room inside the fire station that will be utilized by fire department and CERT personnel. We need a console, wall and floor sound deadening materials, and one or two good wall-mounted flat screen televisions to monitor news channels during emergencies. We are accepting donations earmarked for that project so please help us out if you can. Remember, during any emergency the Fire Department is the place to go for updated information and help if needed.

We continue to pursue grants to help offset budget demands. We've recently added a large winch to our rescue engine that will enable us to move larger trees and rocks off the road when needed. We have a grant approved for new extrication tools, replacing the old "Jaws of Life" that we've had for so many years. Maintenance and fuel costs continue to rise but we constantly strive to improve our operations while closely watching the bottom line. I'm pleased to report that all of our fire apparatus and equipment is in very good condition.

Probationary Firefighter, Danielle Doelman, who lives in Temecula, has taken the reins and assumed command of the 35th Annual Barbecue this year, and Danielle has some great ideas. If you are willing to assist her in organizing and staffing the event, you can contact her at the Fire Station. Please come out and support your firefighters and your department at the Barbecue on Saturday, September 1st. And don't forget the Firefighter Awards Night Banquet on Friday, August 31st. The men and women that respond to our emergencies on the mountain deserve a night dedicated to them. You can use this opportunity to come out and say thanks.

The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department continues to evolve and grow and all of us appreciate the support we receive from you. You're always welcome to visit and chat with the crews. Also, be sure to check out [www.palomarfire.org](http://www.palomarfire.org) where important information and updates are always available.

On behalf of the Fire Board, Fire Chief George E. Lucia Sr., and the rest of the fire department crew, thanks again for your support and have a great summer!

Clifford Kellogg  
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Palomar Mountain Fire Dept.  
Palfirebc79@gmail.com



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Palomar Mountain, CA 92060  
(760) 742-3701 — FAX: (760) 742-0574

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# COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . *from Bonnie Phelps*

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## MOUNTAIN NEWS

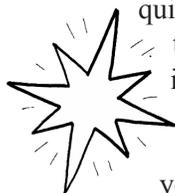
Some of you might not be getting the Palomar Mountain News since it is now in a new format. Simply re-subscribe at [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com). You can spend hours scrolling down through the archives or type in key words to locate information. You'll also find lots of photos of events and happenings on your favorite mountain! A movie is being filmed up here, two mountain authors have published their books, lots of events and ideas are always on the horizon. Opportunities abound for you to get involved or just keep up on the latest happenings. I'll keep all the news of your favorite mountain coming your way, and that's a promise!

## MOUNTAIN YELLOW PAGES

When you need services on Palomar, you might visit the Mountain Yellow Pages. Additions and corrections always welcomed. [www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages](http://www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages)

## VACATION RENTALS ON PALOMAR

Expecting a big crowd for a family event? There are quite a few Vacation Rentals available for you these days. Or, thinking of renting your cabin on weekends or holidays when you aren't able to be here? More calls have come my way for short-term rentals in the past couple years than the ten years prior. It can be lucrative, especially in the summer, holidays, or snow weekends. (There is no business like snow business, you know!) Listing your property as a rental at [www.palomarproperties.com/rentals](http://www.palomarproperties.com/rentals) is a free service. You can visit that page, and contact Bonnie at 760 742-1742 with any questions you might have.



## BURN PERMITS

Folks with mountain property always seem to have downed branches especially after storms. Wondering what to do with all the trimmings after 'parking up' your property? Would you like to have a campfire or burn your cut brush? A permit is required. Permits are available only when the U. S. Forest Service deems it is safe. After a rain or snow is often a good option. Call the US Forest Service Lake Henshaw Station (760) 782-3472, or Ramona office (760) 788-0250 to help keep our forest green and fire safe.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

There are a number of notice boards on the Mountain designed to keep both visitors and residents up to date with community information. Some are located: outside the General Store, outside and inside the Post Office and out in front of the Fire Department.



