



The Joshua Tree



June 24, 2025

GRUMPY OLD MEN ANSWER QUESTIONS

The Rotary Club of Victorville recently welcomed two of the city’s most iconic public servants—former City Manager **Jim Cox** and former Mayor **Terry Caldwell** for a lively and honest Q&A session titled “Grumpy Old Men Answer Questions.”



When asked by **Ryan McEachon** to name the best and worst mayors he served with, Cox wisely declined to answer. However, **Mike Page** lightened the moment by naming **Jim Busby** as the most difficult. Cox didn’t object.

The conversation quickly shifted to missed opportunities. **Dr. Derek King** asked what could have propelled Victorville further. Caldwell pointed to the City’s past readiness to support a proposed high-speed rail line with plans for a parking structure, pet kennel, and café aimed at travelers from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. “We were ready, but it never happened,” Caldwell said. “That was a major loss.”

Cox reflected on regional cooperation, calling the

shared sewage treatment facility a mistake. “Each High Desert city should manage its own utilities,” he said.

When asked how Spring Valley Lake was annexed into Victorville, Caldwell shared that the City offered street services but requested the removal of guard gates and

private roads. “That nearly got me lynched,” he joked, noting it cost him a few long-time friends.

Downtown Victorville’s decline was another focus. Cox blamed absentee landlords and the lack of private investment. Caldwell added that emotional ties to properties kept many residents from supporting revitalization. “Without the people’s buy-in, change won’t happen,” he said.

When asked about their proudest accomplishments, both men agreed: bringing the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum to Victorville. “Roy told the state we needed an interchange—when they said no, he built his own road,” said Cox. That road became Roy Rogers Drive.

Caldwell also cited the Green Tree and Yucca Loma bridges, which connect Victorville and Apple Valley. “Even if it saves just one life during an emergency, it’s worth it.”

With stories, laughs, and lessons, Cox and Caldwell proved that while they may call themselves “grumpy,” their love for Victorville is anything but.

This Week’s Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Bryan Gillespie

4-Way Test: Ben Tafoya

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron

GILLESPIE'S GAB



Thank you to Terry Caldwell and Jim Cox for once again coming by this week for a rare Q&A session with

Rotarians on their years with the City of Victorville. Enjoy a break from presenting...until next June!



Please note that due to low attendance this week the Club Assembly will now take place next week at the July 1st meeting. Please come out and have your voice heard!



I was honored to meet Megan Lamb and Tim Gardiner from the Cedar City Area Rotary Club, who

are in town for a few days overseeing the building of the new Amazon facility with their company BZI: Building Zone Industries.

Well, this is it, my final message to you as your Rotary President before I pass the baton to Bill Edwards on Saturday. Thanks to everyone for your support, encouragement and friendship. Great memories!

Bryan

VVC Scholarships



Rotary President Bryan Gillespie Presented Victor Valley College Foundation President Kirsten Acosta with a check in the amount of \$4,000 towards scholarships for VVC students. In all, six students benefited from the scholarship monies from the Victorville Rotary Foundation.

Rotary Guests



This week we welcomed **Irene Mollinar** from the Victor Valley College Foundation, who attended as a guest of **Kirsten Acosta**, plus **Megan Lamb** and **Tim Gardiner** from Building Zone Industries, who were visiting us from the Cedar City Area Rotary Club!

Our only Stand-in this week was **Alyy Martinez** for **Angel Espino**.



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

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 13 chips and \$225 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle

Chris Ackerman brought a VTA bean bag phone holder and a coffee cup, and both prizes were won by **Ben Tafoya!**

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and began by fining **Jon Hove** \$10 for his shameless plug of Smith Ironworks working on the new Amazon facility and **Mike Page** paid the same amount for his phone going off during the fine session. **Dr. Derek King** will enjoy his summer break with a trip to St. Martin, which netted him a \$10 penalty, while Ryan had enough of **Jim Murray** talking about Bob's Tire being an O. G. business in downtown Victorville, so he had him fined \$10.

Finally, **Ben Tafoya** and **Dan Dever** each left with \$10 less because they attended the meeting to take part in the Club Assembly, which didn't happen, and to win the Blue Chip, but it was won last week by **Chris Ackerman!**

Speaking of Ackerman, the Spoon was then auctioned off and the only bid was by Chris for \$50 for the month of July!

CLUB ASSEMBLY JULY 1ST

REVIEW AND APPROVE:

Budgets for 2025-2026

Board of Directors for 2025-2026

President for 2027-2028

July Birthdays

Sam Grandlienard	July 1
Paula Porter	July 5
Donna Wells	July 20
Bo Goulet	July 23
Lynne Cole	July 28

July Anniversaries

Paula Esteban	26 Years
Ron Hughes	23 Years
Craig Garrick	22 Years
Kay Marie Gregory	21 Years
Nancy Noble	21 Years
Diane Anderson	20 Years
Pam Murray	11 Years
Chris Ackerman	10 Years
Maureen Mills	10 Years
Trish Johnson	9 Years

Wedding Anniversaries

Don & Pam Lager	55 Years
Craig & Barbara Garrick	48 Years
Kirsten & Jaime Acosta	29 Years
Dr. Ron & Stefanie Boyd	25 Years
Sam & Emily Grandlienard	20 Years

The Polio Pig

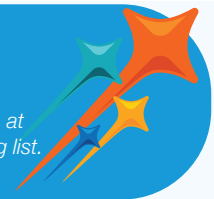
Collected this week: \$14.00

Polio Pig: \$9 + Chip (Ben Tafoya) \$5 = \$14.00

Collected to Date: \$21,536.83

Total equals: 104,052 Doses!

*One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2024-2025	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer/Scholarships	David North
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Ron Boyd
Club Service & Membership	Bill Edwards
Community Service/Speech Contests	Please Volunteer
Vocational Service	Please Volunteer
International Service	Ben Tafoya
Member At Large, Young Leaders Contact	Arsalee Morales
Member At Large, Special Projects	Rob Kilpatrick

Members-at-Large: Bob Basen, Darron Poulsen, Angel Espino

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary	Pam Murray
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Please Volunteer
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Dan Stover Music Contest	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Please Volunteer
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Food Baskets	Bill Edwards
Interact (Junior Rotary)	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Angel Espino
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 28: Demotion Party**
4:00pm • Home of Dan & Kris Dever
13166 Waco Rd, Apple Valley, 92308
- July 1: Club Assembly**
12:00pm
Bear Valley Country Club
13229 Spring Valley Pkwy
Spring Valley Lake
- July 14: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- Sept 6: 75th Anniversary Gala/Fundraiser**
6:00pm Dinner • 7:00pm Drawings
Spring Valley Lake Community Center
12975 Rolling Ridge, Spring Valley Lake

Upcoming Programs

- July 1:** Colonel Brad Letner (Retired) **TOPIC**
"Patriot Trends and Tendencies"
(Page)
- July 8:** James Quigg **TOPIC "Photo Journalism"** (Page)
- July 15:** **OPEN**
- July 22:** Ryan McEachron, ISU-ARMAC **TOPIC**
"Insurance Industry Update"

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