



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 7, 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 (**= 54 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: Dr. Steve Desch professor of astrophysics in the School of Earth and Space Exploration at ASU. His research focuses on developing models of star and planet formation, using data from meteoritics and planetary science. He especially studies the origins of chondrules and meteorites. He also works in the fields of exoplanets and astrobiology and is Principal Investigator (PI) of the NASA-funded NExSS grant to study geochemical cycles on exoplanets to aid searches for signs of life on other planets.

Topic/Title: *Oumuamua extra solar system object*” The first confirmed object from another star to visit our solar system, this interstellar interloper appears to be a rocky, cigar-shaped object with a somewhat reddish hue. The object, named ‘Oumuamua by its discoverers, is up to one-quarter mile (400 meters) long and highly-elongated—perhaps 10 times as long as it is wide. That aspect ratio is greater than that of any asteroid or comet observed in our solar system to date. While its elongated shape is quite surprising, and unlike objects seen in our solar system, it may provide new clues into how other solar systems formed.

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

4 - Future Outreach Activities

Marley Park Elementary 2nd grade Space Unit: THURSDAY Feb 16, 9:00 am - 10:00 am solar viewing and talk to classes.

====

Peoria Library Star Party with Jennifer Gordon: MONDAY, Feb 27 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Brief introductory talk at 6:30 - John Hiatt will launch the Peoria Library Telescope Program

====

Peoria Library Star Party with Jennifer Gordon: WEDNESDAY April 26, 7:00 – 8:00 PM - DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED

====

City of Surprise Harry Potter Festival April 29th at Mark Coronado Park, from 4:30-6:30 pm - TBD - CONFLICT WITH FIELD TRIP?

5 - Future Club Field Trips: Flagstaff, Arizona **LATE APRIL ?** (Lowell Observatory), 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: NONE

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Hiatt, via email on February 8, 2023.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date _____

Bob Randle (WVAC President)