## EXPLORE THE STARS

The *Explore the Stars Program* takes place one weekend a month, from April through October, at the Observatory Campground on Canfield Road, about half way down on the right. Amateur astronomers from San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties bring out their own telescopes, sharing spectacular views of the night sky with all comers. Saturday nights feature a talk at the campground amphitheater at dusk. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/recreation/camping/observatory-explore.shtml>

## HISTORICAL GEMS

Lots more historical treasures are promised to head our way from Peter Brueggman. He has been recently given Robert Asher's diary and lots more wonderful information. Peter is researching and archiving, and will introduce the links through the Mountain News. Meanwhile there are hours of photos and stories at <http://www.mypalomarmountain.com/historical/> where you'll also want to click on Peter's wonderful archives. THANKS Peter from all of us!

## STATE PARK IS OPEN

Have you ever hiked down to the Weir or seen the Indian grinding stones at Silvercrest Picnic area? Dozens of them! And, some magnificent, huge old trees to enjoy. There are many miles of hiking trails, great camping sites, and good trout fishing in Doane Pond with some great historical sites to discover and lots more right in our own backyard! Have you been in the Ranger Station lately? Visit them online at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) and click on San Diego County.



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## MORE TIDBITS...

### HIGH POINT AND BOUCHER LOOKOUTS

A big thanks goes to Brad Ellis for heading up the huge restoration project for Boucher and High Point Lookout. Check out his great website at [www.socalfirelookouts.org](http://www.socalfirelookouts.org) and you can also see recent photos of Boucher by doing a search at [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com)



### WOULD YOU LIKE TO CUT WOOD?

If you are interested in cutting your own firewood, there is a lot of downed wood available. Lots of easy gleaning for those who would like to cut and haul! Just get in touch with me, I will connect you and your chainsaw with the landowner. You get some great firewood and it helps clean up some property at the same time! (760) 742-1742. Free firewood is also periodically available to Mountain Residents in the Parking Area of the Fire Station, to the left of the Community Center.

### LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN THE STATE PARK?

There are many different opportunities waiting for you in our 2000 acre treasure on Palomar. Ranger Jessica is glad to get your questions answered anytime (760) 742-3830.

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## THE HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE FIRE STATION/COMMUNITY CENTER

*by Bruce Graves*

I was a new comer to Palomar Mountain in the mid 1970s. As I recall, there was a group of people who thought we ought to have a Volunteer Fire Dept. There was a lot of community support for the Idea. We began to have annual fund raising Bar-B-Qs to support our newly formed Volunteer Fire Department. San Diego County gave us two WW II surplus engines painted yellow. One had a flat head 6 cylinder Dodge engine with a top speed of 5 miles per hour up the Crestline Hill. Money from the Annual Bar-B-Qs held at the Skyline Lodge (located at the end of Crestline Road) continued to build in our bank account. When the Lodge was sold we held a couple of Bar-B-Qs at the Observatory. By this time we began to have some real money so we started to look for property where we could build a Fire Station.

After much study and discussion we were able to buy the first two acres of our existing Fire Station. Now we had our own place to park our engines and hold our Bar-B-Qs. When we had enough money to start our big red metal building, we were able to get a permit but not for a fire station, only a for a place to store vehicles. The building went up. It had a dirt floor at first. As new money came in we were able to put in gravel and finally cement. We learned we needed a grading permit for the work we had done to make a pad for our building. We tried to get one. No luck! Someone at the County discovered we did not have legal access to our property. Our two acres is set back about 40 feet from East Grade Road and our driveway goes across the Iverson property to reach the road. There was no way we could get permits for anything.

Time went by and I think everybody looked the other way, including the County. About 2003 we had a chance to get a materials only \$50,000 grant to renovate the house on the property and make it a better Community Center. We took the materials and did the work ourselves. At the time we believed we would not need a permit because we were not going to make any footprint or structural changes. We later learned that the County decided they could not provide grant money for a project since we did not have a permit. We of course could not get a permit because we did not have legal access. However, about this time a stroke of great good fortune occurred. Through the work of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization and the generosity of the Iverson family, the Iverson property was gifted to us. We now have legal access and permits are possible.

As soon as the money required to file for the permits became available we began the process. County inspectors have been on the property starting 3-4-12 doing the work necessary to approve our permits. We must not be in violation of any San Diego County codes.

