



# PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

**Spring 2015 - Volume 26**

**The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization**

**Board Members:** Heather Beer, Glenn Borland (Chair), Robert Carlyle, Steve Clark, Donna Dose, George Evangelou, Brenda Fromlath, Libby Getzoff, Bruce Graves, Zachary Harris, Rosemary Johnston, Mike Pique (Secretary), Linda Thorne (Treasurer), Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh (Vice Chair)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2015 edition of the PMPO newsletter. The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization is a nonprofit public benefit organization whose purpose is to not only provide planning oversight for the Palomar community but also 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. If you would like to participate in board activities, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members.

Last year on the mountain, though not as exciting as years past, has seen continued progress on various fronts.

The road easement problems have made progress thanks to Bonnie Phelps in conjunction with Mike Pique and the road easement committee.

Alan Serry continues to work with the CHP and other county entities to "tame" our winter snow bird traffic snarls. Getting around on the mountain with so many additional folks after a snow is nigh on impossible and dangerous as emergency vehicles are unable to move at all. During and after this year's last snow storm, it looked like a normal day, traffic-wise, on the mountain. Again, many thanks for Alan's continued hard work.

The fire department transition has gone smoothly and the station staffing up here on Palomar Mountain has been exceptional. Many thanks to Chief Cliff Kellogg, Captain Richard Tilch, and all of the fire fighters who staff the station. Also, a round of applause for the Fire Board and their efforts in facilitating this transition. The PMPO also wishes to thank the Fire Board for the use of their facilities as a venue for our various board activities.

As we enter our third drought year, serious commitments to fire prevention and brush clearing on our properties should be a high priority. The question is not whether we will have another fire, it's simply when, and how prepared will we be?

On this note, the PMPO gives thanks to the PMFD for their ever-present vigilance, Cal Fire with their wider venue of the forest and surrounding areas and the FFLA with their group of volunteers who literally keep an eye on all of us.

It is my hope that the various articles in this newsletter will give you a feel for the activities of the board and the community it serves.

As you read this newsletter, you are looking at the work of not only the contributors that wrote the articles, but also the work of Susan Humason, the publisher, and Brenda Fromlath who wrangled all of the contributors and advertisers together into a coherent package. Many thanks for their hard work.

Also thanks to all of the other people that have contributed to the activities of the PMPO. Again, a hearty thanks to all.



**Glenn Borland - PMPO Chairman**  
[chair@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:chair@pmpoinfo.com)

## PMPO BOARD ELECTIONS *By Glenn Borland*

This year, as usual, five Board seats expire. The newly-elected board members' term will expire in May 2018.

- 1) Michael Pique
- 2) Zachary Harris - Moved out of the area
- 3) Linda Thorne
- 4) Yvonne Vaucher
- 5) Brenda Fromlath

If interested in being a candidate, please email:  
[chair@pmpoinfo.com](mailto: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 Board Meeting following the Pancake Breakfast.

The next Board meeting will be held Saturday at 10:00 AM, May 23rd 2015.

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 consecutive terms. Board members serve without compensation. Board members must meet the attendance requirements as stated in the PMPO By-laws 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 By-laws can be viewed on the PMPO web site, [PMPOInfo.com](http://PMPOInfo.com).

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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: Brenda Fromlath  
Layout & Design: Susan Humason  
Proof Readers: Michael Pique, Libby Getzoff,  
& Glenn Borland

Article Contributors:  
Thank you to all contributors who make  
this newsletter possible.

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  
Brenda Fromlath at:  
beppebrenda@gmail.com  
attn: PMPO Newsletter

## Save The Date: **PMPO** **Pancake Breakfast** **Saturday** **May 23, 2015**

**8am-10am**  
**PMVFD Station**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**to follow Breakfast**



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**Palomar Mountain Planning Organization**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**2014 - 2015**

*Submitted by Linda Thorne, Treasurer*



There has been little activity on our accounts since the end of the year. Almost all donations arrive after the Newsletter comes out in May of each year.

There are expenses for the Newsletter and for the yearly Pancake Breakfast that is held on Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with our Annual Meeting. We also have expense for tax preparation.

Last year we had no unexpected expenses and gave no donations to other organizations.

**January Statement 2015**

Checking      \$ 8,752.25  
Savings        \$33,338.67  
Total            \$42,090.95

**January Statement 2014**

\$ 8,171.82  
\$33,315.34  
\$41,487.16

There were donations from 23 donors last year. We have written thank-you notes including our tax ID number to all of them.

Total donations were: \$2,914 for 2015

Note beginning balances for our combined accounts:

2013 = \$39,720.32      2014 = \$41,487.16      2015 = \$42,090.95

Filing to the Attorney General of California Office - Registry of Charitable Trust - has been completed for 2014. This must be done every year.



