

# THE E-SCOPE

The electronic newsletter of the Black River Astronomical Society

MARCH 2003

visit our website at:

<http://junior.apk.net/~arstar50/BlackRiver.index.html>

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH

7:00 PM

AT THE LORAIN COUNTY METROPARKS VISITOR CENTER  
ON NICKEL PLATE - DIAGONAL RD  
IN CARLISLE TWP.

Our speaker for the March meeting will be President Mike Harkey. Mike will be presenting a "how to" program on various astronomical topics including using the club's new hydrogen alpha filter, He will also be showing some of his astrophotos.

NIELSEN OBSERVATORY DATES

There will be public observing at the Nielsen Observatory, located at the Equestrian Center, just south of the Carlisle Visitor Center on Friday, March 7th from 7:30 to 9:30 PM featuring Saturn and Jupiter under a dark sky, and on Friday March 28th from 7:30 to 9:30 PM featuring Vesta, our brightest asteroid. Clear skies only.

All BRAS members are encouraged to attend and even bring a telescope if they wish.

NEW FEATURE IN THE E-SCOPE

An exciting new feature in this month's e-Scope is the Constellation of the Month.

This feature is contributed by Tim Hornbeck. Tim will also be giving a brief presentation on the featured constellation at our regular meeting.

Follow this link to the Constellation of the Month.

<http://www.thehornbecks.net/starcharts.html>

BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors meeting for this month will be on Thursday, March 13th at 7:00 PM at the Beaver Creek Reservation on North Lake St. in Amherst. All members are welcome to attend.

## THIS YEAR'S REGULAR MEETINGS

All of our regular meetings for 2003 will be at the  
LORAIN COUNTY METROPARKS VISITOR CENTER  
except for the December meeting which will be held at Beaver Creek Reservation.

## A SERENDIPITOUS OBSERVING SESSION

Last week, on one of the few clear nights this Winter, I took out my 120 mm refractor and decided to take a look at Jupiter and Saturn, both of which are so nicely placed in the early evening sky. Saturn is simply stunning, with its ring system open at about 27 degrees from edge-on, and Jupiter is shining like a beacon high in the western sky. After getting my fill of Saturn, if that's possible, I turned to Jupiter and viewed the gas giant at about 150X. I noticed right away that there was a little dark spot near the equator of Jupiter, which I at first thought to be a shadow of one of the Galilean Moons. I then turned the scope to a few double stars and clusters and galaxies. After about a half hour, I returned to give Jupiter another look. Now, there was another spot on the planet, west of the one I saw earlier, and considerably darker. It turns out that the first spot I saw was Ganymede transiting Jupiter and the second, darker spot was Ganymede's shadow. I confirmed this by looking at the chart of satellite events in the February issue of Sky and Telescope. I could have looked this up before I went out to observe, but I'm glad that I didn't. It was more fun "discovering" the events for myself. Clear skies to all.