



# PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

Spring 2013 - Volume 24

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

Board Members: Heather Beer, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Donna Dose, George Evangelou (Vice Chair), Brenda Fromlath, Libby Getzoff, Bruce Graves, Doug Lande, George Lucia, Mike Pique (Secretary), Mike Stevens, Linda Thorne (Treasurer), Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh (Chair)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *by Michael Walsh*



Welcome to the 2013 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. If you would like to participate in board activities, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members.

This newsletter captures the essence of the dedicated community service that all of us enjoy here on Palomar Mountain. From the continued professionalism of our Volunteer Fire Department, the ongoing progress at the Community Center, the rebirth of the Boucher Hill Lookout, to the efforts of the Friends of Palomar and great community support to keep the State Park open for future generations, the commitment by the many generous members of this community shines through. In addition, the Board has continued to work closely with the San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) on recommendations to the county's 2020 General Plan revision, and we have reached agreement on most of the PMPO recommendations in support of the community. And we are pleased to report, with thanks again to our former Chair Mike Chesney, that the PMPO has successfully navigated the new IRS requirements regarding reporting requirements of 501(c)(3) organizations, and we are in full compliance.

The PMPO 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 primarily from Palomar Mountain property owners and business persons. As we approach this year's elections scheduled for May 25th, 2013, we would like to reach out to the community and encourage people to consider joining the PMPO Board of Directors (see page 10).

Thanks to all our Officers, George Evangelou (Vice Chair), Linda Thorne (Treasurer), Mike Pique (Secretary), and to all the Board members for your participation on the Board and passion for our Mountain. Recently two of our board members resigned for personal reasons, and we would like to thank both Doug Lande and Mike Stevens for their service to the Palomar community. Special thanks to Heather Beer, Susan Humason, Bonnie Phelps, Donna Dose, all of our article contributors, and everyone who worked hard to get this information out to the community through our annual newsletter and Pancake Breakfast. And finally, thank you to all the members of the Palomar Mountain community who donate their time and treasure to making this community such an honor and a privilege to be a part of – we appreciate it!

Michael Walsh, PMPO Chair      chair@pmpoinfo.com

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTER

*by Bruce Graves*

As I recall, in the early 1970s there was a group of people who thought we ought to have a Volunteer Fire Department. And there was a lot of community support for the idea. We began to have annual fund-raising barbecues to support our newly formed Volunteer Fire Department. San Diego County gave us two WWII surplus engines painted yellow: one had a flat head 6-cylinder Dodge engine with a top speed of 5 miles per hour up the Crestline hill! Money from the annual barbecues held at the Skyline Lodge (located at the end of Crestline Road) continued to build in our bank account. When the lodge was sold we held a couple of barbecues at the Observatory. By this time we began to have some real money so we started to look for property where we could build a Fire Station. *(continued page 10)*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**PMPO**

**Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday**

**May 25, 2013**

**8am-11am  
PMVFD Station**

**Annual Meeting  
to follow Breakfast**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article	Page
Message From the Chair	1
Palomar Mountain Community Center	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Palomar Mountain Community Church	3
PMVFD Report	4
Community Tidbits	5
Boucher Hill Lookout Update	6
Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park	7
Palomar Christian Conference Center	8
Community Emergency Response Team	8
What's New at Palomar Observatory	9
Palomar Mountain Community Safety	10
PMPO Elections	10
Palomar Mountain State Park	11

**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: Heather Beer  
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& Michael Walsh

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Rick Barclay, Micah Beard, Andy Boden,  
Matthew Currie, George Evangelou, Bruce Graves,  
Cliff Kellogg, Jessica Murany, Bonnie Phelps, Linda  
Thorne, Curt Waite, and Michael Walsh

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 Heather Beer at:  
bellacanislupus@gmail.com  
attn: PMPO Newsletter

### Palomar Mountain Planning Organization Treasurer's Report

**Jan 1, 2012 to Dec 31, 2012**

*Submitted by Linda Thorne, Treasurer*



<b>Balance Forward</b>		<b>\$40,274.77</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Interest on Accounts	\$42.84	
Donations	\$3,720.00	
Newsletter Advertising	\$260.00	
Pancake Breakfast	<u>\$347.25</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$4,370.09</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Postal Box	\$56.00	
Newsletter & Postage	\$1014.86	
Pancake Breakfast	\$442.19	
IRS	\$400.00	
Donation To Friends of PMSP	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$4,913.05</b>
 <b>Ending Balance</b>		 <b>\$39,731.81</b>

## Bailey's Palomar Resort

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Bailey's for a special slice of San Diego's back country.  
Bailey's sixty-acre mountaintop environment is a unique  
blend of cool forest and rich meadow.  
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that has changed little over the last 100 years.  
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**PALOMAR MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
*by Matthew Currie*



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 o'clock.

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 continuing our study of the book of Acts in the New Testament.

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  
Palomar Mountain Community Church  
P.O. Box 25, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060



This year, the Fire Safe Council has \$200,000 for use on properties on Palomar Mountain. Those interested in having a site evaluation or any help with their property's fire safety, please contact:

Robert Carlyle  
(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  
-- 2013 Contribution --**

RETURN TO:

PMPO, Box 145

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145

PMPO IS RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL  
AND STATE AUTHORITIES

AS A TAX EXEMPT 501 (C)(3) ORGANIZATION.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

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

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

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

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

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



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

by *Cliff Kellogg*



The PMFVD responded to 128 calls in 2012. We averaged 2.46 calls per week. We responded to 21 motorcycle accidents, 41 medical aid calls, and 25 structure/vegetation fires, ringing alarms and smoke checks, along with public assist calls and traffic hazards. The busiest month was August and our busiest days of the week were Saturdays.

We currently have 23 members. Six members live on the mountain. Eighteen members are EMT's. Most days we are staffing the station with two firefighters. We aim for 3 or more firefighters staffing the station on weekends. We are working with the San Diego County Fire Authority to open up an auxiliary position called Volunteer Support Responder. This position would allow individuals to assist the department with traffic control, station maintenance, incident accountability, etc. If you are interested in participating in the fire department without having to go thru a fire academy and all the other training, this might be a position for you. Give us a call and we can put your name on the list so we can keep you informed when the position is created.

Recently we replaced our old, outdated "Jaws of Life" with new, up-to-date extrication tools that are capable of cutting thru the tougher metals that are found in newer vehicles. Last year we acquired a grant to update our SCBA filling station with new, large capacity bottles to enhance our cascade system for filling the breathing bottles we need for vehicle and structure fires. New monitors to detect dangerous gases have also been purchased with grants.

As I write this we are nearing the finalization of our new site plan for the department property. Once completed, we will be pulling permits for the Community Center upgrades and getting signed off on projects that were started many years ago. We have been working closely with the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services to reach our goals. Our next project is replacing our septic system through a Fire/EMS grant. The new septic system will provide for both the Community Center and the future crew's quarters.

Sadly, Earl Walls, a well-known member of the community of Palomar Mountain and major supporter of the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, passed away last November. Earl had been sponsoring the Firefighter Awards Night every year since 1996 with his barbecue dinners. The family of Earl Walls has notified the department that they will be continuing the tradition again this year in his honor. This will be a special night as we pay tribute to both our firefighters and our Honorary Fire Chief Earl Walls. Please come out and say thank you to the men and women who make up your fire department. The Awards Night will be held on Friday, August 30th, with a meet-and-greet beginning at 5:00 pm.

Firefighter Danielle Doelman has again taken on the annual barbecue fundraiser. This is in addition to her firefighter duties and a paid job along with preparing to attend a Firefighter 1 Academy in September. Obviously she can use all the help she can get, so if you are willing to assist her in organizing and staffing the event please contact Firefighter Doelman at the station. Lately she has been tossing out words like "chiefs", "fingernail polish", "pies", and "orange hair" in the same sentence. Not sure what all of that means but you can find out when you attend the 36th annual Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department barbecue on Saturday, August 31st. This is an important fundraiser so please come out and give the department the support it deserves.

Finally, the creation of the San Diego County Fire Authority in 2008 has brought about many changes that affect San Diego County fire departments in the back country. At the PMPO Annual Meeting, Chief Lucia's scheduled fire department report will have important information that he will present to the community that directly affects the PMVFD. We hope to see you there. Thanks again for your support.

Please go to the PMFD website for information: <http://www.pmvfdca.com/>.

Clifford Kellogg  
Deputy Chief  
Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department



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P.O. Box 235  
Palomar Mountain, CA 92060  
(760) 742-3701 FAX: (760) 742-0574

## MOUNTAIN NEWS

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

## MOUNTAIN YELLOW PAGES

When you need services on Palomar, you might visit the Mountain Yellow Pages. Was your listing on the Yellow Pages and it isn't now? I've had some computer issues and realized that my work pages weren't quite current at one point. If your listing is no longer there, it wasn't intentional. Additions and corrections always welcomed. [www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages](http://www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages)



## VACATION RENTALS ON PALOMAR

The Rental market is really picking up. There are some very fun cabins available for your overflow when you're entertaining. Or, are you thinking of renting your cabin on weekends or holidays when you aren't able to be here? It can be lucrative, especially in the summer, holidays, or snow weekends.

(There is no business like snow business, you know!)

Listing your property as a rental at [www.palomarproperties.com/rentals](http://www.palomarproperties.com/rentals) is a free service.

You can visit that page, and contact Bonnie at (760) 742-1742 with any questions you might have.

## BURN PERMITS

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



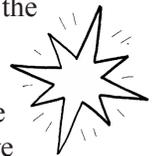
## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

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



## EXPLORE THE STARS

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



## HISTORICAL GEMS

"The Mountain Years"- A new book telling of adventures on Palomar nearly 100 years ago is in the works. Barbara Anne Waite is bringing another delightful book our way. Her grandmother was one of our pioneers and left her journal and letters telling of delightful adventures on Palomar. When it is published, you'll be the first to know on the Mountain News. Also, lots more historical treasures are promised to head our way from Peter Brueggman, publisher of Palomar photographer Robert Asher's "My Palomar." Peter has been recently given Asher's diary and lots more wonderful information. Peter is researching and archiving, and will introduce the links through the Mountain News. Meanwhile there are hours of photos and stories at <http://www.mypalomarmountain.com/historical/> where you'll also want to click on Peter's wonderful archives.

## PICNIC IN THE STATE PARK



Next time you have family or friends up, you might just pack a picnic basket and head over to the State Park. Most of you know about the miles of trails. One of my favorites for kids of all ages is just the loop around Doane Pond. There are tables right there by the pond and a perfect place for a relaxing time around the pond. Good trout fishing in Doane Pond with some great historical sites to discover and lots more right in our own back yard! Have you been in the Ranger Station lately? Stop there for a trail map and more in their interesting mini museum. Visit the park online at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) and click on San Diego County.



## 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.

## DAFFODILS

Every year there are more beautiful daffodils all around Palomar. Cecilia Borland is putting together a co-op order again this year. If you would like to go in on it, the order needs to be placed by the end of July. The shipment we got this year produced such a fabulous variety of flowers. They bloom from March through May and are a flower that the critters leave alone. You just plant them in a sunny location and forget about them. To get in on the fun spreading spring time color simply give Cecilia a call at (760) 742-8716.



## MORE MOUNTAIN TIDBITS...from Bonnie Phelps

### LOCAL HONEY

Local honey has such great health benefits and I do believe Palomar Honey is the best I've ever tasted! The Bailey Family often has honey available. And there is a possibility of even more next year. Mike Stevens has hives headed toward his property and his beekeeper is interested in placing more hives. Would you like hives on your land with the promise of some delicious honey? Just let me know if you are interested, and I will point you in the right direction. Bonnie Phelps (760) 742-1742.



### 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) 742-8716.

### 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 Volunteer Fire Department! Thanks!



## BOUCHER HILL LOOKOUT UPDATE by Curt Waite

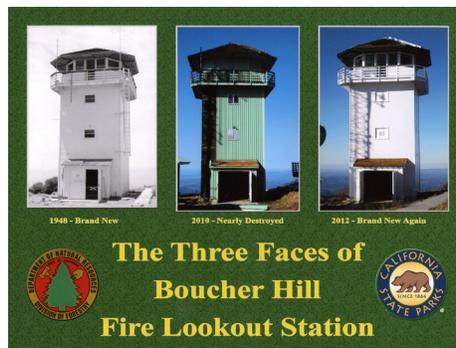
I remember as a sixth-grader at the County School Camp in Doane Valley, taking the long hike up a dusty trail ending at the fire lookout on Boucher Hill. I recall the excitement of climbing up the stairs to the observation cab and being allowed to look through the "big eyes" binoculars. That may have been the impetus that generated the life-long interest I have had in wildland firefighting. Well, the "big eyes" are gone; victim of years of neglect and vandalism, but on May 18 the lookout will once again be opening to eager young visitors and regaining its position as an important fire-detection post for San Diego County.

Taken out of service in 1983, Boucher Hill Lookout sat empty, at the mercy of weather and vandals until very recently. As part of an arrangement to turn the lookout over to State Parks, Cal Fire began renovation to restore the lookout to its original 1948 condition. In November of 2011 Palomar Mountain State Park took possession of the lookout from Cal Fire. Through a

partnership agreement with State Parks, the Forest Fire Lookout Association San Diego-Riverside Chapter (FFLA-SDRC), took over the job of returning the tower to its original function as a "fixed-point fire detection station." This involved completing the job of restoring the upper floor cab (cleaning, painting, cabinet work), repairing and installing the Osborne fire finder, and establishing radio communications with the fire dispatch center of the Cleveland National Forest, much of which lies within the areas overseen by the lookout. There is still a lot of work to

be done on the grounds, water system, and interior. An interpretive museum is planned for the lower floors.

FFLA-SDRC not only helped to restore the lookout, but will also be staffing it with volunteers who will also be State Park volunteers. Having completed two weekends of training this month, the 70 new volunteers, many of them recruited from FPMSP contacts, will begin their in-tower training in May at High Point lookout east of the observatory (restored and opened by FFLA-SDRC in 2009). By the time Boucher Hill lookout opens on May 18, there will be a group of professionally trained fire lookouts ready stand watch over the mountain. The lookout will also function as an historical interpretive site and excited kids (and adults) will once more be able to climb the stairs and get a feel for what it is like to be a fire lookout, standing guard to protect the mountain from fires.



