



# PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

**Spring 2019 - Volume 30**

**The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization**

**Board Members:** Mike Appelman, Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland (Chair), Robert Carlyle, James Ewen, Libby Getzoff, Mary Ellen Harshberger (alternate), Rosemary Johnston (Vice Chair), John Lesac, Katie Micheltmore, Mike Pique (Secretary), Rigel Rafto, Elizabeth Tainer (alternate), Linda Thorne, Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh (Treasurer), Jack Weisgerber

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*by Glenn Borland*



Welcome to the 2019 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, soon, East Grade traffic safety will improve due

to the efforts of Alan Serry and Burt Hulbert. On the subject of South Grade, have you noticed the new speed-limit signs. Again thanks to Alan and Burt for coordinating with the county and CHP.

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. Rainfall this Spring has been heavy, so 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.

Special recognition goes to Rosie Lopresti and Jack Weisgerber for their success in continuing the Summer Picnic and other Community Center events.

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 Micheltmore 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**

**COME JOIN US!**

**Saturday, May 25th, 2019**

**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 Micheltmore  
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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

2018 - 2019

*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 2018 Pancake Breakfast was another successful event, thanks to our many volunteers led by Cecelia Borland and Donna Dose. In 2018, the PMPO was the grateful recipient of 19 generous donations from our supporters, totaling \$2,539.00. Donations to the PMPO are tax deductible, and along with the acknowledgment letters sent to all our donors, we include our tax-exempt information.

In addition, thanks to the leadership of Alan Serry, we funded the production of additional sets of quality reproduction signs, "Highway to the Stars...Palomar Mountain." Large and smaller signs are available for purchase by local residents, please support the Palomar Mountain community!

	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Difference
Checking	\$13,439.34	\$16,133.02	+2,693.68
Savings	<u>33,391.56</u>	<u>33,407.31</u>	<u>+15.75</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,830.90</b>	<b>49,540.33</b>	<b>+2,709.43</b>



## Mountain Forestry Services

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Robert Carlyle  
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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 -- 2019 Contribution --

RETURN TO:

PMPO, Box 145

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145

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AND STATE AUTHORITIES

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*We depend on  
Your Support.  
Please,  
Give Generously.*

# 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.



2018-2019 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

# ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

*By Rosemary Johnston*

John Muir never visited Palomar Mountain State Park, but he may have penned these words if he had pondered the vista from Boucher Lookout and several other viewpoints in the park:

“When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dew drop striped and dotted with continents and islands flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty.”

During the past year, Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park has continued to support the State Park by funding the seasonal park interpreter position and assisting with numerous deferred maintenance projects. We meet at least quarterly with state park supervisors to assess what needs to be done and identify opportunities to enhance the park's appearance and appeal.

We had a very successful Apple Festival in October with close to a thousand people in attendance. Recently, Eagle Scout Elliott Mollman rebuilt the steps leading to the flagpole near the park entrance. The road up to Boucher Lookout was resurfaced, and new interpretive signs installed near the lookout building. Will Meyst had a series of successful hikes and campfire talks, culminating with a presentation about raptors such as hawks, eagles, and falcons.

On April 13, the statewide “Park Champions” project recruited volunteers to create defensible space around Boucher Outlook and a ranger residence and to prune and mulch the historic apple orchard near the park entrance. The park's diverse array of plants, grasses, flowers, and trees thrums with new life after a bountiful rainy season. In the next year, we hope to make

progress on our vision to remodel the park residence near the campfire center, remove the cattails from around Doane Pond, and continue the refurbishment of the campfire center.

We continue to rely on the support of donors, visitors, and volunteers to achieve our purpose: supporting the park in its mission to enhance the public's experience through educational and interpretive programs and to preserve the park's unique biological, geological, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the public and to keep the park open with full services.



