

NCRAL blotter

Monthly Tidbits from NCRAL Officers, A.L. Representative and Appointees

[Alan Sheidler](#), PAC, Chairman

[Bill Davidson](#), RAC, Vice Chairman

[Roy Gustafson](#), PAC, Secretary-Treasurer

[John Attewell](#), RAC, Rep to the A.L.

[Carl Wenning](#), TCAA, Newsletter Editor

[Jeffrey Setzer](#), NCSF, Webmaster

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- Letters of invitation have been sent to five non-affiliated astronomy clubs in the North Central Region, asking them to consider becoming members of the Astronomical League and, by default, NCRAL. It appears that two might be taking us up on the offer! Details to follow soon.
- NCRAL Chair Alan Sheidler has authored several articles about club visits in the most recent issue of the [Northern Lights](#) newsletter. He hopes to visit additional affiliates before the snow flies so he can shine the spotlight on them with a feature article. He visited the Des Moines Astronomical Society on October 7. If any special events are coming up in your club and you'd like Alan to attend, email him an invitation using the link near the top of the page.
- Many NCRAL affiliates publish newsletters to document their accomplishments and history. NCRAL Chair Alan Sheidler is already receiving a few of these, and he has found them to be a terrific way to get better acquainted with clubs in the Region. If your club publishes a newsletter, please add his email address to your distribution list or let him know how he can receive your newsletter.
- Don't forget about the recently established [NCRAL Speakers Bureau](#). If you know of anyone who might be willing to be listed as a prospective speaker, please let Chair Alan Sheidler know.
- Can anyone think about activities we can do as a Region? Perhaps motivate our memberships to participate in Citizen Science or begin observing projects of value? A.A.V.S.O.? A.L.P.O.? Please share.
- It's never too early to begin thinking about applying for an [NCRAL mini-grant](#) or completing an NCRAL-sponsored seasonal or annual [Messier Marathon](#). These are outstanding awards programs!
- If you have not already done so, please provide updates about your affiliate's contact and website information on the [NCRAL Affiliates](#) web page as necessary. Contact Jeff Setzer with your update.
- NCRAL 2024 is coming! It will be hosted by the [Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society](#) at St. Norbert's College in De Pere, Wisconsin, May 17-18. For details, stay tuned to our **Northern Lights** newsletter and the Region's [Facebook page](#).
- NCRAL is looking for convention hosts for 2025 and beyond. If your group has never hosted a Regional convention, please realize that hosting can be fun and has many benefits, including indemnification for unanticipated losses and a 50-50 share of the profits. Assistance is also available from the Region through **Convention Planning Guidelines** on our [NCRAL Conventions](#) web page.
- Do you have any ideas to share or questions to ask Regional Chair Alan Sheidler? Do you have any thoughts about creating a 5-year plan? Do you see a need for a committee? Be sure to email him.