



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Jan 3, 2023

Meeting: Beardsley Recreation Center - 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375 - #1 Chicory Room

Board Members & Volunteers Present: Bob Randle (President), Paul Bleikamp (Vice President), Bob Colvert (Treasurer & Program Director), John Hiatt (Secretary and Outreach Director), Janie Randle (Membership Director), Peggy Ann Tweedy (Hospitality Director), ~~Larry Matney (Star Party Coordinator), Amin Panani (Astro-photography Leader)~~, along with other volunteers, club members and visitors (**= 42 total present**).

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. In addition, new club members were recognized.

2 - Speaker: Bob Colvert introduced tonight's speaker,

Speaker Bio: Kevin Schindler is the historian and Public Information Officer at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he has worked for 27 years. He shares Lowell's long history of research and exploration through writing and public presentations. He writes articles for a variety of publications and contributes a bi-weekly astronomy column, "View from Mars Hill", for the Arizona Daily Sun newspaper. He has also written seven books. Fun fact: Schindler has both a fossil crab and asteroid named after him.

Topic/Title: Robert Burnham, Jr. and His Celestial Handbook. Robert Burnham, Jr. compiled one of the most popular astronomy books ever—the three-volume observing bible, Burnham's Celestial Handbook—while working at Lowell Observatory in the mid-20th century. Yet Burnham's life was enigmatic. In this program, Kevin Schindler will take a look at this complicated man who brought the wonders of space to people around the world. Schindler will also give an update on current happenings at Lowell Observatory.

3 - Future Meetings: The February through May speakers are lined up.

4 - Future Outreach Activities

Peoria Library Meeting with Jennifer Gordon: Jan 5, 10:00 am - 11:00 am to launch the Library Telescope Program
Marley Park Elementary 2nd grade Space Unit: Feb 16, 9:00 am - 10:00 am solar viewing and talk to classes.

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

6 - Other business:

Bob Randle distributed beautiful pins from the Night Sky Network in recognition of our volunteer's outreach efforts. Bob also took a quick straw poll to see how many members were interested in a field trip to Lowell Observatory - over 40 were interested in taking a trip!

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Hiatt, via email on January 4, 2023.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date _____

Bob Randle (WVAC President)