By code, no one is allowed to use the modular building for living quarters. This is why the Fire Fighters must move out of the modular building and into the Community Center. However, the modular building can and is being used for Community Center purposes. We are also applying for the Community Center permit to satisfy the completion of the \$50,000 grant. This will allow us to again apply for future grants to further improve the Community Center. Additionally, the modular building will be upgraded to allow the Fire Fighters to again use it. The whole process should take less than a year.

## FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

by Michael Walsh

The formation of Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park (FPMSP) was announced in mid-2011, initially as a traditional “cooperative association” that would support Palomar Mountain SP through enhancement of interpretive and educational programs. However, near the end of 2011, it became clear the State of CA was intent on closing Palomar in July of 2012, as planned, due to budget constraints. In fact, the campgrounds had been closed in mid-October and the park employees were beginning to search for new jobs elsewhere. Michael Walsh had met Rick Barclay (who had originally kicked off FPMSP) at the PMPO meeting in October, and together the two of them then struck up a different, more focused conversation with Nedra Martinez, the Sector Superintendent for CA State Parks. With Nedra’s encouragement and the identification of at least one precedent in Northern California, Rick and Michael established a new mission for FPMSP – the primary objective became, “Save Our Park,” and keep it open for future generations to enjoy!

CRSPIA, or the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association, has been in existence for over thirty years, and is an accredited cooperating association that works closely with CA State Parks on behalf of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Palomar Mountain State Park. CRSPIA established FPMSP as an operating committee, thereby providing FPMSP the opportunity to work under CRSPIA’s 501(c)(3) status, and gave its full support as Friends of Palomar began to mobilize the effort to save Palomar.

Even though Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is having its own challenges --- with the closure of campgrounds and equestrian areas due to decreasing funding from the state --- none of the money raised for Palomar will go to Cuyamaca; every dollar donated to Friends of PMSP through CRSPIA will be kept in a separate account and will be used to support Palomar exclusively.

The efforts at Friends of Palomar have been focused primarily in two areas. First, negotiating an agreement with CA State Parks to keep Palomar open. And second, to begin the fundraising efforts to, “close the gap,” and bring Palomar to break-even. Working closely with Nedra Martinez, as well as with the CRSPIA Board of Directors, an agreement has reached its final stages and is awaiting signature by the CA State Supervisor of Parks, Ruth Coleman. This agreement calls for a three-year commitment, wherein Friends of Palomar agrees to raise \$60,000 per year, or \$180,000 in total, and in return the state of CA agrees to keep Palomar Mountain State Park open and operational for at least the three-year term. In addition, the agreement states that all revenue generated by Palomar Mountain State Park will be used to support Palomar exclusively, rather than going into Sacramento’s general fund and redistributed to other parks, as is the traditional flow of park income.

On the fundraising side, the good news is that the community has stepped up in a very big way, and thus far we have raised nearly \$80,000 in pledges and donations. Special thanks go to Bob and Marion Wilson, who provided an extremely generous incentive match pledge early in the process, which provided tremendous momentum to the fundraising effort. In addition, in a fantastic show of support on behalf of the local community, the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization has made a very significant pledge of \$3,000 to support keeping Palomar open.

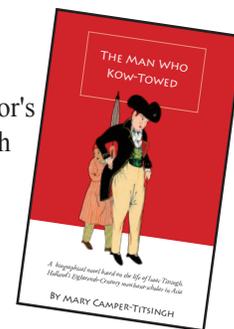
FPMSP has received pledges and donations from over 250 individuals and organizations -- including several Palomar residents, park supporters all over Southern California, and even from as far away as Scotland! As of this writing, Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park is well on its way to accomplishing its initial objective, saving Palomar and keeping the park open, and thanks to all of you who have donated your time and your financial support for this great cause. We hope to announce a signed agreement by the time you read this Newsletter! There is still much work to be done, with more fundraising as well as evolving the Friends of Palomar organization and planning further down the road to achieve Rick’s original vision of making Palomar a real gem. Thanks to Nedra Martinez at State Parks, thanks to the great folks at CRSPIA, and thanks to all of you for your support, we couldn’t have done it without you!



