

PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

Spring 2017 - Volume 28

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Glenn Borland

Welcome to the 2017 edition of the PMPO newsletter. The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization is a non-profit public benefit organization whose purpose is not only to 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 who are elected to three-year terms. Five member positions come up for election every year and candidates are drawn 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, or email secretary@pmpo-info.com.

This last year has seen many changes in the groups on the mountain.

The reins of Palomar CERT have been turned back over to Bill Leininger and we look forward to his leadership in the years to come. Big thanks are due James Ewen for his time and effort.

Alan Serry continues to be our liaison with the CHP and 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. Again, many thanks for Alan's continued hard work.

The fire department transition to San Diego County Fire Authority responsibility has gone smoothly and the station staffing up here on Palomar Mountain has been exceptional. A welcome to the new Battalion Chief Dean Kowalski 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 Palomar Mountain Fire Department for the use of their facilities as a venue for our various board activities as well as other community events.

The Fire Safe Council is up, running and fully accredited again thanks to the work of chair Yvonne Vaucher and her board. This will make grant money available for various fire prevention projects on the mountain. Though we have had a good winter, in terms of rainfall, serious commitments to fire prevention and brush clearing on our properties should remain 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 Forest Fire Lookout Association with their group of volunteers who keep an eye on all of us.

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of George Evangelou, our acting treasurer. We will miss his continually upbeat outlook and attitude.

It is my hope that the various articles in this newsletter will give you a feel for the activities of the various boards and the communities they serve.

As you read this newsletter, you are looking at the work of not only the contributors who wrote the articles, but also the work of publisher Susan Humason and editor Mike Pique who wrangled all of the contributors and advertisers to put together 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: a hearty thanks to a¹¹

Glenn Borland - PMPO Chairman
chair@pmpoinfo.com



Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Annual Meeting

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

COME JOIN US!

Saturday, May 27th, 2017

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

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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: Glenn Borland
 Layout & Design: Susan Humason & Trevor Watson
 Proof Readers: Michael Pique, Libby Getzoff,
 Michael Walsh & 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.

If you have any information that you would like to
 contribute to future newsletters,
 please email the information to
 Glenn Borland at:
chair@pmpoinfo.com
 attn: PMPO Newsletter

Thank You to Our Paid Advertisers who help offset the
 production and mailing costs.

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

TREASURER'S REPORT

2016 - 2017

By George Evangelou, Treasurer



From a monetary standpoint, it looks like another good, although unremarkable, year for the PMPO's finances.

The 2016 Pancake Breakfast was a success (again) and when combined with 21 generous donations from our supporters, monies received amounted to \$4171.00. Donations to the PMPO are tax deductible, and along with the letters sent to all our donors, we sent our tax exempt information.

	January 2016	January 2017	Difference
Checking	9,503.91	1,475.88	+1971.97
Savings	33,360.84	33,375.47	+14.63
Total	42,864.75	44,851.35	+1,986.60

Expenses included: printing, new telephone number information cards and refrigerator magnets.

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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 -- 2017 Contribution --

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Friends of
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK ANNUAL REPORT



By Rosemary Johnston

Originally organized to prevent the closure of Palomar Mountain State Park more than five years ago, Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park (FPMSP) continues to make an essential contribution to park programs and facilities in cooperation with state park staff. In the past year, we provided the funds for a seasonal park interpretive aide, who has been a great asset in educating park visitors about the history and unique features of the park. We also funded a Boy Scout Eagle project to replace a ramada shade cover at Doane Pond, and we provided financial support for, and participated in, the annual Apple Festival at the park in October, which drew more than 1,100 visitors.

Friends of Palomar also funded the paving of the road near Boucher lookout in the amount of \$5,000. Plans are also under way to renovate the amphitheater and sound system there, thanks to a generous memorial contribution from the family of Vern Wescott. We were pleased to receive a

\$3,000 grant from the California State Parks Foundation to upgrade our social media outreach, make website enhancements, and continue to increase park attendance. Please take some time to visit your local State Park – and don't forget to pick up one of our fantastic FPMSP coffee mugs, available for sale in the entrance kiosk at the park.

Looking forward, we have some ambitious projects planned. We are in the early stages of a feasibility assessment for the conversion of a vacant, former ranger residence near the campground into a visitor center and natural history museum. However, transitions in the California State Department of Parks and Recreation administrative infrastructure have slowed progress on that project. And finally, with great support from our generous community, we were able to raise more than \$20,000 in our year-end fundraising campaign. These funds will help us continue to support and improve Palomar Mountain State Park. Thanks very much to everyone who has made all this possible!

The park has two job openings right now, which FPMSP is helping to advertise. One is for a new permanent maintenance worker. For information on that position, contact Anthony.Meghee@parks.ca.gov. There is also an opening for a Park Interpretive Specialist. This staff person gathers, presents and explains information about the natural and human history of the park and presents talks as well as organizes programs to present to community groups and visitors to the park. The position pays \$12.06 to \$14.62 per hour. For more information, contact:

Kevin.Best@parks.ca.gov
(760)765-3019 or visit www.palomarsp.org

Board members include; Michael Walsh, president; Rosemary Johnston, secretary; Steve Lopardo, treasurer; Sharon Dall, Bob Hillestad, and Kevin Best, our Cooperating Association Liaison and State Park Superintendent for the California State Parks, Colorado Desert District, Montane Sector.