## TRAFFIC SAFETY

*By Bill Hulbert*

Great news as the speed limit signs are up on South Grade Road (30 MPH). East Grade will have 40 MPH. We are just waiting for the survey work on East Grade to be done by the county. The signs give the CHP officers a way to attack the racing that occurs primarily on weekends. Previously, the only tool allotted to the CHP was to write equipment violations such as for loud mufflers. Now they will be able to enforce speeding violations at more reasonable speeds. Previously the unposted limit was 55 MPH, even on turns and corners. CHP officers have stated that they will mostly be enforcing the speed limit on weekends as that is when most of the infractions occur.

This past February, CHP came up and helped with traffic during a snow event. They turned cars around with no chains or 4WD just after the 47.3 mile-marker. CHP Sergeant Maxon agreed in the future to stop cars at the base of the mountain at the stop sign intersection for road closures due to snow. This appears to be a better plan than causing a traffic jam near the top.



# 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 plans for the crew quarters to be constructed behind the fire station engine bay. Construction is slated to begin this summer. Also, widening and paving of the driveway around the building, enhancement of the handicap access to the community center, and a permanently installed generator to power all the buildings in an emergency will be included. 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 the last year a new tactical water tender was added to the station inventory. This 2000-gallon tender has a 750-gallon per minute pump and is capable of fighting both structure and vegetation fires. A brand new four-wheel drive Type 2 Plus fire engine

may be at the station by the time you read this. In addition, a Plymovent vehicle exhaust system was recently installed in the engine bay. This system automatically vents the vehicle exhaust to the outside and disconnects itself from the exhaust pipe when the fire engine goes out the door.

Our fire department is a "must cover" advanced life support station. This means that if our fire engine is called to assist in a structure or vegetation fire off mountain, a back up engine and crew must come up and cover the community. We always have at least one paramedic on duty. Palomar Mountain is also 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.

The Palomar Mountain fireboard 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 two 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](http://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

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

Conservation is the key. Even though we had abundant rain and snow this winter, we are always cognizant of the fact that water is a precious commodity. Expecting pristine water at a reasonable cost is the endeavor of the Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company. In order to continually provide water to all of our shareholders this year, our company installed a new forty thousand gallon water storage tank. We look forward to installing another in the future. A special thank you to our operations manager Mike Probert and his assistant Jeremy Dyson for preparing the water tank site, dismantling the old water tank, obtaining permits, and having rock and gravel delivered in a timely fashion in order to make the tank project a big success.

A word of caution: we have had security and trespassing issues at our Pedley Well Site. There are security cameras in place that have identified individuals trespassing. If you need access to the Water Company Properties please let our operations manager know and he will escort you across other private properties for access. This is not only a security concern but an insurance liability as well.

Again thank you for your continued conservation efforts. We look forward to providing a reliable water source for many years into the future.

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# PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

## SPRING 2019



*By Steve Flanders,  
Public Outreach Coordinator*

Last September's Star Party, "Four Bright Planets and the Moon", was a major success. It looked as though we had a much larger crowd at the Outreach Center that night than we've had for any other public star party in the last 10 years.

### **Palomar Science Meeting, July 2018**

Last July, we held events here and in Pasadena to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the dedication of the Hale Telescope and to mark the beginning of science operations of the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF). On Sunday July 8, Caltech faculty members and others gave presentations at the Observatory in celebration of 70 years of scientific discovery. During the following three days on campus, researchers from Caltech and our partner institutions discussed the results they have obtained from their work here at Palomar. Three keynote lectures were given on Tuesday afternoon July 10 by author Ronald Florence (Creating The Perfect Machine), Robert Kirshner of the Moore Foundation (Accelerating Discovery) and Shri Kulkarni from Caltech (The Zwicky Transient Facility Dedication).

Videos and slides of the meeting's presentations are available online at:

<http://www.astro.caltech.edu/observatories/coo/cooEvents/2018PalSci/program.html>.

In addition, four event posters created by Annie Mejía are available at the Observatory's Gift Shop and can be viewed online at:

<http://www.astro.caltech.edu/observatories/coo/cooEvents/2018PalSci/media.html>.

