

Newsletter of
The Black River Astronomical Society

Guidescope

Lorain County, Ohio
Website: blackriverastro.org

August 2017
Newsletter submissions: [Editor](#)

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--Wednesday, August 2, 7 p.m.: Regular meeting, Carlisle Visitors Center
Program: "History of the Refracting Telescope" by Tim Kreja

--Sunday, August 6, 1-4 p.m.: Solar observing, Sandy Ridge Reservation

--Thursday, August 10, 7 p.m.: Board meeting, Blue Sky Restaurant,
Amherst

Saturday, August 12, 6 p.m. - ?: MVAS OTAA Convention

Monday, August 21, noon-4 p.m.: Solar eclipse viewing, Burrell House, French
Creek Reservation

--Friday, August 25, 10 p.m. - midnight (cloud backup August 26): Public
observing, Nielsen Observatory

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Visit Our Website

Explore if you will the informative BRAS [website](#) and all its interesting, timely [links](#), and join the interactive members-only [BRAS Forum](#) to better keep in touch.

For Sale

Dobsonian Telescope (NIB)

ORION SkyQuest XT8 Classic Cat.# 8945 8" Dobsonian , New In original Box, Large Side Bearings for a Dob Setup, No Base or rings included. OTA only, includes Manual and Starry Night Software. 1200mm F.L., 203 mm Primary Mirror Diameter, Focal Ratio f/5.9, Crayford Focuser accepts 2" and 1.25" E.P.'s. Tube weight 20.3 lbs., Tube Length 46.5 ".

PRICE \$245.00. Contact information: Greg Zmina Home # 440-355-4570, or see me at any BRAS Meeting.

University Optics 16mm Konig II - a true "zebra" classic eyepiece. \$55

Burgess/TMB 6mm Planetary - \$45

Burgess/TMB 3.2mm Planetary- \$45

8mm Paradigm - very nice! - \$45

I also have a Meade 277 Comet Seeker. This is a cute 60mm f/5 scope which comes complete with a surprisingly functional table top mount. This comes with case, diagonal and eyepiece. Google this to find out more. Nice classic quick look scope (and also a collectible) which also mounts well on a photo tripod. -\$60.

Contact me at 440-326-1985 or ljano@windstream.net or... catch me at a meeting. ~Larry Janowicz

For Sale: Meade 12.5" reflecting telescope with equatorial mount and motor drive

Spotting scope

32 mm wide angle 2", OR6mm, OR9mm, OR18mm, OR25mm, MA12mm laminated reticle

Nebula filter

Motor drive adapter for battery hookup

Counterweights

Misc. parts

39 Kodak colored filters/adaptor rings

Library of hardcover books on astronomy

Make offer. Contact: 330-483-3360 or nriopelle@msn.com



BOARD SUMMARY

July 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m., with seven Directors present. The Minutes from the June meeting were distributed, read and approved as was the Treasurer's report. Committee reports followed with the *Guidescope* and Website committees reporting status quo. Under Instrumentation, John Reising reported that we may be able to use an 18" Sonotube that Diane Lucas kindly offered to donate, to mount the 13" Odyssey telescope. If this is a thin wall tube, we may be able to cut the tube longitudinally, remove a section, and re-glue the tube to reduce the diameter as an 18" tube is too wide for a 13" mirror. John will follow up with Diane about the thickness of the tube. John will also test the new 16" mirror soon. The OTAA committee reminded the Board that dates for the OTAA conventions were a little different than usual this year with CAA moving their date to September. The dates are as follows:

MVAS August 12

CAA Sept. 16

BRAS Sept. 23

The MetroParks Liaison had no report.

Programming is set through October, and is as follows:

August Tim Kreja The History of the Refracting Telescope

September Members Solar Eclipse Photos

October Board Elections and a short video

November Open

December Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner at Amherst, Beaver Creek

Old Business came next with the first item for discussion, the distribution of a club roster being tabled due to the absence of Dan Walker. The second item was a very brief discussion of feedback on the announcement made at the last General Meeting of a dues increase. Regular dues were not increased, remaining at \$25.00. The Family dues category was eliminated due to non-use, and student dues and retired dues were increased from \$7.00 to \$10.00 to make dues collection easier for the Treasurer. No one reported any complaints or other feedback.

