



What's Up With the Astronomical League March 2021

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Compiled by Carroll
Iorg, President

A periodic publication for the AL membership

75th Anniversary Astronomical League Celebrations for March 2021

March 2021

Gilbert "Bob" Wright and Accessible Astronomy

Gilbert "Bob" Wright July 14, 1903 to Sept 6, 1987, worked for the Weather Bureau in Iowa as an equipment maintenance repairman in 1934, and retired 29 years later. Bob then moved to Maryland in 1943 and joined the National Capital Astronomers and became active in the club. Where Bob's relationship with the League started was the second official ALCon held in PA in 1947. Bob was later elected League President with his first term being 1951-1952 and 20 years later he served a second term, 1972 to 1974. Bob chaired three National Conventions 1951, 1953 and 1967 and was the MERAL



Courtesy Astronomical League

Regional Chair. In the 60s, he stated at a convention business meeting, that since the Junior Societies were in full swing in the League, they needed some sort of certificate award. He, and two others were tasked with that project so Bob pursued certificates with pins and to lay out the requirements for the Junior Activities Manual. He also helped to make sure the Junior Societies activities and information made it into the Reflector. Bob was very committed to and proud of, the Junior Societies and in his Sept 8, 1966 letter he states, "I believe that very few Boy Scouts are interested in astronomy and that the present requirements as indicated are not very hard and do not compare with the AL Jr. requirements. The Scouts are interested in the number of merit badges they can attain. This is not true with our Juniors, they have a much deeper interest in the one subject astronomy and there fore should be able to carry on a program at a much higher level." Bob also suggested that the Jr. Societies Messier Observing Certificate Program be opened up for adults. Bob started the Book Service in 1954 for League members to find current books in print on astronomy and other related sciences, all from well-know book publishers, it's still functioning today. Bob also established the League's Trust Fund in 1967. For all his service,

he was awarded the Astronomical League Award at the Milwaukee ALCon in 1965. The G.R. "Bob" Wright League Service Award, named in his honor, recognizes volunteers that go above and beyond the call of duty to support the League's local and national goals. Previous winners, include editorship of the Reflector, people who established or maintained the many observing programs, someone who demonstrated exemplary regional chair leadership, a few who rallied around the League President giving support for a project, individuals who served League Sales, a team who developed/updated the web page, and even chairing ALCons.



Courtesy Astronomical League



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Noreen Grice, Founder of You Can Do Astronomy, LLC, got a revelation from some visually impaired students in 1984 when they told her after a planetarium show that they could not see the images on the ceiling which is why they did not have a very good time in class. Noreen, has a B.A. in Astronomy from Boston University, and M.S. in Astronomy from San Diego State University. She also has other business certificates and certification in Literary Braille Courses, Tactile Graphics Training, and authored eleven books on astronomy for the visually impaired, with Braille hands-on images. She has over 30 years in accessible astronomy materials and 10 years of undergraduate astronomy courses. Noreen is a recipient of countless awards, for more information on Noreen and her work go to: <http://www.youcandoastronomy.com/>



The word "Astronomy" in Braille

SESSIONS (are subject to change)

Astronomy for Blind and Visually Impaired: Kate Meredith, Director, Geneva Lakes Astrophysics & STEAM

Why Tactile Resources?: Peggy Walker, AL

Making Lunar Tactile Resources Part I: Peggy Walker, AL

Making Deep Sky Tactile Resources: Peggy Walker, AL

You Can Do Astronomy, Noreen Grice

GETTING STARTED: The best place to start is to get the data from Cornell University, *2018 Disability Status Report United States*, that is issued every two years. The numbers are listed by state that is broken down by age group which will help a club formulate a meaningful, inclusive educational program Go to: https://www.disabilitystatistics.org/StatusReports/2018-PDF/2018-StatusReport_US.pdf in the resource page



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A fantastic resource for clubs or individuals who conduct outreach for the other abled, is a book called, *Everyone's Universe—A Guide to Accessible Astronomy Places*. Noreen covers mobility, visual, augmentative observing, and communication for deaf and hard of hearing. In the back there is a list of national places that has accessible astronomy activities and star parties. Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Exploring the Carina Nebula by Touch, is a NASA/ESA and Noreen Grice collaboration that explores the Carina Nebula by Touch. The Hubble images used has been thermally printed to make raised portions that differentiate between dark clouds, bright gases, star dust pillars, energy jets, bright globules and dark globules. It gives thorough information on the Eta Carina Nebula for the reader. See Resource page for a copy.



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Touch the Stars by Dr. Noreen Grice is large print astronomy text with 103 pages with narrative and 16 touchable illustrations of constellations, planets, moon phases, total solar and lunar eclipses and galaxies, Orion Nebula, Ring Nebula is available from the National Braille Press for \$35.00 See Resource page for ordering

AURORA WATCH! COURTESY OF:

**Creamer's Field Observatory and Wildlife Fowl Refuge
Mike Ross, Depart. Of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, AK**

More links and other information is listed on page 3 of this issue.

AAVSO's 2021 Webinars and How-to Hours

Image credit: Carles Zerbst, AAVSO observer

Hello Astronomy Enthusiast!

AAVSO's 2021 year-long webinars and How-to Hours are going strong! Each How-to Hour introduces a specific practical aspect of variable star astronomy, while each webinar features one or two figures in astronomy research presenting on their work.

We hope you join us for our free March sessions on Zoom! You can attend any or all—each session is separate from the previous one.

March's Webinars

Saturday, the 13th, at 19:00 UT

Presents:

Dr. Steve Howell (NASA), "Using AAVSO photometry to understand and characterize variable giant stars"

and

Dr. Juan Echevarría (UNAM), "Spectroscopic and photometric observations of the intermediate polar DW Cnc"

Saturday, the 27th, at 18:00 UT

Presents:

Dr. David Whelan (Austin College), "Classifying Algol C, the Non-Eclipsing Member of the beta Persei System."

For the year's full webinar schedule and details about the featured astronomers and their talks, please go here: <https://www.aavso.org/2021-webinars>

We love being able to offer free education to you and other astronomy enthusiasts! AAVSO is a nonprofit with an aim to enable anyone to pursue their astronomy passions and expand their knowledge. If you are able, we ask you to please consider [giving a donation](#) for attending the webinar. Many thanks for any contributions, and for joining us for our webinars and How-to Hours!



Stella Kafka
AAVSO Director



More Helpful Links For Our March 2011 75th Anniversary Celebrations

March 75th Anniversary Overview

<https://youtu.be/mQpZyE0IEe4>

Here is the link to the 75th Anniversary Page:

<https://astroleaguesteam.wixsite.com/75th-anniversary>

Handy Links For Various Award Programs For 2021:

National Young Astronomer Award

NYAA@astroleague.org

Horkheimer Journalism

horkheimerjournalism@astroleague.org

Horkheimer/Parker Imaging Award

horkheimerparker@astroleague.org

Horkheimer Service Awards

horkheimerservice@astroleague.org

Sketching Award

sketch@astroleague.org

Mabel Sterns Newsletter Award

sternsnewsletter@astroleague.org

Webmaster Award

webmasteraward@astroleague.org

Horkheimer Library Telescope

horkheimerlitel@astroleague.org

For other awards programs that are not on the above list or for general information regarding the various awards programs, please contact the Vice President at vice-president@astroleague.org.