



PMPO

www.PMPOinfo.com

Summer 2024 - Volume 35

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

Board Members: Mike Appelman, Lafe Ball (Chair), Cecelia Borland, Robert Carlyle, Ryan Flohr (alternate Josephine Marcelino), Diana Forero-Cook (alternate Renee Forero-Cook), Elizabeth Getzoff (Vice Chair), Rosemary Johnston, Rosie Lopresti, Hiroshi McDonald, Michael Pique (Secretary), Toby Roy (alternate Cor Shaffer), Linda Thorne, Yvonne Vaucher, Michael Walsh (Treasurer)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



by Lafe Ball

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 to also organize responses to varied Palomar Mountain needs. These needs range from road traffic and safety to representing the Palomar Mountain community in county planning issues. The board consists of up to fifteen elected members for three-year terms. Five member positions come up for election every year. These candidates are comprised of Palomar Mountain residents, property owners, and businesspersons. Many of the PMPO board have also been on the boards of other Palomar community groups, such as the Fire Safe Council, which has found grant monies for dumpster days, chipping, tree felling, etc. With all the new residents, WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION, or we may lose these mostly free amenities. 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.

It seems like 2023 just flew by. From the overwhelming snow we received throughout the end of 2022 and of 2023 where we had people snowbound on Palomar for multiple days, to the end or acceptance of COVID being part of our lives moving forward.

This year it looks like El Nino has kicked back in; our snow and rain has been decent but nothing like last year. Our monthly and quarterly meetings for the various boards have taken a new flavor where they are online via zoom and in person at the Community Center. Outfitting the Center for hybrid online/in-person meetings is coming along well. Speaking of the Community Center, we could really use some people on that board as well, as Rosie Lopresti is finally stepping down as the president after many years of outstanding service.

Captain Dean Kowalski and all the firefighters who staff the Palomar 79 station continue to be highly involved in the community and we appreciate knowing they are there. We now have a temporary ambulance located on Palomar while we await the new 4-wheel drive ambulance. This should help immensely as last year the crews carried people out through the snow, which from my understanding was not an easy feat.

Continued on Page 3

Powerline Threat - See Article on Page 10

PMPO Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Annual Meeting

COME JOIN US!

Saturday, May 25, 2024

\$3 - Adults • \$1 - Children

Breakfast 8am-10am

Annual Meeting at 10am
immediately follows breakfast
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: Toby Roy
 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
 attn: PMPO Newsletter

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

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization TREASURER'S REPORT

2023 - 2024

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 2023, the PMPO was the grateful recipient of 14 generous donations from our supporters, totaling \$2,280.00. In November of 2023, the PMPO invested \$50,000 in a 1-year Certificate of Deposit earning interest at 4% APR. Finally, thanks to Lafe Ball for his continued leadership with the Palomar Resident Tags 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, 2023

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

Jan 1, 2024

Checking Acct. Balance	\$10,146.79
Certificate of Deposit 1 yr.	\$50,000.00
Savings Acct. Balance	<u>\$ 349.42</u>
Total Accts. Balance	\$60,496.21

Difference

Total Accts. Balance	+ \$1,629.17
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Mountain Forestry Services

- Weed Whacking
- Tree & Brush Work
- Firewood



Robert Carlyle
 760-742-1891

This is a Paid Advertisement.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

(Continued from Page 1) by Lafe Ball

The PMPO website (pmpoinfo.com) is maintained by Betsy and Charles Gettys and they will continue to do so. Thank you, Betsy, and Charles. I am hopeful in 2024 we start to get more clicks on that website for information and if anyone has anything they need to post, please let us know and we will get it up there. We are also working on a new sign in front of the Community Center for community notifications and information for events.

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. Continuous communication between landowners and the Fire Department to ascertain where work needs to be done is critical. The question is not whether we will have another fire, it is simply when and how prepared we will be.

Additionally, I would like to personally acknowledge all the ever-present vigilance, support and partnering with CAL FIRE, the US Forest Service, and Bill Leininger's "CERT" (Community Emergency Response Team). They are all critical for our community and like they say, it takes a village!

