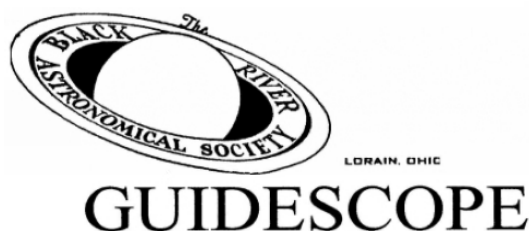


September 2005



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

**President: Mike  
Harkey**

**Vice-President:  
Dave Lengyel**

**Treasurer: John Reising**

**Secretary: Dave Gulyas**

**Editor: Barb Hubal**

**Barb Hubalbalbd@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 St., Birmingham, OH – Directions: from I-80, exit at Baumhart Road (exit 135), turn right onto Baumhart/CR-51. Go about 1.5 miles, and turn right onto Telegraph/OH-113. Go about 4.5 miles. Turn left onto Chapel, then right onto South Street.

## ***Coming UP!!***

### **Black River Meetings**

- **August 26<sup>th</sup>** at **Nielson** (9-11pm) Outer Solar System Specials
- **August 28<sup>th</sup>** at **Nielson** (1-4pm) Solar Viewing
- **September 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Nielson** (9-11pm) Back to School Specials
- **September 7<sup>th</sup>** **Carlisle Visitor Center** - Dave Lengyel - Astronomical Misconceptions
- **October** - **Carlisle Visitor Center** - John Reising - Mars opposition
- **November** - **Carlisle Visitor Center** - Astronomical Show and Tell

- **December - Carlisle Visitor Center - Holiday Dinner Meeting**

## **OTAA MEETING**

**Sat. September 10th - Blaack River, 4:30pm - Birmingham Methodist Church Hall**

## **OTHER AREA STAR PARTIES**

- **Fri/Sat Sep 30<sup>th</sup> & Oct 1<sup>st</sup> -Hidden Hollow Star Party 2005 at the Warren Rupp Observatory. See their website: [www.wro.org/hiddenhollow2005.htm](http://www.wro.org/hiddenhollow2005.htm) for more details.**
- **Sat. October 29<sup>th</sup> - 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**

### ***Make-It-And-Take-It***

***Barb & Ken Hubal hosted a make it-and-take it workshop on solar filters at the August meeting. IF YOU MADE A FILTER, GIVE BARB THE SIZE OF THE SCOPE(S) & THE MATERIAL USED SO SHE CAN CALCULATE HOW MUCH YOU OWE FOR THE FILTER MATERIAL.***

### **Mahoning Valley OTAA Meeting**

***The Mahoning Valley OTAAA Meeting was Saturday, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>. For those who missed it – you missed a great party! Six BRAS members attended – Greg Cox, Mike Harkey, Tim Kreja, Gary Smith, and Barb & Ken Hubal. Tim was especially lucky and walked away with one of the big prizes – a Deep Sky Imager!***

***Another big event at the MVAS meeting was the dedication of their 25” Dobsonian – “Titan.” For those of you who’ve been around for a while, you know that the completion of a scope for the 25” mirror has been a long time coming. Congratulations MVAS!***

### **LOANER SCOPES**

***Did you know that the club owns scopes that it makes available for loan? Well, it does! The following telescopes are available for loan; just ask a board member about them!***

- **90mm refractor with an alt-az mount**
- **5" (f6.5) reflector on an equatorial mount (known as the Blue Lady). It is available with or without the hydrogen-alpha filter,**
- **68mm refractor complete with a tripod block (note, camera tripod is not supplied)**

## **OPERATING EQUIPMENT AT NIELSON...**

***If anyone would like to learn about operating the equipment (including the roll-off roof), please contact a board member to set up a date. Remember, as a club member, it's your equipment to use!***

## **Other News and Articles**

### **Hidden Hollow**

***The Richland Astronomical Society will be holding the Hidden Hollow Star Party on September 30 and October 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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.***