GOLD SPOTTED OAK BORER UPDATE

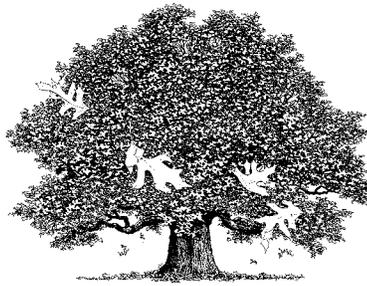
...IT'S HERE

By Yvonne Vaucher

The Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) is now well established throughout Palomar Mountain. In 2015 about 100 infected trees were found, primarily on the eastern side Palomar Mountain. Sadly, in 2016 substantial tree mortality due to GSOB was documented all the way across the mountain up to the State Park.

The GSOB was imported into southeastern California from Arizona, where natural predators keep the beetle in check and oak mortality is very low. However, in California the GSOB has few natural enemies. Oak mortality is high – estimates are that 80% of infested oaks will eventually die. Since the beetle itself flies only a short distance, the GSOB is primarily spread to more distant areas by larvae present in transported firewood and logs from infested oak trees. GSOB preferentially attack and kill live oak, canyon oak, and California black oak. Other oaks, such as Engleman oak, are at lower risk. Mature, large diameter oaks with trunks and limbs greater than 10 inches in diameter are at highest risk for injury and mortality from GSOB. External signs of GSOB infestation include progressively more severe crown thinning and dieback, a change in leaf color from dark green to grayish green, dark or deep red sap stains on the tree trunk, noticeable woodpecker damage, and eventually tree death.

Eradication for GSOB is impossible; control is difficult. To limit spread as much as possible, no felled oak wood should be moved from its original site. Application of insecticide to prevent infestation is expensive and impractical for all except very high value trees. The



only other “treatment” is felling severely infested trees to slow the spread of disease to healthy oaks nearby. GSOB can be eliminated from felled wood by immediately burning, grinding into small shreds (3”X 1” X 1/2”), or completely covering the wood for two years with a well-sealed, clear plastic tarp.

The University of California Extension Service website (www.gsob.org) is an excellent source of information about GSOB identification and management. The Resource Conservation District of San Diego County (www.rcdsandiego.org) can also help residents identify and manage infested trees.

MOUNTAIN NEWS

For all things Palomar, simply self-subscribe at www.palomarmountainnews.com. Since 1998, this free service has well over 2000 subscribers of locals, weekenders, and those who wish they were. Opportunities abound for you to keep up on the latest or get involved. We have ever-growing New Neighbors postings, in addition to weather updates, health and safety posts, road closures, fun historical info and lots, lots more. 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 to assure receiving the News. You can scroll through the archives or type in key words to locate information. I'll keep all the news of your favorite mountain coming your way and that's a promise!

MOUNTAIN YELLOW PAGES

When you need products or services on Palomar Mountain, 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. Stay tuned, as it will be available as to download and print for easy reference real soon.

MY PALOMAR MOUNTAIN.com COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Do you have something to add to our community website? Mypalomarmountain.com has been available as our community site for the past decade. Click on 'Community Links' and you'll find the connections to what makes Palomar so special - our wonderful little community and lifestyle on this absolutely beautiful mountain. We're celebrating 18 years back at our 'Square House', glad to be a part of this community and to help in anyway. **Bonnie Phelps, and Don, too! 760 742-1742 - bonniephelps.com**

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Would you like to have a food supply in your backyard? Consider having milk, cheese and meat, yogurt, Kefir, and soap at your fingertips every day. We have beautiful, lovable, and productive Nubian Dairy goats and Friesian Dairy sheep for sale - males and females, babies and production does. I'll teach you husbandry, cheesemaking, spinning, weaving, knitting, felting and soapmaking.

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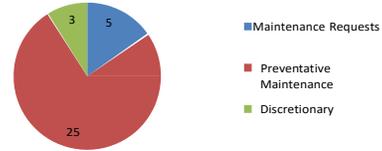
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PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATION 40



Work Tasks Completed by DGS Facility Operations in 2016



Building	Square Footage (Incorrect)	FY 16/17 DGS Maintenance Cost	Square Footage (Validated)	FY17/18 DGS Maintenance Cost
Sleeping Quarters	2160	\$6,092	1237	\$3,780
Fire Engine Truck Bay	3402	\$9,595	3000	\$9,169
Air Station	96	\$270	96	\$0
Admin Offices	1440	\$4,061	1440	\$0
TOTALS	7098	\$20,018	5773	\$12,949

Completed Facility Improvements

Project Description	Cost
1) Install chain hoist motor operators, cord reels and upgrade the electrical service	\$131,549
2) Install heater in apparatus bay	\$6,728
3) New furnishing purchased as part of station going career	
4) New electrical service upgrades by SDG&E	

Future Facility Improvements

Project Description	Cost	Est. Completion
1) Install emergency generator	\$150,000	FY17/18 MMIP
2) Facility remodel and temporary living quarters	\$1M	CINA

Recommendations

- 1) Provide a modular fire station in FY 17/18
- 2) Provide adequate parking for employees and the public (paving)
- 3) Add fencing to keep public from sliding in winter
- 4) Upgrade septic system
- 5) Install an emergency generator
- 6) Service BA Fill Station

Risks

- 1) Septic system improvements will be needed for continued operations
- 2) Increased response times if another location is utilized for a fire station. This site has water storage.



