



# PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

**Summer 2023 - Volume 34**

**The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization**

**Board Members:** Mike Appelman, Lafe Ball (Chair), Cecelia Borland, Robert Carlyle, Diana Forero-Cook, Renee Forero-Cook (alternate), Ryan Flohr, Josephine Flohr (alternative), Elizabeth Gettys (alternate), Elizabeth Getzoff, Rosemary Johnston, Hiroshi McDonald, Michael Pique (Secretary), Linda Thorne, Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh (Treasurer)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*by Lafe Ball*



Welcome to the 2023 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 Mountain community but also to organize responses to varied Palomar Mountain needs. These needs range from road traffic and safety to alerting the Palomar Mountain community about county planning issues. The board consists of up to fifteen members elected to three-year terms. Five member positions come up for election every year. These candidates are comprised of Palomar Mountain residents, property owners, and businesspersons. If you would like to participate in board activities, please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members or send an email to [secretary@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:secretary@pmpoinfo.com).

### Remembering Glenn Borland



*Summer 2021 Glenn and Cecelia*  
[palomarmountainnews.com/2022/12/09/friends-of-glenn-and-cecelia-borland](http://palomarmountainnews.com/2022/12/09/friends-of-glenn-and-cecelia-borland)

As most of you know, Glenn was the previous PMPO Chair and passed away in the fall, which left big shoes to fill. As a board, we offer our personal gratitude and condolences to Glenn's wife Cecelia and their family. He was a man always willing to lend a hand, share conversations, and of course support Palomar Mountain. Glenn and Cecilia moved to Palomar in May 2009. Shortly thereafter, Glenn, having a heart of service, supported varied groups on the mountain. He served on the PMPO, Volunteer Fire Department, Mutual Water, and Church Boards for most of his 14 years living on the mountain. Glenn was a ham operator and coordinated with the Valley Center Ham Radio Club, assuring Palomar Mountain had solid communication that could be useful in a time of need. "Time of need," that statement described Glenn. Whenever there was a time of need, Glenn would be there for a friend or stranger, to lend a hand or just to counsel. Glenn was someone to emulate and will be missed greatly.

The varied Palomar Community teams now could use more players. Many long-time neighbors have moved on, and many new neighbors have arrived. We invite their participation to allow our diverse programs to continue and success to be had for all. Although we cannot all be Glenn Borlands, many of these groups do not require days and weeks but only hours. We welcome all areas of talent and are always looking for new leaders, support personnel, IT specialists, pancake breakfast volunteers – whatever! If you have the time, we would greatly appreciate your help for our little piece of heaven. Email me at [chair@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:chair@pmpoinfo.com), and I'll connect you. *(Continued on Page 3)*

## MOUNTAIN MINGLE

**Saturday, May 6 - 10AM at the Fire Station**

*Come meet your neighbors for fun & enjoy provided refreshments!*

## PMPO Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Annual Meeting



**COME JOIN US!**

**Saturday, May 27, 2023**

**Breakfast 8am-10am**

**Adults: \$3**

**Annual Meeting immediately follows Breakfast at 10am**

**Children: \$1**

**at the Palomar Mountain Fire Station**

21610 Crestline Road • Palomar Mountain

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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: Michael Pique  
Publisher: Susan Humason  
Editors: Michael Pique & Libby Getzoff  
Photography: Michael Pique & Bonnie Phelps

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

Lafe Ball at:  
[chair@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:chair@pmpoinfo.com)  
attn: PMPO Newsletter

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

## Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

### TREASURER'S REPORT

**2022 - 2023**

*By Michael Walsh, PMPO Treasurer*



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

In 2022, the PMPO was the grateful recipient of 23 generous donations from our supporters, totaling \$7,587.18. In particular, our special thanks to Donna Dose and all the families of the Doctors Pond property, who very generously donated \$3,749.18 to the PMPO. In addition, thanks to Lafe Ball and Cecelia Borland for their leadership with the Palomar Resident Tag program, which has been a very successful and profitable initiative. The PMPO operates as a CA State registered, charitable 501(c)(3) organization, and donations to the PMPO are fully tax deductible.

