

Newsletter of  
The Black River Astronomical Society

# Guidescope

Lorain County, Ohio

July 2015

Website: [blackriverastro.org](http://blackriverastro.org)

Newsletter submissions: [Editor](#)

\*

\*

\*

\*

Wednesday, July 1, 7 p.m.: Regular monthly meeting, Carlisle Visitors Center.  
Program: The Equation of Time, presented by Dan Walker

Thursday, July 9, 7 p.m.: Board Meeting, Blue Sky Restaurant, Amherst,  
Ohio \*

\*

Sunday, July 12, 1-4 p.m.: Solar observing, Wellington Reservation

\*

\*

\* \*

\*

Saturday, July 18, 2:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m.: CAA OTAA, Letha House County  
Park, Spencer, Ohio

\*

Friday, July 24, 10 p.m.-midnight: Public observing, Nielsen Observatory

\*

\*

\*

Saturday, July 25, 10 p.m.-midnight: Backup date, public observing

\*

\*

\*

\*\*

\*\*

\*\* \*

\*

\*

\*

\*\*

\*

\*

\*

## **BOARD SUMMARY      June 11, 2015**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Schauer who stated that he wanted to keep the meeting short so that Directors could be home by 9:00 for the Cavaliers playoff game. There were nine Directors present. The minutes from the May meeting were read and approved as was the Treasurer's report. Committee reports went quickly with Bill Ruth reporting that all is well with the *Guidescope* and Lee Lumpkin reporting that the website is status quo. Instrumentation was also reported as all well with the observatory in good shape. Tim Kreja reported that the roof cable was kinking on the winch on the side over the orange C-14, and that we will have to watch it. If it continues, it might be time for maintenance. The OTAA Committee and the Metro Parks Liaison reports were tabled.

Programming is set through the end of the year. The programs are as follows:

July	Dan Walker	The Equation of Time
August	Len Jezior	Optical Filters: why, when and how?
September	John O'Neal	Recap of the World Wide Solstice Festival
October	Elections and a short video	
November	Jim Walker	Solar Cells
December	Christmas pot luck and party at the Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation	

Under Old Business, club jackets were again discussed. Greg Cox is going to get prices for both light and heavy jackets from a local source, and will report back. The club is going to pursue tax exempt status, but this was tabled until next month.

The rest of the time under old business was taken up with planning for the World Wide Solstice Festival. Schauer reported that he would be doing a radio interview on WEOL and he would also be interviewed for an article in the *Vermilion Photojournal* newspaper which would be published on June 18, three days before the Festival. Schauer would also put an ad in the same edition that would describe the Festival. It was also reported that Neil Degrasse Tyson had also mentioned the Festival in his radio blog.

The Board members setting up for the Festival agreed to report to Mill Hollow at 9:00 a.m. The art exhibit would be put up in the summer kitchen of the Bacon House at Mill Hollow on Friday afternoon. Dan Walker agreed to bring a cash box and change so we could sell eclipse glasses.

Schauer asked the Directors to authorize the expenditure of money to purchase plastic document holders. Some would be sized for the trifold club brochures, some would hold business cards and some would hold 8-1/2 X 11" handouts like the ones we have from *Sky and Telescope*. Previously these have been left flat on a table with a rock on top to weigh them down. Schauer also will purchase two dry erase boards we can use as signs to direct people to the art display and to the Planet Walk and the sundial. These will be mounted with 2" wide Velcro to folding saw horses which Schauer will donate.

Dan Walker will bring the eclipse glasses and the club projector. Tim Kreja will bring a laptop with an HDMI output so that the solar videos that John O'Neal has downloaded from NASA can be shown in high definition. Mike Harkey will bring the club's Lunt solar scope and the club spectroscopes. Dan Walker and Jeff Walsh will supply the materials for the Planet Walk. John O. has given Scott Schneider, our DJ, some suggestions for songs with "sun" in the title or as the topic. The LCMP will provide us with five pop-up tents and tables and chairs. Setting up the sundial that Gary Smith will bring was also discussed. The final planning centered around who would bring solar scopes. David Griffiths will bring his sun gun as well.

There were only three items of New Business. First was a request from Dave Lengyel for the club to send representatives to the Wellington Farm Market to do solar observing and to pass out club literature. This market is on Friday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and they would like us in July or August. Dan Walker and Steve Schauer agreed to go and would get together and pick a date when they are both available. Others are welcome to attend.

The second item was a reminder by the President, that the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society OTAA was Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, the day before the Festival. Lee will add their event to our calendar.

Finally, the Board was reminded that the CAA OTAA is July 18<sup>th</sup> at Letha House Park and that club members should try to attend.

