



# PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

**Summer 2021 - Volume 32**

**The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization**

**Board Members:** Mike Appelman, Lafe Ball, Glenn Borland (Chair), Robert Carlyle, Diana Forero-Cook, Renee Forero-Cook (alternate), Ryan Flohr, Josephine Flohr (alternative), Elizabeth Gettys (alternate), Elizabeth Getzoff, Mike Hopper, Rosemary Johnston, Brian McBrayer (Vice-Chair), Hiroshi McDonald, Michael Pique (Secretary), Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh (Treasurer), Jack Weisgerber

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*by Glenn Borland*



Welcome to the 2021 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 to organize responses to particular Mountain needs. These needs range from road traffic and safety to representing the Palomar Mountain community in county planning issues. The board consists of fifteen members who are elected to three-year terms. Five member positions come up for election every year and candidates are drawn from Palomar Mountain residents, property owners and business persons. For more information on the recent election results, see Elections article. 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).

As COVID continued to play havoc on our group activities, the PMPO Pancake Breakfast had to be cancelled again for this year. It is hoped that things can get back to normal by the end of 2021 and we can get these activities underway. Despite the pandemic, we've continued to see positive changes on the mountain during this last year. Through the continued efforts of Lafe Ball, we are now on our second set of resident

tags (Red) for all mountain residents. These tags have been a very effective aid in helping the CHP regulate the traffic traveling to the mountain top during snow days.

Weekend South Grade and East Grade traffic is improved due to the efforts of Alan Serry and Burt Hulbert. The speed limit signs and strategically added patrols have continued the improvement in road safety and noise reduction that was started during the previous years by the increased presence of the CHP.

Staffing of the fire station by San Diego County Fire / CAL FIRE continues to be exceptional. Thanks to Captain Dean Kowalski and all of the fire fighters who staff the station. Construction of the new crew quarters is well under way and is well ahead of schedule.

More good news. The PMPO website ([pmpoinfo.com](http://pmpoinfo.com)) is up and running. We have archives of Newsletters and Minutes dating back to 1996. This was brought about by the hard work of Betsy and Charles Gettys. Thanks for your perseverance and patience. Also thanks to Mike Pique for consolidating the Minutes and Newsletters into a form suitable for web publication.

The Fire Safe Council continues to support the community by sponsoring workshops, safety courses and dumpster days. 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 landowners and the Fire Department 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 Department for their ever-present vigilance, CAL FIRE and the US Forest Service 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 out for all of us.

We're thankful that State Park and the General Store are open, and looking forward to seeing the fresh, new look at Mother's Kitchen after their remodeling.

As you read this newsletter, you are looking at the work of not only the contributors who wrote the articles, but also the hard work of publisher Susan Humason, editors Mike Pique and Elizabeth Getzoff. Many heartfelt thanks to them and to all of the other people who have contributed to the activities of the PMPO.

## PMPO Annual Pancake Breakfast

**Mark Your Calendar:  
May 28, 2022**



## PMPO Annual Meeting

**was held On-line this year...  
See Page 14**

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**Palomar Mountain  
Planning Organization (PMPO)  
Box 145  
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145**

This newsletter is produced annually and distributed in May of each year. Without the help of many volunteers, this newsletter would not be possible.

Coordinator: Glenn Borland  
Publisher: Susan Humason  
Editors: Michael Pique/Libby Getzoff  
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

2020 - 2021

*By Michael Walsh, PMPO Treasurer*



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

Thanks to the generous donations from our community supporters, we were able to offset expenses and maintain our financial position. The PMPO operates as a CA State registered, charitable 501(c)(3) organization, and donations to the PMPO are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

#### Jan 1, 2020

Checking Acct. Balance	\$ 16,366.40
Savings Acct. Balance	\$ 33,869.49
<b>Total Accts. Balance</b>	<b>\$ 50,235.89</b>

#### Jan 1, 2021

Checking Acct. Balance	\$ 16,043.13
Savings Acct. Balance	\$ 33,981.33
<b>Total Accts. Balance</b>	<b>\$ 50,024.46</b>

#### Difference

Checking Acct. Balance	- \$ 323.27
Savings Acct. Balance	+ \$ 111.84
<b>Total Accts. Balance</b>	<b>- \$ 211.43</b>



## Mountain Forestry Services

- Stump Grinding
- Tree & Brush Work
- Firewood



**Robert Carlyle  
760-742-1891**

*This is a Paid Advertisement.*

## 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 -- 2021 Contribution --

RETURN TO:

PMPO, Box 145

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145

PMPO IS RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL

AND STATE AUTHORITIES

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

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

*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.



