



LORAIN, OHIO

# GUIDESCOPE

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

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the guidescope webpage can be found at <http://relay1.eriecoast.com/~homegrown/>

**April 2005**

**Table of Contents**

[Dates](#)

[Locations](#)

[Sale / Trade](#)

[Club News](#)

[Monthly Articles](#)

**Astronomy Day - April 16 !**

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

**President: Mike Harkey**

**Vice President: Dave Lengyel**

**Treasurer: John Reising**

**Secretary: Dave Gulyas**

## **Meeting Dates**

° Regular Monthly Meeting at Carlisle Visitor's Center    Apr 06, 2005

7:00 PM

° Monthly Board Meeting at the Blue Sky Restaurant    Apr 14, 2005

7:00 PM

## **Observing Dates**

° Friday April 08, 2005    9:00 - 11:00 PM "An All Star Season"

° Friday April 15, 2005    9:00 - 11:00 PM "IRS: Incredibly Red Stars"

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

[back to contents](#)

## **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

**BEAVER CREEK RESERVATION** is located on N Lake St / Oak Point just south of Rt 2 next to the Amherst Police Station.

**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 RT58 and College St behind the storefronts. There is a large parking lot, and access can be gained from both RT58 and College St

**BIRMINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH** is located in Birmingham, Ohio. Take the Ohio Turnpike and exit at 135 (Baumhart Rd). [Alternately, take RT2 to Baumhart Rd ] Go south on Baumhart to RT113, then head west to Birmingham. Turn left (south) at the first street over the bridge as you enter Birmingham. Continue on South St as it curves to the right, and the meeting hall will be on the left.

**BOY SCOUT CAMP** is located on Bates Rd about 500 yds west of the intersection of Bates and Gore Orphanage Rd. The gate is on the right (north) side of the road as you head west.

[back to contents](#)

## Sale & Trade

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

[back to contents](#)

## Whats Happenin

As noted last month, the Date for the 2005 OTAA wingding has been set for September 10. Dates for other local club OTAA events can be found on the Guidescope webpage.

The Black River Astronomical Society welcomes two new members voted in at the last board meeting. Good to have you in the club, [Denny Bodzash](#) and [John Lake](#).

Membership lists should be available at the next club meeting.

[back to contents](#)

## Dates from the Cleveland Museum

The Evolution of Galaxies Dr Jacqueline van Gorkom

Thursday, April 14, 2005

[back to contents](#)

## Articles

Thanks to club member **Larry Janowicz** for this insightful and entertaining article:

## **Random Musings – Amateur Astronomers on the Internet**

I'm blessed (?) by the presence of three computers in my office. I get paid to use them to maintain dozens of databases, produce hundreds of pivot tables in Excel workbooks, build charts for the illiterate, and delete spam. But having three connections to the Internet also provides for short interludes of mini surf time in between file loads, compacting processes, data refresh commands, and other button pushing activity. I sometimes use those tiny time bites to follow many astro groups on the net. (You didn't think I'd actually waste my time doing this at home, did you?). The following are some of my personal observations regarding these groups/communities:

- ° If a manufacturer produces a new scope ( for instance - a 200mm Klevtsov with Crayford focuser), a new Yahoo group dedicated to this scope will start within 60 days. That, in turn, will be followed by another group bearing the word "Uncensored" in its name ( e.g. "The Uncensored Klevtsov-Crayford Group").
- ° Any useful information in most specialized Yahoo groups will cease after about the first hundred postings followed by rounds of "I just ordered a Klevtsov-Crayford!" posts which will then be followed by rounds of "My Klevtsov Arrived!". Exclamation marks are required in the topic line.
- ° The big groups are the venerable SAA ( sci.astro.amateur), Astromart Forums, Cloudy Nights, and some select Yahoo Groups like Telescopes. There are over 200 telescope groups on Yahoo. That's about the same number of political parties that exist in Italy.
- ° The signal to noise ratio in the more popular groups seems to be about the same across the board. SAA suffers a bit from Usenet spammers, Astromart Forums is showing real growth and may end up like Yahoo, and Cloudy Nights seems to have a bit more warmth and civility among regulars- but not necessarily better information.
- ° The absolute best telescope is generally the one any poster owns.
- ° You can actually learn a lot from some posters. Roland Christen ( Astro-Physics) often shares technical information and his experience in a straight forward manner on A-Mart and sometimes SAA. Yuri Petrunin (TEC), Valery Deryuzhin (Aries), and Markus Ludes (APM) frequently offer information and opinions based on their solid experience. The latter three, when they step into the opinion realms, often produce highly entertaining Not Very Emily Posts between them. Gotta be some European thing going on there.

° Some true amateur posters I enjoy and who often provide bona fide useable information are Rod Mollise ( AKA Uncle Rod), David Kniseley, Geoff Gaherty, Barry Simon, Andrea Tasselli, and Chuck Taylor - just to name a few that come to mind. There certainly are others but I have to cut the list off somewhere.

° Every community has its characters. My favorites are Herb York (who owns Anacortes and runs A-Mart), Shawn Grant (aka Siegfried Gonzi and a host of other sock puppets on SAA) and Dennis Bishop ( aka Starlord on SAA).

° Never ever ask on any group about X model telescopes. You'll get a flood of responses from the local denizens who have actually never owned or used one but will tell you imprecisely why the X model is either worse than Tasco or the best thing to come around since the achromatic lens was invented. Even if you don't say what use you intend for it.

