

B.R.A.S. Officers

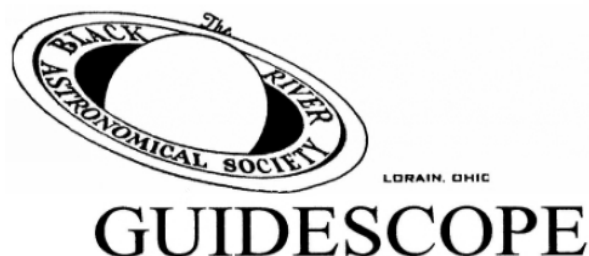
President: Mike Harkey

Vice President: Dave Lengyel

Treasurer: John Reising

Secretary: Dave Gulyas

Editor: Barb Hubal, hubalbd@netzero.net



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IMPORTANT LOCATIONS:

Nielsen Observatory - 13630 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH at the Lorain County Metro Parks Carlisle Equestrian Center

Birmingham Methodist Church Hall - 15018 South Birmingham, Birmingham, OH 44816.

Letha House-10311 Spencer Lake Road, in the Medina County Parks System.

Cortese Observatory - Route 534 in Trumbull County, OH (41.2500N, 80.9800W)

Wooster Memorial Park - off SR 250 at the intersection of N. Jefferson and Silver Roads in Wooster, OH 44691

Coming UP!!

Black River Meetings

- **July 6th Meeting** - Mike Harkey
- **August 3rd Meeting** - Barb Hubal: Make It and Take It-Solar Filters

Public Star Parties (Nielsen)

- **Friday, June 17, 2005, 9:30-11:30 p.m., "Venus and Saturn "**
- **Sunday, June 26, 2005, 1-4 p.m., Solar Viewing**
- **Friday, July 1st, 9:30-11:30pm**
- **Friday, July 29, 2005, 9:30-11:30pm**
- **Sunday, July 31, 2005, 1-4pm, Solar Viewing**

OTAA MEETINGS

- **Sat. July 9th - CAA at Letha House**
- **Sat. August 6th - Mahoning Valley at Cortese Observatory**

Sat. September 10th - Black River, 4:30pm - ? at the Birmingham Methodist Church Hall

OTHER AREA STAR PARTIES

- **Sat. August 13th – Wayne County Astronomical Society at Wooster Memorial Park**
- **Fri/Sat Sep 30th & Oct 1st -Hidden Hollow Star Party at the Warren Rupp Observatory. See their website: www.wro.org/hiddenhollow2005.htm for more details.**
- **Sat. October 29th - Brunswick Astronomy Club at Plum Creek (Medina County Parks)**
- **Friday-Sunday, September 2-4, 2005 - Black Forest Star Party at Cherry Springs State Park, Potter County, PA. Check <http://www.bfsp.org/starparty/> for more details.**

Club News

Coming up in August...

Barb & Ken Hubal will be hosting a make it-and-take it workshop on solar filters during our August meeting. If you wish to make a filter and you haven't already signed up, you MUST contact Barb ASAP with the outside diameter measurement of your scope, and your preference for either black polymer film or Baader solar filter film. Bring either your scope or its dust cap to the August meeting.

This- n-That

Amateur Astronomy Magazine

I recently ran across the web site for an astronomy magazine called Amateur Astronomy. The magazine has been published for 10 years now, and its articles are written by amateur astronomers whose articles reflect their love of the hobby.

The magazine offers a refreshing break from other advertisement-packed astronomy magazines. USA subscriptions are \$20 for one year and \$36 for two years. Interested? For more information, see their web site at <<http://www.amateurastronomy.com/>> or contact Tom Clark (Editor), 5450 NW 52 Ct. Chiefland, FL 32626, Telephone no. 352-490-9101.

Both Jim Cunningham and Mike Harkey currently have subscriptions to AA.

An Observatory Builder...

I met an interesting astronomer and observatory-builder this past month. Scott Horstman is working on his fledgling company, Backyard Observatories. Scott was originally working in the housing construction industry, but developed a love of astronomy in the '90s. He's now working full-time in a business that combines building and astronomy – building backyard observatories.

