



Chaparral Sketch

February 2026

Volume XVII, Issue 02

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with visitors at each month-long venue, but also online for a wider audience to discover and enjoy.

Now, we want to hear from you.

What excites you? Where would you like us to visit? What demonstrations should we plan this year? What hands-on creative activities would you love to explore together?

Your ideas matter. Your creativity matters.

Please share your thoughts and suggestions—we want to build this year with you.

General Meetings

The January meeting was held on the 12th at the Joshua Tree Community Center, with eleven (11) members in attendance. We moved briskly through updates, shared member announcements, and distributed the Chaparral schedule of exhibits—a one-page, at-a-glance calendar, brightened with creative graphics and designed for easy planning.

Our featured activity focused on ink—a fast-moving, permanent water medium that invites freedom, surprise, and a little wildness. Working on pre-dampened paper, the goal was simple: let go and watch the scene unfold. Ink was dropped onto the wet surface and allowed to travel, bloom, and surprise, encouraging us to loosen our grip on control.

That said, a bit of intention still plays a role. How and where you apply water can guide the ink's movement. Take a simple form—say, a kitten. By

Presidents Palette

We need **your voice** to continue shaping Chaparral Artists in ways that truly serve our members.

As we have done for years, we support you by providing welcoming venues to put your work out into the world, get it seen, and do so with very little effort required on your part. Most of our exhibits are free, and this newsletter reaches hundreds of readers—often growing as the year progresses.

Your writing, stories, and poetry have a home here—both in this publication and on our website. Your artwork is photographed and shared not only

wetting the paper in a chosen shape, the ink stays mostly within that boundary, then bursts outward from its drop point like a tiny firework, creating texture that can easily become fur, if that's what you're after.

It was pure fun—just fun. I'd encourage anyone to try it, especially if you find yourself in any version of a creative pause. Sometimes letting the ink lead is exactly what's needed.

Our NEXT meeting is on February 9, 2026 at the Joshua Tree Community Center in Joshua Tree. Join us at the Joshua Tree Community Center for our next gathering.

Members may renew their membership at the meeting if you haven't already done so. This is also a great time to pick up your Rainbow Stew show schedule, sign up to display your work at AquaFit or Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley, or simply spend a couple of hours connecting and sharing your artistic interests with fellow creatives.

For those who participated in Nancy McHenry's two-day clay workshop, Nancy plans to bring the finished pieces to the meeting—please be sure to stop by and pick up your creations.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are held on the same day as our general meetings to keep things simple. The February 9 meeting will be at 11:30 AM, also at the Joshua Tree Community Center. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings!

Group Outings

We haven't had many voices submit their interests for possible outings in 2026 which makes it difficult to develop a consensus for a trip that will interest the most of our membership. Please share your ideas via email or give us a call!

As a group, we should consider venturing down for a day or half day to take in the delights of the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival in Indio, a long-standing Coachella Valley tradition filled with food, entertainment, exhibits, and classic fair fun. From live music and competitions to local flavor and sweet date treats, there's something for everyone to enjoy. A couple of our members submitted art to the County Faire! If YOU are one of those individuals, make sure to tell us so that we can mention your name.

Dates: February 12 – March 1, 2026 (select days)

Hours: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM (hours vary by day)

Location: Riverside County Fairgrounds, Indio, CA

General Admission: \$18 at the gate (presale \$12)

General Parking: \$10 per vehicle

We're gauging interest in a possible group outing—more details to follow if enough people share interest.

If you take part in—or have already experienced—any memorable outings, please share them with us! We'd love to include your recommendations in the next edition of THIS newsletter for anyone interested.

