

Maturango Museum News

Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for
the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.
100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open Monday – Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday Noon – 4pm
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org
Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director's Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

"Taking a wrong turn allows you to see landscapes you wouldn't otherwise have seen."

Rick Rubin

Sometimes in the heat of July we find a reason to travel up to the cool. We may not have to take a wrong turn, but we may stop just to admire the shades of golden, dry grasses against the lavender hills. There may be a turnout on the highway where the only sound is that of a swiftly flowing river that cuts all other sound from our devices. A noisy peaceful rush of water. Worth the trip even to experience from the car window!

The Museum is continuing the work on the new curation building and we hope to complete it for occupation by the New Year. Many thanks to all who have taken part in this. We are also working on displays in the El Paso Gallery. The curators continue to be busy!

We have a couple of great fundraisers going on right now. The matching funds drive has been fun to set up and will continue through July. Let's do this! Our many thanks to ALL!

We have started an engraved bricks campaign for the garden walkway and to enhance our grounds. It's a great way to remember our friends and family and to create a memory.

Keep an eye on our events and our Trips and Tours. We have a great one coming up to Bodie and Mono Lake.

Stay cool and hydrate! Our Best to you.

Field Trip Ideas, Places, Planning, Tour Leader Opportunities.....

We are very fortunate to live in such a wonderful place as the Indian Wells Valley in the Mojave Desert! There are year-round opportunities for exploration and adventure right out our back door that most Americans can only access on vacation. The Maturango Museum's mission is, in part, to help its members and guests enjoy and develop an appreciation for this place we call home. Our tours are an important part of what we do to help in that regard. The Museum can't do it alone - we need your help! Please email us at trips@maturango.org if:

- You have ideas for how we might improve our tours
- There are places you'd like to explore on a Museum tour
- You would be interested in helping plan future tours
- You would attend an informational meeting for potential tour leaders or co-leaders
- You would consider being a tour leader or co-leader
- You have any other suggestions!

**Private Tour of Bodie State Historical Park and
Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve
July 20 & 21**

The Maturango Museum has arranged for a very special private tour of Bodie State Historical Park ghost town **on Saturday July 20th** by Chris Spiller, a longtime Bodie volunteer and tour guide for the Bodie Foundation. We will meet in the Bodie parking lot at 10:00 am and will begin a two-hour tour learning a bit of the history and some revealing stories of what life was like in a booming gold mining town at its peak and during the long decline into what is now a “ghost town”. At the conclusion of the town tour, we will walk through the stamp mill learning firsthand how the gold was extracted from the rock. At the conclusion of the tour, participants will have the remainder of the day to explore additional areas in and around Bodie with Gary Staab (a former Park Aide) or on their own.



On **Sunday, July 21st**, we will be meeting at the Mono Lake State Tufa Natural Reserve parking area (just north of Lee Vining – turn onto ‘Picnic Grounds Road’) at 10:00am. Chris Spiller will again be our guide as we explore the Tufa Reserve on a two-hour walking tour. We will discover how Native people and early residents made a home next to this unique lake and ecosystem. We will also talk about the farms and ranches that developed in the Mono Basin to feed the surrounding

mining camps and communities in the late 1800s.

Participants should keep in mind that Bodie is a semi-arid at an elevation of 8,400 and weather can be somewhat unpredictable with both heat and thundershowers all in the same day. It is best to dress in layers with sturdy walking/hiking shoes. Although Bodie sits in a bit of a basin, about half the town lies on a slope, including the Stamp mill. Be sure to bring ample water for this tour as there is no water available in the town. As with all eastern Sierra activities, hats and sunscreen are also highly recommended as well as good sunglasses. Dogs are permitted in town BUT ARE NOT allowed on the stamp mill tour.

From U.S. 395, State route 270 (7 miles south of Bridgeport) is the turn off for Bodie. Go east 10 miles where the pavement ends and continue 3 miles on a dirt/washboard road to Bodie. 4-wheel drive is not necessary, but vehicles should be in good running order and tires in good condition. There are **no** services in Bodie, so be sure to come with a full tank of gas, charged battery and your lunch. Picnic tables are available on the far north side of town.

Motel accommodation may be available in most of the communities from Mammoth Lakes to Bridgeport, but reservations made in advance are strongly recommended.