And finally, thank you to all the involved members of the various boards and support groups who commit personal time to the community. I urge everyone to see where they can get involved. It is a small commitment to your small town.

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 publisher Susan Humason, coordinator Toby Roy, and editors Mike Pique and Elizabeth Getzoff. Many heartfelt thanks to them and to all the other people who have contributed to the activities of the PMPO.

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 -- 2024 Contribution --

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PMPO, Box 145
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145
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ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ANYONE?

If you would like to receive the PMPO annual newsletter electronically in the future, please email newsletter@pmpoinfo.com and let us know. Your email address will not be shared or distributed in any way.



Palomar Mountain
Volunteer Fire Department dba

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY FIRE ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETINGS
9AM
1st Saturday of the
Month

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS *By Robert Carlyle*

Three 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 0900 (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.



TEL: (760) 742-3701
FAX: (760) 742-0574

www.palomar-fire.org

21610 Crestline Road • P.O. Box 235
Palomar Mountain, CA 92060

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



HOW TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ON PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

by Elizabeth Getzoff

Traditionally, Palomar residents got to know their neighbors in person by meeting them at the summit, or through community events hosted by the local one-room school house or the volunteer fire department. Now it can sometimes be more challenging for new folks to meet their neighbors, since the school is shut down, the fire department staffed by CAL FIRE, and the Lodge and Mother's Kitchen no longer serve food to the public.

You can still find news and events the traditional way on the outside Community Information Board left of the post office, or better yet, join one or more of the local community groups reported on in this newsletter.

To get started, check out pmpoinfo.com which has online links to most of the Palomar community organizations. If you prefer to first connect online, sign up for Bonnie Phelps' Palomar Mountain News at palomarmountainnews.com or join the Palomar Mountain neighborhood on the social media platform NextDoor at help.nextdoor.com/s/article/How-to-join-Nextdoor

On NextDoor, you can join our neighborhood if you rent or own a home, own a second home, own property where you are planning to build a home, or own a rental property on Palomar Mountain. You will need to enter your e-mail and full residential address, then verify your address and confirm your e-mail. Extra instructions and contact information are available online that may help those who do not have a street address or good cell phone service on their property.

Last, but not least, come to the PMPO Pancake Breakfast 8-10AM Saturday May 25 at the Fire Station/Community Center, 21610 Crestline Road.



Friends of
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

FRIENDS OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

By Rosemary Johnston, Friends' President
(619)384-6852; jnstn.rsmry@gmail.com

The biggest achievement of Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park the past year has been the purchase and installation of a new storage shed at the entrance kiosk to provide more convenient access for firewood and Friends merchandise which is sold in the kiosk. We greatly appreciated the cooperation of park staff and our interim treasurer Michael Walsh who led this effort. Our refrigerator magnets, firewood, patches, mugs and other merchandise are popular with park visitors, and we are working on providing credit card utilization for these purchases as the kiosk can only take cash for these items now. 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. More than 300 people attended.

We are happy to report park interpreter William Meyst will be our new CAL rep at our board meetings. We thank Ray Lennox, Colorado Desert District superintendent, who filled that position for nine months. Park cooperating associations like ours are required to have a parks representative at board

meetings, but the representatives are not board members. Also of note, we welcome Aaron Nelson, the new executive director of the Palomar Christian Conference Center. Aaron is a Marine Corps veteran who has had a career in business and ministry and is excited to return to camping ministry at the center.

Our annual fundraising campaign in December netted about \$20,000. Thank you to those who continue to support our work. Please remember to check out our Facebook page and website www.friendsofpalomarsp.org for photos and info about recent and upcoming events at the park.

Will has a number of activities planned at the park in May.



