



## MSRAL Year-End Report for 2024

### FINANCIAL:

Bank Account: at First Bank Balance: \$8866.22 as of May 30. 2025

-Attached are current Financial Statement and AL Grant Expense Tracker.

### CLUBS:

Arkansas Oklahoma Astro Soc-AOAS, Astro Soc of E. Missouri-ASEM, Astro Assn of S.E. Missouri-AASEMO, Astro Soc of Kansas City-ASKC, Astro Soc of NW Arkansas-ASNWA, Astro Assoc of Lawrence-AAL, Astro Club of Tulsa-ACT, Bartlesville Astro Soc-BAS, BA Sidewalk Astronomer-BASWA, Central Arkansas Astro Soc-CAAS, Central Missouri Ama Astro-CMAA, Eastern MO Dark Sky Observers-EMDSO, Kansas Astro Observers-KAO, NE Kansas Ama Astro League-NEKAAL, Northeast Nebraska Astro Club-NENEAC, Omaha Astro Soc-OAS, Platte Valley Astro Observers-PVAO, Prairie Astronomy Club-PAC, Springfield Astro Society-SAS, St. Louis Astronomical Society-SLAS, and Sugar Creek Astro Soc-SCAS.

### MSRAL OFFICERS:

Regional Chair: Rick Heschmeyer	<a href="mailto:rickheschmeyer@gmail.com">rickheschmeyer@gmail.com</a>
Regional Vice-Chair: Cook Feldman	<a href="mailto:hfel8913@charter.net">hfel8913@charter.net</a>
Secretary Treasurer: Jim Twellman	<a href="mailto:jtwellman@asemonline.org">jtwellman@asemonline.org</a>
Regional Representative: Peggy Walker	<a href="mailto:BAsidewalkastro@yahoo.com">BAsidewalkastro@yahoo.com</a>

### 2024 MSRAL CONVENTION:

2024 MSRAL was held in Ashland, NE and was hosted by Omaha Astronomical Society at Eugene Mahoney State Park and 87 attendees registered. The keynote speaker was Keith Schindler, Lowell Observatory Historian.

### 2025 MSRAL CONVENTION:

2025 MSRAL – While there were hurdles, including the fact that Astrocon 2025 was scheduled only 2 weeks after our Convention, 2025 MSRAL will take place at the University of Arkansas Little Rock. We will be celebrating MSRAL's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with lots of acknowledgements, awards, a cake, and a commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lapel pin and tote. MSRAL received a grant from the League to help offset some of the costs for this anniversary celebration. In addition, several MSRAL clubs and individual members stepped up to sponsor several students from nearby University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, who were planning to attend with a NASA grant that was cancelled due to recent NASA budget cutbacks. Thanks to all who stepped up to help.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

At the end of 2024 there were 21 clubs with 1769 members up by 74 from last year. Projected year end membership for year-end 2025 will be 1888 an increase of 118 members per Mitch Glaze, A.L. National Office Manager.

### **FUTURE CONVENTIONS:**

MSRAL 2026 ASEM is considering but no final decision has been made yet.

MSRAL 2027 hoping for club partnerships in Kansas.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

Currently there is a Website MSRAL.org, IO.group email group, Facebook page, and a short regional newsletter after ALCON so both convention information is included.

### **REGIONAL STAR PARTIES:**

The Heart of America Star Party 2024, hosted by the Astronomical Society of Kansas City, had over 90 attendees and the Nebraska Star Party 2024, co-hosted by the Omaha Astronomical Society and the Prairie Astronomy Club, had 330 attendees.

### **REGIONAL DOBSON FEST—NEW EVENT:**

The clubs in Missouri put together an event in September in honor of John Dobson's birthday. It focuses on Dobsonian telescope repair, cleaning and in the future ATM. It rotates amongst clubs and is not limited to the Mid-States Region members. ASEM, SLAS, and EMDSO participated along with clubs from southern Illinois. In 2024 the event was held at Carlyle Lake in Carlyle, IL, just east of St. Louis. The 2025 event will again take place back in Missouri.

### **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY:**

There are currently IDA Chapters in Arkansas, and Missouri and IDA designated dark sky sites: Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area, Valentine NE (OAS), Buffalo National River, Harrison, AR (CAAS) and Osage Hills State Park, Pawhuska, OK (BAS) is in progress.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:**

Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri—ASEM has partnered with a city park observatory and they run the scope and large community events together.

Kansas Astronomical Observers—is going through a club change since they rescued the public park observatory that was not being run. They too host regular events at Lake Afton Observatory.

Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers— helped design the construction of an observatory at a local natural park in the area and is actively hosting events.

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Initiated the creation of a new circular logo in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Mid-States was created by Fred Gassert and Dianna Bell.

Keeping the bylaws updated—added the Conflict-of-Interest Information from National.

With the help of Cook Feldman, a convention planning guide was completed complete with how to budget and explanation of roles and responsibilities of all involved.

Peggy vetted the current Regional Chair and Vice Chair candidates to fill empty seats.

Combined two lists “MSRAL Hosting” and “AOY” with history cited from archive documents for members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Heschmeyer

MSRAL Regional Chair