

2021 NCRAL REGION AWARD

Wayne Kuhn, NPMAS

NCRAL REGION AWARD – The 2021 NCRAL Region Award goes to **Wayne Kuhn** of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society (NPMAS). His nomination letter starts out, “I would like to nominate [Wayne Kuhn] for the NCRAL Regional Award. This individual has enjoyed the night sky and public outreach since I have known him. He was my mentor when I bought my first real telescope in 1998 and I joined the club. As a newbie he took me under his wing and showed me how to use it along with the night sky. This individual really enjoys attending all the club functions and all outreach programs the club offers.” Those powerful words came from NCRAL past Chair Gerald Kocken of NPMAS. Gerry certainly knows both his astronomy and his amateur astronomers. These words constitute an even a more powerful recommendation.

According to Gerry’s nomination letter, Wayne has attended and helps organize public outreach school programs that include presentations, solar viewing, and night viewing at many schools. He also provides outreach at camps for bird watchers, Girl and Boy Scouts, and sidewalk astronomy programs in downtown Green Bay. He also helps with Green Bay’s *Big Event for Little Kids* and *Einstein Project* that regularly attract several thousand kids.

In addition to public outreach, Wayne is heavily involved in member education as well, having given numerous presentations to the NPMAS membership, organized numerous observing sessions, and developed, promoted, and presented several astronomy courses. He has held numerous leadership roles within NPMAS including the following: Board of Directors, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He helped with his club’s many Astronomy Day events, and has served as public observing chairperson, field trip coordinator, public outreach chair, club property chair, and has served on a welcome committee greeting new members and distributing welcome packets. He has on occasion acted as his club’s media liaison person for astronomical events the media, (newspaper, radio, TV) have contacted his for information.

Wayne is a very regular observer and has regularly attended Wisconsin Observers Weekend, Astrofest, Prairie Sky Party, Northwoods Starfest, Sheboygan Swap and Sell, and Northern Skies Sky Party over the years. As Gerry once again noted about Wayne, “His never ending energy and time devoted to public outreach and education is a great example of his commitment to astronomy education and has proven he certainly deserves this award.” This is what makes Wayne Kuhn of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society so worthy of this year’s NCRAL Region Award!

