



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Sept 5, 2023

Meeting Location: 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 (**= 44 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.

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

Speaker Bio: Tom Polakis has been an active amateur astronomer for 45 years, during which has seen Saturn circle the sun 1 1/2 times. His main interests involve visual observing of all astronomical phenomena, and imaging of the same with equipment ranging from a phone to a backyard observatory. He has a particular interest in describing the universe as an ever-changing entity. His writing and photography have regularly appeared in magazines such as "Astronomy" and "Sky & Telescope," and more recently has been an author or co-author in refereed astronomical publications.

Topic/Title: The Library Telescope Program

Talk summary: Astro Images: More Than Just Pretty Pictures - Astronomical imaging has made great strides in the past decade alone. Often, the emphasis is placed on the sharpness of stars and the trueness of colors. But is that all there is to see? In his presentation, Tom will dig deeper into his images and videos to show such features as the influence of the earth's atmosphere, effects of geometry and perspective, and distances and velocities, typically using no more than high school-level math. Pictures really are worth a thousand words.

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

4 - Future Outreach Activities

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

Surprise Library - October - January - Main Branch and Asante Branch

El Mirage Library - October

Alamo State Park - November

Traditional Academy at Bellair - January

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

6 - Other business:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Hiatt, via email on **SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date _____

Bob Randle (WVAC President)