### **Hale Telescope Upgrades, November & December 2018**

The Hale Telescope's 70 years of outstanding performance is attributable in large part to the meticulous maintenance given to it by the Observatory's staff. While maintenance operations are performed continuously, two major tasks are done at scheduled intervals: every two years, we put a new coating of reflective aluminum on the primary mirror; and, once every eight years, we remove the prime focus cage from the top of the telescope in order to service its mechanical parts, upgrade its electronics and re-aluminize

the secondary mirrors that are held there.

Beginning November 5, we took the telescope out of service for five weeks in order to do these two tasks in tandem.

During the first three weeks, the 26-ton prime focus assembly was lowered to the observing floor. Two of the secondary mirrors were removed and given fresh coatings of aluminum. The gearing and motors that control focusing and mirror placement were cleaned and tested. And all of the electrical connections were replaced in time for the entire assembly to be remounted on the telescope on November 27.

During the succeeding two weeks, the primary mirror was lowered from the telescope and moved to the aluminizing station. Its upper surface was cleaned in a day-long series of washings using acids and other chemicals to remove the old aluminum and other contaminants. The clean mirror was then put in the vacuum chamber. When a high vacuum was achieved, the staff fired the aluminum-laden tungsten coils that line the inside creating a plasma that put a thin coating of metallic aluminum on the mirror's surface.

Returned to service in mid-December, the telescope's operating condition is now better than when it was new and, with a mirror that reflects more than 90% of star light that reaches its surface, its performance exceeds the expectations of its designers.

### **ZTF Science Results**

Using an advanced wide-field camera mounted on the Samuel Oschin Telescope, the Zwicky Transient Facility photographs the entire visible sky once every three nights. Each set of new images is digitally compared to previous images to look for objects in the sky that have changed position or brightness. More than 500,000 such changes or "alerts" are now being detected each evening and, while most are of no interest, news of each important find is automatically sent to astronomers around the world, often within 10 minutes of the discovery.

Objects that measurably change position from night to night are in all cases components of our Solar System. Since ZTF began operations in March 2018, we have found 50 near-Earth asteroids; one of which, designated 2018 CL, is seen as representing a possible impact hazard. Another discovery, 2019 AQ3, circles the Sun in just 165 days, the shortest "year" of any known asteroid. ZTF tracks brightness changes in the asteroids and comets it encounters, variations that reveal the rotational profiles and shapes of asteroids as well as the flaring behavior of comets orbiting beyond Jupiter.



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## PALOMAR OBSERVATORY (CONTINUED)

Most celestial objects, however, are at great distances from the Sun and remain in fixed positions at least over short periods. Ranging from nearby stars within our galaxy to an array of exotic objects that existed in the early Universe, anything that changes in brightness, appears suddenly, or displays alterations in its spectrum transmits evidence to Earth about the physical processes driving such changes.



Supernovae, for example, arise without warning. The mechanisms that trigger certain types of supernovae events are poorly understood. Valuable information can, however, be derived by observing a supernova's rise from first appearance to maximum brightness. It is a short interval that commonly is missed in the absence of the type of monitoring performed by ZTF. On a 3-day cycle, the system images the sky repeatedly with the result that the ZTF camera has a good chance of detecting a supernova while its brightness is still increasing.

Since March 2018, ZTF has discovered 1,100 supernovae and on average two or three supernovae are being discovered every night in the skies over Palomar Mountain.

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



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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

*By Katie Micheltmore*

The Neighborhood Watch team held a community meeting in early April 2019. Representatives from CHP, CALFIRE and US Forest Service, the Sheriff's department, and Ranger Jessica Murany from the State Park, were all present to represent our respective law enforcement branches. We also had some great representation from our local mountain boards.