Sleeping quarters



Modular trailer used as admin offices

(760) 742-3701
 FAX: (760) 742-0574
 www.palomar-fire.org



21610 Crestline Road
 P.O. Box 235
 Palomar Mountain, CA. 92060

PALOMAR OBSERVATORY



*By Steve Flanders,
Public Affairs Coordinator*

We have had a number of community events over the past year: a daytime tour and presentation on April 23rd last year; a fall star party at the Outreach Center last October 1; and our recent spring star party, all done in partnership with the Community Center of Palomar Mountain. And, as well, the Kids Club has held several of its Tuesday meetings at the Outreach Center.

Not Your Grandfather's Museum

At our recent star party, the first part of the evening included a drive to the Museum (www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/homepage.html) for a look at the changes and upgrades that have recently been completed there.



These changes and upgrades, in fact, are the products of a project that began some time ago with the aim of refurbishing all of the exhibits in the Museum. In 2014, the work of Eleanor Helin was celebrated with the installation of the 18-inch Schmidt telescope as the centerpiece of the Helin Commemorative Exhibit titled “Searching the Sky for Dangerous Neighbors.” Later, the Outreach Center began a weekly lecture program – the Greenway Talks Series – that runs on Saturday mornings through the winter months.

In November 2015, the Luskin Virtual Presence Kiosk was established in the Museum as a multimedia center displaying live camera images from the dome of Hale Telescope along with topical videos and slideshows. In addition, “ViewSpace” has returned with short astronomy-themed video presentations updated daily from the Space Telescope Science Institute.

The capstone to this project was completed this past January. All of the outdated informational posters lining the walls were removed. In their places, Drs. Annie Mejía, Andy Boden, and members of the Observatory’s staff installed 30 new posters that accurately detail the key elements of the Observatory’s science mission. In text and pictures, the new posters focus upon the major scientific accomplishments of the Observatory and upon the many talented and dedicated people who brought about these achievements.

Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF)

When we were at the Museum, we briefly mentioned the ZTF project in connection with the panel headed “The Palomar Surveys.” ZTF is an ambitious step forward in night sky reconnaissance and a matter of great importance to Caltech and to the Observatory. ZTF will use the Samuel Oschin Telescope to image the entire visible sky twice each night. The telescope will be fitted with an advanced camera now being readied at Caltech. In preparation, the telescope itself is now being modified to accept the larger instrument. In addition, the optics are being refurbished, a third element is being added to the corrector lens at the front, and the telescope and dome control systems are being upgraded. In a few months, a robotic filter exchange mechanism will be installed to allow rapid switching between the various colors of the spectrum used in the surveys. We anticipate that the new ZTF camera and modified Samuel Oschin Telescope will be commissioned in the fall and the three-year ZTF survey will begin toward the end of 2017.

Our Welcome to Rick Burruss

While the Observatory continues to support the work of professional astronomers from Caltech and other institutions, Rick Burruss has returned to Palomar as site superintendent.

Rick was an astronomer at the Observatory until 2006 when he took a job at JPL where he became the instrument lead for the adaptive optics system we use on the Hale Telescope. Now, everyone associated with the Observatory welcomes Rick into his new leadership role.

www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Highlights 2016-2017

By Ranger Jessica Murany

May —

Park Champion volunteers learned how to graft apple trees in an effort to preserve the rare apple varieties that exist in the Palomar Mountain State Park. Cuttings were picked from 125 year old trees and grafted onto vigorous roots stock purchased out of Washington. Two volunteers from the California Rare Fruit Growers Association led the training aspect and then the twenty or so volunteers completed the grafting of 69 trees. The trees were cared for at the Palomar Mesa Growers Nursery until fall, and then were planted. The previous year, 64 trees were successfully grafted with a few showing their first blossoms this year. In the near future, park visitors will see a vibrant orchard again of approximately 200 trees that once existed 125 years ago. The scope of this project is two-fold: to restore the orchard's genetic preservation of the unique varieties, but also to restore the cultural landscape of the orchards and make it into a "living museum".

September —

Scott Jordan, Maintenance Worker



from our sister Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, completed the construction of the second bridge replacement in the park. The Doane Valley campground bridge near campsites 25 & 27 was a historic structure that was getting rickety in its old age. The decision was made to replace the entire structure for safety. The new structure, hefty by design and material, replicates the old Civilian Conservation Core structure for many generations to enjoy.

October -

The 6th Annual PMSP Apple Festival was a huge success with approximately 1,000 visitors in a four hour time frame. The previous year's pie eating contest winner came in 2nd this year and Forest Service beat CalFire in their own pie eating contest. We had a record for Caramel Apple Pops because our new system for melting caramel kept the line moving.

November —

We had a fire in the park along the French Valley Trail. Only about 1/3 of an acre burned due to the lack of wind and quick response from CalFire and Forest Service. The fire was a slow smoldering fire that may have burned for many hours. The cause was undetermined by experts, but the hunch was a thrown cigarette butt.

On November 14th, 100 Pechanga school kids came to Doane's pond area to gather acorns. What a great experience it was to see the kids gather

in the way that their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. Once back in the classroom they prepared the acorn meal into wiich, a Native American food staple for their early ancestors.

