



NCRAL blotter

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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

★ **Next Regional Convention:** An NCRAL steering committee will manage the Regional convention next year as we do not have an affiliate willing to host until 2026. The steering committee seeks a volunteer to serve as webmaster for the NCRAL 2025 convention. We need a tech-savvy person who can create a website to handle information about the convention and take online reservations. Contact NCRAL Chair Alan Sheidler if you or anyone you know is willing to assist.

★ **NCRAL 2025 Planning:** While it's a little early to commit to any details about NCRAL 2025, the committee is off to a good start. The current individuals – all members of NCRAL – are aiding in the project. Their names, positions on the committee, and affiliations are provided.

- **Randy Hemann** – Co-Chair (President of Rochester Astronomy Club and Chair of 2013 NCRAL Conference)
- **John Attewell** – Co-Chair and Secretary (Vice President of Rochester Astronomy Club and Chair of 2017 NCRAL Conference)
- **Al Sheidler** – Chair of NCRAL (Past President of Popular Astronomy Club and Program Coordinator for the 2019 NCRAL Conference).
- **Bill Davidson** – Vice Chair of NCRAL (Newsletter Editor Rochester Astronomy Club)
- **Lynda Schweikert** – Member (Member of Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society and Member of Iowa County Astronomers).
- **Noha Reda** – Member (Program Coordinator for Cedar Amateur Astronomers and Member of Minnesota Astronomical Society).
- **Tom Weber** – Member (President of Cedar Amateur Astronomers)
- **Andrew Salata** – Member (Newsletter Editor for Naperville Astronomical Association)
- **Matt Ryno** – Member (Acting President of Milwaukee Astronomical Society)

★ **NCRAL Region Report:** Have you seen NCRAL's 2024 Region Report? The Region Report is produced each June by the NCRAL Chair for communication to the national council of the Astronomical League. The Region Report is the chair's "State of the Union" report. The current and past issues can be found on the NCRAL website at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/reports/>

- ★ **ALCon 2025 Announcement:** The 2025 Astronomical League convention will be held June 25 - 28, 2025, at Bryce Canyon, Utah. The committee has been working hard to plan a convention that will be "ASTRONOMICAL"!! They hope to have the 2025 website up and running soon. Watch for updates and keep these dates open on your calendars!
- ★ **T Coronae Borealis:** (T CrB) is known as the "Blaze Star" for its specular thermonuclear outbursts that tend to occur about 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/>
- ★ **Astronomical League Dues:** Dues were payable for 2024-2025 on June 30, 2024. If your affiliate did not pay your dues, then please contact leagueoffice@astroleague.org
- ★ **NCRAL Speakers Bureau:** Our listing has been recently updated and expanded to include new topics. If your affiliate seeks a speaker, visit our Speakers Bureau for available topics. Check out the listing at: <https://www.dropbox.com/home/NCRAL?oref=e&preview=Speakers.docx>

