



The



Joshua Tree

July 14, 2026

A FINAL TRIP DOWN THE HIDE & SEEK RIVER

After four fascinating presentations spanning centuries of High Desert history, **Tony Winkel**, Principal Hydrologist with the Mojave Water Agency, concluded his popular series on the Mojave River, better known as the "Hide & Seek River."

Throughout the series, Tony showed how the Mojave River has shaped the development of the High Desert. Although much of the river flows beneath the surface today, perennial stretches of water once created thriving oases that supported Native Americans, settlers, ranchers, stage stops, military outposts, and eventually the railroad.

For his final presentation, Tony revisited Hawley's Station near Minneola Road, one of the river's historic watering locations. Once known as Punta del Agua, or "Point Over Water," the site was sustained by year-round surface water and became an important stop for travelers



crossing the Mojave Desert. Tony shared aerial imagery showing how the nearby Calico Fault influenced where groundwater reached the surface, creating an environment capable of supporting lush vegetation in what is now a largely barren landscape.

The presentation also included one of the High Desert's enduring mysteries, the "Headless Horseman of Hawley's Station." Tony discussed the discovery of the skeletal remains of a horse and rider found near Minneola

Road in 1965. According to historical records, the rider's skull was discovered some distance from the body, along with trade goods, knives, clothing fragments, and a Civil War-era rifle nearby. While many questions surrounding the discovery remain unanswered, it has become one of the Mojave River's most intriguing local legends.

Tony then returned to Newberry Springs, once known as the "Great Spring," where abundant groundwater supported not only the railroad but also a thriving rural community. Historical accounts described families gathering for dinners by the lake, community dances, theatrical performances, and Sunday softball games, painting a picture of a vibrant desert community built around one precious resource, water.

The series concluded with a brief look at Zzyzx, the unusual desert resort created by self-proclaimed

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Brad Letner

Flag Salute: Mike Page

4-Way Test: Arsalee Morales

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



LETNER'S LETTER

It was great to see everyone Tuesday, and a special thanks to our speaker, Tony Winkel, for completing our journey of discovery of the "hide-and-seek" Mojave River!

One of the changes we are trying this year is a new Second Tuesday Fellowship & Fun Night, starting in August, replacing our occasional Fifth Tuesday with an every-month version. Nothing complicated, just another chance to spend time together, have some fun, and enjoy Rotary beyond the lunch table. Our first event will be on August 11 at 5:00 p.m. at Town's End will be our first! Come out and bring a friend!

The next one, on September 8 at 5:00 p.m., will be a "Pick Your Pleasure" Night at Letner Lakeside Lounge. Wine tasting. Whiskey tasting. Cigar tasting. Choose one, choose two, or go for all three.

More details to come...but save the dates. These should be fun.

Fundraising tickets are now available for our 76th Anniversary Fundraiser! Tickets are \$250 each and they include dinner for two at the event and a chance to win \$10,000! We are also looking for club members to serve on our fundraising committee. Please let us know if you'd like to serve.

Brad

Tony Winkel

Continued from page 1

physician Curtis Howe Springer. Although Springer promoted the property as a health spa and mineral springs resort, Tony noted that federal authorities eventually evicted him in 1974 after determining he had illegally occupied public land for decades. Today, Zzyzx serves a much different purpose as home to the Desert Studies Center, where researchers continue to study the unique Mojave Desert environment.

By blending geology, hydrology, history, and local folklore, Tony's four-part presentation reminded Rotary members that the Mojave River is much more than an occasional stream flowing through the desert. Its hidden waters have influenced where people settled, how communities grew, and why many of today's familiar landmarks exist where they do.

The Club extends its sincere appreciation to **Tony Winkel** for sharing his extensive knowledge of one of the High Desert's greatest natural treasures. His presentations provided members with a deeper appreciation for the remarkable history that continues to flow, often unseen, beneath our feet.



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Big Blue Poker Chip



Ryan McEachron 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 4 chips and \$450 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Spoon of Exception

Angel Espino had another week with the Spoon and shared another practical financial lesson with fellow Rotarians, this time focusing on retirement planning.

Angel explained that, for some retirees, converting funds from a traditional 401(k) into a Roth IRA can be a smart long-term tax strategy. While a traditional 401(k) is generally funded with pre-tax dollars and taxed when money is withdrawn in retirement, a Roth IRA is funded with after-tax dollars, allowing qualified withdrawals to be tax-free. He noted that making a conversion during years when taxable income is lower can potentially reduce future tax burdens, though the right approach depends on each person's individual financial situation. As always, Angel encouraged members to consult with a qualified financial advisor or tax professional before making any retirement planning decisions.

Raffle

This week, **Steve Murray** won a silicone defrosting tray from Jim Murray, while Jon Hove walked away with a bottle of wine from **Pam Murray**. Finally, Arsalee Morales won a Hi-Grade hat and koozie from Mr. Hove.

July Birthdays

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

July Anniversaries

Kirk Riding	32 Years
Paula Esteban	27 Years
Ron Hughes	24 Years
Craig Garrick	23 Years
Kay Marie Gregory	22 Years
Diane Anderson	21 Years
Pam Murray	12 Years
Chris Ackerman	11 Years
Maureen Mills	11 Years
Trish Johnson	10 Years

Partner Birthdays

Stefanie Boyd	June 19
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Wedding Anniversaries

Don & Pam Lager	56 Years
Craig & Barbara Garrick	49 Years
Kirsten & Jaime Acosta	30 Years
Dr. Ron & Stefanie Boyd	26 Years
Sam & Emily Grandlienard	21 Years



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2026 - 2028	Brad Letner
Immediate Past President	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary	Pam Murray
Treasurer	Darron Poulsen
Foundation.....	Jon Hove
Membership	Bryan Gillespie
Club Service	Arsalee Morales
Community Service	Craig Garrick
Vocational Service	Angel Espino
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Directors/Members-at-Large.....	Bob Basen & Dr. Ron Boyd
Joshua Tree/Marketing	Chris Ackerman
Recording Secretary.....	Pam Murray

Positions & Committee Chairs

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
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

July 25

Movie Night at the Hove's

Movie: Pretty Woman (1990)

Time: 6:30pm

18970 Appaloosa Rd, Apple Valley

Aug 3

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30pm Board Meeting

Coldwell Banker

12138 Industrial Blvd., Suite102

Victorville, CA 92395

Rotary



Club of Victorville, CA

Upcoming Programs

July 21

Darron Poulsen, General Manager,
Victor Valley Reclamation Water
Authority **Title: "VVWRA Strategic
Vision and One Water Presentation"**
(Page)

July 28

Ryan McEachron, CEO, ISU ARMAC
Insurance **Title: "Insurance Industry
Update"** (Page)

Aug 4

OPEN

Aug 11

OPEN

Aug 18

OPEN

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