

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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- ★ T Coronae Borealis (T CrB) is known as the “Blaze Star” for its specular thermonuclear outbursts that tend to occur every 78 years. T CrB is a binary star system consisting of a red giant star and a white dwarf. The white dwarf, like a vampire, cannibalizes gas from its companion, and over time, the white dwarf accumulates hydrogen gas from the red giant. When the amount of gas reaches a critical amount, a stupendous thermonuclear reaction occurs on the surface of the white dwarf. The resulting explosion causes the system’s brightness to increase by a factor of 1,600 (8 magnitudes). There is an A.L. observing challenge relating to this nova. Check it out at the following URL:

<https://www.astroleague.org/al-observing-challenge-special-observing-award/>
- ★ NCRAL is still inviting a club to volunteer to host the NCRAL 2025 convention. Because we don’t yet have a club to serve as host, the NCRAL leadership has created a convention committee to plan and conduct next year’s conference if necessary. We have volunteers from Milwaukee Astronomical Society, Naperville Astronomical Association, Rochester Astronomy Club, Cedar Amateur Astronomers, Popular Astronomy Club, and Iowa County Astronomers. We could use more help and invite additional volunteers. Contact NCRAL Chair Al Sheidler at adsheidler@gmail.com if you want to help on the convention planning committee.
- ★ The Cedar Amateur Astronomers have volunteered to host the NCRAL 2026 convention—many thanks to CAA for being willing to serve as host. Hosting can be a fun team-building exercise and a great way to highlight what your club does and show off your community to visitors from around the Region. Please let Al Sheidler know if your club is interested in being a host and would like to learn more about this great opportunity.
- ★ NCRAL’s elected leadership (Sheidler, Davidson, Gustafson, and Attewell, assisted by Wenning) have proposed amendments to the Region’s bylaws. During the NCRAL 2024 Business Meeting, time was given for a “listening session” to field any questions or feedback from the attendees. No feedback was received. There was then unanimous agreement to vote on the amended Regional bylaws as proposed. The amended bylaws may be downloaded [here](#). Each affiliate will have one vote, and each affiliate’s president should communicate their affiliate’s decision about accepting the Bylaws as proposed. We call for an “up or down vote” (Yes, accept; No, reject) to Vice Chair Bill Davidson at rochesterskies@outlook.com. If your affiliate votes to reject, please comment on any points of contention so they may be reconsidered. Approval will require a simple majority of votes cast. The deadline for receipt of votes is September 15, 2024. Voting results will be announced in the Autumn 2024 issue of *Northern Lights*.

- ★ The 29-page Summer 2024 issue of **Northern Lights** was made available to the membership through our NCRAL email list just after the June solstice. It may be downloaded, along with other back issues, from the NCRAL website at the following URL: <https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>
- ★ The Summer 2024 issue of **Reflector** can be downloaded from the Astronomical League website through the following URL: <https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>
- ★ Please be sure to remind your membership of the approaching ALCon national gathering. See the image below for details, or visit this website: <https://www.astroleague.org/alcon-2024-kansas-city/>

- ★ Astronomical League dues are now payable for 2024-2025. Dues payment notices were sent out from the national office on May 10. The payment was due on June 30, 2024. If your affiliate did not receive its billing invoice or did not pay your dues, then contact leagueoffice@astroleague.org

- ★ ALCors, please send your updated membership roster once every quarter (by January 1, April, July, and October) to Mitch Glaze at rosters@astroleague.org. This will ensure receipt of the **Reflector** magazine. Include any changes to your club ALCor, President, and Treasurer. When submitting club rosters, we encourage ALCors to report who your club's newsletter editor is and provide their email address. Send rosters and club newsletter editor contact info to Mitch Glaze at rosters@astroleague.org.



- ★ Regional Chair Alan Sheidler will submit the **2023-2024 NCRAL Region Report** to the National Council before their board meeting immediately before the start of ALCon. This document summarizes the past year's events and is effectively a "State of the Region" address. It is a fascinating read, and it may be found here along with back issues: <https://ncral.wordpress.com/reports/>
- ★ NCRAL Library Telescopes: Here is a listing by state of all the currently registered library telescopes: <https://www.librarytelescope.org/locations>

If you haven't done so already, please register your library telescopes using the online form on that website. If you have someone taking point on the library program, they might want to join our library telescope taskforce. We have Zoom meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in the morning to discuss the program and how we can grow it. Contact Mike Modrcin (mmodrcin@gmail.com) for more details if you have someone interested.

- ★ NCRAL Secretary-Treasurer Roy Gustafson is on the mend from recent hip replacement surgery. The procedure went well, and he's now taking his first steps. If you'd like to contact Roy, please feel free to drop him an email at the address above.