Dates were set, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

~Steve Schauer

## THE WORLDWIDE SOLSTICE FESTIVAL

On Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, the BRAS participated in the first WorldWide Solstice Festival. This event was created by John O'Neal and Pam and Randy Shivak who used their online presence, SolarActivity, to promote the event to organizations all over the globe. This was the first time our club had planned a festival, as opposed to simply doing solar viewing. We held the event in the Lorain County Metro Parks Mill Hollow Reservation south of Vermilion. Parks employee Jannah Wilson allowed us to reserve the entire south half of the park and provided an enormous amount of help. On Festival day we set up five pop-up tents and arranged for our DJ, Scott Schneider, a BRAS member, to set up beside the main building. Scott provided music and also made much needed announcements about what events were currently happening. In a second building, the Benjamin Bacon House, we set up art that included astrophotos and paintings all done by club members. In a large shelter, Dave Lengyel brought three bands of which he is a member to perform live for us, and Chubby's Bar B Que provided excellent food. There were also several craft vendors present.

We had solar telescopes set up to observe the sun. Scopes were provided by Tim Kreja, John O'Neal, and David Griffiths, and Mike Harkey brought the club's Lunt solar scope. The weather was cloudy at the beginning, and we had about 30 minutes of rain, but shortly after the rain, the sky did clear, and quite a few people were able to view the Sun. During cloudy periods we had solar videos playing in a loop displayed in high definition in the main building. The videos were NASA videos and O'Neal videos downloaded by John O'Neal and playing on a laptop provided by Tim Kreja through the club's new projector. Dan Walker and Jeff Walsh ran a Planet Walk where visitors started at a one meter in diameter photo of the Sun and learned about our nearest star. People then walked down the driveway to Mercury to see how far away it would be from the sun, and how small it would be in relation to a one meter sun. The walk then continued from there to Venus, Earth and Mars with interesting information supplied about each planet. In other pop-up tents we had club members running interactive solar demonstrations. Mike Murray and Ken Kopacz ran demonstrations on optical illusions and the solar spectrum respectively and had a crowd all day. Codi and Brendan Keenan manned the global warming demo, and in many cases were the first ones to greet people coming from the parking lot. At the main table, Grez Zmina and Jim Cunningham acted as greeters and provided people with information about what the festival had to offer and gave out club information and handouts. They were aided by Greg's wife Debbie, Bill Ruth's wife Jean, and Jim's sister, Connie. Rich Thompson helped with the solar scopes and circulated greeting people and helping out where needed. Bill Ruth also worked with the solar telescopes and seemed to be wherever we needed help. Len Jezior and Mickey Hasbrook were the greeters in the art gallery and took the time to explain each work to interested visitors. Gary Smith was also on hand to visit.

Given that this was our first attempt at a full-blown festival, and given that the weather wasn't ideal, we were very pleased with the event. John O'Neal estimated the crowd at 700-750 people during the six-hour event, and we are already making a list of changes we want to make for next year

so we can improve. The people who volunteered made the event a success and we most appreciate their time, enthusiasm and expertise.

We had a half-page article in the *Vermilion Photojournal* newspaper three days before the event and we also placed an ad in the paper. The *Morning Journal* had us listed in their upcoming events section and sent a reporter to cover the event. We were then on the front page of the Monday 6/22 edition of the *Morning Journal* and their website had the same article plus interviews with Len Jezior and John O'Neal. Overall the WorldWide Solstice Festival was a resounding success! Thanks go to all who helped.

Please see the club web site and Facebook page for more info and photos. Please see the [BRAS Gallery for over 100 photos of the event](#), and see the Worldwide Solstice Festival Facebook page for posts and photos from groups holding festivals all over the world. Please note that while we were calling our festival the World Wide Solstice Festival (with World Wide as two words), the Facebook page has it as Worldwide...one word. If you are on Facebook, simply use the search box and type Worldwide Solstice Festival. Please also check the SolarActivity website. You can simply Google it.

Thanks again to all who were involved. It was fun!

~Steve Schauer



Global warming station with Brendan and Codi Keenan



Debbie and Greg Zmina



Ken Kopacs and Mike Murray at the solar spectrum and optical illusions station





Susan Schauer, art gallery director, and Steve Schauer, Our Dear Leader



Overview of observing setups, from white light, H-alpha, calcium, video eyepiece, eyepiece projection, radiotelescope, and spectroscope, in between raindrops



Tim Kreja and Bill Ruth assessing functionality of Tim's white light solar telescope after a heavy rainstorm—Bill later discovering how easy it was to make an eyepiece completely fall apart onto the grass when he attempted to dry it off.



Art show docent Mickey Hasbrook taking a break.





Dave Lengyel, right, wearing guitar face, with bandmates



David Griffiths operating his Sun Gun solar projector





John O'Neal showing visitors the Sun in H-alpha, calcium, and white light



Fred Scharf, Dan Walker, Jeff Walsh and visitors at start of Planet Walk.



Visitors from near and far enjoyed earthly as well as solar delights.





Visitors, Metro Parks staff, craft exhibitors, BBQ purveyor, musicians, Lorain *Morning Journal* reporter and BRAS members in moist, verdant Mill Hollow Vermilion River Reservation, waiting for the Sun to re-emerge, summer solstice 2015.



Len Jezior taking a break as one of the art show docents.





Connie (Jim Cunningham's sister), Mike Harkey, Jim Cunningham, Mike Murray and Al En near the Worldwide Solstice Festival entrance.



Scott Schneider and his DJ setup.

# World Wide Solstice Festival



Copyright 2015 John Earl