The item that took the most time was a discussion about the size of the storage building we are hoping to add beside the Nielsen Observatory. Schauer reported that not only would we be keeping the new 16" Newtonian in that building, but eight other telescopes as well. These 8 scopes currently clutter the main observatory and create a hazard as they are being moved in and out while members of the public are trying to observe. If these scopes were in the storage building this hazard would be

eliminated. We could also keep the bulky Unitron tripod there which would allow us to use the Unitron refractor more often. That tripod and its cradle are currently stored in the LCMP maintenance building, and thus not really accessible. Schauer distributed a packet of information from Storage Buildings Unlimited that contained descriptions of the construction of the buildings and also prices for the various sizes. Our current thinking is either a 10'X16' or a 12'X16' building for roughly \$2500. No definite decision has been made at this time.

There were only two items of New Business. First was some planning for our OTAA Convention in September. Tim Kreja has already purchased hot dogs. Jim Cunningham has paper plates, plastic spoons and forks and plastic glasses, plus power strips for crock pot type dishes. Greg Zmina will supply coolers and will buy ice and bottled water. Mickey Hasbrook will buy buns and condiments. Greg Zmina and Jeff Walsh are working on door prizes. In case of poor weather, we will also have a couple of short programs, with Tim repeating his "History of the Refracting Telescope" talk and members sharing solar eclipse photos. We have decided that doors will open at 4:30 p.m. for solar observing with regular registration starting at 5:00 p.m., and dinner at around 6:00 p.m. We will be at the Birmingham United Methodist Church Hall as usual.

The second item of discussion was how to use the 4" Unitron refractor until a new building can get built, and the tripod and mount are brought back to the observatory. John Reising believes the refractor can ride piggyback on the black tube C-14 as the massive Losmandy mount can easily carry the weight. Balance will be a little tricky, but this would be a way to get the Unitron into use until we create a more permanent way to mount it.

Club members are reminded that there is a solar eclipse on August 21st. Totality is not possible here which is why many of us are traveling to see the event. The Sun will be a little over 80% covered in northern Ohio. We are running an ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY at the Lorain County MetroParks Burrell House which is down the road from the French Creek Nature Center building. This is a public event, from 2:00-3:00 p.m., but we will set up for the partial phases starting at 12:00 noon and we will be there until 4:00 PM. Jeff Walsh will be manning three solar scopes and selling eclipse glasses. All members are invited to attend, and anyone with a telescope with a solar filter is invited to bring it and help out. Jeff would appreciate the help, especially if there is a large crowd. Please join us and help! French Creek is on Colorado Avenue in Sheffield Village, and the Burrell House is down the road, on East River Road. Turn off of Colorado onto East River (the road only goes one way, south) and the Burrell House is on the right or west side of the road. The Sheffield Village Police and Fire Dept. building is on the corner of Colorado and East River.

Dates were briefly discussed with Public Observing scheduled for July 14/15 and the following weekend, the 21/22nd.

Dates for August were set, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

~Steve Schauer

AstroInfluences

People often ask me what got me interested in Amateur Astronomy and Radio Astronomy and Astrophotography and Comet Hunting and Solar Imaging. And when I answer, I begin that long journey down memory lane, as, one by one, I resurrect all the people who influenced and stirred my imagination in bygone days, so many years ago...

When I joined my first astronomy “CLUB,” The Black River Astronomical Society in the early

1970 somethings I was met with a kindler, gentler group of mentors. Among these was my great friend, George Diedrich, a NASA Scientist who encouraged and taught me the selfless joys of public outreach. I spent many hours and nights at Boy & Girl Scout Camps, helping local youth earn merit



The Founding Fathers of The Black River Astronomical Society

badges and showing off heavenly bodies to long lines of willing youth, and reveling in the “Oooooohs and Ahhhh’s” escaping their wondering young minds and imaginations. Ultimately, George was awarded a Presidential Achievement Award by President

Richard M. Nixon for his outreach efforts in Ohio. What a role model for a young aspiring amateur astronomer.... He was a loyal member of ALPO & AAVSO. I still am today...



*Me, Mike Harkey & Joe Manacci,
1983*

Then there was my very best friend, and long time President of BRAS, Mike Harkey. Over the years we

became lifelong friends and even though we now live four states apart, we keep in touch and still enjoy doing astronomy, photography and birdwatching together to this day.

And speaking of lifelong friends, I met Mr. Solar Astronomy, Randy Shivak and Social Media Guru, Pamela Shivak many decades ago and some of our astronomical pursuits and escapades are legendary in both breadth and scope, and we continue to broaden our horizons to this day. The Facebook Group (SOLARACTIVITY) we established 5 years ago has worldwide affiliations and over 25,000 members dedicated to promoting solar imaging and outreach on a grassroots as well as a global level.

