



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2025

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

Board Members and Volunteers Present: Paul Bleikamp (Vice President), Bob Colvert (Treasurer), John Hiatt (Program Director & Library Telescope Coordinator), Larry Matney (Outreach Director), Bud and Betsy Johnson (Secretary), along with volunteers, club members, and visitors (**Total Present: 35**).

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Treasurer Bob Colvert. Bob Randle wasn't here for this month's meeting, and Deb and Paul Bleikamp were in charge of the annual potluck dinner tonight in this room. Lana Slinkard took names of those who are going to Lowell Observatory next Thursday, May 15, 2025.

2 – Tonight's Speaker: No speaker tonight, but the screen was set up to show slides that the Astro Imaging Club set up. John Hiatt said that all the Astro shots came off the WVAC website. Larry Matney spoke of the last two Outreach events; Last Thursday at Western Peaks School in Surprise, 351 came to view through several scopes; and last Saturday, there were three telescopes for about 150 people, who came to a ranch which was turned into a park, with peacocks wandering all around. John gave a presentation of the history of telescopes at that Outreach. Please check out Larry's upcoming Outreach programs for next fall, starting in September. Larry encouraged members to sign up for the Outreach programs – bring a telescope or just come out and have fun supporting them! John thanked Larry for all his hard work. He also spoke about next fall's meetings with speakers on asteroids and history; check the website for information about these speakers. John also mentioned that the Surprise Library has purchased five more telescopes to add to the two they now have. That makes fourteen telescopes out in the field, after two years! It's exciting to see the program grow. John thanked Deb and Paul Bleikamp for organizing the potluck tonight, and Bob thanked everyone for bringing sides and desserts.

4 – Door Prizes: None tonight.

5 – 50-50 Prizes: None tonight.

6 - Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email **May 7, 2025.**

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