

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



Betty Spindler’s artwork ready for the auction.

Museum Director’s Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

“All at once, summer collapsed into fall.”
— Oscar Wilde

I feel a certain gratitude for days where there are fewer fires filling our eyes and throats with the smoke and ash. It seemed that August had notifications each day. It is good that some of those big burns are showing the work of constant work done by the firefighters. I am grateful for the firefighters and their work. Please take care and check on roads and pass ability if heading out.

September is the month when we hold our Annual Fundraising Dinner Auction. We hope to see you there! Tickets are on sale on our website and in the Museum Store. It’s a fun event and we have a chance to be with friends and bid on some interesting items! It’s always a good time!

I hope you have a chance to come by the Museum and see our displays. The Soaring and the ARTifacts displays are not permanent, so if you have a chance, it’s worth the visit! We do have some talented and interesting people in the Indian Wells Valley! It is great fun to be inspired by the artifacts and by the artworks themselves.

At the Museum we are watching the growth of our solar field and the changes it will bring as we work towards its completion. The Solar Committee and Sidewinder Solar are working together to get the most from our field. Many thanks to all!

Enjoy these first reminders of cooler days and the beauty to be found around us. We are better together and we hope to see you come in for a visit, a walk around the garden or to volunteer! Thank you for everything you do to support the museum and for your time!

Remember the Bricks! The new walkway through the garden that leads to our new curation building makes the garden accessible to our visitors. If you are interested in buying an engraved brick that will enhance the walkway the information is on our website and in the Museum Store.

Annual Auction and Dinner

Saturday, September 28, 2024 Doors Open at 5pm Kerr-McGee Center

Games and prizes Dessert Auction Tickets are \$60 per person or 2 for \$100

Sponsorship opportunities include reserved table, raffle tickets and advertisement in program.

Auction donations are tax deductible

Items of all sizes and values are welcome. Smaller items and gift cards can be combined to make one of our terrific gift baskets. Deadline for donations is Friday September 13.

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.

Questions about **sponsorship** or event details? Email debbie@maturango.org

Buy tickets (in museum store or on-line) and get more information on our website www.maturango.org

Mutau Flat/Carrizo Rock Art Weekend October 12-13 2024



Join Maturango Museum for a special rock art excursion to Mutau Flat on a private ranch in Ventura County. We will view Chumash pictographs that were first noted in the 1870s, with archeological excavation by Agnes Bierman Babcock in the late 1940s and detailed analysis by Chumash rock art expert David Robinson in this century. The ranch is not open to the public and this is a rare opportunity to see this extensive Ventureño Chumash site with pictographs and bedrock mortars.

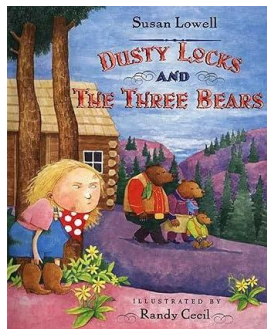
We will meet at the Ridge Route Museum, Frazier Park, for a quick museum tour and comfort stop early on Saturday morning, travel another hour over dirt roads to the ranch, and then tour the Flat guided by long time ranch owner Kathy Williams, local historian Bonnie Kane from Ridge Route, and Wind Wolves Preserve Archeologist Jack Sprague. Our day will last from 9am to 3pm. Some carpooling can be arranged at the ranch gate for folks who may not want to drive on the final dirt roads to the Flat, although most street vehicles should be fine. Moderate - good mobility necessary with hiking up to 1/2 mile over the meadow to the boulder outcrops and possibly a short shallow stream crossing if there's any water in the meadow in October. Bring a picnic lunch and water, hiking sticks, and dress for sun exposure. Pleasant fall temperatures should be daytime 70s and nighttime 40s.

On Sunday Oct. 13, Jack Sprague will guide us from Frazier Park to some seldom visited rock art sites (Selby Rocks pictographs) in the Carrizo Plain National Monument, about two hours from Frazier Park. Jack has many years archeological experience with Chumash sites in the San Emigdio Mountains, Carrizo, and Los Padres mountains; any rock art tour with him is a fascinating day. Our Carrizo trip will last from 8am to 2pm.

Convenient hotel/motel accommodations (Holiday Inn Express and Motel 6); gas available in Frazier Park/Lebec). Camping also available at private or public Forest Service campgrounds in Los Padres NF to the west of Frazier Park.

Tour price: \$225 Maturango members, \$300 non-members; purchase at the Maturango website Events page <https://maturango.org/event/mutau-flat-carrizo-rock-art-weekend/> or by calling the Maturango gift shop, 760-375-6900. Your tour price includes gratuities for our guides and donations to their associated non-profits. Limit 18. Don't miss this opportunity to see some spectacular rock art sites not normally available to the public!