#### Jan 1, 2022

Checking Acct. Balance	\$ 16,480.01
Savings Acct. Balance	\$ 36,075.63
<b>Total Accts. Balance</b>	<b>\$ 52,555.64</b>

#### Jan 1, 2023

Checking Acct. Balance	\$ 19,273.13
Savings Acct. Balance	\$ 39,593.91
<b>Total Accts. Balance</b>	<b>\$ 58,867.04</b>

#### Difference

Checking Acct. Balance	+ \$ 2,793.12
Savings Acct. Balance	+ \$ 3,518.28
<b>Total Accts. Balance</b>	<b>+ \$ 6,311.40</b>

## Remembering The Healey Family



Long-time mountain resident Nanci Healey passed away in November, 2022, not long after the death of her husband, Palomar woodworker Rick Healey. Nanci was a strong supporter of the Community Center of Palomar Mountain, enthusiastically helping with events and serving on the CCPM Board. Son Dylan grew up on the mountain, inherited their cabin, and could benefit from the continuing friendship of our local community.

[palomarmountainnews.com/2022/12/09/neighbors-of-dylan-healey/](https://palomarmountainnews.com/2022/12/09/neighbors-of-dylan-healey/)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*(Continued from Page 1) by Lafe Ball*

The "little house by the fire station" has returned to being our Community Center! At last! As COVID seems to be morphing from the end-of-the-world pandemic to a flu-type bug, we are increasingly meeting locally in person. The camaraderie and offline conversations are beginning to evolve and "get back to the new normal." Our many community groups again have the opportunity to use this building for their events, now that the firefighters have their new quarters behind the station. That said, the future has arrived on Palomar Mountain (Zoom and Webex), allowing monthly and quarterly meeting participation to be more accessible to many. We will be working to add some helpful technology enhancements: a WiFi spot for locals to use from outside at any time, and better audio & video inside to improve remote attendance.

The PMPO website ([pmpoinfo.com](http://pmpoinfo.com)) has been managed and supported by Betsy and Charles Gettys and they will continue to do so. Thank you, Betsy and Charles. Websites are always a work in progress, but we look to have what we need for our small mountain town. Mike Pique has been an active member for almost 30 years. I personally want to thank him for his commitment and hard work throughout the years, regarding newsletter management, documentation, and much more.

Staffing of the fire station by the San Diego County Fire District/CAL FIRE continues to be exceptional. Thanks to Captain Dean Kowalski and all the firefighters who staff the station! On this note, the PMPO would like to acknowledge the ever-present vigilance of 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. Like they say, it takes a village!

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. With all the snow and rain, brush will be growing vigorously. The Fire Department will be inspecting properties a little bit more aggressively this year due to the pending growth. Road access for fire trucks and emergency response vehicles is an important part of preparedness; maintenance of our private roads allows this access. Continuous communication between landowners and the Fire Department to ascertain where work needs to be done is critical to success. Many road improvements have been completed over the last year, but we all know vegetation never sleeps and continues to grow. The question is not whether we will have another fire, it is simply when, and how prepared will we be?

Bill Leininger leads CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Bill, a volunteer and strongly devoted CERT leader, allows

the Palomar Mountain CERT to continue to thrive. Thank you, Bill and the many volunteer CERT members, for all of your hard work and ongoing commitment to our place in the sky, Palomar Mountain.

Snow has sure been a challenge this winter. Many homes were inaccessible, roads were completely blocked, cars and homes were snowed in, trees down, phone and power off and on. Spring and summer will be a time to recover. Thanks to Bonnie Phelps' [palomarmountainnews.com](http://palomarmountainnews.com) for all of her communication and recommendations on how to plan ahead. On a personal note, my roof had so much snow weight that when the snow began to melt in between storms, it "removed" a couple of vent pipes and left open holes that required covering during rain and snow... that was fun!! These vent pipes will require replacement. So, look closely at your roofs and structures to make sure all areas of your homes are in undamaged shape.

Many thanks to not only the contributors of articles, special moments, and varied support throughout the year but a special thanks to the work of newsletter publisher Susan Humason, and editors Michael Pique and Elizabeth Getzoff. Many heartfelt thanks to them and to all the other people who have contributed to the activities of the PMPO.

