



# The Joshua Tree



February 10, 2026

## A BUNCH OF B.S. (BRAD & STEVE) AT ROTARY

Club members gathered for a refreshingly honest and forward-looking meeting affectionately titled "The BS Show", a nod to current President **Steve Murray** and incoming President



**Brad Letner**. But beyond the playful title was a serious purpose: inviting members to share ideas on how the Club can grow, attract new members, and remain sustainable not just for the next year, but for the next decade and beyond.

The meeting created space for open dialogue about where the Club stands today and where it hopes to go. Members discussed the importance of clarity around Rotary's purpose, engagement, and long-term leadership development. Incoming President Brad Letner emphasized that the Club must reconnect with its "Why", the deeper reason the Club exists, so members and prospective Rotarians feel inspired by the mission, not



just informed about the mechanics of meetings, fundraisers, and procedures.

A practical suggestion came from Treasurer **Darron Poulsen**, who proposed modernizing the

Club's invoicing process by moving from QuickBooks to Dacdb. The idea includes invoicing monthly for Club dues and quarterly, or even annually, for Foundation giving and commitments. Importantly, it was made clear that no changes will occur without a full vote of the membership, ensuring transparency and alignment before any operational shifts are made.

Location was another thoughtful topic of conversation. **Ryan McEachron** noted that when the Club previously met closer to Victorville City Hall at the Green Tree Inn, city leaders, including the Police Chief and Fire Chief, were more readily able to attend meetings. The idea of potentially meeting closer to the civic center again was raised as a way to strengthen those valuable community connections.

**Chris Ackerman** suggested exploring a bold idea: partnering with the Rotary Club of Apple Valley to form a unified "Rotary Club of the High Desert." President Murray noted the cultural differences between the two Clubs, describing Apple Valley as a "boots on

### This Week's Functionaries

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Invocation:  | Chris Ackerman |
| Flag Salute: | Angel Espino   |
| 4-Way Test:  | Dr. Derek King |
| Fine Master: | Ryan McEachron |

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## MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thank you to everyone who showed up and spoke on a variety of topics on the future of our Club.

Brad and I wrote everything down and will be addressing them with our Board of Directors.



I want to thank Darron Poulsen for opening his home this past Sunday for our Annual Super Bowl BBQ.

Sadly, our turnout was light and a lot of food was made. We are a fellowship club, but that doesn't happen unless we prioritize fellowshiping.

I also want to give a shout out to Bill Edwards who assisted me this past Saturday to move our Rotary storage unit to a fiscally better location. I will be asking for volunteers to assist me in organizing our new space.

Our 50/50 jar is growing! Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. We will draw the winning ticket on June 30th! Half of the money will go to one lucky person, while the other half will go into our account to give Brad Letner the financial advantage to begin his presidency. Get your tickets now!

Steve

# Murray & Letner

*Continued from page 1*

the ground" project-driven Club, while Victorville often functions as a "check-writing Club," raising funds to immediately reinvest back into the community. The discussion opened the door to thinking creatively about how those strengths might complement each other.

Members also addressed a more difficult but important topic, engagement. One example shared was that during Victorville's Concert in the Park series, only four members staffed the Rotary booth. The moment served as a reflection point about participation, ownership, and rekindling the energy that drives volunteerism.

Ultimately, "The BS Show" wasn't about complaints, it was about vision. The conversation centered on defining what the Rotary Club of Victorville should look like ten years from now, how to cultivate new leaders, and how to create an experience that members are excited to be part of and proud to invite others into.

If the meeting proved anything, it's that the Club is not content to stand still. It is willing to have honest conversations, challenge assumptions, and work together to ensure that Rotary's impact in the Victor Valley continues to thrive for generations to come.



# UNITE FOR GOOD

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Steve Murray had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another. We'll continue next week with 13 chips and \$225 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

## Raffle



This week, **Chris Ackerman** donated two goodie bags of new VVTA swag that will be enjoyed by **Rob Kilpatrick** and **Ryan McEachron**. Ryan also received a Rotary keychain and koozie, while **Ben Tafoya** left the meeting with an "Instant Read Thermometer" from Bob's Tire and some pepper spray from the Rotary Club of Apple Valley.

