



General Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2024

Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by President Art Arnold-Roksandich at 6:00 p.m.
- 46 in-person attendees at the Prescott Library

Announcements:

- Signup sheets: Art reminded everyone to sign in at the entrance table and pointed out that there are several different signup sheets:
 - Guests
 - Those wishing to volunteer with the club.
 - Nonmembers expressing an interest in the club.
 - Beginner Sessions (ABSIG).
- Reminder: PAC membership renewals are due. Art encouraged folks to renew as soon as possible.

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 7th PAC General Meeting: “Dark Skies Over Arizona,” Kevin Schindler of the Lowell Observatory.
- March 6th PAC General Meeting: TBA

Upcoming Star Parties and Events:

- Starry Nights star parties: Stay tuned. More information will be available at the next general club meeting.

ABSIG (Astronomy Basics Special Interest Group):

- The next ABSIG will be held on Thursday, January 18th. Bring your Planisphere if you have one.
- The location is 2675 W. Rainmaker off Williamson Valley Road – (Art's house).
- These meetings are designed for beginners and for those wanting to know more.

Featured Speaker:

Our speaker this month was Dr. Pragati Pradhan presenting “Animals and Astronomy.” Dr. Pradhan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She completed her post-doctoral research at MIT and Penn State University. Her research focuses on the high energy emissions from cosmic objects such as neutron stars.

Dr. Pradhan discussed case studies of how some animals use astronomy in their everyday life and how human technology, such as spacecraft design and navigation, borrow structural features from animals.

Dr. Pradhan gave numerous examples of animals using astronomical information in navigation – including birds, jumping spiders, harbor seals and dung beetles. She also discussed how we can use information from animal strategies in designing future technology such as robotic vision and complex image processing.

Humans can also help animals by employing new technologies such as using astronomical software to locate and track endangered animals. At the conclusion of her talk, Dr. Pradhan fielded a number of questions regarding her primary research on pulsars.

Club Business:

- **Reading of the Minutes:** Reading of the minutes of the November PAC General Meeting was waived. Moved, seconded, approved.
- **Treasurer's Report for December 2023:**
 - Cash flow:
 - Income \$910.52
 - Expenses: \$2,936.04
 - Net: (\$2,025.52)
 - Account balances:
 - Paypal: \$33.81
 - Checking: \$4,049.05
 - Savings: \$4,063.71
 - Cash: \$223.00
 - TOTAL: \$8,369.57
- **Membership Report:** As of December 31st, PAC memberships totaled 92.
- **Next PAC Board Meeting:** The next PAC Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Prescott Valley Public Library, PC Lab on second floor. If you would like to attend, please send a request to p@prescottastronomyclub.org.

Closing:

- The next PAC general meeting will be Wednesday February 7, at 6:00 pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary