



# PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

Spring 2018 - Volume 29

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

**Board Members:** Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, James Ewen, Libby Getzoff, Don Grant, Sue Hanson, Rosemary Johnston, Katie Michelmores, Mike Pique (Secretary), Alan Serry, Elizabeth Tainer (alternate), Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh (Vice Chair), Jack Weisgerber

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Glenn Borland



Welcome to the 2018 edition of the PMPO newsletter. The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization is a nonprofit 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 that are elected to three-year terms. Five member positions come up for election every year and candidates are drawn from Palomar Mountain residents, 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@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:secretary@pmpoinfo.com).

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

Palomar CERT under the leadership of Bill Leininger continues its monthly training schedule. Personal preparedness and safety are the themes of the current meetings.

Weekend South Grade and East Grade traffic has improved due to the efforts

of Alan Serry and Burt Hulbert. On the subject of South Grade, have you noticed the 'Highway to the Stars' signs. Again thanks to Alan Serry for coordinating that effort with Valley Center.

Staffing of the fire station by the San Diego County Fire Authority continues to be exceptional. Thanks to Captain Dean Kowalski and all of the fire fighters who staff the station. Funding has been set aside for the construction of the new crew quarters and planning for the new building is under way. The PMPO also wishes to thank the Palomar Mountain Fire Department and CalFire for the use of their facilities as a venue for our various board activities as well as other community events.

The Fire Safe Council continues to support the community by sponsoring workshops and safety courses. Unlike last year, rain fall this year has been very light. Serious commitments to fire prevention and brush clearing on our properties must remain a high priority. An important part of preparedness is the maintenance of our access roads. The Fire Safe Council is currently working with land owners and the PMFD to

ascertain where work needs to be done. 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.

For those of you who spend time on the mountain, you may have noticed a lot more children than in the past. Check out the Kids Club Update to keep track of this encouraging trend.

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, editors Mike Pique and Libby Getzoff, and Katie Michelmores who wrangled all of the contributors and advertisers to put together a coherent package. Many thanks for their hard work.

And to all of the other people that have contributed to the activities of the PMPO: a hearty thanks.

## Annual Pancake Breakfast and PMPO Annual Meeting

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

**Saturday, May 26th, 2018**

**COME JOIN US!**

**at the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Station**

21610 Crestline Road • Palomar Mountain, CA 92060

**\$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: Katie Michelmore

Publisher: Susan Humason

Proof Readers: Libby Getzoff & Michael Pique

Photography: Michael Pique

Article Contributors:

Thank you to all contributors who make this newsletter possible.

Assemblers:

Thanks go out to the individuals, especially Michael Pique, who 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](mailto:chair@pmpoinfo.com)

attn: PMPO Newsletter

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## Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

### TREASURER'S REPORT

2017 - 2018



*By Michael J. Walsh, PMPO Treasurer*

The financial status of the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization remains strong and stable, consistent with the past several years.

The 2017 Pancake Breakfast was another successful event, thanks to our many volunteers led by Donna Dose. In 2017, the PMPO was the grateful recipient of 18 generous donations from our supporters, totaling \$3,465.00. Donations to the PMPO are tax deductible, and along with the acknowledgment letters sent to all our donors, we also included our tax-exempt information.

	January 2017	January 2018	Difference
Checking	\$11,475.88	13,439.34	+1963.46
Savings	<u>33,375.47</u>	<u>33,391.56</u>	<u>+16.09</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,851.35</b>	<b>46,830.90</b>	<b>+1,979.55</b>

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# 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 -- 2018 Contribution --

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# 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.



2017-2018 Board of Directors



## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ANYONE?

"If you would like to receive the PMPO annual newsletter electronically in the future, please email [newsletter@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:newsletter@pmpoinfo.com) and let us know.

Your email address will not be shared or distributed in any way."



Friends of  
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

# FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK ANNUAL REPORT



By *Rosemary Johnston & Michael J. Walsh*

Palomar Mountain State Park (PMSP) continues to draw attention for its unique features and to attract visitors for camping, hiking, and fishing. In the past year, an update of Jerry Schad's Afoot and Afield in San Diego County by author Scott Turner cited the park as Turner's favorite hiking place in the county. He named the Doane Valley Nature Trail his favorite footpath in the county! "Every step of the way is absolutely gorgeous," he wrote.

