



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 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 (**= 48 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. David A. Williams is a Research Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. Dr. Williams is the Director of the Ronald Greeley Center for Planetary Studies, the NASA Regional Planetary Image Facility at ASU. He is also the Director of the NASA Planetary Aeolian Laboratory at the Ames Research Center in California. David is currently performing research in volcanology and planetary geology, with a focus on planetary mapping, geochemical, and remote sensing studies. Currently David is funded and devotes most of his time in the role of Co-Investigator and Deputy Imager Lead for the NASA Psyche mission.

Topic/Title: Psyche: Journey to a Metal World. The Psyche mission is a journey to a unique metal-rich asteroid orbiting the sun between Mars and Jupiter. What makes the asteroid Psyche unique is that it appears to be the exposed nickel-iron core of an early planet, one of the building blocks of our solar system. Psyche offers a unique window into the violent history of collisions and accretion that created terrestrial planets. The mission is led by Arizona State University. NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory is responsible for mission management, operations and navigation.

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

4 - Future Outreach Activities

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

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~~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: The MAY meeting will be a picnic inside at the Beardsley Recreation Center. It will include a “bring your telescope” for help with using it. More details to come.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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

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