Sergeant Maxon and Officers Hollywood and Roberts were all in attendance from CHP. They gave us an update on the new speed limits on South Grade and East Grade. They explained that the new speed limits (30 MPH on South Grade and 40 MPH on East Grade) are intended to deter racing of motorcycles and cars. Officer Hollywood explained how a combination of speed studies and accident statistics were used to determine the safest speed limit for South and East Grades. Sergeant Maxon encouraged us all to adhere to the speed limit, but expressed that as long as we, local residents, were within reason, the new speed limit should benefit us from a safety perspective and apply mostly to visitors grossly abusing the speed limits.

The new speed limits are posted on South Grade. As of late April 2019 the plan is for CHP to have a stronger presence during the initial period of new speed limits. Sergeant Maxon did say that more often than not, they ticket drivers for equipment violations versus speeding violations, but both have the same effect, discouraging irresponsible riders and drivers from driving the mountain.

Sergeant Maxon let us know that an officer position (currently held by Officer Roberts) has been added to the Pauma Valley station, bringing the headcount there to four. Officer Roberts will be patrolling as much as he can in our area. And as always, the sergeant emphasized that we should always call in to report situations related to driving safety, racing, and speeding. Even if they can't get out to us right away, they can at least gather statistics about activity on the mountain. And if by chance there is a CHP officer nearby, he or she can intervene in a dangerous or unlawful situation.

Questions were asked about additional signage for speed limits on both Nate Harrison Grade and Crestline Road. Those questions should be directed to our Traffic Advisory Committee chair Burt Hulbert: [curly.hulbert@yahoo.com](mailto:curly.hulbert@yahoo.com). He can reach out to our county contacts with those questions.

The mountain has a new representative at the Sheriff's department. Our new Crime Prevention Specialist Leslie Carrillo introduced herself to the community and provided us with some stats on our reporting in the community. She also brought up some "602" trespassing forms. Leslie encouraged us all to call in to the Sheriff's department anything related to suspicious activity. She said that at the very least the data of our calls would be logged and she may be able to use that data to encourage more patrolling or other actions from the Sheriff's department. She also encouraged community members to contact her directly with questions or concerns via email: [Leslie.Carrillo@sdsheriff.org](mailto:Leslie.Carrillo@sdsheriff.org)





# Palomar Mountain Events



Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique





# THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

*By CCPM Board: Jack Weisgerber, Rosie Lopresti, Nanci Healy, and Bonnie Beckman*

The Community Center of Palomar Mountain held 2 events for the year 2018. In April, we hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for the Palomar Mountain kids. Plastic eggs with stickers inside were hidden around the Palomar County Park. Eighteen children showed up to hunt for eggs making sure everyone had a few eggs in their basket!

Over Labor Day weekend we had the annual CCPM Picnic. Over 60 neighbors showed up with their favorite potluck dish. Information tables were set up by the PMFD, PM CERT, PM Fire Safe Council. Will Meyst, the Palomar Mountain State Park Interpreter, brought fun nature activities to hand out to the children. Our special guests of honor were the CAL Fire Firefighters who are stationed on Palomar Mountain. Captain Dean Kowalski and his crew explained the parts of a fire engine and the kids loved

being able to scramble around the truck.

The opportunity drawing had a fine array of items including jewelry, afghans and crafts. It's time to think about items you may be able to donate for 2019. Gently used items (board games, cookbooks, cabin decorations, etc) are welcomed.

Many, many thanks to the Jamie & Stacy Erickson family for providing the carnival games for all to enjoy!

The CCPM is able to sponsor this community event with the help of many volunteers and donors. Special thanks to Gary and Lynda Lockard, Ken and Lynda Ruth, Mike Pique, Cliff Kellogg, Keith Ronchetti, Yvonne Vaucher, and Bill Leininger. You all help to make our mountain a wonderful place to live.



**The 2019 Picnic will be held Saturday, August 31.**

Place TBD.

We hope to see everyone there!