For information on the Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council 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  
-- 2015 Contribution --**

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# BOUCHER HILL LOOKOUT UPDATE

by Curt Waite  
Chairman FFLA San Diego



***"Significant wildland fire potential is expected to be above normal for April across the coastal and valley areas [of Southern California], expanding into many of the National Forests by June... Very little additional precipitation is anticipated through June, with drought conditions expected to worsen and expand to encompass more areas of the state."***

This statement from the National Interagency Fire Center shouldn't surprise us here on Palomar, but it should concern us. My recent conversations with fire managers point to a fire danger potential worse than last year, and Cal Fire has already implemented a no-burn policy in State

Responsibility areas of the county. Even though Southern California dodged a bullet last season, we saw what could happen with the fires of May 13 – 15. All of this reinforces how careful we need to be in such a high-risk area as Palomar Mountain.

On the bright side, both fire towers, Boucher Hill and High Point, will be fully staffed for the fire season beginning April 19. The Forest Fire Lookout Association, San Diego Chapter, has accepted 35 new volunteer lookouts and is in the process of training them to assist the core of 85 veteran lookouts (including several Palomar residents) who keep watch over the mountain and surrounding areas. It is our plan this year to have two lookouts in Boucher

every day so that the high volume of visitors (nearly 9000 last year) does not interfere with smoke detection.

Last year from Boucher our lookouts called in 35 smoke reports and 55 lightning strikes. (We believe we were the "first report" on several of the May fires.) High Point logged 55 downstrikes and 22 smoke reports, one of which was a lightning fire near Bergman's not reported by anyone else. We encourage all PMPO members to stop by Boucher Hill tower, have a chat with the lookout on duty and pick up a souvenir t-shirt or coffee cup to help support our efforts to keep the mountain safe. I encourage you to check out our website, [www.ffla-sandiego.org](http://www.ffla-sandiego.org).

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN CERT NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL HELP

**A trained community  
benefits all!**

If you would like to support CERT, donations can be made to Palomar Mountain Fire Department. CERT is a part of the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, which is a 501C3, and all donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Palomar Mountain Fire Department and specify CERT on the check. Mail your donation to Palomar Mountain Fire Department PO Box 235 Palomar Mountain, CA 92060

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN NEXT DOOR.COM

I have set up for our community a communication network called Palomar Mountain Next Door.

This is a private company that has been used very successfully by some neighboring communities.

It is an internet based neighborhood communication tool. Because of the Groups that can be formed both public and private, the Calendar, and the e-mail notifications, I believe it will be a good way to get the word out on Palomar Mountain. To sign up and try this new way to stay connected, contact Alan Serry at [alserry@msn.com](mailto:alserry@msn.com) or call 760-533-1268.

*Description:* Nextdoor is the free, private social network for you and our community. It's the easiest way to connect and talk with your neighbors

about the things that matter in our community. When neighbors start talking, good things happen.

People across the country are using Nextdoor to:

- **Quickly get the word out about a break-in**
- **Be notified of community events**
- **Recommendations for .....**
- **Ask for help finding a lost dog**
- **Find a new home for an outgrown bike**
- **Finally remember your neighbors' names**

*By Alan Serry*

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# COMMUNITY TIDBITS... *from Bonnie Phelps*

## HISTORICAL GEMS

One of our Mountain historians, Peter Brueggeman would sure appreciate your old photos and stories of mountain folks. Peter and his wife sold their cabin on Palomar a few years ago, but he continues to bless us with lots of historical finds on his ever-growing website: <http://peterbrueggeman.com/palomarhistory/> Thank you Peter!

“The Mountain Years” - A new book telling of adventures on Palomar nearly 100 years ago is to be published this Fall. Author Barbara Anne Waite is bringing another delightful book our way. Her grandmother Elsie was one of our pioneers and left her journal and letters telling of delightful adventures on Palomar. Please stay tuned as we introduce the new book through the Mountain News. Meanwhile there are hours of photos and stories at [www.mypalomarmountain.com/historical/](http://www.mypalomarmountain.com/historical/) where you'll also want to click on Peter's wonderful archives.

