



President
Greg Marino
president@nocoastro.org

Vice President
Greg Halac
vp@nocoastro.org

Treasurer
Charlie Davis
treasurer@nocoastro.org

Secretary
Kathy Lowry
secretary@nocoastro.org

Northern Colorado Astronomical Society – Meeting Minutes 5/7/2026

Agenda:

1. Reports:

Treasurer –Charlie Davis
New Members –Greg Marino
Outreach –Greg Halac

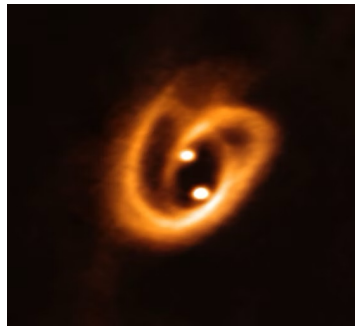
2. Club Merchandise Store – Greg Halac

3. Member photo gallery – Rob Sireno

4. Proposed Bylaw Changes – Vote - Greg Marino

5. Announcements

6. Tonight's Speaker: Dr. Max Moe The Cosmic Tango of Binary Stars



Attendance:

In person = 46 Online = 14 Total = 60

Membership:

As of May 4: we have 151 members
151 members have paid dues for 2026

Unpaid members were removed from the Roster at the end of April.

1 – Reports

Treasurer’s Report – Charlie Davis

STATUS of ACCOUNTS								
G/L Code	Account Title		Each	No.	Actual		Current On	Last Month
	No. of 2026 Active Members				151		4-May-2026	112
	Checking Account				\$1,512.43		4-May-2026	\$1,506.66
	PayPal Account				\$2,035.46		4-May-2026	\$1,010.90
	CD				\$2,130.79		23-Apr-2026	\$2,130.79
	T-Shirt Inventory		\$20.00	4	\$80.00		2-Mar-2026	\$80.00
Total					\$5,758.68			\$4,728.35

NCAS 2026 INCOME									
G/L Code	Account Title	Each		Actual	Budget*	Remaining \$	Remaining %	Since Last Month	
18000	Memberships Paid in CY 2026	\$30.00	118	\$3,600.00	167	\$4,779.00	\$1,179.00	25%	\$1,260.00
19000	Donations			\$72.54		\$250.00	\$177.46	71%	
20000	T-Shirt Sales	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	5	\$100.00	\$80.00	80%	
21000	Equipment Sales			\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total				\$3,692.54		\$5,129.00	\$1,436.46	28%	\$1,260.00

* membership dues shown are after estimated PayPal fees are subtracted

2026 ACTUAL vs. BUDGET YTD EXPENSES									
G/L Code	Account Title	Due	Each	No.	Actual	Budget	Remaining \$	Remaining %	Since Last Month
1000	FoCO MOD Donation	FEB	\$800.00	1	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	0%	0.00
2000	Insurance	JAN	\$315.00	1	\$403.75	\$315.00	(\$88.75)	-28%	0.00
3000	Member Meetings		\$40.00	12	\$325.24	\$480.00	\$154.76	32%	(141.83)
4000	Dark Sky Membership	JAN	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	0%	0.00
5000	State of CO Filing Fee	JUN	\$25.00	1	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	100%	0.00
6000	AL League Dues \$10+	JUN/OCT	\$6.00	167	\$0.00	\$1,012.00	\$1,012.00	100%	0.00
7000	PayPal Fees		\$1.54	150	\$174.95	\$231.00	\$56.05	24%	(53.90)
8000	Outreach Supplies		\$55.00	12	\$368.41	\$660.00	\$291.59	44%	(32.40)
9000	Printing				\$156.00	\$800.00	\$644.00	81%	0.00
10000	Special Events		\$125.00	2	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	100%	0.00
11000	Scope Loan Program				\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	100%	0.00
Total					\$2,328.35	\$4,873.00	\$2,544.65	52%	(228.13)

New Members report – Greg Marino

A Hearty Welcome for our club’s New Members!

- 👉 Chris Radke
- 👉 Robert Smith
- 👉 Conner Reed

Outreach Report – Greg Halac

COMPLETED EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Duration	Guests	Volunteers	Notes
4/3/26	20:00	FRCC Observatory	1	10	2	
4/11/26	20:00	CSP Jackson Lake	4	44	4	Cloudy early
4/17/26	20:00	LCP Eagle's Nest	2.5	11	4	Darkness similar to RMNP
4/18/26	20:00	Lvld Sylvan Dale	2	49	11	Thin clouds on&off
4/21/26	10:30	Irish ES	1	66	5	Solar for 5th graders
4/24/26	19:30	Fossil Crk Pk	1	3	6	Bitter-cold wind kicked up
5/1/26	20:00	FRCC Observatory	2	35	2	
5/2/26	10:00	FCMoD	2	136	7	No clouds, excellent seeing