## COME ON OUT!



### PMPO

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Saturday - May 25, 2019**

*Everyone is Welcome*

**\$3.00 - Adults**

**\$1.00 - Children**



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



*Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique*

# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

*By Bill Leininger, PMFD CERT Program Manager*

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is about readiness - individually, for your family, and in our community. CERT is about people taking care of themselves and helping their neighbors. CERT training is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens themselves can make the difference.

For more information on CERT, go to:  
[http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/oes/community/oes\\_jl\\_CERT.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/oes/community/oes_jl_CERT.html)

With the end of winter, fire season has started. Before the Santa Ana's return, make sure your home is ready. While all the vegetation is green, now is the time to clear your defensible space and get your evacuation plan updated. Go to [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) for more details, and to sign up for wildfire notifications.

For more good information on disaster preparedness, try this site:

**San Diego Office of Emergency Services**  
[www.readysandiego.org](http://www.readysandiego.org)

- Sign up for AlertSanDiego (mobile reverse 911)
- Explore the San Diego County Emergency App – download it for free, so you know what to do before, during, and after an emergency
- See how to Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Stay Informed

For more information, visit us our booth at upcoming community events, or contact:

**Bill Leininger**  
[Palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com](mailto:Palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com)  
760-807-6923.

## PMFD CERT



## 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.



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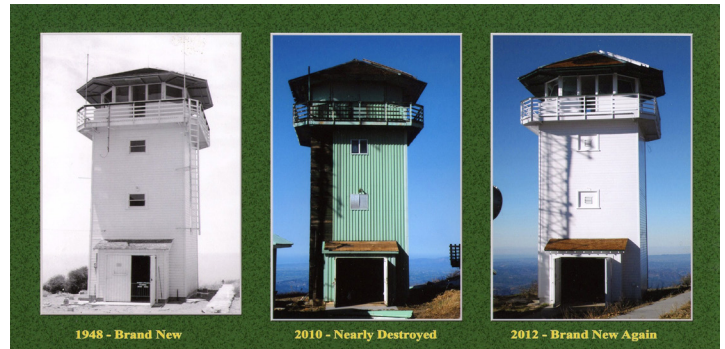
# FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

## RECONNECTS WITH MEMBERS AND TRAINS NEW VOLUNTEERS

*By William Meyst, Park Interpreter, Palomar Mountain State Park*

The Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) is a non-profit organization that works hand in hand with State Parks, the Forest Service, CAL Fire, and several other entities to keep watch over our urban-wildland interfaces. Every year, prior to the fire season, FFLA members are required to recertify their training for fire shelters, a device that firefighters use as an absolute last resort in case they cannot escape a wildfire. This is a great chance for volunteers of the FFLA to meet their constituents at the Forest Service, CAL Fire, and State Parks. They are also filled in on key information about tower operations and any news that is pertinent to their duties. New volunteers are trained more extensively during the reconnect, getting extra information about wildfire science and having a chance to talk in depth with tower leaders and fire fighters about their duties.

The volunteers at FFLA are responsible for manning Boucher Tower and High Point Tower on Palomar Mountain during the fire-prone months of the year. They keep a watchful eye on northern San Diego County and a good portion of southern Riverside County. When California saw a dramatic increase in fire intensity in the early 2000's, firefighters and scientists concluded that the absolute best way to spot a fire early is to have human eyes constantly scanning for smoke plumes. Technology has made great strides in recent decades, but there is still no replacement for humans and their ability to spot smoke and identify it quickly as a potential wildfire. This is where the FFLA comes into play.



*The Many Faces of Boucher Hill Fire Lookout Station*

FFLA volunteers are not just lookouts, however. They also take on the duty of being a docent for the Historic Boucher Fire Tower. Lookouts invite members of the public up into the tower and show them the different instruments they use, discuss the history of the tower itself, and teach park-goers about wildfires and the importance of being prepared for the worst. On the whole, the FFLA provides State Parks consistent historical interpretation throughout the busy season while serving as vigilant watchers of San Diego County. Palomar Mountain State Park and all of State Parks are extremely grateful for their volunteership, and we encourage you to visit the tower someday and check out just how good the view is for yourself!



