



The Joshua Tree

June 16, 2026

LESSONS THROUGH THE LENS

Members of the Rotary Club of Victorville recently welcomed award-winning photojournalist and photography instructor **James Quigg**, who teaches photography at both Excelsior Charter School and Victor Valley College. While photography was certainly part of his presentation, the real focus of his talk was on the lessons he has learned from his students, his career, and life itself.

One of Quigg's guiding philosophies is, "Novel problems create unique results." It is a mindset that has shaped both his photography and his teaching style. Rather than simply teaching students how to take pictures, he encourages them to think differently, solve problems creatively, and discover their own unique perspectives.

James explained that one of his greatest joys as an educator is giving students a sense of "wow." Whether introducing a new photographic technique or helping students see the world through a different lens, he strives to create memorable learning experiences. Interestingly,



he says he has no desire to be a student's favorite teacher. Instead, his goal is for students to become their own favorite teacher by developing confidence, curiosity, and a passion for learning that lasts long after they leave the classroom.

Although traditional darkrooms have largely disappeared from modern photography programs, Quigg still introduces students to photographic processes that connect them to the roots of

the art form. One example is the cyanotype process, a photographic printing technique first developed in the 1840s. Students place objects such as leaves, flowers, keys, or other items onto specially prepared photosensitive paper. The paper is then exposed to ultraviolet light, often from direct sunlight. The areas exposed to light undergo a chemical reaction, while the areas blocked by the objects remain unchanged. After rinsing the paper in water, a striking image emerges in shades of deep blue and white. The process not only teaches students about the science of light and photography but also allows them to create unique artistic images without using a camera.

Speaking of cameras, James shared another creative classroom project: teaching students how to build a working camera from a Pringles can. Using the cardboard tube and metal bottom found in certain Pringles containers, students learn the principles of a pinhole

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Ben Tafoya

4-Way Test: Steve Murray

Fine Master: -

MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to
Photojournalist and
teacher James Quigg
for taking time from

his summer
break to share
the lessons he
has learned not
only from his
students, but throughout his entire life.
We'd love to have you come back again
and spend time with us!



Five. Yes, just 5 Rotarians attended this week's meeting. Myself, Bill Scott, Ben Tafoya, Chris Ackerman and Dr. Derek King. I understand that life happens, and there are certainly times when work, family, health, or other commitments make it impossible to attend. However, seeing such a small turnout was disappointing and, frankly, concerning for the future of our Club. Attendance should be the exception when missed, not the rule when it is inconvenient. Let's do better. Our Club deserves it.

Our 50/50 raffle will be drawn at our 5th Tuesday Evening Meeting. The jar is now over \$1,000, with one lucky person taking home over \$500!

Steve

James Quigg

Continued from page 1

camera and gain a deeper understanding of how cameras actually capture light. With plans to build approximately 120 cameras this fall, he put out a request to Rotarians for donations of the specific Pringles containers needed for the project.

Throughout his presentation, Quigg emphasized what he calls the "adventure" of photography. To him, photography is about much more than equipment or technical settings. It is about exploration, discovery, and seeing the world in ways others might miss.

That spirit of adventure extends to his own teaching philosophy. Because he teaches many of the same concepts year after year, Quigg continually challenges himself to present lessons differently to each new group of students. One personal lesson he has embraced is, "Never take the same route twice." By changing his approach, he keeps the material fresh, remains engaged as an educator, and often discovers new ways to connect with students.

Quigg also reflected on lessons learned outside the classroom. He paid his way through college while working in a group home, an experience that left a lasting impression on him. There, he learned an important truth that continues to shape his outlook: "No one takes the same road." Every person arrives at their destination through a unique set of experiences, challenges, and opportunities. Understanding that reality has helped him become a better teacher, photographer, and mentor.

Through stories, photography, and life lessons, **James Quigg** reminded Rotarians that education is not simply about transferring knowledge. It is about inspiring curiosity, encouraging creativity, and helping others discover their own path. As his presentation demonstrated, sometimes the greatest lessons learned through a camera have very little to do with photography at all.

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Ben Tafoya had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another.

We will continue next week with 7 chips and \$375 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle



This week **Ben Tafoya** was the big winner, taking home a VTA swag bag from **Chris Ackerman**, a glass jar from **Pam Murray**, and a Rotary International satchel, donated by **Arsalee Morales**. Ben donated a sewing essentials kit, that will be used by guest speaker **James Quigg** and **Bill Scott** took home a Rotary license plate from **Steve Murray**.

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA

Join us for our Annual
ROTARY DEMOTION PARTY!

Steve Murray
Outgoing President
Passing the Torch
(and the Bell!)

Brad Letner
Incoming President
Diving for the
Rotary Gold Bell!

SATURDAY JUNE 20
6:00 PM

AT THE HOME OF
BILL & LINDA SCOTT
18136 Pier Dr.
Spring Valley Lake

FREE EVENT!
Bring Family & Friends!

ENJOY THE EVENING!

- ✓ **FOOD & DRINKS**
- ✓ **BOARD RECOGNITION**

Celebrate the Past, Dive into the Future!

50/50
RAFFLE
fundraiser

JUNE 30, 2026

All proceeds to benefit the projects of
The Rotary Club of Victorville

1 TICKET = \$5
5 TICKETS = \$20

Tickets will be sold
at the Rotary
Meetings,



If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at signifydesigns@yahoo.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

UNITE FOR GOOD

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	Dr. Ron Boyd
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.....	Kirsten Acosta
Billing.....	Pam Murray & Darron Poulsen
Public Service Awards.....	Arsalee Morales
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.....	Please Volunteer
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Brad Letner
S.T.A.R. Students	Chris Ackerman
Club Learning Facilitator.....	Please Volunteer

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

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
THURSDAY:	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
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

June 20

Demotion Party

Home of Bill & Linda Scott
18136 Pier Dr, Spring Valley Lake
Time: 6:00pm
Bring Family and Friends

July 6

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30pm Board Meeting
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA 92395

July 25

Movie Night at the Hove's

Movie: Pretty Woman (1990)
Time: 6:30pm
18970 Appaloosa Rd, Apple Valley

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



Upcoming Programs

June 23

Tony Winkel, Mojave Water Agency
Senior Principal Hydrogeologist **Title:**
"The Hide and Seek River"
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June 30

5th Tuesday Evening Meeting

5:30pm D'Cerboni's Ciao House
17856 Highway 18, Apple Valley

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