



West Valley Astronomy Club

Virtual & Physical Combination Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2022

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

Members Present: Bob Randle (President), John Cline (Vice President), Bob Colvert (Treasurer and Program Director) and Peggy Ann Tweedy (Hospitality) along with club members, visitors and 2 new club members (41). Special thanks to Natalie Hlavna and Carolyn Hoolhorst for manning the Club Attendance/Dues Table, Deb Bleikamp for conducting the 50/50 Raffle, and Beth Oudean for taking Club Minutes.

The regular meeting of WVAC was called to order at 7:00 pm by Bob Randle who introduced himself and thanking everyone in attendance.

1 – Bob Colvert introduced the Speaker; Dr. Drew Keppel-Presentation topic “LIGO Design and Destiny”. Dr. Keppel spent eight years working as part of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC), where his work developing algorithms to detect gravitational wave signals from binary black holes and neutron stars contributing to the first and subsequent detections of gravitational waves. Dr. Drew Keppel gave an overview of LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory), discussing its design and purpose as well as exploring how it has contributed and will continue to contribute to our astronomical understanding of the Universe, his presentation was fascinating and contained interesting charts/graphs, answering numerous questions from club members. This presentation will be available on the club’s website.

2 Bob Randle spoke briefly, Annual Club picnic is tentatively scheduled for 3 May, same location as last year and John Hiatt has been working with two local libraries White Tank and Peoria South in hopes of organizing monthly star parties. So far this year we have 67 paid club members, after February meeting if members have not paid their dues, they will be dropped from the Club Member Roster and will no longer receive club emails. Members were invited to take items from the front table that had been donated which included magazines, camera lens and other items.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Beth Oudean, via email on February 2, 2022.

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