Activity	Date	Time	Place
Weir Trail hike	Saturday, May 4	9:30 am-11 am	Doane Pond Parking Lot
Campfire Songs	Saturday, May 5	7 pm-9 pm	Campfire Center
Mammals	Sunday, May 5	10 am-10:40 am	Campfire Center
Thunder Springs to Upper Doane Valley Trail	Sunday, May 12	9:30 am-11 am	Doane Pond Parking Lot
Campfire Songs	Sunday, May 18	7 pm-7:30 pm	Campfire Center
Doane Valley Nature Trail	Saturday, May 25	9:30 am-11 am	Doane Pond Parking Lot
Palomar in the Pleistocene	Saturday, May 25	7 pm-7:30 pm	Campfire Center
Birds	Sunday, May 26	10 am-10:40 am	Campfire Center

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PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

SPRING 2024

*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.

DBSP / NGPS

The Double Spectrograph (DBSP) is both the most used and the longest serving science instrument on the Hale Telescope here at Caltech's Palomar Observatory. 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. NGSP has completed the first stages of testing and commissioning. The instrument's automated guiding system has now been certified. Tests of its diffraction grating are now underway.

DSOC

You all may have seen the video of the cat chasing the beam of a laser pointer. NASA's Deep Space Optical Communications experiment beamed this ultra-high definition streaming video on December 11 from a record-setting 19 million miles away (31 million kilometers, or about 80 times the Earth-Moon distance). It's not the subject that is important, but how the video was transmitted.

The 15-second test video was transmitted from the Psyche spacecraft via a cutting-edge instrument called a flight laser transceiver. The video signal took 101 seconds to reach Earth, sent at the system's maximum bit rate of 267 megabits per second (Mbps). Capable of sending and receiving near-infrared signals, the instrument beamed an encoded near-infrared laser to the Hale Telescope on Palomar. Each frame was then sent "live" to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, where the video was played in real time. This milestone is part of a NASA technology demonstration aimed at streaming very high-bandwidth video and other data from deep space – enabling future human missions beyond Earth orbit.

ZTF

The Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) is our continuing time-domain survey program. ZTF uses a camera with an ultra-wide (47 square degrees) field of view mounted on the Samuel Oschin 48-inch (1.2m) Schmidt telescope that photographs the northern sky once every two nights. ZTF searches for rare and exotic transient objects. Currently the program has discovered 8,842 supernovae of various types, 232 near-Earth asteroids and comets, 80 tidal disruption events, and 50 compact binary stars.



US FOREST SERVICE FUELS UPDATE

by Dana Barre, Palomar Ranger District Fuels

Update on Palomar Mountain Fuels
as of March 25, 2024:

Since January, we've completed nearly 130 acres of pile burning in Jeff Valley with the latest burn of 39 acres taking place last week. We will continue to monitor and execute our prescribed burn windows into the spring, but opportunities will become less frequent as we transition into fire season.

Fuels Planner Dana Barre (619) 873-7119
Fuels Officer Chris Brenzel (760) 415-4910
Fuels Tech Rusty Sexton (619) 792-9854



Remembering

DUTCH BERGMAN

In May of 2023 we lost a long-standing and beloved resident of Palomar Mountain, Dutch Bergman. Dutch and his family have been on the mountain for generations. His son, grandchildren, and wife are still here living the Bergman's tradition. They continue to support the local community, run their local business, raise their kids on this beautiful mountain, and always lend a helping hand to others. I know that Dutch is so proud of Wesley, Sarah, his grandkids and his wife, Denise.

I met Dutch Bergman through a mutual friend (Ken Whaley) who grew up with Dutch while attending school on Palomar Mountain. Dutch welcomed me like we had been friends for years. One time, I dropped by the house after he had recently returned from Montana with a new horse that he was working in the pen. Dutch was a real cowboy. What a life the mountain gave him in Southern California! Dutch sat a horse like no other, herded cattle, chased fires with heavy equipment, and welded whatever was required. There was literally nothing Dutch couldn't do. He was a real renaissance man. Dutch was also a musician and singer in the Smith Mountain band. For your enjoyment you can listen to them on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF2PkZZO710>

Dutch would not call himself anything other than a God-fearing and loving family man. For many, he was a hero, someone respected, admired, and a man to emulate. I am a better person for knowing him. I will remember until they lay me to rest.

