



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2020

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, club members and visitors (71). 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;

Introduced himself and thanked everyone in attendance. Presented the Power-Point slide presentation of upcoming events and club announcements; this will be shown prior to the meeting (this information will also be posted on the website).

2- Bob Colvert introduced the Guest Our guest speaker Dr. Thomas Mozden (Assistant Research Scientist at ASU and Vice President of East Valley Astronomy Club). His topic "Recent efforts at ASU to find evidence of when the first stars formed". What were those first stars like and when did they form? How did they affect the rest of the universe? Dr Mozden discussed how a new research tool named EDGES will help describe the creation of galaxies, the strength of the X rays from their central black holes, and the interaction with the cold clouds of primordial hydrogen. Very exciting topic: <https://www.space.com/when-did-the-universe-wake-up.html>

3 – Bob Randle thanked club members Larry and Peggy Schutte for their generous donation of the projector we are now using. Bob also introduced Ted Farmer, clubs new Membership Director and thanked Walter Schmitt for his years of service as Star Party Coordinator. Bob Randle and Bob Colvert will be notifying membership of upcoming Star Parties and it was expressed that they would like a few of the current club members to step forward and manage this program for the club. The club's May meeting "Pot Luck/Picnic" will be held at Beardsley's Park, more information to follow. At the end of each meeting if time allows, we will be hosting a short workshop per club member suggestion for those that are interested in staying: tonight's topic is "Filters and Eye Pieces"

4-Paul Bleikamp (Events Director) has been working with the Lowell Observatory (which is hosting I Love Pluto Festival 2020 event) arranging a special tour for club members which will be held April 25th an interest sign up sheet is available, please let him know if you want to attend, there will be a fee assessed for this event.

4- Deb Bleikamp (Contest Director) conducted the ever popular 50-50 raffle which \$68.00 was distributed (as well as a donated book).

5. John Cline (Club Vice President) will be conducting 3 Education/Lifelong Learning Seminars at NW Regional Library, Astronomy 101: Treasures of the Night Sky on February 14th, Astronomy 101: The Solar System on February 21st and Astronomy 101: Where are We Headed on February 28th. All seminars are from 3:30-4:30 pm. To register contact the Library. Also, a club member shared there is a college level course available the RH Johnson Lecture Hall; Cost is \$30.00 (Astronomy I from 1:00-3:00pm February 14th, 21st and 28th and Astronomy II: from 3:00-5:00pm on March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. Instructor is Joseph Aibinder.

6 - Bob Randle concluded the main meeting and invited club members who wanted to stay for the workshop to do so; entitled "Filters and Eye Pieces" conducted by Bob Colvert.

Meeting adjourned by at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for (Tuesday) March 3rd at 7:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Beth Oudean, via email on February 5th, 2020.

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