On November 21st, Ranger Murany thought she had the crime of the century during the last day of deer rifle season. She saw a pickup parked up at Boucher Lookout with blood spilling out of the truck bed onto the bumper. She saw four full black trash bags that could have easily contained deer carcasses. Murany suspected that she had a red hot poacher on her hands. Long story short, the driver who stated, "I know this looks bad," was a US employee in possession of 1/3 of a stillborn calf carcass to be used as bait for a Golden Eagle trap. Since Murany was intrigued by their research, she got invited to watch their data collection once they had captured an eagle. Murany got to see them take weight, collect feather samples & blood and strap on a GPS unit. This specimen was a 9 pound male which was one of three eagles on the mountain. The sad news is the Golden Eagle populations are declining due to land development, hence the continuous research of their populations. At the end of the data gathering, Murany was shocked that the lead researcher allowed her to release the bird back into the wild. All who had gathered to witness their research this day said this experience was definitely on the "Bucket List." What an honor it was to release such a magnificent bird into flight per Ranger Murany.

This same weekend, Eagle Scout Taylor Mollman completed the "Super Structure" as it was nicknamed, but in fact was one of the dilapidated shade ramadas at Doane's pond. Last winter 70mph winds levitated and moved to the Earth this one particular ramada. Taylor Mollman chose the rebuild of the structure to be his Eagle Scout project. Taylor along with other Eagle Scout help and Grandpa John Clay

worked many a weekend on the rebuild to completion in November. That will make the second Eagle Scout project that Friends of Palomar has helped fund.

Winter —

Palomar Mountain State Park is bursting with water everywhere out of Springs and Creeks that we haven't seen in almost 6 years. Our annual rainfall total thus far is 48 inches of rain and 14.75 inches of snow. The Park Staff's curiosity peaked when they noticed that the Azalea Creek was not flowing after all of this rain. Ranger Murany along with a volunteer even hiked down the Scott's Cabin Trail spur to look for flowing water and found none. Murany recalled that someone in the past told her that the creek only flows once the rainfall reaches 40 inches. Sure enough, during the last storm which bumped us above the 40" mark we noticed the gushing of a waterfall flowing at the roadway's edge of Azalea Creek overpass. Why this phenomena? A geologist explained

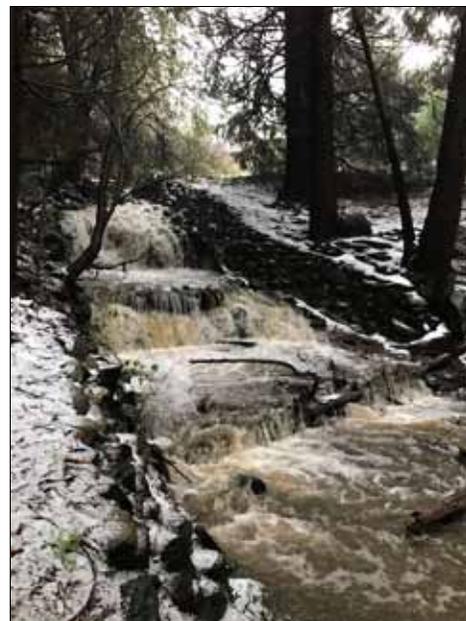
that somewhere in the drainage is a large fissure in the rock that the water flows into. Once this fissure is full, the creek will start to flow.

Spring —

With a plentiful rainfall, Palomar's High Sierra feel showed its true colors in bright green foliage and colorful blooms. Many phone calls have come in with inquiries about dogwood blooms and other favorite flowers. Doane's pond is the healthiest it's been in five years with lots of new wildlife scurrying for insects. It has also received its first fish plant the last week of April. All of the wildlife in the tree tops and meadows look revitalized with the abundance of food and water now available.

Volunteers —

We're looking forward to another successful season at Palomar Mountain State Park with the park staying busy, camp fires a blazing, and many adventures on foot. October 15th is the



scheduled date for this year's Apple Festival so mark your calendars. Please check the State Parks Foundation website for volunteer events. We have one scheduled per month up until the end of October.

www.parks.ca.gov



NEXTDOOR PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

By Alan Serry

Nextdoor.com is a 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 on Palomar Mountain.

Neighborhood Watch and San Diego County Sheriff's Department encourage communities to use Nextdoor.com

Neighbors are using Nextdoor.com to: Quickly get the word out about a break-in or suspicious activity, receive notifications of Palomar Mountain community events, list items for sale, list free items, share neighborhood concerns, ask neighbors for help finding a lost pet, etc.

Nextdoor Palomar Mountain (palomarmountain.nextdoor.com) is exclusively for Palomar Mountain residents. To sign up directly go to nextdoor.com, if you are unable to sign up directly please contact:

Nextdoor Lead Suzann Leininger at: suzbill95@gmail.com.

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

By Alan Serry

First comment from Lt. Jason Vickery "Thank you Palomar Mountain Community for helping me understand your situation on Snow Days. I will have 2 deputies on the mountain on Snow Days." The Sheriff's Department uses a Public Information Officer which delays information by hours in a world of instant information via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

This information from the "man on the street" is not always accurate. Crime Prevention Specialist Brandy Contreras announced the Sheriff's Dept. just started a Twitter account twitter.com/SDSOValleyCtr. So much

of the work of sheriffs is reactive, so Lt. Vickery was pleased to have hired two special purpose proactive deputies for help with drug enforcement and casino activities.

The Sheriffs now have 6 drones with infrared. They are mission-oriented only and not for surveillance. The Sheriffs are bound by "rules of engagement." Typical missions are wildfire, search and rescue, and swat operations.