RIP brother.

Lafe Ball



SEQUOIA SENTINELS

By Jim Hamerly

Efforts to plant, preserve, and protect sequoias on Palomar Mountain made major progress this year by the formation of Sequoia Sentinels™, a 501(c)(3) non-profit community-led effort to plant sequoia tree saplings across private lands and forests in appropriate areas of Southern California, specifically the Palomar Mountain area. With over 80 members to date, this year we have accomplished:

- An inventory of the locations of over 250 sequoias on Palomar Mountain including first evidence of tree regenerating naturally, and a total of 750 sequoias in five regenerating groves in southern California
- The formation of an advisory board including Wes Bergman, Chris Clarke, Cliff Kellogg, Robert Carlyle, and Jim
- A website, Sequoia Sentinels
www.sequoiasentinels.com
- Working with many regional community and governmental organizations
- Planting events on April 20-21, 2024

It's too late to order seedlings for 2024 but to express interest for spring 2025, please email hamerly@gmail.com and we will add you to our interest list.



THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

by Rosie Lopresti

The Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM) is seeking new board members to carry on the mountain tradition of sponsoring events and managing the Community Center located next to the CAL FIRE Station on Crestline Road. Board membership is open for property owners of Palomar Mountain or persons who contribute to the general welfare of, and are non-property owners and non-residents in, the community of Palomar Mountain. Voting eligibility is for owners of improved property, mountain residents and/or businesses operating on Palomar Mountain. The CCPM is a 501(c) (4) non-profit corporation.

The Community Center and surrounding property was purchased over thirty years ago by the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (now DBA the Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association). An annual fundraising barbecue was held each year, and Earl Walls founded the CCPM to do necessary maintenance and improvements. In 2016, the County of San Diego took over fire protection, leasing the property for 50 years. The County made improvements to the Community Center for use of CAL FIRE as a barracks. In 2023, the CCPM signed a license agreement with the County of San Diego to facilitate using the Community Center and the amphitheater.

Unfortunately, the grounds surrounding the stage were in a state of neglect. With numerous mountain groups working together, the amphitheater and stage are now in an acceptable state to hold events. The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association purchased wood with donations to install a new stage floor. The floor was rebuilt by volunteers Tom Mendenhall, Freddie Acosta, and Alex Armenariz. Two large dead oaks on the property were removed by

Robert Carlyle. Volunteer tractor work was provided by Robert Carlyle and John Washburn. Numerous volunteers (special thanks to Frank Weisgerber) came out to rake and pull up small trees to reestablish the amphitheater. The dumpsters provided by the Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council were invaluable for disposing of branches, leaves, and the wood from the old stage. Last year the CCPM sponsored a Mountain Mingle in May with refreshments and a tour of the Community Center prior to the annual meeting. Palomar Mountain has a long-standing tradition of hosting a special event on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. For many years, the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department held a hugely popular Barbecue.

With the disbandment of the Volunteer Firefighters, the CCPM took over sponsoring an annual event: last year, a Hoedown in the amphitheater next to the Community Center. Music was provided by the amazing Chris Clarke Band. An Opportunity Drawing brought in many donations from mountain residents, especially from Gary and Lynda Lockard. A barbecue sponsored by the Lockards was held at the Crestline Picnic Area. All the costs for the Hoedown were also provided by a generous donation from Gary and Lynda. Unfortunately, Gary was unable to attend this event due to illness and he passed away in the Fall. There are no words to describe the gratitude that the CCPM has for having such incredible neighbors on Palomar Mountain.



