



# West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Nov 7, 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 (**= 60 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, Dr. Nick Moskovitz

**Topic:** Earth Strikes Back: NASA's First Planetary Defense Test Experiment. Dr. Moskovitz will speak on the recent DART Mission and the role the Lowell Observatory played in the mission.

**Bio:** Dr. Moskovitz is a planetary astronomer at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff AZ. His research focuses on small bodies in the Solar System, primarily Main Belt and near-Earth asteroids. Dr. Moskovitz and his collaborators are pursuing a number of projects that include understanding the link between asteroids and meteorites, characterizing the properties of meteors, probing the geologic evolution of minor planets over solar system history, developing tools to enable mining of minor planet data, and using telescopic observations to support spacecraft missions.

**3 - Future Meetings:** The next meeting will be on December 5th. We will have a potluck dinner.

#### 4 - Future Outreach Activities

Traditional Academy at Bellaire - January 17 - Wednesday (confirmed)

Surprise Library - January 18 - Thursday (need to confirm date)

El Mirage Library - Thursday January 25th (confirmed)

**5 - Future Club Field Trip Ideas:** 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:** na

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Hiatt, via email on **Nov 7, 2023**.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Randle (WVAC President)