## Mountain Forestry Services

- Weed Whacking
- Tree & Brush Work
- Firewood



**Robert Carlyle**  
**760-742-1891**

*This is a Paid Advertisement.*



Palomar Mountain  
Volunteer Fire Department dba

## PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FIRE ASSOCIATION



### REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS *By Robert Carlyle*

Two years ago, the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department changed its business name to the Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association to better reflect our present situation. Instead of fighting fires and providing medical aid to residents, in 2016 we leased the property to San Diego County and they contracted with CAL FIRE to provide these services to us on Palomar. They have been doing an outstanding job and we are lucky to have a crew up here that

cares as much as they do about looking after us. The PMCFA acts as a liaison with the County and CAL FIRE for the residents of Palomar. We meet the first Saturday of every month at 0900h (9AM), at the Community Center (next to the Fire Station). We also provide a Zoom connection for the meeting which I send out on NextDoor with the agenda. All are welcome. See our web site at [palomar-fire.org](http://palomar-fire.org).

TEL: (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

#### BOARD MEETINGS

**9AM**

**1st Saturday of the  
Month**



*Keith Ronchetti presents "Thank You Award" to Cliff and Susie Kellogg honoring their decades of service to the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department  
Sept 2022*

## THANK YOU

for supporting the

**Palomar Mountain  
Community Fire Association**



#### BOARD MEMBERS

*Robert Carlyle, President*

*Tom Mendenhall, Vice President*

*Mike Pique, Secretary*

*Keith Ronchetti, Treasurer*

*Mark Thompson, Member at Large*

## PALOMAR CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

*By David Hasty, Lead Director*



Palomar Christian Conference Center (PCCC, [www.palomar.camp](http://www.palomar.camp)) has been a Christian Camp on Palomar Mountain serving Churches and organizations in Southern California since 1951. Throughout the decades, hundreds of thousands of people have stayed overnight at camp to be refreshed and encouraged, and to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Last year, 2022, was an important year in our history as it was the first full year of normal camp operations after PCCC was closed for over a year due to COVID. We were blessed with a full camp where over 12,000 people stayed in 2022!

This year has also been busy so far despite all of the snow and rain we have received! Hopefully it will make our grass even greener so that we can continue to provide a beautiful place for people to get away from the distractions of everyday life and connect with the Lord and with each other. We are excited to see what happens at PCCC for the rest of the year!

Have a blessed day!





Friends of  
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

# FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

By Rosemary Johnston

We completed our annual fundraising drive in December and received more than \$18,000 in donations from park supporters. We are continuing our campaign to remove the cattails and dredge Doane Pond, which has been on our 'to do' list for more than ten years. We are requesting that park supporters send an email or a letter to Ray Lennox, Colorado Desert District Superintendent, 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004, requesting that this project become a priority in the park. His email is ray.lennox@parks.ca.gov. Right now, as the cattails encircle the pond there is virtually no place where fishing enthusiasts can cast a line. In addition, the accumulated sediment in the pond creates a more shallow pond which can increase the water temperature and pose a danger to the fish. The cattails also pose a fire hazard. Data on State Parks throughout California reveals that those parks with a water feature have higher attendance than those that do not.

Park officials have decided to install locked gates at the top and bottom of Nate Harrison Grade. The gates will be locked only on snow days. Park

staff, CAL FIRE staff, and Christian Conference Center staff have been summoned on numerous occasions to rescue motorists whose cars get stuck on the snowy road, which is not in great condition on a good day. The Friends opposed this project initially, pointing out that the Nate Harrison Grade is one of three wildfire evacuation roads on the mountain, and that campers and guests of the Conference Center could be trapped in the park in case of a fire. We have been assured that signs will be posted on both ends of the road informing motorists of gate closure on snow days.

Micah Beard, executive director of the Palomar Christian Conference Center, and his family have moved to Alabama to take a position at a church camp there. Micah has been a board member of Friends of PMSP the past few years, and we appreciate his leadership and service to the community. A new director has not yet been selected.

We had a successful Apple Fest event during weekends in October at the park. Visitors made corn husk dolls and applewood necklaces and helped squeeze apples through the apple press to make cider. We also had potato sack

races. Park Interpreter Will Meyst gave talks and tours of the historic apple orchard.

We will be funding some wood sheds with secure locks near the park entrance kiosk to store firewood for campers. Recently, someone stole firewood bundles valued at \$100 from the existing storage container. Also, we are ordering refrigerator magnets featuring the Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park logo and Junior Park Ranger badges for youth who complete the Junior Ranger program. The refrigerator magnets and other merchandise such as mugs, patches, and insect repellent should be available at the entrance kiosk soon.