This past year we have been blessed to work with Will Myest, the seasonal park interpreter whom the Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park funds. Will has been able to present talks to more than 1,800 park visitors since July. He has also produced a 20 page report detailing, not only the role of a park interpreter, but photographs of some of the plants and wildlife that inhabit the park, and data on park visitors. He has also suggested creating an interpretive

panel about George Doane, after whom the pond, campground, and nearby valley is named; a visitor center; an interpretive plan with short and long-range goals, a revamped campfire amphitheater, and a heightened social media presence.

We recently learned that Gina Moran, a 30 year veteran with state government who joined the district as a senior environmental scientist three years ago, has been named district superintendent of the Colorado Desert District, which includes PMSP, Anza Borrego State Park, Salton Sea State Recreation Area, Picacho State Recreation Area, and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The district has been operating with an interim superintendent for more than a year, which has slowed progress on a number of improvements the Friends of PMSP would like to see at the park. We are hoping we can move

forward on developing a visitor center in the park ranger residence nearest the campground in the next year or two. But be patient—design and plan approval by the Department of Parks and Recreation will take some time as well as some fundraising by Friends of PMSP. This past year, we were able to repave some roads in the park, rebuild a ramada around the pond, and do some work at the Boucher lookout.

We also had a very successful Apple Festival again this year with almost a thousand visitors, and we are looking forward to creating incentives for Palomar Mountain residents to visit the park, even if they don't camp there, and attend Will's presentations. We appreciate the support of Palomar residents and visitors and look forward to seeing more of you at San Diego's best hiking place!



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## HIGHWAY TO THE STARS



By *Alan Serry*

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization has been working with Traffic Engineering at the San Diego County Department of Public Works to restore the "HIGHWAY TO THE STARS" signs up the South Grade to the Observatory. The original signs were installed in 1947 on the route the 200-inch mirror arrived that same year. The Valley Center Historical Society and the VC Planning group have been involved in this project. A 70th Anniversary Ceremony occurred in November when the new signs were installed.

The signs are a very accurate reproduction of the original in all ways: size, design, and lettering. The PMPO has paid for the signs installed by the County, and large and small copies of these signs are now available at the Palomar Mountain General Store. Please support the Palomar Mountain community!



# REPORT FROM THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

The County of San Diego has completed the required environmental studies, obtained funding, and is currently drawing up plans for the new crew quarters to be constructed behind the fire station. Also in the plan are widening and paving of the driveway around the building, enhancement of the disabled access to the community center, and a permanently installed generator to power all the buildings in an emergency. Once the project is complete, the Palomar Mountain Community Center will be turned back over to the community and the firefighters will have new, modern living quarters. In addition, a \$65,000.00 septic system was installed

last summer that will service both the community center and the future crew quarters.

Now that our station is a “career station”, County Fire is providing us 24/7 staffing with CalFire firefighters and paramedics. Palomar Mountain is a training hub for the new county reserves so our community will often see two paid, full time, career firefighters plus one or two reserves each day. We recently learned that a new tactical water tender is headed our way and may be in place by the time you read this.

The Palomar Mountain fire board continues to work 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 at the station. Attending board meetings is the best way to get accurate information on current happenings with the fire department. Get involved! There are three board positions opening up this fall.

Also, don’t forget the fire department sponsors an active CERT organization currently under the leadership of Bill Leininger. Community members are welcome to apply for membership in CERT and learn valuable skills that could make a difference during a disaster. CERT and department information is available on our website at Palomar-Fire.org.

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

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

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## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN MUTUAL WATER COMPANY *By Joanne Marugg, President*

In order to continue providing our shareholders with pristine water when the taps are turned on, the Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company is looking forward to the installation of a new 40 thousand gallon water tank to replace the old storage tank.

The continued drought brings to mind the need for shareholders to continue conservation efforts. Outside irrigation with sprinklers or irrigation systems is not allowed. No car washing. Installing low-volume toilets and low flow showers is highly recommended. Most importantly, if you see water running down the road, spot a water leak or have water delivery issues please contact our system operator Mike Probert at 760-207-7779 (cell phone) or 858-494-1020 (pager).