Children's Hour: A Folktale with a Western Twist Friday, September 13, 10:30 to 11:30 am



In this retelling of the classic folktale, children will meet Dusty who "hadn't had a bath in a month of Sundays"; she stomps through the bears' cabin in cowboy boots with an attitude that's prickly! Rounding out the morning will be another story about bears, action songs, and "a knee high to a bumblebee" bear cub fun craft.

Docents at the Maturango Museum invite young children and their families to a fun, educational experience during Children's Hour.

For information about our traditional Children's Hour in September and other events, see our website maturango.org or call 760-375-6900.

Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

Is your child a paper airplane aficionado? Are you? If not, you can become an expert at folding and flying paper airplanes! **Our free second Saturday on September 14 from 11am – 2pm will feature folding and flying paper airplanes!** We have some colorful paper and many designs available in our docent supplies. Terry McGuire has already worked on a few designs herself. You are invited to design your own paper airplane and give it test flights in our special test flight area.

Cam Alden and Carol Dezelle presented a fun art lesson to two of the Moving on Up groups from the base. The children learned to draw a picture of a cat and their various renditions convinced us that there are more breeds of cats that were unknown to most of us.

Terry McGuire and Fran Kelty helped me begin the task of sorting and rearranging items in the docent room! We are continuing the work this month! Sue Parker, Shirley Crouse, and Ingrid Carroll sorted and reorganized items belonging to the Children's Hour crew while Cam Alden, Shirley Crouse, and I reorganized our materials for the Native American program that we teach. Charlotte Goodson and Sue Parker have worked to start the Children's Hour in September and through December.

The Maturango Museum Docent League is gearing up for a busy, fun season with children and adults. 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!

We will be celebrating the September equinox on Sunday, September 22 from 12 to 2pm. We will have a sun/earth/moon model to view, a craft activity making sun prints. If weather permits, astronomers from China Lake Astronomical Society will set up their solar scopes for viewing the sun.

A solar equinox is a moment in time when the sun appears directly above the equator rather than north or south of the equator. On the day of the equinox, the Sun appears to rise "due east" and set "due west", and daylight and night are almost equal in length in most time zones in the world.

For us in the northern hemisphere the September equinox is the moment the Sun crosses the equator from the north to the south, this moment in time marks the beginning of fall. The September equinox is also called an autumnal equinox.

For those in the southern hemisphere, the September equinox marks the vernal or spring equinox and the beginning of spring.



SOARING – FLYING HIGH ON THE POWER OF RISING AIR EXHIBIT

Topic – What is the Sierra Wave and the Sierra Wave Project?

The Indian Wells Valley and the Eastern Sierras are recognized as one of the best soaring locations globally. Many soaring records for altitude, distance, and speed have been set in this area. Why is this location so unique? The weather condition called the Sierra Wave is what makes this area such a draw for soaring.

Sierra Wave

The Sierra Wave is a weather condition that happens when winds and storms move eastward from the ocean and reach the Sierra



Mountains. As the winds rise over the Sierras, they may encounter a strong inversion or stable air barrier over the mountains, causing them to be redirected toward the surface. This generates a wave-like pattern on the lee side of the Sierras which can extend for hundreds of miles. Mountain lee waves like the Sierra Wave occur in other locations in the world - the eastern Sierras being one of the best places for soaring.

Lenticular clouds often form at the top of each wave, appearing smooth, round, oval, or lens-shaped. They can be found alone or stacked in groups, sometimes resembling flying saucers. These clouds are a clear indicator of the Sierra Wave occurrence.

The Sierra Wave Project 1950-1952

After World War II, pilots from the Southern California Soaring Association (SCSA) recognized the potential for setting altitude records by utilizing the strong updrafts from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. When the wind blows from the west, the significant elevation drop from the 14,000 ft peaks west of the Lone Pine - Bishop area down to the valley floor creates massive lee waves in the Owens Valley. Interest in flying the "Sierra Wave" grew after the magazine "Soaring" published record-breaking wave flights in 1949.

The SCSA group realized that the atmospheric wave on the lee side of the Sierra Mountains was not well known within the aviation community and many practicing meteorologists. Consequently, the SCSA proposed studying the mountain lee waves.

This proposal led to the Sierra Wave Project, sponsored by the Air Force Cambridge Research Center in Massachusetts and the U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research. Joachim Kuetter, an experienced wave scientist, played a key role in the project. The principal contractor was the Meteorological Department of the University of California Los Angeles. Other participating agencies included the Air Weather Service, the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Los Angeles Branch of the American Meteorological Society, the Institute of Numerical Analysis, Hastings Instrument Company, Naval Ordnance Test Station (N.O.T.S) at China Lake, and SCSA.



