



*Photo credit: Rob Keeton, 2021*

## First issue of Quarterly Impact

Welcome to the first issue of the quarterly newsletter of the Global Meteorite Association! In this issue, you will receive updates on the status of **your** organization, our future plans, and a call for volunteers.

The format of future issues will change as the needs and desires of our membership change. This means we need your feedback and input to make this newsletter an informative and useful resource. Please contact Secretary Rob Keeton ([secretary@gmeta.org](mailto:secretary@gmeta.org)) with comments and suggestions.

## Cover Photo

This issue features a photograph of the 34-ton “Ahnighito” mass of the historical Cape York meteorite that is currently housed in the Arthur Ross Hall of Meteorites at the American Natural History Museum in New York City. Although the meteorite - called Saviksoah by local Inuit people - was used for centuries as a source of iron metal, the Ahnighito mass was located by famous explorer Robert Edwin Peary during his expedition to Greenland in 1894. Cape York is officially classified as a IIIAB medium octahedrite with a TKW of over 58.2 tons.

## Message from the President

Dear members,

The formation of our organization in January 2021 was in many ways a long time in coming, but also something quite unexpected in our community. Having recently passed our 6-month anniversary, the entire board wishes to thank you. You have taken a leap of faith in joining a new organization when there appears to be so many to choose from, and we appreciate your trust and support.

In keeping with our commitment to transparency, I would like to take a moment to review our top accomplishments of the last 6 months and the challenges we will be addressing in the next 6 months. Our goal is to provide a solid foundation and structure from which members can add content and strive to deliver a high level of value to our members and community.

## **Last 6 months:**

1. Created and published all corporate documents online as well as rules governing the board, code of ethics, our shared mission statement, and many other documents critical to our organization (all corporate documents are available for public review). The GMA is a legal entity incorporated in the state of Texas.
2. Developed automated forms to facilitate fair evaluation of memberships, recommendations, and complaints. Renewals are automated and only members in good standing are listed online so we will always know the number of active (paying) members and who they are.
3. Provided 4 types of memberships better aligned with members' needs including a free membership for anyone under 18 years of age (part of our mission to pursue educational activities).
4. Launched a private social network for our members with many features like private messaging, ability to create forums and groups, and other features without the burden or concerns of public social networks.
5. Created the Collector and Business logos and badges and they have been uploaded to your profile page. Note that Supporters only have access to badges.

## **Next 6 months:**

1. In the next 4 to 6 weeks, we will have the Business members' pages working.
2. The Catalog of Meteorites (CoMets) is being worked on now and like the Encyclopedia of Meteorites will provide images of meteorites. The GMA's CoMets will also provide the ability to upload pdf files, videos, histories, and other important information like pairings. This project is challenging on its own and will require heavy membership participation.

3. Though the website is responsive already, there are still improvements that are required to ensure a good experience regardless of platform (desktop computer, tablet, or smart phone).
4. Education, Education, Education ... Developing content for all to learn is a top priority for us. Creating content is part of mission and this will be an ongoing effort.

We appreciate your patience as we work through these issues and fix others that crop up along the way. To date, we have not had a major membership drive because we felt the website needed more work. However, in the next few months, as we complete/address some of the major features and upgrades discussed above, we will start marketing the association much, much more to increase our numbers. The costs associated with the GMA have been paid up front, and in the future these costs will need to be repaid as well as recurring fees for maintenance of the website and other fees required to run the corporation.

**Mendy Ouzillou, GMA0002** ([president@gmeta.org](mailto:president@gmeta.org))

## Treasurer's Report: Update on Membership and Financials

Aloha everyone! I would like to extend my personal thanks to you as being an early member of the Global Meteorite Association. We depend on each of you to be the rock on which our organization is built upon and grows. As the Treasurer, I am accountable to the Board, the state and federal governments, and our membership to record and provide accurate financial records for the organization. Beyond those requirements, our Board also is of the opinion that we provide complete transparency of our financial records. We all pay dues, and therefore we all have the right to know how those funds are used – every one of us. In the beginning of any organization, there are a lot of startup costs associated with its establishment and development. Funds to date (over \$8,000) have been out-of-pocket by the Board with the anticipation of reimbursement in the future. For this reason, the actual costs in establishing the organization and the website developments costs are not listed in the financial report. When the organization has grown to support itself, these startup expenditures will have to be approved by the entire Board prior to reimbursement. None of us are paid any stipends or salaries for our work and each Board member is volunteering their time to the organization for

the benefit of all. We plan to provide regular financial updates to the entire membership, which we will also make permanently available in the members' area of our website. We do ask that for our association's privacy that these records be kept within the membership and not dispersed beyond our group. As a 501(c)7 non-profit, all financial records are reported to the IRS and state of Texas where the organization is incorporated.

Membership: We are currently at 55 approved members, of which 55 have paid their dues. There was one (1) gratis membership approved by the Board which is included in the 55 paid members.

On the next page you will find our breakdown of memberships and current balance sheet.

**Matthew Martin, GMA0005** ([treasurer@gmeta.org](mailto:treasurer@gmeta.org))

## GMA Financial Statement (End July 31, 2021)

Membership Type & Number	Dues / Membership	Total
Supporter (12)	\$10	\$120
Collector (24)	\$20	\$480
Business (18)	\$60	\$1,080
Lifetime-Collector (1)	\$335	\$335
<b>Paid Members (55)</b>		<b>\$2,015</b>

MEMBERSHIPS		
Value of Dues (calculated above)		\$2,015
Gratis Memberships (-)		(\$10)
Paid Memberships		\$2,005
Donations		\$40
<b>Actual Income</b>		<b>\$2,045</b>

DUES RECONCILIATION		
PayPal Gross Income (Dues)		\$1,985.03
Wire/Bank Transfer Gross Income (Dues)		\$60.00
Foreign Currency Conversion Adjustment		(\$0.03)
<b>Total Calculated Income</b>		<b>\$2,045.00</b>
<b>Actual Income (from Memberships)</b>		<b>\$2,045.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

PAYPAL RECONCILIATION		
PayPal Gross Income		\$1,985.03
PayPal Fees (-)		(\$81.65)
Transfers		\$0.00
<b>Calculated Balance</b>		<b>\$1,903.38</b>
<b>Actual Balance (from Web)</b>		<b>\$1,903.38</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

RECONCILIATION SUMMARY		
Dues Reconciliation Difference		\$0.00
Paypal Reconciliation Difference		\$0.00

## We welcome (and need) your help!

First and foremost, please review your profiles, upload your profile image/avatar, review your information, and update as necessary.

Since its inception, the GMA was intended to be an organization that meets the needs of the entire meteorite community. We are seeking your suggestions and entries for newsletter topics, improvements to the website, or ways that the GMA can fill needs in our community. We are also seeking people who are willing to volunteer their time and talents toward fulfilling the many tasks that we still need to complete. If you are interested in offering constructive feedback or volunteering to help, please email us at [questions@gmeta.org](mailto:questions@gmeta.org). We appreciate your help!

The GMA Board