



LORAIN, OHIO

# GUIDESCOPE

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

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**November 2004**

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**B.R.A.S. Officers**

**President: Mike Harkey**

**Vice President: Dave Lengyel**

**Treasurer: John Reising**

**Secretary: Dave Gulyas**

## Meeting Dates

° Regular Monthly Meeting at the Carlisle Visitor's Center Nov 03, 2004

7:00 PM

° Monthly Board Meeting at the Blue Sky Restaurant Nov 11, 2004 7:00

PM

## Observing Dates

° Nielsen Observatory "The Glorious Great Square" Nov 05, 2004 8:00 -

10:00 PM

° Nielsen Observatory "Enter Orion, Stage Left" Nov 19, 2004 8:00 -

10:00 PM

° Solar viewing will resume on Sunday, May 29, 2005

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## Location Sites

Nielsen Observatory is located at the Lorain Metro Parks Equestrian Center on Diagonal Road in Carlisle Township

Carlisle Visitor's Center is located at 12882 Diagonal Road in Carlisle Township

Blue Sky Restaurant is located on Rt 58 just north of Rt 2 on the east side of the street in Amherst

Lorenzo's Restaurant is located in Oberlin in the SW quadrant of Rt 58 and College St behind the storefronts. There is a large parking lot, and access can be gained from both Rt 58 and College St

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## Sale & Trade

Apogee 15 mm 70 deg wide field eyepiece in near new condition. Price: \$40.00 John Reising Tel: 440-327-3301

Astro Physics 5" F/12 super planetary scope with the original equipment and a wooden tripod as well. Partial list of scope and equipment:

Optical tube, AP EQ mount, AP dual axis's drive corrector, AP field pier, wooden tripod and more. I won't sell it as pieces, complete only. I want to start with the price at a very reasonable \$3,800.00 for all, this price doesn't include any packing, shipping or insurance costs.

Mike Williams Tel: 440-235-9193 or 440-235-6867

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## Whats Happenin

**Club dues are due !! A copy of the dues form is included in this newsletter at the bottom of the page. Please pay your dues if you haven't already done so. Thanks.**

Check out the new Guidescope website at <http://www.eriecoast.com/~homegrown>

Club elections occurred at the October meeting. These are the results, provided by Jim Cunningham:

October 6 2004 6 New Board Members Were Elected

7 Members Ran For The Board. Newly elected members are highlighted in green.

Voter Turn Out 18 Members

1 Tim Hornbeck-----Term Will End 2005

2 Jim Lengyel-----Term Will End 2005

3 John Reising-----Term Will End 2005

4 Greg Cox-----Term Will End 2006

5 Dave Gulyas-----Term Will End 2006

6 Jim Cunningham-----Term Will End 2007

7 Ken Hubal-----Term Will End 2007

8 Tom Janus-----Term Will End 2007

9 Tim Kreja-----Term Will End 2007

10 Dave Lengyel-----Term Will End 2007

**11 Mike Plas-----Term Will End 2007**

**12 Mike Harkey-----Fellow**

**PRESIDENT-----Mike Harkey**

**VICE PRESIDENT----- Dave Lengyel**

**TREASURER----- John Reising**

**SECRETARY-----Dave Gulyas**

**GUIDE SCOPE-----Jim Lengyel**

**NIELSEN OBSERVATORY January through June 2005**

**RECOMMENDED OBSERVING NIGHTS (AND DAYS) FROM THE  
BLACK RIVER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

**Friday January 7**

**7:00-9:00 PM Deep Freeze Sky**

**Friday January 21**

**7:00-9:00 PM Ring in the New Year with Saturn**

**Friday February 4**

**7:00-9:00 PM Mid-Winter Delights**

**Friday February 18**

**7:00-9:00 PM Red, White and Blue Astronomy**

**Friday March 11**

**7:00-9:00 PM Elusive Mercury**

**Friday March 18**

**8:00-10:00 PM Messier Marathon**

**Friday April 8**

**9:00-11:00 PM An All-Star Season**

**Friday April 15**

**9:00-11:00 PM (I.R.S.) Incredibly Red Stars**

**Friday May 6**

**9:30-11:30 PM Jupiter's Great Red Spot**

**Friday May 27**

**9:30-11:30 PM Late Spring Specials**

**Sunday May 29**

**1:00-4:00 PM Safely View the Sun**

**Friday June 10**

**9:30-11:30 PM School's Out For Summer**

**Friday June 17**

**9:30-11:30 PM Venus and Saturn**

**Sunday June 26**

**1:00-4:00 PM Safely View the Sun**

**Do Not Skip This**

**A report from club member Mike Williams on a rare observation:**

**Jim,**

I can give you a brief description of what the students and I saw. It was September 21st. (on a dark and rainy night with the wind about to blow the shutters off the dome - - I guess that's the wrong story) I was on the deck with half dozen Astro. 100 students, we just caught a short fast meteorite running from Cass. towards the big dipper when off to the Southwest we saw another meteorite enter and head towards the north east, this was an earth (atmosphere) skimming event, the trail extended across the sky from the point we first saw it enter until it disappeared in the North East sky glow.

