



**The China Lake Museum Foundation**  
*Supporting the*  
**U.S. NAVAL MUSEUM OF ARMAMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

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[www.chinalakemuseum.org](http://www.chinalakemuseum.org)

## Museum Facts

### Why Have a Naval Museum in the Indian Wells Valley?

The U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology joins only 11 others across the country in telling the story of the U.S. Navy in peace and war. The museum is a place to learn about the Navy's precision-guided weapons essential to our nation's defense. Visitors also learn the story of China Lake — the “secret city” that for more than 60 years has developed, tested, and evaluated many of these weapons.

As our museum grows, it provides benefits to the community around it, attracting increasing numbers of visitors to Ridgecrest, where they spend their money and learn the benefits of our high-desert community.

The museum will bring the following assets to our community:

- A repository for historically significant artifacts
- A source for reference material
- A recruiting and educational resource
- A visitor orientation center
- Facilities for meetings and special occasions

### History of Collection

- 1955 — Nucleus of collection established in one-room Weapons Exhibit Center.
- 1963 — Exhibit area expanded and moved to geodesic dome behind Michelson Laboratory. Expanded collection based on extensive rocket displays, set up for June 8, 1963, visit of President John F. Kennedy. (Rocket display can still be seen on southwest wall of today's museum.)
- 1973 — Major Mich Lab expansion and modernization caused relocation of exhibits to less accessible locations. Exhibits allowed to deteriorate.
- 1989 — Milt Burford spearheaded collection-expansion effort. “A lot of people were telling China Lake management that it would pay to be able to show visiting dignitaries the products of the center — both historic and modern,” he explained. Burford also led efforts to establish nonprofit educational museum foundation.
- 1989 — Capt. Douglas W. Cook, commander of Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, approved establishment of Weapons Exhibit Center in recently closed Commissioned Officers' Mess.
- March 1993 — China Lake Museum Foundation held its first meeting.

- July 1993 — Capt. B. J. Craig, first Naval Air Weapons Station commanding officer, chartered China Lake Museum Committee to provide command liaison and oversight to China Lake Museum Foundation.
- 1994 — Foundation opened gift shop, began selling gift items unique to the Navy's desert facility.
- 1998 — Foundation took over the day-to-day operation and staffing of the facility, with foundation volunteers available to answer visitors' questions.
- May 12, 2000 — Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig signed SECNAVNOTE 5755, making U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology at China Lake official — first official Navy museum in more than 20 years.
- November 2002---Sidewinder 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration and new Sidewinder Exhibit.
- October 2004---SHRIKE 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration and new SHRIKE Exhibit.

## China Lake Museum Foundation Support

- The Museum relies on support from the Foundation for operational support and the funding for new exhibits, new facilities, educational and community outreach programs. The Foundation provides extensive volunteer and docent support to keep the doors of the Museum open. Funds from membership fees and gift shop sales directly support Museum operations. Funds from donors and grants are earmarked for new facility, exhibit and educational outreach initiatives. The Foundation can be contacted through the administrative office at 760-939-3530 or [clmfl@ridgenet.net](mailto:clmfl@ridgenet.net).
- Foundation board is made up of 24 volunteers led by:
  - President - Robert Campbell, 760-377-0056, [bobralice@verizon.net](mailto:bobralice@verizon.net)
  - VP for Membership - Pat Doucette
  - VP for Fundraising - Robert Campbell (acting)
  - VP for Public Relations - Robert Peoples
  - VP for Facilities - Charles White
  - VP for Operations - Paul Homer
  - Treasurer - Craig Porter (acting)
  - Secretary - Jack Latimer
- Navy provides advice to CLMF, as well as ownership of the museum and collections. Key Navy participants are:
  - Capt. Mick Gleason, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Weapons Station, 939-2211,
  - David Janiec, Chairman, China Lake Museum Committee, 939-2504
  - Museum Artifacts - Debra Rios, 760-939-0414
  - Historian - Leroy Doig
  - Artifacts/exhibits - Eric Bengtson
- Donations to, and membership fees in, the nonprofit 501(c)(3) China Lake Museum Foundation are tax-deductible to full extent recognized by law. Membership categories include:
  - Individual/Family \$25 annually
  - Enlisted Military \$8 annually
  - Sponsor (General plus gift to Enlisted Military) \$33 annually
  - Contributor \$100 annually
  - Benefactor \$500 annually

Lifetime \$1,000  
\$500 in each of two consecutive years, or  
\$250 in each of four consecutive years  
Business Member \$1000 annually  
Business Sponsor \$500 annually  
Business Contributor \$100 annually

Benefits of each membership include a quarterly newsletter, 10 percent off gift-shop items, and access to a China Lake alumni locator service. Other benefits such as deductions, free tickets, and reserved seating for special events are available for the higher membership categories. Business Member level entitles the business to utilize the Museum for special events.

Donor Categories include:

Platinum--\$5000 and above  
Gold--\$3000-\$4999  
Silver--\$1000-\$2999

All inquiries can be directed to the China Lake Museum Foundation Administrative Office at 760-939-3530 or to the following address:

**China Lake Museum Foundation,  
Post Office Box 217, OR  
1 Pearl Harbor Way (on Base)  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556**

## **Museum Hours, Accessibility**

The museum is open to everyone with community or DoD passes. Others may arrange to visit by going to the China Lake Visitors Center adjacent to the main gate and requesting a Guest Pass to visit the museum during base business hours, or by calling the Museum @760-939-3530. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays The museum is closed Sundays and selected holidays.

**MEMBER AGENCY #13086 UNITED WAY of INDIAN WELLS VALLEY**