



West Valley Astronomy Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2026

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

Board Members and Volunteers Present: Bob Randle (President), Paul Bleikamp (Vice President), Bob Colvert (Treasurer), Josh Burtrom (Star Party Coordinator), Bud and Betsy Johnson (Secretary), & members & visitors.

1 - Opening Remarks: This meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Bob Randle. He showed some telescope parts a lady in his neighborhood had given him, and asked if anyone knew what they were. Bob's wife Janie had double knee surgery last Wednesday, in the hospital for 3 days, and is recuperating at home. Bob recognised "Mr. Stan," with a plaque and gift card for all his excellent work participating in the Outreach program. Bob said that the Club lost a member, Michael Weinberg, on April 20th; he was also a great contributor to Outreach events.

There are several positions available to anyone who may be interested in taking them: 1. Library Telescope Lending Program – John Hiatt started this program. 2. WVAC Program Director (finding speakers for Club meetings); John is currently the Director. 3. Membership Chairman. 4. Hospitality Chairman. Please tell Bob if you could take any of these positions.

Tonight is a potluck dinner; after everyone gets a plate from the buffet, three speakers will tell the Club about their projects.

2 - Tonight's Speakers: 1. Bob Randle presented 3 telescope mount building projects he and Josh Burtrom built together with plywood (one of which has a base built with a 78 rpm record placed between two plywood pieces!) 2. Bob Colvert told the Club about his 5-day trip with his wife to view the Aurora Borealis in White Horse, Yukon Territory, in February. Below zero weather, but beautiful views of the Aurora for 4 nights. They also had day trips, touring White Horse, dogsledding, and visiting Hot Springs. He showed pictures of the Aurora on different nights, and pictures of water freezing when thrown into the cold air! 3. Hal Szklinski gave tips on Star Trails and how to make photos using time exposure and camera settings. He showed some spectacular photos of Star Trails he took on trips to Rocky Mountain National Park, Tonopah, and Gila Bend, and told us when the Milky Way is visible, and when is the best time to view it. 4. Chuck Willford showed us 20 photos he took from his back yard, including the Andromeda galaxy.

3 – Door Prizes: Bob gave 4 door prizes: a magnet, a deck of cards, a puzzle, and a Hole in One restaurant gift card. **50-50 Prizes:** There were 3 prizes: \$20.00, \$10.00, and \$6.00.

4 – Other Business: Bob said to check the Website for Outreach programs this summer. He also said that WVAC has taken over the Lake Alamo Star Party, which will be on November 7th. You can dry camp, tent camp, or stay in a cabin; it's best to spend the night there.

5 – Future Meetings: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Minutes submitted by Bud and Betsy Johnson, via email, **May 6, 2026.**

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