### 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Standing: Michael Pique, Lafe Ball, Rigel Rafto, Glenn Borland, Michael Walsh, Mike Appelman. Seated: Elizabeth Getzoff, Mary Ellen Harshberger, Cecelia Borland, Linda Thorne, Yvonne Vaucher, John Lesac.

## Remembering Lola



Longtime mountain neighbor and friend, Lola Graves, wife of Bruce Graves, passed away in September 2020. For so many years she opened her kitchen and home to Palomar gatherings. She is missed by those of us who were blessed knowing her.





*Friends of*  
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

# FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

*By Rosemary Johnston*



Like many other facilities and businesses in the past year, Palomar Mountain State Park had to pivot on short notice to accommodate the changing restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic. We are grateful that our park interpreter Will Meyst, working with Michele Hernandez at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, was able to create videos about the park, so that 'visitors' could visit virtually and learn about its unique features. The campfire center/amphitheater renovation was completed, but plans to renovate the entrance kiosk have stalled, while its historical structure status is being reviewed. We said good-bye to park ranger Jessica Murany as well as Kevin Best, our

California State Parks spokesperson or cooperating association liason (CAL), and welcomed Terry Gerson, our new CAL.

Plans are still in the works to restore Doane Pond and free it of the cattails that now block access at many points. Also, we are hoping we will have use of a mobile trailer during the summer for transporting visual aids (like animal skins) to be used in presentations to campers, and for selling merchandise to help fund park renovations and programs. We recently allocated funds to repair and enhance the apple orchard irrigation system near the entrance to the park. We are still unsure if we will be able to stage an Apple Festival later this year.

The park is open for business once again; campground reservations can be made through the Reserve California web site, and day visitors are always welcome to hike or go fishing at the pond. The mountain air is as invigorating as ever and the forest canopy as welcoming. As our community, state, and nation approach 'herd immunity' through COVID vaccinations, we look forward to a more certain schedule and a busy summer for park staff, visitors, and volunteers. Thank you for your support! Visit our Facebook page and our website for the latest updates: [FriendsOfPalomarSP.org](http://FriendsOfPalomarSP.org)

## Palomar Mountain IS ALIVE AGAIN!



*Photos Courtesy of  
Michael Pique*





# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*By Cliff Kellogg*

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

The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (PMVFD) has been in existence since 1976, providing fire and medical aid to Palomar Mountain. Now that the San Diego County Fire Protection District is responsible for those services it is time for the PMVFD to begin a new phase.

This year the PMVFD started doing business as (DBA) the Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association (PMCFA). This DBA does not change the corporate name or status of the PMVFD as a 501(c)(3) non-profit but since the department is no longer providing volunteer firefighters to the community we felt that a change was in order. We appreciate the community support over the years and want to continue to enhance the safety of the mountain.

We are in the process of receiving a donation of property located across Crestline Road from the fire station at the intersection of Crestline Road and East Grade Road. As an example of our commitment to the community, we are considering the installation of fire-fighting water tanks on the property and possibly providing some additional parking for the community center. The public is always welcome to provide suggestions as to how we can continue to make Palomar Mountain safer for everyone.

Construction is now underway for the new crew quarters behind the existing fire station. Also, widening and paving of the driveway around the building, enhancement of handicapped access to the community center, and a permanently installed generator to power all the buildings in an emergency is included. Once the project is complete, the firefighters will have new, modern, living quarters and the Community Center of Palomar Mountain (the small house next to the

engine bay) will once again be made available to the community.

The Palomar Mountain fire board continues to work with County Fire and CAL FIRE. Senior fire station personnel attend board meetings 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 at our board meetings, held on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 am. 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. See our web site at Palomar-Fire.org.

Your support for the Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association (Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department) is gratefully appreciated.

