



West Valley Astronomy Club (WVAC)

Virtual Meeting and Workshop Minutes – September 1, 2020

Location of Meeting: Online

Board Members and Volunteers Present: Bob Randle (President), John Cline (Vice President), Janie Randle (Treasurer) Beth Oudean (Secretary), Bob Colvert (Program Director), Deb Bleikamp (Contest Director) and Paul Bleikamp (Events Director) Ted Farmer (Membership) Ryan Morrell (Web Master) along with other volunteers, club members and guests total of 47.

1 - The meeting started 7:00 p.m., Deb Bleikamp was the Zoom Host.

2 - President Bob Randle welcomed everyone and asked those in attendance to view the Website Resource Page as it contains numerous resources to aid in their star gazing experience as well as upcoming webinars.

- Guest Speaker for the evening James Renn: a member of the Vatican Observatory Foundation Board of Directors, and he is also on staff at the Walker Star Barn Planetarium in Cave Creek, AZ also joining us was Pamela Synder, also from the Vatican Observatory. The lecture “The Vatican Observatory and the Big Bang” refers to the trial of Galileo as an example of conflict between faith and science. The talk discussed Fr. George LeMaitre, who used Einstein’s equations to propose a theory of the origin of the Universe we now call “The Big Bang” This is followed by a short overview of the present state of the Universe and how the name “Big Bang” was coined by Professor Fred Hoyle in 1949. Finally, the presenter discussed philosophical concepts that personal at the Vatican encounter when they discuss the evolution of the Universe. Mount Graham International Observatory (Safford) AZ, is home of the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT)
<http://www.vaticanobservatory.va/content/specolavaticana/en.html>
- Upcoming events September 12th Star Party, September 19th Alternate Star Party, September 26th International Observe the Moon Night (see website for details), October 6th General meeting with speaker: Tom Field, President: Field Tested Systems LLC (see website for details), October 10th Star Party, October 17th Alternate Star Party, November 5th (Thursday) General Meeting with Speaker: Dr. Patrick A. Young; Presentation Topic: "Supernova: Life and Death Among the Stars", November 7th Star Party, November 14th Alternate Star Party, December 1st General Meeting (Holiday Party), December 12th Star Party, December 19th Alternate Star Party

3 - Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Note: Minutes submitted by Club Secretary Beth Oudean via email on September 2, 2020.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____
Bob Randle (President) (MM/DD/YYYY)