The annual meeting for shareholders is held every year on Labor Day at the Palomar fire station. All shareholders are encouraged to attend. At the annual meeting, shareholders learn about the latest water testing and well data reports along with additional improvement projects. Shareholders are also welcome to attend the monthly board meeting every second Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM at the water company building. For additional information, visit our web site at [www.palomarmountainwater.com](http://www.palomarmountainwater.com).

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

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# PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

## UPDATE 2018



*By Steve Flanders,  
Public Affairs Coordinator*

A year ago, in partnership with the Palomar Mountain Community Center (<http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/homepage.html>), we held a spring star party and desert potluck at the Outreach Center (<http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/community/friends/outreach.html>). For this year, I'd like to suggest we schedule another star party in the middle of September, this time featuring Four Bright Planets and the Moon. We'll do a presentation along with the potluck and then have telescopes set up behind the Outreach Center.

### **Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF)**

Some time ago, Carl Sagan famously told his audience that "we are made of star stuff." In context, Sagan's meaning became clear: The Universe began with a vast release of energy that synthesized hydrogen and lesser amounts of helium and other elements. Subsequently, all of the elements we see around us, all of the things need to sustain our environment, even to sustain life itself, were synthesized in later high-energy events such as supernovae, neutron star mergers, and the like.

In a general sense, the mission of science is to examine and understand our physical world. A key task in that mission is to understand the origins and evolution of the environment that surrounds us and of which we are made. To do this, we need to observe and analyze the Universe's most energetic events, in which all of its constituent elements are being made.

But many of the most scientifically valuable events in this category are visible only for short periods of time. One Caltech researcher has estimated that a supernova explodes once every second somewhere in the Universe. These events brighten and fade quickly and, until now, all but a small proportion have gone undetected and unrecorded.

Using a new generation camera along with extensive upgrades to the 48" Samuel Oschin Telescope, Caltech's ZTF project

(<http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/homepage.html>) is creating a database of everything that changes night-to-night in Palomar's sky. The telescope will photograph the

plane of the Milky Way twice each night and the entire sky once every three days. Tens of thousands of transients – supernovae, binaries, active galaxies – will be recorded each night. A portion of these discoveries will be examined using the Observatory's 60-inch telescope and the objects found to be most scientifically interesting will be passed to the Hale Telescope for detailed spectrographic analysis.

ZTF saw first light on November 1, 2017 and, operating robotically, is now collecting data every clear night of the year.

### **The Visitor Center and Museum**

By the end of 2017, we had completed four projects in support of the refurbishment of the Visitor Center (<http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/homepage.html>) and Museum:

- The establishment of the Eleanor Helin Exhibit with the 18" Schmidt Telescope.
- The addition of the ViewSpace display from the Space Telescope Science Institute.
- The completion of the Luskin Virtual Presence Kiosk, a multimedia center displaying live camera images from the dome of Hale Telescope along with topical videos and slideshows.
- The installation of 30 new posters that detail the achievements of the Observatory's science mission.

Now work on the Visitor Center has ended with the completion of a fifth project, the reconfiguration and modernization of the displays in the vestibule. This space has been repainted, the guestbook has been repositioned, and three large panels now offer images and descriptions intended to welcome our visitors to the Observatory and introduce them to the world-class science that is done here.

### **LIGO and Gravitational Waves**

Gravitational waves are "ripples" in space-time caused by the most violent and energetic processes in the Universe. In 1916, Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves in his general theory of relativity. He showed that massive accelerating objects – neutron stars and black holes orbiting each other – would disrupt space-time, generating waves of distorted space that would radiate from the source and travel through the Universe at the speed of light. Astronomers realized that ripples of this sort would carry information about their origins and perhaps even clues to nature of gravity itself. But until recently few believed it possible ever to detect and measure gravitational waves directly.

Continued on Page 7

## PALOMAR OBSERVATORY (CONTINUED)

With the participation of Caltech, LIGO ([www.ligo.caltech.edu](http://www.ligo.caltech.edu)) was constructed to make the first direct observations of gravitational waves. Comprising two enormous laser interferometers thousands of miles apart, LIGO uses the physical properties of light and of space itself to detect, measure, and understand the origins of gravitational waves.