Marijuana is a big concern of the Sheriffs; impaired driving (hard to measure), gang and cartel involvement, and illegal growing locally. This information on Proposition 64 (legal recreational use) is from a Sheriff's

handout. You have to be 21 years old, you cannot use marijuana in a public place, do not drive after using, it is also illegal for a passenger to use marijuana while in a vehicle, "open container" laws apply, and it is still illegal to sell marijuana if you are not licensed.

Remember the Sheriff's Crime Prevention Specialist, Brandy Contreras, is an advocate for Palomar Mountain.

Her number is (760) 751-4408 or brandy.contreras@sdsheriff.org.

This is YOUR Advisory Group, contact Alan Serry at (760) 533-1268 or alserry@msn.com for any comments to share at the next meeting.

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

By Martin Marugg, President

Our message is clear and concise: Please conserve water. The Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company has enough water to meet the needs of its shareholders, and with conservation efforts we will continue to provide pristine water when the taps are turned on. The latest drought has brought to mind the need to remind shareholders that outside irrigation with sprinkler/ irrigation systems is not allowed. We live in a mountainous region that demands the careful use of all resources. Water usage is not a right but a privilege that comes to us in limited amounts and those amounts seem to decrease each year.

Voluntary water conservation measures include: No car washing, installing low-volume toilets and low-flow shower heads. It is important to match the water level to the amount of clothes when doing laundry. Most importantly PLEASE report any water leaks immediately to the water company. Our office phone number is (760) 742-3516 and our emergency number is (858) 494-1020.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.



**Save The Date:
PMPO Pancake Breakfast
Saturday
May 27, 2017**

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

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



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

By Bill Leininger, CERT Coordinator

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is about readiness – individually, for your family, and in our community. CERT is about people taking care of themselves and helping their neighbors. CERT training is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens themselves can make the difference. For more information on CERT, go to: www.sandiegocounty.gov/oes/community/oes_jl_CERT.html

This spring, Palomar Mountain CERT had a transition of leadership. James Ewen, the outgoing coordinator, stepped down due to new duties with the US Navy that will have him spending more weekends off the mountain. The new CERT Coordinator will be Bill Leininger, who served in the coordinator role previously. MANY thanks to James for his effective leadership of the group for several years!

As we come to the end of our rainy season, now is the time to prepare your families and homes for fire season and more.

Great information sites include:

San Diego Office of Emergency Services:

www.readysandiego.org

Local resources and AlertSanDiego (reverse 911) sign up

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

www.fema.gov

California Earthquake Authority:

www.earthquakeauthority.com

SPECIAL GOOD DEAL – Just For You!

CalFire has a new app that gives you alerts about developing fires in or close to your zip code, plus all kinds of great information to keep handy on your phone – more information at: www.readyforwildfire.org.

For more information about this opportunity or to enroll, contact CERT Program Manager, Bill Leininger, at: palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com.

HELP CERT TO HELP YOU!

Donations help our team purchase new supplies and equipment, all of which will be used in our community during the next disaster. Contributions can be made via the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, which is a 501(c)3, and all donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Palomar Mountain Fire Department and specify CERT on the check. Mail to Palomar Mountain Fire Department, PO Box 235, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060.

Any questions?

Please contact Bill Leininger at: palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com.

Mountain Forestry Services

- Stump Grinding
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Robert Carlyle
760-742-1891



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.

FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS

*By Scott McClintock, Chairman
Forest Fire Lookout Association,
San Diego-Riverside Chapter*

Celebrating its 8th birthday this year, the FFLA has reached its optimum staffing level at 94 members, and can now relax its active recruiting of new volunteers. It takes that many people to staff two volunteers in each of Palomar Mountain's two lookout towers every

day of the approximately 210-day fire season.

The lookout towers went into service on April 30. They will utilize most of the month of May in training the 12 newest recruits, but the towers are in full fixed-point-fire-detection mode during this training.

Last fire season, 51 smokes were reported by the two towers along with 26 lightning strikes. The most stunning statistic of last year was the 11,126 State Park visitors who visited, toured, and enjoyed their experience at historic Boucher Hill Lookout.

The lookout tower volunteers will continue to serve as eyes and ears for

the Forest Service and for the State Department of Parks and Recreation as they report unlawful activities – illegal campfires, out-of-season hunting, trespassers, etc. They will also continue to provide weather data readings for the National Forest's firefighters and for the forecasters at the U.S. Weather Service.

More information about the FFLA can be found on the website at: www.ffla-sandiego.org. or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fflasdr.



REPORT FROM THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In December, 2015 the Palomar Mountain Fire Board signed a 50-year lease with the County of San Diego. This lease has enabled San Diego County Fire to invest in our department with upgraded equipment, including engine bay door automatic openers, new electric cord reels for maintaining the fire engine's battery charge, upgraded main electric service, and a new vented space heater for the engine bay. These upgrades totaled \$138,277.00 in investment for our station. Future facility improvements include the installation of an emergency generator and new living quarters with an estimated cost of one million dollars. The funds for those improvements have yet to be identified but are tentatively scheduled for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. All our old rolling stock, some dating back to 1999, has been replaced with more modern county-owned and maintained equipment, including a fire engine, water tender, utility truck, and a quick attack rescue rig.

For the last 5 years the firefighters have been using the community center house as living quarters. The future crew quarters are to be installed behind the apparatus bay in the current location of the admin building. Once the new living quarters have been constructed, the county plans to turn the house back over to the department for use as a community center as was originally planned so long ago. In the meantime, the crews manning our station have been maintaining the house with new inside paint, a new water heater, and general upkeep repairs.

