



The Joshua Tree

July 8, 2025

LIFE THROUGH THE LENS...AND SHARING THE VIEW

For years, **James Quigg** captured life one frame at a time as an award-winning photojournalist with the Victorville Daily Press. His days seldom included time at the newsroom. Instead, his office was the High Desert itself—sunrises, city council meetings, wildfires, protests, and parades—always starting and ending his day by documenting “the most important thing.”



Despite his passion for photojournalism, Quigg eventually stepped away from the relentless chase of daily news. Yet, he never strayed far from photography. To this day, barely a day goes by when he’s not shooting, editing, developing, or even building cameras by hand. Though technically “freelance,” his heart remains tethered to storytelling through the lens.

That same passion led him to teaching. He accepted a position at Encore High School for the Arts, bringing real-world expertise to the next generation of creatives. His

teaching career, however, began at one of the most challenging times imaginable—just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Remote learning posed difficulties for a hands-on art like photography. Students resisted taking photos from home, and the post-COVID return was even more disruptive. “A whole developmental level was missed,” Quigg noted. Behavioral shifts became apparent—from constant bathroom requests to

near-daily altercations on campus—marking a stark change from the pre-pandemic norm.

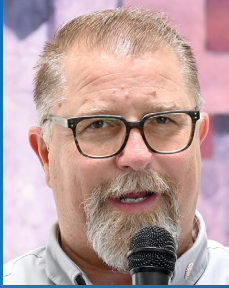
In January 2025, Encore closed its doors permanently. For Quigg, that meant returning full-time to what had been a part-time, passion-driven business—photography. Only now, the hobby must help pay the bills.

Today, he’s embracing both worlds. He continues to consider part-time teaching and freelance photo assignments, blending creativity with education. This fall, Quigg will begin teaching a non-credit Saturday course at Victor Valley College focused on cell phone photography—designed especially for marketing professionals looking to sharpen their visual storytelling.

Whether behind the camera or in front of a classroom, James Quigg remains dedicated to capturing truth, emotion, and meaning—one frame and one student at a time.

This Week’s Functionaries

Invocation:	Ryan McEachron
Flag Salute:	Chris Ackerman
4-Way Test:	Arsalee Morales
Fine Master:	Ryan McEachron



BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to my friend James Quigg who came to the

meeting this week to share his careers as both a photo journalist and teacher at the former Encore



School of the Arts. We hope to have you back again to speak to our members.

Our 75th Anniversary/Gala is coming up on September 6th and we are in need of Rotarians to donate gift cards for our raffle and booze for the bar! We need Jack Daniels, vodka and mixed drinks ingredients for our Bar that night. Please help out as soon as you can so we can better prepare for the event.

This Friday July 11th and on July 18th, Arsalee Morales and I will be hosting a Rotary table at the City of Victorville's Concerts in the Park. We will be on Field 3 at 4:30pm to set up and would love to have you join us! We will be giving out snacks and water, plus Rotary information.

As a reminder we are looking for a Rotary program for next week. Please see Mike Page for more information.

See you all next week!

Bill Edwards

Proposed Member

If you protest the admission of this member please respond in writing by 5 p.m. July 21 to President Bill Edwards.

Don Kennard

Company: CalPortland Cement

Position: Senior Marketing Manager

Classification: Marketing: Cement

Sponsor: Jon Hove

Club Assembly



A Club Assembly was held last week, led by **Jon Hove** and President **Bill Edwards** to vote on the Club and Foundation Boards, and the budgets for the both. All four votes were met unanimously in the positive.



Rotary Stand-in

This week, **Stefanie Montoya** was in attendance as a stand-in for **Bryan Gillespie**.

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Big Blue Poker Chip



Arsalee Morales had the chance to draw the Blue Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another Rotarian next week.

We will continue next week with 11 chips and \$275 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle

Russ Stringham donated a couple of Red Rocks RV backpacks that will be used by Ryan McEachron and Keith Metzler. Keith also left the meeting with a set of Chargers magnetic clips and koozie, courtesy of Bill Edwards. Bill also donated a set of color changing Christmas cups, and then a spatula/cooker cutter set, with both prizes going to Arsalee Morales. From there, Ryan was also a double winner by taking home both gifts from Chris Ackerman, a VVTA coffee cup and VVTA bean bag phone holder!



Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and began by giving Craig Garrick a \$10 penalty for showing up, even though he was in attendance last week. Ryan wasn't at last week's meeting, but said it didn't matter. Keith Metzler also received the same fine amount for the same reason.

Spoon of Exception

Chris Ackerman had his another week with the Spoon and shared that Victor Valley Transit does more than pick up passengers and take them from point A to point B. They also work on supporting the community.

On July 24th they will provide a cooling bus for volunteers at the Rescue Mission's annual Backpack Giveaway. This event will take place at the San Bernardino Fairgrounds.

On August 3rd, VVTA will partner with Life Church for their annual "Stuff the Bus" event as part of Life Church's "High Desert We Love You" week-long initiative. This year they will be collecting toiletries, hygiene products and professional clothing that will benefit those served at the Symba center.

Rotarians are encouraged to bring your unwanted professional/interview clothing to a Rotary meeting this month that can be added to the event or bring on August 3rd to Life Church between 8am - 1pm.

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$17.00

Polio Pig: \$12 + Chip (Arsalee Morales) \$5 = \$17.00

Collected to Date: \$21,584.68

Total equals: 104,148 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer	Please Volunteer
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Ron Boyd
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Community Service	Arsalee Morales
Member At Large, Special Projects	Rob Kilpatrick
Vocational Service	Angel Espino

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

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships	Please Volunteer
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	Brad Letner
Foundation & Grants	Please Volunteer
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

- Aug 4:** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30pm Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting
- Aug 9:** **Movie Night at the Hove's**
Movie: Rain Man
6pm Fellowship • 7pm Dinner
8pm Movie
18970 Appaloosa Rd, Apple Valley
- 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 15:** **OPEN**
- July 22:** Ryan McEachron, ISU-ARMAC **TOPIC**
"Insurance Industry Update"
- July 29:** **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting at Pancho Villas Mexican Grill**
11620 Amargosa Rd, Victorville
- Aug 5:** **San Bernardino County Sheriff Dicus** (McEachron)
- Aug 12:** Colonel Brad Letner (Retired) **TOPIC**
"Look Who's Back, How Did He Get Here" (Page)

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