



# PMPO

Spring 2007 - Volume 18

The Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

Board Members: Thomas Burton, Robert Carlyle, Donna Dose, Bruce Graves, Jim Hamerly, Rob Hawk, Susan Humason, Jerry Johnson, Scott Kardel, Bob O'Neill, Bonnie Phelps, Michael Pique, Alan Serry, John Tainer/Elizabeth Getzoff, Earl Walls

## A Message from the Chair... Jim Hamerly



For those of you new to the Mountain and as reminder to long-standing residents, the Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO) is a non-profit public benefit organization whose purpose is to provide planning oversight for the Palomar community and nearby Cleveland National Forest. Our fifteen members are elected to three year terms primarily by property owners and residents of our Community.

served our Mountain Community on the Board for at least 25 years, 17 years as Chairman, and continues to serve as Vice-Chairman. As a fairly recent property owner and home owner on the Mountain, I appreciate the many years of service by Bruce and other members of the PMPO as they serve to protect and preserve the Community and forest interests that attracted me here.

member and contributor, Jack Norvall. His background in engineering and real estate and love for the Mountain added much to the PMPO.

This year we also welcome back Alan Serry to the Board as member and Treasurer, and also newly-elected members Bob O'Neill and Jerry Johnson.



Last May I agreed to step in as Chairman to relieve our long-standing Chairman and advocate for the Palomar community, Bruce Graves.

According to our records, Bruce has

Other members with long-standing service that deserve recognition are: Tom Burton (more than 25 years), Robert Carlyle (14 years), Donna Dose (12 years), Libby Getzoff and John Tainer (14 years), Susan Humason (12 years), and Mike Pique (13 years). Please join me in acknowledging their service to the Mountain. This year we also regret the passing of longstanding

Preservation of "quality of life" as well as natural resources continued to be a significant investment of the PMPO. You'll see many of our activities represented in the following newsletter articles so I won't try and summarize them here. As always, we are here to serve the Community and are always open to your suggestions, comments, and feedback.

[jim@hamerly.net](mailto:jim@hamerly.net)

## Comments from PMPO Past Chairman, Bruce Graves

### Time for a Change

In 1990 when I was elected Chairman of the PMPO there were lots of issues. Threatening to pop up all along the South Rim were Communication towers. New water companies were developing for the purpose of selling and transporting our water off the mountain. And a third major problem was the Dual Survey, where the East West center line of section 14 was moved about 200 feet North by the U. S. Forest Service.

I wish I could say we solved them all. We did come up with pretty good solutions for two out of three. A Major Use Permit is now required to export water or build a commercial radio tower. We are still working on Dual Survey problem and we have added the one about getting legal easements for existing neighborhood roads. And we were instrumental in creating the new Community Center Board of Palomar Mountain, which is a non profit with a 501c4 tax status. I am now relieved to put all this in the able hands of my friend Jim Hamerly, the new PMPO Chairman. I am remaining on the board and will try to help Jim any way possible.

### In Memoriam

Jack Norvall was a long time PMPO Board member and a friend to the Palomar Mountain. He was also an especially good friend to Mike Pique and me. It was Jack's strong desire to solve the Dual Survey Problem. No one ever worked harder on that issue than he did.

I think I first met him in the late 80s. He was pretty much retired: then, his schedule was to arrive at his cabin (bachelor pad) by noon Friday, spend the weekend on the mountain, and return to his Escondido home and wife (War Department) by Monday afternoon. He kept busy on our Mountain by helping his friends, dabbling in



Jack Norvall, 1925-2006

real estate, improving his cabin, and above all trying to solve the Dual Survey problem.

Some might say he was outspoken and irreverent even sometimes rowdy and profane. But, he was a good friend of mine and I sure do miss him.

Jack died October 4, 2006.

# 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:** Susan Humason

**Editors:** Elizabeth Getzoff & Michael Pique

**Reporter:** Bonnie Phelps

**Article Contributors:**

Jim Hamerly, Bruce Graves, Earl Walls, Tom Burton, Scott Kardel, Alan Serry, Michael Pique, Libby Getzoff, Bill Leininger, George Lucia, Rob Hawk, Bonnie Phelps, Shana Ackerman, Kerri Uglik & Richard Hawkins

**Assemblers:**

Thanks go out to the many individuals that help each year with the assembly and mailing of the newsletter. They all make it possible to get the newsletter out on a timely basis.