County Fire has committed to providing 24/7 staffing of our station with CalFire and County Reserves on a permanent

basis. Starting in June we are to have paramedics at the station around the clock. We now have professionally trained career firefighters at our station every day. This is great news for our community and a definite improvement in service, something never dreamed of when our community formed the volunteer fire department over 40 years ago.

The Palomar Mountain Fire Department Board of Directors have an excellent relationship with County Fire and CalFire. Senior station personnel attend every board meeting to keep the department and the community up-to-date on what's going on with staffing, building plans, call volumes, and administrative issues. Palomar Mountain residents are always welcome to our board meetings held on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 am in the admin building behind the station. If you are interested in an upcoming board position there will be two openings this fall. Watch for the announcement this summer.

Also, don't forget that the fire department sponsors an active CERT organization currently under the leadership of Bill Leininger, who was instrumental in setting up our original CERT team years ago. Community members are welcome to apply for membership in CERT and learn valuable skills that could make a difference during a disaster.

Thank you for supporting the Palomar Mountain Fire Department and Palomar Mountain CERT.

Palomar Mountain Fire Dept. Board of Directors

Cliff Kellogg, President
Glenn Borland, Vice President
Mike Pique, Secretary
Keith Ronchetti, Treasurer
Robert Carlyle, Member at Large



COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . *By Bonnie Phelps*



SURVEY INFO

Surveyors may be on the mountain more this coming year. Please be aware that survey markers, pins, stakes, or whiskers are not to be tampered with. If you have questions, the cabins in the area are to have surveyor business cards on doors. Are you personally having a licensed surveyor mark your corners? It is a good investment, but here are tips for you. The wooden stakes leading you to the small pin in the ground deteriorate quickly and then the corner pins are hard to find. You might take photos, showing large rocks, trees or buildings. Then, install steel stakes with the tops painted in a bright color. It can save a lot of time and expense when it is important to locate those corners in the future.



For more information visit:
palomarmountainnews.com
and search 'Survey Info'.

WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

Do you have an interesting hobby or occupation to share with our Home School Kids Club? How about some cool science experiments or magic tricks you could show them? What would you have for 'show and tell'?

Could teach a musical instrument? We are looking for mountain neighbors to help enrich the home school experience on Palomar.

Maybe you could tell about rocks or rockets? One of our neighbors will be teaching square dancing; we have a weekender coming who has CDs. He will share folk songs, encouraging children to sing and record their own songs. Some of the students are learning how to quilt from a neighbor. Opera tickets will be available this fall. About half the kids have theatre experience and love being in shows. Wouldn't it be great to have plays on Palomar again? Do you have a background in directing, dance, voice or ??? What experience do you have that could be of interest to our mountain home schoolers, mostly age 4 to 12? They are as polite as can be and the newest generation to live on the mountain and love all that makes Palomar so special. Put on your thinking caps and let us know what ideas you 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 Tim Grey with the US Forest Service (619) 209-1414 to help keep our forest green and fire safe.

READY FOR WILDFIRE APP

CalFire has a great app for your phone to be 'Ready, Set and Go' for emergency situations. Also, Alert San Diego is where you can enter your cell and VoIP phones for reverse-911 calls. It pays to be prepared! Search palomarmountainnews.com for the link to both.

ROAD GROOMING

All the amazing rain we were blessed with this year gave a huge boost to our trees and brush. There are many places on our little dirt roads where a fire truck can no longer get through! It is time for neighbors to work together, get those chain saws out and open up the roads for safety during an emergency. See palomarmountainnews.com for lots more info and a video. The video shows a trailer the size of our fire truck getting pretty scratched, barely making it out one of the roads – and that was after several hours of trimming was done. If the much-needed grooming along our little country roads is done soon enough, there may still be grant funds available for chipping!

PALOMAR HISTORY

Our Palomar historian Peter Brueggeman has provided the most recent addition to our treasure trove of history of Palomar. San Diego State University Anthropology Department, has resumed archaeological excavations at the Nate Harrison cabin site. Students have been excavating Nate's porch area outside his cabin's front door during the spring semester, on Saturdays and during Spring Break. A Union Tribune story plus excellent video, photo gallery and Channel 10 news story is available at palomarmountainnews.com by searching Nate Harrison.

Nate Harrison is also presently featured at the Valley Center Museum on Cole Grade Road! Stop in and check it out.



PALOMAR EASEMENT PROJECT

By Bonnie Phelps

History in the making! After over 100 years, San Diego county has now recognized 'legal access' for most of Birch Hill. The photo shows the Lodge area in the upper left. The old Road Survey 453A going out, into Birch Hill, connects with the red markings showing original roads on Birch Hill. We have letters and maps provided by the county, giving our title companies the authority they need to plot the roads. Five escrows closed over the past few months with the 'red road' taking them right to their doors. Hooray for clear title so most lenders now can provide a loan or re-fi, or owners can pull permits to build a new home or cabin, for your properties on that map.



When the easement project had its beginnings in 2005, approximately 80% of the properties on Palomar showed up as 'landlocked' on title reports. Now, approximately 80% have plotted access, removing the landlocked wording, showing clear title.