## PROPANE TANK?

Do you have a propane tank? Maybe it is due for some Spring Cleanup. When a tank doesn't have any leaves or dirt touching it, it will last much longer. When erosion has caused dirt to build up around the tank, it will rust and can rust right through, draining all that propane right into the soil. Most tanks in need that I see 'round the mountain are only a few minute fix with a shovel or rake and they'll be all set. You can also connect with one of our local handymen at [palomarproperties.com/yellowpages](http://palomarproperties.com/yellowpages)

## THREE REASONS FOR TREE THINNING

Palomar is sure losing a lot of trees again with the drought. When you see the very top of some of these firs die, sometimes it can take years to claim the rest of the tree. Here lately, I noticed a couple huge firs totally turn brown, all the way down, and in a couple weeks, turn into lightening magnets. Personally, we are also thinning out trees, especially ones that are closest to our well. Hopefully by thinning some trees, the ones that remain will survive the drought, and be kinder to our water table. Need another reason for thinning out your trees? Insurance. One of the most recent closings had their insurance company call after an inspector had been there. They were required to remove trees so that no tree branches hung over the roof. This is a new requirement for some insurance companies. The locals who do tree work are on the Yellow Pages, too, and I'm always glad to get your questions answered.

## MOUNTAIN NEWS

For all things Palomar, simply self-subscribe at [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com). It's FREE! Opportunities abound for you to keep up on the latest or get involved. Have you already subscribed and you're not getting the News? Have you changed

your email address lately? Simply re-subscribe. Also put 'Palomar Mountain News' on your White List. You can scroll 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! Several mountain authors have published their books; lots of events and ideas are always on the horizon. I'll keep all the news of your favorite mountain coming your way, and that's a promise!

## PALOMAR ADVENTURES

Would you or your guests like to take a hike and hear about native plants of Palomar, how the Indians used the acorns, and lots, lots more? Do you have kids or grandkids that would get a kick out of feeding turkeys, goats, chickens or sheep? Would you like fresh eggs? How about fresh roasted organic coffee? Do you like all things crafty? How about stuffed bears, moose, frogs, or you name it?! You are invited to visit our friendly residents that welcome you calling ahead for a little 'Field Trip'. To see what is available so far, simply visit [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com) and search "walkable" as most of these are walkable from Crestline, Birch Hill and most Vacation Rentals on Palomar. Do you have a 'field trip' that you would like to have included? Just let me know!

## MOUNTAIN YELLOW PAGES

When you need products or services on Palomar, you might visit the Mountain Yellow Pages. Don't see what you're looking for? Or, would you like to be added? Do you have a company that you were very pleased with? Just let me know. Additions and corrections always welcomed. [www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages](http://www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages)

## 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.

## 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. Click on [www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland/) and search "Explore the Stars"

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# MORE MOUNTAIN TIDBITS...*from Bonnie Phelps*

## 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.

## MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN

Several folks have expressed an interest in getting together with guitars, an autoharp, and violins or, what do YOU play? How about a square dance? The go-to person for Music on the Mountain is Cecilia at (760) 742-8741.

## RECYCLING

You are invited to take your aluminum and bottles for recycling at the Fire Department. Be sure to have the lids off the bottles. Please have everything securely in bags. The bins are to the right of the entrance. It helps the environment and the Fire Department! Thanks to all!

## TRASH REMOVAL

As most of you know we no longer have a dump transfer station up here. There are several neighbors who have a dumpster on their property and offer to share the dumpster. Depending on how many people go in on it, the monthly fee is very reasonable. Simply visit [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com) and click on the Search button. Search 'Dumpster' and the most recent option will pop up for you. The Pala Transfer Station, just this side of the Pala Casino is the closest dump and absolutely the best price. They take anything and everything and are a pleasure to deal with.

## USEFUL STUFF TO GO AWAY?

With my Real Estate business, I often help orchestrate a lot of cleanup for property owners, prior to putting their property on the market. Sometimes it is contagious and often the neighbors get in on the act. I thought perhaps this info might be appreciated by some of you who aren't interested in selling, but have some things that are no longer needed and taking up space. The Christian Conference Center can usually use your working washer, dryer, and refrigerator as a donation. Sometimes they have a use for gently used furniture and will pick up at your property and provide a tax deductible receipt. We have the 'Gleaner Girls' who will pick up useful, shabby chic, furniture, weathered, rusty, kitchen or garage/outdoor items and more at no charge. Have an old vehicle or trailer? Those can go away, too. Also, there are several options for hauling and property cleanup. Just let me know and I'm glad to point you in the right direction to get your job done.

## PHONE SERVICE

Cell phones don't work at most properties so it is wise to have one of those old fashioned phones plugged in to an outlet. I use AT&T because they offer "The Message Center". That works great for me when I'm heading off the mountain and forward my calls to

my cell (since my cell doesn't work up here). That package also offers Caller ID, 3 way calling and other features that you might appreciate. However, some folks have enjoyed cutting their phone bill by having a Magic Jack phone for much less. That service is much improved. You do need to have internet and you're all set.

