

# NCRAL BLOTTER

July 2026

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- **Seasonal Observing Programs:** Summer is here, which means it is time to switch to the **NCRAL Summer Seasonal Messier List**. Check off the objects on the list during your summer sessions to earn certificates and enameled star pins. Learn more at: [Observing | NCRAL Online](#)
- **Virtual NCRAL Observing Session:** Jim Dole, your Vice Chair, has suggested we conduct a virtual observing session to observe the upcoming deep partial lunar eclipse on Thursday evening, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Maximum is at 11:14PM Central Time. Mark your calendars for this event which we will conduct on Zoom (weather permitting). If we have multiple observers, someone should have a shot at seeing it (even if it's cloudy at your site). Stay tuned for the Zoom link when it becomes available.
- **NCRAL 2027 Milwaukee Astronomical Society:** Mark your calendars for next year's regional conference, held May 14–16, 2027, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. During this event, NCRAL will celebrate its 80th birthday. The conference will feature something for everyone: speakers on a variety of astronomical topics, observing sessions, an EAA Museum tour, a visit to Yerkes Observatory, camaraderie, and more. You won't want to miss this memorable event! Find updates at [NCRAL 2027](#)
- **NCRAL 2028 Host needed:** We are looking for an astronomy club to host the 2028 regional conference. Hosting is a great way for your club to showcase its members, facilities, and community. If you are considering stepping up as a host or have questions, please contact Alan Sheidler. Visit <https://ncral.org/conventions/> for details.
- **NCRAL Award nominations needed:** NCRAL sponsors two award and two grant programs: the Region Award, the Newsletter Editor Award, the Membership Recruitment Mini-Grant, and the Affiliate Recruitment Grant. These honors are presented annually at the regional conference. As we look forward to NCRAL 2027, please consider nominating worthy individuals from your club. These awards are a wonderful way to recognize your members' accomplishments and support recruitment efforts. Learn more at <https://ncral.org/awards/>
- **ALCon 2026 Fast Approaching:** Don't forget that the national ALCon 2026 convention is scheduled for August 12–15. Reduced room rates at the Marriott are still available until July 14, so make sure your club members are aware and planning their summer travel accordingly. [ALCON 2026 CINCINNATI](#)
- **Region Report:** The annual Region Report has been prepared and uploaded to the NCRAL website. Please take a few minutes to read the report and learn about recent developments in our region. We have much to celebrate, as well as a few items of concern. Read it here: [Region Report 2025/2026](#)
- **Star Parties in the Region:** As we move into prime observing season, please remind your members of these upcoming regional gatherings: [Events 2026 | NCRAL Online](#)
  - **Northern Nights Star Fest (Minnesota):** September 9–14, 2026
  - **Northwoods Starfest (Wisconsin):** September 11–13, 2026
  - **Eastern Iowa Star Party, IA:** September 11-13, 2026
  - **Illinois Dark Skies Star Party, IL:** October 8-10, 2026
  - **The 2026 Iowa Star Party, IA:** October 8-11, 2026
- **Calling All Club Historians:** Help us build a comprehensive archive! We're looking for club histories, old event documents, and past records connected to NCRAL for a new history section on our website. Send your documents to [Carl Wenning](#).

NCRAL WEBSITE: [NCRAL.ORG](https://ncral.org)

FACEBOOK PAGE: [FACEBOOK / NCRAL](https://www.facebook.com/ncral)



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**Secretary-Treasurer:** [Carl Wenning](#)

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