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## FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

### ACTIVITY UPDATE

*By Shane Harris, Chairperson - Forest Fire Lookout Association - San Diego Riverside Chapter*

Boucher Hill and High Point fire lookout towers had a relatively quiet 2018 fire season compared to the previous year, with the number of smoke reports and lightning reports down on the 2017 season (which is a good thing).

Collectively both towers reported:

- 94 smoke reports
- 32 lightning strike reports
- 11,678 people visited the towers (1067 for High Point and 10,611 for Boucher).

The towers were staffed for 221 days.

The 2019 season has already started with both fire towers opening on Sunday, April 21. Both towers will be staffed 7 days a week during daylight hours until early December. There are plenty of grasses around thanks to the rain but they are now drying out and already turning brown; an extremely dry fire season is predicted.

If you want to follow the towers during fire season and get daily updates on the smokes as they are reporting as well as updates on other major fires in San Diego County then you can follow us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/fflasdr](https://www.facebook.com/fflasdr)

# COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . *By Bonnie Phelps*



## Help for Saving Trees from GSOB

The Gold Spotted Oak Borer is alive and well on Palomar. Many trees have died this past year at the lower elevations and those invasive pests have already arrived at the top of the mountain. There are a couple different options for treatment. If you have oak trees you would like to save, you might consider checking out WormGold with details at [palomarmountainnews.com](http://palomarmountainnews.com). We just applied our first application to our properties. I am available to get your questions answered.

Let's save these trees!

Brandon Phelps

[b@ourgoodgarden.com](mailto:b@ourgoodgarden.com)

## Palomar Population

A lot of new full-timers have moved to Palomar this past decade! In 2008 our population had dwindled down to include just a couple of children and our public school had to close. You would think that would negatively impact families moving to Palomar. However, over the last few years, our full time population has really grown. The total is ever-changing with several new babies being born recently. We happen to have two properties in escrow now with both families moving up with two more children. That will put us right at 50 kids! Most all are home-schooled and the nicest and smartest kids you'd ever meet. Their parents are too! Welcome to all!

## Bible Study

Would you like to join us for a weekly gathering of study in the word and fellowship with neighbors? We are kicking off with the topic of how Israel and current events tie into the Bible. Let's connect!

Brian and Suzanne McBrayer  
[brian.mcbrayer@gmail.com](mailto:brian.mcbrayer@gmail.com)

## Game Night

What is your favorite game? Would you like to get together for a monthly game night of Dominos, Rummikub or whatever? We've been meeting in homes so it makes it real fun. Just let me know and we'll get a schedule rolling those games out, and make sure you're included.

## Mountain Meals

Like to share a meal 'round the table and get to know your neighbors? Another monthly happening has been working out so well and you're invited. Warmer weather is just around the corner so we also have some outdoor fun times in the works. Would you like to host or join in? Potluck, no charge, old-fashioned neighborhood get-togethers. Just let me know! Bon Appetit!

## 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!

## Mountain Yellow Pages

When you need products or services on Palomar, you might visit the Mountain Yellow Pages. Don't see



what you're looking for? Or, would you like to be added? Do you have a company that you were very pleased with? Just let me know. Additions and corrections always welcomed. [www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages](http://www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages)

## Burn Permits



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

## Explore the Stars



The Explore the Stars Program takes place one weekend a month, from April through October, at the Observatory Campground on Canfield Road, about half way up 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".

## Come On Out for a Walk

How about getting together for fresh air and exercise with neighbors? Come walk with me! It is fun to visit along the way and get in those steps! Fitbit not necessary just a desire to step out while enjoying this great mountain air!

