

NCRAL BLOTTER

September 2026

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

- **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 27th. Maximum eclipse is at 11:14PM Central Time. We plan to conduct a virtual observing session on Zoom (weather permitting) starting at 10:45PM Central Time. 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 at <https://ncral.org/zoom/> approximately 10 minutes before the start time of the Zoom meeting.
- **Seasonal Observing Programs:** As Fall approaches, this is a great time to consider finishing the **NCRAL Summer Seasonal Messier List** and plan for the **Autumn Seasonal Messier List**. Check off the objects on the list during this month's observing sessions to earn certificates and enameled star pins. Learn more at: <https://ncral.org/observing/>
- **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 <https://ncral2027.org/>
- **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/>
- **NCRAL Historical documents:** Stephen Peters of Marquette, MI, who for many years served as our region's historian, has decided to retire. He turned over to the Chair a huge treasure trove of files dating back to 1947. These files contain a wealth of historical records about NCRAL and many of the clubs in NCRAL. We are looking for suggestions and volunteers to digitize and preserve these records for future generations. If you have suggestions and/or would like to help preserve this history, please contact the Chair, Alan Sheidler, (link below).
- **NCRAL Historian.** NCRAL Sec/Treas Carl Wenning has graciously agreed to serve as your Regional Historian. We request all clubs in the Region to send brief historical summaries of their founding to Carl at carlwenning@gmail.com. Carl will work with the Region's web master to produce a comprehensive public record.
- **Photo of the Month:** To promote camaraderie and celebrate the craft of astro-imaging, Josef Chlachula, your webmaster, has proposed having a new Photo of the Month project. If you want to submit a test photo, upload at <https://ncral.org/pom/>.
- **Fall Star Parties in the Region:** As we move into prime observing season, please remind your members of these upcoming regional gatherings: <https://ncral.org/events/>
 - **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

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

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



Chairman: [Alan Sheidler](#)
Vice-Chairman: [Jim Dole](#)
Secretary-Treasurer: [Carl Wenning](#)

Regional AL Rep: [John Attewell](#)
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