### *The Man Who Kow-Towed*

A historical novel based on the life of Palomar Mountain resident, Mary Camper-Titsingh's Dutch ancestor's adventures as a merchant trader in 18th century Japan, India and China.

Unlike England's ambassador who refused to bow before the Emperor of China, considering it beneath his dignity to "Kow-Tow", Holland's ambassador Isaak Titsingh fully understood the dignity that would follow with the opening of valuable trade relations.



This illustrated book is filled with historical details of the Old World's complex steps toward the globalization of trade.

Order Your Copy by contacting:  
Mary Camper-Titsingh

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## PMPO BOARD ELECTIONS

*Mike Chesney, PMPO Chairman*  
chair@pmpoinfo.com



The PMPO Board consists of 15 volunteers, five of which are up for election every year. These elections occur during the Annual General Meeting following the Pancake Breakfast. The Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday at 11:00 AM, May 26th 2012.

Membership on the PMPO Board is open to any individual resident, property owner, or business person in the Palomar Mountain area of San Diego who wishes to contribute time and effort to achieve the purposes of this Organization. Members may be elected for more than one consecutive term. Board members serve without compensation. Board members must meet the attendance requirements as stated in the PMPO Bylaws article 7.6. The Board meets a minimum of four times a year.

A description of the PMPO and its various Committee activities, Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws can be viewed on the PMPO web site, [www.PMPOInfo.com](http://www.PMPOInfo.com)

This year, as usual, five Board seats expire. Alan Serry, Steve Clark and Mike Chesney will step down from the Board, therefore we will be seeking new Board Members. If you want to run for one of these seats, contact Mike Chesney at (949) 370-6031. The terms for these seats run from 2012 to 2015. We currently have two nominations for the five seats available: Michael Pique and Linda Thorne.

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## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) *by Bill Leininger*

Over the past year, the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department CERT has been practicing all our core skills. Highlights include:

- Increased proficiency with the CERT truck for gel application to structures
- Reinforcement of first aid skills
- Comprehensive practice of skills during darkness (and cold!)

We now have the CERT truck prepositioned at the Observatory. The PMVFD and CERT members on staff at the observatory can use it to respond to incidents, and shorten arrival times while broadening our coverage on the mountain.

As summer approaches, look around your property with an eye to fire prevention and safety. Here's a resource to help you get started: [www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org)

Knowing what you'll have to do after a disaster helps you prepare before the disaster. The Red Guide to Recovery is a resource that describes post-disaster challenges such as negotiating with contractors, where to live, dealing with insurance companies, etc. The link is: <http://www.theredguidetorecovery.com/>

Look for our booth at the PMPO Pancake Breakfast, where we'd be happy to share more information with you about emergency preparedness.



Bill Leininger, [bill\\_leininger@alumni.williams.edu](mailto:bill_leininger@alumni.williams.edu), ph – 760-807-6923

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**Bonnie Phelps, Realtor**  
**In the Cities and Above the Clouds**

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**Mortgage Troubles? I can help. Call or visit [www.palomarproperties.com/help](http://www.palomarproperties.com/help)**  
**Call Bonnie Toll Free 888-718-5358** DRE #01293655

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY 2020 GENERAL PLAN REVISION

by Mike Chesney

The PMPO Board, on behalf of the community, continues to make solid progress with input into the County's 2020 plan. Thanks to all of the people who have worked over the past several years to ensure that the collective Mountain voice is heard as part of the planning process.

At the PMPO Board meeting Saturday the 12th of November, 2011, an update was provided to the Board and the community on the progress made to date in advancing the interests of the Palomar Mountain community with respect to the San Diego County's 2020 General Plan. The update provided at the recent Board meeting outlined several areas of progress and agreement between the DPLU and the PMPO, and are available on the website at [www.pmpoinfo.com](http://www.pmpoinfo.com).

In summary the DPLU accepted most of the PMPO Board recommendations for changes to the Rural commercial designations, i.e. the Summit, the Helipad, Woods' Property (across from the summit), and the Fire Station. The areas where the DPLU did not accept the PMPO Board recommendation for changes to Rural commercial designations were the Group Camp (as this is US Forest Service federal land with a Public Agency land designation and the DPLU does not have jurisdiction over this land) and the adjoining properties to the Fire Station (as these properties were outside the slope and accessibility County guidelines).