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# FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

*by Rick Barclay*

It's been one year since Palomar Mountain State Park was saved from permanent closure. For anyone not familiar, the story actually started two years ago when, in the spring of 2011, California State Parks named 70 parks --- including Palomar --- that were to be permanently shuttered. But by the end of spring 2012, through the generosity and hard work of a lot of people, Palomar made it through its darkest hour and was snatched off the chopping block. How did this happen?

A citizen cavalry pulled together and made it their mission to save the park we love. The Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park (FPMSP) was formed, vice-chaired by PMPO's very own chair Michael Walsh. Its immediate objective: to keep Palomar open by raising enough money to cover the park's operating deficit for the next three years, anticipated to be \$38,000 per year. The pledges and contributions that we received --- including many from Palomar folk and a substantial donation from the PMPO --- allowed our organization to clinch the deal we had proposed to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to keep Palomar open. What a change from one spring to the next!

And what a change from last spring to this spring! With the threat of Palomar's closure in abeyance, we've put those early anxious days behind us and raised our sights, looking beyond merely covering the park's operating deficit. Through the generosity of our donors, we've been able to exceed the amount needed just to keep the park open. In fact, since our efforts began, we've raised over \$190,000 from a variety of sources, including individuals, corporations and foundations.

Some of this money, of course, is allocated to fulfill our contractual obligation to the state to keep Palomar open. But increasingly it's being used to improve the park. Our focus now is on helping the park financially so that it can reach its full potential of becoming a top tier California state park.

The park's to-do list --- especially its deferred maintenance list --- is long, having been put on the back burner for years due to lack of funds, there being barely enough money available just to keep the doors open. But every month the list gets shorter as one task after another is scratched off.

Examples: Improving the campgrounds by replacing worn - out food lockers, BBQs, shower controls and fixtures. Buying new doors for the bathrooms and shower buildings. Buying a computer and projector for the ranger to use for educational and interpretive programs. Replacing worn-out tools for our volunteer trail maintenance unit with new and better ones. **Not a single one of these improvements would have been possible without the support of our donors.**

And support for the park hasn't just been monetary. For example, the park's volunteer trail maintenance unit has grown four-fold since before the threat of closure. Another example: employees of Harrah's-Rincon Casino & Resort --- on their own personal time and organized through the casino's HERO program --- have devoted over 90 hours towards replacing dilapidated doors on the park's decades-old restroom and shower buildings. Yet another example: through a the sponsorship of the California State Parks Foundation's "Park Champions" program, volunteers have contributed over 300 hours of service removing invasive plants, grooming trails, repairing trail heads and removing blown down trees and limbs.

But one shouldn't get the impression that park staff and administration are simply standing by accepting this largesse from the community. On the contrary, they have renewed their efforts to keep the park in tip-top shape and, as important, to make sure there is staff to collect the day use fees the park deserves. As a result, the deficit for this fiscal year (which began July 1, 2012) could turn out to be lower than projected.

With all this rosy news, there's a risk that people may conclude that future contributions are no longer needed. But nothing could be further from the truth. Plans are being drawn up for a variety of projects, programs and features that will provide visitors with the fulfilling experiences they deserve when they visit Palomar Mountain State Park. These projects cannot be paid for unless everyday citizens step up and chip in. We will strive to take advantage of any tax dollars Palomar may have a shot at to supplement funding for these projects, but the fact is that the lion's share of funding to improve and enhance Palomar will have to come from the community.

Finally, if you haven't visited Palomar Mountain State Park lately, I invite you to do so. And I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to PMPO and every reader who has helped support our local treasure --- Palomar Mountain State Park, "a wonderful place to visit in our fast times"

We would like to thank and acknowledge CRSPIA, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association for all of their help and assistance. 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).

Rick Barclay, Chairman  
Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park



Friends of  
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



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# PALOMAR CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

by Micah Beard

“I love free time!” “This place is so peaceful and inviting.” “I have never been on such a beautiful hike.” “The food is amazing!” “Look at that view.” “I feel so close to God here.”

These are just a few comments you may hear from guests at Palomar Christian Conference Center. Snuggled in the trees inside Palomar State Park, the conference center hosts over 12,000 guests each year. Churches, schools, small groups, pastors, and many others from around our area come to the conference center to get away from the hustle and bustle of the busyness of the

city to see God revealed through His creation. Guests are so amazed how they feel the presents of God while they are here. With activities like hiking, zip lining, trail rides, paint ball, swimming, archery, and a rifle range, guests can enjoy every moment of their time on the mountain.

PCCC welcomed a new Executive Director, Micah Beard, in October 2012. Micah Beard and his family came to Palomar from Texas, and are loving every moment in their new mountain home. Micah and his family are settling into the mountain and are enjoying the

southern California weather.

PCCC is preparing now for the upcoming summer season. Summer opportunities involve Girl’s Horse Camp for ages 9-17 and a Boy’s Outdoor Adventure Camp for ages 11-16. For information about both girl’s and boy’s camps, visit our website at [www.pccc.org](http://www.pccc.org).

