

The Joshua Tree

June 8, 2021

IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS

Dr. Ron Boyd has seen and done a lot in the Veterinary Industry since he began in 1995. When we first met Ron, he was a doctor with the VCA Clinic on Hesperia Road, but in 2019 he finally branched out on his own and took over the Animal Care Hospital on Highway 18 in Apple Valley, and then Covid changed not only his practice, but the Industry as a whole.



As a member of the Veterinary Information Network, Ron had an idea of what Covid might look for the United States Vet Industry, after talking with a Zoo Doctor in Hong Kong. He and his colleagues felt they were ahead of the curve and stocked up on surgical supplies and masks. So much so, they may have helped be responsible for the mask shortage!

When Governor Newsom ordered a shutdown of all non-essential businesses in March 2020, there was a big question on whether the vet industry was essential or not. Unable to get a solid answer, Ron and other veterinarians in the High Desert chose to stay open but limited their practice to critical patients and using the curbside model, except when it came to euthanasia.

As the months progressed Ron's practice was trying to control the surge of people needing veterinary care for their cats and dogs.

Normally he sees a 5% average growth per year, but in 2020, it grew 20% - 30%! The industry as a whole rose to a half-million new patients. Currently in Hesperia there is a 6-9 month wait (*Ron's practice is 2-3 months out*) just for a spay or neuter. Ron feels this rise is multi-faceted. In one sense the growth can be tied to mass adoptions that was common knowledge during Covid, but since there were also many returns that were not reported, Ron feels a bigger factor was that with more people at home, it gave owners the opportunity to look closer at their pets in a way they had not so previously.

Even veterinary emergency clinics have not been immune to the rise. Currently, they are sending people away unless their pet will pass away that night if not treated. In every other case they tell the patient to call their regular vet in the morning.

With the June 15 reopening of California right around the corner, the Animal Care Hospital will go back to full service, but will do it in phases, because they would not be able to keep up with the demand otherwise. Ron's practice is not taking any new patients at the moment, and unfortunately, this is the trend around the whole Victor Valley.

One of their current challenges is the critical shortage of Euthanasia Solution from Asia. Veterinarians are trying to euthanize as humanly as possible without the necessary drugs. Another challenge is that the costs of masks have gone way up, and take a lot off the bottom line.

Animal Care Hospital is located at 21554 Outer Hwy 18 in Apple Valley or can be reached at 760-247-0292.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Oscar Garcia

4-Way Test: Esther Mears

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron

ORR'S ROARS



Thank you for Dr. Ron Boyd for coming out this week and sharing with us how Covid has altered the Vet Industry. No one in the room was expecting to hear about the

tremendous growth and challenges this has brought to you and the industry.



Please read the story on this page of the Chili Cook-Off Challenge that has been presented to us by the Apple Valley Club. Let's get a team together and show Apple Valley we have the best Chili in the High Desert!

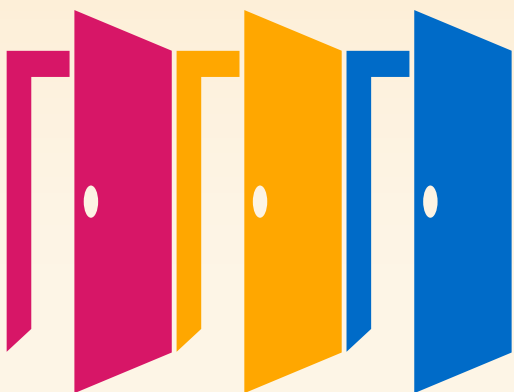
Please mark your calendars for another Movie Night at the Hove's, coming up on August 21st. More information as they become available.

I am happy to say I will finally be demoted on Saturday, June 26! After a two year stint as your Rotary President, I will be passing the baton over to Jon Hove at the home of Bill & Linda Scott. The party starts at 6:00pm and I hope to see you all there.

Finally, please sign up for our 5th Tuesday Rotary Meeting at Seoul Korean BBQ on June 29th. The fellowship will be at 5:30pm.

See you next week...

Steve



www.victorvillerotary.org

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and chose to pass around several \$20 fines to a select number of Rotarians. First was President Steve Orr who acquired his \$20 penalty by announcing Ryan as the first Fine Master since Covid, forgetting that David North has been doing it for the past two weeks!