## INTERNET

New Internet options! You have several internet choices on Palomar. The service with the fastest internet that I have found is through Western Broadband. Fred and Wally have worked real hard to set up repeaters in different areas to be able to provide service where it wasn't available in the past. Thanks for all their hard work. If you are still without internet, and would like it, you might give them a call. 760 505-7226

## REAL ESTATE UPDATE

**Landlocked Property, Lack of Road Maintenance Agreements and Lender Requirements** – Unless your property fronts on a county maintained road, most properties on Palomar show up on a title search as 'Landlocked'. This means they do not have a recorded, deeded easement from the property to a public maintained road. (There are a few exceptions). Depending on the area, maybe a road is plotted to a public maintained road, but that plotting is generally not insured by the title company. Some title reports do show physical access.

In the past, with a larger down, a lender would loan on these properties. However, lender rules have changed.

To get a conventional loan now, most lenders are requiring:

- a. A plotted easement to a public maintained road and
- b. A road maintenance agreement between the neighbors that share the road

Depending on the lenders, it can be hard to sell your property since most properties now on Palomar would need a cash buyer, or the seller to carry the loan. This is because most property does not have a plotted easement to a public maintained road or a road maintenance agreement.

Over the past few months, three vintage maps have been located that were recorded decades ago. These maps allow title companies to plot roads from the property to the county maintained road. However title companies are not able to insure those roads and there are few known road maintenance agreements.

In the future it would be wonderful if this easement and road maintenance situation could be resolved. Easements and road maintenance agreements can be very complicated and expensive. You are welcome to contact me to check on the status of your property.

# HISTORICAL UPDATES

By Peter Brueggeman

## GEORGE DOANE BIOGRAPHY UPDATE

The 'George Edwin Doane of Palomar Mountain' biography that I first published online in January 2014, via my Palomar Mountain History website (accessed via URL above), is in its eleventh revision since first publication. New information on Doane includes his death and burial, excerpts from his writings, and details on his Palomar and New Mexico lands. The content of revisions is noted in the preface to facilitate locating newer information in the Doane biography.

## APPLE VARIETIES ON PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

An inquiry about apple varieties grown historically on Palomar Mountain led to this compilation from newspaper articles and other resources:

Palomar Giant (1920) • Arkansas Beauty (1920)  
Newtown Pippin (1895) • Ben Davis (1895 plus Robert Asher's memoir)  
Bellflower (1895) • Cook's seedling (1895)  
Pippins (1911) • Maiden Blush (1910)  
Baltimore Red (Robert Asher's memoir)



## UPCOMING

A biography of Clark Cleaver, the Apple King of Palomar Mountain, who passed away in 1912, is nearing completion, and will be published on my Palomar Mountain History website (URL above). Cleaver had an interesting life; various Palomar Mountain sources note he didn't talk much about himself or his past, so researching his life took some digging. Clark Cleaver came west to California in the Gold Rush migration, was involved in an early California Indian War, did extensive gold prospecting in the Sierras, was a homesteader in Nevada, and then finally moved to Palomar Mountain in 1888-1889, beginning on the property on the south side of what is now State Park Road, across from Bailey Meadow Road. Clark Cleaver was a prominent Palomar Mountain resident, a Palomar Mountain school trustee, an apple orchardist and a booster for Palomar Mountain agriculture in the San Diego area, and the contractor for the South Grade road built in the 1890s.

# COMMUNITY CENTER OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

## Background Information

We are still hoping to find a way to build a real community center for Palomar Mountain.

In 2007, the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department received a \$50,000 grant to repair the old house next to the fire station for use as a community center and to install two prefab buildings behind the fire station to serve as a fire department training room and an overnight crew bunkhouse.

Earl Walls led 15 community volunteers in fixing up the old house with a new kitchen, bathrooms, and drywall, finishing in 2011. Unfortunately, right afterwards the county told us that our on-duty firefighters were no longer allowed to stay in the prefab buildings behind the fire station, so they had to move into the house.

This means we cannot use the house for community meetings. We are in limbo until a new fire station is built (someday) and we get the house back, or perhaps we get a shared training & meeting room in some future bigger fire station.

**Bruce Graves, CCPM Board**

For More Information,  
see the article on Page 14

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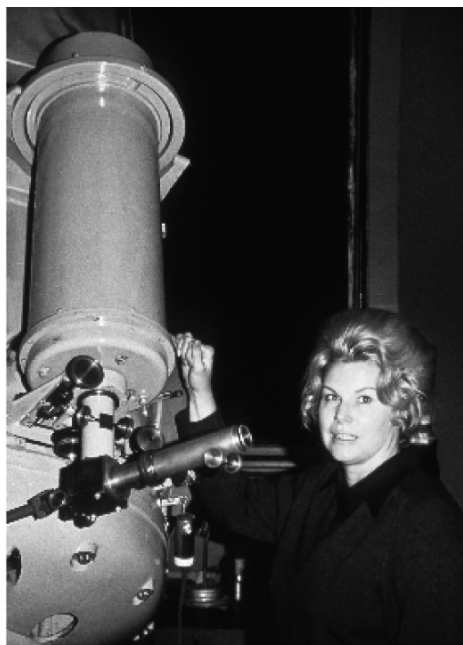
# SEARCHING THE SKY FOR DANGEROUS NEIGHBORS

*By Dr. Annie Mejía*

Last year, Palomar Observatory dedicated its new exhibit titled *Searching the Sky for Dangerous Neighbors* at the Addison White Greenway, Jr. Visitor Center.

