



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 4, 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: 48)**.

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He said that telescopes have been donated to the Club for auction in December.

2 – Tonight's Speaker: John Hiatt, Program Director, introduced tonight's speaker, Luke Edens, a member of WVAC and the Society for Cultural Astronomy in the American Southwest (SCAAS), the Dark Sky Ambassador for the International Astronomical Union (IAU), Vice President of the International Dark Sky Association, Phoenix Chapter, and the Assistant Regional Coordinator of AZ State Parks Site Steward Program for Archaeological Preservation. He explained what cultural astronomy is, and how ancient cultures connected with the sun and also the cosmos as observed in their architecture and rock inscriptions. There are numerous ruins here in Arizona and all through the Southwest: architectural circles, petroglyphs, astronomical representations in rock formations, some of which date back 8,000 years. In closing, he shared "A Night Sky Christmas Story" which relates how the Roman pagan celebration of Saturnalia evolved into the Christian celebration of Christmas and Jesus.

3 – Other Business: Bob Randle said to go to the Outreach page on the WVAC website for upcoming events. Also, there are three places to visit: Death Valley, February 8, 2026 – the Dark Sky Festival; the Very Large Array, April 8, 2026, near Pie Town; and two events in Tucson, May 6 – 7, 2026 – the Mirror Lab guided tour and Kitt Peak Visitor Center, now open. Please click on them on the website and, if you are interested in attending, let Lana know. Last week Bob sent out a request for members who had 3-D printers about a moon lamp project and got eight answers from those who were working on them! Rick Simonson did finish one and brought it to the meeting; it took him 26 hours to make it. The thicker, raised parts on the inside of the moon give it depth, and the light inside shows the craters and valleys outside. Bob also had two 3-D squares made by Chris Myers; they showed the craters and topography of the moon; Chris had to make the squares thicker so the contours are visible.

Check the WVAC website for the December Holiday party/meeting and what to bring for the potluck. There will be 6 scopes for auction, and 6 people will do presentations on what they did last summer, astronomy-related.

Please come to the SciTech event on November 22; it's free in the Surprise Center, and there will be about 200 booths! Larry Matney said to check on the WVAC.net site for upcoming Outreach events. Wendy Zanders spoke about tutoring for home schoolers. If anyone in the club is interested in tutoring home schoolers about astronomy, please let her know; her email address is Wendy.Zanders@gmail.com. Also, if you to sell your scope at the December meeting, let Bob know.

4 – Door Prizes: None tonight.

5 – 50-50 Prizes: None tonight.

6 - Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 6 pm, for the Holiday potluck party/meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email **November 5, 2025.**

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