



The index to the Jan-Dec 2005 editions of Guidescope is found at [Guidescope index.html](#)

B.R.A.S. Officers

President: Mike Harkey

Vice-President: Dave Lengyel

Treasurer: John Reising

Secretary: Dave Gulyas

COMING UP!!!

March 1st: Carlisle Visitors Center - J. Reising: Early evening Messier Marathon

Friday March 3: Nielson Observatory - Mars Meets the Moon 7-9pm

March 9th: BRAS Board Meeting

Friday March 24: Nielson Observatory - Saturn for Springtime 8-10

April 5th: Carlisle Visitors Center - Mike Plas, TBA

Friday April 7: Nielson Observatory - Moon Madness 9-11pm

April 13th: BRAS Board Meeting

Friday April 28: Nielson Observatory - Leo Leads the Way 9-11pm

May 3rd: Carlisle Visitors Center - Dave Lengyel, Road trip

Friday May 5: Nielson Observatory - Cinco de Mayo 9:30-11:30pm

May 11th: BRAS Board Meeting

Friday May 19: Nielson Observatory - Eskimos in May 9:30-11:30pm

Sunday May 28: Nielson Observatory - Safely View The Sun 1-4pm

Friday June 2: Nielson Observatory - Spring into Summer 9:30-11:30pm

June 7th: Carlisle Visitors Center - Tim Kreja, TBA

June 15th: BRAS Board Meeting

Friday June 23: Nielson Observatory - Summer Solstice Stars 9:30-11:30pm

Sunday June 25: Nielson Observatory - Safely View the Sun 1-4pm

July 5th: Carlisle Visitors Center - /TBA

July 14th: BRAS Board Meeting

Sept 23rd: Birmingham Methodist Church Hall - BRAS 25th OTAA Meeting!!!

LOCATIONS

[Nielsen Observatory](#) - 13630 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH at the Lorain County Metro Parks Carlisle Equestrian Center

[Carlisle Visitor Center](#) - The Lorain County Metroparks Visitors Center is on Nickel Plate-Diagonal Road in Carlisle Township.

[Birmingham Methodist Church Hall](#) - 15018 South St., Birmingham, OH

CLUB NEWS

FOR SALE

4-inch Celestron-Vixen OTA for sale - \$300 - See Ken Hubal (330-769-4107 or hubalkj@netzero.net)

Board Member Resignation

Barbara Hubal has resigned her board position owing to the the distance between her house and the Blue

Sky Restaurant in Amherst. A vote was taken after the last regular meeting and the board respectfully

declined Barbara's request to move board meetings to a closer location in Elyria.

ASTRONOMY ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

There's more to the North Star than meets the eye

SPACE TELESCOPE SCIENCE INSTITUTE NEWS RELEASE

Posted: January 9, 2006

We tend to think of the North Star, Polaris, as a steady, solitary point of light that guided sailors in ages past. But there is more to the North Star than meets the eye. The North Star is actually a triple star system. And while one companion can be seen easily through small telescopes, the other hugs Polaris so tightly that it has never been seen - until now.

By stretching the capabilities of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope to the limit, astronomers have photographed the close companion of Polaris for the first time. They presented their findings today in a press conference at the 207th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Washington, D.C.