Your online ticket purchase www.maturango.org/events/ (\$270 members, \$325 non-members) includes a donation to The Bodie Foundation. The Museum fee does not include the \$8 per person State Park entry fee for Bodie. Bodie does not accept any kind of federal or state park passes. This tour is limited to 20 guests.

Dead Owls Car Club — 8mm film (1959)
Sunday, July 28, 2 pm

When putting the hot rod video together (“The Hot Rod Years - Ridgecrest, California”), I needed an effective opening for the video. Tex Whitson showed me four rolls of 8mm film (silent) that he had shot back in the late 1950s of the Dead Owls Car Club and of several meets at the Inyokern Drag Strip. I thought this footage would be perfect for my video. It would show a bit of what hot rodding was like in the late 1950s—better than anything else I could come up with—it was footage of the real thing and it was shot during the time that I was most interested in.

After I looked at the footage I realized that I did not know who most of the people were in the film, and which cars belonged to which people. So I decided to make another video: this one would show Tex Whitson describing the film that he shot. Tex has an incredible knack of remembering names, events, and cars, so I knew he would be up to the task of narrating the film he shot some 60 years ago and that he would accurately remember pertinent events and people that are in the film.

We set up a laptop with his film (converted to video) in the computer, ready for playback. He controlled the speed of the video and could therefore freeze the footage, back it up or play it forward whenever he wanted so he would have time to tell a story or two relating to that particular series of images. Even though 4 rolls of 8mm film run about 12 minutes, our video transfer with Tex’s comments runs 2 hours. That is the video we will be showing at 2 pm in the Coso Gallery at the Maturango Museum on Sunday, July 28th. Admission is free. Tex will be there to provide additional comments and answer questions after the screening. I will be there to introduce the program and answer questions about the video.

~Mark Pahuta

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The docents can certainly brag about all the programs they provide to the community! In May we gave 29 programs to a total of 740 people. One highlight was the last Children’s Hour of the season which was a garden adventure complete with I SPY booklets! We also enjoyed sharing our desert animals with the residents of High Desert Haven!

Zoe Stephens gave wonderful presentations on tortoises for our free Saturday in June. I did not realize that tortoises could feel you touching them through their shells! We also provided some fun tortoise crafts for the children.

Another highlight in June was presenting a program on owls and owl pellets at the Ridgecrest Library. We had over 60 participants!

We have several tours scheduled for June and July as well as a Reptile program for High Desert Haven on June 27 at 2:00 PM.

You are invited to join a group of people who love to share the wonders of our desert with adults and children! Please call me, Nora, at the Maturango Museum if you would like to work with the Docent League. You are sure to have fun learning experiences!

Hot for All of Us
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator

Summer is here! It's hot not only for people but for animals as well. Be aware that many of our desert dwellers will seek shelter from the heat in shady areas around our homes and properties.



Be aware that all kinds of snakes, lizards, and other reptiles cannot regulate body temperature and look for shady areas during the day. A good rule of thumb is to never put hands and feet where your eyes haven't been. This includes under shrubs, wood piles, in and around sheds and so on.

Mammals, all sizes, will also seek out shady areas especially areas that are watered frequently to keep cool. Rabbits will settle into damp areas to wait out the day's heat. Coyotes and other larger mammals like Bobcats will also look for water. If you have property putting out water basins near gates, or outside the fence, is helpful in keeping these critters from coming too close to the home. Make sure there are small rock piles in the basin near the rim so small animals can get out if they fall in.

As the days cool into night, the critters who have been inactive during the day will become active. Be aware they will be actively searching for food and water. It's nice to know that non-poisonous snakes, gopher and racers, are a deterrent for rats and mice. Rattlers are also a deterrent but must be given lots of space especially by dogs and children.

It's best not to leave out dog or cat food at any time - this attracts unwanted creatures coming close to your home. This includes ravens.

Remember your pets too during this hot time - provide shade, a cool place to hang out. NEVER leave a pet or child in a car for any reason or length of time!

Fundraising Bricks

Our campaign starts NOW! We are enthusiastically beginning our brick campaign. The funds will be used to further beautify and maintain our desert gardens at the museum. The bricks will be installed along the new path to the curation building and around the shade structure.