The exhibit focuses on the work of Dr. Eleanor Francis “Glo” Helin (1932 – 2009), a leader in the detection and study of Near Earth Objects (NEOs) and a prolific observer at Palomar Observatory.

Palomar’s first research telescope, the venerable 18inch (0.46m) Schmidt, serves as centerpiece of the new exhibit along with topical panels, videos, and artifacts that describe the important work of identifying potentially hazardous NEOs and Helin’s significant contributions to that work.



*Eleanor Helin and the 18-inch Schmidt. (Palomar/Caltech/Helin Family Estate)*

The exhibit was dedicated on 12 June 2014 in a delightful event that celebrated Helin’s life, work, and scientific legacy. In attendance were



*Searching the Sky for Dangerous Neighbors at the Greenway Visitor Center. (Palomar/Caltech/)*

the Helin family, as well as some of her former colleagues and collaborators, the Chair of the PMA division at Caltech, Caltech employees, and Observatory staff and docents.

Keynote presentations were given by Drs. Amy Mainzer (JPL) and Rebecca Oppenheimer (AMNH).

## *Eleanor “Glo” Helin*

Eleanor Helin was a planetary scientist at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). She was a pioneer in the search and survey of near Earth asteroids (NEAs)—asteroids that occasionally come close to Earth and can become a potential impact hazard.

Helin began her hunt for asteroids in 1972 at Palomar Observatory using the 18inch Schmidt telescope. She had joined Caltech in 1960 as a geologist interested in meteorites and the impact origin of lunar craters. Over time, her interest shifted to studying potential impactors in Earth’s vicinity. Her work with the Palomar Planet Crossing Asteroid Survey(PCAS) photographic

program yielded its first near Earth asteroid on 3 July 1973.

By the end of the program in 1995, PCAS had discovered 65 NEAs, about a fifth of all NEAs known until then.

As the technology became available, Helin pressed for automating the search for NEAs. This was accomplished with the Near Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT) project. NEAT began operations in 1996 at Haleakal’Observatory in Maui, Hawaii, and at Palomar in 2001 with the Samuel Oschin 48inch Telescope. In eleven years of observations, NEAT found over 36,000 new Solar System bodies of which 442 are near Earth asteroids.

Helin was awarded many honors, including NASA’s Exceptional Service Medal and the naming of the minor planet (3267) Glo. The USS Helin (NCC1692), a starship in the Star Trek franchise, was named after her for “having discovered an unprecedented number of asteroids and comets.” Indeed, the Minor Planet Center lists Helin among the top discoverers with

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## SEARCHING THE SKY FOR DANGEROUS NEIGHBORS

*Continued from page 8*

over 500 asteroids and a dozen comets discovered or codiscovered.

The recognition she appreciated most was an honorary doctorate in 1992 from her alma mater, Occidental College in Los Angeles.

### *The 18-inch Schmidt Telescope*

The 18-inch telescope was the first instrument at Palomar Observatory. It saw first light on 5 September 1936 and was Palomar's only operational telescope until 1949. Beginning in the late 1940s, this instrument was used in conjunction with the newly built 48-inch Schmidt (later to become the Samuel Oschin Telescope) to provide targets for the 200-inch Hale Telescope. Later, between the 1970s and 90s, the 18-inch proved to be a workhorse in the systematic search for minor bodies in the Solar System. In its long and productive life, this instrument has yielded many discoveries, including a large number of asteroids and nearly 50 comets.

Searching the Sky for Dangerous Neighbors was made possible thanks to a generous gift from the trust of Eleanor Helin and her husband Ronald. The restoration of the 18-inch telescope was carried out by members of the Palomar Observatory staff who brought the old instrument back to its former glory.

