

2026 NCRAL Region Award

- This year's recipient:

- Education
 - B.A., M.S. & Ph.D, Physics and Astronomy, University of Iowa
- Associate Professor and Professor at University of Iowa 1980-2021
- Associate Scientist at National Radio Astronomy Observatory
- Researcher at NRAO, and Arecibo Observatory
- Many other scientific posts
- Fellow of the American Physical Society
- Memberships
 - American Astronomical Society
 - American Physical Society
 - APS Division of Plasma Physics
 - Cedar Amateur Astronomers
- Author or co-author of >120 scientific publications
- Frequent speaker at CAA, PAC, Iowa Star Party, NCRAL conferences and civic groups
- Served on Program Committee for NCRAL 2026
- Long history of community service with CAA and State of Iowa
- Engaging speaker with a unique ability to explain complex concepts



Steven R. Spangler

Cedar Amateur Astronomers, Inc.

Steven Spangler is one of two recipients of this year's NCRAL Region Award. The Region Award is NCRAL's most prestigious award given to a member who demonstrates extraordinary skill, generosity and devotion to promoting amateur astronomy and supporting NCRAL goals and events. Steven, a member of Cedar Amateur Astronomers, has ably fulfilled these goals. The above slide detailing Steven's accomplishments was shown at the NCRAL 2026 conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Though impressive, this list doesn't do justice to his high level of involvement in his club, teaching astronomy at the university level and commitment to popularizing the hobby. The North Central Region of the Astronomical League takes great pride in giving this award to a very deserving recipient. Congratulations to Steven for receiving the 2026 NCRAL Region Award.

Alan Sheidler

Alan Sheidler, NCRAL Chair