



# West Valley Astronomy Club

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 1, 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 & Library Telescope Coordinator), Larry Matney (Outreach Director), Bud and Betsy Johnson (Secretary), Josh Burtrom (Star Party Coordinator), along with volunteers, club members, and visitors (**Total Present: 35**).

**1 - Opening Remarks:** This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He won't be here for next month's meeting, so Deb and Paul Bleikamp will be in charge of the annual potluck dinner in this room, which will start at 6:00 pm. If anyone can help them with this, please contact either Deb or Paul. Bob had Western Bank goodie bags to distribute to members; the Club has switched its membership from Wells Fargo to Western Bank. He said that if any Club member opens a membership at Western Bank, WVAC gets \$100.00. Check out Larry Matney's Outreach events at the WVAC site. John Hiatt said the Asante Library has a one-year waiting list to check out a telescope; they want 3 – 5 more.

**2 – Tonight's Speaker:** John Hiatt introduced Kevin Schindler, Public Information Officer & Historian at Lowell Observatory, an author who has written about the history of Lowell and also Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon. He recently completed serving as Astronomer in Residence at the Grand Canyon. He has presented to our Club before. Kevin first spoke about the Astronomy Discovery Center in Flagstaff, which recently was recognized in Newsweek magazine, having won first place in a contest for the best science museum in the country (over the Smithsonian and the Kennedy Space Center!). Also, Time magazine recognized it as one of 100 great places in the world. Tonight his topic is the life of Edwin Hubble & his contributions to Astronomy. Hubble was born in 1889 in Missouri. He was very athletic & was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame. He also served in both World Wars. A Rhodes Scholar, he studied at Oxford, chose not to practice law, but taught high school for a year and coached basketball, then went back to the University of Chicago to study science and astronomy, and attained his PhD in Astronomy in 1917. His studies revolved around how far away nebulae are compared to how fast they are moving. In 1926, Hubble's Galaxy Classification Scheme was the first good one to categorize galaxies. The Hubble Scope's findings were the first evidence of an expanding universe. In 1929, the Redshift Distance Law (Hubble's Law or Hubble-LeMaitre Law) stated that the greater the distance between 2 galaxies, the faster they are moving. Hubble died at age 63 or 64, after a lifetime of study, discovery and great accomplishment.

**3 – Other Business:** Bob Randle said to remember the potluck next month and if possible, help Deb with it. Josh Burtrom brought back a book he enjoyed; members can check it out, plus more Astronomy magazines to read and bring back. Bob and Janie will be going to the Red Desert to enjoy the Great Plateau and Dark Nights at the end of April. Please check the website for Larry Matney's Outreach activities.

**4 – Door Prizes:** None tonight.

**5 – 50-50 Prizes:** Debbie Bleikamp had three door prizes to give out tonight.

**6 - Future Meetings:** The next meeting/potluck will be on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email on **April 2, 2025**.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Randle (WVAC President)