The exhibit is available for viewing to all Palomar visitors during regular visiting hours and online at the Palomar Observatory website. Exhibit link: [www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/visitor/visitorcenter/helin](http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/visitor/visitorcenter/helin)



*The 18-inch Schmidt as photographed by F. Ellerman during its fabrication in the Caltech Instrument Shop, 1936 (Palomar/Caltech/Caltech Archives)*



*Greenway Visitor Center Museum (Palomar/Caltech)*





# FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK ANNUAL REPORT

It's hard to believe, but it's been almost three years since Palomar Mountain State Park was supposed to be closed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation due to budget deficits. Not seasonally... but permanently. As in gated, shuttered, boarded up, and left vulnerable to vandals, squatters and poachers.

But through the generosity and hard work of a lot of people, Palomar made it through its darkest hour so that today, not only is the park still open, it's open full time and with full services. And even though you may not read or hear about it from the media, many California state parks are still sadly limping along. The entire Palomar Mountain State Park community of supporters should be proud of what they've accomplished!

To get to the heart of the matter, it comes down to money: Money to fulfill our contractual obligation to close the budget gap between the park's income and expenses. Money to pay for maintenance that's way overdue. Money for outreach programs to kids. Before Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park stepped into the picture, there just wasn't enough money to do these things... so the park went without for years. But things have changed!

As of the end of 2014, we'd raised over \$700,000 for the park. About half is in the form of "matching funds" provided by the State Parks department on behalf of Palomar. These funds were granted as a dollar-for-dollar match for contributions that we received and, in turn, donated to the department for the exclusive benefit of Palomar. This matching money tends to be used for all or part of major and pretty much unseen infrastructure improvements, such as a booster pump to get water up to the Boucher summit, or moving the well in Upper Doane valley to comply with county health requirements.

The other half of the money we've raised has come from a variety of donors – individuals, corporations and foundations – all of whom share an affection for our park. They can take pride in the many other – and more visible – things that the park has finally been able to do after years of neglect, such as some of the projects accomplished in 2014: improve the two campground bathrooms with new roofs and doors after 30 years of deterioration, replace the damaged and missing posts on Doane Valley Nature Trail for the trail's self-guided tour, and giving the buildings throughout the park a complete facelift (and renewed protection) with fresh paint and stain.

And as important, with these contributions, the park can now afford additional park aides and offer educational and interpretive programs to children who can see the mountain from where they live but have never been here... and could

never visit the park were it not for the money Friends of Palomar provides for school bus transportation and interpretive guides. These are kids who say, "I've never been to a place like this.. I've never seen a deer or touched a fox pelt or sat by a campfire... I need to bring my family here!"

None of this would be possible if the park's supporters didn't step forward and not only keep the park open, but pay for improved facilities and services and new programs.

But the park isn't the only one with a success story for 2014. Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park itself reached some important milestones. Starting out as a committee of our 501(c)(3) fiduciary sponsor (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association), we always had a goal of becoming our own 501(c)(3) association. And that dream was realized in early 2014.

But there was still one more thing we had to achieve before we could break away from CRSPIA and take Palomar under our wing: become an official cooperating association recognized by the California Department of Parks & Recreation. This is a special designation that provides special privileges, but also carries especially high standards and obligations. I'm pleased to say that we reached this milestone earlier this year, and, as a result of achieving the status of cooperating association, we have received all the remaining funds we raised through CRSPIA for Palomar. We have left the nest and are in free flight!

The PMPO is part of our success story. The PMPO was a Charter Supporter way back in 2012 when we were just starting out as a tiny committee and before we even knew whether State Parks would agree to the deal we were offering to keep the park open. And I know you'd recognize the names of at least two of our original committee members –Michael Walsh and Rosemary Johnston. They are now vice-president and secretary, respectively, of this new, vibrant organization called Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park!

Please accept our thanks for supporting our cause from the very beginning and for continuing to be a loyal partner.

***Rick Barclay, Chairman***  
***- Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park***

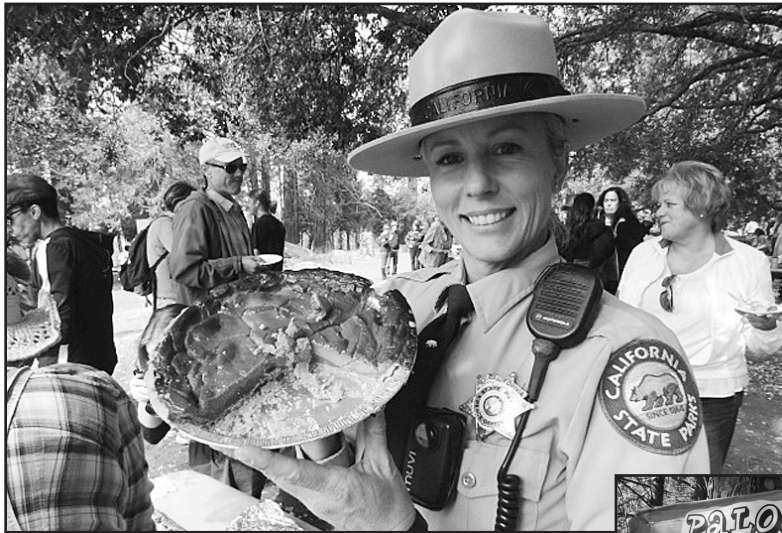
If you'd like to be a part of Palomar Mountain State Park's success, please visit **[www.friendsofpalomarsp.org](http://www.friendsofpalomarsp.org)**

