

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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June 2024

- ★ NCRAL just completed its annual convention, hosted by the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society, on May 17-18. We had a wonderful time. Read about the convention in the Summer 2024 issue of ***Northern Lights*** that will be disseminated on the summer solstice. If you are not signed up with our NCRAL email list, be sure to do so by going to this link today: <https://tinyurl.com/NCRAL>
- ★ Please be sure to remind your membership of the approaching national convention. See the ad on the next page for details or visit this website:
 - **ALCon 2024:** <https://www.astroleague.org/alcon-2024-kansas-city/>
- ★ Has your affiliate voted its ballot for the AL national officers? Elections are currently underway for the positions of League president, vice president, and treasurer. Ballots are due July 1. If your affiliate did not receive its ballot, contact leagueoffice@astroleague.org
- ★ League dues are now payable for 2024-2025. Dues payment notices were sent out from the national office on May 10th. Payment is due by June 30, 2024. If your affiliate did not receive its billing invoice, contact leagueoffice@astroleague.org Unsure if you want to renew your membership in the League – which includes membership in NCRAL? Then be sure to read this: <https://ncral.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/benefits-of-ncral-membership7.pdf>
- ★ ALCors, please send your updated roster *once every quarter* (by the 1st of January, April, July, and October) to Mitch Glaze at rosters@astroleague.org. This will ensure receipt of the Reflector magazine. Be sure to include any changes to your club ALCor, President and Treasurer as well. When submitting club rosters, we encourage ALCors to report who your club's newsletter editor is along with their email address. Send rosters and club newsletter editor contact info to Mitch Glaze at rosters@astroleague.org.
- ★ 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/>
- ★ Don't forget about MSRAL 2024, June 7-9, near Ashland, Nebraska. Details at <https://msral2024.org/>

- ★ NCRAL Chair Alan Sheidler is asking for feedback about NCRAL 2024. (See the Summer 2024 issue of **Northern Lights** for details about his request.) If you attended and have thoughts to share, please contact him via email at adsheidler@gmail.com

- ★ 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 application deadline for the AL's Library Telescope program is June 30th. Shortly thereafter, decisions will be made about which affiliate receives a library telescope. One is given to each of the regions. For details, see the image below and visit <https://www.astroleague.org/content/library-telescope-program>

- ★ 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 at <https://www.tcaa.club/guides>



ALCON 2024
GOING TO KANSAS CITY FOR
STARS AND ALL THAT JAZZ!

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

- ★ Stephon Alexander, theoretical physicist, cosmologist, jazz saxophonist and author of *The Jazz of Physics*, a book that discusses the link between music and the structure of the universe
- ★ David Levy, comet hunter, amateur astronomer and science writer
- ★ Keivan Stassun, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Vanderbilt University
- ★ Tim Russ, actor, musician screenwriter, director and amateur astronomer

EVENING EVENTS

- ★ Gottlieb Planetarium
- ★ Linda Hall Library, Rare Books Room
- ★ StarBQ at Overland Park Arboretum
- ★ Powell Observatory
- ★ Awards Banquet

VENDORS INCLUDE

- ★ DayStar Filters
- ★ Explore Scientific

ALCON 2024
JULY 17-20, 2024
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

Hosted by



Your Astronomical League is giving away up to eleven Library Telescopes!

Your Astronomical League is again offering a free Library Telescope to a lucky Astronomical League club in each of the ten AL regions and to a Member-at-Large.

This wonderful program consists of an Orion 4.5 inch StarBlast Dobsonian (or equivalent) and a Celestron 8-24 mm zoom eyepiece (or equivalent), and a name plate. The value of this opportunity is approximately \$300; the potential of the program is enormous.

Submit your completed entry form so that the Astronomical League national office receives it by June 30. If mailed, the entry must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2024. The winning entry for each region will be announced at the annual Astronomical League Business meeting held at ALCon 2024 in Kansas City about July 19. Full details of this wonderful program can be found at <https://www.astroleague.org/content/library-telescope-program>

The Library Telescope Program is a great club project, one that brings members together while benefiting their community. Indeed, it is the perfect outreach program!



- ★ Is there 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.
- ★ 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