The PMPO subcommittee needed to seek clarification as to the lot density designations for certain areas, and to assert once more the objective of the community to revert as much of the available land to pre-FCI density. All documents and maps are posted on [http://www.pmpoinfo.com/Pages/Committees/Comm\\_CountyPlan.htm](http://www.pmpoinfo.com/Pages/Committees/Comm_CountyPlan.htm)

To that end, a conference call was held on Monday, November 14th, 2011 with Mr. Bob Citrano of DPLU to discuss the white

area of the map in its entirety. We went through each area of the map in great detail, and discussed the possibilities for specific areas of the map. Mr. Citrano was amenable to taking another look at the entire map area. Within each section of the map discussed, he reviewed the specific regulations as they related to fire safety regulations and access, and pointed out the limitations with certain regions of the map with respect to slope of the terrain, as well as County guidelines as part of the long-range planning process.

Note, that while we believe this to be further progress, this is still a work-in-process and subject to further analysis by the DPLU. Mr. Citrano plans to propose that recommended areas be designated as SR-10, however we must wait for a formal review and decision by DPLU, at which time the official maps will be updated accordingly. The DPLU are currently in the process of circulating back through his internal team for review, and he will communicate the DPLU's position in a future communication. In any event, he made the point that there will be another step in the process, wherein the maps and the specific communications to lot owners would then trigger another round of public input and comment.

Mr. Citrano attended the February 4th, 2012 PMPO Board meeting and outlined the County process and direction to all in attendance

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# WHAT'S NEW AT PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

by *Andy Boden*



We at Palomar Observatory have had a busy year this year, and are happy to share some of the highlights with our Palomar Mountain neighbors.

On the observatory front, the single biggest activity in the past year was the refurbishment of the 200-inch telescope prime focus cage in February and March 2012. Routinely performed every 7-8 years, this extensive refurbishment involves removing the entire 10-ton top of the telescope -- the "prime-focus cage" -- and carefully lowering it the 60 feet to the dome floor. Once on the dome floor all the mechanisms and mirrors in this top assembly are inspected, serviced, and repaired as needed, and the overall structure is restored and maintained. Finally, when all the maintenance work is complete, the top is again raised and re-installed at the top of the telescope. The entire process takes roughly six weeks from start-to-finish, and virtually the entire Observatory staff are involved on a day-to-day basis. We are happy to report the telescope successfully returned to observing on Monday 12 April, and has performed flawlessly since. The entire Palomar Observatory crew is to be congratulated on the highly successful completion of this major telescope service.

On the science front, Palomar has been particularly active in the past year. At the top of the list of science impacts is the study of many supernova with the Palomar Transient Factory (PTF). Supernova are the violent explosions that end of the lives of stars much more massive than our sun, and PTF is a project that pulls together essentially all the Palomar telescopes in a team to help study them and other changing (or 'transient') sources in our sky. Particularly notable is the PTF discovery and study of a new class of very bright supernova, and the discovery of a special kind ('Type-1a') of supernova in a "close" neighboring galaxy (M101 or the "Whirlpool" galaxy) only a few million light-years away! Both of these discoveries are extremely important and will take astronomers years of research to fully understand. That discoveries were made at Palomar is no accident; Palomar is unique in our ability to team together the telescopes to search the sky every night for new discoveries.

We are also working hard to commission a new 200-inch instrument called the "PALM-3000" adaptive optics system. Adaptive optics is a technique that measures and removes atmospheric effects -- the so-called 'twinkle' of stars in our sky. When complete and operational the new adaptive optics system will be used to search for and study planets around stars other than our sun. Over the past 15 years, astronomers have discovered roughly 1000 planets around other stars, but only a handful of these have had their picture taken so we can see the planets