To learn more about the park and what it offers, visit **[www.palomarsp.org](http://www.palomarsp.org)**



# PALOMAR APPLE FESTIVAL

## at The State Park



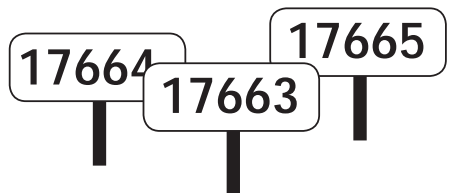
## ADDRESS SIGN PROJECT

*By Alan Serry*

**D**o you know where you live? Does the Fire Department know where you live? What is your easement number? What are your house numbers?

Each fire truck carries a cross reference book that has addresses and names to find your easement road. (Easement numbers apply only to Crestline/Birch Hill area) The Palomar Mountain Fire Department has a good system to find you, but it may need to be updated. PLEASE stop by the CERT booth at the PMPO Breakfast and check your information. Learn your easement number and make sure everyone in your household knows your address. Post your address on your house (3" numbers) and at your driveway to be located from the easement or street. We are having high visibility address signs made for \$19. Green signs for addresses and blue signs if you have a water tank available to the Fire Dept.

If you are unable to attend the PMPO Breakfast this year, please call Alan at 760-533-1268 to verify your information or order an address sign. Remember, this information is private and confidential, only for use by the Fire Department.



## Thank You!

### PMPO BOARD MEMBERS...

We would like to thank all of the Board Members who are currently serving and who have served over the many years that the PMPO has been active.

Our active Board Members are listed on the cover page under the PMPO banner.

Please take a minute to thank them for all of the time and effort they put into serving this vital organization.

Upcoming terms that will be expiring include:

#### *Terms expiring May 2016*

Rosemary Johnston  
Bruce Graves  
George Evangelou  
Donna Dose  
Steve Clark

#### *Terms expiring May 2017*

Heather Beer  
Glenn Borland  
Robert Carlyle  
Elizabeth Getzoff  
Michael Walsh

### Palomar Mountain Forestry Services

# STUMP GRINDING



Reasonable Prices  
Local  
760-742-1891

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH



The congregation of Palomar Mountain Community Church holds its Sunday worship services in the trailer behind the Fire Station.

On behalf of the congregation, I would like to extend an invitation to any and all Palomar Mountain residents to join us on Sunday morning at 10:45am.

Our service follows a simple format: singing, prayer, the reading of Scripture, and a message based on a passage from the Bible. During the coming months, we will be studying the Old Testament Book of Joshua.

On the first Sunday of the month we celebrate the Lord's Supper, and have a delicious potluck meal following the service.

#### *Matthew Currie, Pastor*

(760) 738 2638 • [mpcurrie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mpcurrie@sbcglobal.net)  
Palomar Mountain Community Church  
P.O. Box 25, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060



## PALOMAR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Palomar Amateur Radio Club is lucky to be a land owner on the mountain. This gives the Club an advantage over most other Clubs in that we only pay taxes once a year and not monthly rental to someone else. As part of being a property owner, we wish to stay a good neighbor to those around us. We will be sanding and repainting at least one of our sheds to blend in with the surroundings. If there are any concerns about our property, let us know. We also have been lucky to buy new radios for our amateur use. While we encourage users to be members, it is not required, to help support the operations. Normal operations allow friendly conversations. When that emergency comes, like the fires or the power outage, radio traffic changes to support the needs of the community's ongoing needs. If the power grid fails, we have ample battery power to run the radios for several days before bringing on the generator. Several times SDG&E has de-energized lined to do work and we have not found out about it until we got our mail (after the work was done.)

**Palomar Amateur Radio Club** meets in Carlsbad the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Carlsbad Safety Center, 2560 Orion, Carlsbad, CA.

More information on the web at  
[www.palomararc.org](http://www.palomararc.org),  
email [board@palomararc.org](mailto:board@palomararc.org)  
or call Dennis **KD6TJ**  
at 760-672-0223.



# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT



**T**he PMVFD responded to 95 calls in 2014. We averaged 1.82 calls per week and responded to 26 motorcycle accidents, 34 medical aid calls, and 19 structure/vegetation fires, ringing alarms and smoke checks, along with public assist calls and traffic hazards. The busiest month in 2014 was August and our busiest day of the week was Saturday.