The conference center would also like to invite the community to participate in a few of our summer free time activities: zip line and swimming, this summer. For more details about times and availability of these activities, please call the conference center at (760) 742-3400.



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## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) by Cliff Kellogg

Captain Greg van Idsinga assumed the role of CERT Coordinator for the department last year when Bill Leininger had to leave due to work commitments. A big “Thank You” goes out to Bill for his hard work and dedication in making our CERT team what it is today.

The CERT response truck was stored at the fire station this winter with plans to have it back at the Observatory for the summer to allow the CERT team to staff it quicker during an emergency. This vehicle is capable of applying fire gel in large quantities and is outfitted with basic rescue equipment. Our team is the only CERT group with such a well-equipped vehicle. Recently CERT has been training on basic rescue and first aid as well as specialized firefighter rehabilitation: providing firefighters with immediate medical attention including rehydration, treatment for smoke inhalation, and the prevention of such life-threatening conditions as heatstroke and heart attack. Future training plans include coordinated training with the firefighters to learn what their needs are to assist in making their job easier and safer.

Get prepared now for the upcoming fire season and check out [www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org), which has information on assisting you in fire prevention and safety. And don’t forget to get a copy of the Red Guide to Recovery for post-disaster information at [www.theredguidetorecover.com](http://www.theredguidetorecover.com).



If you are interested in becoming a CERT member please contact the fire station for additional information.

*Thank you for your support.*

21610 Crestline Rd., P.O. Box 235 Palomar Mountain, CA 92060 • Phone: (760) 742-3701 – Fax: (760) 742-0574

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

**Thank you for entrusting me with so many wonderful properties over the years.**  
**Your business and referrals are sincerely appreciated.**

**Bonnie Phelps 760 742-1742 [www.PalomarProperties.com](http://www.PalomarProperties.com)**

**[www.MyPalomarMountain.com](http://www.MyPalomarMountain.com) and [www.PalomarMountainNews.com](http://www.PalomarMountainNews.com) DRE #01293655**

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## WHAT'S NEW AT PALOMAR OBSERVATORY *by Andy Boden*



Dear Palomar Friends and Neighbors,

We are excited and thankful for the opportunity to share news of happenings at Palomar Observatory in 2013!

Let me start with a historical perspective. March 2013 was the 50th anniversary of a milestone astronomical discovery made with the 200-inch Hale Telescope at Palomar Observatory—the identification of “quasars” or quasi-stellar radio sources. Even though ‘radio’ is in the name, these objects are bright in the visible part of the spectrum as well (the light we see with our own eyes). In March 1963 Caltech astronomer Maarten Schmidt made a measurement of a source with the funny name 3C 273 using the Palomar 200-inch telescope. The analysis of this measurement made it clear that quasars were at very large distances—and were thus very bright—trillions of times brighter than the Sun (really)! Quasars remained a curiosity until we started to discover other kinds of variable, highly luminous distant objects. All this zoology led to a gradual realization that all these incredibly bright sources (termed Active Galactic Nuclei or AGN) were driven by a common mechanism—the swallowing of gas by “supermassive” black holes (millions to billions of times the mass of the Sun) in the centers of these galaxies. We now understand that most major galaxies (including our own Milky Way) have supermassive black holes at their centers. The recognition that black holes are in the cores of essentially all major galaxies raises an important “chicken or egg” question: whether such black holes result from or actually seed the formation of galaxies. Either way, the resulting galaxy creates a cosmic incubator where multiple generations of stars can generate heavy elements and eventually create conditions conducive for planet formation and (at least our version of) life. And Prof. Schmidt's pioneering spectroscopic study of 3C 273 at Palomar started it all. For this work Prof. Schmidt was awarded the 2008 Kavli Prize for Astrophysics.

While on the subject of award-winning research, in the past year Caltech astronomer Mike Brown received the 2012 Kavli Prize for Astrophysics for the Palomar discovery of icy bodies in the outer Solar System. In 2001 Brown began using the Palomar 48-inch Samuel Oschin telescope and a CCD-camera known as QUEST to search for small bodies beyond the planet Neptune. Using QUEST, Brown was extremely successful—among Brown's discoveries of several “Trans-Neptunian objects” was a particularly large object named Eris (after the Greek goddess of discord), roughly the same size and mass as the planet Pluto [the informal name for this object used by the discovery team was actually Xena, after the cult TV show *Xena: Warrior Princess*]. Brown's discovery of Eris and other icy bodies at Palomar made it clear that there could be tens of objects in the outer Solar System similar to Eris and Pluto. Faced with the prospect of such a large proliferation of Solar System “planets,” the International Astronomical Union (IAU) redefined the term ‘planet’ in 2006 such that Pluto no longer qualified as one, reducing the Solar System planet count to eight. This decision was publicly controversial, which explains the choice of ‘Eris’ as a name for the party crasher. Brown good-naturedly revels in his status as a geeky iconoclast. But the discovery of Eris and demotion of Pluto to “minor planet” status points the way to a much richer understanding of the Solar System formation and architecture where Pluto, Eris, and other objects belong to a different dynamical family than the eight remaining planets. Just like Mike, when your friends complain of Pluto's demotion, at least you can take pride in the fact that this ground-breaking research was done at Palomar!

