

The E-SCOPE

The electronic newsletter of the Black River Astronomical Society

AUGUST 2003

visit our website at:

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

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH

7:00 PM

AT THE LORAIN COUNTY METROPARKS VISITOR CENTER

ON NICKEL PLATE - DIAGONAL RD

IN CARLISLE TWP.

This month's meeting will feature a talk by board member Tim Longwell.

Tim will tell us about the history of Mars observing, with all its pitfalls, misconceptions and great discoveries.

There couldn't be a better time for this talk than this month, as the Red Planet reaches an historic opposition.

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, August 8th from 9:30 to 11:30 PM ,

and Friday August 22nd

from 9:30 to 11:30 PM .

Clear skies only.

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

If you are interested in solar viewing at Nielsen, then stop by on Sunday, August 24th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors meeting for this month will be on

Thursday, August 14th at 7:00 PM

at Lorenzo's in Oberlin.

Many of us already know how great the food is here.

THIS YEAR'S REGULAR MEETINGS

All of our regular meetings for 2003 will be at the

LORAIN COUNTY METROPARKS VISITOR CENTER

except for the September meeting which will be at the Scout Camp, and the December

meeting which will be held at
Beaver Creek Reservation.

OBSERVING REPORTS

We finally had a clear night for one of our Nielsen Observatory Public Sessions in July. On the evening of the 25th, about a dozen club members and about two dozen other folks had a great time observing the wonders of the Summer sky. I was especially impressed with club member Paul Pernici as he was able to spot both Jupiter and Mercury very low in the northwestern sky and very close together. The two planets were only about one-third degree apart, and Paul was able to get them both in the same field in his 102mm refractor. The two planets, one a gas giant and the other a small rocky planet, were less than five degrees above the horizon shortly after sunset. Good job, Paul. As the evening darkened, our visitors were treated to views of doubles stars, nebulae, globular clusters and open clusters in various club telescopes. We were even able to spot the International Space Station, as well as many other satellites that night. Mars rose in the southeast later that night, and we saw a nice preview of things to come in August on the Red Planet. Uranus and Neptune were viewed as well.

On the morning of July 29th, I set my alarm for 1:00 AM in order to get a look at Mars. The planet was climbing in the southeastern sky and was at a sufficient altitude for clear observing. I used my 120mm refractor (the Hoon scope) and using a Meade 6.7mm Ultrawide and 2X Barlow, I got the best view of Mars of my life. The planet was still a month from opposition, but I was able to see lots of detail on Mars and a considerable range of colors. In August, Mars rises at a more reasonable time, and its apparent size increases even more, as does its brightness. Don't miss your chance to see Mars at its best.

OTAA DATES SET

OTAA meetings will follow this schedule this Summer:
August 23 MVAS (more details later this month)
September 27 BRAS

FOR SALE OR TRADE

6" f/4 OTA , 2" R+P focuser
diffraction limited optics
steel tube
\$120.00 or trade.

Pentax K1000 body, good to excellent condition
50mm f/1.4 lens
2X tele-extender
cable release
\$150.00 or trade

contact John Reising at 440-327-3301

CLUB MEMBERS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SAVING THE CLUB SOME MONEY?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE ONLY THE E-SCOPE, AND NOT THE
GUIDESCOPE?

THIS WOULD SAVE THE CLUB THE COST OF MAILING THE GUIDESCOPE.
IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT GUIDESCOPE EDITOR MIKE PLAS AT
mikepls1@aol.com
AND HE WILL REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE MAILING LIST.

Clear skies to all!