The first detection occurred on September 14, 2015 when the waves originating in the merger of two distant black holes passed through the Earth. This event marked an important confirmation of General Relativity. Unfortunately, the information we received was limited because, when two black holes merge, nothing escapes the event horizon of the resulting more massive black hole.

However, a more recent detection has proven to be particularly fruitful. Two neutron stars merged and produced a flood of radiation and atomic particles. The spectrum of the afterglow revealed that great quantities of the heaviest elements had been synthesized in the event. These observations presented a confirmation of the theory of nucleosynthesis and revealed that, among other things, the merger had created 200 Earth-masses of gold.



Going forward, the Hale Telescope working with the wide-field Samuel Oschin Telescope is positioned to be among the world's leading instruments in the continuing observations of these events.

[www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar](http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar)

### SAVE THE DATE

Saturday

May 26, 2018

### PMPO PANCAKE BREAKFAST



*Everyone is Welcome*

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

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



*Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique*

# Palomar Mountain Events



Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique

# THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

*By Jack Weisgerber, Rosie Lopresti & Nanci Healy*



The Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) hosted several events during the summer and autumn of 2017.

Two Movie Nights were held during the summer: The Adventures of Tin Tin at the Chesney cabin, and The Crater Lake Monster (which was filmed on Palomar Mountain) at Mother's Kitchen. Seeing some of "our locals" and Palomar Mountain landmarks was an event to remember.

Our thanks go out to our wonderful neighbors the Chesneys and the staff at Mother's Kitchen. Also thanks to Mike Pique, our tech guy who makes our events happen, and the Palomar Mountain Community Church who provided the use of their sound system.

On Labor Day Weekend, the CCPM held a "FAIR" at the Palomar Mountain County Park. Kids, adults, and our Palomar Mountain Firefighters enjoyed carnival games that were made for this

event by the Jamey Erickson Family. Community members donated many special items for the Opportunity Drawing and the Silent Auction, including knitted blankets, gourds, jewelry, a birdhouse, and baskets of spirits. Information booths were set up by the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Board, the Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council Board, the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization and the Community Emergency Response Team. Many thanks to the "FAIR" committee (a special shout out to Gary and Lynda Lockhart, Stacy and Jamey Erickson, Cliff Kellogg, Terri Sproul) and all the volunteers who helped make this happen. It was truly a community event!

A Holiday Party was held at Mother's Kitchen in December. The highlight of the night was hearing the children of Palomar Mountain sing "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells".

A movie night will be planned for this summer. We would like to hold this at a private residence. Please contact us if you can offer your backyard or porch.

The CCPM Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 1st at the Palomar Mountain County Park. We are hoping all of the community boards will again have booths at this event. We will have carnival games plus an opportunity drawing and a silent auction. Donated items are needed for the opportunity drawing and silent auction. Homemade crafts are always very popular items.

The CCPM has 3 members at present and are welcoming new board members. All CCPM events are posted on Nextdoor Palomar, [mypalomarmountain.com](http://mypalomarmountain.com), [palomarmountaincommunity.blogspot.com](http://palomarmountaincommunity.blogspot.com) and the community board located outside the Post Office. See you at the next event!



*Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique*

# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

*By Bill Leininger, PMFD CERT Program Manager*

**PMFD CERT**

## Are You Ready?

Did you know what to do when the Lilac Fire started in December? The PMFD CERT is here to help!

We invite all mountain community members to learn about personal preparedness and safety. The primary goals of CERT training are to help households prevent or avoid harm in a disaster, successfully survive an event, and then help their neighbors if they can. Importantly, the central part of the CERT training is personal readiness – you don't have to participate in any follow-on activities. Training academies happen regularly, so contact Bill Leininger for more information (see below).

Our recent activities have included our monthly Saturday training events at the PMFD, helping mountain residents get reflective house number signs, and participating in the San Diego County-Wide Disaster Drill in May.

For all community members, take a look at these websites, and follow their recommendations for making your families and homes as safe as possible.