If you have any information that you would like to contribute to future newsletters, please email the information to:

pimage1@sbcglobal.net  
attn: PMPO Newsletter

*Save the Date...*  
**PMPO Annual  
Pancake Breakfast & Meeting**  
*Saturday, May 26th, 2007*

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## Progress on General Plan 2020 *by Tom Burton*

The County's Department of Planning and Land Use feels it is in the final stages of preparing General Plan 2020.

This process, which began in 1998, may be ready to be considered by the County's Board of Supervisors in early 2008.

Your PMPO has been following the process since Day One. For the last several years, however, there has been little for us to do.

Our last substantive input was in a May 2005 Board of Supervisors hearing where our concerned Mountain citizens turned out in force. At that meeting, we made our two main points: (1) the Mountain's commercial property should be restored to its prior zoning as opposed to "rural residential", which they became in a down-zone triggered by the Forest Conservation Initiative ("FCI"); and (2) that the zoning

density should be allowed to be greater than one dwelling unit per 40 acres, where slope and other conditions make that type of "clustered" zoning appropriate. Since about 1999, we have been lobbying to have Palomar designated as a "Country Town." Every time we speak before them individually, or in groups, we make the three C's argument: commercial; clustering; and Country Town.

Last year the planners were mainly working on the road network (which they call the Circulation Element) that is needed to support future land use development. Of course, one of our main tenets has always been to "...let us do with our lands whatever we wish (and what had been allowed, pre-FCI), as long as you don't widen our roads on the Mountain..."

This year the County staff will be updating the various sub-regional plans (including that covering Palomar and the North Mountain) and working with the environmental study groups to prepare for an early 2008 presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

As soon as the Palomar Mountain area report becomes available, we will have to spring into action again. Thus far, we have been unsuccessful with our pursuit of the three C's and the Country Town solution. However, that seems to be our only hope towards restoring the property rights we once had. Your PMPO 2020 subcommittee will continue to follow these matters and look forward to your input and continued support once the County has finalized its position. United we stand. This continues to be a significant PMPO objective.

# **Palomar Mountain Community Safety Center (PMSCS) by Earl Walls**



Two years ago an action committee was formed to jumpstart the planning and construction of the PMSCS on the site of the existing house adjacent to the fire station building. This committee is comprised of two members from each of the boards of directors of the PMVFD and the Community Center Corporation, plus one non-affiliated at large member. These members, per board, are Linda Thorne and Doug Lande, Tom Burton and Scott Kardel, and Bonnie Phelps. The committee has three outside advisor/consultants, Fire Chief George Lucia, Bruce Graves with his extensive experience with the PMPO, and Earl Walls, the designer of the community center project.

The committee has made considerable progress towards making the project a reality, particularly with regard to the site development, and preparation of an application for a major use permit that will be required by the county planning office.

A major hurdle for the committee, and the community, to face is the projected cost of the desired building that stands today at \$1.7M, at the same time as major grant money has been drying up. Meanwhile the need for consideration of ongoing needs has required some action to be taken. The PMVFD has finished the office space inside the fire station sufficiently to permit them, for the most part, to move out of the house and to turn it over to the PMSCS for use as a community center and has initiated a grant request to enable them to provide for the accommodation of fire fighters during overnight assignments.

When Chief Lucia consulted with Earl Walls about the placement of a trailer on the site to meet the latter need, it resulted in a total reconsideration of the current status.

The PMSCS use of the house is very much restricted due to the configuration of the building and lack of adequate toilet and kitchen facilities. The proposed trailer use by the PMVFD was not a satisfactory solution to the need. Facing the long range

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*The Community Center  
Action Committee thanks  
local surveyor Lorne Da Pron  
(760) 749-9340  
for donating his services to  
the community. We're that  
much closer to having a  
Community Center.*

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potential of achieving the new building, Earl Walls presented to the planning committee a plan that provides for the interim use of two structures to be placed to the north side of the present house alongside (west side) the paved area behind (north side) the fire station. This plan has been accepted by the two boards.

The unit to be placed farthest from the house is a 24'x60' mobile office unit that Earl Walls has donated to the PMVFD. It will be modified to provide for locker and shower facilities, sleeping rooms for seven

fire fighters, kitchen/lounge, and office and meeting room spaces.