What's more – he's gotten his wife Diane into astronomy! She's now learning the skies and the ins-and-outs of telescopes. It's a dream come true for both of them – they love being able to be together while they enjoy their hobby!

Up until now, Scott has been focusing on roll-off roof observatories – building them, selling pre-fab kits, prints for the do-it-yourself-er, mounting plates and steel piers.

But now he's investigating fiberglass domes. He's installed one in his yard and plans to add a roll-off and some guest-piers. The domes, made by Sirius Observatories, consist of 6 side panels and a 2-piece roof. Even if you don't plan to own one, they're neat to see! Check out his website at www.backyardobservatories.com for more details

Hidden Hollow

The Richland Astronomical Society will be holding the "Hidden Hollow" star party on September 30 and October 1st at the Warren Rupp Observatory. As in past years, there will be primitive lodging available in the bunkhouses provided by Friendly House, as well as camping on the Observatory grounds. Fees for the weekend will be \$40 per person, but if more than 10 people would like to attend, they've offered to arrange a group rate for us. (This would allow families to attend without breaking the budget.) The Link to their website is www.wro.org/hiddenhollow2005.htm.

Among their speakers will be our own Barb Hubal, giving her presentation on Safe Solar Viewing and the Venus Transit.

CAA OTAA Convention - July 9th

The Cuyahoga Astronomical Association is hosting its annual Ohio Turnpike Astronomers Association convention at Letha House in Spencer, Ohio. Registration is free and begins at 5 p.m. A potluck dinner will be followed by three presentations: "Digital Astrophotography", "The Telescopes of Kitt Peak," and "The Sky Tonight." The event will be topped off by a star party (weather permitting). For more details visit CAA's Web site at www.cuyastro.org or call Lynn Laux (440) 846-0966.

By-the-By...

Barb Hubal is currently working on plans to build a 6-inch, f/8 Dobsonian telescope. So far, she's managed to acquire the objective mirror, a quik-tube, bearings, plywood, a mirror cell & focuser. Anyone willing to offer advice or spare parts is welcome to contact Barb.

Board Meeting Minutes

*Black River Astronomical Society
Monthly Board Meeting
Blue Sky Restaurant in Amherst, Ohio.
June 06, 2005 7:00PM*

At 7:04PM Mike Harkey called the meeting to order with J. Cunningham, J. Reising, T. Janus, T. Kreja, M. Plas, G. Cox, K. Hubal, B. Hubal and D. Gulyas present.

Reading of the minutes: The May minutes were approved.

Treasures Report

Guidescope: Some members did not receive May issue. Distribution list will be checked

Instrumentation: Greg Cox has completed the dove-tail plate for the

Unitron mount.

Planning: All scheduling is in place through December 2005.

OTAA: Status quo.

Programming:

- ***July: Mike Harkey - TBA.***
- ***August: Barb Hubal - Make it and take it solar filter.***
- ***September: Dave Lengyel - Astronomical misconceptions.***
- ***October: John Reising - Mars opposition.***
- ***November: Show and Tell***

Public observing dates:

- ***July 01, 2005: 9:30 - 11:30PM - Nielsen Observatory. Hot Summer Planets.***
- ***July 06, 2005: 7:00PM - Regular monthly meeting Carlisle Visitors Center.***
- ***July 14, 2005: 7:00PM - Regular monthly board meeting: Blue Sky Restaurant, Amherst.***
- ***July 29, 2005: 9:30 - 11:30PM - Nielsen Observatory. Delta Aquarid Meteors.***
- ***July 31, 2005: 1:00 - 4:00PM - Solar viewing at the Nielsen Observatory.***

Old Business:

Solar film quantities were decided upon for the August "Make it and take it: solar filter" meeting.

New Business:

- ***Jim Cunningham has purchased latches, hasps, locks and keys for the Planned Nielsen updates.***
- ***A rotating scheduling of Board Members to attend public observing sessions was discussed.***
- ***John Reising will contact Dan Martin for a definitive answer regarding a key for the Nielsen Observatory.***

Jim Cunningham made the motion to adjourn with a second by Tim Kreja at 8:37PM.

Respectfully submitted,

***Dave Gulyas
Secretary,
Black River Astronomical Society***