However, we still have a small pocket of properties to resolve in the 'Heart' of Birch Hill. Rob Hawk has volunteered to help head up this last need for clear title for Birch Hill. Rob has served on the PMPO in the past and is a property owner on the mountain. He is retired from the City of San Diego as Senior Geologist and Deputy City Engineer, both in land development and public works. He has a working knowledge

of what needs to be done. Rob will be contacting property owners and potentially working with a surveyor. Legal descriptions would be worked out for the existing road. Then clear access can finally be granted to the very last property owners in the heart of Birch Hill.

These properties are all landlocked on title. The properties affected are burdened with easements for the road, and have been burdened with road easements going back to 1885. The language wasn't done properly, however, so that is what needs to be resolved. The goal is to continue to travel on the pre-existing roads, as

traveled for over 100 years, but with a legal, deeded access for EVERYONE.

We would love to have this completed within a year.

Other areas on Palomar have some access needs that may be addressed at some point to remove the clouds on title. Time will tell. A very sincere thanks to Mike Pique and Rob Hawk and others for their support and work done to come this far in securing this deeded legal access.

For more back ground, search 'easement' at: palomarmountainnews.com

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Bonnie Phelps bonnie@palomarproperties.com **760.742.1742**

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PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL



By Yvonne Vaucher

In the event of a wildfire, do you have adequate defensible space to help save your Palomar Mountain home? If not, help is here! Free on-site chipping, dead tree removal and 50% share-of-cost prep work is now available to provide 100 feet of defensible space around your home. Take advantage of this USFS Fuel Reduction grant, administered by the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, before it's too late. Grant funding ends 12/31/17. Don't miss this opportunity!

GOOD NEWS: The Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC) is up and running again as a fully certified non-profit organization. Our purpose is to help protect the Palomar Mountain community from the risk of wildfire through education and fuel reduction programs.

WHAT WE ARE DOING: PMFSC priorities include keeping Palomar homeowners informed about the current USFS fuel reduction opportunity, improving the emergency access to and evacuation from the Crestline, Birch Hill area and community education. We are planning an interactive Wildland/Urban Interface workshop this summer that will focus on wildfire behavior and how to protect ourselves and our homes in the event of wildfire threat as well as a workshop for Chainsaw Use, Care, and Safety. We applied for and have received a \$2500 grant from SDG&E. We submitted three grant applications to the State for fuel reduction projects that were not funded. Although the PMFSC received two large federal USFS fuel reduction grants following the catastrophic 2003 San Diego fires, USFS grants have become more difficult to

obtain because a written commitment to cover 50% of the cost is required before submission.

Fortunately, the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County was able to obtain the current USFS Fuel Reduction grant providing free chipping, dead tree removal and share-of-cost prep work for Palomar. We will continue to apply for fuel reduction project funding whenever possible. Any landowner interested in participating in a 50% share of cost fuel reduction project should contact the PMFSC so that we can apply for USFS funding at the next opportunity.

WHO WE ARE: All Palomar Mountain landowners are members of the PMFSC. Board members are elected at the annual general meeting in October. Current Board members are Yvonne Vaucher (President), Mike Wilson (Vice President), Gina Aven (Treasurer), Cecelia Borland (Secretary), Robert Carlyle, Mike Pique, and Nicholas Spear. We welcome your interest and participation in PMFSC meetings and activities. Come share your concerns and ideas. Notices of our monthly meetings, updates and other info are posted on our website: www.mypalomarmountain.com/firesafecouncil.

Contact: PMFSC, PO Box 247, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060.

Look for us at the annual PMPO meeting on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 27.

The PMFSC is a fully volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Your tax-deductible donation is very much appreciated. Help us help you!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

By Alan Serry

Prevention is the most effective way to fight crime, and one of the best prevention methods is Neighborhood Watch. In addition, Neighborhood Watch is a way to meet your neighbors and to stay abreast of

activities in your area. Its tremendous success is the result of neighbors working together with the Sheriff's Department in a program of mutual assistance.

Our local advisor is Brandy Contreras, Crime Prevention Specialist from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Brandy can be reached at (760) 751-4408 or brandy.contreras@sdsheriff.org.

There are two very useful San Diego Sheriff's Department forms for Palomar Mountain residents: Trespass Arrest Authorization & Vacation Check

Request. Both forms are available as a PDF; contact Brandy Contreras for the forms.

Two local Neighborhood Watch groups have been established for Palomar Mountain:

Bailey Meadow Neighborhood –

Terri Bailey (760) 742-1859

Crestline-Birch Hill Neighborhood –

Alan Serry (760) 533-1268



COMMUNITY CENTER OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN (CCPM)

By Terri Sproul

The CCPM hosted several events for the year 2016 and Winter/Spring of 2017.

Summer events included a Potluck in July at the San Diego County Park on Crestline Road. A food and music event was held at the Palomar Mountain Fire Department (PMFD) over the Labor Day weekend. Our opportunity drawing and silent auction had prizes that included Zip Line tickets, a restaurant certificate, and jewelry.

A Fall Star Party/Dessert Potluck was hosted by the CCPM and the Palomar Observatory in October. Several astronomers set up their telescopes at the Outreach Center (the former Palomar Mountain School). The night sky enabled participants to view Venus and Mars. We are grateful to have this partnership with "The Observatory."

A Holiday Party was held at Mother's Kitchen in December, with an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest and party games were for the young and not so young. We thank Brett for providing us with Christmas Carols for a sing-a-long

and Mother's Kitchen for providing us a lovely setting for the community to enjoy.

A Valentine's Day Activity was held at the PMFD. Children created Valentine's Day cards and painted pots that were filled with flowers.