**BOARD MEETINGS**  
**1st Saturday of the Month**  
**9am**



**THANK YOU**  
for supporting the  
**Palomar Mountain  
Community  
Fire Association**

(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 OBSERVATORY

## SPRING 2021



*By Steve Flanders,  
Public Outreach Coordinator*

Despite many restrictions, during the last 12 months the Observatory has extended its operations, brought new programs into development, and made significant contributions to science. Let me review items from last year's newsletter and describe some of this year's accomplishments.

### COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Operations

In March a year ago, operations on the Hale Telescope were suspended and the Observatory was closed to everyone except members of the staff. Even scientists and engineers from the Caltech campus were excluded. This was the first time the 200-inch telescope had been out of service for an extended period, since it went into service in November 1949.

Even so, the Observatory's science operations did not end entirely. Every clear night, our two robotic telescopes, the 48-inch Samuel Oschin Telescope and the 60-inch telescope, have continued to survey the sky and send images to the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) at Caltech. As a result, discoveries of supernovae and other transient events have gone on without interruption.

By the middle of May 2020, however, we knew enough about how to prevent the virus' transmission to resume limited operations on the Hale Telescope. At that time, we opened only four nights per week, while the researchers observed remotely and the support astronomers connected from home. At night, the telescope operator was the only person in the data room.

In addition, the Hale Telescope operated with only two science instruments: an optical spectrograph at the bottom of the tube and a near-infrared imaging camera high above at Prime Focus. For several months, none of our other instruments were used. This was done because the process of exchanging one device for another at either of these locations often requires that several staff members work closely together.

Yet, in all this time, no one on staff at the Observatory has contracted the virus. Since we could conclude that our containment measures were working, by late summer,

we went to five nights of observing per week and we gradually added instruments one step at a time back into the instrument set. Each step increased the telescope's science capabilities and each step brought us closer to a return to normal operations.

Now, all of the Observatory's science instruments are again available to the astronomers. We have, however, some way to go before operations are fully back to normal: the astronomers are still required to observe remotely; the support astronomers still connect to the local network from their homes; and, the Observatory remains closed to the public.

### Palomar Science and Discoveries

During the pandemic, the Zwicky Transient Facility has been the Observatory's engine of discovery. Using an advanced wide-field camera mounted on the 48-inch Samuel Oschin Telescope, ZTF photographs the entire visible sky once every three nights and then automatically compares each set of new images to previous images to look for objects that have appeared or changed in any way.

We have discovered thousands of supernovae and have recorded many other violent events occurring in the distant Universe. But this year ZTF made two interesting discoveries close by in our Solar System. In August, we found an asteroid that was passing just 1,830 miles above the Earth's surface, the closest approach ever seen of an object that did not actually impact. And earlier in the year, an asteroid was found whose orbit is unique. 2020 AV2, as it has been designated, is the only known object with an orbit that lies entirely within the orbit of Venus.

### New Instruments and Programs

First, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has agreed to fund the development of a new optical spectrograph for the Hale Telescope. To be named the Next Generation Palomar Spectrograph (NGPS), this instrument is expected to see first light in 2023. It will replace the Double Spectrograph (DBSP), a device that has been in service for several decades. Second, a novel adaptive optics system called SIGHT has been selected for funding under the NSF's Advanced Technologies and Instrumentation program. When it becomes operational in 2023, SIGHT will be coupled with NGPS to create multi-wavelength scanning efficiencies ten times greater than that of DBSP. Finally, ZTF will be supported by the NSF Mid-Scale Innovations Program for a second phase of its operations.



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## PALOMAR OBSERVATORY (CONTINUED)

### State Funding to Protect Forest Health

As reported last year, Palomar Observatory has received an award under California's Forest Health Grant Program. Sponsored by CAL FIRE, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, this initiative is aimed at restoring forest health, protecting watersheds, promoting long-term carbon storage, and minimizing the escape into the atmosphere of forest carbon as the result of large, destructive wildfires.



Our proposal was submitted in November 2019 and accepted the following January. But, since implementation has been delayed by the pandemic, the final plan is only now being approved. Even so, Observatory superintendent Rick Burruss expects work to begin in late May or in June. Forestry specialists have already identified for priority treatment 312 acres on Observatory grounds that require mechanical thinning, mastication, and brush removal. A 31-acre fuel break will be cleared along the Palomar Truck Trail to serve as the primary fire suppression access route on the upper ridge of Palomar Mountain. Brush and smaller trees will be cleared for a distance of 100 feet on either side of the Truck Trail. In addition, during the project's first phase, trees standing within 10 feet of Observatory structures will be trimmed back.