The unit to be placed closest to, and connected by a breezeway, to the house will be for use as a PMSCS. It can either be a prefabricated structure or a mobile type building 24'x60' that is to provide two (M&F) toilet rooms, and a large meeting space.

A grant that the PMVFD hopes to get, will provide for most of the cost of the site preparation to be required for placement of the two buildings. Remodelling of the house to provide for more adequate kitchen and toilet facilities is also proposed. The cost of the PMSCS structure breezeway, and remodel work requires funding guestimated at between \$70K to \$90K. This is likely to be a total responsibility of the community unless we wait for grant funding some time in the future.

The proposed solution will serve us for a long time, and done properly it will not interfere with the construction of the permanent building should funding be achieved, and the interim use buildings will be salvageable, or retained for other use. Is it in us? I believe it is.



# An Update from the Palomar Observatory *by Scott Kardel*



It has been another great year at the Palomar Observatory. The telescopes continue to do some amazing work which is described below.

Last year you may have heard about a Palomar discovery of an object, then called 2003 UB313 now officially named Eris, that many people were calling our solar system's tenth planet.

The International Astronomical

Union weighed in on the issue and decided to demote Pluto and to classify it and Eris as dwarf planets. Eris, Pluto and other frozen worlds inhabit a zone beyond Neptune called the Kuiper Belt. 5 of the 6 biggest objects in the Kuiper Belt were discovered using Palomar's 48-inch Samuel Oschin Telescope.

The observatory's smallest telescope, a 4-inch telescope known as Sleuth, discovered a planet of its own. Sleuth is part of Trans-Atlantic Exoplanet Survey (TrES), a network of small automated telescopes that specifically look for planets that transit directly in front of their home stars producing sort of mini eclipses. This planet, known as TrES-2, orbits a star that is 500 light years away in the direction of the constellation of Draco. The TrES-2 is a giant world, slightly larger than Jupiter that orbits its star in just two and a half days.

According to Francis O'Donovan, an Irish graduate student in astronomy at the California Institute of Technology, "When TrES-

2 is in front of the star, it blocks off about one and a half percent of the star's light, an effect we can observe with our TrES telescopes." The discovery was made using the tiny Sleuth and confirmed using one of the largest telescopes on Earth, the 10-meter Keck telescope in Hawaii.

The observatory added a 24-inch telescope last year. The new telescope represents Caltech's continued interest in using the Palomar site for years to come. Expect to hear more about this telescope as its mission unfolds.

The observatory was instrumental in creating the largest astronomical photograph ever produced, appropriately enough called "The Big Picture." You can find it hanging at the newly remodeled Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. The image is an astounding 152 feet long by 20 feet high. Go and visit and see if you can see all of the more than 1 million galaxies in the image. More information is at:

<http://bigpicture.caltech.edu>

There has recently been a fair amount of turnover in the home ownership here on the mountain. Some of the new neighbors may not be aware that their porch and other outdoor lights can hinder observations made at the observatory. These outside lights do adversely affect our operations. We've spotted many places on the mountain where people have been leaving their porch lights and flood lights turned on all night. Remember to please turn lights off when they are not absolutely needed.

For more information on the observatory visit our website at: <http://www.palomar-observatory.org>

<b>PMPO Treasurer's Report</b>	
<b>January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006</b>	
<i>Alan Serry, Treasurer</i>	
<b>Balance Forward:</b>	<b>\$38,166.73</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Donations	<b>\$3,173.80</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Newsletter	\$913.72
Pancake Breakfast	\$348.75
Postage	\$379.20
General Expense	\$215.74
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>(\$1,857.41)</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$39,483.12</b>

**2006-2007  
PMPO Recognition**

**Thanks to *All of You***  
**for your ongoing dedication and support to the**  
**Palomar Mountain Planning Organization,**  
**to help better our community!**

**Chairman:** Jim Hamerly  
**Past Chairman:** Bruce Graves  
**Secretary:** Michael Pique  
**Treasurer:** Alan Serry  
**Past Treasurer:** Tracy Dixon  
**Dual Survey Project:** MichaelPique/Robert Haase  
**Newsletter Coordinator:** Susan Humason  
**Cedar Creek Project:** Libby Getzoff/Michael Pique  
**2020 Plan:** Tom Burton  
**Mailing List:** Bruce Graves & Bonnie Phelps  
**Annual Pancake Breakfast:** Donna Dose



## PMPO Needs Your Financial Support...

All property owners, residents, and any interested parties 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.

