



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2024

Meeting: Beardsley Recreation Center - 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375 - #4 Agave Room

Board Members and Volunteers Present: Bob Randle (President), Paul Bleikamp (Vice President), Bob Colvert (Treasurer and Program Director), John Hiatt (Outreach Director), Peggy Ann Tweedy (Hospitality Director), Larry Matney (Star Party Coordinator), Bud and Betsy Johnson (Secretary), along with volunteers, club members, and visitors (**Total Present: 41**).

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. Bob said that three positions in the Club still need to be filled: Program Director, Outreach Director, and Membership Director. He asked that someone please consider taking one of these positions. He also introduced Lana Slinkard, who is signing people up for 2 trips: 1.) ASU Buseck Center for Meteorite Studies, September 26, from 9:30am to 10:30am., ASU Science & Tech Building, Tempe, \$10.00 per person; and 2.) Meteor Crater & Barringer Space Museum, tentative date October 9, at the Meteor Crater Visitor Center, \$22.00 or \$29.00 per person, depending on the size of the group.

2 – Tonight's Speaker: Bob Colvert introduced Steve Bradshaw, President of the East Valley Astronomy Club. This is his second presentation to this club. Tonight, he explained what Lagrange points are, how they operate (graphically and mathematically), and how they are used. Lagrange points are important because they are places for spacecraft to park in stable orbits, working around numerous gravitation and rotation forces to enable the satellite to orbit with less use of power and no danger of going off track. The many uses are for solar observatories, observing and monitoring deep space, and dual observation of the Sun and Earth.

3 – Other Business: Bob Randle said that the Outreach programs are listed on the SCWAC website. He spoke about the Sci Tech Festival in Surprise in November; the address will be posted. This year there will be a door prize, a small telescope, which the Club has purchased for this event. There will also be two upcoming events to observe the moon, one in Peoria, and one at the Asante Library in Surprise. There are items on the back table that the Club donated; if the members would like to have any, they can, and leave a small donation for the Club if they wish. Also, astronomy books were brought in and put on the front table for anyone to take home. Bob asked the members how they liked the new meeting room and if they had any suggestions about the arrangement of the tables.

4 - Door Prizes: Three prizes were given out tonight.

5 – 50-50 Prizes: Debbie Bleikamp had 3 prizes for those who bought tickets.

6 - Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email on **September 4, 2024**.

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