Palomar Observatory
A Special Tour of the Palomar Observatory
This was Stephanie’s first time to the Observatory. (that she could remember)
Palomar Mountain California, home of the 200” Hale telescope. This revolving dome weighs 1,000 tons.
Wayne and Steph on the front steps of the Palomar Observatory.
HALE

THE TWO HUNDRED INCH TELESCOPE IS NAMED IN HONOR OF
GEORGE ELLERY HALE
1868–1938
WHOSE VISION AND LEadership MADE IT A REALITY
Stephanie, Wayne and I were given a special tour of the Observatory by John Henning. John is one of the Observatory computer programmers. John has been a good friend of ours for many years.
Checking out the Observatory museum.
The cage below is where the staff and astronomers work.
Looking up at the top of where the dome opens to the night sky.
It’s the “Good Luck Chicken”!
John showing us an old control panel.
One of the computer rooms.
One of the smaller telescopes.
Boucher Hill has offered up a critical view of Southern California since the early 1900s.

In the early 20th century, we didn’t have the high-tech cameras, satellites and other fire detecting technology that we have today. Back then, it was up to the people stationed in fire lookout towers to keep an eye on the communities below.

Although the advantage of staffed fire towers in Southern California today is often limited by low visibility, Palomar Mountain State Park staff and volunteers are working to retain these historic structures as an important legacy. Besides, there’s nothing like plain ol’ eyeballs when it comes to spotting fires when they’re small.
“Beauty is a fragile gift.”

-Ovid