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Northern Colorado Astronomical Society – Meeting Minutes 4/2/2026

Agenda:

1. Reports:

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

2. Proposed Bylaw Changes – Greg Marino

3. Announcements

4. Tonight's Speaker:

Dr. Jeff Bennett – The Scale of the Universe.

Attendance:

In person = 60 Online = 17 Total = 77

Membership:

As of March 31:

112 members have paid dues for 2026 (similar to this time last year)

Unpaid members will be removed from the Roster by the end of April

1 – Reports

Treasurer’s Report – Charlie Davis

STATUS of ACCOUNTS								
G/L Code	Account Title		Each	No.	Actual		Current	Last Month
	No. of 2026 Active Members				112		21-Mar-2026	99
	Checking Account				\$1,506.66		30-Mar-2026	\$1,125.68
	PayPal Account				\$1,010.90		30-Mar-2026	\$2,140.28
	CD				\$2,130.79		23-Jan-2026	\$2,122.99
	T-Shirt Inventory		\$20.00	4	\$80.00		2-Mar-2026	\$80.00
Total					\$4,728.35			\$5,468.95

NCAS 2026 INCOME									
G/L Code	Account Title	Each		Actual	Budget*	Remaining \$	Remaining %	Since Last Month	
18000	Memberships Paid in CY 2026	\$30.00	78	\$2,340.00	167	\$4,779.00	\$2,439.00	51%	\$420.00
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				\$2,432.54		\$5,129.00	\$2,696.46	53%	\$420.00

* 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%	(\$800.00)
2000	Insurance	JAN	\$315.00	1	\$403.75	\$315.00	(\$88.75)	-28%	(\$88.75)
3000	Member Meetings		\$40.00	12	\$183.41	\$480.00	\$296.59	62%	(\$74.27)
4000	Dark Sky Membership	JAN	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	0%	
5000	State of CO Filing Fee	JUN	\$25.00	1	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	100%	
6000	AL League Dues \$10+	JUN/OCT	\$6.00	167	\$0.00	\$1,012.00	\$1,012.00	100%	
7000	PayPal Fees		\$1.54	150	\$121.05	\$231.00	\$109.95	48%	(\$19.38)
8000	Outreach Supplies		\$55.00	12	\$336.01	\$660.00	\$323.99	49%	
9000	Printing				\$156.00	\$800.00	\$644.00	81%	(\$156.00)
10000	Special Events		\$125.00	2	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	100%	
11000	Scope Loan Program				\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	100%	
Total					\$2,100.22	\$4,873.00	\$2,772.78	57%	(\$1,138.40)

New Members report – Greg Marino

Welcome to the club!

Stephen Schaps
Molly Dunn

Peter McClure
Grace McClure

Outreach Report – Greg Halac

COMPLETED EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Duration	Guests	Volunteers	Notes
3/11/26	20:00	FCNA Primrose	1.5	29	6	Meetup group
3/20/26	19:30	FCMoD	1.5	18	6	75F on the roof
3/21/26	19:30	FCNA Fossil Creek Res	2.5	36	9	"Dodge-able" clouds
3/24/26	20:00	Poudre Learning Ctr	1.5	39	6	50% clouds
3/27/26	19:30	Fossil Crk Pk	1.5	3	4	Scope Help - Monthly
3/28/26	11:00	Lvld Library	3	183	4	Clouds 10min before end

CANCELED EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Cause
3/6/26	19:00	FRCC Observatory	Clouds
3/13/26	20:00	LCP Horsetooth Mtn	Clouds

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Event	Duration
4/2/26	12:45	Big Thompson ES	Solar	2.5
4/3/26	20:00	FRCC Observatory		2
4/10/26	19:30	FCNA Bobcat Ridge		2
4/11/26	20:00	CSP Jackson Lake		2
4/17/26	20:00	LCP Eagle's Nest		2
4/18/26	20:00	Lvld Sylvan Dale		1.5
4/22/26	20:00	Poudre Learning Ctr		1.5
4/24/26	19:30	Fossil Crk Pk	Help Night	2
4/26/26	11:00	FCMoD	Solar	2
5/1/26	20:00	FRCC Observatory		2

Outreach Milestones in the last month (every 50 lifetime NCAS events):

- John Lines = 152
- Rob Sireno = 251

"Scope Help" nights are now scheduled for the Friday immediately before a full Moon. Currently structured as:

- These are for club members and are NOT skygazing events.
- First one was held on 3/27/26 - they are on our calendar thru October.
- Events held in the **WEST** parking lot of Fossil Creek **PARK** - *NOT Reservoir* - starting around sunset.
- People seeking scope help need to send email to the outreach coordinator; we will cancel if nobody signs up in advance.
- In case of inclement weather, we will try to schedule a make-up on Saturday.

2 – Proposed Bylaw Changes – Greg Marino

President Greg Marino presented proposed changes to the NCAS constitution and bylaws that have been proposed over time and by officers and members of the club.

Members present discussed their suggestions and concerns.

The proposed changes will be sent to members by email before the May membership meeting and any further concerns or questions will be discussed before the vote is called.

3 – Announcements

Progress of current NASA mission “Artemis II” was discussed.

Greg Halac reported on the changes coming to our club t-shirt ordering processes.

A thank you letter from the FCMoD staff was read to those present. They appreciated our ongoing financial support and our volunteer participation in their programs.

Dr. Bennett will be in the hall outside the theater after the meeting to discuss the books he has written and to autograph them for purchasers.

4 - Tonight’s Guest Speaker:

The Scale of the Universe Dr. Jeffrey Bennett

Astrophysicist and author Jeff Bennett has devoted his career to science education and outreach. He is the lead author of college textbooks in four subjects — astronomy, astrobiology, mathematics, and statistics — and is also the author of numerous books for children, educators, and the public.

He served two years as a visiting senior scientist at NASA headquarters, proposed and co-led development of the Voyage Scale Model Solar System on the National Mall (Washington, D.C.), created the free Totality app for solar eclipses, and created a free online textbook for middle school Earth and Space Science.

Dr. Bennett’s latest book is *The Scale of the Universe*, which is also the topic of tonight’s talk.