



West Valley Astronomy Club

Virtual & Physical Combination Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2021

Location of Meeting: Online Zoom Meeting

Board Members & Volunteers Present: Bob Randle-President, John Cline-Vice President, John Hiatt-Secretary, Bob Colvert (Treasurer) and Janie Randle (Membership Director), Debbie Bleikamp (Contest Director) Paul Bleikamp (Events Director), along with other volunteers, club members and visitors (26 total).

The regular meeting of WVAC was called to order at 7:00 pm by Bob Randle

1 - Opening Remarks by Bob Randle

Introduced himself and thanked everyone in attendance. Presented a brief agenda for the meeting starting with the dates of upcoming Star Parties. The next Star Party is Saturday, March 6th, sunset is at 6:31 pm. if you are interested in attending, check for updates at the WVAC website: <https://wvac.net/events/star-party>

2 - Bob Colvert introduced the Speaker, Luke Edens. Luke works full time in healthcare and enjoys spending his free time exploring archaeological sites, viewing the night sky, hiking and kayaking the Southwest. He is a volunteer Arizona Site Steward for archaeological preservation and Vice President of the Friends of Agua Fria National Monument (FAFNM) where he volunteers as outreach coordinator and chairperson of their dark sky committee. He is also an active member of their cultural committee. Luke's interest in archaeology has led him to look upward as he explores his favorite topic, archeoastronomy (cultural astronomy). Luke has organized several outreach events and night sky parties for the FAFNM.

Luke is also the Vice President of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Phoenix Area Chapter. He is an active member with IDA having attended the IDA 2019 annual meeting and conference. His goal is to preserve the natural night sky heritage and teach others about the effects of light pollution.

Presentation Topic: Luke shared his experience on learning the night sky, mission of the International Dark-Sky Association, awareness about light pollution, basics of astrophotography and the astronomical resources available to the public within Arizona. A recording of this presentation can be accessed on the WVAC website at: <https://wvac.net/meetings/previous/>

3 - There was a brief discussion about the Library Telescope Program.

4 - Other business: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Hiatt, via email on March 2, 2021.

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