If you have followed our activities over the years, you know we get a big bang for each buck. There are large threats on the horizon most of the time. We need to be ready. Your financial support represents our readiness. We study issues of importance to Palomar Mountain and communicate these to our community along with involved governmental agencies. These efforts have produced significant results.

THANK YOU!

## Palomar Mountain Planning Organization --2007 Contribution--

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

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

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

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

I AM CONTRIBUTING THE FOLLOWING AMOUNT:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO: PMPO, BOX 145  
PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, CA 92060-0145

PMPO IS RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES AS A TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

## Forest Health on Palomar Mountain *by Richard D. Hawkins, Cleveland National Forest Fire Chief*

It seems like a lifetime ago that I spoke with residents of the community one evening at the PMVFD station about the dying forest and the threat to the community. I remember Jay Ackerman doing a great job facilitating the discussion and as I drove down South Grade that night, I wondered if the community could survive a major wildfire. I didn't think so at the time.

Who could have imagined the funding that later rolled into the county and the role that the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service would play in helping improve the defensible space around buildings. I believe they provided \$38 million throughout the County of San Diego and a good percentage of that was spent on Palomar Mountain. The County of San Diego and the USDA-Forest Service were also able to provide \$5 million and

\$8 million respectively for the removal of dead trees along evacuation routes through Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, the Julian area, and on Palomar Mountain.

On Palomar Mountain this unprecedented effort has made a very visible difference. The forest looks much better and is safer to be around, where the work has been accomplished. Human safety has always been the top priority associated with the removal of all these dead trees. One of the things we still need to tackle is the issue of forest health. Despite the loss of so many trees due to overcrowding and a very long drought, we still have areas where the health of the forest is minimized by having too many trees competing with each other for food and sunlight. We need to thin the forest in these areas to avoid more large scale losses to drought or fire.

Now is not the time to rest on our laurels, there is a great deal of work to be accomplished. The issue of defensible space is more important than ever in light of the loss of the five firefighters that occurred last October near Banning. It is your responsibility as a homeowner to make it safe for the firefighters to attempt saving your house in a fire. The Palomar Fire Safe Council has provided leadership on this subject on the mountain in the past and we hope you will join them in making this a reality throughout the Palomar Mountain region.



## Sections 14 and 15 Dual Survey Problem

by Michael Pique

As many of you know from past articles and presentations, most of Crestline and all of Birch Hill is located in federal government survey Section 14, and in 1975 a new government survey moved Section 14's center line north so that the National Forest took over about 18 acres more land than it had before. This cost many Palomar residents along the entire mile-long line, their right to build on their properties. We have recently discovered that the problem extends west from Section 14 into Section 15, because the survey changes the east-west boundary between the two sections. In fact, the dividing line between the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department property and the U. S. Forest Service's Crestline Group Camp depends on the "slant" of the Section 15-14 boundary, and the change is likely to affect the plans for the Palomar Mountain Community Safety Center (PMSCS).

The PMPO hopes to solve these problems all together by locating a landowner willing to donate about 18 acres to the Forest Service, in exchange for which the federal government would restore the Section 14 and Section 15 boundary to its long-accepted location.

Jack Norvall's death in October 2006 has certainly set us back - his knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedication can never be replaced - but we hope that with the community's support for the PMPO and the PMSCS we can arrange a fair and lasting settlement.



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## Yale / La Jolla Indian Tribe Well Pumping & Land Transfer Project

by Elizabeth Getzoff

Precedent-setting plans to export pumped well water from Palomar Mountain continue to move inexorably forward. During the past year, paperwork has been filed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Teresa Draper, BIA Sacramento, Realty Dept. 916-978-6064) for the pending fee-to-trust transfer of land containing a high production well from private ownership to the La Jolla Indian Reservation. The well, currently owned by Mr. William Yale, is located adjacent to Cedar Creek, just South of where the creek flows under the East Grade Road. 15 years ago, Mr. Yale drilled this deep well to pump and export water, but failed to complete San Diego County's requirements for a Major Use Permit. Once the land transfer has been approved, the project will no longer be subject to County regulations. The BIA is expected to provide public notification in the San Diego Union Tribune and the North County Times of the land transfer approval process. The Tribe, a sovereign nation, in a joint venture with Mr. Yale, plans to construct and export water through a pipeline down the South face of Palomar Mountain to a load

