



# Hot Notes

PMVFD NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT BY SUSAN MCKINLEY KELLOGG

### A MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A Mountain Fire Department
- We've come a long way.
- Who is on our Fire Department?
- Fire Equipment Update
- Protect our Oaks
- Volunteers wanted for BBQ!

How did the PMVFD come into existence? A San Diego County policy change in 1975 left rural areas without fire protection, and so out of necessity, a group of mountain residents created our fire department from scratch. They were the founders of the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. The founders arranged for the incorporation of PMVFD in 1976 and for the election of the first Board of Directors, the governing body which oversees the appointment of a Fire Chief and makes financial and management decisions.

In the early days of the Department, used equipment was begged, borrowed or bartered for, or purchased with funds raised by the community. The first PMVFD fire truck was a 1960 yellow International pick-up with a water tank outfitted on the bed, donated by San Diego County.

Palomar Mountain resident and former firefighter Helen McKinley recalls driving the Department's outdated and rather sparsely equipped Kaiser Jeep ambulance on emergency calls in the early 80's. Helen was on call 24/7 and used to keep the vehicle parked in the driveway of her home off of State Park Road in order to respond faster. When the pager went off, she would run out to the ambulance, rev it up and turn on the lights and siren. Helen would then have to wrestle the Kaiser into submission as it lurched down the steep, winding roads, hoping that she would not need to rely too heavily on the brakes! Helen McKinley, her husband Bill (also a



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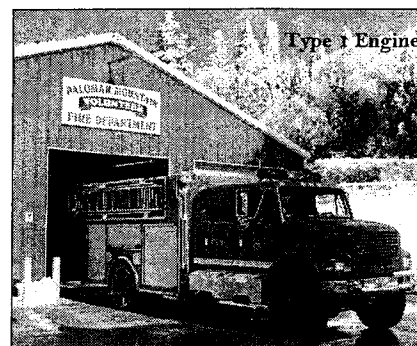
### THE CHIEF'S CORNER

BY BATTALION CHIEF CLIFF KELLOGG

We've come a long way in 34 years...

If you've driven by the fire station lately you may have noticed some new additions and changes to the vehicle fleet. We are currently adding and upgrading equipment that will not only decrease response times but will ensure that the newer front-line equipment will last longer.

In 2001 your fire department acquired a new International "Type 1" 4x4 engine through a grant. In 2003 two other pieces of equipment were added through grants; a 2003 4x4 Freightliner "Type 2" that serves as a brush engine and a 2003 International water tender with a capacity of 3200 gallons of water. These vehicles, in addition to the 2000 Ford Rescue, are the front-line vehicles that are crucial in medical aid calls and fighting structure and wildland fires. While many fire companies in the county get by with old, outdated equipment or San Diego County-supplied engines Palomar Mountain is extremely fortunate, thanks to the community, fire chiefs and fire boards, to own newer, state of the art vehicles.



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former Fire Board president) and their son Will all served as volunteer firefighters for several years.

The names of the original Founders are engraved on a plaque at the fire station - Doris Bailey, Rod Baillie, Katie Beishline, Laura Bonham, Roy Bonham, Clarence Darrough, Gaye Darrough, Otis Kilgore, Forrest McKinley, Bill Richardson and Pat Richardson. Thanks to their foresight, Palomar Mountain has a fire department to this very day.

The Department was housed at various locations in past years, including the Bailey Resort, the Observatory and the Palomar Mutual Water Co. The PMVFD finally got its own home in March of 1992, when the current property at the junction of Crestline and S7 was purchased, and the red fire station was built with funds raised by pancake breakfasts, flea markets, bake sales, cookbook sales and cash donations.

A fire station needs a Fire Chief. The Fire Chief takes on the huge responsibility of leadership of anywhere from five to thirty-five volunteers who train to become firefighters and EMT's and to work as a team. The Chief appoints Officers who assist with scheduling shifts, assigning gear, ordering station supplies, station maintenance, vehicle maintenance, driver/operator training and communications.