The first thing I remember seeing was a flash followed by trailing and two or three more smaller flashes as it moved across the sky, the trail was visible for a few seconds from the point of entry until it disappeared in the sky glow, by that time it was vanishing from view SW to NE

The students were really impressed with what they had seen, especially when I told them that in 50 years of my personal observing I've only seen one other such event, one of the students wanted to know if such events occur often, I said given the odds that earth would move through a cloud of derbies at any given time it is definitely very likely, add that it might happen during the daylight or twilight hours or above a deck of clouds the odds are very slim someone actually would be looking up and in the right part of the sky at the exact time, you better add this to the memory bank as one of those things you probably won't ever see again, unless you "keep looking up."

Mike

### Who's Smiling Now ?

According to Kathy French, and with her apologies to any blonde club members:

Two blondes living in Oklahoma were sitting on a bench one evening, looking at the moon and talking. One blonde says to the other, "What do you think is farther away.....Florida or the moon"? The other blonde turns and says, "Helloooooooooooooooooooooo, can you see Florida from here?"...

### Dates from the Cleveland Museum

Black Holes in the Universe Dr Karl Gebhardt

Thursday, Nov 18, 2004 8PM

Light in the Darkness Dr Stacy McGaugh

Thursday, Dec 9, 2004 8PM

How the Milky Way Galaxy Changed with Time Dr Robert Zinn

Thursday, Mar 24, 2005

The Evolution of Galaxies Dr Jacqueline van Gorkom

Thursday, April 14, 2005

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## Articles

### **NASA Space Place Column**

#### **A Summer Vacation Tracking Down UFOs**

**Erin Schumacher's summer job for NASA was to look for UFOs. Erin is a 16-year-old high school student from Redondo Beach, California, attending the California Academy of Mathematics and Science in Carson. She was one of ten students selected to work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena as part of the Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program, or SHARP.**

**But is studying UFOs a useful kind of NASA research? Well, it is when they are "unidentified flashing objects" that appear in certain images of Earth from space. Erin worked with scientists on the Multi-angle Imaging SpectroRadiometer (MISR) project to track down these mysterious features. MISR is one of five instruments onboard the Earth-orbiting Terra satellite. MISR's nine separate cameras all point downward at different angles, each camera in turn taking a picture of the same piece of Earth as the satellite passes overhead. Viewing the same scene through the atmosphere at different angles gives far more information about the aerosols, pollution, and water vapor in the air than a single view would give. Ground features may also look slightly or dramatically different from one viewing angle to another.**

**Erin's job was to carefully examine the pictures looking for any flashes of light that might be visible from just one of the nine angles. Such flashes are caused by sunlight bouncing off very reflective surfaces and can be seen if a camera is pointed at just the right angle to catch them. Because the satellite data contain precise locations for each pixel in the images, Erin could figure out exactly where a flashing object on the ground should be. Her job was then to figure out exactly what it was that made the flash-in particular, to see if she could distinguish man-made objects from natural ones.**

**When Erin began working at JPL, scientists on the MISR project had already identified two large flashes out in the middle of the Mojave Desert in Southern California. These turned out to be from solar power generating stations. Soon, Erin began finding flashes all over the place. She learned how to apply her math knowledge to figuring out how the objects would have to be oriented in order to be seen by a particular MISR camera. One time, she and a team of MISR scientists and students went on a field trip to the exact locations of some flashes, where they found greenhouses, large warehouses with corrugated metal roofs, a glass-**

**enclosed shopping mall, and a solar-paneled barn. For some flashes, they could find nothing at all. Those remain "UFOs" to this day!**

**Learn more about SHARP at [www.nasasharp.com](http://www.nasasharp.com) and Earth science applications of MISR at [www-misr.jpl.nasa.gov](http://www-misr.jpl.nasa.gov). Kids can do an online MISR crossword at**

**[spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/misr\\_xword/misr\\_xword1.shtml](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/misr_xword/misr_xword1.shtml).**

**This article was written by Diane K. Fisher. It was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

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