



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2025

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: 49)**.

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He said that next Wednesday, January 15, there will be a Solar Viewing at 12 noon, at the Goodyear library, outside. Please check out all the Star Parties that are coming up; they are listed on the WVAC internet site. Also, he will give out Outreach pins to "star" members after tonight's presentation.

2 – Tonight's Speaker: John Hiatt introduced Kevin Schindler, Information Officer and Historian of Lowell Observatory, who has spoken previously to the Club. Tonight's topic is "From Mulberry to Mars Hill and Back," about V.M. And E.C. Slipper, two brothers from Mulberry, Indiana, and their contributions to Astronomy. Mr. Schindler first talked about the new visitor center at Lowell Observatory, a 40,000 square-foot building with 3 stories and a rooftop planetarium with no roof and 175 heated seats to observe dark skies. In his main topic, he gave a history of how the Slipper brothers came to Lowell Observatory. V.M. was born in 1875, E.C. in 1883. In 1901 V.M. graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Mechanics and Astronomy. He was hired by Percival Lowell "temporarily," which subsequently became 53 years of contribution from V.M. Lowell had purchased a Spectrograph in 1900 and told V.M. to study Mars and Venus. In 1906, E.C. was hired. He was a Master Photographer, did Integration Printing; he became a Mars expert and went to the observatory in South Africa. Hubbell was another person instrumental in working on questions about the age of the Universe. The team went on to study more planets. They were the first to relate red shifts to velocity, and observed that galaxies were moving further away; it changed astronomy.

3 – Other Business: Bob Randle said that John Hiatt would like a list of all those who have a smart telescope. A list was sent out to the members tonight. Bob gave a book on how to build a telescope to Larry Matney. Then he recognized all volunteers by name who gave the most hours to the Outreach events. Larry Matney was the front runner, and several were awarded with pins. Bob said that Peggy Ann Tweedy is in the hospital, Lana Slinkard couldn't be here tonight because of surgery, and Sandy Dunn is ill with flu.

4 - Door Prizes: Several door 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, February 4, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email on **January 8, 2025**.

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