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 Yvonne Vaucher

BOARD MEETINGS

9AM

**4th Saturday
of the Month**

2023 was another busy year for your Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC). PMFSC dumpster and on-site chipping programs moved 32 tons of debris and 1350 cubic feet of chipped vegetation off the Mountain, steadily improving our defensible space at no cost to residents. We also distributed free Barricade Fire Gel Kits to protect homes from wildfire. These activities were generously funded by grants from the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation and the San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment programs. We also worked with the SDC Resource Conservation District to help develop State and Federal grant applications to reduce fuel on large tracts of private land bordering the Palomar community. Our new website is now up and running: palomarfiresafecouncil.org. To accomplish the above, your PMFSC Board members contributed more than 300 volunteer hours. Complementing our Crestline/Birch Hill roadside improvement project, completed in December 2022, we received our second, multi-year CAL FIRE grant, this time to remove obstructing trees and brush on either side of the narrow, unimproved, privately maintained roads on the east side of the Summit. This project enables better emergency vehicle access and increases the safety of emergency evacuation. We plan to begin work later this year and will be contacting landowners for permission to start work. A special thank you to everyone who participated in our PMFSC programs and to those who generously contributed to our 2023 fund drive!

In 2024, in addition to starting our multi-year roadside improvement project, we will continue, pending receipt of grant funding, our PMFSC on-site chipping and PMFSC dumpster programs. The dumpster, located near the Fire Station on Summit Circle next to the US Forest Service Crestline Picnic Area, is available on the first Saturday of each month (except winter) from 8AM-12PM. 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. We chip when we have enough sites scheduled to completely fill a chipping day. Robert Carlyle (760) 742-1891, coordinates and schedules all our PMFSC on-site chipping.

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC)
firesafesdcounty.org

also offers programs for Palomar Mountain residents and landowners. The FSCSDC will perform free Defensible Space

Home Assessments on Palomar from 5/13/24 to 5/24/24 and again in the early fall from 9/23/24 to 10/1/24. They also have a free Community Chipping Program available this year for the Palomar area for a short periods in the early summer from 6/3/24 to 6/14/24 and again in the fall from 10/21/24 to 10/29/24. Contact the FSCSDC for details <https://firesafesdcounty.org/community-chipping-program/>. Another FSCSDC resource is the Defensible Space Assistance Program (DSAP) designed to assist homeowners that need to create defensible space and are not able to do so because of physical, economic or other barriers. For more information go to: <https://firesafesdcounty.org/dsap/>

All Palomar landowners and residents are members of the PMFSC Foundation, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. We appreciate your ideas and welcome your participation at our monthly Board meetings held at 9 AM on the 4th Saturday of each month in-person and by Zoom at the Community Center of Palomar Mountain. Notifications of PMFSC activities are posted on the Palomar PO bulletin board, NextDoor, and on the PMFSC website:

palomarfiresafecouncil.org

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
Libby Getzoff, Member at Large



Last Chance Survival Simulation Workshop

Together we can protect our Palomar Mountain community from wildfire!

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

SPRING 2024

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:

- Hosting our 2024 CERT Training Academy on 15 and 22 June
 - More information on NextDoor
 - Contact me directly – information below
- 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 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
- 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**

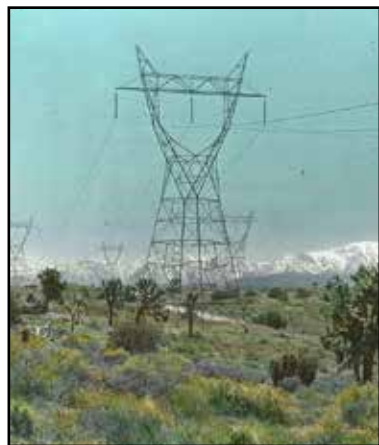
For more information, visit our booth at upcoming community events (announced on NextDoor) or contact:
Bill Leininger
E-mail: sdccert_northern_palomarmtn@sdccfd.com
Cell - 760-807-6923



Yvonne Vaucher & Bill Leininger

HUGE NEW POWER LINE MAY THREATEN PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

By *Bonnie Phelps*



The state of California plans a HUGE 500,000 volt electric transmission line to bring power from sources in Arizona to Los Angeles. Unfortunately, it might well be headed our way: one project proposal cuts through the heart of Palomar Mountain on its way to Orange County. We recently heard about this project when about 20 property owners along East Grade and State Park Road received very vague letters about a "potential utility infrastructure project". The more we learn about the scope of this proposed 2.3 billion dollar project, we know that certainly this route would destroy our beautiful mountain.