### Public Outreach

With the Observatory closed to the public, the outreach program has moved online. Using Zoom, we have been holding a biweekly astronomy lecture series and offering occasional virtual narrated tours of the Hale Telescope. We have also created on our website a new, full-function Gift and Book Store: [Store.palomar.caltech.edu](http://Store.palomar.caltech.edu).

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

*By Katie Micheltmore*

### NON-Emergency Lines:

Sheriff 858-565-5200

Vehicle Related Issues:

CHP 858-637-3800

Your neighborhood watch team has continued to meet regularly with our law enforcement contacts, albeit virtually these days, to help keep the mountain safe. In April, representatives from the Snow Safety team met with the new Lieutenant assigned to the Valley Center substation, Lt. Karla Menzies. Lt. Menzies was engaged and responsive, and we look forward to working with her.

Lt. Menzies gave us a few great tidbits regarding emergency communications with the Sheriff's department. If a sheriff's helicopter is flying overhead and putting out an announcement, you can also call 858-866-HELO to get the same message. She also reminded us that if you have a 911 emergency, you can actually send a text message to 911. That is helpful for people on the mountain who have an easier time sending text messages than making calls.

As a reminder, if you would like to give the Sheriff's department permission to intervene on your property in the event you are not present and someone is trespassing, please make sure to have a 602 form on file with the Sheriff's office. Please e-mail Katie Micheltmore at [katiemich@gmail.com](mailto:katiemich@gmail.com) if you would like an electronic copy. Forms can be mailed to the Sheriff's substation: 28201 N Lake Wohlford Rd., Valley Center, CA, 92082. Forms can also be emailed directly to Porscha. [Snow@sdsheriff.org](mailto:Snow@sdsheriff.org).

As always, if you see something, say something! If it's an emergency situation, of course call 911. If you need help with a person-related issue (like trespassing) and it's not an emergency, call the Sheriff's non-emergency line at 858-565-5200. If you need help with a vehicle-related issue (breakdown, car accident, illegal parking) and it's not an emergency, call the CHP's non-emergency line at 858-637-3800.

The best way to report activity and get assistance from your neighbors is through the NextDoor portal. To access NextDoor, please go to [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) and set up an account. Your neighbors are already using this tool to communicate with each other, and updates from your Neighborhood Watch team and Snow Safety team are posted here. Stay safe and healthy, and don't forget to keep an eye out for yourself and your neighbors.



# THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

*By John Weisgerber*



Due to restrictions on gatherings, no events were held in 2020. The Board has decided to cancel the annual CCPM picnic again for this year.

The CCPM Board is looking forward to having the Community Center building (located next to the Fire Station) being returned to the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department after construction of the new CAL FIRE crew quarters is complete.

A notice will be posted on NextDoor regarding the annual board election. Jack Weisgerber, President; Bonnie Beckman Spear, Vice President; Noreen Kirby, Secretary; Rosie Lopresti, Treasurer; and Nanci Healy, Member-At-Large

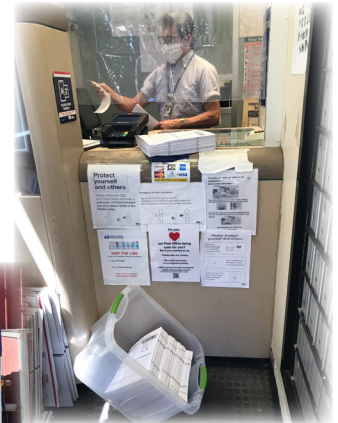
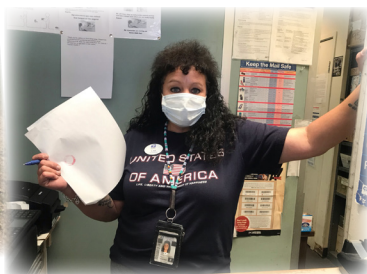
## THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP

**MEETINGS**  
**3rd Thursday of the Month**  
**6pm**

In 2020, with support from the PMPO, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors authorized the Palomar Mountain Community Sponsor Group. The PMPO and the sponsor group are complementary and synergistic as advocates for the Palomar Mountain community. As a non-profit, the PMPO has flexibility in fundraising and planning community events, whereas sponsor groups operate under strict county disclosure rules and are subject to the Brown Act. Sponsor groups officially advise and assist the County Board of Supervisors and the County Planning Commission in the preparation, amendment and implementation of community and subregional plans in unincorporated areas. Our sponsor group has seven members who serve staggered 4-year terms: Mike Appelman, Micah Beard, Robert Carlyle, Cliff Kellogg, Bill Leininger, Teresa McCarthy, and Dutch Bergman.

