

April, 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Julie Jacques



The winter in Green Valley finally seems to be over. It was truly brutal for those of us full timers whose blood has thinned out. I can hopefully pack away those long johns for another 10 months.

Have you ever wondered why our kilns always seem to be running on schedule? If you are like me you take it for granted. We are truly blessed to have Jay Groothousen to keep our kilns up and running. If one of them breaks down or misfires, Jay is right down to do the repair. No calling MarJon's and waiting for a repairman to come and then order a part...Jay usually has spare parts ready. So if you see the big guy in the green shirt be sure and give him a big Thank You. (he's not a hugger!) Not only does he keep our kilns running he also comes in one morning per week (sometimes more) to help load and unload kilns. Thanks, Jay!

Much appreciation to the members who went the extra mile to help us out this month:

The propane gas tank on the patio had a small leak and was replaced. Doug Davis arranged and supervised the removal of the old tank and the addition of the new one.

Ron Jared and Dave Krueger-Duncan rebuilt a cupboard door, putting the hinge back in with epoxy.

Jerry Lowe adjusted some of the wheel speed controls.

Corey Robinson has stepped up to be our bookkeeper. We are thrilled to have her on board!

Sheraldine Gardener and Marilyn Montgomery organized our Spring Social.

GVR is responsible for cleaning the floors and emptying our inside trash. They handle clogged drains and major problems; the rest is up to us. So when you leave a drying rack, plastic bag, clay dust, or anything else on the shelves, it is a fellow member that has to clean it up. On the patio, when the trash is full, please walk it over to the dumpster and dump it. When you see the scrap buckets are full, take them to the patio and put them in the pails. A visitor from Canada who had toured our studio was amazed by what a wonderful facility we had and how CLEAN it was. Thanks to all of you who clean up messes, even if it isn't your mess!

Beginning May 1, we will return to the previous Monitor schedule with 4 hour shifts. You may work on projects during your shift at the designated monitor workstation. The workstation location will allow you to keep an eye on both doors and the hall. Many monitors save their glazing to do during this time. Please do not use the spray booth or

work in rooms other than the main room when you are the Monitor. We will watch the monitor calendar and if there are empty spots we will allow monitors to sign up for more than one shift. Yes, there are people who love to monitor!

By the end of April, many of you will have returned to your summer homes. We will miss you all. We enjoy the laughter pouring out of the wheel room (Becka), the candy jar getting filled (Ron) and the talent and comradery you bring to the studio. Have a great summer.

Julie

A friendly reminder from the Kiln Technicians:

The beauty and fun of our ceramic hobby is that if you can imagine a shape or form then you can probably build it. However we all need to keep in mind that we are a 300+ member hobby club with 300+ different creative approaches to our art!

The goal of every member should be to make a well built piece that is capable of surviving 2 firings at high temperature. As you build your piece ask yourself is this a complicated structure that has height, weight or a lot of attached decorations? Does the design of the piece present complications for loading and unloading from a kiln? Has the piece been glazed correctly so that it won't stick to a kiln shelf or damage another member's piece in the kiln?

The fundamentals that we all learned in our Intro Class are important. Special attention needs to be given to the joints of any piece but especially to a structurally complicated object. ***The kiln techs are observing an uptick in the number of objects where pieces are falling off during both the loading and unloading of the object from the kilns. Proper scoring & slipping of all joints is imperative*** and is the primary way the piece can be made stable. If you are not sure of the proper

technique then please ask another member for advice. Every member is happy to help!

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Debbie Bougie (right) and Carol Snyder (left) work on their projects. Pic by Sandy Thompson.

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Policy Manual: What You Need to Know

The policy manual has been updated and is on the website: [Policy Manual](#) which can be found under the dropdown menu (ABOUT) and then 2023Bylaws Policy Manual.

According to Pam Bybee, The Committee Chairpersons are in the process of updating or preparing procedures that provide details about how the work is accomplished. All of that information will be posted on the website and will also be available in a binder in the studio. This will make it easier for members who join committees or are appointed to leadership positions.

Visit our website for Covid Alerts, Studio Events, Board Meeting Recaps and Studio News

<https://www.claystudiogvaz.com/>

Got Peanut Butter?