**[www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org)** -

Sign up for Alert San Diego/Reverse 911

**[www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org)** -

Get the App for wildfire awareness and preparedness

Here's another resource about what to do AFTER the disaster; often, knowing what you'll need after an emergency helps you prepare more effectively in advance.

**[www.theredguidetorecovery.com](http://www.theredguidetorecovery.com)**

For PMFD CERT information and questions, please contact:

Bill Leininger, PMFD CERT Program Manager

E-mail – [Palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com](mailto:Palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com)

Phone – 760-807-6923



*Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique*

## NEXTDOOR PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

*By Katie Micheltmore*

Looking for an easy way to connect with neighbors and get real-time responses to mountain-related questions and concerns? Please sign up for NextDoor, a free and helpful online service. Post your community questions, event notices, lost and found items, items for sale, and crime and safety concerns on a forum designed specifically for Palomar Mountain residents. Over 100 of your Palomar Mountain neighbors are already members. Signing up is easy: just visit [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) to register.

# FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

By Shane Harris

It was a very dry fire season for 2017 and both Boucher Hill and High Point lookouts were hard at work for the 216 days of the season.

A notable event for the towers (and the county) was the unseasonable Santa Ana winds that arrived in December, after the towers had been shut down and the fire detection and communication equipment removed for the winter. Not to be daunted, volunteer lookouts wrapped up warm and spent the days on the catwalks of both towers armed with portable radios and topographical maps, so they could provide Federal and State fire agencies with ongoing smoke reporting during the red flag warnings. The Lilac fire started during this period with a smoke report being made by Boucher Hill.

Another notable (although not large) fire was the South Fire that started part way up South Grade. Boucher Hill made a report on that fire and was subsequently evacuated as a precaution. At the start of August we had a run of lightning strikes over the course of 2 or 3 days. High Point called in 44 lightning down strikes in a 2-hour period on the mountain. Two fires started in the vicinity of Morgan Hill as a result of the lightning activity. High Point saw and reported the smoke.

Before the start of the 2018 season Boucher Hill will undergo a repaint of the cab interior and exterior as well as a project to fix some leaks. In mid April we will start training our latest bunch of recruits aiming to open the towers for 2018 on May 1st.

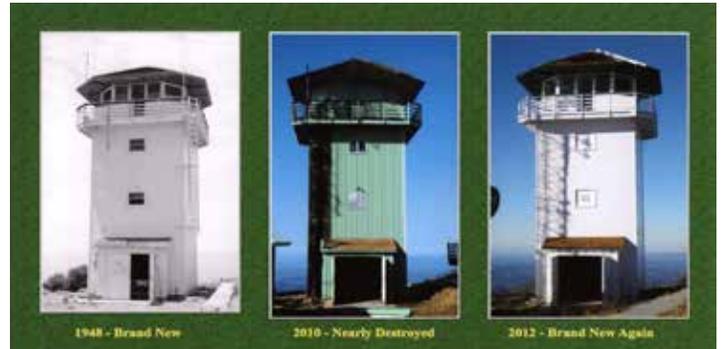
Below are the combined 2017 statistics for Boucher Hill and High Point towers:

	<u>Boucher Hill</u>	<u>High Point</u>
<b>No. of Visitors:</b>	<b>10,892</b>	<b>906</b>
<b>Smokes Reported:</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Lightning Strike Reports:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>91</b>

If you haven't visited Boucher Tower in a while, swing by when she is open and say Hi to the lookout on duty. The towers are manned from 9am - 5pm, 7 days a week during the fire season.

*Stop by to say Hi*

**Towers are manned  
7 Days a Week  
During Fire Season  
9am to 5pm**



*The Many Faces of Boucher Hill Fire Lookout Station*

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# COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . *By Bonnie Phelps*



## Palomar Easement Project

Lots of progress has been made with the “Palomar Easement Project”! We have closed more escrows this year with several different title companies recognizing our recently acquired deeded access for much of Crestline and Birch Hill. I’m actively working on three different areas right now with property owners, surveyors, title companies and making great progress with some very helpful finds. I just keep coming across new easement situations to carefully research to assist in clearing clouds on title. Sometimes a surveyor or engineer is involved to get the documents correct, so cooperating neighbors can participate in granting



easements across areas that have been traveled for many decades. For more detailed history, you are invited to visit [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com) and search ‘easement project’. A very sincere thanks to so many people for the support and work done to come this far in securing this deeded legal access.

