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Northern Colorado Astronomical Society – Meeting Minutes 7/2/2026

Meeting was held in the Otterbox Dome at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery and presided over by President Greg Marino. Refreshments and the July “Tonight’s Sky” video presentation preceded the formal meeting.

Agenda:

1. Reports:

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

2. Announcements

3. Tonight’s Speaker: Dr. Emily Griffith - “Mapping the Milky Way Across the Periodic Table”

Attendance:

In person = 59 Online = 9 Total = 68

Membership:

As of July 2: we have 159 active members

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				159		29-Jun-2026		152
	Checking Account				\$1,547.54		29-Jun-2026		\$1,496.41
	PayPal Account				\$1,034.68		29-Jun-2026		\$2,063.92
	CD				\$2,130.79		23-Apr-2026		\$2,130.79
	T-Shirt Inventory		\$20.00	4	\$80.00		2-Mar-2026		\$80.00
Total					\$4,793.01				\$5,771.12

NCAS 2026 INCOME

G/L Code	Account Title	Each	Actual		Budget*		Remaining \$	% of Budget Received	Since Last Month
18000	Memberships Paid in CY 2026	\$30.00	125	\$3,810.00	167	\$4,779.00	\$969.00	80%	\$180.00
19000	Donations			\$72.54		\$250.00	\$177.46	29%	\$0.00
20000	T-Shirt Sales	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	5	\$100.00	\$80.00	20%	\$0.00
21000	Equipment Sales			\$0.00		\$0.00			\$0.00
Total				\$3,902.54		\$5,129.00	\$1,226.46	76%	\$180.00

* membership dues shown are after estimated PayPal fees are

2026 ACTUAL vs. BUDGET YTD EXPENSES

G/L Code	Account Title	Due	Each	No.	Actual	Budget	Remaining \$	% of Budget 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	\$357.13	\$480.00	\$122.87	26%	(15.87)
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	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	0%	(25.00)
6000	AL League Dues \$10+	JUN/OCT	\$6.00	167	\$952.00	\$1,012.00	\$60.00	6%	(952.00)
7000	PayPal Fees		\$1.54	150	\$185.73	\$231.00	\$45.27	20%	(9.24)
8000	Outreach Supplies		\$55.00	12	\$368.41	\$660.00	\$291.59	44%	0.00
9000	Printing				\$312.00	\$800.00	\$488.00	61%	(156.00)
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					\$3,504.02	\$4,873.00	\$1,368.98	28%	(1,158.11)

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	PayPal Account			\$1,034.68	29-Jun-2026	\$2,063.92
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Total				\$4,793.01		\$5,771.12

New Members report – Greg Halac

Welcome to the club, New Members!

→ Laura Berkholtz

→ Marissa Haines

→ Mathew Rusch

→ Jessica Lackey

Outreach Report – Greg Halac

COMPLETED EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Duration	Guests	Volunteers	Notes
6/5/26	20:30	RMNP Park & Ride	3	561	10	Nice night - mobbed
6/6/26	21:00	Lvld Sylvan Dale	2	51	8	Dodging clouds
6/8/26	9:00	Tavelli ES	2.5	38	5	Cleared in time
6/12/26	20:30	RMNP Park & Ride	2.5	366	11	Dodging clouds -big crowd
6/19/26	20:30	CSP Lory	2	120	8	Clouds as event ended
6/20/26	21:00	LCP Devil's Backbone	2	34	6	Dodging clouds
6/26/26	20:30	Fossil Crk Pk	2.5	3	4	Will open up to the public
6/27/26	11:00	Lvld Library	2.5	240	6	Hot, but great solar activity

CANCELED EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Cause
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Start	Site	Event	Duration
7/3/26	20:30	FCNA Bobcat Ridge		2
7/10/26	20:30	RMNP Park & Ride		2.5
7/11/26	21:00	LCP Hermit Park		2
7/13/26	21:00	Drala Mtn Ctr	Private	2
7/17/26	13:00	RMNP Visitor Ctr	Solar	3
7/17/26	20:30	RMNP Park & Ride		2.5
7/18/26	13:00	RMNP Visitor Ctr	Solar	3
7/18/26	20:30	RMNP Park & Ride		2.5
7/24/26	20:00	Fossil Crk Pk	Help Nite	2
8/1/26	20:30	Lvld Prairie Ridge		1.5

The RMNP Astronomy Festival daytime events on 7/17 and 7/18 feature the Nancy Grace Roman telescope team at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center from 10a-4p. Solar viewing is welcome anytime (please count/estimate participants), but is featured in the afternoon.

The Dwarf3 scope and tripod has arrived and images well. Still working out details on the image processing workflow.