### **Lunar Transient Phenomena**

***If you were at the Last Black River OTAA Meeting, you may remember "Marvin the Moonie" from the entertainment...but what does the moon offer for serious observers? Well, besides the standard fare of craters and craggy mountains, how about Lunar Transient Phenomena (LTP)?***

***The definition of Lunar Transient Phenomena (L.T.P.) is a short lived phenomenon observed on the Moon. It can consist of red glows, flashes, obscuration, and abnormal albedo and shadow effects. Accounts of lunar transient phenomena (LTP'S) are not new. Over the past 30 years, close to 2,000 observations have been documented, some dating from as far back as 557 A.D. Reputable observers such as William Herschel, Wilhelm Struve, and E. E. Barnard have seen them. Some LTP's have even been photographed.***

***A mere dozen features contribute three-fourths of all reports. One area, Aristarchus-Herodotus-Schroters Valley, is responsible for fully one-third of the total number sighted. Some LTP phenomena may be caused by sunlight***

*interacting with the lunar soil. Gases in the lunar soil, frozen during the night, could heat up and escape near sunrise. Could high-energy solar particles impacting the Moon also trigger LTP activity? Zdenek Kopal proposed that energetic particles from the flare caused lunar rocks to fluorescence. Such activity might be expected especially at full phase when the Moon passes through the Earth's magnetosphere, where solar wind particles become trapped.*

*LTP sightings fall into five categories: brightenings darkenings, reddish colorations, bluish colorations, and obscurations. When plotted against the lunar anomalistic month, the data show that LTP activity peaks somewhat when the Moon is moving from apogee to perigee, especially about halfway between these points when the Moon is approaching Earth the most rapidly.*

*Although some LTPs are caused by Earth's atmospheric effects, more than 40% of the reports cannot readily be discounted. There is evidence that the remaining LTP's are of lunar origin. A substantial number of sightings were independently confirmed. Professional astronomers have recorded them on film and spectrograms.*

*So the Moon may not be such a cold, lifeless neighbor after all. It still breathes through the action of LTP's. Whatever they are, thanks to the LTP's, the Moon remains a curious place.*

*Information for this article was taken from Sky & Telescope Magazine, March, 1991. For more information on LTPs, see The Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers (ALPO) website.*

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**THE BLACK RIVER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

**Blue Sky Restaurant in Amherst, Ohio**

**August 11, 2005 at 7:00PM**

**At 7:03PM Mike Harkey called the meeting to order with J. Cunningham, J. Reising, T. Janus, T. Kreja, M. Plas, D. Lengyel, T. Hornbeck and D. Gulyas present.**

**Reading of the minutes: The July minutes were approved.**

**Treasures Report:**

**Instrumentation: Instructions for the operation of the Nielsen Observatory are available during solar observing sessions. Ken Hubal will rebuild the focuser and mount for the Unitron.**

**Planning: October meeting to be scheduled for first half of 2006 planning.**

**OTAA: No door prizes have arrived to date.**

**Programming:**

**September: Dave Lengyel - Astronomical misconceptions.**

**October: John Reising - Mars opposition.**

**November: Show and Tell**

**December: Holiday dinner**

**January: Video about the Earth magnetic field**

**Public observing dates:**

**September 02, 2005: 9:00 - 11:00PM - Nielsen Observatory. Back to school specials.**

**September 07, 2005: 7:00PM - Regular monthly meeting Carlisle Visitors Center.**

**September 10, 2005: 5:00PM - OTAA, Birmingham Methodist Church.**

**September 15, 2005: 7:00PM - Regular monthly board meeting: Blue Sky Restaurant, Amherst.**

**September 23, 2005: 8:30 - 10:30PM - Nielsen Observatory. Welcome to the Fall sky.**

**Old Business:**

**We have received keys to the Nielsen Observatory. The Schmidt camera will be sold.**

**New Business:**

**An announcement restricting the use of glow sticks and green laser is to be made at the OTAA. J. Reising will purchase \$250.00 of back up door prizes for the OTAA, all in favor. D. Gulyas will research eclipse shades for possible purchase.**

**Jim Cunningham made the motion to adjourn with a second by D. Lengyel at 9:06PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dave Gulyas**

**Secretary, Black River Astronomical Society**