We want your (18 Oz.) jars!

They work with our
glaze sprayer.



How Fun!

Our President, Julie came up with this great idea. And I get credit. By Denise

Dee Dee Guizlo found a card next to her vase and she was so excited. The **This piece is Awesome** card had my name on it telling her how wonderful her piece was. Then I get a phone call from another studio member who thanked ME for a card about her piece? ? The *Big Idea of Julie's* was to recognize good work when we see it. So many pieces go through the glaze firing and are immediately taken home. We fellow studio artists never get to see them. So if you see something you like, think about dropping them a card. They'll thank me for it.



Thank you Julie.

Dee Dee had this to say, "Since I am so new to clay, having just attended the beginning class last July, this piece was created with lots of input from other studio members. My thanks to Jane for suggesting and finding the dragonfly mold, to Becca for glazing recommendations, and to Suzy who taught me how to apply the oxide. This is redstone with my first attempt at slip trailing, oxide on the exterior, and Green Shino inside."



This piece is *Awesome!!!*

Please consider showing it in our Newsletter. Email a picture, your name and info on the piece to Denise at [www. rurt2dede@gmail.com](mailto:www.rurt2dede@gmail.com)



Handbuilt by Laurie Whitlock

The base of the piece was made with a two part vase mold and then a sculpted horse head was attached. The mane of the horse was made with coils and glazed with black velvet.



Helpful Suggestions from Marilyn Serra and the Glaze Committee

Oops!

This is what happens when jar lids are not seated properly. It's a waste of glaze, not to mention a possible safety hazard. Please, please, please after cleaning the rims and lids on the pint jars, be mindful of replacing the lids properly.

Crystal Glazes

These glazes have added crystals that settle to the bottom of the jar. Shaking the jar is not enough to dislodge the crystals. To maintain a good crystal to glaze balance, DO NOT shake and pour. Instead, stir and spoon out what you need.



We've Moved!

Sample boards for Celadons, Crystal Glazes and Extreme Runners are now located on the sample tile board to the right of the holding room door.

This move has opened up more tile space on the existing high fire sample board for more new glazes... yippee!



Low Fire Sample Board

The old Mayco sample board has been looking rather sad for quite a while... it was definitely time for an update!

Check out the new Low Fire sample tiles now located to the left of all the hanging aprons. Six new Speckled glazes have been added to the Mayco Stroke & Coat line of glazes as well as ten Amaco satin/matte glazes.



Snowbirds: Please remember to take ALL your things from the Studio: Aprons, clay, tools, and unfinished items. Cross your name off in the storage book. Thanks.

Marjon Ceramics-426 W. Alturas, Tucson

We buy our clays and other products that from Marjon Ceramics. They have pretty much any tool ever made. They will give you a 10% discount if you tell them you belong to Clay Studio of GV. Please remember you may only use clays and glazes that are approved by our club.

Windows

If you would like to display your art in a window, we would love to see it. Pick an empty window, wipe it clean, put your name in the window record book and in the window, and it's yours. The classroom windows are reserved for teachers. When you leave the window, remove your name from the window record and wipe out the window.

Way to Go Pat and Ellen! by Denise

Did you see Ellen Sussman's article in the Green Valley News section Get Out? It all about Pat Carlin and her challenging sculptures.

On March 22, the paper featured Pat with her whimsical clay sculptures. We all know Pat likes a challenge and her pieces are technically very difficult and artistically expressive. She had this to say, "I fluctuate from cute and funny to serious. I've done Custer, Mark Twain, Lincoln, and



people I know.” Pat amazes me; I’ve seen her create almost life-sized, long haired, personality plus dogs with hats and bows.

She credits her parents who raised a bunch of kids who were doers and to the great instructors in the Clay Studio. She has been with the clay studio seven years.

What I notice about Pat is her character, friendly demeanor and her willingness to help others. We can all learn by watching and asking our fellow members.

Firing Slips

These slips need to be readable and filled out completely. If not, your items may not be fired.

There should be **NOTHING** on the bottom of pieces that will be high fired (except oxide). You may put velvets to the bottom edge of high fire pieces but you must put a note on the slip stating that it is velvet on the bottom edge.

