## 2015 officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Amanda Bell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pres@ncastro.org">pres@ncastro.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Robert Arn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vp@ncastro.org">vp@ncastro.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Dave Karp</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sec@ncastro.org">sec@ncastro.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Greg Halac</td>
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To contact officers, use @ncastro.org

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page 3: we’re on FaceBook & Twitter!
page 4: meeting details
page 5-6: science news
page 7: next month calendar
page 8: NCAS info
page 9: northern colorado resources

What you’ll find in this newsletter.
Join us on FaceBook and Twitter.

We need your help to improve our online presence! You are NCAS. ‘Follow’ us on Twitter, ‘Like’ us on FaceBook and share our pages with your family & friends (or even strangers!) How? We’ve made it easy for you: just use the links provided on the logos below.

We’re on FaceBook!

Discuss topics with fellow members, post photos, ask questions and so much more. Join us!

* 

We’re on Twitter!

You’ll get up-to-the-minute local event updates as well as tweets about your vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big universe.

*
April meeting details.

**topic**

`What’s Hot on the Moon Tonight`

**speaker**

Andrew Planck, Longmont Astronomical Society

**time & date**

Thursday, April 2nd at 6:15pm

**location**

Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
408 Mason Court, Fort Collins 80524
A Grand Extravaganza of New Stars: This beautiful new image is the most detailed view of this part of the sky so far and was taken using the VLT Survey Telescope of ESO’s Paranal Observatory in Chile. This region lies about 4000 LY from Earth and is a treasure trove of star clusters, emission nebulae, active star-forming regions and so much more. *

If a Large Asteroid Hit Earth: Shockwaves, debris blasted into orbit, firestorms and a now-uninhabitable Earth. Enjoy. *

NASA Spacecraft Becomes First to Orbit a Dwarf Planet: Dawn has become the first mission to achieve orbit around a dwarf planet. After a journey of 3.1 billion miles and at a distance of 38,000 miles the Dawn spacecraft was captured by the dwarf planet’s gravity. Here are 6 reasons why this mission is a big deal. *

Super Black Hole Confounds Laws of Physics: A black hole 12 billion times as big as the sun has been found in a glowing quasar that existed when the universe was in its infancy. *

Supernova Split Into Four Images by Cosmic Lens: The image shows the light of a supernova split into four images by a foreground elliptical galaxy embedded in a giant cluster of galaxies. This unique observation will help astronomers refine their estimates of the amount and distribution of dark matter in the lensing galaxy and cluster. *
Thermonuclear Supernova Ejects Galaxy’s Fastest Star: Scientists have discovered a star that breaks the galactic speed record, traveling with a velocity of about 1,200 kps or 2.7 million mph.

Light’s First REAL photograph: Here’s how scientists at EPFL captured the first-ever snapshot of light’s dual (particle and wave) behavior.

Elusive ‘Dark Photons’ Still Lurking in the Shadows: A giant atom smasher has found no trace of the subatomic particle - the heavier, dark twin of an ordinary particle of light - which means physicists must come up with a new explanation for contradictory experimental results.

Jupiter’s Moon Ganymede Has a Salty Ocean with More Water Than Earth: “The solar system is now looking like a pretty soggy place,” Jim Green of NASA said.

Sun Unleashes First Monster (and Beautiful) Solar Flare of 2015: The intense eruption was aimed directly at Earth, causing an hour-long blackout in high-frequency radio communications over wide areas.

Weird Rocks spotted on Mars by Opportunity Rover: “We checked one and found its composition is different from any ever measured before on Mars. So, whoa! Let’s study these more before moving on,” scientist Matt Golombek said.
# April 2015

A look at what’s happening in the world of astronomy.

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<td>NASA Rover Challenge 16-18th</td>
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<td>Lyrids Meteor Shower</td>
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<td>Hubble Anniversary Hangout</td>
<td>Hubble Anniversary Symposium (Baltimore, MD)</td>
<td>Globe at Night</td>
<td>Lyrids Meteor Shower</td>
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<td>25 Years of Hubble</td>
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**Do you know an event that should be added to an upcoming calendar?**

Help keep everyone informed: send it to ObjView at ncastro.org
You are the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society (NCAS).

Established in 1995 as a non-profit organization we are here to promote interest in the science and hobby of astronomy. We meet the first Thursday of each month to discuss our interests and experience in the universal world of astronomy.

Monthly talks are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

**Come to dinner!**

Join your fellow NCAS members after the meeting for dinner & drinks with this month’s speaker. RSVP to an officer if you’d like to join us. Dutch treat.

**Borrow equipment here:**
Club items may be borrowed at no cost by NCAS members! Find out more here.

**Astronomy Gear how-to Guides:**
Learn about telescopes and astrophotography.

**Member Photo Albums:**
You'll want to see all of the amazing photos taken by our members.

**NCAS Email:**
Anyone can join the email lists but subscription requests are monitored. Only approved subscribers are allowed to post.

**Club Meeting Overview:**
Recommend a future speaker or find out how to join speakers for dinner before the NCAS meeting.

**NCAS Admin Info:**
Find group bylaws and constitution.

**NCAS Public Outreach:**
Help NCAS fulfill its primary mission: to educate and engage the public with year-round public events!
local Museums, Astronomy Clubs, Observatories and Planetariums.

Boulder Astronomy & Space Society (BASS): meetings are hosted by the UC campus at the Fiske Planetarium. Open to students and the public.

Denver Astronomical Society (DAS): promoting understanding of astronomical phenomenon at the U of Denver’s historic Chamberlin Observatory.

Estes Park Memorial Observatory (EPMO): has many goals, including encouraging enthusiasm for physics and math in kids of K-12th grade.

Fort Collins Museum of Discovery (FOCO MOD): The MoD isn’t just where we hold our meetings. Check out their calendar for current events or to find out more.

FRCC Stargazer Observatory (FRCC): thanks to a unique partnership with Village Homes, FRCC operates an astronomy lab at Observatory Village in SE Fort Collins.

FRCC Sunlight Peak Observatory (FRCC): operated on the FRCC Larimer campus directly behind the Harmony Library. Open houses held 1st Friday of each month.

Little Thompson Observatory (LTO): no-charge public access to the universe available during regularly-scheduled public star nights or schedule your own private observatory event (for free!)

Longmont Astronomical Society (LAS): promotes amateur astronomy through monthly meetings, star parties and public observing sessions. Meetings are open to the public.

Sommers-Bausch Observatory (SBO): Operated by the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences (APS) at CU Boulder. See the spring semester Friday night viewing schedule.

***
Want to see your astrophotos in the newsletter? Send them to: objview at ncastro.org

Russian Soyuz landing
Bill Ingalls, space.com
March 12, 2015