We continue to rely on the generosity of our donors so please consider making a donation on our website at

[www.friendsofpalomarsp.org](http://www.friendsofpalomarsp.org)

Remember there's no such thing as a bad day at the park!



## Lotus Club ROAD RALLY

So. Grade Road  
October 22, 2022

*Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique*



# PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

## SPRING 2023



*By Steve Flanders,  
Public Outreach Coordinator*

During the past year, science operations have continued without interruption, several new programs have begun, and, at long last, the Observatory has reopened.

### Putting COVID-19 Behind Us

For the duration of the pandemic, work on the Hale Telescope was suspended only for a few weeks while the robotic telescopes continued without interruption. Last November, we reopened the grounds and now we are ready to resume public tours on June 10, 2023.

Unfortunately, since the last week in December, the Observatory has been closed more than it has been open. Initially, this was due not to COVID but to the dangerous conditions created by ice and snow on the roads and walkways. At present, we remain closed while repairs are being made to facilities damaged during the storms.

In particular, the Visitor Center was flooded and now the floors and walls are being rebuilt while some of the electrical equipment is being replaced.

### New Science Discoveries

Using the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF), we have now discovered a total of 7,297 supernovae since the program's inception. Or 1,365 more supernovae than we had found at this time last year. We are discovering nearly four supernovae each day.

And you may remember the "Green Comet" that passed the Earth in early February. It was found by ZTF found about a year ago.

### New Instruments and Programs

The Double Spectrograph (DBSP) is both the most used and the longest serving science instrument on the Hale Telescope. It is being replaced and now commissioning has begun on the Next Generation Palomar Spectrograph (NGPS). This new optical spectrograph will achieve a rate of optical throughput three times greater than DBSP while also providing a number of operational efficiencies including greatly improved target acquisition system capabilities.

A small, fully automated optical telescope named Flarescope was installed last summer. The instrument is dedicated to monitoring nearby, sun-like stars continuously recording and measuring flare events, bulk plasma motions, coronal mass ejections and energetic particle events of all kinds.

### A New Observatory Director

Director of Caltech Optical Observatories for the past five years, Professor Jonas Zmuidzinas, is returning to his work as a researcher and teacher. Caltech Professor Chris Martin will assume the directorship on May 1. A member of the Caltech faculty since 1993, Professor Martin has specialized in the study of galaxy evolution and the intergalactic medium. He has observed on the Hale Telescope for more than 500 nights since 2002.

### Forest Health and Fire Safety

Sometime ago, Palomar Observatory received an award under California's Forest Health Grant Program that provided for mechanical thinning, mastication, and brush removal on 312 acres of the Observatory's property. This phase of the work is now complete, and we have now applied for a second grant that will allow us to conduct clearing operations on sections of land further to the east.

### Aluminization

In October, we will re-aluminize the Hale Telescope's 200-inch mirror. An 8- or 10-day project involving everyone on staff, I'm sorry to say that we can't bring people in to see it.

### A 75th Anniversary Celebration

The Hale Telescope was dedicated on June 3, 1948, so Saturday, June 3, 2023, represents the 75th anniversary of that event. This year also represents the 75th anniversary of the beginning of science operations on the 48-inch wide-field telescope, now the Samuel Oschin 48-inch Schmidt telescope.

In commemoration, a science meeting will be held on June 1 and 2 in Pasadena featuring presentations by members of the Caltech faculty who will speak on subjects drawn from their research in astrophysics and related areas.

A program of some type will be held at the Observatory on June 3. But planning for this event has been disrupted especially by conditions in the Visitor Center that leave the building unusable, at least for the present.

We will put out a notice when we know more.



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# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

*PalomarMountainWater.com*

*By Joanne Marugg, President*

Thank you to all of our shareholders who have practiced water conservation during the continuing drought. While we always need to be careful with our finite supply, practicing conservation is appreciated and recommended. Our water is pristine and is kept that way through the diligent efforts of our system manager Mike Probert and his assistant Jeremy Dyson.

