

# 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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- ★ Do you or your affiliate have anything to contribute to the Winter 2025 issue of the NCRAL quarterly newsletter, *Northern Lights*? It can be an article, a picture, an announcement – anything of potential interest to the membership of the Region. Email your contribution to our editor, Carl Wenning, at [al.north.central.region@gmail.com](mailto:al.north.central.region@gmail.com). Contribution deadline is December 21. NCRAL reserves the right to edit all submissions for accuracy, brevity, and suitability. The Winter 2025 issue will be disseminated after Christmas but before New Year's Day.
- ★ Be sure to check out the A.L.'s monthly update for all members, "What's up with the Astronomical League." The latest issue can be found here: <https://www.astroleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Whats-Up-with-Astro-League-September-2024.pdf>
- ★ **Next North Central Region Convention:** As you know, because we do not have an affiliate host for next year's NCRAL conference, a conference committee was formed to develop and manage the conference. The committee has already developed a theme for the conference and has recruited a half dozen speakers. The conference theme is *First Light: New Frontiers, New People*. The committee's goal is to encourage attendance and recruitment of new members into amateur astronomy and celebrate the latest in new ideas and discoveries. The convention will be on April 25 & 26, and the location will be in the Minneapolis area. The convention committee has narrowed the list of possible conference locations to 3-4, which will be narrowed further, and a decision will be made in the next couple of weeks. The committee has also been working with members of the Minnesota Astronomical Society to conduct a star-BQ and observatory tour at their Eagle Lake Observatory on April 25. The conference continues April 26 with speakers, NCRAL business meeting, and a banquet at the conference center. Stay tuned for requests for help from the conference committee as planning continues. Contact NCRAL Chair Al Sheidler for questions or if you would like to volunteer to assist with the conference. It is shaping up to be a good one!
- ★ It's never too early to **make nominations** for NCRAL's Region award, Newsletter Editor award, and other regional and Astronomical League awards. Please start thinking about who you want to recognize for their significant contributions to the science of astronomy and their clubs. Also, don't forget that two **mini-grants are available** each year for up to \$250 each. Regional Award and Mini-Grants information can be found on [NCRAL's Awards Page](#).
- ★ **ALCON 2025 ANNOUNCEMENT:** "The 2025 Astronomical League convention will be held June 25 - 28, 2025, at Bryce Canyon, Utah. The committee has been working hard to plan a convention that will be "ASTRONOMICAL"!! They hope to have the 2025 website up and running soon. Watch for updates and keep these dates open on your calendars!"
- ★ Is your affiliate's contact information up to date on the NCRAL website? Over time, contact information for [affiliates listed on the Region's website](#) becomes outdated. Please visit the NCRAL website and verify the accuracy of your information. If incorrect, please provide the correct information to NCRAL Regional Chair Alan Sheidler at [adsheidler@gmail.com](mailto:adsheidler@gmail.com). (The NCRAL leadership is aware that *Rockford Amateur Astronomers'* information needs to be updated, has the information, and will see to changes shortly.)