



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 5, 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), John Hiatt (Program Director and Library Telescope Coordinator), Larry Matney (Outreach Director), Josh Burtrom (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. There are two field trips to sign up for (no dates finalized yet): the Mirror Lab at the University of Arizona, Tucson; and the new Discovery Center at the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff. Please sign up if you are interested in going to either or both of these. The December 3rd meeting will start at 6:00 p.m., and members are asked to bring sweet treats or appetizers that night. Speakers will talk about solar imaging, and there will also be a presentation about the Christmas Star. There will be elections for the Club at the December meeting; let us know if you are interested in filling any of the board positions. Bob said that one person might be interested in the Membership Director position. Bob also spoke of the shifts in these non-elected positions: John Hiatt is now Program Director and Library Telescope Coordinator, Larry Matney is now Outreach Director, and Josh Burtrom is the Star Party Coordinator. Before tonight's speaker, John Hiatt gave us an update on the Library Telescope Foundation. He said they started two years ago, with one telescope and one library. Now there are seven libraries that have telescopes; some want more. If all orders are filled, there will be as many as 13 telescopes in use.

2 – Tonight's Speaker: John Hiatt introduced Bob Colvert, whose presentation was Sunlike Stars. Stars have luminosity and magnitude, are classified by color or temperature, and by absolute brightness. We can only see Giants and Hot Blue Stars with the naked eye. The constellation Orion has 6 Giant and 1 Hot Blue; Lyra and Cygna have 7 Giant and 4 Hot Blue; the Big Dipper has 7 Hot Blue and 1 Giant; Polaris is a Giant; Cassiopeia has 4 Giants and 1 Hot Blue. Alpha Centauri is the only star brighter than 4th magnitude. But, over the last four years, the Kepler Search Area found 100,000 stars in our galaxy that are Sunlike Stars!

3 – Other Business: Bob spoke about the great star party at Alamo Lake State Park last weekend. He said that 2 telescopes are being donated to the club soon and he will put them on the WVAC site after checking them out. Larry Matney said there will be another Outreach Moon and Star Party this Saturday, November 9th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at the Surprise Regional Library. November 16 is the Surprise Sci Tech Festival; go to the WVAC Outreach site to check it out. Club members are welcome, and it is free to the public.

4 – 50-50 Prizes: Debbie Bleikamp had 3 prizes for those who bought tickets, 2 of which were donated back to the Club.

5 – Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6:00 pm, which will be one hour earlier than usual. It will be our holiday party, not a potluck, but members are asked to bring a sweet treat or an appetizer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson via email on November 6, 2024.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date _____

Bob Randle (WVAC President)