Concerned neighbors have come together as an Action Committee to Save Palomar Mountain.

Updates are posted to go right to your inbox for subscribers at www.palomarmountainnews.com and then be stored on our ever-growing website at www.savepalomarmountain.org where you can access information gathered.

Together Let's Save Palomar Mountain!

2023-25 "BLUE" PALOMAR RESIDENT TAGS

By Lafe Ball

Hello Palomar Residents:

The 2023/25 Palomar Mountain Resident Tags are still available! These easy hang-in-your-window tags have helped access during snow days when there's been lots of traffic. When the sheriff deputy or CHP is restricting access to Palomar, they wave tag holders right through. We have a spot on the tag front where you can write your phone number should someone need your car moved during snow challenges.

2023-25 resident tags are \$7.50 each, mailed direct to you. We recommend one tag per vehicle in your household. All proceeds go to the PMPO to support the varied activities here on the mountain.

Ways to get these residents tags:

- Mail a check to PMPO, PO Box 145, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060
- By email to palomarmountainpmpo@gmail.com
Venmo to @lafe-ball-1
Contact Text or Phone, Lafe Ball 909-208-9401



When ordering your June 2023-June 2025 tag please provide:

- 1) Last Name, First Name
- 2) Palomar physical property address to verify eligibility -
 - a) Street address or assessor's parcel number (and Crestline/Birch Hill easement road number, if available)
 - b) Easement #
- 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) Email address - *Emails will be added to the PMPO distribution list for Palomar Mountain Specific information only.*
- 6) 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. 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!

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 first Saturday of the month at 1000h (10 AM) at the Community Center (at 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

BOARD MEMBERS

- Robert Carlyle, Chair*
- Mike Appelman, Vice Chair*
- Cliff Kellogg, Member at Large*
- William Leininger, Member at Large*
- Teresa McCarthy, Member at Large*
- James Hamerly, Member at Large*

All members of the Community are welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY TIDBITS FROM 29 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. I've learned so much about how to make the most of living or weekend on Palomar with all the trades and entities that service our area. Within these PMPO Tidbits, I'll pass on some of my gleaning from the pros.

TREE AND ROOT DAMAGE - Do you love trees? I sure do. In the early days, trees were often cut down to have room for the cabin, evidenced by the stumps found under the structures. Some trees were left standing for shade. Now those trees have grown and damaged foundations, up-rooted driveways, shifted walls and so much more. There was a tree planting project in the 1970's and some are fine but some have done so much costly damage. The trees always win. Would you like to go on a little tour with me? Before you plant any trees today, think about how big they will be in 10, 20, or 50 years.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS - 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 run only 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, it is important to keep open areas to avoid the expense of cutting down trees later.

INSURANCE - Our winter storms have brought heavy snow and strong winds, 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. Some of those little seedlings of cedar and fir I planted in the 1970's now have a canopy reaching out 20+ feet from the trunk. Other species of trees can grow much larger. Think ahead before you plant.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE - CAL FIRE - conducts 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.

SDG&E and Rancho Tree Service (aka 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. Look around: 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 left by SDG&E to below 8 inches on the tall side. Before you allow them to trim on your land, be sure to remind them that no stumps are to be more than 8 inches and I recommend you being on site for the job. It is much easier to make sure they finish the job properly than deal with having them come back to make them compliant for insurance or a sale. Occasionally I post updates on PalomarMountainNews.com.



