



West Valley Astronomy Club

Virtual & Physical Combination Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2022

Meeting Format: In person with ZOOM to our remote attendees

5 Board Members & 13 Volunteers Present: Bob Randle (President), John Cline (Vice President), John Hiatt (Secretary and Outreach Director), Bob Colvert (Treasurer & Program Director), and Maria Bears (Contest Director), and Peggy Ann Tweedy (Hospitality Director), along with 13 Club Members, 5 visitors and 13 Zoom attendees.

Volunteer Hours: 18

1 - Opening Remarks: The regular meeting of WVAC was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. Bob Introduced himself and thanked everyone in attendance. The next Star Party updates are available on the WVAC website: <https://wvac.net/events/star-party> . Back to the OLD LOCATION for now.

2 - Speakers: Bob Colvert introduce our guest speaker for the evening: Dr. Thomas Beatty

Dr. Beatty spoke about Exoplanets, and the new James Webb Space Telescope. Dr. Beatty's research focuses on observational studies of exoplanets, from first detection through to characterization of their atmospheres and climates. He is an expert in using near-infrared telescopes on the ground and space to make super precise measurements of the light from exoplanets and their atmospheres. On the ground, Dr. Beatty primarily uses the Large Binocular Telescope, and the Hobby-Eberly Telescope, and in space he uses the Hubble and Spitzer Space Telescopes (and JWST in the future). The goal of his research is to use these measurements to better understand the cloud properties, composition, and formation histories of giant exoplanets, and to work towards the eventual characterization of the atmospheres and climates of smaller planets than might host life.

3 - Future Meetings: The April through May speakers are lined up. The May picnic will tentatively be held at the same park location as last year in Sun City West.

Future Outreach Activities: John Hiatt has been in touch with Peoria Libraries, and April and May events are shaping up. He will follow through with the White Tank Library and the Surprise Libraries.

Future Club Field Trips TBD: Very Large Array (Socorro New Mexico), Animas New Mexico (Dark Sky Site), Flagstaff, Arizona (Powell Observatory), Kit Peak National Observatory (Tucson Arizona), Meteor Lab (ASU - Tempe Arizona), Mirror Lab (UA - Tucson), East Valley Observatory.

4 - Other business: na

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Hiatt, via email on March 9, 2022

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