2 – Announcements

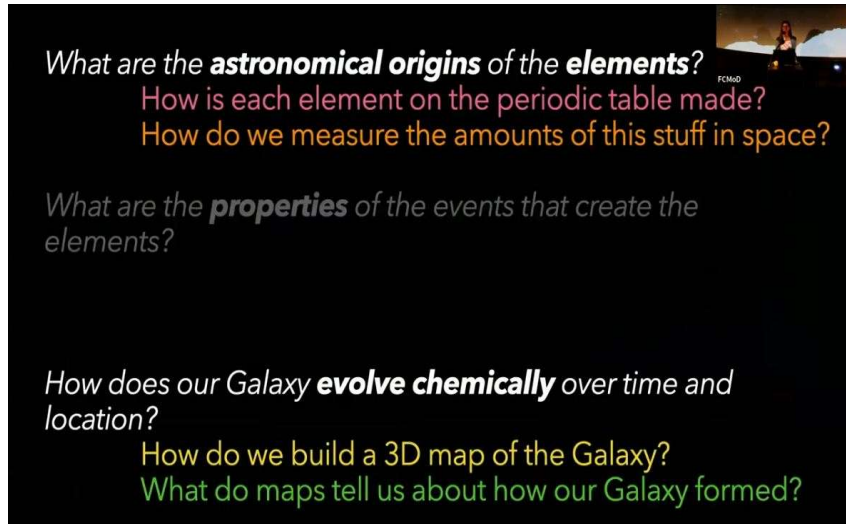
1. Charlie Davis provided refreshments to members present.
2. Charlie also announced a Reminder to members about the availability of photography posts on our website and thanked Rob Sireno for setting that up for us.
3. Greg Halac announced the dinner reservation after the meeting was fully booked for this time.
4. Greg Marino asked that the volunteers for outreach events come fully prepared to use their equipment and night sky skills to share with the public at the events.

3 – Guest Speaker Presentation - Mapping the Milky Way Across the Periodic Table with Dr. Emily Griffith

Emily Griffith is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She received her Ph.D. from Ohio State in 2022.

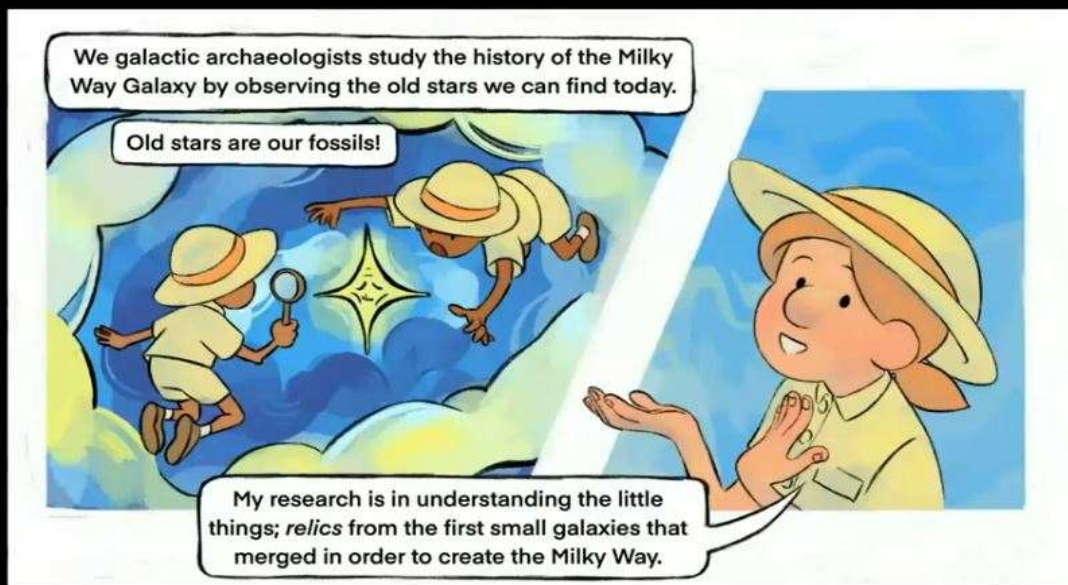
Dr. Griffith's research focuses on decoding the origin of the elements and understanding the Milky Way's chemical evolution over time.

Beyond research, Emily is passionate about fostering an equitable and inclusive STEM environment and loves sharing her science with broader audiences.



Dr. Griffith shared a journey of discovery from the point of view of a “Galactic Archeologist and Chemical Cartographer” with the members.

Galactic Archeologist & Chemical Cartographer



This cartoon sums up some aspects of the work done by Dr. Griffith and others.