NCRAL BLOTTER

November 2026

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

- **NCRAL 2027 Milwaukee Astronomical Society:** Mark your calendars for next year's regional conference, held May 14–16, 2027, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Plan to join the Milwaukee Astronomical Society in celebrating 80 years of looking up together. Registration for the North Central Region of the Astronomical League annual conference is now open! Go to www.ncral2027.org to register, and reserve a hotel room block by following the link on the website. There will be a day of fabulous speakers, a Starbeque at MAS's 95-year-old observatory grounds, and visits to the Experimental Aircraft Association Air and Space Hall of Fame and the historic Yerkes Observatory on Sunday. Don't miss out! For correspondence concerning NCRAL27 use the following email address: ncral2027@milwaukeeastro.org
- **History Walk at NCRAL 2027.** Do you have something of historical significance about your club that you would like to share with attendees at next year's conference in Waukesha? If so, consider creating a poster highlighting the founding and ongoing activities of your club. Shown here is an Example Poster created by of the Madison Astronomical Society. If you need help with the format, John Rummel has offered to help you create a similar poster for your club. Contact John Rummel directly if you need help with the format. If you have an antique telescope or other item of historical interest you might want to bring to the conference we would encourage you to contact Matt Ryno of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society to allocate space and accommodate your need.
- **NCRAL 2028 Host needed:** We are still 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. Don't pass up this opportunity!
- **NCRAL Award nominations needed:** NCRAL sponsors two awards 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/. Please send all nominations to your Vice-Chairman, Jim Dole (email address below).
- **Updated NCRAL History:** NCRAL Chairman Alan Sheidler, Webmaster Josef Chlachula, and Historian Carl Wenning, are seeking information about the founding of clubs within the region. Please visit History of clubs by date of foundation | NCRAL Online and verify the information we have listed there for each club. In particular, we need the following clubs to verify their information: CUAS, CVAS, ICA, QCAS, NCSF, RBAC, NPMAS, LCAAS, AAAA, DPAS, BHAC, and SCAS. Please provide any feedback, corrections or additions to what we currently have. Next year will be NCRAL's 80th birthday for which we would like to have an accurate list of those clubs which have contributed to the founding and development of one of the most successful regions of the AL.
- **Northern Lights newsletter archive:** Since acquiring the history files of Stephen Peters of Marquette, MI, we have scanned past issues of NCRAL's quarterly newsletter dating back to 1971. Your webmaster, Josef Chlachula has added these to the newsletter archive which can be found on the NCRAL website: https://ncral.org/newsletter-archive/
- **Seasonal Observing Programs:** Now that we are solidly into the Fall season, this is a great time to consider doing 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/.
- **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 photo, upload at https://ncral.org/pom/. *Any suggestions for improvement are welcome. Webmaster.*
- **Schedule of Future National Conventions:** During ALCON 2026, Chuck Allen, AL president, announced the schedule for future national conventions. The schedule is as follows: 2027: Billings, Montana, 7/28-31; 2028: Boise, Idaho, 7/12-15; 2029: Provo, Utah, no date set; 2030: open – host needed; 2031: Bryce Canyon, Utah.

NCRAL WEBSITE: NCRAL.ORG *FACEBOOK PAGE: FACEBOOK / NCRAL*

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