



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 2, 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), Bob Colvert (Treasurer), John Hiatt (Program Director & Library Telescope Coordinator), Larry Matney (Outreach Director), Josh Burtrum (Star Party Coordinator), Bud and Betsy Johnson (Secretary), along with volunteers, club members, and visitors **(Total Present: 30)**.

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He said to check out the items on the side table to see if anyone could use them. He would like to have any members who had travels of interest in the summer months to report on them in the December meeting. The Club has a new brochure and business cards for members to distribute to interested people. He and Josh Burtrum have been working on projecting the moon on a sidewalk or wall at Outreach events, so school children may "Walk on the Moon!"

2 – Tonight's Speaker: John Hiatt, the Program Director, said that March and April meetings are open for presentations; if anyone has an idea for a speaker for these two months' meetings, please call him or send him an email. He introduced tonight's speaker, Tom Polakis, a member of the East Valley Astronomy Club and an active amateur astronomer for 48 years. Tom's presentation tonight is All About Asteroids. The definition of an asteroid is "a small rocky body orbiting the Earth." Astronomers began searching for asteroids in the late 18th century. 1891 was the beginning of the first photographic discovery; by 1960, discoveries were doubled. From 1801 to 2022, up to 1.4 million asteroids were categorized, mainly because of more modern synthetic tracking techniques. Tom went over different types of orbits, orbital elements using astrometry, brightness, naming, photometry, radar imaging, occultation, and direct imaging by spacecraft. Asteroids should be cataloged for potential damage; the Earth gets hit by a 1-meter asteroid every two weeks (most go into the oceans). He finished the presentation with his own videos and images of asteroids of interest.

3 – Other Business: Bob Randle thanked everyone for coming tonight and said that one event has been canceled; if you signed up and paid for Alamo Lake on November 15, please call Park Services and ask for your money back! The Park Services signed up another group for that date, and there was no other good date. Bob commented on trying out just using chairs for the meeting room, for easier access and more room.

Larry Matney said that more schools are interested in the Club's Outreach programs. The first one is September 30, Observe the Moon; the next is October 4...he will send emails about times and places on the club site, so check them out. He could use more people with telescopes.

Bob Colvert had quarters commemorating Dr. Vera Rubin, an American astronomer who provided the first persuasive evidence of dark matter. He handed some out to interested members.

4 – Door Prizes: None tonight.

5 – 50-50 Prizes: None tonight.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email **September 2, 2025.**

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