## Fine Session

**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master and penalized himself with a 10% hard fine of \$40 for his Chip win last week!

## Joining (Fore)ces!!

We are joining forces with our neighboring Club in Apple Valley with the Rotary Golf Tournament taking place on May 2nd at the Apple Valley Golf Course. The tournament is being co-chaired by **Peter Allan** from the Apple Valley Club and our own **Arsalee Morales**.



All proceeds from the event will be split 50/50 between our Clubs and all of that money will go into scholarships through our respective channels.

Peter and Arsalee are looking for committee members from each organizations and sponsorship opportunities are available. We will be asking local High

**THE HIGH DESERT ROTARY CLUBS**  
Apple Valley, Barstow and Victorville 

PRESENT THE ANNUAL  
**ROTARY CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
MAY 2, 2026  
APPLE VALLEY GOLF COURSE  
ON RANCHERIAS ROAD IN APPLE VALLEY

ENTRY FEE: \$100 PER PLAYER, \$400 PER FOURSOME

TROPHIES FOR WINNER(S)  
LOTS OF RAFFLE PRIZES

PIZZA AND HOT DOGS AND BEER PROVIDED AT THE TURN

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE:**  
Gold Sponsor - \$5000 (1)  
Silver Sponsor - \$2500 (2)  
Bronze Sponsor - \$1000 (2)  
Tee Box Sponsor - \$250 (18)  
Greens Sponsor - \$250 (18)  
Driving Range Sponsor - \$100 (10)

Schools, who have golf teams to send a foursome. Should be a full field on May 2nd!

## Rotary Guests



This week we welcomed from the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, **Val Emick**, **Peter Allan** and President Elect **Amber Tromble**.

## Spoon of Exception

**Kirsten Acosta** had another week with the Spoon and reminded Rotarians that the annual VVC Hall of Fame Gala will be taking place on February 28th. One of the honorees will be Apple Valley Club Rotarian **Peter Allan**!

Finally, Kirsten spoke about the President's Circle through the Foundation. Membership includes quarterly luncheons with fine dining from the College's Restaurant Management students and much more.

Our Club website address has changed from [VictorvilleRotary.org](http://VictorvilleRotary.org) to [VictorvilleRotary.com](http://VictorvilleRotary.com)



**VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

**Board of Directors**

President 2025-2026 .....	Steve Murray
President 2026 - 2027 .....	Brad Letner
Immediate Past President/Club Service .....	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants .....	Steve and Pam Murray
Treasurer .....	Darron Poulsen
Youth Services/Ethics Essay .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership .....	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service .....	Ryan McEachron
Community Service .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Angel Espino

**Members-at-Large:** Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick

**Positions & Committee Chairs**

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Special Billing .....	Esther Mears ( <b>TBD</b> )
Public Service Awards .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Teacher Mini-Grants .....	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K .....	Brad Letner
Grants.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Programs .....	Mike Page
Fundraising .....	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship  
at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley  
Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

**Make-up Days and Locations**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

**Calendar Dates**

- Mar 10** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency  
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA 92395
- May 2** **Rotary Golf Tournament**  
Apple Valley Golf Course  
\$100 per Player • \$400 per Foursome

**Upcoming Programs**

- Feb 17:** Bruce Ebmeyer, Ebmeyer Charter Services (Page)
- Feb 24:** Rob Kilpatrick **TOPIC: "Rotary Club of Victorville - A Brief History"** (Page)
- Mar 3:** **OPEN**
- Mar 10:** **4-Way Speech Competition - Area** (Espino)
- Mar 17:** **Ethics Essay Contest** (Boyd)  
**Protective Service Awards** (Morales)

**The Polio Pig**

**Collected this week: \$9.00**

**Collected to Date: \$21,773.68**

**Total equals: 104,526 Doses!**

**One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!**

**\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!**

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