Fast-forwarding to this year, one notable example of the ongoing research at Palomar is the first measurements using a new spectroscopic instrument on the 200-inch—an “integral-field spectrograph” capable of measuring the different colors of light from planets around other stars. In March 2013, the first such measurement was published by a team led by instrument developer Ben Oppenheimer, measuring the spectra of the four planets around a nearby star with another funny name—HR 8799—in the summer constellation Pegasus. Palomar astronomers are hard at work trying to find other alien solar systems, and measure the properties of the planets there. You can find more information on this research at <http://www.caltech.edu/content/astronomers-observe-planets-around-another-star-never>

Work going on at the observatory includes gearing up for a bit of “routine maintenance” that we perform every three years or so—the recoating of the 200-inch mirror with a new reflective layer of aluminum. This fall we will actually be removing the 15-ton “primary” mirror from the telescope and replacing the reflective coating using a special-purpose (and very large!) tank nearby in the 200-inch telescope dome. Unfortunately the observatory must be closed to visitors for this maintenance, but the extraordinary care and expertise of the Palomar Observatory staff in this work is truly a wonder to behold—so much so we have put a time-lapse movie of this work from 2006 on the web at: <http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/aluminization.html>

If you have an interest in engineering or heavy machinery, and a high-bandwidth computer connection the movies at this site are very fun to watch!

Last but certainly not least, I am happy to report that Palomar Observatory recently (13 April) opened its Public Tour program for the 2013 season. The observatory is privileged to host tens of thousands of visitors each year, and on the weekends we offer behind-the-scenes tours of the 200-inch telescope. In conducting these tours we at the observatory are so fortunate to partner with a very special group of people—our Palomar Observatory Docents. Our Docents and our supporting Observatory Staff are incredibly knowledgeable on Palomar telescope history, personable, good-looking, and are a delight to come and talk to! If you haven't visited the Observatory recently (or even if you have) we encourage you to stop in for a look around. Find out more about visiting Palomar Observatory at <http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/visiting.html>

In closing I'll repeat myself from last year: we at the Observatory are thankful for the continuing support of the Palomar Mountain community for the Observatory and its research, education, and public outreach missions. With all sincere best wishes to our Palomar neighbors, now and in the future.

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

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTER, *continued from page 1*



After much study and discussion we were able to buy the first two acres of our existing Fire Station. Now we had our own place to park our engines and hold our barbecues. About this time, I think it was in the early eighties, we began to think about the need for a Community Center. And so when we had enough money to start our building campaign the slogan was FIRE STATION / COMMUNITY CENTER. We were able to get a permit but not for a fire station, only for a place to store vehicles. The building went up. It had a dirt floor at first. As new money came in we were able to put in gravel and finally cement. We learned we needed a grading permit for the work we had done to make a pad for our building. And so we tried to get one. No luck! Someone at the County had discovered we did not have legal access to our property. Our two acres is set back about 40 feet from East Grade Road: our driveway goes across the Iverson property to reach the road. There was no way we could get permits for anything!

Time went by and I think everybody looked the other way, including the County. Then about 2008 a materials-only \$50,000 grant became available, to renovate the house on the property and make it a better Community Center. We took the materials and did the work ourselves. At the time we believed we would not need a permit because we were not going to make any footprint or structural changes. We later learned that the County had decided they could not provide grant money for a project that did not have a permit. We of course could not get a permit because

we did not have legal access. However, in late 2010 a stroke of great good fortune occurred. Through the work of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization and the generosity of the Iverson family, the Iverson property was gifted to us. We now have legal access and permits are possible!

As soon as the money required to file for the permits became available we began the process. County inspectors will be on the property doing the work necessary to approve our permits. We must not be in violation of any San Diego County codes. And this is why the Fire Fighters must move out of the modular building and into the Community Center. By code, no one is allowed to use the modular building for living quarters. However the modular

building can and is being used for Community Center purposes. We are also applying for the Community Center permit to satisfy the completion of the \$50,000 grant. This will allow us to again apply for future grants to further improve the Community Center. Also the modular building will be upgraded to allow the Fire Fighters to again use it. We had hoped the whole process would take less than a year. But it has been over a year now. The latest word from the County Building Inspector Kristina Jeffers, who looks after our project, is that we are shooting for a May / June completion date.

Thanks for your patience!