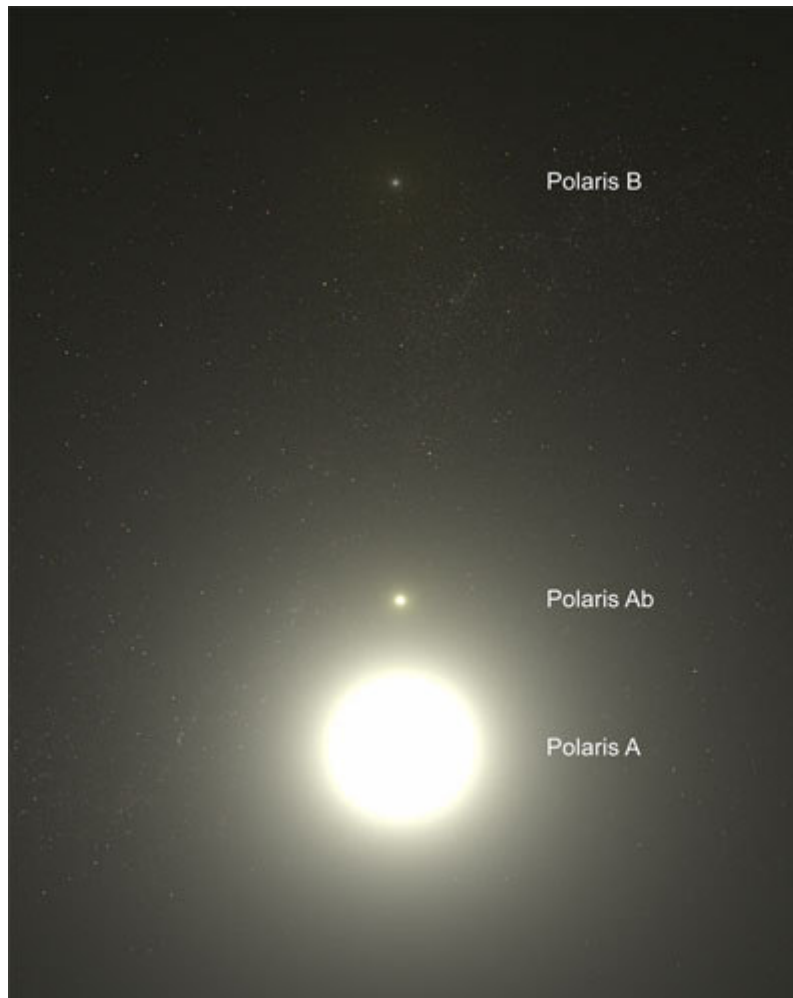
Astronomers want to determine the mass of Polaris accurately, because it is the nearest Cepheid variable star. Cepheids' brightness variations are used to measure the distances of galaxies and the expansion rate of the universe, so it is essential to understand their physics and evolution. Knowing their mass is the most important ingredient in this understanding.

"Studying binary stars is the best available way to measure the masses of stars," said science team member Gail Schaefer of STScI.

"We only have the binary stars that nature provided us," added Bond. "With the best instruments like Hubble, we can push farther into space and study more of them up close."

The researchers plan to continue observing the Polaris system for several years. In that time, the movement of the small companion in its 30-year orbit around the primary should be detectable.

"Our ultimate goal is to get an accurate mass for Polaris," said Evans. "To do that, the next milestone is to measure the motion of the companion in its orbit."



This artist's concept depicts the Polaris triple star system. The North Star, Polaris A is a bright supergiant variable star. Just above Polaris is a small companion, Polaris Ab, which is 2 billion miles from Polaris. Much farther away, near the top of the illustration, is the wide companion Polaris B. Credit: NASA, ESA, G. Bacon (STScI)

This article was taken from the website SPACEFLIGHT NOW (<http://spaceflightnow.com/news/n0601/09northstar/>) and is not the work of The Guidescope editor.

Servicing the Hubble: Shuttle plans refined

Preparations for a shuttle mission to upgrade and repair the Hubble Space Telescope in late 2007 or early 2008 are picking up steam as engineers map out the details of a five-spacewalk flight designed to keep the venerable

observatory alive and well through at least 2013.

This article is taken from the website for ASTRONOMY NOW (<<http://www.astronomynow.com/>>)

**Black River Astronomical Society
Monthly Board Meeting
Blue Sky Restaurant in Amherst, Ohio.
February 09, 2006 7:00PM**

At 7:02PM Mike Harkey called the meeting to order with, J. Reising, T. Kreja, T. Janus, J. Cunningham, D. Lengyel, G. Cox, D. Gulyas present.

January minutes: The January minutes were approved.

Treasures Report:

Instrumentation: Status quo.

Nielsen programming: A March meeting will be scheduled for the second half of 2006 public observing sessions planning.

Programming:

March: J. Reising: Early evening Messier Marathon

April: Mike Plas, TBA

May: Firelands Boy Scout Camp

June: Tim Kreja, TBA

July: Barb Hubal Lunar transient phenomenon

August: Dave Lengyel, Road trip

November: Show and Tell

December: Holiday Dinner.

Public observing dates:

March 01, 2006: 7:00PM - Regular monthly meeting: Carlisle Visitors Center.

March 03, 2006: 7:00 - 9:00PM -Nielsen Observatory: Mars meets the Moon

March 09, 2006: 7:00PM - Regular monthly board meeting: Blue Sky Restaurant, Amherst.

March 24, 2006: 8:00 - 10:00PM -Nielsen Observatory: Saturn for Springtime.

Old Business:

Hats, key fobs and other types of door prizes were discussed for the OTAA as well as art work for said items. A quantity of hats between 30 and 50 depending on price break was decided upon. J. Reising will reserve hall.

New Business:

Greg Zimina and David Joviak were unanimously approved as new members. G. Cox will add two additional mounting location points to the Hydrogen-Alpha filter.

J. Reising made the motion to adjourn with a second by T. Kreja at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Gulyas
Secretary, Black River Astronomical Society