CANCELED EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Cause
4/10/26	13:00	Irish ES	Clouds
4/10/26	19:30	FCNA Bobcat Ridge	Clouds
4/17/26	13:00	Irish ES	Snow
4/22/26	20:00	Poudre Learning Ctr	Wind
4/26/26	11:00	FCMoD	Clouds
4/28/26	20:00	Poudre Learning Ctr	Clouds

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Event	Duration
5/8/26	20:30	Lvld Sylvan Dale		1.5
5/9/26	20:30	CSP Jackson Lake		2
5/11/26	20:30	Carter Lake Sky View	Ridgeview ES	1.5
5/15/26	20:00	FCNA Bobcat Ridge		2
5/16/26	21:00	LCP Red Mtn		2.5
5/29/26	20:00	Fossil Crk Pk	Help Nite	2
5/30/26	11:00	FC Old Town Lib	Solar	2

2 – Club Merchandise Store – Greg Halac

Greg discussed the advantages provided to the club members by our NoCoAstro store opening on Cafe Press.

He demonstrated the types of items available for purchase online and also showed some physical examples of several of the choices. If members have specific ideas for items they would like to see available, Greg H. will take such requests.

The store can be accessed at <https://www.cafepress.com/shop/NoCoAstro>

3 – Member Photo Gallery – Rob Sireno

Members are now invited to share their astronomy related photos with other members of the club! Just post them on either your established Flickr account (or open one) and then send Rob a link to your photos and he will put them in our new member gallery linked on the NoCoAstro website.

Rob described the methods for uploading any photos that you would like to share. The FULL instructions and some tips are posted on our website: go to the link: <https://www.nocoastro.org/photo-gallery> or you can just go to NoCoAstro.org and click on the three lines at the top right side of the banner, then choose “Member Gallery” from the menu. Follow the instructions there and begin showing off your photos!

4 – Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Update – Vote – Greg Marino

- The changes to be voted on were discussed by the membership at the April general meeting and the vote was decided to be held at the May meeting (tonight).
- Members were reminded of the procedures involved:
- A quorum is required for such a vote and is defined in the bylaws as: 20% of the current membership of the club. Since we now have 151 members, the number required to be present for the vote is 31 members.
- If a quorum is present, the vote will only require a simple majority to be approved. If a quorum is not present, the vote will require a 2/3 majority of the members to be approved.
- The voting members present were counted and there were 34 members present in-person and online. A quorum was declared.
- Online voting is done by raising your “hand” in Zoom and the votes are counted by Scott McKinney and added to the tally recorded by the secretary Kathy Lowry.
- The proposed changes were read aloud by the President Greg Marino, and the votes were to accept the changes with 28 in person + 6 online and no votes against.

5 – Announcements

Kathy Lowry –

- Members are requested to consider posting a photo of themselves on their personal profile on our chapter’s Night Sky Network website. Members could add their club jobs and interests along with their photo to complete their profile on the site.
- These additions would help us all get to know and recognize one another better.

- To view and update your profile on NoCoAstro's chapter page on NSN: Go to <https://www.nocoastro.org/> and scroll down to the description of the membership benefits on the home page, where it says "Membership in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's [Night Sky Network](#)." click on that link and go to your profile to edit it.

Beth Edens –

- announced a city-wide initiative to encourage us to get to know our neighbors better and do some astronomy together. Fort Collins encourages citizens to do outreach in local neighborhoods with telescopes and binoculars, information, snacks, viewing tips, etc. The dates are **July 17–19** "FoCo Under the Stars"... Gather outside with neighbors for summer evening hangouts, stargazing, and roasting marshmallows. From: <https://apps.fcgov.com/email/view-archive.php?email=3536&type=mailgun>
- The City of Fort Collins helps neighborhoods by giving money through mini-grants for support of community activities, like block parties (like FoCo Under the Stars). Applications open **April 15, 2026**, and grant awards typically range from **\$150 to \$1,000**. <https://www.fortcollins.gov/Services/Assistance-Programs-and-Grants/Residential-Assistance-Programs/Neighborhood-Mini-Grants>

[6 – Guest Speaker Presentation](#)

The Cosmic Tango of Binary Stars with Dr. Max Moe

- ✦ Max Moe grew up as an amateur astronomer in Fort Collins and is a previous Vice-President of the NCAS.
- ✦ He completed his undergraduate studies in 2009 at CU Boulder.
- ✦ With a dissertation titled "How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love Eclipsing Binaries", he earned his Ph.D. in 2015 from Harvard.
- ✦ Max was an Einstein Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Arizona before returning to the Rocky Mountains in 2022.
- ✦ Dr. Moe is currently an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming.

Fascinating Tidbits that I (secretary) learned from his presentation and cannot resist sharing:

- ✦ The only "Kilonova" observed - NGC 4993 from a merger of 2 neutron stars – produced gamma rays and the most Gold ever produced in a star explosion or collision.
- ✦ There is an observed population of 16-17 "Tatooine-ish planets" but not likely rocky. They are Gas Giants and they formed in binary star systems...so a "double sunset" to stand and admire through the layers of gas?