Bruce Graves  
PMVFD and  
CCPM Board Member

A message from the Vice-Chair:

### PMPO BOARD ELECTIONS *by George Evangelou*

It's almost that time - the community's chance to get together and elect their representatives at our upcoming annual meeting on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Each year five of the fifteen seats on the board come up for election. This year the terms of board members Donna Dose (18 years service), George Evangelou (3 years), Bruce Graves (25 years), George Lucia (3 years), and Doug Lande (3 years), will be expiring.

We will be seeking new board members to move the objectives of the PMPO forward. The opportunity to be a member of the board is open to anyone over 18 who is a property owner on the mountain, a resident on the mountain, the owner of a business that serves the residents on Palomar Mountain, or a 'user' of the mountain's camping opportunities. (*See Section 5.2 of the Bylaws*).

Doug Lande has moved off the mountain, and will be unable to serve, and Mike Stevens has informed the Board that he is resigning to deal with personal matters. All of the other incumbent members are willing to serve our community for another term. That leaves us with a total of six empty seats, and only four incumbents running for office, so it's time for some of you who are interested in taking a larger part in your community affairs to 'step up to the plate' (at more than the pancake breakfast).

Up until May 17, 2013, (eight days before the Board Meeting) any qualified person seeking election to the board who submits their name to me will see their name in print on the ballot! Because there are not already enough candidates to fill the seats, nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the Board Meeting, so if you can't get your nominations to me on time, come to the meeting and we'll just write your name in on the ballot! Not as pretty, but just as good!

My e-mail address is e-law@cox.net. I look forward to hearing from you, and I'll see you on Saturday May 25, 2013 at the Pancake Breakfast, which starts at 8am. The Meeting and Election starts at 11am, after the pancake breakfast.

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## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK *by Ranger Jessica Murany*

Thanks to the invaluable Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park, park #68 of the State Park system will remain open to the public and our beautiful, mile-high park will remain open for everyone to enjoy. But with all the focus on the park remaining open for people to camp, hike and picnic in, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that keeping the park open will also ensure the preservation of its special flora and fauna. Palomar Mountain State Park will continue to be well managed, keeping all of its features in mind in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental composition.

Have you ever looked at a map and wondered why "Doane Valley" --- which makes up a huge chunk of the park --- is called "Doane Valley Natural Preserve"? That's because it's in a special class of land, "a protected area of importance for wildlife, flora, fauna or features of geological or other special interest." In the preserve, our rare and endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems are protected so the natural dynamics of ecological interaction continue without interference. The preserve is managed for conservation and to provide special opportunities for scientific research study by staff, Fish and Game, and Universities. While the rest of the park is set aside for humans, Doane Valley Natural Preserve is actually set aside for plants and animals first - people are merely permitted to enter. Although not all the park is a preserve, there are many species of plants and animals scattered throughout that are worth preserving and protecting, and that are facing increasing environmental challenges to thrive on the mountain. Some species of high interest are the lemon lilies whose population started diminishing in the early 20th century when early homesteaders sold and shipped the bulbs all over the world. Palomar Mountain State Park has the only known lemon lily population on the Palomar Peninsular Range. The only other areas where lemon lilies are found are Mt. San Jacinto, and the mountains of Arizona and Northern Mexico. Last year the park had only 15 blooming plants. Hopefully with park staff and volunteer work, we will see these numbers grow.

Palomar also provides habitat for the large-blotched ensatina, a small salamander. This salamander is currently a U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species and a California Species of Special Concern. On the reptilian side of things, the mountain king snake is found here in the park and is on the Region Federal Special Concern species (FSC) and protected as a California Special Concern species (DFG-CSC). Both species have diminishing populations due to climate change, collection, and habitat destruction. There are many species in this park to preserve, and all are invaluable.

Climate change has been showing signs of taking its toll here on park resources. Several of our Big Cone Douglas Fir trees ranging in 200-300 years of age fell in the past year and a half, possibly due to weakness and disease which kick in from lack of rainfall. Looking at rainfall records over the past two years in 2011 we only received an estimated 17.41 inches of rain overall. In 2012, we received 14.43 inches of rain overall. This year we are seeing a high number of oaks losing healthy limbs after snowfall, which we are led to believe is caused by lack of rainfall causing the trees to weaken. The mountain on average used to receive 30 inches of rain per year.

Boucher Lookout - Last year was the Boucher Fire Lookout's first year back in service after renovations. 16 volunteers took turns manning the tower and reported smoke to both State Parks dispatch and Cleveland National Forest Dispatch, and reported law enforcement-related incidents to me. On weekends they opened the tower to park visitors, provided interpretation about tower history and gave tours. They averaged 65 visitors a day. Last year the tower was staffed a total of 25 days, reported smoke for 4 incidents, and gave tours to 1,438 visitors. This year, we are looking at having a whopping 80 Boucher Lookout Volunteers to man the tower. See Curt Waite's article for more information.