On this website page you will find a quick video and the printable flyer with mail-in order form.

www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/maturango/



The 2nd Annual Matching Donation Drive - 2024

From June 1 to August 1, your donation to the Maturango Museum can have twice the impact! Generous benefactors have pledged to match donations up to \$25,000. Your contribution can help the museum reach its goal of raising \$50,000, enabling the museum to keep its doors open and provide quality education and events to the community.

The Maturango Museum is a non-profit organization that has provided education and enrichment opportunities to the community since 1962. The museum is not funded by any city, county, state, or federal government and relies solely on donations from people like you. Let's work together to keep the museum running and thriving. Please make a special donation now to help the Maturango Museum maintain its status as an important educational and tourism asset for our community.



Let's make it grow!

Levels of donation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Desert Dandelion	\$100 - \$249
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monkey Flower	\$250 - \$499
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlotte's Phacelia	\$500 - \$749
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldfield	\$750 - \$1000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	\$ _____

What the museum offers you and your family:

- Unique gift store
- Monthly Free Second Saturday activities
- Exhibit of local animals, paleontology, minerals, and Native American items
- Multiple exhibit rooms featuring local and out-of-town artists, photography, and other exhibits of interest
- Local publications
- Docent-led museum tours
- Field trips to local areas of interest
- Monthly Children's Hour for preschool children (during the school year)
- Art & craft workshops
- Lectures and presentations
- Video nights
- Musical performances
- Room rentals
- Annual Wildflower Exhibit in April
- Docent programs at schools
- Local organizations information such as the Tortoise Club, China Lake Astronomy Club
- Local attraction information and maps
- Death Valley tourist information and maps
- Gladys Merrick garden featuring plants from the high desert and low desert
- Picnic tables and shade structure
- Labyrinth
- Human sundial
- Planet Walk

Scan code with your phone's camera to get to the website link.

New barcode June 7



Recent Donations

Donations

Anonymous
Nivia Barker
Dan and Brenda Burnett
Renee Lesniak
Ridgecrest Lions Club
Kathy and Bill Martin
Laura Stockton
Russell and Tina Warren
Patricia Wharton
Ken Whetzel
Peter Wiley

In Memory of Bob Burnett

Dan and Brenda Burnett

Matching Fund Donations

Frank Armogida
Elizabeth Babcock
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David and Jo Burdick
Milt and Jane Burford
Bill and Linda Duncan
Troy and Donna Ingle
Dennis Mar
Paul and Mica Mawhirter
Kim Morrell
Mark Pahuta
Joanna Rindt
Alexander and Fran Rogers
Arolyn Roseth
Diana Sliva for Human Capital
Management Group
Andrew Sound
Francina van der Hoek
Patty Wharton and Ken
Wetzel

In Memory of Vivian

VanDevender

Maureen Goff
Sam Schoenhals
Diana Sliva for Human Capital
Management Group

Building Fund

Robert Westbrook

New Members

Annette DeMay
Joe and Nel Kovar
Emma Lynch

New Premium Members

Katie Benadom

"Re - Art"



An Eclectic Array
of Pre-owned Artwork
For Sale

"Re - Art" June 15 – August 11

Over the years, we have received many beautiful and diverse items of artwork as donations. Usually we wait until the "Annual Dinner and Auction" to present these items for sale. Currently we have enough for an entire exhibit -- so we'll have an exhibit! All items are for sale at shockingly low prices. This is a great way to decorate your space. Also a fantastic opportunity for artists to buy used frames, spiff them up and add their own artwork.



New donations are welcome.

Bring your items to the museum: we're open Monday - Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday Noon – 4pm, or call the museum 760-375-6900 to arrange a pick up at your place for oversized items.



Mirage Sale

Our semi-annual yard sale will be Friday July 12 – Saturday July 13, 8am – 12 noon.

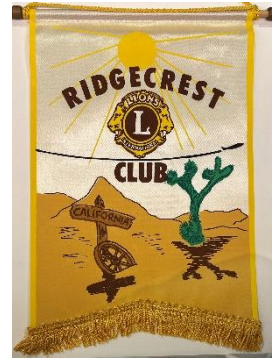


Ridgecrest Lions Club – 75 years of Community Service Exhibit runs from May – October 2024



This exhibit tells the history of the Ridgecrest Lions Club and highlights the many community service projects supported by this club over the past 75 years.

