



# What's Up With the Astronomical League April 2021

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Compiled by Carroll  
Iorg, President

*A periodic publication for the AL membership*

## 75th Anniversary Astronomical League Celebrations for April 2021

**April 2021**

### Bill Bogardus & Meteors and Meteor Showers

Free Academy. After moving to Long Island in 1998, he took a job as a principal at Greenport High School and then was a science department chairman at Miller Place Union Free School District. Bill and friends got into flying and they purchased a plane together with all achieving a pilot's license. He would then become a flight instructor. Bill was interested in many things, particularly astronomy and he pursued the observing programs through the Astronomical League. Bill achieved his Master Observing Plaque at ALCon 2006 in Arlington, TX which became a turning point for Bill since he decided to become involved in leadership. His club, the Amateur Observer Society of New York, hosted ALCon 2009, and he became the League Secretary that same year. He revitalized the Master Observer Award Program and developed the AL Radio Astronomy Observing Program. He received the G. R. "Bob" Wright Award for Outstanding Service to the AL in 2013, and became Vice President in 2014. Bill also imaged and his Eta Carina photo was featured on the cover of the 2015 June *Reflector*.

Bill Bogardus graduated from Morristown Central School, NY in 1967, and was a guitarist for a band called "The Mustangs." He also achieved the level of Eagle Scout as a youth. Bill got his master's degree in education from St. Lawrence University and taught physics at Ogdensburg



*Courtesy Astronomical League*

Bill joined the Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassadors Program (ACEAP) in 2016 (a collaboration of universities, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and ALMA). Bill traveled to view Total Eclipses which took him to China and South Asia with his image of the Chinese eclipse, becoming the logo and artwork for the League's ALCon 2017 Eclipse Convention. Bill also, traveled to Bolivia, Chile and to Sweden to view the auroras. Bill became President in 2018, but at the 2017 business meeting as Vice-President, he filled the Junior Activities Coordinator position to help attract families and students to this hobby. As President, he initiated the Astronomical League Calendar as a means to help fund the youth activities that would be planned at the ALCon Jr. Conventions, a new adjunct to the national conventions. He passed away in November of 2018 while still in office and is sorely missed, hence why we celebrate him in his birthday month.



*Courtesy Astronomical League*

**Meteor Showers** this month are called the Lyrids which are chunks of debris left from the long period Comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher. It was discovered on April 5, 1861, by A.E. Thatcher in the constellation Lyra. The Lyrids are one of the oldest known meteor showers found in records of the Chinese dating back to 687 BC. These showers are from April 16th to 25th and have fast and bright meteors but not as fast or numerous as the Perseids in August. The Lyrids, depending on light polluted skies, can number between 60 to 100 meteors per hour which were documented in the following location and years, 1803 in Virginia, 1812 in the US, 1922 in Greece and 1945 in Japan.

But in reality, expect 10 to 20 Lyrids per hour during their peak, some often leave a brief light trail seen for several seconds. The radiant or point they seem to generate from, is in the Lyre Constellation around the brightest star Vega. This shower is located at R.A. 18h 08m and DEC +32°. Best viewing is at their peak which starts around April 21st to the 23rd since Earth is in the middle of the debris path. Best times are after midnight to early morning. To do learn how to conduct a meteor count go to: <https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/meteor/metrcl.html>



Graphic: Bruce McClure & Joni Hall Earth-Sky.org 13 Jan 2013 Used by Permission

### SESSIONS (are subject to change)

- OSIRIS-Rex Mission Near Earth Objects Update: Carl Hergenrother, NEO/ALPO
- Meteor Observing Program: Scott Kranz, AL
- Making Asteroid & Orbits Tactile Resources: Peggy Walker, AL
- Earth Observing Satellites Observing Program: Tom Declue, AL
- Radio Astronomy Observing Program: Steve Boerner, AL
- Small Radioscope Live: Jiri Polivka, AL
- Spectroscopy Observing Program: Steve Boerner

**What is the difference between a Meteoroid, Meteor and Meteorite?** A meteoroid originates in outer space as a solid piece of debris above Earth's atmosphere. When this object enters the atmosphere, now becomes a meteor, and the pressure and friction causes chemical reaction making it radiate energy. The gravity of Earth pulls on these pieces which causes them to fall or hit the Earth which now changes to a meteorite. Some are so hot that they have flames. So as Earth moves on its orbit, it intersects these debris fields which creates the meteor showers looking like actual stars falling. For a list of meteor showers **See Resource list.**

**VIRTUAL TOUR  
COURTESY OF:**  
**Michael  
Petrasko**





### About International Dark Sky Week 2021

Every year, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) hosts International Dark Sky Week during the month of April in order to generate awareness about light pollution and its negative consequences, the solutions, and celebrate the night. This year, IDA is inviting everyone to discover the night where they live during the week of April 5-12. This is an exciting opportunity to create interest and bring new people into the dark sky movement.

### About the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)

IDA works to protect the night from light pollution. Since 1988, the International Dark-Sky Association has promoted win-win solutions that allow people to appreciate dark, star-filled skies while enjoying the benefits of responsible outdoor lighting. IDA is headquartered in Tucson, Arizona. Learn more at [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).



**It's International Dark Sky Week!**  
 Learn more about the dark sky movement and find an event or activity so you can participate at [idsw.darksky.org](http://idsw.darksky.org).  
 #DiscovertheNight