Teresa McCarthy  
[theparents6@gmail.com](mailto:theparents6@gmail.com)





# EAGLE SCOUTS BREAK GROUND ON THIRD PROJECT IN PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

*By William Meyst, Park Interpreter, Palomar Mountain State Park*

The Eagle Scouts encourage their members to take on leadership roles within the troop, in their community, and in life. Troop 384 out of Temecula has been a shining example of contribution and volunteership at Palomar Mountain State Park. Last week, on Thursday April 18, 2019, Elliot Mollman with younger brother Owen and their grandfather, John Clay, broke ground on their newest project in the Park. Also in attendance was family friend and scout leader Paul Grenier. The team of four took on the replacement of the small set of stairs leading to our flagpole at Palomar's Ranger Station.

The Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park helped Elliot do some fundraising for wood materials as well as power tools and lunch for the hard working gentlemen. Although the design of the stairs is that of State Parks (this is to ensure the dimensions and materials adhere to State standards), the project itself was the idea of Elliot and Ranger Jessica Murany. Elliot and Jessica worked hand in hand to plan every aspect of the project and ensure that cultural resource experts were able to inspect the site for any potential artifacts.

This project was spearheaded by Elliot, who is just one of many in the Mollman family. In fact, the Mollmans are responsible for beautifying several areas in the park. Elliot's older brother, Taylor, was the lead on a project a few years ago to replace a ramada around Doane Pond. Additionally, their brother Ben also led an Eagle Scout project at the park, building numbered posts along the Doane Valley Nature Trail that coincide with a self-guided tour. Their dedication and effort can be seen well in the craftsmanship of the projects. The shade ramada and Doane Pond will be there for years to come, and the self-guided Doane Valley Nature Trail is one of our most popular trails and activities. It's almost a guarantee that their newest project, the flagpole stairs, will be emblematic of the Eagle Scout's dedication to leadership and public service.

## Would You Like to 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 (760) 742-3830.



## Directions

From the General Store,  
take State Park Road just over a mile.  
The stand is on the right – can't miss it!  
Payment is on the honor system  
so it is open 24/7.

## Kids \$5.00 Firewood For Sale

Would you like **bundled firewood** as a quick option for you or your vacation rental guests?

We have a great life living on the mountain,  
next door to our grandparents.

We work hard with our Granddaddy and Grandma to cut, split,  
and bundle prime, dry cedar.

## Fresh Eggs from Happy Hens

Scramble on over for fresh eggs, too.

We keep our eggs in Grandma's refrigerator  
so please knock on the door or call ahead for organic eggs in  
every color from our flock of very happy chickens.

You are welcome to  
call or text Grandma Bonnie at **760-533-1742**  
to reserve wood and eggs.

We sure do thank you for your business!

**Judah 11, Kiara 12, Sunshine 10 and Atticus 6**

*This is a Paid Advertisement.*



# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (PMFSC)

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

*By Yvonne Vaucher, President PMFSC*

This has been an active year for the PMFSC. Our primary goal is to reduce wildfire risk on Palomar Mountain. Supported by a SDG&E community education grant and in collaboration with CERT and the USFS, we held interactive, hands-on workshops including Application of Barricade Fire Gel, Power Washer Training and Chainsaw Use, Maintenance & Safety. A Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) workshop, sponsored by the FSC San Diego County, featured presentations by fire professionals about the critical importance of defensible space and how weather and topography determine fire behavior. Participants evaluated

local residents' defensible space first hand on an afternoon field trip. To increase defensible space and reduce residential fire hazards, we sponsored four Dumpster Days during the summer and fall of 2018. We were awarded a \$48,000 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program grant by the San Diego County Supervisors to fund 6 additional Dumpster Days and 6 chipping days in May-October 2019 and to purchase 72 Home Kits of Barricade Fire Gel for distribution at no cost to Palomar Mountain homeowners and residents. We continue to seek funding to improve an eastward evacuation route between Crestline Rd, Conifer Road and East grade (S7).

## Things you can do now to safeguard your life and home:

Increase your defensible space:

Participate in upcoming PMFSC Dumpster Days and Chipping Days. Notifications posted on Next Door Neighbor and the Community Bulletin Board.

