



The WV STEM Club is a social organization which meets monthly for lunch with a speaker on a topic of interest. Short field trips are occasionally scheduled. Membership is open to anyone who has worked in or has an interest in Engineering, Science or Technology. Meetings are held at 11:30am on the first Friday of each month (unless otherwise noted), October through June, at Grandview Terrace, in the fourth-floor ballroom, at 14515 W. Granite Valley Drive, Sun City West, AZ. **Guests and visitors are always welcome.** Contact Phil Main: maintwin3@gmail.com, 623-826-0101 (cell).

### NOVEMBER 5 PROGRAM

## Fiber Optic Communications: From Cable Construction to Network Troubleshooting

John Templin



With 20 years of telecommunications experience, the speaker has worked in network facilities planning, technical instruction, and test laboratory management. Five years were spent teaching digital switching, synchronization, multiplexing, and switch provisioning and maintenance as a Bellcore instructor. An additional 13 years were devoted to managing laborato-

ries at SBC and Tellabs, validating hardware and software for inter-office equipment, digital switches, and DWDM fiber-optic systems. The speaker attended Illinois Benedictine College and brings a practical, industry-based perspective to the evolution of optical communications.

This talk provides a practical overview of fiber optic communications, from the fundamentals of fiber optic cable manufacturing to the design, operation, and maintenance of fiber networks. Topics include network topologies and the equipment used to connect and manage fiber links; signal delay, dispersion, and their effects on performance; multiplexing techniques and time synchronization; and methods for detecting, diagnosing, and locating network faults. The presentation will also explore techniques for repairing damaged fiber, including fiber splicing methods and best practices. Attendees will gain a broad understanding of the technologies, challenges, and practical skills involved in building, maintaining, and troubleshooting reliable fiber optic communication systems.

### SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The West Valley STEM Club is continuing our Annual Scholarship Fund Donation Event at our meetings. Please consider contributing!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Graunke

Ah! The cooler fall weather has returned, bring us some much needed precipitation and many of our snowbird friends!

This month we continue to explore affordable alternatives to our meals in order to hold our costs in line in the face of dramatically increasing food prices. We plan to try a selection from the themed buffet for the December meeting. For those of us that still enjoy good mobility, we ask that you offer to bring meals to less mobile members at your table. I am confident that working together, we will make this transition smoother as we adjust to these changes.

In November, we have two field trips going. The first on November 6 is to the ASU Space and Earth Science Open House beginning at 6 PM. We are carpooling, so contact myself or Jim Schlenvogt if you wish to ride along.

The second is much closer—we will have a booth at the Surprise SciTech festival from 10 to 2 again this year. There are many interesting exhibits to explore, and it gives us a chance to introduce younger folks to the benefits provided by scientific and technical disciplines. They will be the ones to help us adapt to this changing world.

Finally, I would like to thank John Templin for stepping in on very short notice to give us an insight into the changes that have propelled us from shared party line telephones to abundant, affordable planet-wide digital telecommunication provided by fiber optics.

### 2027 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for 2027 are \$25.00 of which half goes to the Scholarship Fund. Dues are due before January 2027. **Please consider making an additional donation to the Scholarship Fund** (put scholarship in the memo line). Please mail your check(s), made out to West Valley STEM to:

Philip Main  
17604 N Buntline Drive  
Sun City West, AZ 85375-5148  
maintwin3@gmail.com ,  
623-748-8222 (Home)  
623-826-0101 (Cell)

# WEST VALLEY STEM November 2026

## 2026 OFFICERS

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| President      | Gary Graunke   |
| Vice President | Bob Parizek    |
| Secretary      | Marilyn Dumond |
| Treasurer      | Carol Mungus   |
| Asst. Treas.   | Dave Campbell  |

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

|                      |                                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Programs             | Jim Schlenvogt/ Peter Rauen/<br>Rick Cecil |
| Membership           | Steve Sumner                               |
| Reservations         | Philip Main/<br>Maggie Williamson          |
| Luncheons            | Jim Schlenvogt                             |
| Scholarship          | Jim Schlenvogt                             |
| Member at Large      | Betty Goldberg                             |
| Newsletter           | Dave and Karen Campbell                    |
| Website              | Gary Graunke                               |
| Event Audio/Computer | Paul Scherer                               |
| Publicity            | Lance Berglund                             |
| Field Trips          | Bob Parizek                                |
| Past President       | Jim Schlenvogt                             |

Email the Board at: [js3820@msn.com](mailto:js3820@msn.com)

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

**November 5, 1st Thursday**

**December 4, 1st Friday**

## FIELD TRIPS

### ASU Space and Science Open House

**November 6, 6-9PM**

If you are interested in attending, contact Gary Graunke: [gary@whitecape.org](mailto:gary@whitecape.org)

### Ottawa University

### Surprise SciTech Festival

**November 21, 10AM-2PM**

We need volunteers to staff our exhibit. Please sign up! For more information contact Gary Graunke: [gary@whitecape.org](mailto:gary@whitecape.org)

## TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2026

|                                                 |          |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Gross General Fund Balance                      | \$12,506 |
| Net Fund Balance (after payment of obligations) | \$8,305  |
| Membership                                      | 95       |

The 50/50 was won by Bob Ferrell who donated back to the scholarship fund. Thank you for your support!

## DECEMBER 4 PROGRAM

**Jeffrey Kordower**

**Center Director and Professor, ASU-Banner Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center**

Jeffrey Kordower is the founding director of the ASU-Banner Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center and endowed chair as The Charlene and J. Orin Edson Distinguished Director at the Biodesign Institute at ASU, Ph.D. The City University of New York. He has been a pioneer in the field of neural transplantation techniques and his pathbreaking investigations into the underpinnings of neurodegenerative disease have made him a leader in the field. Kordower's interests include the study of gene and stem cell therapies, disease pathogenesis including the morphological and molecular changes during the course of neurodegeneration, learning and memory, and aging. He has also been a pioneer in the field of neural transplantation techniques. He comes to ASU from the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, where he was faculty member for more than 30 years.

## OCTOBER 9 PROGRAM

### Future Exploration: Artemis, Lunar Bases, and On To Mars

**David A. Williams, Ph.D.**

**Research Professor**

**School of Earth and Space Exploration**

**Arizona State University**