station on Highway 76, to be built near the roadside tribal billboard warning against drug use. The joint venture agreement, which has not yet been made public, and the Environmental Assessment, which was previously approved by the BIA over significant objections from the Palomar community, set limits on the amount of water to be exported, but these limits can be overridden by any California-certified hydrogeologist.

Last year, representatives of the PMPO and the La Jolla Tribe had a productive meeting, opening communication channels on this water project. The Tribe expressed sensitivity to environmental concerns, and agreed to monitor Palomar wells and to provide monitoring data directly to the Palomar community. The PMPO's Well Monitoring Committee, led by Rob Hawk, has been working to obtain as much Palomar well monitoring data as possible in advance of the proposed pumping. LaVonne Peck, from the La Jolla Tribe, has volunteered to give a presentation on this water project at the PMPO annual meeting.

## MANY THANKS to Bruce and Lola Graves



The PMPO and the Palomar Mountain Community wish to thank Bruce Graves for over 25 years of dedication and service to the community. Many positive changes were attributed to his years of support. We'd also like to thank Lola for always being there to give of her time, her home and unselfishly sharing Bruce with us over all the years.

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## Internet Access Survey

by Jim Hamerly

This fall we conducted an online survey to determine the breadth and strength of interest in high-speed Internet access on the Mountain. The conclusions are simple: There is very strong interest and willingness to pay for such services. In the near future, we will continue to monitor commercial offerings but as of this date, it is premature to make a strong recommendation.

Of the 100 respondents to our survey:

### Current Internet Access:

43% use dial-up  
12% use satellite  
34% don't have any access



### Interest in High Speed Access:

69% are strongly interested, an additional 14% somewhat interested in obtaining high speed Internet access, bringing the total to 83% of respondents. 73% of those with satellite Internet access today are still interested in new high speed access.

### Response Demographics:

45% of respondents currently live full time on the Mountain  
82% of respondents live full, part-time, or plan to do so in 3-5 years

If interested, you can see the graphical responses to the survey here: <http://tinyurl.com/2rmqg7> in addition to more detailed survey results. Please email Jim Hamerly ([jim@hamerly.net](mailto:jim@hamerly.net)) if you need or want more information.

## Are You Ready? *by Bill Leininger*

Is your home is ready for a disaster? Do you know how to help your friends and neighbors if there's a fire, earthquake, or blizzard?

Now there's a way to get involved!

The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department has started a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), whose members are trained to assist the professional first responders in disaster situations and with events where additional trained personnel could make a difference.

Started about 6 months ago, all 7 members have gone through the basic CERT training, which involves: personal preparation, small fire suppression, first aid and triage, and light search and rescue. During all classes, exercises, and real events, team member safety is given the highest priority. All members are issued standard personnel protective equipment (look for our bright green helmets and vests), and supplies to let us immediately support the PMVFD in an emergency.

Since we've finished our introductory training, we're focusing on two main efforts for the upcoming year.

First, we're learning all about the various Palomar Mountain locations that would be

affected in a disaster – the Observatory, the State Park, the various neighborhoods, and so on. By increasing our familiarity with the different areas, we'll know how to get help to victims, and how to guide outside emergency personnel, such as the CDF or other fire departments, to where they're needed.

The second effort concentrates on expanding communication resources on the mountain. One of the most effective ways CERT members can help the PMVFD is to provide extra eyes and ears and let them know where the problems are. We're working on becoming part of a reliable radio network across the mountain that can help get bulletins from the PMVFD to residents and visitors, and send information back about emergency situations.

Interested in becoming part of the Team? We'd love to have you! For more information about how to join and upcoming classes and meetings, please contact me:

Bill Leininger, [bill\\_leininger@alumni.williams.edu](mailto:bill_leininger@alumni.williams.edu), ph – (760) 807-6923

Information is also available from:  
Chief George Lucia – [firechief97@aol.com](mailto:firechief97@aol.com), ph - (760) 644-9933

Chief Hank Vargas – [henryhankvargas@hotmail.com](mailto:henryhankvargas@hotmail.com), ph - (760) 742-0429

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## Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department

*by George Lucia*

The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank all the residents and property owners of Palomar Mountain.