Remember to share your trip recommendations and requests. The rest of the year and into the next is open to suggestions! ChaparralArtists@gmail.com

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit - Anything Goes

In January, we held our exhibit “Anything Goes”, a themed showing of members’ creations unencumbered by limitations of age or specific theme or medium. As always, our primary shows are on display at Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley. Featuring eighteen (18) entries from six (6) creators, the exhibit is on display between January 13, 2026 and February 11. It was

Next Exhibit - “Monochrome”

This February, we invite members to submit up to five pieces - Monochrome explores the power of a single color palette to create impact, mood, and depth. This theme invites artists to work within one color or tonal range, focusing on value, contrast, texture, and composition. By limiting color choices, artists can amplify emotion and form while highlighting subtle variations and nuance. From bold statements to quiet studies, Monochrome celebrates simplicity, restraint, and expressive possibility. All mediums are welcome and we do not put a limit on when a creation is finished, as long as your newest pieces are dry and ready to hang!

Artwork intake will take place at Rainbow Stew on Thursday, February 12, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, and Friday, February 13, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

The reception will be held on Saturday, February 21, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM during the Third Saturday Old Town Artwalk. Everyone is invited, and we especially encourage exhibit participants and their friends to the reception because we are celebrating you and your works.

Information about upcoming shows can be found on the Chaparral Artists website. Navigate to **Publications**, then **Exhibits**, and locate the show paperwork you’re interested in. Be sure to check back regularly for updates. If you notice any missing information, please contact an officer to let us know.

Artists of the Month

We feature Chaparral members at both the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley AND AquaFit in Yucca Valley. We do not control when these venues open, so calling in advance to a visit is recommended.

If YOU are interested in sharing your work at these locations, contact Raini Armstrong to select an available month.

Creative Opportunities

Workshops and Paint-outs

Mil-Tree Writers Group meets Monday evenings, online via Zoom, 7-9pm. This writing group welcomes individuals of all writing levels and fosters a relaxed and friendly environment. The primary expectation is that members are open to providing feedback on their peers' writing, but all are encouraged to share their own written work as well.

Interested in joining? Contact info@mil-tree.org and ask questions OR signup.

Juniper Clay offers ‘Clayground’ for all interested in the very tactile medium of clay. Clayground is a monthly event hosted by Juniper Clay Shop on the first Sunday of each month. Created as a welcoming introduction to ceramic arts, the event provides each participant with 2 pounds of clay to play with. If you're happy with what you have created, they will fire and glaze it for you (service included in the workshop price). You must sign up in advance as spots fill fast, visit their website for details <https://juniperclayshop.com/> For only \$26.94 per person, you get 2 pounds of clay and up to 4 hours of fun. No refunds will be issued for Clayground events! Hours are from 1pm to 5pm with a last call at 4pm. Don't forget to wear your messy clothes or bring an apron!

Open Arts & Crafts Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center on Thursday mornings, 10-12:30pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$3, and are able to work on whatever they are interested in.

Watercolor Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center most Thursday afternoons, 1-3pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$5, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor. February and March 2026 are dedicated to Animal Portraits!

Watercolor Workshops are offered at the AquaFit in Yucca Valley most Friday mornings, 9-11am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$10, and can work on their own watercolor

projects or follow along with the instructor. February and March 2026 are dedicated to Animal Portraits!

Visit instagram @watercolor.yv or Facebook by searching for watercolor.yv or contact Raini directly to confirm workshop days, as she often travels!!

Plein Air meetups, organized by Krista Wargo, happen in the desert almost every month and are listed on the Chaparral calendar once confirmed. Participants bring their own art supplies, prepare for weather changes, and bring enough food and water for painting outdoors. Locations chosen by Krista have basic amenities like restrooms, but you need to bring everything else you need.

Contact Krista directly if you plan to attend, so she knows to expect you.

Membership Dues

If you haven't already done so, remember to renew your Chaparral Artists membership for 2026. Membership includes much for a reasonable price:

- 8-9 FREE themed shows @ Rainbow Stew
- Discounted fees on 3-4 public judged shows
- Two featured artist spaces - FREE monthly opportunities to show lots of your creations
- 10 FREE short demos/activities during meetings
- Group outings, group popups, and group events

Renew your membership in person by swinging by Rainbow Stew during our February intake, send in application/fee via post (P.O. Box 2202, Joshua Tree, CA 92252) or pay online on the website! \$25 per individual, \$35 per couple.