Over the years, more than two hundred men and women have joined the department as firefighters. Hundreds more have volunteered their time and their creative abilities as "Friends of PMVFD", who worked on planning and organizing community events to raise funds for property improvements such as the Community Center and an administrative center and bunkhouse for the firefighters.

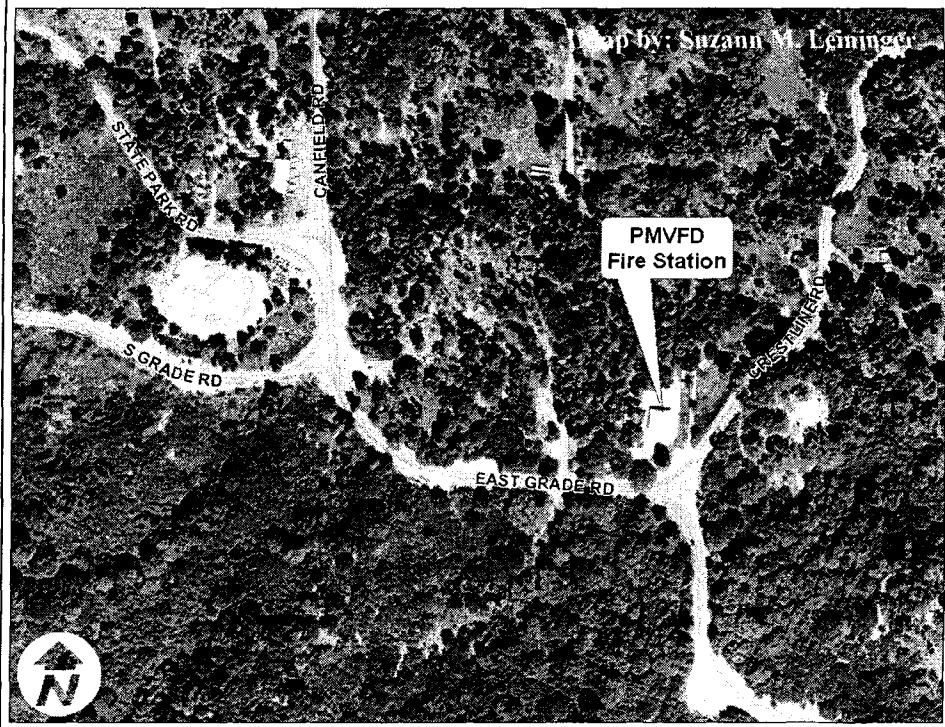
Today our fire station has satellite internet access and the latest radio equipment and firefighters can schedule their shifts on-line. On a typical Saturday morning our fleet of engines, each identified with our unique PMVFD emblem, is likely parked in front of the station for washing and maintenance. While the engines are out, the garage floor is swept and mopped. The sound of hammering means other volunteers are working on the bunkhouse project behind the station. A CERT training meeting is getting underway at the Community Center. Members of a Boy Scout troop are neatly laying down woodchips around the flagpole. And hey, isn't that Chief Lucia at the top of an engine ladder putting up red, white and blue decorations for the annual Barbecue?

It's *our* mountain fire department.

We honor the dedication of the Fire Chiefs who have served our community since 1975: Bill Richardson, Steve Barry, Brad Bailey, Pat Shelly, Rick Lobner, Harry Schrader, Hank Vargas, Jim Clark, Wayne Massey, Jim Kirkes, Scott Drieschman, Karl Bauer, Jay Ackerman and George Lucia.

**Volunteers Wanted!**

The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department has openings for firefighters, EMT's and water tender drivers. There will also be fire board positions opening soon. This is an opportunity to become involved in your community and to be a part of the inner workings of your fire department. Interested parties are welcome to stop in and observe the Monday night training sessions which begin at 6:00 p.m. at the fire station.



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Hot Notes is a publication of the Board of the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. The purpose of Hot Notes is to keep the Palomar Mountain community informed about the activities of the PMVFD as well as the challenges the department faces in fulfilling its mission. Your comments are welcome.