So far, four (virtual) meetings have been held by Zoom, and are regularly scheduled at 6pm on the third Thursday of the month. Community members are welcome and agendas can be found online at [www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/gpupdate/comm/northmtn.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/gpupdate/comm/northmtn.html). For more information, e-mail Chairman Robert Carlyle at [rcarlyle@outlook.com](mailto:rcarlyle@outlook.com).

**Palomar Mountain**  
**LAST YEAR**  
**EFFECTS OF COVID 19**



*Summer 2020*  
*Photos Courtesy of*  
*Michael Pique*





## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (PMFSC)

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

*By Cecelia Borland,  
Secretary PMFSC*

Well, it's been a very busy year for the Fire Safe Council. Through grants from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and SDG&E, we have been able to provide 6 large dumpsters that removed over 17 tons of refuse from the mountain, and 6 days of free chipping for 60 mountain residents. We are also partnering with CERT to provide Barricade Fire Retardant Gel for mountain residents; Please contact Bill Leininger (palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com) if you want some.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of our Board Chair, Dr. Yvonne Vaucher, we have also received a large grant from CAL FIRE for fuels management in the Crestline-Birch Hill area. Trimming the brush and trees that grow right up to the edge of the narrow roads will provide emergency vehicles access to, and safer resident evacuation from, homes in that area.



*Thank you* to everyone who has participated in the programs we've sponsored in our efforts to make Palomar Mountain and our community more fire-safe.

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

*By Joanne Marugg, President*

The Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company has enough water to meet the needs of its shareholders. With continued conservation efforts we will provide pristine water when the taps are turned on. We monitor our water usage daily and have our water frequently tested in a laboratory. Since we have not received enormous amounts of precipitation in the form of rain or snow this season, it is up to us to remember water usage is not a right but a privilege that comes to us in limited amounts. Those amounts seem to decrease each year. With that in mind, shareholders need to remember that outside irrigation with sprinkler/irrigation systems is not allowed. There is NO car washing. Good conservation methods include installing low volume toilets and low flow shower heads. It is important to match the water level to the amount of clothes when doing laundry.

**Most importantly, PLEASE report any water leaks immediately to the water company.**

**The emergency phone number is 760-207-7779.**

**If you have any business-related questions, our office phone number is 760-742-3516.**

*The Board of Directors thank you for your continued cooperation and support.*

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# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

## SPRING 2021

By Bill Leininger

Palomar Mountain Community:

Despite the past year's social distancing, CERT is still here and ready to help.

Highlights of our activities:

- Grant funding for new equipment and a supply trailer.  
We should have the trailer finished and on-site by early summer.
- Support to County COVID19 testing and vaccination sites
- On-going virtual training

For more information,  
visit our booth  
at upcoming community events,  
or contact:  
**Bill Leininger**  
Palomar.mountain.cert@gmail.com  
760-807-6923

We're looking forward to re-engaging with the Palomar Mountain community at educational events and community activities. Look for our green pop-up canopy and sign, where we'll have preparedness and fire season safety information for you.

Want to get more involved? We're holding another CERT Academy this summer, where you learn first aid, home preparedness, fire safety, search and rescue, and other skills. The training is tailored to your level of ability, and we need members of all abilities – from hiking over rocky trails to comforting scared disaster victims to people and supply organizers. Once we're able to gather safely to train, we'll advertise the class schedule. For more details, see my contact information below.

With the end of winter, fire season has started. Before the Santa Anas 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** 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 (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



### 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 Mountain, visit the Mountain Yellow Pages.

Don't see what you're looking for?  
Or, would you like to be added?  
Do you have a company that you were very pleased with?