## Road Maintenance Agreements

In the lending world there are ever-changing requirements nation-wide. Over the past year there was a window of time when Road Maintenance Agreements (RMA) were required for a loan (or even a refinance) if the property was not on a public-maintained road. We had just resolved the easement issues for an area on Crestline and then the news came that a RMA was required since the road was a ‘public road, privately maintained’. The lenders want to see the agreement for privatemaintenance between property owners. That was to be the case for ALL properties that did not front on a public-maintained road. We sourced out a pretty simple Road Maintenance Agreement, got it signed and recorded for that first road in escrow. History in the making!

Then the lending rules softened up again, NOT requiring RMAs. It is my belief that they will swing back again. If you would like to be a ‘block captain’ for your neighborhood to work together to establish a RMA, simply let me know. I am glad to provide you with the paperwork and direction to achieve that goal, get the RMA recorded and have a very clean title report for all. (Bonnie Phelps: (760) 742-1742; [bonnie@bonniephelps.com](mailto:bonnie@bonniephelps.com))



## Mountain Yellow Pages

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

## Mountain News

For all things Palomar, simply self-subscribe at [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com).

It’s FREE! Opportunities abound for you to keep up on the latest or get involved. Have you already subscribed and you’re not getting the News? Have you changed your email address lately? Simply re-subscribe. Also put ‘Palomar Mountain News’ on your White List. You can scroll through the archives or type in key words to locate information. You’ll also find lots of photos of events and happenings on your favorite mountain! Several mountain authors have published their books; lots of events and ideas are always on the horizon. I’ll keep all the news of your favorite mountain coming your way, and that’s a promise!

## Palomar Adventures

Would you or your guests like to go on a little adventure on Palomar? Would you like fresh eggs? How about fresh roasted organic coffee? Do you like all things crafty? How about stuffed bears, moose, frogs, or you name it?! You are invited to visit our friendly residents that welcome you calling ahead for a little ‘Field Trip’. To see what is available so far, simply visit [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com) and search “walkable” as most of these are walkable from Crestline, Birch Hill and many vacation rentals on Palomar. Do you have a ‘field trip’ that you would like to have included? Just let me know!



# MORE COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . *By Bonnie Phelps*

## 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 at (760) 782-3472, or Ramona office at (760) 788-0250 to help keep our forest green and fire-safe.

## Explore the Stars

The Explore the Stars Program takes place one weekend a month, from April through October, at the Observatory Campground on Canfield Road, about half way down on the right. Amateur astronomers from San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties bring out their own telescopes, sharing spectacular views of the night sky with all comers. Saturday nights feature a talk at the campground amphitheater at dusk. Click on [www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland/) and search “Explore the Stars”.



## Like to Volunteer at the State Park?

There are many different opportunities waiting for you in our 2000-acre treasure on Palomar. Ranger Jessica Murany is glad to get your questions answered anytime. Please call the park’s office at (760) 742-3830 for more information.



## Gold Spotted Oak Borer Help (GSOB)

What an interesting morning I spent learning about our trees on Palomar! Arborist Matt Trostad was on the mountain evaluating trees for pre-treating options for the Gold Spotted Oak Borer. This pest has destroyed thousands of trees in other areas over the past few years. Now there are standing dead trees we visited on several different properties on Palomar. Matt took samples and photos to evaluate some of the dead trees on the East Grade. The goal would be to treat at-risk trees in hopes of saving them.

He works for Aguilar Plant Care. They have an affordable option for treating your trees – if needed. He actually did

not recommend treatment of any of ours on State Park Road at this time. But – maybe next year. It depends on where your property is located and what kind of tree you have, how many trees are competing for the same water, erosion and so much more. Very interesting. Rough cost estimates for protecting **huge** specimen trees are a couple hundred each, large trees for \$100, what are definitely specimen trees for \$50, and small ones for as little as \$35, per year.

The company recommended to us is **Aguilar Plant Care**. He and his team of certified arborist are scheduling 30-minute free evaluations/estimates for landowners.