The Board of Directors has been working on updating our by-laws. While we've made only small changes, you are required to vote on them. Shareholders will be receiving information on the bylaw changes and a ballot on which to vote. It is extremely important that you read the new changes, vote, and return your ballot in a timely fashion. Our company is dependent upon the cooperation of all shareholders. You expect water to flow when you turn on your tap and the Board of Directors appreciates and expects shareholders to help when we request something from them. Thank you in advance and look for the new bylaw information coming to you within the next month or so.



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

Emergency: 760-207-7779 • Business-related questions: 760-742-3516.

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

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## GIANT SEQUOIA SEEDLINGS *By Jim Hamerly*

Each year in spring we distribute live sequoia seedlings for planting on Palomar Mountain and surrounding areas. To increase the chances of successful growth, plantings must be at an altitude of 4,000 feet or above. And west-facing properties that receive coastal fog do best.

In 2022, we distributed approximately 100 seedlings to 20 landowners free-of-charge and we intend to distribute 50 this spring for a nominal fee. It's too late to order for 2023 but to express interest for spring 2024, please email hamerly@gmail.com and we will add you to our interest list.



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## THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SPONSOR GROUP

*by Robert Carlyle*

The Palomar Mountain Community Sponsor Group was formed by San Diego County in 2021 to provide the County with a representation on Palomar. We provide input to the mountain from the County when asked and input to the County from the mountain. When there is an issue that needs to be addressed, we meet on the third Thursday of the month at 1800h (6 PM) at the Community Center (near the Fire Station) and on Zoom. Notification is sent out over the NextDoor platform with the zoom address, and a notice at the Post Office.

Agendas can also 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)

All members of the Community are welcome to attend.

### BOARD MEMBERS

*Robert Carlyle, Chair*

*Mike Appelman, Vice Chair*

*Cliff Kellogg, Member at Large*

*William Leininger, Member at Large*

*Teresa McCarthy, Member at Large*

*Dutch Bergman, Member at Large*

### MEETINGS

**6PM**

**3rd Thursday of the Month**





# THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

by Rosie Lopresti and Jack Weisgerber



In 2004, the Community Center of Palomar Mountain, Inc. was established "to provide for the construction, management and operation of a building to be used for a place for meetings, library, social events, emergency refuge, recreation and other activities related to the common good and general welfare of the community of Palomar Mountain".

The Community Center building is located on property owned by the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (PMVFD; now doing business as the Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association). The

County of San Diego signed a 50-year lease with the PMVFD in 2016. In January of 2023 the CCPM signed a license agreement with the County, gaining permission to use the Community Center building and grounds.

Community boards who meet at the CCPM include: the Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC), the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO), and the CCPM.

Past events held at the Community Center and the Palomar Mountain Fire Station include the PMVFD annual barbecue on Labor Day weekend, the PMPO Annual Pancake Breakfast on Memorial Day weekend, CERT trainings, PMFSC events on Fire Safety, and the CCPM picnics and social activities.

We are hopeful that the new CCPM Board will continue to carry on the mountain tradition of sponsoring events and managing the Community Center.

## Palomar Mountain PICNIC SEPT 2022



Community Center Front Room and Newly Renovated Kitchen



Photos Courtesy of  
Michael Pique



Many thanks to Jack and Rosie  
for holding fast to their vision of a  
Community Center for Palomar Mountain



Photos Courtesy of Bonnie Phelps



2023 Blizzard







# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (PMFSC)

A 501(c)3, non-profit organization dedicated to helping keep Palomar Mountain fire safe

*By Yvonne Vaucher*

**BOARD MEETINGS  
9AM  
4th Saturday  
of the Month**

The Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC) had a busy year in 2022.

## • PMFSC Dumpster / Onsite Chipping

The PMFSC dumpster, available monthly from April to October, and onsite chipping have substantially improved defensible space on Palomar as noted by the annual CAL FIRE Defensible Space Inspection team. Both activities are funded by grants from the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation and the San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment programs.

The **PMFSC dumpster** will be available on the first Saturday of each month at 8AM-12PM from April through September 2023. The dumpster is located near the Fire Station on Summit Circle next to the US Forest Service Crestline Picnic Area. It usually fills up fast so arrive early to be sure there is still space for your load. **Our PMFSC contact for dumpster information is Cecelia Borland (760) 594-4688.**

**PMFSC on-site chipping** will continue through July 31, 2023. We chip when we have enough sites scheduled to completely fill a chipping day. The number of chipping days is limited. Make your chipping piles ASAP. **Robert Carlyle coordinates and schedules all our PMFSC on site chipping. Call him to schedule your chipping (760) 742-1891.**

## • Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB)

We hosted a well-attended Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) workshop, sponsored by the Resource Conservation District of San Diego County, that provided the latest information on prevention and control of the GSOB infestation which is rapidly increasing the number of dead and dying oak trees on Palomar.