In April we had an Easter Egg Hunt and a Spring Star Party/Dessert Potluck at the Palomar Observatory Outreach Center. This time, we looked at the moon, Jupiter, and distant galaxies.

A Mother's Day Tea will be held at PMFD on Sunday, May 14th (Mother's Day). Tea, baked goods and tea sandwiches will be served.

This summer we will hold two movie nights. On July 1st, bring your chair and blankets to the PMFD amphitheater. On August 12th, come to Mother's Kitchen. Popcorn will be provided.

On Saturday, September 2nd, (Labor Day weekend) we will have our fundraiser with food, vendors, opportunity drawing, silent auction, and karaoke contest. We are in need of volunteers for planning the event,

setting up event and cleanup after the event. Also we are requesting from the community to donate items (we love homemade crafts), certificates or gift cards to be used for drawings and silent auction.

December 2nd will be the Holiday Party. We are planning some activities specifically for children (maybe Santa will stop in for some Palomar Mountain Cookies).

All events are free except for our Labor Day Weekend Fundraiser.

The CCPM Board currently has four members and is looking to fill a Member-At-Large position.

All CCPM events are posted on Facebook, NextDoor Palomar, mypalomar.com, and palomarmountaincommunity.blogspot.com. See you at the next event!



KIDS CLUB

By Stacy Eriksen

There is a growing population of children living on the mountain again – Palomar Mountain is now home to 30-35 children, with more on the way! The Palomar Mountain Kids Club formed in December as a way for the mountain families to play and learn together. Children from all over the mountain are invited to join us every Tuesday morning. We currently have infants to those 12 years old participating regularly with us.

Through field trips around the mountain, we've visited the Forest Service Fire Dept., and Mrs. Borland's farm. We've been to a cattle branding, hiked at the state park, and explored at Lake Henshaw. We've held a poetry recital, and are planning a science fair. Barbara Anne Waite, author of *Elsie's Mountain*, is going to visit with the children as well. Palomar Observatory has also very graciously let us use the Outreach Center for monthly parties and events.

What do we do when we're not learning together? As homeschoolers, you could argue that there is no difference between living and learning. The kids

have had fun sledding, trampolining, playing tag, riding bikes, zip lining, catching frogs and bugs, climbing and collecting rocks. Kid stuff!

The Palomar Mountain Kids Club is also a support group for mountain parents. Homeschooling isn't easy. Parenting isn't easy. Throw those together with living on the mountain, and it's nice to have other parents to talk to and laugh with.

For more information, email PalomarMtnKids@gmail.com, or call Stacy Eriksen at (760) 742-0214.

Come play and learn with us!

**Palomar Mountain
Planning Organization**

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TRAFFIC SAFETY AND THE SNOW EMERGENCY PLAN

By Alan Serry

Motorcycles racing on the South Grade Motorcycle racing continues to be a problem: CHP talks but enforcement is not working. Last Summer there were three fatal accidents. Traffic Safety is working on a document that outlines all the ways we have tried to prevent racing on the South Grade. The PMPO is looking for a person to accept the position of Traffic Safety.

Snow Emergency Plan Every November we hold a Snow Emergency Plan meeting at the Sheriff's Office. This is an interagency task force to introduce new law enforcement and remind the returning agencies about our needs on "Snow Days". The last meeting was well attended and everybody agreed to help, yet the Christmas weekend was totally gridlocked and trespassing was everywhere. Mountain overload: thousands of visitors with no parking, no bathrooms, and no play areas. The Fire Department was gridlocked, unable to move about the mountain for an emergency and residents were left to deal with trespassing on their own.

A Community Meeting was called on short notice and midweek, but still had a great turnout of 55 concerned residents. Thirteen Law Enforcement and First Responders attended from 6 different agencies. The Community shared their stories of previous snow days and the agencies seemed to listen. If we can just reduce the number of cars on the mountain it helps all other problems. Cliff Kellogg, Fire Board President, and CalFire met with the CHP afterward and clearly reminded them "We are capable of handling medical emergencies, but if we cannot get there..."

Results on the next Snow Day: CHP – Sent 4 units (not volunteers), with one at the bottom of each Grade. The officers at the bottom would not allow vehicles up if they did not carry chains and officers on top gave tickets if visitors parked in the roadway. Reminder to residents - Carry mountain identification and chains. Sheriff's – Sent two dedicated units to the mountain all day to deal with trespassing. Reminder to residents – On snow days deputies are just minutes away, call, do not confront. Forest Service – Sent two units and agreed to open the campgrounds and bathrooms. County Road – Out in force as usual and agreed to place "Residents Only" signs up at Crestline and Bailey Meadow; not enforceable, but seemed to work.

PMPO BOARD ELECTIONS

*By Glenn Borland, PMPO Chair
chair@pmpoinfo.com*

The PMPO Board consists of 15 volunteers, five of whom are up for election every year. These elections occur during the Annual General Meeting following the Pancake Breakfast. The next General meeting will be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday May 27, 2017.

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.

This year, five Board seats are due to expire and two are available due to other reasons.

The following seats are available:

1. Heather Beer (expires 2020)
2. Robert Carlyle (expires 2020)
3. Elizabeth Getzoff (expires 2020)
4. Michael Walsh (expires 2020)
5. Glenn Borland (expires 2020)
6. George Evangelo (expires 2019)
7. Donna Dose (expires 2019)