

NCRAL blotter

Vol. 3, No. 2

October 2025

Monthly Tidbits from NCRAL Officers, A.L. Representative and Appointees

[Alan Sheidler](#), PAC, Chairman

[Eric Claeys](#), NAA, Vice Chairman

[Roy Gustafson](#), PAC, Secretary-Treasurer

[John Attewell](#), RAC, Regional Rep. to the A.L.

[Carl Wenning](#), TCAA, Publications Editor

[Josef Chlachula](#), RAC, Web Administrator

- ★ In case you missed it, the **September 2025 issue of *Northern Lights*** was released on the autumn equinox. This amazing 33-page issue is loaded with interesting feature articles. It may be downloaded from the NCRAL newsletter archive on the www.NCRAL.org website. Don't miss future issues. Signing up for notifications takes approximately one minute. Resubscribe if you have recently changed your email address and are no longer receiving our messages. You must provide your name, email address, and astronomy club affiliation (or indicate AL membership-at-large), and let us know if you hold specific positions within your club. Visit the following case-sensitive URL today to add your information to our database at <https://tinyurl.com/NCRAL> so that you won't miss future communications.
- ★ The **index of major feature articles** appearing in NCRAL's *Northern Lights* newsletter has again been updated. It directs readers to 68 timely articles published from 2016 to 2025. See it here: <https://ncral.org/northern-lights-index-of-key-feature-articles-2016-2025/>. Thanks to Editor Carl Wenning and Web Administrator Josef Chlachula for ensuring timely and accurate updates.
- ★ Did you miss the **Titan shadow transits on Saturn** this past two months? If so, you can see them by visiting **NCRAL's new YouTube channel** through the following link: <https://youtube.com/@NCR-AL>. NCRAL website manager Josef Chlachula recorded the interactive event twice in August and September. Four videos of these observing sessions are available. Each session lasts approximately 30 minutes. Be sure to check them out, and don't forget to subscribe to the channel so you won't miss future offerings.
- ★ **Iowa Star Party 2025** – The Iowa Star Party will take place from October 16 to 19 at the Whiterock Resort in Coon Rapids, IA. Visit <https://www.iowastarparty.com/> for more information.
- ★ Be sure to have **NCRAL 2026** and **ALCON 2026** on your calendar. NCRAL 2026 will be hosted by the Cedar Amateur Astronomers in Cedar Rapids, IA, from May 15 to 17. See the *Mission Possible* descriptive [video](#). ALCON 2026 will be hosted by the Cincinnati Astronomical Society in Cincinnati, OH, from August 12 to 15. Check out their [convention webpage](#) and complete their pre-convention topics survey today. Registration will begin soon.
- ★ Astronomical League President Chuck Allen has asked former NCRAL Chair Carl Wenning (2017-2023) to develop a **Handbook for Regional Leadership** so the nation's other nine sections can follow in the footsteps of our very successful region. If you are interested in reviewing this guide and potentially contributing to its development, please get in touch with carlwenning@gmail.com immediately. This publication is nearing completion.
- ★ **Astronomical Equipment for Sale:** *The Twin City Amateur Astronomers are divesting themselves of a considerable amount of unused and unwanted astronomical equipment.* They will soon have 33 items available for sale, with additional items expected to become available in the next few days. Items range from a 24" AG Optical f/11 reflector on a Software Bisque Taurus 600 yoke mount, to a Celestron EdgeHD 11" SCT, to a 50mm Lunt Ha telescope, to SBIG and Canon cameras and a variety of planetary video and guide cameras, to Flat-Man field flats, to eyepieces and Barlow lenses, to 42" telescope piers, to you name it. Reserve sale prices start at 25% to 40% of original pricing. Many items are in "like new condition" and everything will be sold as "used" and on an "as is" basis. Club members have first right of refusal, but unsold items will be available for bidding and purchase by non-club members shortly after October 1st. Contact Carl Wenning at carlwenning@gmail.com to view the materials list and learn more about the bidding and acquisition process.