



# West Valley Astronomy Club (WVAC)

## Monthly Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2019

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

**Members Present:** MaryAnne Balzer (Outgoing President), Bob Randle (Incoming President), John Cline (Vice President), Janie Randle (Treasurer), Ron Langlois (speaker and trip coordinator), Ron Oudean (acting Secretary) other board members and guests (approximately 57 total).

The regular meeting of WVAC was called to order at 7:00 pm.

1 - Opening Remarks by outgoing President MaryAnne Balzer:

- Advised the club that this was going to be her last meeting as President. Additionally, she announced the results of recent Club elections for Officer and Board Member positions (see attached Draft Organization Chart), Names will be posted on the website ASAP);
- Briefed the group on next season's club schedule.
- MaryAnne thanked volunteers for their help, specifically Walter and Fred Fitzgerald, among others.
- MaryAnne announced she will be sending a personal email to all members with a note to send future mail to the new Club President Bob Randle.
- Briefed the club about Castle Hot Springs – Sky View Cabins  
<https://www.castlehotsprings.com/sky-view-cabins/>
- Briefed the club that April is "Global Astronomy Month". Primary sponsor (point of contact) is the Astronomers Without Borders organization <https://astronomerswithoutborders.org/>
- Also mentioned that April 7<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the International Dark Skies Week.
- Briefed about ASUs "Earth & Space Open House" on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 9:30 pm.  
<https://meteorites.asu.edu/event/esoh-apr5>
- Introduced new Raffle volunteer Debra
- Introduced the replacement for current program manager Ron L. who is stepping back from the duties.

2 – Ron Langlois briefed on upcoming excursions to Meteor Crater and the Mirror Factory. Also conducted a show of hands survey about future excursion participation.

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. Ron L. introduced the evenings guest speaker Dr. Steve Ruff – ASU School of Earth & Space Exploration - briefing the club on "Updates from the Surface of Mars".

5 – Debra conducted door prize and 50/50 raffle. Ron L. won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings back to the club treasury.

6 – MaryAnne had a final good bye to the club with an appreciative applause following.

7 – Bob spoke about Club telescopes for sale and mentioned loaner telescopes for those who are interested in astronomy (new people) but would like to use a loaner scope to gain experience before buying their own.

8 – Bob conducted a show of hands survey on the topic of extended meetings during the summer months. Approximately 50% of club members present raised their hands in support of more meetings. Skyline-Regional Park in Buckeye (a dark sky location) <https://www.buckeyeaz.gov/residents/skyline-regional-park> is a potential meeting spot with restroom facilities.

9 – Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm by MaryAnne who said another good bye to all.

Next currently scheduled official meeting is October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2019.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Beth Oudean via email on April 3, 2019

Minutes approved by: Robert Randle Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/9/2019 \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Randle (President) (MM/DD/YYYY)

**Board Member Coordination Meeting Notes:** Bob & Janie Randle are sponsoring an Officer and Board member planning session for the 2019-2020 season. The meeting is currently scheduled for 7 May. Contact Bob for details.