Register with Alert San Diego to receive San Diego County fire/emergency/disaster notifications on your cell phone, VoIP or email. <http://www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego/>

- Install a **smoke/CO alarm** in your home. If disabled, infirm or over 62 years of age, the Red Cross will come to your home to install a free smoke/CO alarm.

<https://www.redcross.org/local/california/san-diego/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html>

- Install a Knox Home **Door Lock Box** to allow CAL FIRE access to your home in case of emergency. Installation is free if elderly or infirm. Contact Palomar Mountain CAL FIRE Station 79 for details.

- Replace older **structural vents** with new fire and ember resistant vents.  
(e.g. Brandguard <https://www.brandguardvents.com>)

- Pick up a **free Barricade Fire Gel Home Kit**.  
(Palomar residents only / maximum 2 kits per residence)  
Contact Palomar Mountain CERT or Station 79.

- **Maintain your private road.** Keep 5' brush cleared on both sides to allow access for emergency vehicles

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All Palomar Mountain community members, residents and landowners are members of the PMFSC Foundation, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation.

Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings held at 10 AM on the 4th Saturday of the month.

Come join us - your input is important!

Visit our website for additional information <http://www.mypalomarmountain.com/firesafecouncil/>

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# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN KIDS CLUB

By Stacy Eriksen



Photos Courtesy of Stacy Eriksen

Our mountain population of kids keeps growing! We are at 46 children, with two more on the way! This June, we'll have a new high school graduate on the mountain, and come September, a handful of little ones starting kindergarten! It's an awesome time to be a kid living on Palomar!

Kids Club meets most Tuesday mornings, with activities appropriate for the entire family, from toddlers to teens...to parents! We are learning and growing, and growing, and growing together! This fall we're starting Palomar PeeWees, a weekly co-op specifically for our youngest children.

Holidays on the mountain are something we all look forward to! Trunk or Treat would not have been possible without so many from our mountain community volunteering to come out for the kids. Jon Derek surprised us with his DJ skills, and a special shout-out to Jack & Rosie, Marlene, Patty, Sue, and Jody, for helping throughout the evening.

This Christmas, we had an ornament-making party, and held our first ever Holiday Variety Show. There are some very talented children (and parents) on the mountain! Palomar Christian Conference Center (PCCC) also hosted cookie decorating for the mountain children at Christmas, and pie making in the fall. We also welcomed in summer with a pool party at the PCCC, and with a Sun Party that included solar oven cooking and viewing the sun through a telescope (thanks Steve!). The Community Center of Palomar Mountain also hosted an Egg Hunt, which is always a hit with the littles, and included activities for the children at the Labor Day picnic as well!

Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park have provided us with a number of parking passes once again, so we can enjoy hiking in the park and exploring Doane Pond. Will Meyst at the State Park has taught us about mammals and birds, helped to dissect owl pellets, and even brought in an expert on bats.

We held a Poetry Jam, did some gardening with Jody, and an Art Show with mini workshops, which Cecelia joined to teach knitting. Terri is keeping Kids Club stocked with our arts and crafts supplies, saving us all some money. (Yay!) We've had a monthly storytime for the littles, exchanged Valentines, played drama games, hiked, and really, just played together a lot!

As always, a huge thank you to Steve Flanders, Jamey Eriksen, and Rick Burruss at Palomar Observatory, for the use of the Observatory Outreach Center for events. We always welcome community members who have a skill or want to teach the children something to join us!



Photos Courtesy of Bonnie Phelps

**Local Postal Customer  
Palomar Mountain CA 92060**

## 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 General Meeting following the Pancake Breakfast. This year's meeting will be held Saturday at 10:00 AM, Saturday, May 25, 2019.

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 for 2019:**

- 1) Mike Appelman
- 2) James Ewen
- 3) Rosemary Johnston
- 4) Katie Micheltmore
- 5) Jack Weisgerber



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