We currently have 34 members with thirty of them being EMT's. Most days we are staffing the station with at least four or five firefighters. We usually have five or six firefighters staffing the station on weekends, occasionally more. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteer reserve members we consistently have more staff on duty every day than any other station in the San Diego County Fire Authority.

Working with Cal Fire Battalion 7, the Palomar Mountain Fire Department has been awarded two grants through the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The funds were made available through the SRA Fire Prevention Fund. The purpose of all State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Funds (SRAFPF) is to undertake fire prevention activities that address the risk and potential impact of wildfire to habitable structures in the SRA as worsened by drought conditions.

One grant is for the Palomar Divide SRA Fuel Break. Specifically this project intends to reduce risk and impacts from wildfire by reducing fuels, 75 feet from each side of an existing road system on the Palomar Divide, to create a 150-foot strategic fuel break approximately 2 miles long. This fuel break can help to contain a wildfire before it can enter the Palomar Mountain Community.

The other grant is for three separate Community Chipping days, where homeowners can have their tree and brush trimmings chipped up into mulch to be used or hauled away. The department will keep the community informed as the grant process continues.



Finally, the creation of the San Diego County Fire Authority in 2008 has continued to bring about many changes to the volunteer departments. Change isn't easy and we've had to adapt, just like every other rural department. We all want to keep our fire department going strong for many years to come. An integral part of this is the fire board, elected by the community, to ensure that the decisions made are in the best interest of all of us here on Palomar Mountain. As your fire board continues to weigh the options and decide the best course of action they need your support and feedback. Please continue to support the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department.

Clifford Kellogg  
Fire Chief  
Palomar Mountain  
Volunteer Fire Department



21610 Crestline Road  
P.O. Box 235  
Palomar Mountain, CA. 92060  
(760) 742-3701 FAX: (760) 742-0574  
[www.palomar-fire.org](http://www.palomar-fire.org)

# Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Annual Meeting

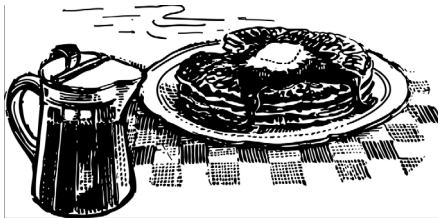
Breakfast 8am-10am • Annual Meeting immediately follows Breakfast @ 10am

**Saturday, May 23th, 2015**

**at the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Station**

21610 Crestline Road • Palomar Mountain, CA 92060

*\* Intersection of East Grade Road (S-7) and South Grade Road (S-6)\**



**\$3.00 - Adults**  
**\$1.00 - Children**

## Breakfast Menu:

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

**COME JOIN US!**

Come Join Us! Help is wanted and needed on Friday, May 22nd to help set up for the breakfast on Saturday. If you can help out in any way, please contact Bruce Graves at (760) 994-7697 or email: bg4two@gmail.com.

*Thank you for your support and help.*



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

## COMMUNITY CENTER PALOMAR MOUNTAIN NEWS *by John Lesac*

**C**ommunity Center? What Community Center? Aren't the firefighters living in the Community Center building? Well, yes the Community Center house is currently occupied by the volunteer firefighters. The double wide trailer in the back of the fire department property is not suitable as a bunkhouse because it lacks toilets, showers and running water. The community center house was the only option to house the firefighters. Currently there are plans to build a new bunkhouse that is code compliant. If and when that happens, the Palomar Mountain residents will regain full use of the Community Center House.

Even so, we have been able to use the house for occasional events. On Christmas Eve, the Community Center organized for a reading of lessons and carols. Cookies and snacks were served. We are also able to use the house kitchen for the Sunday potlucks that the Palomar Mountain Community Church organizes. The Community Center sponsored a chili cook-off in October. The Fire department garage was used to serve the chili, drinks, ice cream etc.

The double wide trailer has been of service to the Palomar Community. The Church meets in the double wide trailer each week and donates a modest sum to the Community Center each month. The trailer is also suitable for other activities. A photography class, as well as other events, are likely to be held in this structure.

A poll was taken of mountain residents during the last Fire Department BBQ. Our neighbors expressed interest in Community Center sponsored events that included nature walks, bird watching, wild flower hikes. If you have and interest in participating in or leading any other outdoor activities please contact John Lesac, email and phone number is given below.

The Community Center is due to have an election of board members soon.

If you have an interest in serving on the Community Center of Palomar Mountain board of directors, please contact John Lesac: email [john.lesac@teradata.com](mailto:john.lesac@teradata.com). Phone 760-884-6476.