Your continued commitment towards fire safety on our mountain is reflected in the healthy forests and fuel reduction around the home and cabins.

This community effort has increased the odds towards safety and survival in the event of a wildland fire incident driven by severe weather.

The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department will continue to train our staff to be professional and ready. We will continue

to maintain our fire equipment and fire station. The PMVFD is your neighborhood fire station offering the highest standard of fire protection and EMS service.

We thank you for your continued support and we will continue to support the PMPO organization in their efforts to promote a beautiful, safe and valuable mountain community and insure the "quality of life" that we all strive towards.

George E. Lucia Sr.  
Fire Chief  
Palomar Mountain Fire Department  
SD Station 97 (CSA 110)  
cell-760-644-9933  
[firechief97@aol.com](mailto:firechief97@aol.com)  
[george.lucia@sprint.blackberry.net](mailto:george.lucia@sprint.blackberry.net)

## Comments from the Board of Directors of the Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Dept.

The PMVFD Board of Director's Meetings are at the Fire Station at 9:00 AM on the first Saturday of each month. This is an open meeting. Palomar Mountain residents are encouraged to attend. We need your input and support!

The Board wishes to thank our Chief George for building a Volunteer Fire Department that we can be proud of. We are grateful for all of the volunteer hours that the captins, the firefighters and the support team spend keeping the PMVFD functioning so well.

We would also like to give very special thanks to Earl Walls for the generous amount of time he has spent designing our future physical plant. Earl has also given us a wonderful building that we will use to expand the Fire Department facility. Thanks also to Phillip and Catherine Reid for allowing us to store the building at their helicopter site until we can build the necessary foundation.

Our annual Barbeque fundraiser will be held on Labor Day weekend (September 1) at the Fire Station. Please put this date on your calendar!"

PMVFD  
Board of Directors



## After the Fire: Where is My Lot? *by Rob Hawk & Bonnie Phelps*

Here on Palomar, we live with the real possibility that someday the conditions will be right for an unstoppable firestorm and our cabins and homes may burn. OK, then we'll rebuild and life will go on.

However, the Cedar Fire of 2003 provided some valuable lessons about rebuilding in the back country, where many developments and home construction were done more "casually" the past 100 years or so. In Julian, where roughly 600 homes were lost, many people learned the hard way that what they thought of as "their" property, wasn't really located on County maps where they always thought it was. The same was true for roads and road easements. When they came in to the County for building permits, they found out that their old cabin was located on up of a road easement, or too close to a property line, or sometimes not even on their property! The County staff has said that they will try to help people rebuild,

but the new construction MUST meet the legal requirements for setbacks and legal road or easement access according to the current requirements for the building code.

Palomar has all of these issues as well. More recent surveys using modern technology have discovered that many of our roads and our lot lines are mislocated. In addition, many legal descriptions for private road easements, access essential for a building permit, are legally flawed, or completely absent, and may not be accepted by the County for new construction. These legal issues have begun to surface more frequently as more properties are sold, or people want to refinance, or pull a permit to remodel.

The PMPO has given their blessing for us to work to make property owners aware of these issues and help resolve them BEFORE a fire. We can work cooperatively to

file legal documents granting appropriate access easements and property adjustments to create accurate legal descriptions of the properties we already own, to avoid costly and contentious litigation during an already stressful time during rebuilding. This effort, road by road, when successful, would be a tremendous asset to property owners. Please come to the May 26 meeting to find out more details and see how we can help one another clear up some of these issues.

Rob Hawk  
tecdelver@cox.net

Deputy City Engineer City of San Diego  
and Weekender

Bonnie Phelps  
bonnie@palomarproperties.com  
Resident, Realtor

Members of the PMPO Board of Directors

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## Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC)

The community owns a debt of gratitude to Shana Ackermann for serving as President for the past five years. All across the mountain we can see the results of her long hours with the acres and acres of property that benefited with tree and brush work. Just this past year alone under Shana's direction, we received a grant through the US Forest Service. This provided funds to clear brush and dead trees from 52 properties, totaling 655 acres across our Mountain.

