



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 3, 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 (57). No dues were collected.

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. Melissa A. Morris; Deputy Program Scientist. A Senior Support Scientist with Arctic Slope Regional Cooperation, Federal Government and NASA. Topic: Dr. Morris provided an update on the OSIRIS Rex: Exploration of Asteroid (101955) Bennu Mission. Description: OSIRIS Rex seeks answers to the questions that are central to the human experience: Where did we come from? What is our destiny? Asteroids, the left-over debris from the solar system formation process, can answer these questions and teach us about the history of the sun and planets. OSIRIS REX will journey to the asteroid Bennu, map it and gather a physical sample and return the sample to earth. Expect the first sample collected to occur on or about August 25, 2020, for that sample to be returned to earth September 2023; Sample to be analyzed October 2023 through September 2025 and the mission to end September 2025. Dr. Morris was a charismatic speaker and held our interest for well over 90 minutes.

3 – Bob Randle. The club’s May meeting “Pot Luck/Picnic” will be held at Beardsley’s Park, an astronomy themed swap meet will also occur, more information to follow.

4-Paul Bleikamp (Events Director) has been working with the Lowell Observatory arranging a special tour for club members which will be held April 25th. Paul needs a firm head count and fees are due not later than April 7th meeting. There are 2 types of events: All-day access to the Observatory (10 am to 10pm) \$20 per person or All-day access plus night Clark telescope access (10am-2am) \$59 per person. We plan on carpooling to this event.

4-Bob Randle introduced John Hiatt Outreach Coordinator. John Hiatt introduced himself to the group and spoke briefly on his past experience as Outreach Coordinator in CO. John spoke about 2 upcoming events which could use membership assistance:

Scout Pack 436

Tuesday March 24th 6:30-9:00pm **Scope setup at 6:00pm**

Cooper Street Elementary 7071 W Hillcrest Blvd, Glendale AZ 85310

Group size 60-80

Need 5 volunteers and 5 scopes

Peoria Public Library
Tuesday April 28th 8:00-9:00pm **Scope set up 6:30 pm**
Peoria Public Library 8463 W. Monroe St. Peoria, AZ 85345
Group size 70-100
Need 5 volunteers and 5 scopes

If you are interested in assisting please contact John johnwhiatt@gmail.com

5. Walter Thompson shared upcoming event: Stargazing with Lowell Observatory Astronomers:
Friday March 27th, 7:00-9:00pm Castle Hot Springs Road, Morristown (from Hwy 74, turn north onto Castle
Hot Springs Road and go 1.7 miles) For more information info@wickenburgtrails.org

6 Deb Bleikamp (Contest Director) conducted the ever popular 50-50 raffle which \$53.00 was distributed (as well as a donated astronomy board game and DVD).

7. Bob Randle concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned by at 9:00 pm.

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

Minutes submitted by Beth Oudean, via email on March 4th, 2020.

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