Just let me know.  
Additions and corrections  
always welcomed.

Stay tuned, as it will be available to  
download and print for  
easy reference real soon.

**Bonnie Phelps, Realtor**  
**760-742-1742**

### COMMUNITY WEBSITE

**[MyPalomarMountain.com](http://MyPalomarMountain.com)**

Do you have something to add as a  
resource? Simply send it my way.

We're celebrating 23 years back at our home we owned in the 1970's. Our whole family lives next door, and own vacation rentals sharing fresh air and blue sky, appreciated by thankful travelers especially this past year. The 'Treasures' (our cute grandkids) have their Woodpecker Firewood Stand out front on State Park Road; offering wood, fresh eggs plus apples in the fall.

We're glad to be a part of this community  
and to help in any way.

*This is a Paid Advertisement.*





## TRAFFIC SAFETY

*By Burt Hulbert*

Palomar residents, with summer fast approaching again let's talk about traffic. In recent weeks we've had a couple of life flights and a death involving motorcycles, as well as cars totaled by hitting embankments and such. But from my observation, as well as others, it seems as though we're in a much better place than just 4-5 years ago. Whether it's because of speed limit signage, or enhanced patrols by police, or a combination remains to be determined. Patrolling seems a bit sporadic when I've actually driven about looking for it. We have had great success from time to time with controlled access during snow days. This has certainly worked when police control access at the SR-76. One thing is certain, when it comes to law enforcement, if we don't report what we see "it didn't happen". The likelihood of police being here in the first place is very low without our calling and asking for their help. So if we can act as a community of concerned citizens and call when it's a matter of public safety, perhaps we can maintain what ground we've gained. Or better yet, even exceed the quality of life we all share here. Believe me when I say I'm not yet reconciled in the belief that I've landed in such a place as this. This Palomar mountain. This "island in the sky".

## RESIDENT RED TAGS *By Lafe Ball*

Hello Palomar Residents:

I'm not sure if all of you are aware, but in 2019 we developed a new resident access tag to help get through some of the challenges at the snow stops at the bottom of the mountain and to allow other residents to know who lived or owned property on Palomar. We received great feedback in the latest snow days when people used these tags. Cecelia Borland has done an outstanding job in managing these tags.

Alan Serry has worked with the CHP and Sheriff, so they are aware of the tags and are looking forward to seeing these tags help our residents and owners not get stopped at the bottom of the hill.

### NOTE:

If you have the Green 2019-2021 tag in hand, they do expire in July. We have new 2021-2023 Red tags, so please contact Cecelia at (760) 742-8741 or [cecelia10@idafab.com](mailto:cecelia10@idafab.com).



## PALOMAR'S SNOW SAFETY TEAM *By Alan Serry*

I will share with you some stories about a group of your neighbors very busy behind the scene helping to make your Snow Days safe. Cliff Kellogg, Burt Hulbert, Alan Serry, and Katie Micheltore constitute the Snow Safety Team. Every November they call a meeting of agencies that can help us for a few days in winter. This Interagency Task Force is: CHP, Sheriff, Forest Service, State Park, County Road, CAL FIRE, and 6 other agencies or mountain groups. There is always staff turnover at these agencies, so we explain to the new personnel why we may need their help on certain Snow Days.

Gridlock is our most serious problem: when the fire truck cannot make it to a medical call, because the roads are completely locked down with vehicles. CHP is key to this problem and every year they promise to help. The team will activate the Snow Emergency Plan and yet after 8 years we still experience gridlock some days. Once this last year, the CHP let us down and CAL FIRE could not get to a medical call. CHP non-emergency dispatch 858-637-3800.

Some days there are more visitors than the mountain can handle: no parking, bathrooms or public places to play in the snow. The Sheriff's Department helps with trespassing. Our new Lieutenant Karla Menzies has committed to providing a Deputy on the mountain for Snow Days. This concept is: "Call, don't confront, we are just minutes away". Sheriff non-emergency dispatch 858-565-5200. Some days we get great assistance from the Forest Service and every day we get great service from County Road.

**Residents: Remember to carry your resident tags!**  
These tags help the CHP sort out residents from visitors.  
**The new red resident tags are now available.**





## RATTLE SNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING

The rattlers are already out! Would you like to have your dogs trained to avoid rattlesnakes? Call Fred for an appointment and take your dog for a personal training class in Santa Ysabel. 760-782-0728 [highonkennels.com](http://highonkennels.com).



