

# Ski Palomar Mountain

Peter Brueggeman, 2012

*Thank you to Robin Howell & Ingrid Wicken & Bonnie Phelps*

A ski operation was operational on Palomar Mountain during winter 1966-1967. Built on Wog Bergman's land by Charles Darby of La Jolla, the ski slope was located on the road to the Observatory, and operated about 10 days that winter (and perhaps thereafter?). There was publicity and excitement about it around San Diego County (including Ski Palomar bumper stickers and newspaper articles), and there was good attendance when there was snow. Robin Howell, the daughter of Charles Darby, recalls that the temperatures were often too high for making snow, and that snow falls were not numerous. There was a snack bar built at the bottom of the slope, and the work crew stayed at a cabin located at the slope.

From "San Diego Ski Area Open," *Far West Skier*, October 28, 1966.

San Diego County's only commercial downhill ski area, Palomar Mountain Ski Area, was developed by Charles H. Darby in the fall of 1966. Based on fifteen years of snow studies, the area opened with two 2,000 foot t-bars plus a pair of rope tows covering the beginners slope. Just in case Mother Nature proved to be fickle, they planned to install enough Larchmont snowmaking equipment to cover at least ten acres. The area had beginner to advanced terrain with slopes 10% to 25% incline. Darby, a La Jolla contractor, acted as president of his Palomar Mountain Corporation, with his son Martin serving as vice-president and James Murray, secretary-treasurer. Situated a mile and a quarter south of the renowned Mt. Palomar Observatory, the ski area had a number of advantageous amenities: a paved parking lot for more than 1,000 cars, a day lodge with a restaurant and ski shop, and a good county highway—Palomar Mountain's Highway to the Stars—for easy access to the area. The senior Darby spoke optimistically of his new area: "Our longest run measures 3500 feet and eventually we hope to have snowmaking equipment available for this as needed. We're sheltered and cold, and even though our top elevation is only 5600 feet we've studied this area long enough to know what we're doing."

# PALOMAR MOUNTAIN . . . .



**Where the Snow is**



## **SKI**

### **PALOMAR MOUNTAIN**

LOCATED IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
JUST MINUTES FROM ALL OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

1. PALOMAR MOUNTAIN INN  
RESTAURANT—COCKTAIL LOUNGE  
SERVICE FACILITIES — SKI SHOP  
RENTALS — SALES
2. T BAR LIFT — CAPACITY 1000 PER  
HOUR
3. BEGINNERS AREA — ROPE TOWS  
CAPACITY 400 PER HOUR
4. INTERMEDIATE AREA—ROPE TOWS  
CAPACITY 400 PER HOUR
5. MAIN RUNS — EACH 2000 FEET  
NATURAL AND MAN MADE SNOW
6. INTERMEDIATE AND EXPERT RUNS  
3500 FEET LONG — NATURAL  
SNOW

FREE PARKING FOR 1000 CARS

OVER 10 ACRES MAN MADE SNOW  
ON 4 RUNS

FOR INFORMATION WRITE:  
SKI, PALOMAR MOUNTAIN,  
CALIFORNIA

FOR SNOW REPORTS PHONE:  
(714) 459-4121

# Palomar Mt.

## T-BAR LIFTS

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### RATES

#### ROPE TOWS

Weekdays.....	\$ 3.00
Sat., Sun., Holidays.....	\$ 3.50

#### ALL TOWS

Weekdays.....	\$ 4.00
Sat., Sun., Holidays.....	\$ 5.00
Single Rides.....	\$ 1.50

#### SKI SCHOOL GROUP LESSONS

Half Day—1 Session of 2 Hours.....	\$ 4.00
Full Day—2 Sessions of 2 Hours.....	\$ 6.50
Full Day Sessions and T-Bar.....	\$10.00

#### PRIVATE LESSONS

For 1 Person.....	\$10.00
For 2 Persons.....	\$14.00

Riverside

Palomar  
Observatory

**SKI** 

76

Oceanside

Rincon Spr.

395

Lake  
Henshaw

Escondido

101

80

San Diego

