

# 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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- The [Racine Astronomical Society](#) has renewed its membership in the Astronomical League and, by default, NCRAL, thanks to the encouragement of NCRAL Chair Alan Sheidler. Welcome back, friends!
- NCRAL Chair Alan Sheidler has authored several articles about club visits in the most recent issues 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.
- Does your club's website have to link to the [North Central Region of the A.L.](#)? As an NCRAL affiliate, your club's members can access many NCRAL-provided resources such as a [newsletter archive](#), [observing programs](#), [awards and mini-grants](#), [convention information](#), and various [reports](#). Give your club's membership a "boost" by providing them many often overlooked [benefits](#).
- Don't forget about the recently established [NCRAL Speakers Bureau](#). If you know anyone who might be willing to be listed as a prospective speaker, please let Chair Alan Sheidler know.
- 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 info.
- 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. Stay tuned to our **Northern Lights** newsletter and the Region's [Facebook page for details](#).
- 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.
- The Twin City Amateur Astronomers continue to grow their membership through two approaches. The first is their *Introduction to Amateur Astronomy* course for new and potential members. The second is training and access to club observatories. Their growth is then sustained by the promotion of [NCRAL's Seasonal Mini Messier Marathon](#) observing program. Read all about the TCAA's approach to recruiting and retaining new members in the Winter 2024 issue of **Northern Lights**.
- Do your membership a world of good by promoting free subscriptions to NCRAL's [Northern Lights](#) newsletter by going to <https://tinyurl.com/NCRAL>. Only about 425 of the Region's 1,900 members receive notifications about this valuable benefit.