

NCRAL blotter

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

[Alan Sheidler](#), PAC, Chairman

[Bill Davidson](#), RAC, Vice Chairman

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

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

[Carl Wenning](#), TCAA, *Northern Lights* Editor

[Jeffrey Setzer](#), NCSF, NCRAL Webmaster

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★ Please be sure to remind your memberships of the approaching national and regional conventions:

- **ALCon 2024:** <https://www.astroleague.org/alcon-2024-kansas-city/>
- **NCRAL 2024:** <https://www.npmas.org/index.php/members/articles-from-members/193-ncral-2024>

Also, remind your membership that the NCRAL 2024 "early bird" registration rate ends on April 1st. The registration fee is \$120 by April 1st; afterward, it is \$150.

★ **URGENT:** Don't forget that March 31st is the deadline for the Region and Newsletter Editor Awards to be presented at NCRAL 2024. Also, don't forget that there are two mini-grant application deadlines on the same date as well. See the latest issue of [Northern Lights](#) for details.

★ **URGENT:** NCRAL is looking for convention hosts for 2025 and beyond. If your astronomy club has never hosted a Regional convention, please realize that hosting can be fun and has many benefits, including indemnification for unanticipated losses and a 50-50 share of the profits. Our recently updated **Convention Planning Guidelines** on our [NCRAL Conventions](#) web page also assist. It would be nice to have one or more proposals to share at the NCRAL 2024 convention, so don't delay.

★ **REMINDER:** NCRAL's elected leadership (Sheidler, Davidson, Gustafson, and Attewell, assisted by Wenning) have proposed amendments to the Region's bylaws. Time will be given for a "listening session" during the NCRAL 2024 business meeting. The draft amendments will then be revised based on what has been learned. Voting on amendments will take place on an affiliate-by-affiliate basis after the convention. [The working document can be retrieved by clicking here.](#)

★ Newsletters from both NCRAL and the Astronomical League are available online. They may be accessed at the following URLs. In addition, this monthly update is likewise archived.

- **Reflector:** <https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>
- **Northern Lights:** <https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>
- **NCRAL blotter:** <https://ncral.wordpress.com/monthly-blotter/>

★ We have added a new *NCRAL 103 Messier Marathon record sheet* for member use. It will be available for downloading soon through the following link: <https://ncral.wordpress.com/observing/>

- ★ Early in the year, many clubs have elections for officers. If new officers are in your affiliate, please inform NCRAL Chair Al Sheidler. Also, please check that contact information and your Facebook and website hyperlinks so we can keep our NCRAL [affiliates web page](#) current.
- ★ Does your affiliate's newsletter and website link to the [NCRAL website](#) and [Facebook page](#)? Many Regional benefits get overlooked because affiliate members don't know about them. Spread the "good news" of NCRAL by sharing this information with your affiliate membership today.
- ★ The Astronomical League is seeking candidates for the position of league treasurer. This would be a great way to contribute to the AL and help provide a valuable service to amateur astronomy. If you are interested in being considered for this position or know someone else who would be a good candidate, please let us know if you can help. The January *What's Up With the Astronomical League* link contains information about the treasurer's responsibilities and who to contact for more details. If you have further questions about this opportunity or other questions, you can also contact me (I may not have the answer, but I can try to find someone who does!). Thanks, and keep looking up! Al Sheidler, NCRAL Chairman.
- ★ Astronomical League seeks updated affiliate listings for the national website. Please respond to the following request for information.

To: All Astro League Societies (ALCors & Presidents)

RE: Society Listings on the AL website

Please note this email and the information contained within it.

We are starting the process of gathering the information each society wants listed on the AL website. The only way to participate in this process now is to use the Google Form link below. Please have only one person in your club submit the form. Multiple submissions from the same club will result in significant delays and confusion.

We would like to invite you to complete the Google Form at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdiGR1EmsVWVqjBm0PglcCLxflFvk4dcGvcSh5kf3e2xPZxaA/viewform?usp=sf_link

When you fill that out, the data will be collected so we can post it on the new AL website. To participate in this process, please have your Google Form submitted by April 12th. We will collect data until that date and then update all of the data in late April. (The current process of uploading the data works best in one large batch rather than a few at a time.)

The form is comprehensive. Please take time to fill it out completely. It should be able to be completed in 10-15 minutes for most clubs. (Some clubs with extensive information may take a few minutes longer.)

Thank you!

Mitch Glaze
Astronomical League
Office Manager