Shana has now passed the torch to Robert Carlyle who has agreed to be the new President. Shana will offer her expertise to make the transition for the new board as smooth as possible. The council is putting

in for more funding for the fall and hope to be picked up by the US Forest Service again for grant funds. The PMFSC will be working to meet the requirements to receive the funding over the next couple of months. Your participation is welcomed at the meetings and working toward making Palomar a safer place for all. We hope to have an update for you at the Pancake Breakfast!

The new board members for 2007 are:  
President, Robert Carlyle (760) 742-1891  
Vice President, Jerry Fisher  
Secretary, Anita Carlyle  
Member at Large, Bonnie Phelps  
Treasurer, needed

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## Burning Permits

We had a couple wind storms this winter that brought down a tremendous amount of branches and some trees too. Wondering what to do with all the trimmings after 'parking up' your property? Would you like to have a campfire or burn your cut brush? A permit is required. Permits are available only when the USFS agrees it is safe. After a rain or snow is often a good option. Call the US Forest Service (760) 782-3472 or (760) 788-0250 to help keep our forest green and fire safe.

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## Do You Have Old Maps or Surveys?

Do you have old maps or surveys of Palomar tucked away? Perhaps they could be an asset in clearing up some of the road easement issues. You are invited to bring them with you to the Pancake Breakfast or contact Rob or Bonnie.



## State Route 76 Road Improvements

*by Jim Hamerly*

The Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA) and California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) are proposing improvements to the State Route 76 corridor east of Interstate 15 to State Route 79. There are roughly a dozen "near-term" 1-2 year improvements, mostly focused on the west end of SR 76 (but east of 15). Proposed improvements consist mainly of curve straightening, addition of small sections of passing lanes and/or lengthened turn "pockets", improved signage, line-of-sight improvements, etc. Funding for such improvements has not yet been approved. Palomar Mountain / PMPO is one of many listed "stakeholders", and we will continue to monitor and provide feedback to the Working Group. For more information, contact Jim Hamerly (jim@hamerly.net).

# Mountain Tidbits *by Bonnie Phelps*

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## **PALOMAR HISTORY**

Another book is in the works with history of our favorite mountain. Do you have stories and photos to contribute? More material is always needed and will increase everyone's appreciation of Mountain history. Proceeds benefit the Fire Safe Council with thanks to all. We'll let you know when the next book is hot off the press!

## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Looking for something fun to do? Check out our interactive calendar of events. When your organization has something coming up, you can go into this webpage and enter the event yourself. <http://my.calendars.net/palomarmountain> It is simple, and fun to do, and will keep us all up-to-date on the latest Mountain happenings!

## **FREE FIREWOOD**

If you are interested in cutting your own firewood, we often know of properties that have downed oak that is available. Let's connect and you can cut!



## **MOUNTAIN YELLOW PAGES**

Do you have a product or service that you need or could provide on the Mountain? [www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages](http://www.palomarproperties.com/yellowpages) Additions and corrections are welcomed.



## **COMMUNITY WEBSITE**

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

For the People of Palomar and those who "Claim the Mountain" as their own.

Designed to serve all the needs of the community, this growing website is brand new this year. It is very user friendly so you can find links to search the archives or visit other community websites. Additions are constantly being made to have this page as your one-stop source for Mountain information. There is lots to see! A Historical link with many vintage photos, stories, and plenty of room for what you might send! Very soon we will open a 'Fabulous Finds' link giving you great connections for fun mountain 'stuff', and oh, so much more!

If you have a website that is not linked yet, please feel free to send it along. Or, if you would like a free webpage, just let me know!

## **PALOMAR MOUNTAIN NEWS BROADCAST**

Since 1998, property owners and residents have been able to subscribe to a free e-news broadcast. Serving the Mountain in a way similar to a newspaper, you receive messages to keep informed of the happenings of our community. If you were getting the news in the past, and haven't recently, sorry, those spam blockers have been working overtime! Many of you have also changed your address throughout the years. If you wish to keep up on the latest, simply visit: [www.PalomarMountainNews.com](http://www.PalomarMountainNews.com) to subscribe or update your address. You'll have a reply with suggestions to get set up so the Mountain News doesn't get blocked, or sent to your 'junk e-mail box'. We'll keep the news of your favorite Mountain heading your way!