The next Fine went to Robert Lovingood, who skipped out early, even though he is no longer the 1st District Supervisor. Mike Page was not exempt either since St. Mary has been all over the paper recently, and Kirsten Acosta also paid \$20 for having the VVC Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony in the middle of a wind storm!

The final Fine went to Jim Cox who just returned from traveling across the country to hit five States. Ryan did the math and at \$10 per State, Jim paid the heftiest fine of \$50!

Chili Challenge

We have been challenged! Dwight Johnson told members that the Apple Valley Club (Victorville East), to a chili cook-off on the Apple Valley Village and Chili Cook-Off. form a team, which will our own Dan Dever and helped lead us to victory see Dwight if you'd like to winning team!



that the Apple Valley has challenged us Saturday July, 3 at Street Fair, Car Show We are looking to hopefully include Ben Tafoya who have in the past! Please be part of our award

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Big Blue Dice



Donna Wells had the chance to get the Blue Dice but drew a white one out of the bag and donated her \$5 winnings to the Polio Pig.

We will continue next week with 9 dice and \$325 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed **Cindy Smith** from Century 21 Desert Rock Real Estate who attended as a guest of **Steve Orr**, as well as “guest regulars” **Coleen Luque** and Jay Obernolte Aide **Christopher Scott**.

Finally, we were also introduced to **Julia Dunn**, an employee for **Donna Wells**.

Spoon of Exemption

Esther Mears had another week with the Spoon and shared information on those who want to get rid of their credit card debt. Desert Community Bank currently has a credit



card where you can possibly consolidate your debt and includes a 0% introductory APR for 20 billing cycles to pay it off! To get stated, text “card sis704” to 96932 or visit branchoffer.com/sis704. This special runs through September 30, 2021, so take part now.

In Loving Memory



We are sad to report news of the passing of **Charles Gehrke**, former Rotary President from the our Club and with The Rotary Club of Adelanto.

Services will be held Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 2pm at the Lone Wolf Colony located at 23200 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308.

Raffle

Party at Tina’s house!
Tina Escareño was the big winner this week taking home a bottle of wine and a bottle of black spices rum, both donated by **Dwight Johnson**. **Donna Wells**



took left the meeting with a \$25 Starbucks gift card from Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group, and both **Ryan McEachron** and **Esther Mears** won a VVTA mug of goodies from **Chris Ackerman**.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$22.00

*Polio Pig: \$16.00 + Dice (Donna Wells): \$5.00 +
Cindy Smith (Guest): \$1.00 = \$22.00*

Collected to Date: \$18,018.63

Total equals: 97,151 Doses!

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2019-2021	Steve Orr
President 2021-2022	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025	Jessica Perez
President 2025-2026	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service	Bill Edwards
Community Service	PLEASE VOLUNTEER
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Jessica Perez
Grants.....	Margaret Cooker
Speech Contests	Jessica Perez
Scholarships.....	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Dwight Johnson
Billing Officer	Esther Mears

Members-at-Large: Dwight Johnson & Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teressa DeAtley, John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dr. Bowtie Brian
S.T.A.R. Students	Jim Barnes
Fundraising.....	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts	KayMarie Gregory
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse, 14144 Green Tree Blvd., 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:	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Cracker Barrel, 11612 Amargosa Rd, Victorville San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, ZOOM Meetings, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs 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 12-19: Taipei Convention (Virtual)

June 14: Board of Directors meeting

5:30 pm Meeting *In-Person or Zoom*
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads

June 26: Demotion Party

6:00 pm Home of Bill & Linda Scott
18136 Pier, Spring Valley Lake

Aug 21: Movie Night at the Hove's

Home of Jon & Linda Hove *(Details to follow)*

Upcoming Programs

June 15: Captain John Wickum, Detective Chris Bassett, SB County Sheriff Dept **Topic: Marijuana** (Page)

June 22: John Kozyra, Providence, St. Mary **Topic: The New Hospital in Victorville - What We Know** (Page)

June 29: Evening Rotary Meeting
Koren BBQ, Victorville • 5:30pm

July 6: Comedy Program (Hove/Barnes)

July 13: Dan Austin, High Desert Heart Institute
Topic: Health Prevention Post Covid-19 (Page)

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