## • CAL FIRE Grant

Our three-year CAL FIRE grant for the roadside improvement project in the Birch Hill and Crestline areas was completed in December. Improvements enable emergency vehicle access and increase the safety of emergency evacuation for the many residents living along these narrow, unimproved, privately maintained roads.

## • Evacuation Placards

To assist visitors in the event of an emergency evacuation, we designed and distributed evacuation placards that can be posted near the front door of rental cabins.

**This year, the severe 2023 winter storms have left Palomar with so many downed trees and so much structural damage that considerable extra defensible space clean-up work is needed.** We are continuing our monthly dumpster and on-site chipping programs and are working with CAL FIRE, the San Diego County Supervisors, Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, Resource Conservation District, and Regional Fire Foundation to improve defensible space, wildfire safety and combat the GSOB on Palomar.

The PMFSC Foundation is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. All Palomar landowners and residents are members. We appreciate your ideas and invite your participation at our monthly Board meetings held at 9 AM on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Community Center of Palomar Mountain. Notifications of PMFSC activities are posted at the Palomar Post Office bulletin board, on Nextdoor, and on our PMFSC website. **Let's all work together to protect Palomar!**

*Thank You* to all who participated in our PMFSC dumpster, chipping, roadside improvement and GSOB programs and to those who generously contributed to our 2022 fund drive!

### PMFSC BOARD MEMBERS

*Yvonne Vaucher, President  
Robert Carlyle, V President  
Gina Aven, Treasurer  
Cecelia Borland, Secretary*

*John Lucia, Member at Large  
Michael Pique, Member at Large  
Linda Thorne, Member at Large  
Mike Wilson, Member at Large  
Denise Yaeger, Member at Large*



**The Gold-Spotted  
Oak-Borer  
Pal Mtn Community  
Workshop**  
October 1, 2022  
Pal Mtn Fire Station



*Photos Courtesy of  
Michael Pique*

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

## SPRING 2023

By Bill Leininger



Palomar Mountain Community,

Are you ready? Your San Diego County Fire Community Emergency Response Team (SDCF CERT) will be at community events to share information about how to prepare for wildfires, earthquakes, snowstorms, and more!

Upcoming activities for SDCF CERT will include:

- Helping property owners get reflective house number signs and arrows – make it easy for the Firefighters to find you fast.
- Hosting community education events on CPR and weather awareness.

At the 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.

As summer approaches, our fire risk increases. Before the warmer temperatures and 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 by text.

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 if 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
- Download the **Pulse Point Emergency App**

For more information,  
visit our booth  
at upcoming community events  
(announced on NextDoor)  
or contact:

**Bill Leininger**

E-mail:

[sdcfcert\\_northern\\_palomarmtn@sdcfd.com](mailto:sdcfcert_northern_palomarmtn@sdcfd.com)

Cell - 760-807-6923



## 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 -- 2023 Contribution --

RETURN TO:

PMPO, Box 145

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145

PMPO IS RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL

AND STATE AUTHORITIES

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

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

## RESIDENT 2023-25 "BLUE" TAGS

*By Lafe Ball*



Hello Palomar Residents:

The new 2023–25 Palomar Mountain Resident Tags will soon be available! These easy hang-in-your-window tags have helped during snow days when there's been lots of traffic and access restrictions. When the Sheriff or CHP sees the tags during the eventful days, they wave tag holders right through. This year we have added a spot to the tag front for your contact number should someone need your car moved during snow challenges.

As I'm sure all of you are aware, costs have increased everywhere and we are not immune. The 2023-25 tags will be \$6.50 each if purchased in-person at a mountain event, or \$7.50 each by mail. We recommend one tag per vehicle in your household. As always, all proceeds go to the PMPO to support the varied activities here on the mountain.