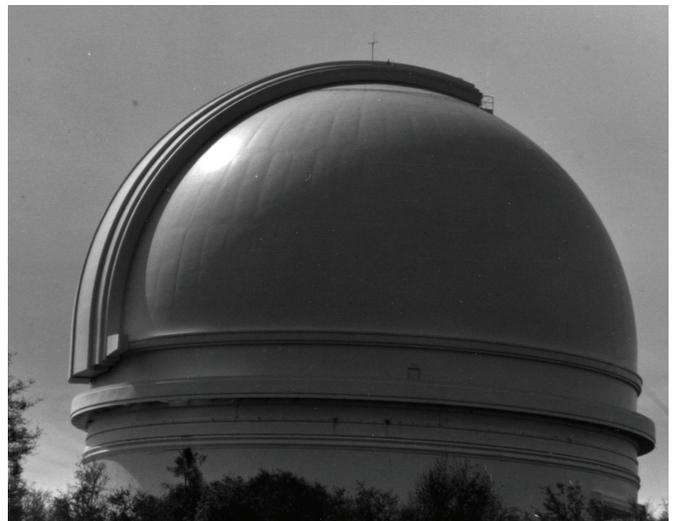
directly. The new 200-inch system will allow us to search for and image more of these planets -- allowing us to both study these other solar systems, and understand how common or rare our own solar system is in our galactic neighborhood.

Finally, we are happy to highlight a couple of notes of Palomar community interest. First, we at the Observatory have entered into a new partnership with the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (PMVFD) to share facilities and staff. This partnership is aimed to make all of us safer by increasing resources, and we are grateful to PMVFD Fire Chief George Lucia for his willingness to work with us in this capacity. We are also happy to announce that we are in the early planning stages for updating our Observatory Visitor Center. This update will include modernizing many of the Visitor Center displays to better share astronomy done at Palomar Observatory and around the world with our visitors. The update will also recognize benefactors that have contributed to the Observatory and its activities.

In closing, we are thankful for the continuing support of the Palomar Mountain community for the Observatory and its research, education, and public outreach missions. With all our sincere best wishes to our Palomar neighbors, now and in the future.

Andy Boden  
Deputy Director, Caltech Optical Observatories  
on behalf of Palomar Observatory

For more information on the observatory visit our website at: <http://www.palomar-observatory.org>. The observatory is on Facebook too, so look for us there.



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## TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE

by Alan Serry; PMPO Traffic Safety Officer

Let's step back a little farther than just last year and see what we have accomplished with traffic safety in the past 5 years. First, a special thanks to Fire Chief, George Lucia, and Battalion Chief, Cliff Kellogg for working closely with me as the PMPO Traffic Safety Officer. Both George and Cliff helped with offering ideas that worked and provided valuable resources/contacts within law enforcement and government agencies.

Topics that have been addressed by the PMPO Traffic Safety have included

- **Oversize vehicles on South Grade Rd:**  
Most water transport trucks are unable to safely negotiate sharp curves on the South Grade Rd. and are required to use the East Grade Rd.
- **Cattle on South and East Grade Roads:**  
Local ranchers have fences, but please be aware, portions of both South Grade & East Grade Roads are designated as open range and you may encounter cattle on the road.
- **Night car racing on South and East Grade Roads:**  
This activity is difficult to enforce. Fortunately the illegal activity seems to have somewhat diminished.
- **Motorcycle racing:**  
This activity is irritating to locals, scary to guests of our mountain community, and VERY DANGEROUS TO ALL. Motorcycle racing on both South and East Grade Roads is a year round problem. Center line rumble strips (CLRS), were added and statistically seem to have helped prevent accidents. The CHP claims they have provided better enforcement. Unfortunately racing continues to be our biggest traffic safety problem.
- **Snow emergency plan:**  
This plan really makes a difference. The various agencies work well together to keep traffic safe and the roads clear for emergency vehicles on our busy snow days. CHP, San Diego County Sheriff and Cleveland National Forest personnel have all been very cooperative with the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.

The PMPO is looking for someone to help with traffic safety. Please contact any PMPO Board Member if you are interested in filling this important position.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Traffic Safety Officer for the past 5 years.

Alan Serry  
PMPO Traffic Safety



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## **Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Annual Meeting**

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

**Saturday, May 26th, 2012**

**at the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Station**

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*\* Intersection of East Grade Road (S-7) and Crestline Road \**



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