There was Chet Franklin, who allowed the club to build an observatory in his yard, and who built a transit telescope in the roof of his garage to study precession and monitor the Earth's "wobble."

And Carl Peck, who first explained to me that comets are fantastic cosmic travelers whose apparitions are each unique and unlike any other and are the harbingers of life itself and worthy of study, if for no other reason than their transient short term cycles. As a result of his early encouragement I can boast today of observing over 50 comets in my lifetime.

Then there was Arthur Stokes, creator of the SID Gyrator. He was President of the AAVSO for a few years. He also headed the Photometry Department for a decade before moving on to create and run the Solar Division of the AAVSO for many years.

There was Diane Lucas, noted Amateur Telescope Maker, and Ham Radio Operator, who taught me to "BUILD IT YOURSELF IF YOU WANT IT DONE RIGHT".

And Alex Panzer, a backyard solar genius who could build anything in his basement workshop. AND DID!!! Including a spectroscope and a spectrohelioscope.

And to Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Marge Anderson who constantly reminded me to HAVE FUN with astronomy. Together, they showed me the joy of astronomy that comes with sharing their love of astronomy with your significant other.

Then there's Dave Lengyel, who was a local science teacher who went way above & beyond to promote astronomy in local youth. Retired now, Dave continues to do outreach at Oberlin College.

There was Randy Beachler and Joe Manacci, who traveled the globe, chasing Eclipses, Comets and Aurora Borealis.

Then there's John Reising, who has the contents of the KARKOSCHA firmly entrenched in his grey matter, and who can tell you which double stars your scope can resolve by simply glancing up at the sky. And he knows the location & separation angles of every double star system in the sky.

And eagle eyed Greg Cox. I think Greg can spot a 15 minute New Moon in murky conditions. And 7th magnitude diffuse comets naked eye an hour before twilight. Go ahead and smirk, unbelievers, I've witnessed his prowess first hand...

When I was a bright eyed novice looking for direction, these giants in the field of Amateur Astronomy lifted me onto their mighty shoulders and led me to astro mecca.

Now that I am become the aged sage I do my best to remember my humble beginnings and to return the favors given me so freely all those many years ago. To come full circle and return the joy so freely given, back into the world.

I can think of no greater legacy to leave behind than some young person at the eyepiece of a telescope, gathering photons into their cerebral cortex and for a fleeting instant remembering that old guy that inspired them so long ago. Just like you & I are fondly remembering our mentors right now.

Their gifts of insight, knowledge and inspiration and wonder were given freely to me and many others. These guys and gals were indeed giants among mere mortals. Some remain walking among us today and some have long departed this ethereal orb, yet their spirits still linger within me. Their fires still burn bright in my mind and my heart

And now I pass their legacy on to you, gentle reader...

When I write tutorials and articles for publication, when I do these presentations, when I travel around doing public outreach, I'm simply paying it forward. I'm showing respect for those mentors who took a young neophyte under their wings so many years ago.

My sincere hope here today is to inspire you and anyone who is open to listening to learn and grow in astronomy and go out into the world and spread the love and the

science that is amateur astronomy to a new generation of bright eyed enthusiasts like we all once were...



Dorothy & I on a DC Newscast representing for the Astronomy on the National Mall event in 2017

And last but definitely not least, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Dorothy O'Neal, my wife. It means so much to have the love and support of your significant other when it comes to purchasing astro gear and cameras! Who gives selflessly of herself and willingly travels around the continent with me, spending long hours in airports and even longer hours and days in the car, traveling willy nilly along, only to unload lots of very heavy gear, set it up, then spend a day out in the hot sun, or under frigid, dewy skies, doing outreach. Then tear down, pack up and climb

back in the car for the long trip home.... Or spending time in remote motels and musty campgrounds in tents. (Or worse!)

Finally, when I think of my friends in the Black River Astronomical Society, I think not only of old bygone friends, but newer friends as well. Bill Ruth and Lee Lumpkin, Mike Williams, Larry Janowicz, Ed Rush, Mark Forsythe, Denny Bozdash and Fred Glock, to name a few.

And even newer members like Tim Kreja, Steve Schauer, Dan Walker, Fred Scharmann, Dave Gulyas, Greg Zmina, and so many others.....



John O'Neal, 2016

There are just so many people, young & old, both living and dearly departed, whose lives have touched mine and have molded me into the kindler, gentler soul that I have become.

