



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 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 & 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: 45)**.

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He said that the Outreach Program has expanded up to 18 events this year. The upcoming election of officer positions is open for anyone who would like to volunteer; Paul Bleikamp is stepping down as Vice President, so if anyone would like to fill this position, please let him know. Telescopes and hardware have been donated to the Club for auction in December.

2 – Tonight's Speaker: John Hiatt, Program Director, introduced tonight's speaker, Vincent Ledvina, the "Aurora Guy." His topic is "Chasing the Aurora." Vincent is a Space Physics PhD student at University of Alaska Fairbanks. He spoke about "space weather," conditions around a star (like our Sun). Space weather all starts with the Sun. Solar wind can be strong, and interacts with the Earth. Auroras are created in the ionosphere; they can charge up and make substorms, which explode and give beautiful aurora displays. To download his presentation, go to vincent@theauroraguy.com. John will post the QR code (to access Vincent's information on the website.) He finished the presentation with his own videos and images of auroras of interest. The peaks of aurora sights are at the equinoxes: the best sightings are between February and April.

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! He had questions about what our dues money is for... The money pays for: 1) Fee for the meeting room 2) Website fees 3) Some speakers 4) Brochures for Star Parties. Bob commented on the Outreach at Asante Library; they did project the image of the moon on the library wall. John Hiatt had good news: more libraries are getting telescopes so that people can check them out! Ron, a long-time member, has a Celestron 10-inch scope, which he will put for sale on the website, asking \$4,000 or best offer. Lana spoke of upcoming events to attend; she will give the list to Bob, who will put them on the website.

4 – Door Prizes: None tonight.

5 – 50-50 Prizes: Both prizes were won and donated back to the Club.

6 - Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email **October 7, 2025.**

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