

# 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, Regional Rep. to the A.L.

[Carl Wenning](#), TCAA, *Northern Lights* Editor

[Jeffrey Setzer](#), NCSF, NCRAL Webmaster

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- ★ Please be sure to remind your memberships of the approaching national and regional conventions:
  - **ALCon 2024:** <https://www.astroleague.org/alcon-2024-kansas-city/>
  - **NCRAL 2024:** <https://www.npmas.org/index.php/members/articles-from-members/193-ncral-2024>
- ★ Nominations have been received for the 2024 Region Award, Newsletter Editor Award, and mini-grants. Winners of this year's awards and mini grants will be announced at NCRAL 2024 on May 18.
- ★ **URGENT:** NCRAL is looking for convention hosts for 2025 and beyond. If your astronomy club 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. Our recently updated **Convention Planning Guidelines** on our [NCRAL Conventions](#) web page also assist. It would be nice to have one or more proposals to share at the NCRAL 2024 convention, so don't delay.
- ★ **REMINDER:** NCRAL's elected leadership (Sheidler, Davidson, Gustafson, and Attewell, assisted by Wenning) have proposed amendments to the Region's bylaws. Time will be given for a "listening session" during the NCRAL 2024 business meeting. The draft amendments will then be revised based on what has been learned. Voting on amendments will take place on an affiliate-by-affiliate basis after the convention. [The working document can be retrieved by clicking here.](#)
- ★ The Twin City Amateur Astronomers have just issued **TCAA Guide #11: Recruiting & Retaining Astronomy Club Members**. This publication, edited by former NCRAL Chair Carl Wenning, is a compendium of twelve articles written by Wenning, Alan Sheidler, and Devanand Chatrathi that appeared in earlier issues of the **Northern Lights** newsletters. The articles have been assembled in one place to serve as a reference work. TCAA Guide #11 may be viewed and downloaded through the TCAA website at <https://www.tcaa.club/guides>
- ★ Newsletters from both NCRAL and the Astronomical League are available online. They may be accessed at the following URLs. In addition, this monthly update is likewise archived.
  - **Reflector:** <https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>
  - **Northern Lights:** <https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>
  - **NCRAL blotter:** <https://ncral.wordpress.com/monthly-blotter/>

- ★ Early in the year, many clubs have elections for officers. If new officers are in your affiliate, please inform NCRAL Chair Al Sheidler. Also, please check that contact information and your Facebook and website hyperlinks so we can keep our NCRAL [affiliates web page](#) current. Please be sure to inform the AL's national office of changes as well.
- ★ Does your affiliate's newsletter and website link to the [NCRAL website](#) and [Facebook page](#)? Many Regional benefits get overlooked because affiliate members don't know about them. Spread the "good news" of NCRAL by sharing this information with your affiliate membership today.
- ★ The Region has added a new *NCRAL 103 Messier Marathon record sheet* for member use. It is available for download and use through the following link: <https://ncral.wordpress.com/observing/> Check sheets are also available for the seasonal Mini Messier Marathons.
- ★ Do you know of any leader in your astronomy club who would be interested in directly receiving the **NCRAL blotter**? If so, please email the editor with their electronic contact information at [al.north.central.region@gmail.com](mailto:al.north.central.region@gmail.com)
- ★ Have anything you want included in the **NCRAL blotter**? Be sure to get it to the editor of this publication 2 to 3 days before the end of the month.