° Burgess Optics on A-mart reminds me either of an entire season of Archie Bunker interacting with George Jefferson or a classic Monty Python sketch: Oh! Oh! I'm sorry. This is abuse. You want room 12A. (stupid git!)

° Postings that actually share observing information and experiences are in the minority. That's a bit sad isn't it? A-mart Forums at least has Deep Sky and Double Stars.

° Within 1 hour after a new model telescope is announced for the very first time every group will have at least one poster who will ask if anyone has used one yet.

° I really get nauseated whenever someone mentions that they just bought a new X brand telescope and asks for opinions on which eyepieces they should buy for it. That's just begging for imbecile electrons to flood the Internet. ("Hi Joe, it's little known secret that Rini eyepieces will actually perform as good as or better than Naglers due to the unique optical design used by X. I can sell you a Rini I don't use much for about \$140 - because it has some scratch marks on the Delrin")

I think I'm starting to sound a bit like Andy Rooney. If he only gets a few minutes so should I. **lj**

## **Astronomy Day**

Taken from the **Astronomical League's** webpage at <http://www.astroleague.org/al/astroday/astroday.html>

**Astronomy Day Headquarters:**

**Gary Tomlinson**

**Astronomy Day Headquarters**

**30 Stargazer Lane**

**Comstock Park MI 49321**

**(616) 784-9518**

**E-mail: [gtmlins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gtmlins@sbcglobal.net)**

### **[About Astronomy Day](#)**

**Astronomy Day is a grass roots movement to share the joy of astronomy with the general population - "Bringing Astronomy to the People." On Astronomy Day, thousands of people who have never looked through a telescope will have an opportunity to see first hand what has so many amateur and professional astronomers all excited. Astronomy clubs, science museums, observatories, universities, planetariums, laboratories, libraries, and nature centers host special events and activities to acquaint their population with local astronomical resources and facilities. It is an astronomical PR event that helps highlight ways the general public can get involved with astronomy - or at least get some of their questions about astronomy answered. Astronomy Week is the same concept as Astronomy Day except seven times longer.**

### **[When](#)**

**Astronomy Day occurs sometime between mid April and mid May on a Saturday near or before the 1st quarter Moon. Astronomy Week starts the Monday preceding Astronomy Day and ends the following Sunday. Astronomy Week was created to give sponsoring organizations a longer period of time to host special events. Some local Astronomy Week celebrations have actually been longer than just one week.**

**[Astronomy Day is April 16, 2005](#)**

**[Astronomy Week is April 11 - 17 2005](#)**

### **[Where](#)**

**Astronomy Day events take place at hundreds of sites across the United States. Internationally England, Canada, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, the Philippines, Argentina, Malaysia, New Guinea plus many other countries have hosted Astronomy Day activities. Each location plans and executes events that work best for their local area. To find an event near you check out our list of Astronomy Date events**

### **[What](#)**

**Activities have included talks by astronauts, astronomers and NASA personnel, Moon rocks, a Moon gravity simulator, games, prizes, astronomical food, scale models of the solar system, space hardware, space ballets and poetry and, of course, actual outdoor observing (daytime and nighttime) with a telescope. Daytime observations include SAFE ways to observe the Sun. Many organizations host elaborate exhibits at shopping malls, museums, nature centers, libraries, etc. Teachers have used Astronomy Day to promote the study of astronomy with their classes.**

### **[History](#)**

**Astronomy Day was born in California in 1973. Doug Berger, then president of the Astronomical Association of Northern California, decided that rather than try to entice people to travel long distances to visit observatory open houses, they would set up telescopes closer to where the people were - busy locations - urban locations like street corners, shopping malls, parks, etc. His strategy paid off. Not only did Astronomy Day go over with a bang, not only did the public find out about the astronomy club, they found out about future observatory open houses. Since the public got a chance to look through a portable telescope, they were hooked. Then wanted to see what went on at the bigger telescopes, so they turned out in droves at the next observatory open house.**

### **Assistance**

**The Astronomical League maintains an office to assist groups who want to host special Astronomy Day events. This office attempts to gain publicity for the day in general and, in cooperation with Sky & Telescope magazine, the Astronomy Day Headquarters has a free handbook listing ideas, activities, resources and suggestions for groups wishing to host Astronomy Day events (postage & handling is \$3.00 in the United States, \$4.00 outside the US. Make check payable, in US funds, to the Astronomical League and mail to the address on the front of this Fact Sheet). Also, in cooperation with Sky & Telescope, the League sponsors an award for the groups that hosts the best Astronomy Day event . First prize is a \$250.00 Sky Publishing gift certificate. For rules and entry forms, send a self addressed, stamped business size envelope to Sky & Telescope Astronomy Day Award at the address on the front of this Fact Sheet.**

### **Co-sponsors**

**Astronomy Day has 15 organizations that cosponsor the event internationally. They are:**

**Astronomical League**

**Astronomical Society of the Pacific**

**The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada**

**American Astronomical Society**

**Astronomical Association of Northern California**

**Western Amateur Astronomers**

**American Association of Physics Teachers**

**National Deep Sky Observers Society**

**Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers**

**American Meteor Society**

**Association of Astronomy Educators**

**American Association of Variable Star Observers**

**The Planetary Society**

**National Space Society**  
**International Planetarium Society**

[back to contents](#)

[back to home page](#)