Ways to get these residence tags:

- In person during the main PMPO events in May and September
- By email to [chair@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:chair@pmpoinfo.com) or Text or Phone, Lafe Ball (909) 208-9401
- Mail a check to: "PMPO", PO Box 145, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060 or pay by Venmo to @lafe-ball-1

*Please provide the following information:*

- 1) First & Last Name
- 2) Palomar physical property address to verify eligibility -  
Street address or assessor's parcel number (and Crestline/Birch Hill easement road number, if available)
- 3) Current tag number(s), if applicable. We will do our best to maintain your previous number(s)
- 4) Mailing address: where to send the tag to
- 5) Contact information\*: Email address / Phone number

\* Voluntary: to be added to the PMPO distribution list for Palomar Mountain–specific information only.

We are working to compile a complete list of residents and property owners to increase our options for communication. If you would like us to share this information with other Palomar Mountain organizations such as the Fire Safe Council and the Community Center, tell us we may.

The PMPO developed the resident tag in early 2019 to promote community engagement and neighbor recognition. Prior to Alan Serry's passing (RIP), Alan worked diligently with the CHP and Sheriff making them aware of the resident tags, helping greatly during the infamous "Snow Days". If for some reason the Sheriff Deputy or CHP Officer has not seen them before (the personnel changes often) please enlighten them. Over the last four years Cecelia Borland has assured access to these tags to residents and has done outstanding in managing tag distribution. Thank you, Cecelia, for all your past years of support and commitment!

.....

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Thank you for entrusting me with your Real Estate  
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# COMMUNITY TIDBITS FROM 28 YEARS ON PALOMAR . . .

*By Bonnie Phelps*

As most of you know, this is the second time for us on Palomar. We bought our house in 1975, sold it a few years later and bought it back in 1998 and started Palomar Mountain News. In 2000 I was encouraged to get my Real Estate license. It has been a very interesting and wonderful career. For the past 23 years I have been to all but maybe 2 property inspections: wells, septic, pest, structural engineers, insurance, tree trimmer, surveyors, County Road crews, contractors, SDG&E, Forest Service, ever-changing County Building Department offices, and now required CAL FIRE defensible space. At each inspection my goal is: "I'm here to learn".

Within these PMPO Tidbits, I'll pass on some of my gleaning from the pros.

In the 1970's Palomar was a very active place to live. Monthly community potlucks, BBQs, the very beginning days of the volunteer fire department trainings, lots of dinners, baby showers, and celebrations in homes. It has been bitter-sweet to get calls to sell many cabins and homes where we had such good times 50 years ago but so much has changed!!! Trees and plants are just like children; they grow up so fast!!!

**FOREST SERVICE** - A couple decades ago an inspector shared during our drought that rainfall could support about 80 trees per acre. When you count the little fast-growing seedlings, she said much of Palomar has about 1000 trees per acre. She encouraged thinning the carpet of little seedlings to give the larger trees a chance to have enough water to thrive. Years ago a 'Penny Pines' project was started, encouraging school children to bring their pennies to school to plant pine trees. The birds and winds carried the seeds all over this mountain. Apparently those fast-growing, very

thirsty, non-native trees were the first to die and a lot of costly work was done with many dead trees needing removal to make the mountain more fire safe.

**TREES** - Be careful where you plant and keep them thinned out. After 20 years, when we moved back, there were so many more trees! Old photos found in cabins from when they were built have shown very few trees on the land. In the late 1970's we had several years of tremendous rain. My guess is that was when a lot of our now-huge trees really took off.

I personally planted about a dozen seedlings in front of our house along State Park Road and on a totally bare bank out from our kitchen. Little did I know, I planted in the public road easement and now the county has to trim those trees for cars to drive by. Trees have been planted or sprout up under the power easements, too. It is not uncommon to see the tops cut off with most eventually dying. Check for easements and setbacks. Public road setbacks often extend 30 or 50 feet from the center line. At the bottom of the bare bank where I'd planted the trees we had a well. When it went dry, a well driller looked at the trees and said "these trees drink first and you might consider cutting them down." (My trees?!?! Cut them down???) A new well was pretty costly.

The folks we sold to and bought back from, added a workshop to our garage. After we moved back, I was walking through the workshop and tripped on the carpet. We moved everything out and saw that the concrete had broken and was lifted a few inches. Picking up pieces of broken concrete, we found a tree root doing what tree roots do. A cleaning gal came running down the stairs after finding the tub-shower enclosure in the apartment above

had separated from the wall a couple inches. Trees I'd planted had broken the foundation and had to come down along with a few others. It was quite a project to jack-hammer the floor, lift the second story and repair the damage the trees had done by being planted too close to the house. I've seen foundation damage all over Palomar from trees that have grown to now touch houses. The trees always win.