Looking forward to seeing you 'round the Mountain!

Bonnie Phelps, resident and editor since 1998

[www.PalomarMountainNews.com](http://www.PalomarMountainNews.com)

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## **Small Embers = BIG RISK** *by Kerri Uglik, Fire Prevention Officer, Cleveland National Forest*

Every year I hear the same statement, "fire season is going to be a real bad one this year"!

The reality is when you live in southern California you need to accept the fact that we are at permanent risk of potential wildland fires all year long, and it's essential to be prepared.

The Palomar Mountain area finally looks prepared to defend against a wildland fire in the community; they have been clearing away large trees, brush, and wood piles away from their homes for years. It is now the "small tasks" that need to be accomplished (every year) to put the final touch on protecting your home! Some folks refer to it as "spring cleaning", some tasks that need to be done are cutting the weeds/grass, raking leaves, moving the firewood off the porch and away from the house, trimming the dead wood from trees and brush, and removing pine needles from roof

tops and rain gutters. Honestly, I consider this essential to HOME SURVIVAL!

The risk of losing your home is real. Hot embers generated from a wildland fire (which could be burning towards or nearby your home) can cause new fires by landing on roof tops that are ½ mile from the main fire front! These hot embers range in size, they can be from ½ inch (equivalent to the size of a leaf) to 3-6 inches (equivalent to the size of a pinecone), and all that needs to happen is to land in a receptive "fuel bed" in order to ignite.

The common receptive fuel beds are grass, leaves, pine needles, wood piles (stacked firewood/construction wood), dead trees, tree stumps and wood roofs. If you eliminate those items from around your home - you have eliminated the receptive fuel bed and lowered your risk of losing your home!

Try to imagine a shower of hot embers falling from the sky! Therefore, one should

also consider putting outdoor furniture cushions, canvas awnings and outdoor table umbrellas away- remember to do it before you go on vacation this summer even if you're only gone for a week.

Some tips include: always covering firewood with (non-flammable tarps) to protect from rolling embers that may be able to go into nooks and crannies in stacked wood; NEVER, NEVER leave wood of any kind stacked against house or under porch; fill-in with caulking in and around roof or eaves in areas that a hot ember can roll or be blown into and lastly check roof screens on vents.

So now that you have prepared your home for another fire season, sit on your porch and breathe in the clean air and beautiful views...and take in the comfort that you have done it all to protect your home and the community of Palomar Mountain!!!

# Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

P.O. Box 145

Palomar Mountain, CA 92060-0145

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## ***Annual Pancake Breakfast & PMPO Meeting***

**Saturday, May 26th, 2007**

Breakfast 8am - 11 am

Annual Meeting follows after Breakfast  
at *The Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Dept.*

### **Breakfast Menu:**

Fresh orange juice, strawberries,  
hot mountain pancakes,  
bacon & sausage and steaming coffee



**\$2.00 - Adults • \$1.00 - Children**

*Come on out and meet your neighbors!*

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**2007 - 2008**

*Board Member Elections*

**Board Members Up for Re-election:**

**Thomas Burton, Donna Dose,  
Susan Humason, Scott Kardel, Bruce Graves**

## **Annual Meeting Agenda Meeting to start at 11am**

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization

1. Call to order 11:00 AM
2. Secretary's Report and Approval of Minutes: Michael Pique
4. Treasurer's Report: Alan Serry
5. Reports from other Organizations:
  - (a) Palomar Mountain Volunteer Fire Department:  
George Lucia, Chief
  - (b) Palomar Mountain Observatory:  
Scott Kardel, Public Relations
  - (c) Community Center: Tom Burton / Earl Walls, Chairmen
  - (c) La Jolla Indian Reservation: LaVonne Peck, Chair,  
Jewel Resources
6. Activity Reports
  - (a) Motorcycle and Helicopter Safety: Alan Serry
  - (b) Ground water situation / monitoring:  
Libby Getzoff / Rob Hawk
  - (c) Legal access to lots: Rob Hawk and Bonnie Phelps
7. Elections (for 5 of the 15 seats on the Board)
  - (a) Nominations from the Floor
  - (b) Introduction of Incumbents and Nominees
  - (c) Balloting
8. New Business
9. Election Results
10. Adjournment