One of the Pratt-Read gliders used in the Sierra Wave Project.

The Sierra Wave Project occurred in Bishop with SCSA providing the two Pratt-Read LNE-1 gliders to record most of the data. SCSA members modified the gliders to carry special instruments and equipment, and the association also furnished the pilots to fly the gliders.

After a year of preparation which involved modifying gliders, testing equipment, and implementing ground tracking teams, the researchers were ready to gather data while soaring in the Sierra Wave. During the second year, the group gathered important data with detailed analyses of the hazards of wave flying including downdrafts, turbulence, spatial and temporal changes of upper-level wind speed and direction, strong winds, and wind shear near mountain

crest level. These findings were considered important enough by the U.S. Government to disseminate 42,000 copies of a report titled, "Flight Aspects of the Mountain Wave".

The detailed wave mapping led to a deeper understanding of wave characteristics, impacting the flight safety of military, commercial, and general aviation. The Sierra Wave Project is the only major meteorological field experiment spearheaded by a sporting group, in this case, the SCSA.

The data gathered in 1952 directly led to world altitude soaring records. One of the world altitude records was set on March 19, 1952, by project pilots Harold Klieforth and Larry Edgar for two-seat gliders at 44,255 ft (13,453 m), gaining 34,426 ft (10,465 m) following disconnect from the tow aircraft.

The current exhibit at the museum on soaring features a "Grob 102 Club III B" single-seater designed by Burkhart Grob and built by Grob Aircraft. This aircraft was one of the early fiberglass gliders and was the first glider designed by Grob. Information on different types of lift, the history of soaring, and local soaring history provides the details needed to understand the art of soaring.

Recent Donations

Donations

Mark and Pat Backes
Katie Benadom
David and Jo Burdick
Dan and Brenda Burnett
Byron and Amy Butler
Adam Clayson
Linda Eberhart
Minnie Miller
Ray Miller
Ken and Debbie Newton
Dave Palmer
Jim and Deanna Stewart
Patricia Wharton
Ken Wetzel

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Michael Vincent

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In Memory of Linda Miller

Terry Fountain
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In Memory of Carol Panlaqui

Patricia Brown

In Memory of Les Saxton

Nancy Saxton
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Curation Building Fund

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E. Norman and Suzanne
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Susan Moore and
Peter Woodman
Robert G. Nichols Jr.
Nick Panzer
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Sandy and Fran Rogers
Nancy Saxton
Bonni Smith

Jim and Deanna Stewart

Matching Funds Drive

Barbara Bane
Sue Bue and Phil Bowen
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Robert and Carol Dezellem
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Ed and Carol Jeter
David Kurdeka
Janis Lindgren
Carolyne Lynch
Susan Moore and
Peter Woodman
Nora and Richard Nuckles
Steve and Sharon Oldfield
Sheila Rockwell
Kathy Russell
Arthur Siegel

New Members

Camille Anderson
Joey and Sandy Clubb
Bill and Peggy Griset
Walt and Margaret Hannon
Teresa Hess
Don Morgan
Brian Norden
Linda Richter



Fun and silliness at last year's dinner/auction. Nick donated \$ if Bob and Debbie would share the very large pants. What are friends for ?

ARTifacts: Museum Members' Artistic Interpretations of Curated Objects August 17 – October 29

Our museum curators have chosen 3 objects each from collection storage and our museum members are challenged to artistically interpret one item and make an "art object". All the objects will be on display and the members' art items will be for sale. The idea is to have fun and get very creative. A few items in the exhibit...



The Galileo thermometer inspired these two artworks: a very detailed woven piece and a clever found-objects wall décor.

You will be pleasantly surprised by the amazing amount of creativity and talent seen at this exhibit.



The tortoise scutes inspired these two artworks: a lovely painting and a montage of linocut prints.



**Open Studio Tour 2024:
Saturday October 26 and Sunday October 27, 10am – 4pm each day**

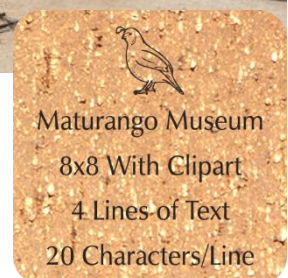
Fundraising Bricks

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/



Supermoons

By Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Coordinator

The full moon on August 19 was spectacular. You will have three more chances to see what appears to be an extra-large moon on Sept 18, Oct 17, and Nov 15, 2024.

Is the moon really larger? No, but during its orbit about the earth there are times when the moon is actually closer to the earth.

In school we learned that a new moon is when the moon is between the earth and the sun. A full moon is when the earth is between the sun and the moon. When the moon is at perigee (peri means near, geo means earth), it is close to the earth. This orbit varies and sometimes the moon is very close (357 to 361 thousand kilometers usually perigee is a little further out). The brightness seems to increase because of the closer proximity. The difference is subtle, but spectacular.