**SEPTIC** - When Palomar cabins were built decades ago, there were no guidelines for septic systems. Now, new installations require permits and must comply with current regulations. The last time I checked, the county requires a 300-foot leach field layout with 15-foot spacing between fields on level land, and a matching reserve. The field can only run on cleared land, thus requiring very costly tree removal in some cases. Most septic system repairs have been done without permits but there might come a time when contractors cannot do the repairs without permits. So, you might consider keeping open areas to avoid the expense of cutting down trees later.

**INSURANCE** - During the past few months our winter storms brought strong winds and record snow of up to 8 feet in some areas, resulting in much tree and structure damage. Most insurance inspectors now require that no branches overhang a structure. Some allow no tree to be within 10 feet of a structure nor branches within 10 feet of a chimney. One family up here just paid over \$6,000 for work needed to keep their insurance. Some of those little seedlings I planted now have a canopy reaching out 20+ feet from the trunk.

*Continued on Page 13*

## COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . *Continued*

**CAL FIRE** - CAL FIRE has an annual defensible space inspection for all properties. Moreover, all Real Estate transactions now include a section stating that either the seller or the buyer must agree to have the required work done. One of the requirements states "if you have dead or dying trees on your property the entire tree needs to be removed..." See CAL FIRE form at [fire.ca.gov/dspace](http://fire.ca.gov/dspace).

**SDG&E and Davey Tree** - We are a part of the Cleveland National Forest area, which has guidelines requiring that no stump be left taller than 8 inches on the tall side. During the drought, after SDG&E/Davey Tree cut down

a lot of standing dead trees, I found a graveyard of stumps several feet tall. I sent SDG&E a bunch of photos with a yard stick, and they came back and cut the stumps. Now, with different people in charge, some of our dead stumps are cut 20 feet tall. If CAL FIRE chooses to call out standing dead stumps at your annual inspection and/or when you sell your property, then someone needs to deal with reducing those tall stumps to below 8 inches on the tall side. I'm working with SDG&E/Davey Tree on some properties now to get this problem rectified and will post more info, when available, on [PalomarMountainNews.com](http://PalomarMountainNews.com).

**TREES and FLOWERS** - 50 years ago Palomar had so many very fragrant lilacs blooming this time of year. I can take you right to those bushes but they don't bloom anymore. Why? They need full sun but are now under the shade of big trees. You can find some small lilacs that have spread from the decades-old plants into the sun. Daffodils can be separated to replant in sunny locations. We planted over 1000 daffodils all along the road in front of our house and many folks helped plant along South Grade Road. Alas, now the County Road crews are required to spray herbicides for fire safety so make sure you plant on your own property.



**Longtime Postmaster  
Mayolo Retires**



**Halloween 2022** Across from Palomar Mountain Lodge



**Movie Night at  
Bailey's Lodge**  
"It's A Wonderful Life"  
December 10, 2022



**Smith Mountain Boys**  
at Lake Henshaw Cafe - August 2022



*Photos Courtesy of Michael Pique*

**Local Postal Customer  
Palomar Mountain CA 92060**

## PMPO BOARD ELECTIONS



*By Michael Pique, PMPO Secretary*  
*secretary@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 website, PMPOinfo.com.

Election of PMPO Board Members will be accomplished at the Saturday May 27, 2023 Annual General Meeting, 10 AM, following the Pancake Breakfast.

We need to elect a replacement to fill Glenn Borland's seat, and for the following board members whose terms are ending or have left the board for other reasons:

- 1) Robert Carlyle [willing to run again]
- 2) Ryan Flohr and alternate Josephine Flohr
- 3) Elizabeth Getzoff [willing to run again]
- 4) Michael Walsh [willing to run again]
- 5) Brian McBrayer

To nominate a Board candidate, including yourself, email [secretary@pmpoinfo.com](mailto:secretary@pmpoinfo.com).

Please visit:  
[PMPOinfo.com](http://PMPOinfo.com) for information on the PMPO,  
and its Annual General Meeting and Elections.

*Thank You*

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