As I travel around the country I frequently find myself fondly relating anecdotes or spinning tall tales based on my experiences with y'all. And for all this I sincerely thank the Black River Astronomical Society and all its membership, past & present.

Keep up the good work, friends, as will I. Continue sharing the wonders of astronomy with young souls and bringing them into the fold of the enthralling consciousness- expanding experience we affectionately refer to as amateur astronomy...

~John O'Neal, 2017



I was doing some work at the observatory last night (7/25/17) and took a few minutes to photograph the waxing crescent Moon, along with the planet Mercury (lower) and the star Regulus (alpha of Leo) in the western sky just after sunset. Note the "Earthshine" on the Moon.

~Dave Lengyel

Deep-Sky Objects for August

Objects for Binoculars							
RA	Dec	Number	Mag(s)	Size/Sep.	PA	Const.	Type of Object
20 ^h 18.1 ^m	-12° 33'	Alpha-1 & 2	3.6, 4.2	378"	291°	Cap	Double Star
20 ^h 21.0 ^m	-14° 47'	Beta Cap	3.4, 6.2	205.3"	267°	Cap	Double Star
20 ^h 23.9 ^m	+38° 32'	M29	6.6v	6'		Cyg	Open Cluster 50*
21 ^h 30.0 ^m	+12° 10'	M15	6.0v	12.3'		Peg	Globular Cluster
21 ^h 32.2 ^m	+48° 26'	M39	4.6v	31'		Cyg	Open Cluster 30*
21 ^h 33.5 ^m	-00° 49'	M2	6.4v	12.9'		Aqr	Globular Cluster
Objects for Small Telescopes (2-6 inch)							
RA	Dec	Number	Mag(s)	Size/Sep.	PA	Const.	Type of Object
19 ^h 30.7 ^m	+27° 58'	Beta Cyg	3.1, 5.1	34"	54°	Cyg	Double Star, "Albireo"
19 ^h 44.8 ^m	+50° 31'	NGC 6826	8.8v	>25"		Cyg	"Blinking Planetary" Nebula
20 ^h 46.7 ^m	+16° 07'	Gamma Cyg	4.3, 5.1	9.6"	268°	Del	Double Star
21 ^h 43.5 ^m	+53° 47'	Mu Cep	3.4, 5.1	730 days	Var.°	Cep	"Herschel's Garnet Star"
22 ^h 15.3 ^m	+49° 53'	NGC 7243	6.4v	21'		Lac	Open Cluster 40*
23 ^h 11.5 ^m	+60° 34'	NGC 7510	7.9v	4'		Cep	Open Cluster 60*
Objects for Medium Telescopes (8-14 inch)							
RA	Dec	Number	Mag(s)	Size/Sep.	PA	Const.	Type of Object
19 ^h 41.3 ^m	+40° 11'	NGC 6819	73.v	9.5'		Cyg	Open Cluster
20 ^h 22.4 ^m	+20° 05'	NGC 6905	11.1v	39'		Del	"Blue Flash" Plan. Neb.
20 ^h 23.1 ^m	+40° 52'	NGC 6910	7.4v	7'		Cyg	Open Cluster 50
20 ^h 45.7 ^m	+30° 43'	NGC 6960	-	70' x 6'		Cyg	"Veil Nebula", W. Segment"
20 ^h 56.4 ^m	+31° 43'	NGC 6992-95	-	60' x 8'		Cyg	"Veil Nebula", E. Segment
22 ^h 10.5 ^m	+52° 50'	IC 1434	9.0p	7'		Lac	Open Cluster 40*
Objects for Larger Telescopes (16-inch & larger) Challenge Objects							
RA	Dec	Number	Mag(s)	Size/Sep.	PA	Const.	Type of Object
20 ^h 12.0 ^m	+38° 21'	NGC 6888	-	18' x 13'		Cyg	"Crescent Nebula"
20 ^h 16.4 ^m	+30° 34'	NGC 6894	12.3v	>42"		Cyg	Planetary Nebula
21 ^h 00.6 ^m	+54° 33'	NGC 7008	10.7v	83"		Cyg	Planetary Nebula
21 ^h 04.2 ^m	-11° 22'	NGC 7009	8.3p	>25"		Aqr	"Saturn Nebula"
22 ^h 54.3 ^m	+60° 50'	NGC 7419	13.0p	2'		Cep	Open Cluster 40*
00 ^h 44.4 ^m	+85° 20'	NGC 188	8.1v	13'		Cep	Open Cluster 120*

Print and use the [Deep-Sky Interest Group - Observation Form](#) to record your observations.

(thanks to Len Jezior)