Events - Palomar Mountain State Park's second annual apple festival in October was a great success despite the weather being cold, drizzly, with dense fog. More than 400 people braved the weather to participate in arts and craft projects, to see fiber arts demonstrations and crochet work in progress, and to listen to a guided hike by State Historian, Alex Bevil. Younger participants of the festival had the opportunity to participate in an apple pie eating contest, which was hilarious! To satisfy everyone's belly, many volunteers baked their hearts out to share apple baked goods with the visitors; also the Christian Conference Center provided a great bowl of "Mountain Chili." I shall not forget that the participants also made their own apple cider using our two presses, as demonstrated by a former park employee Dave Robarts. What really added to the ambience of the event and to its success was the period music played by the "Palomar Pickers."

Volunteer Groups - The California State Parks Foundation has graciously provided volunteers, through their Park Champions program, for work days here at the park. Thus far we've had two successful work day events, one focusing on invasive species eradication and the second focusing on trails. Thanks to our Park Champions who've helped the State Park remove almost 1,000 non-native plants in the park and have improved and beautified roughly 5 miles of hiking trails out of our 14 miles of trails overall. In addition, our Trail Maintenance Unit headed up by Rick Barclay continues their monthly trail work to help provide a safe hiking experience for the park visitors. The Harrah's Casino has provided volunteer assistance as well in the area of skilled carpentry. This volunteer group - the Harrah's Heroes - has been working on replacing dilapidated doors on restroom buildings in campgrounds, work that has been much needed for a long time. All volunteers are our heroes!

Park Staff - Like everyone else, we are up to our necks in work. Palomar staffing is just as bare bone as it was in the 70s-90s; however, today we receive over 100,000 visitors annually from all over the world. Our staff comprises one ranger, one full-time maintenance person, one part-time senior park aide, and two seasonal park aides who work four months out of the year. We rely on our volunteers to carry some of the weight so that we can focus on the bigger issues or repairs. Looking at the law enforcement side of things, some common issues I deal with are noise complaints, drunk people, occasional narcotics possession, overdue hikers, injuries on trails, possession of weapons, domestic disputes, poaching, Search and Rescues, and vandalism. Unfortunately, we even had a Grand Theft last year of a \$1,500 interpretive sign for the viewing deck at the Boucher tower. Being the lead Ranger, I also handle all of the park administration, report of collections, and coordinate all 117 volunteers – comparable to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park’s volunteer base. I also write up project proposals, I coordinate work days and events, I pick apples and bake goodies ... basically, I make things happen, or at least try to, and my list never ends.

We are graciously utilizing SDG&E grant money this year to hire a seasonal park interpreter. We are trying our hand with a new pilot program called the Palomar Outdoor Youth Challenge, a collaborative program developed by Rick Barclay, SDG&E, and myself. The focus is to bring inner city, low income, or high risk kids to the park for a little outdoor experience and education on the park’s natural and cultural resources. The interpreter will educate the children during guided hikes and while doing various activities. Our objective is for each child to walk away with a new value and appreciation for nature. Something they will retain lifelong.

New Improvements - This year we should be seeing some work done around Doane Pond to remove cattails and possibly rebuild/repair of the old foot bridge. A new park entrance sign is on order for Nathaniel Harrison Grade, built out of park resources by Scott Jordan, a Cuyamaca Rancho State Park maintenance worker, on his own time. Renovations will be done soon to the water line supplying the Boucher Lookout Tower that was damaged during the 2007 fires, and more improvements and repair work will happen this year in the campgrounds. Additionally, keep your fingers crossed, we hope to receive grant money this year to install a real irrigation system in our historic apple orchard to keep our trees thriving, our homestead history living, and our festivals continuing.

Progress is our goal and our success is the smiling faces!



*Lemon Lilly, Lillium Parryi  
(photo by Michelle Hernandez)*



*Western Azalea, Rhododendron occidental  
(photo by Jessica Murany)*

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

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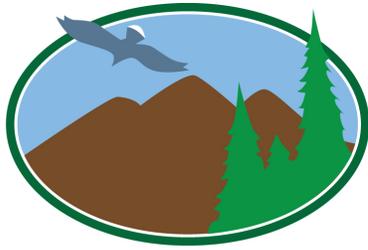


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We couldn't have done it  
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## **Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Annual Meeting**

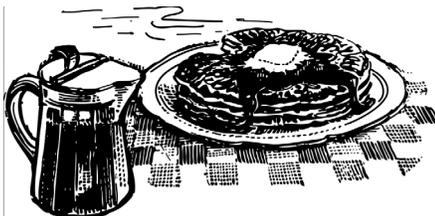
**Breakfast 8am-11am • Annual Meeting immediately follows Breakfast @ 11am**

**Saturday, May 25th, 2013**

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

**COME JOIN US!**

Come Join Us! Help is wanted and needed on Friday, May 24th to help set up for the breakfast on Saturday.  
If you can help out in any way, please contact Bruce Graves at (760) 742-3027 or Email: [bg4two@gmail.com](mailto:bg4two@gmail.com).  
*Thank you for your support and help.*