



West Valley Astronomy Club (WVAC)

Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2019

Location of Meeting: Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 Avenue of the Arts, Surprise Arizona.

Members Present: MaryAnne Balzer (President), John Cline (Vice President), Janie Randle (Treasurer), Beth Oudean (Interim Secretary), other board members and guests (approximately 51 total).

The regular meeting of WVAC was called to order at 7:00 pm by President MaryAnne Balzer:

1 - Opening Remarks (MaryAnne Balzer) – Briefed the meeting agenda to include the change that the guest speaker would present his briefing first, before other club business, as he and his wife are driving back to Flagstaff that evening.

2 - Introduction of Guest Speaker - Dr. Grundy from the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ. He briefed on “New Horizons (spacecraft) Mission Update”. Q&A by members during and following the briefing.

Dr. Grundy is a co-investigator on NASA’s *New Horizons Mission* which did the Pluto fly-by and just arrived at Ultima-Thule (dumbbell looking asteroid) in the outer asteroid belt on New Year’s Day 2019. Dr. Grundy does spectroscopic and thermal imaging observations of Outer Solar System bodies using numerous large ground-based, and space-based telescopes including Hubble, Spitzer, Herschel, Keck, Gemini, VLT, DCT, IRTF, and MMT. Enjoyable discussion on his involvement with one of NASA’s most ambitious Missions.

3 - MaryAnne invited all present to enjoy refreshments during a short break (and) browse the free-items and handouts table (and) view the “Show & Tell” table to include numerous displays, photos, and telescopes.

4 - Meeting called back to order by MaryAnne she then briefed the following business topics:

- a) Briefed members present on the clubs meeting schedule for the remainder of this year, and provided a copy of the WVAC Schedule for 2019-2020 Program Year.
- b) Briefed membership on the current cost of renting the club meeting space (\$50.00 per event) with an expected rental increase next fall – details to follow during future budget discussions.
- c) Explained the separation of club Treasurer and Secretary duties - the club has never had an official Secretary position, it was a shared Treasurer/Secretary duty. The WVAC Board voted to split the responsibilities so as to enable more accurate record keeping - membership agreed and approved the change.
- d) MaryAnne introduced the Nominees for next season’s Board Members. Each nominee introduced themselves and briefly detailed their experiences and goals. She also asked members present if

anyone else would care to run for a position on the Board, no other member raised their hand. The official list of Nominees includes Bob Randle for President, John Cline for Vice President, Janie Randle for Treasurer, and Beth Oudean for Secretary. Voting will be conducted Via Email mid-month.

Note: Only paid-in-full members are eligible to vote on Club leader positions.

- e) April Meeting Guest Speaker topic: "Opportunity Rover"

- f) Introduction of Jenny Gordon from the Peoria Public Library; Mrs. Gordon will be conducting a children's summer program "Universal Stories" and WVAC members Ron L and Bob R. have agreed to assist her with this event.

- g) An Audit was conducted by Earl on the financial bookkeeping of the club, we are happy to report "Zero" findings thanks to Janie's outstanding bookkeeping skills.

- h) During a recent website search, numerous websites contained incorrect or incomplete information about our West Valley Astronomy club, including Name, Address, Contact Info, Website links, etc. All members were asked to help correct erroneous information by informing Board members if found. Please note the web address, and forward that link, so action to correct may be taken.

- i) Kudos to Ron Langlois for organizing the recent ASU Meteorite Lab field trip. It was a huge success; more than 20 members participated and enjoyed every minute.

- j) Briefed numerous upcoming Events: Star-Party 23 March with an alternate date of 30 March - Star Parties will continue May through September watch for emails - Night Sky Listing is available please contact MaryAnne for more information - Super Moon, last one of the year is this month - Interstate Dark Sky is 31 March through 7 April, sites now available in Texas and New Mexico - Red Rock Star-Party September 28th - Camp Verde Dark Sky party October 5th - and don't forget to make your reservations for Alamo State Park camping and star gazing 15-17 November.

- k) Mark your calendar for 5 April 6:30-9:30 pm, the ASU Center for Meteorite Studies (Meteorite Gallery) is hosting a free evening event: Second floor Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building 4 (781 E. Terrace Rd. Tempe).

- l) MaryAnne initiated generous kudos for club members who have stepped up to assist with making our club a success; John C, Ron L, Bob, Walter, Suzanne, Ron O, and many more.

5 - Bob Randle conducted the “ever popular” 50/50 raffle where \$26.00 was disbursed to members and \$6.00 of that was given back to the club by a winner; also awarded were six door prizes (three book markers, one bubble level, one “Miller Planisphere” and an “Encyclopedia Galactica” poster). Bob Requested assistance starting in the fall, for a club member to take over the selling of the 50/50 raffle tickets.

6 - Meeting adjourned by MaryAnne Balzer at 8:35pm.

Next meeting scheduled for (Tuesday) April 2nd at 7:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Beth Oudean (interim Secretary), via email on March 6th, 2019

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____
MaryAnne Balzer (President) (MM/DD/YYYY)

Board Member Coordination Meeting (just prior to Club Meeting) **Notes:**

Past and future Star-Parties; Alamo State Park Campout; Dark-Sky events; Peoria Library needing assistance with upcoming children’s summer program; Sharing of website password and possible assistance with the site (Ron Oudean volunteered to assist current Webmaster); Splitting the Treasurer/Secretary position into two separate positions; upcoming elections; Reviewed name-tag designs and Emails; Kudos to Ron L. lining up guest speakers & Janie on recent audit.