



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2025

Meeting: Beardsley Recreation Center - 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375 – Room #1

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: 43)**.

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He said that the telescopes along the front wall have been donated to the Club for auction; by each one is a clipboard for members to write down their bid. On the table on the adjacent wall are items for members to choose from and leave a donation. The Holiday Potluck dishes are in the back. After enjoying the meal, there will be presentations from several members on what they did this past summer, astronomy-related.

2 – Presentations:

Chris Myers attended the Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival in June, with solar observing every day outside the hotel and workshops. There were over 400 in attendance; three high school students gave impressive talks on complicated subjects! Chris got second place for his night fire sky picture and first place for his picture of the members there with their telescopes.

The Bob Colverts visited Goblin Valley State Park in Utah, where they hiked in the HooDoos. This park has exceptional dark skies. Then on to Sidewalk Astronomy in Arches National Park, where they both participated. Bob also spoke of his visit to the Vera C. Rubin Observatory in September, where he got freshly minted Vera Rubin quarters, which he gave to members in a later WVAC meeting. He said if anyone missed that meeting and the quarter, come see him.

Bob Randle and Janie spent the summer traveling to Wisconsin, where it rained almost every day. They did visit Yerkes Observatory in Lake Geneva; beautiful architecture, and a 40-inch telescope weighing 20,000 pounds, with a floor that goes up and down to get you to the eyepiece. He said Yerkes was where they made glass plate pictures of the night sky with 3-dimensional viewing. Then on to Ohio and Neil Armstrong's home and museum.

Bob Randle also presented Chuck Roderique's visit to Monument Valley and camping trips to Hunt's Mesa and Mund's Park, photographing the full moon, with bats flying in the front! Then home for a backyard vacation and astropix.

John Hiatt went to Berthoud, Colorado, where he volunteered at the Little Thompson Observatory with its 24-inch Apollo telescope (used to see if the lunar surface was solid enough to land on). He took photos of the construction of the new observatory near the fire station outside the town.

Josh Burtrum showed pictures he took from his house on November 11 of the aurora display, which was triggered by two or three solar flares.

3 – Other Business: Bob Randle said there are three moons made by members with 3-D printers; one of which turned into a beautiful “cheese” bowl made by Chris M. The auction started for the telescopes after the presentations.

4 – Door Prizes: None tonight.

5 – 50-50 Prizes: There were two drawings for \$19.00.

6 - Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3, 2026, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email **December 2, 2025.**

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