



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 1, 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), Larry Matney (Star Party Coordinator), Bud and Betsy Johnson (Secretary), along with volunteers, club members, and visitors (**Total Present: 42**).

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He commented on the trip that Lana Slinkard organized to the ASU Center for Meteorite Studies at ASU Science and Tech Building in Tempe on September 26, which was less crowded than the same trip last year, because then it included Family Visits. This time everyone got to visit the meteorite vault and a tour of the whole building, with great presentations by several people, including students involved. Maybe there will be another trip later to the auditorium there for an “observatory” experience.

Lara is signing people up for the trip to 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.

Bob spoke about John Hiatt's Outreach programs he has lined up for this year and next year; they are listed on the SCWAC website. There is a Moon and Star party coming up on October 12 at Peoria Sunrise Mountain Library, from 6pm – 8pm. On November 2 there will be an event at Alamo Lake State Park; a solar scope for the sun in the day and other scopes for the night observations.

Also, the Phoenix Symphony is presenting a special program: A Musical Tour of “The Planets” concert, by Gustaf Holst, October 4, 5, and 6, at the Phoenix Symphony; check the WVAC site for information on this. Get there early for a pre-concert discussion.

2 – Tonight's Speaker: Bob Colvert got an email from tonight's speaker this morning; he is sick, so Bob presented one of the Smithsonian Great Courses from the Internet, about Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Enceladus. Space probes have shown there is evidence for possible subsurface oceans on these two moons. The icy surfaces have hydrothermal vents (cracks on the surface), which indicates there must be heat from the electrical conductor in the core, causing “ice geysers” coming from these cracks. There will be more Space Probes (Europa Clipper mission, not yet launched) studying the organic molecules in the geyser ice, with the possibility of organic life around the hydrothermal vents.

3 – Other Business: Bob Randle said this club is most active in Outreach activities. There is a star party this Saturday, and check into the Phoenix Symphony presentation in just a few days.

4 – 50-50 Prizes: Debbie Bleikamp had 3 prizes for those who bought tickets.

6 - Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email on **October 2, 2024**.

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