## CORNER LOCATING APP

There is an app you can pull up on your phone called OnX that offers a free 30-day trial. It is amazingly accurate. The land that borders a client's property had been surveyed years ago. My client had found a couple, but not all, pins that marked his property line. He tried the app, entered his parcel number and downloaded. Downloading is important so the data is on your phone, even if your phone doesn't work on your land. In just a few minutes, the app took him right to the pin. Knowing where your corners are is always a big plus. Please be aware that survey markers, pins, stakes or whiskers are not to be tampered with. Of course, I also need to say that corners are to be marked only by licensed surveyors. It is a good investment and here are tips for you. The wooden stakes leading you to the small pin in the ground deteriorate quickly and then the surveyor's corner pins are hard to find. You might take photos, showing large rocks, trees or buildings. Then, install steel stakes with the tops painted in a bright color. It can save a lot of time and expense, when it is important to locate those corners in the future. For more info, visit [palomarmountainnews.com](http://palomarmountainnews.com) and search 'Survey Info'.

## FULLTIMERS CONTINUE TO GROW

Palomar has the largest population of full-timers since the building of the roads to get the mirror up for the observatory. Apparently, the availability of jobs in the 1930's and 40's was a huge draw during the time South Grade, Canfield Road and the Observatory were being completed. However, after the construction boom, Palomar became more of a summer and holiday destination. It was a lot more work to go for supplies. Those pioneers did not have Costco, Etsy or Amazon. We are so spoiled! What really made the difference the past few years is the ability for so many to work from home. Now that our internet is much improved, it is a huge draw for folks longing for all that Palomar offers.



## KIDS CLUB

This mountain is such a great place to raise kids! Back in 2008, our numbers had dwindled to just a couple, so the public school closed. Now with so many folks able to work from home, I just counted 56 full time children through young teens. Most all are home-schooled so this past year they didn't miss a beat and are thriving, learning from the mountain top. At Christmas they practiced carols, created some fun costumes and had a drive-by Nativity in front of the lodge. So adorable. Please stay tuned to [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com) for Kids Club info. Would you like to connect your kids with others? Just let me know and I'll head you in the right direction.

## MOUNTAIN LIONS

The mountain lion population is really growing. Neighbors have new photos on their trail cams several times a month. Many of us see them very often and have lost goats, chickens and cats. See a lion? Please report. Simple to do: [apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir/incident/create](https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir/incident/create).

## BURN PERMITS

There are so many downed branches and trees after the heavy April snows!!! 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 CAL FIRE for a burn permit 760-742-3701 to keep our forest green and fire safe.

## NEW LAW FOR FIRE SAFETY

California Association of Realtors posted about a new state law requiring your property to be fire safe. 'Defensible space' is the term for a buffer zone between a structure and any flammable grass, trees, shrubs, or wildland areas that surround it. Beginning July 1st, 2021, anyone selling their property will need to provide documentation that the property is in compliance with defensible space laws, or buyers must obtain such documentation of compliance. Palomar has strict guidelines to follow within 50 feet of structures. Furthermore, within 100 feet, standing dead or dying trees must be removed and grasses mowed to 4-inch height. Contact CAL FIRE for inspections and signing off. More info and links for required forms are posted on [www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com). Sorry to be the bearer of this news; always glad to get your questions answered anytime.





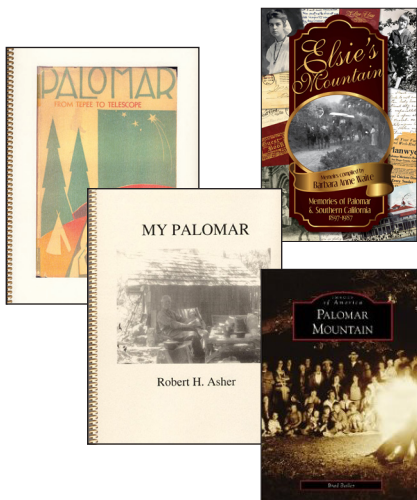
## COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . *Continued*

