

2022 NCRAL Newsletter Editor Award

David Leake

Champaign-Urbana Astronomy Society

Mr. Leake has served as editor of our monthly newsletter, *Clear Skies*, for over 30 years. Under Mr. Leake's direction, each issue contains important news on club activities, public viewing sessions, and future club events. Much of the writing in the newsletter is produced by Mr. Leake, a skilled writer and career planetarium director (now retired). His background and experience help create a monthly newsletter which is extremely useful and a pleasure to read.

Each issue of *Clear Skies* includes a list of club officers with their contact information, a message from the club president, a treasurer's report, and an attractive membership application form for future members. When appropriate, Mr. Leake includes a "to do" list of work needed at the club's observatory, a list of club-owned or member-owned items for sale, and notes on Astronomical League events, conventions, and observing programs. Mr. Leake also draws on other organizations, such as NASA, for timely articles of general astronomical interest.

In addition to his other newsletter duties, Mr. Leake also writes a monthly column on current celestial events, including planet positions, lunar phases, and special events such as comet observations and meteor showers. Not only does Mr. Leake describe what to see and where to see it, he includes a healthy dose of astronomical terminology, explaining the meaning of terms such as planetary conjunction, solar equinox, and lunar libration to the beginner without boring the advanced.

The club's newsletter typically runs 8-10 pages in length. Mr. Leake produces the online publication in an engaging style, with clear text, explanatory diagrams, and color photos. Contacts for additional information are liberally scattered throughout the newsletter.



As the main source of club news and events, the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society is very fortunate to have Mr. Leake serve as our newsletter editor.

From the nomination letter by
Jim Wehmer, Vice President
Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society