FLOWERS & FRUIT TREES - 50 years ago Palomar had so many very fragrant lilacs blooming this time of year. Many of the bushes don't bloom anymore. Why? They need full sun but are now under the shade of big trees. Wondering why your fruit trees aren't producing? They need full sun, too. Lilac and daffodils can be separated to replant in sunny locations. Some of us planted 1000's of daffodils all along the roads. Alas, now the County Road crews are required to spray herbicides for fire safety so make sure you plant on your own property.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLOW SNOW? With the past few years of property sales, we have lost some of our snow plow and tractor operators. Would you consider having your own equipment available to clear your own driveway and parking areas, then plow for others? It can be a nice source of income. We're glad to answer questions and would welcome you on board when we have a winter wonderland up here.



COMMUNITY TIDBITS . . . Continued

DO YOU HAVE A TRUST OR A WILL?

People have enough to deal with when they lose a family member. It is really tough when there isn't a trust or notarized will in place. Most properties then need to go through an expensive probate with the state. In some rare instances there are other options that are less costly and time consuming. A Trust is usually best but make sure it is kept up to date. Be sure everyone named in it has a trust or notarized will. Here is one example we're still working on: A neighbor inherited his home; each family member had a trust so thought all was well. However, they didn't have the home in the name of the trust. The intent was there, but more needs to be done that takes time and money.

We're presently waiting on the courts to close an escrow for property held in a trust by three siblings. One passed away without a will or trust. So, the next of kin have an attorney working with the court to file a Heggstad Petition that will take several months or more with the heirs having to pay the fees. It is so simple when things are taken care of up front.

DO YOU HAVE CLEAR TITLE?

You might only think you do. Here is a recent very unfortunate situation:

Multiple family members were confident they had inherited their property, down through several generations, and assumed everything was done properly. However, if those transfers were not made through a title company, they might be incorrect and can be costly and very time consuming.

A neighbor wanted to pay cash for the land next door. One of the sellers works for a law office and after months of trying to puzzle things out, this is what she came up with: "... we can not sell with clear title according to our attorneys without getting consent from many layers of family and potential downline beneficiaries numbering in the multiple dozens... It is not worth time or effort or money. So, we're giving up and turned in the water share. Our land will likely be available at tax lien sale in 5 years..."

Questions? We can run a free title report for you to check the status. This can give peace of mind or direction to clarify your ownership.

TEMPTED BY INSTACART AND OTHER DELIVERY SERVICES?

New to the mountain? Before you order anything to be delivered, check the mapping programs to make sure the directions to your property are correct. Also, be considerate and perhaps order for delivery only during clear weather and daylight hours. Another idea is to stock up on frozen pizza and tamales or pop something in a crock pot before you leave to go shopping in the city... mountain life can be so wonderful but quite different than living in the city.

GOT RATS? - After being a Realtor here for 24 years, I thought I'd seen it all. But I'd never seen a Pack Rat nest until recently at Baileys. Leaves, sticks, playing cards, poker chips, tufts of the carpet, and a hair clip! Amazing horde! The rats had even chewed a good-sized hole through the wood flooring to get all that stuff from the outside, in and take their inside treasures out for a nest under the trees, too. Then a few weeks later I walked in a cabin on Crestline and found another interesting stash. Both areas had feral cats over the years, but they are gone now. Just a suggestion to check on things, eliminate piles of debris and keep up on rodent control.

WHAT TO DO WITH TRASH?

Arrange with a neighbor to share a weekly dumpster. Do you have large items to go away? We do have Fire Safe Council grants occasionally for a 40-cubic-yard community dumpster but it can get full very quickly. Pala Transfer Station is about 45 minutes down the South Grade and our closest 'dump.' Look it up on-line for the details. Need a truck or trailer to do the hauling? Options are available. Just let me know and I'll head you in the right direction.



PHELPS FAMILY NEWS - Two years ago I shared that our son and family with our grandkids who had been living next door, bought a farm in Missouri. They asked us to join them, so we have a home there and thought we were moving. However, they still have family in SoCal and visit often, staying with us some on Palomar, too. So, we visit Missouri occasionally but are living on the Mountain-we-love-so-much. You are invited to pop by anytime. We have a free beverage counter here that we call StarStrucks. Glad to get your questions answered and help in any way.

