



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 2, 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)~~, Lois Caldwell (NSN Coordinator) along with other volunteers, club members and visitors (**= 39 total present**).

1 - Opening Remarks: The regular meeting of WVAC was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Bob Randle. Bob Introduced himself and thanked everyone in attendance. The annual potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

2 - Speaker: Bob Colvert introduced tonight's speaker, John Hiatt, WVAC Secretary and Outreach Director (in person)

Speaker Bio: John was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa. The gift of a telescope from his grandfather on his 8th birthday in 1962 kindled a lifelong interest in space travel and astronomy. From 2008 - 2019 he volunteered and served as a member of the board of directors for the Little Thompson Science Foundation in Berthoud, Colorado. He enjoyed being a speaker and telescope operator at the LTSF Observatory. John also enjoyed helping the LTSF with its website, marketing, and educational outreach to nearby schools and libraries. In 2020 he joined the West Valley Astronomy Club, and has volunteered to help organize the club's outreach programs to the public..

Topic/Title: The Library Telescope Program

Talk summary: John spoke about his experience of starting the Library Telescope Program in Surprise, AZ with the West Valley Astronomy Club. He will also talk about the history of the program, the steps taken to modify a telescope, and some of his future goals for the program.

3 - Future Meetings: The next meeting will be in September

4 - Future Outreach Activities

Peoria Library - Late September / Early October solar viewing - Main Branch and Sunrise Mountain Branch
Surprise Library - October-Dec - Main Branch and Asante Branch

5 - Future Club Field Trips:

Flagstaff, Arizona Lowell Observatory visit on **MAY 26 is a GO!**
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 meeting ended with a "bring your telescope" for help. Approximately a half dozen telescopes were collimated helpful advice was given to several of the owners of telescopes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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

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