

NOMINATION FOR THE NCRAL REGIONAL AWARD

I would like to nominate this individual for the NCRAL REGIONAL AWARD.

This individual has enjoyed the night sky and public outreach since he joined our club over 20 years ago. He has attended most of the club functions and all the outreach programs the club offers. He started as a helper during the public observing nights about 20 years ago, and now he now our Public Observing Night Coordinator. He sets up and schedules the clubs observing nights every year. The events take place at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Brillion Nature Center, Windjammers Sailing Club, and other nature centers in northeast Wisconsin. He also worked the club's largest event called *The Einstein Project*, which was held yearly at the K/I Center, which over 5000 people attend. He was there to help set up on the Fridays before and works the entire day on Saturdays. He also does a lot of personal sidewalk astronomy by himself. He sets up his telescope for friends and neighbors and for other events in town. He has helped with outreach programs such as Girl and Boy Scout programs, grade school programs, high school programs, and library programs - and even sets up his telescope for viewing every Halloween night so the public can view the night sky as an additional treat. He has brought his telescope to family reunions and watched lunar and partial solar eclipses with the neighbors.

This individual also does all the public advertising for such events. This includes contacting radio stations and TV if appropriate. He advertises the events on Facebook also. He posts the events on community event pages. The nature preserves that we partner with advertise the events through their channels as well after he supplies information. He also creates 8x11 posters and provides them to club members to post around town.

He is always the first person to show up at an event to greet people as they arrive. He sets up a welcome table at each event. He also makes up an informational sign, so the public knows what to expect. The table also includes NASA mission material, introduction-to-astronomy and how-to-choose-a-telescope booklets, stickers, and club brochures. His goal is always to make the guests feel welcome.

This individual is also very active in our club. He has given a presentation every year at one of our monthly meetings. Some of the presentations include Historical Astronomy Tools, Observing Tips and Tricks, Astronomical Sketching, Teeters Telescopes, and others. This individual also does our yearly brochure. This individual is also one of our club's 6 master observers. He is also a key holder for our club observatory - the Parmentier Observatory. He is a very active observer. He also has won a couple of Astronomical League sketching awards along with the Master Outreach Award.

He has held various positions in our club, including the board of directors and president.

He has organized some of the events, helped organized, and worked all the following yearly events.

- Public observing events, three times a year at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and Brillion Nature Center



- Showed the Great Conjunction to neighbors in December 2020
- Einstein Project at the K/I Center every year
- Shopko Hall Science Fair
- Ashwaubenon Library, talks and activities for young children
- His house viewing of lunar eclipses, Halloween viewing, and viewing various objects with neighbors
- Couniversity Park, public viewing of the transit of Venus
- Couniversity Park, public viewing of the partial solar eclipse
- Parmentier Observatory, public viewing for the Green Bay Adventure Club
- Parmentier Observatory, Observing sessions for area science teacher's
- Our Regional NCRAL Convention in 2011 doing various activity's
- He also attends a number of star parties in and out of the state of Wisconsin.

This individual has demonstrated leadership, companionship, knowledge, and willingness to participate in all outreach activities. His never-ending energy and time devoted to public outreach, education, and our club is a great example of his commitment to astronomy education, and he has proven he certainly deserves this award.

Therefore, I nominate **Brian Chopp of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society** as this year's NCRAL REGIONAL AWARD recipient.

Sincerely:

Gerald Kocken

Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society President

Past Chairman of the Region