Putting something on your piece with glue will not work...the glue burns away and the piece you have glued will slide off...and may damage someone else’s piece.

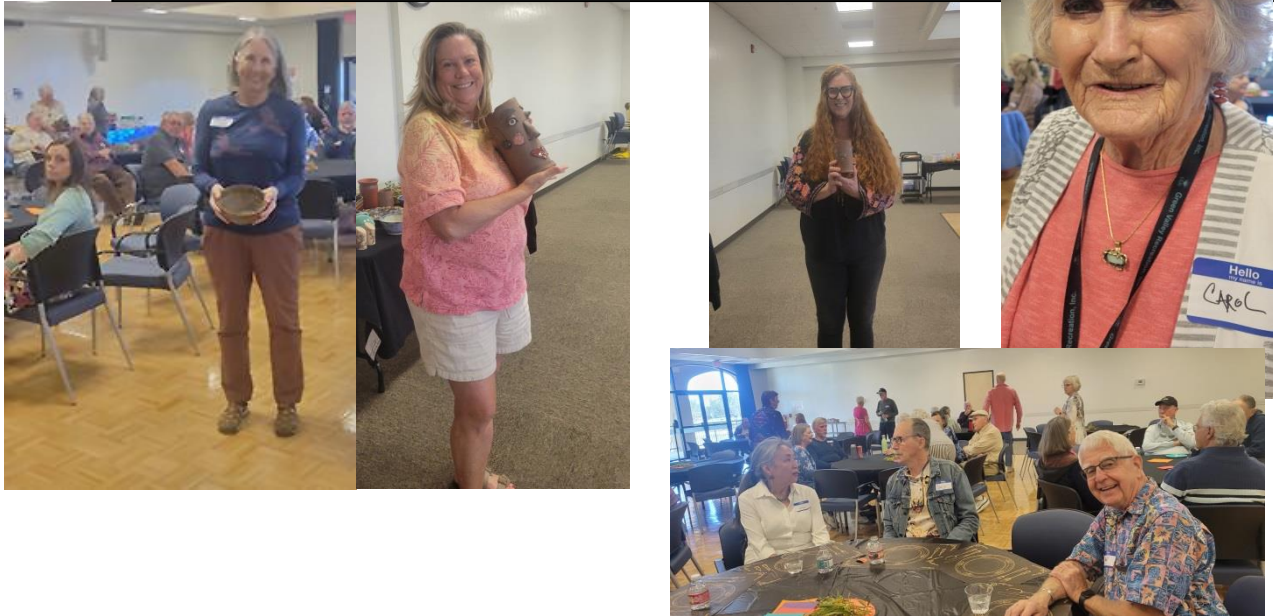
Spring Party Pics, March 24th



Back together again to celebrate what a wonderful year we've had.



What a super turn out of fellow studio members and look at those
Lovely door prizes! Pictures by Pam Bybee



OXIDES

If your piece has been covered with oxide only, please put a paper towel on it and leave the towel to signal to the kiln techs that it is coated with oxide. It saves them from getting oxide all over their hands and having to wash before loading more items into the kiln.

GVR Warning: Using another person's artwork-

Copyright Infringement and fines

Any artwork you find on the internet or in print has been created by and is owned by someone else. You do not have permission to use it or copy it. Please share this with your club members.

We suggest you do not take this warning lightly. There are companies hired to search the internet looking for images in use that belong to someone else, which often result in significant fines, attorney fees and

other damages that the club will be responsible to pay. GVR Clubs have been subject to these fines.

A better option is to hire someone to create artwork that suits your club's publication or event, or create something yourself.

We hope this gives you advance notice so you will be able to avoid this negative impact on your club finances.



So much for this month. If you have images and articles, please email them to me, Denise at rurt2dede@gmail.com.

I'm taking June off so get me your pictures and important articles ready for May.

If possible, please include a little write up about the image you send me. I'm a newbie and don't know very many peoples' names.

Cell phone images should be cropped and sent as a large jpeg file. Please pick out the best few. Keep up the good work fellow members. The newsletter is only as good as you make it.