Please email your address, very clear directions and contact info to [info@apcphc.com](mailto:info@apcphc.com) or call Ricardo Aguilar 760-705-5571 and be sure to visit their website: [aguilarplantcare.com](http://aguilarplantcare.com)



Thank you to Ann Russ, at the base of the mountain where they have so many dead trees all along Highway 76. Thanks for sharing your info, Ann! When you are visiting [palomarmountainnews.com](http://palomarmountainnews.com) you can search GSOB for more info and more on the way!

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# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (PMFSC)

A 501c3, non-profit organization dedicated to helping keep Palomar Mountain fire safe

*By Yvonne Vaucher, President PMFSC*

In 2017 Palomar Mountain homeowners were the recipients of an \$80,000 US Forest Service (USFS) Fuel Reduction grant to improve defensible space around their homes. Administered by the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, the grant provided Palomar Mountain landowners with free chipping, dead tree removal and share-of-cost preparation work. The PMFSC independently received grants from SDG&E for community education and from the SD County Supervisors to purchase Barricade fire gel kits for free distribution to Palomar homeowners and residents and two power washers. Barricade kits are still available. If you missed out, contact Bill Leininger at Palomar.Mountain.CERT@gmail.com.

Workshops sponsored by the PMFSC this year included: the Wildland Urban Interface workshop in July where we learned how wild fire behaves and how to best protect our homes and ourselves; the Chain Saw Use, Maintenance & Safety workshop in September where everyone got to take apart and clean their own chain saws, compare different types of chain saws & blades, and learn from the experts (USFS) how to most effectively use their chainsaw; and the Barricade Gel workshop with CERT in October where free Barricade kits were distributed and we learned how to best use fire gel to protect our homes. We plan to repeat each of these workshops in the coming year.

We continue to focus on fuel reduction, emergency access and evacuation for Palomar residents, especially between Crestline, Birch Hill/32J, and Conifer Road exiting on East Grade (S7). We are participating in the SD County "P.A.C.E." program that will inform all SD county residents about evacuation routes and shelter available in their community in the event of wildfire. Community-specific flyers include a map of each community's primary (P), alternate (A), contingency (C) and emergency (E) evacuation routes, as well as general advice about how to drive safely during a wildfire and where to find temporary shelter. We are working with SD County Fire, CAL Fire and the USFS to develop a P.A.C.E. flyer for Palomar Mountain to be distributed to residents before the next fire season. Only 4% of residents living in the unincorporated areas of SD County are registered with Alert San Diego to receive emergency notifications by cell phone for fire, evacuation, disaster, etc. in the County. Are you? If not, sign up now at [www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego](http://www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego).

In conjunction with the PMVFD and the PMPO, the PMFSC has endorsed a joint "Road Maintenance" resolution encouraging all Palomar residents and landowners to improve and maintain their private roads to enable access of medical and fire emergency vehicles to their own and neighbors' homes. Many of our narrow, private, dirt roads are currently impassable for emergency vehicles and fire trucks. This is a personal responsibility. The home you save may be your own!

This coming year we will be sponsoring "Dumpster" weekends to help make your Palomar home more defensible. A large dumpster will be provided at a central location on selected long weekends to dispose of unwanted, flammable material accumulating close to and endangering your home in the event of fire. Our first Dumpster Weekend is coming up soon on Memorial Day weekend, at the Fire Department.

Did you know that all Palomar Mountain community members, residents, and landowners are members of the PMFSC? Our monthly Board meetings, held 10:00 AM on the 4th Saturday of the month at the Palomar Fire Station, are open to all. You are welcome to come find out what's happening on the Mountain to keep us fire safe and to share your ideas and concerns. Visit our website for details: [www.mypalomarmountain.com/firesafecouncil](http://www.mypalomarmountain.com/firesafecouncil).

Upcoming PMFSC community events:

- **Dumpster weekend:** May 26 & 27 (Memorial Day weekend)
- **Chainsaw Use, Maintenance & Safety workshop:** Held jointly with the USFS.
- **Evacuation workshop:** Learn when, where and how to evacuate in the event of wildfire. Held jointly with Cal Fire and USFS.
- **Wildland Urban Interface workshop:** Learn how wildfire behaves and how to increase the chance that you and your home will survive. Held jointly with the FSCSDC.
- **Fire Gel workshop:** Learn how to use/remove/store Barricade Fire Gel. Held jointly with CERT.