Chaparral Collage

Clay Days & Creative Delights

The attendees had an absolutely delightful two days with Nancy, who provided clay and molds for creating the forms and an array of paints for decorating. She graciously managed all the preparations, oversaw the creations before and after firing, and set everything up for painting—making the experience seamless and enjoyable for everyone. Attendees were equipped with all the tools they could need, and Charlie sweetened the days with yummy treats!

The workshop offered a casual introduction to working with clay, leaving participants with the ability to learn as we kneaded, providing plenty of takeaways to enhance future success to those that wish to continue working with this particular medium. Laughter, conversation, and pure joy flowed freely—there’s something magical about working with your hands that melts away the everyday worries.

Nancy is now glazing all the pieces we finished painting, and she’ll bring the completed works to the meeting on Monday, February 9, at the Joshua Tree Community Center. Some of us experimented with pigments that may transform dramatically during the glazing and firing process, so the big reveal promises to be a fun and surprising discovery for everyone!

Honoring Musician & Percussionist Brent Lewis

Call to Artists! Victoria Sebanz has presented Chaparral Artists with a meaningful opportunity to participate in an upcoming honorarium celebrating



the life and work of musician and percussionist Brent Lewis. If Chaparral Artists chooses to move forward, we will invite our members to paint, create, or assemble photographic montages inspired by the sounds, rhythms, and spirit of Brent’s music. Brent Lewis was known for his expressive, rhythm-driven musical style, blending percussion with layered soundscapes that move fluidly between improvisation, mood, and texture. His work emphasized listening as an act of connection, often evoking emotion through pulse, repetition, and subtle tonal shifts rather than strict structure. His music lends itself beautifully to abstract, intuitive, and emotionally driven visual responses. The event is currently being planned to take place at HDA in Yucca Valley in March or April and is envisioned as a warm, communal evening with food, drink, live music, and space for 8-15 two-dimensional creative works honoring Brent Lewis and his artistic legacy. This announcement should be shared ASAP so members have ample time to engage in active listening before beginning their pieces. For many artists, this may be an opportunity to slow down, absorb sound deeply, and allow rhythm, tone, and mood to guide the creation of a fresh, responsive

work. More details—including dates, submission guidelines, and the monetary donation Chaparral Artists plan to make to support some of the food, drink, and entertainment—will be shared as plans are finalized. For now, we invite you to begin listening, reflecting, and imagining how sound can move your hand, your eye, and your heart.

Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Members and friends of Chaparral Artists, it’s never too late to share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, art snapshots, or the valuable advice you’ve learned or devised along the way. Just like the piece above, your insights can help inspire and support your fellow colleagues. Your voice belongs in this newsletter!

We aim to continue featuring fun and concise write-ups, overviews, and summaries about various

creative art forms. If you have insights to share on topics like Abstract Art, Sculpture, Music, Dance, Writing, Theatre, or any other form of creativity, we encourage you to lend YOUR voice to this publication.

Worried about length or grammatical correctness? Don’t be! Your submission will be reviewed and formatted to fit seamlessly into the newsletter, just like the article above. You’ll also receive proper credit. Whether it’s a short piece of advice or a quick update, we want to hear from you!

Please share art-related information by sending your thoughts to ChaparralArtists@gmail.com. For anyone that cannot access the internet, call Raini Armstrong at 760-383-3005 to arrange the conveyance of your submission via phone or in person.

Events Calendar

February 7

29 Palms Art Gallery Reception, 4-6pm
74055 Cottonwood Drive, Twentynine Palms

February 9

Chaparral Artists - General Meeting, 1-3pm
Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst St, Joshua Tree

February 12 & 13

**Chaparral Artists - “Monochrome”
Themed Members Exhibit**
Drop-off Day 1
February 12 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2
February 13 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

February 21

Chaparral Artists Reception
“Anything Goes” members exhibit, 4-6pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