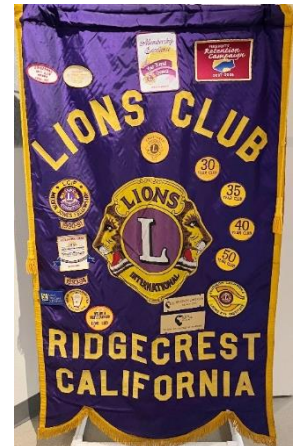


Ridgecrest Lions Club – 75 years of Community Service Exhibit runs from May – October 2024

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.



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.

When you visit this exhibit, you will see that the Ridgecrest Lions Club sponsors many projects to help others. Currently, the club is collecting plastic film and bags. If enough of this plastic is collected, NexTrex will donate a park bench which the club intends to put at the new Sgt. John Pinney Pool. Acceptable plastic items for this project are: Produce bags, store bags, ice bags, Ziploc and other reclosable bags, cereal box liners, case overwrap, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, and plastic e-commerce mailers. All plastics must be clean, dry, and free of food and organic materials. Concurrently, the Ridgecrest Lions Club is collecting pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House and unused eyeglasses for repurposing. These items can be dropped off at the Maturango Museum.

“SOARING – Flying High on the Power of Rising Air” Exhibit in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery

How This Exhibit Came to Be
By Nick Panzer

I have been involved in four recent Maturango exhibits, each showcasing photographs of a specific subject. I was looking for something new, something large, something three-dimensional. But what local historical item could fit the bill? After discussing this with Elaine Wiley, the History Curator at the Maturango Museum, we came up with the idea of an exhibit featuring an actual glider installed in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. We wondered if a glider fuselage would fit in the gallery, with the wings displayed separately. We also needed to find a glider to borrow for the exhibit.



Finding someone willing to loan their glider for eight months or more is not an easy task. Luckily, as we talked to people in the local gliding community, we were directed to Cindy Brickner, a glider/tow pilot in Mojave. Cindy just so happened to have a glider stored in her yard and generously loaned the glider to the museum. In early January, we transported the glider to Ridgecrest, where it was stored in Bob Westbrook’s garage to be prepared for exhibit.

Glider are made to be lightweight and, in a sense, are strong but fragile. When transporting the glider to the museum, special care was needed when lifting and moving so as not to damage it. Since this is a functional glider, we handled it with care so that it could fly again after being exhibited at the museum. We moved the glider to the museum on June 23rd in preparation for a July opening. We had 12 volunteers to help move the glider due to its weight, size, shape, and fragility. Plus, we needed to be careful when moving the glider through tight turns in the narrow passageways of the museum.



The glider is a “Grob 102 Club III B” single-seater designed by Burkhart Grob and built by Grob Aircraft. This aircraft was one of the early fiberglass gliders and was the first Grob-designed glider. It first flew in December 1974. The wingspan of this glider is 49’3” (15 meters) and, when assembled, will not fit in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Therefore, the wings and fuselage are shown unassembled with the wings set behind the fuselage.

The exhibit became a reality thanks to the dedication of over a dozen museum volunteers. The museum holds a special place in the hearts of many, and the volunteers’ willingness makes it even more special. A big thank you to all the people who played a part in bringing this exhibit to life.

**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)

Staff

Debbie Benson, Museum Director
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer
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
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant
Barbara Ingle, Museum Assistant

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Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Bev Hill, Gardens

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The Pizza Factory
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Stafford's Pest Control
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Upcoming and Ongoing Exhibits and Events

- Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser: All day, Wednesday, September 11.
- Children's Hour: A Folktale with a Western Twist; Friday, September 13, 10:30 to 11:30 am.
- Free Second Saturday: September 14 from 11am – 2pm will feature folding and flying paper airplanes.
- September Equinox: Sunday, September 22 from 12 to 2pm. Crafts and demonstrations.
- Museum Annual Dinner and Auction: September 28 ←
- Mutau Flat/Carrizo Rock Art Weekend: October 12-13 2024
- Open Studio Tour 2024: Saturday October 26 and Sunday October 27, 10am – 4pm
- Soaring Exhibit: now through February 2025
- ARTifacts Art Gallery Exhibit August 17 – October 29
- Ridgecrest Lions Club Exhibit: May – October 2024

*Donations needed –
bring before Sep 15*



Pizza Factory and Beanster's Espresso Fundraiser

All day, Wednesday, September 11.

20% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum

You must mention this fundraiser when ordering.

**BEANSTER'S
ESPRESSO**

Maturango Museum
100 E Las Flores
Ridgecrest CA 93555

September 2024 Newsletter

*Maturango
Museum*

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