### PALOMAR HISTORY



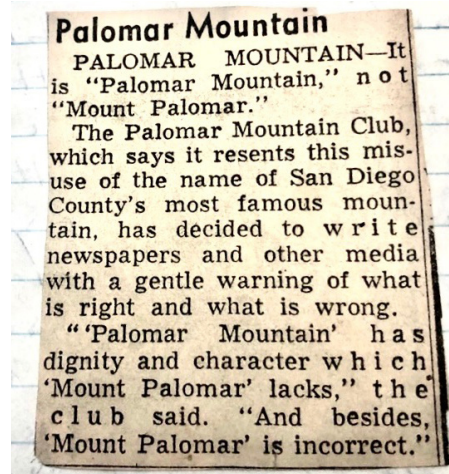
Our mountain historian, Peter Brueggman and his wife Kathy picked up a large box of very interesting documents. Barbara Waite donated the box from her folks, Chuck and Katie Beishline. It includes meeting minutes from the 1950s and 60s from the Palomar Mountain Club. So interesting to see all the old names like Gus Weber, Ralph Meyers, and Wayne and Shirley Thompson, who paid their \$1.00 monthly dues toward the potlucks, baby showers and all the fun they had back in the days. Peter will be sending links our way that will be turned around on PMNews. He also has photos to share of Nate Harrison's double barrel shot gun and a cooking pot or maybe a honey pot! To be determined! These items are in the process of being donated by the family who ran the Smith and Douglas Hotel in the State Park decades ago. Be sure and subscribe!

### SOME LOCAL TITLES:



### LET'S GET IT RIGHT... IT'S PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

Buried in the box of historical items was a clipping from a local newspaper about 70 years ago:



### SURVEYOR, ROAD AND POLE WORK

Much survey work has been done recently!

The county has road resurfacing planned for State Park and South Grade Road. Also, woodpeckers have been very busy for years storing acorns in the wooden power poles, so they are being replaced eventually. The used power poles are often available if you would like them for projects on your property, simply ask the workers. Here is a tip; be sure to not use poles or railroad ties indoors, as they do have creosote and can cause health problems. They are long lasting and have worked very well for outside retaining walls, steps, or fencing.



### FLOWERS

Palomar really does have beautiful flowers to enjoy year-round. Of course, spring and summer offer the most color. Have you been up the Nate Harrison Grade lately? There are some wonderful flowers to enjoy there, too. It has been such a pleasure to meet so many travelers from around the world through the vacation rentals and the folks who have been up for fresh air this past year. We have all this beauty right in our own back yard. You might pack a picnic, invite a neighbor and take off to explore what is waiting for you in our big outdoors.

### FUN THINGS TO DO

So often folks tell me how much their week at 6th grade camp meant to them. Some have such fond memories of visiting a cabin years ago. Some tell of coming up to play in the snow every year. Palomar has a special place in our hearts. There are also many people, especially this past year, who have brought dinner up to tailgate from the back of their car, enjoying our fresh air, beautiful views, amazing forest and ever-changing four seasons.

They often ask "What is there to do on Palomar?"

That prompted a new link on

[www.palomarmountainnews.com](http://www.palomarmountainnews.com). Click and search 'Fun things to do'. Are you new to Palomar, own a vacation rental or have guests heading your way? You are always welcome to share the link and are invited to send corrections and additions my way.



**Local Postal Customer  
Palomar Mountain CA 92060**

## PMPO BOARD ELECTIONS



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

The PMPO Board consists of 15 volunteers, five of which are up for election every year.

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.

Election of PMPO Board Members was accomplished at the (virtual) Annual Meeting on May 29, 2021.

Five members' terms ended:

- 1) John Lesac
- 2) Michael Pique
- 3) Rigel Rafto (stepped down 2020)
- 4) Linda Thorne
- 5) Yvonne Vaucher

After nominations, two former members and three new candidates (as well as one new alternate) agreed to run, and were elected by unanimous consent:

- 1) Diana Forero-Cook and  
Renee Forero-Cook (alternate)
- 2) Brian McBrayer
- 3) Hiroshi McDonald
- 4) Michael Pique
- 5) Yvonne Vaucher

*Thank You*  
**For Your Service to the  
Palomar Mountain Community**

Please visit PMPOinfo.com for information on the PMPO, and its Annual General Meeting and Elections.