Workshop dates (TBS) will be announced on Nextdoor Palomar Mountain, Community & Palomar Mountain Post Office bulletin boards, and in Palomar Mountain News.

Tax deductible donations to the PMFSC are welcome.  
No amount is too small.....Help us help you.

**Stay fire safe and enjoy  
a wonderful year on Palomar Mountain!**

# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN KIDS CLUB

# KIDS CLUB

By Stacy Eriksen

It has been a busy year for the Palomar Mountain Kids Club! For the first time in forever, there was trick-or-treating on a large scale!! Homes all over the mountain had candy for the kids, and the observatory and Christian Conference Center opened their doors to us as well. This fall, the children also learned some basic square dance moves thanks to Cecelia Borland and Bruce Druliner, and were able to join in the dancing at the Apple Festival. We were also invited to pick apples from a local orchard. We celebrated the start of summer viewing the sun through a solar telescope, thanks to Steve Flanders at the observatory, and built some pizza box solar ovens. We also viewed the solar eclipse together too!

We hosted an Art Show, with thanks to Jean Secola for judging our contest! Art activities for the children were also provided by our talented mountain families. April found us reciting / performing poetry at our Poetry Jam, and a percussion day is in the works as well.

We are providing storytime for the

littles once a month, where they can enjoy stories, fingerplay, and songs. We also play together a lot, indoors and out, celebrating Talk Like a Pirate Day, belting out some karaoke, line dancing, water play, and dress-up.

Organizations on the mountain also provided activities for the children. The Community Center of Palomar Mountain hosted an Egg Hunt, and included us in their Holiday Party too. They also kindly donated art and craft supplies, and we built game booths for their Community Fair. The Palomar Christian Conference Center hosted a cookie decorating party at Christmas time, and an Easter egg party as well, opening their site for food and fellowship.



Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park provided Kids Club with a number of parking passes, so we were able to enjoy hiking with Jody Caster as our trail guide. We also helped out at the Earth Day event at the State Park as well.



Tours were provided at several mountain locations for the children. Mayolo showed us around the post office, CalFire showed us their equipment and let us play with the hose, and Jamey Eriksen gave us a tour of the Hale Telescope at the observatory. Cecelia Borland also welcomed us repeatedly with open arms to visit her farm animals and kitties. Kathy Bates Lande taught the kids about the Hug A Tree program and how search and rescue works, with her dog Sparks.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported Kids Club this past year, and a special thank you to Palomar Observatory, for their continued support! The PM Kids Club meets Tuesdays at various locations around the mountain, and everyone from infants to teens regularly join us.



## CPD FARM



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.

Call Cecelia @ 760-742-8741 or email her:  
[palomarnubians1@idafab.com](mailto:palomarnubians1@idafab.com)

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*Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique*



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## PMPO BOARD ELECTIONS

By Glenn Borland  
PMPO Chairman, [chair@pmpoinfo.com](mailto: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 Board Meeting following the Pancake Breakfast. The next Board meeting will be held Saturday at 10:00 AM, Saturday, May 26, 2018.

Membership on the PMPO Board is open to any individual resident, property owner, or business person in the Palomar Mountain area of San Diego who wishes to contribute time and effort to achieve the purposes of this Organization. Members may be elected for consecutive terms. Board members serve without compensation. Board members must meet the attendance requirements as stated in the PMPO By-laws article 7.6. The Board meets a minimum of four times a year. A description of the PMPO and its various Committee activities, Articles of Incorporation, and By-laws can be viewed on the PMPO web site, [PMPOInfo.com](http://PMPOInfo.com).

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

### **The following seats are available:**

- 1) Don Grant
- 2) Sue Hanson
- 3) Michael Pique
- 4) Yvonne Vaucher
- 5) Mark Wisnosky
- 6) Alan Serry



If you are willing to serve, please email [secretary@PMPOinfo.com](mailto:secretary@PMPOinfo.com).