In 2023, the Ridgecrest Lions Club celebrated 75 years of community service in the Indian Wells Valley. In the early 1940s, only two Lions Clubs were in the eastern California desert-mountain area – the Victorville Lions Club and the Lone Pine Lions Club. Paul Yelton of the Victorville Lions Club and Roy Driggers of the Bakersfield Lions Club instigated and supported the forming of the Desert Lions Club in Randsburg in 1941. The Desert Lions Club then supported the forming of the Indian Wells Valley Lions Club in 1948. This new club was the first service club in the Indian Wells Valley. In 1974, the Indian Wells Valley Lions Club changed its name to the Ridgecrest Lions Club due to confusion with the Indian Wells Lions Club near Palm Springs.



Michael Spahn and Micah Lewis have brought historical items related to the Ridgecrest Lions Club for display in the "Ridgecrest Lions Club – 75 Years of Community Service" exhibit. Both Michael and Micah are active club members. They also brought boxes for unused eyeglasses and pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House.



The club's motto is "We Serve." Over the past 75 years, the Ridgecrest Lions Club has served the community through programs including sight, hearing, and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs. The exhibit showcases the history of the Ridgecrest Lions Club and

highlights the various community service projects supported by the club over the past 75 years.



Revisiting the July 2019 Earthquake Presentation Sunday June 30, 2 pm

Remember the Earthquake five years (!) ago?

Susan Hough, US Geological Survey, hough@usgs.gov will present an update on the sequence, current thoughts about hazard, and lessons learned. The aftershock sequence alone bears mention: the most recent forecast still gives about 50-50 odds of another aftershock > magnitude 4 over the next year, for example.

Plenty of time for Q&A, also.



Soaring the Indian Wells Valley Exhibit July 2024 – February 2025

Have you ever heard the phrases "Soaring like a bird," "Give me wings," or "Fly free like a bird"? Throughout history, people have aspired to be able to fly. One of the early successful methods of human flight was accomplished

with the use of a glider, a type of powerless aircraft.

The Maturango Museum is currently showcasing an exhibit on soaring, covering the history of local gliding in the Eastern Sierras and the competitive records set in this region. The highlight of the exhibit is an actual glider in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Granted, the glider is not completely assembled in that the wings are not attached to the fuselage since the wingspan is much larger than the room. Getting the unassembled glider into the museum required extensive planning and testing. A team of volunteers dedicated many hours to transporting the glider from Mojave to Ridgecrest, cleaning and polishing it, creating supports for its display, and moving the glider into the museum.

The exhibited glider is a Grob Astir CS G102 IIIB one-seater owned by Cindy Brickner in Mojave, who generously loaned it to the museum. Interestingly, Bob Harris flew a variant of this model of a Grob glider to a record height of 49,000 feet in 1978. Bob Harris' Grob is now part of the Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia.

In the Sylvia Winslow Gallery, the wings are positioned next to the west wall with the fuselage in front of them. When you visit the exhibit, take note of the wings' length compared to the fuselage, the pilot's seating arrangement, and the instrument panel. You may be surprised to see that each wing is longer than the fuselage!

Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Earthquake Presentation: Sunday June 30, 2pm
- Matching Funds Donation Drive: June 1 – August 1
- Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser: All day, Wednesday, July 10
- Free Saturday July 13: no admission fee the second Saturday of each month
- "Mirage Sale" Yard sale: Friday July 12 and Saturday July 13, 8am – noon.
- Private Tour of Bodie and Mono Lake Tufa: July 20 & 21
- Dead Owls Car Club Video: Sunday July 28, 2pm
- Ridgecrest Lions Club Exhibit: May – October 2024
- Soaring Exhibit: now through February 2025
- "Re – Art": June 15 – August 11
- Museum Annual Dinner and Auction: September 28



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, July 10.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.

**BEANSTER'S
ESPRESSO**

**Maturango Museum
of the IWV**

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open Mon - Sat 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday noon – 4pm (except major holidays)

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Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA, Archaeology Curator
Nadia Mohsen, Curation Technician
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator,
Newsletter Editor
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Linda Saholt, Membership, Donations
Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper
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