



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2019

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

Members Present: Bob Randle (President), John Cline (Vice President), Janie Randle (Treasurer), Beth Oudean (Secretary), along with other volunteers and club members (32) guests (2) and new members (4) for a total of 38). Collected dues from 7 members.

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

1 - Opening Remarks by the Club President;

Reviewed meeting room procedures and arrangement changes. Sign-In table will be moved to make the sign-in process easier with less wait time. Treasurer will be seated at the door to accept dues payments, greet non-members and guests. Power-Point slide presentation of upcoming events and club announcements will be shown prior to the meeting (this information will also be posted on the website. Round tables will be used for meetings to encourage conversation. Refreshments will now be available before and during the meeting. We will now only host a 50/50 Raffle (no more Door Prizes). A Donation container in the shape of a telescope is available so “Non-Members” can voluntarily deposit a Guest Speaker donation.

Guest Speaker presentation. If time allows, members who would like to share information on events they have attended, will be offered floor time

The Club will be adding two additional meetings to the annual schedule; “May and September”, with the May meeting being held as a Club picnic. All other months will host a Guest Speaker except December (our Annual Business meeting and Holiday party featuring a Silent Auction)

The President proclaimed it was a busy summer with many exciting events and thanked all those who volunteered; Additionally, he stated the club turned in 60 volunteer hours to the Night Sky Network.

Briefed the Club on upcoming community event “International Observe the Moon Night” Saturday October 5th; 6:30-9:30 pm; Marley Park (Heritage) 15073 W. Sweetwater Ave, Surprise, AZ. Spread the word and bring your telescope.

2 - Ron Langlois briefed on the Club’s upcoming excursion to the Stewart Observatory Mirror Lab on November 21st, Cost for riding in Van is \$70 per person round trip, and an additional \$18 for the tour. Still several spaces available; fees must be paid by October 31st. If you are driving yourself, please purchase tour tickets from Ron Langlois.

3 - Bob Colvert distributed a “Survey Form” with the goal of gathering information from members that may be useful in enhance club interest. Survey questions were “astronomy topics of interest, knowledge and experience of members, members who would be interested in making a presentation to the club or contacts of individual will to make a presentation to the club”.

4 - Bob Colvert introduced the Guest Speaker – Dr. Alex Vrenios, speaking on the subject of “Radio Astronomy” Dr. Vrenios is a retired computer scientist who specialized in the design and development of

distributed computing systems. He has dozens of technical presentations and publications to his credit, including a book on Linux clusters. His other interests include astronomy, photography and amateur radio. Topic of his briefing included a brief history of Radio Astronomy and then he briefed on Solar Energy, Jupiter's Radio Storms, Meteor Scatter Communications Galactic Radio Sources and finally how to create radio images.

5 - Deb Bleikamp conducted the 50/50 raffle where \$45.00 was disbursed.

6 - Janie Randle introduced the Club's four newest members.

7 - Bob Randle encouraged members to check the website for upcoming club events: www.wvac.net and to pass the word to others about our club and events. October 5th International Observe the Moon Night, October 19th Club Star Party, October 26th Club Star Party (Alternate), November 7th Next Club Meeting (Thursday), November 16th Alamo Lake Star Party, November 16th Club Star Party, November 21st Steward Observatory Mirror Lab, November 23rd Club Star Party (Alternate), December 3rd Club Holiday/Business Meeting, December 21st Club Star Party, December 28th Club Star Party (Alternate), April 28th Peoria Library Public Star Party

8 – Donations Accepted: Patricia Calascibett - In memory of her brother Martin Meuerle donated the proceeds from the sale of his telescope; Carol A. Blitstein - Art Work and Framed Posters to be used as auction items; Melissa B. - 5 ½" telescope to be used by the club for outreach.

9 - Bob Randle briefed on a trip his sister took "Birr Castle" in Ireland; A main feature on the grounds of the Castle is the "Great Telescope" or [Leviathan of Parsonstown](#) or *The Rosse Telescope*) of the [third Earl of Rosse](#), an [astronomical telescope](#) with a 183-cm (72 in) reflector.

It was completed in 1845 and was used for several decades before the last observations were made in the first years of the 20th century. Its record size was not surpassed until the completion of the 100-inch (2.5-meter) [Hooker Telescope](#) at Mount Wilson Observatory in 1917. It was dismantled in 1914, but the structure was restored and the telescope reconstructed in the 1990s and is open to the public.

In 2017, [LOFAR](#) radio-telescope station IE613 was constructed on the grounds of the castle. This is the westernmost station in the LOFAR network. The I-Lofar telescope, in 2018, observed for the first time a billion-year-old [red-dwarf](#), [flare star](#) called CN [Leo](#), almost 75 trillion kilometers away.

Meeting adjourned by at 8:30pm.

Next meeting scheduled for (Thursday) November 7th at 7:00 pm. (This is a one-time change; church is being used as a voting center).

Minutes submitted by Beth Oudean, via email on October 2nd, 2019.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date _____
Bob Randle (WVAC President)