UPDATE TO PMPO BYLAWS

By Toby Roy

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) will be updating its bylaws by a vote of the membership at the May 2024 annual meeting of the membership. The update is intended to better reflect the current role and conditions of the organization and to ensure that the PMPO can remain functional and effective. The primary goal of the update is to provide more flexibility in determining the number of participating Board members to match the availability and willingness of its members to participate on the Board. A change in the required number for a membership quorum from thirty (30) to fifteen (15) will ensure that appropriate decisions can be made at the annual meeting, while allowing for continued active participation of the membership. The Authority of the Board is also being updated to reflect the current role of the Board in the community.

The PMPO was formed in 1991 to respond to the long-range plans of the Cleveland National Forest. It was later recognized by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors as the “Sponsor Group” to provide input to the Board of Supervisors on planning policies and procedures that impact the Palomar Mountain Community. The County later formed a separate sponsor group with membership designated by the Board of Supervisors.

The PMPO currently serves as a forum to coordinate among various Palomar Mountain planning groups and continues to take an active role to serve the community in coordinating on fire response planning, and other significant planning issues that may arise. The PMPO steps up to serve the community as requested and acts as a focal point for community issues.

The changes in the bylaws shown below reflect the changing role and

circumstances of the PMPO. The current bylaws can be found on the pmpoinfo.com web site under “Articles and By-Laws. The PMPO is requesting support of its membership for these changes.

1. ARTICLE IV AUTHORITY, LIMITATIONS AND DEDICATION OF ASSETS

Section 4.1 Authority.

The corporation was initially formed to respond to various long range plans proposed for the Cleveland National Forest. ~~Subsequently, the organization has been recognized by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors as a “Sponsor Group” pursuant to its Policy I-1 entitled “Community and Sub-regional Planning Policies and Procedures. The corporation also~~ benefits the community as a forum to support and share information among various Palomar Mountain community groups, and to assist the community in coordinating with local planning organizations when a request is made to the Board by its members.

Section 6.6 Quorum.

The presence in person of ~~thirty (30) at~~ least fifteen (15) members at any duly noticed membership meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7.2 Number of Board Members.

The authorized number of members on the Board shall consist of ~~seven (7)~~ to fifteen (15) members, until changed by amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or by a bylaw amending this section duly adopted by the affirmative vote of the members of the corporation at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present or by written ballot in accordance with Section 6.7. The exact number shall be fixed from time to time within the limits specified in this Section, by a resolution of

the Board. ~~Subject to the foregoing provision for changing the number of Board members, the exact number of Board members of the corporation is hereby fixed at fifteen (15).~~

Section 7.4 Term of Office.

~~Board membership~~ Membership shall be staggered with ~~five (5)~~ approximately 1/3 of the members being elected annually, for three (3) year terms.

...

The annual election of Board members shall simply elect members to fill the seats of those Board members whose three (3) year terms have expired: and any Board seats added by resolution of the Board.

Section 7.6 Vacancies.

Vacancies in the ~~fifteen (15) member~~ Board may be filled at the next general meeting, and the vacancy to be filled must be a part of the agenda.

Section 7.16 Quorum.

~~A majority Eight (8) members~~ of the Board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except to adjourn as hereinafter provided. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the Board members present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the Board unless a greater number be required by law or by the Articles of Incorporation.



OUR ACTIVE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY!



Community Information Board



Cleanup at the Community Center



Mountain Hoedown



PMPO Breakfast & Meeting



Glenn Borland Memorial



Dutch Bergman Memorial



**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 25, 2024 Annual General Meeting (see page 1 of the newsletter). The following Board members' terms expire in 2024:

- 1) Michael Pique
- 2) Diana Forero-Cook (alternate Renee Forero-Cook)
- 3) Rosie Lopresti
- 4) Hiroshi McDonald
- 5) Yvonne Vaucher

To nominate a Board candidate, including yourself, email secretary@pmpoinfo.com.

Please visit:

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

Thank You

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