

Newsletter of  
The Black River Astronomical Society

# Guidescope

Lorain County, Ohio

October 2016

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

Newsletter submissions: [Editor](#)

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--Wednesday, October 5, 7 p.m.: Annual Meeting of the Membership, Carlisle Visitors Center. Program: Board elections, and overview of club web site and TNS by Lee Lumpkin

--Friday, October 7, 8-10 p.m.: Public observing, Nielsen Observatory (cloud backup date October 8)

--Thursday, October 13, 7 p.m.: Board Meeting, Blue Sky Restaurant, Amherst

--Sunday, October 16, noon-4 p.m.: Solar Observing, Sandy Ridge Reservation

--Friday, October 21, 8-10 p.m.: Public observing, Nielsen Observatory (cloud backup date Saturday, October 22)

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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.

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## October BRAS Board of Directors Elections

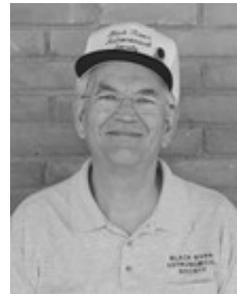
Each year in October the membership of the Black River Astronomical Society votes on about one third of the seats on the governing board for the organization.

In 2016 there are four seats coming open on the board. As of this writing the candidates are the four incumbent members of the board holding those seats. You are welcome to express interest in running yourself at or before the October regular meeting, or to nominate a BRAS member in good standing who has confirmed that they are willing to serve and regularly attend board meetings throughout the year. The four incumbents who wish to remain serving on the board are:

Mickey Hasbrook



Steve Schauer



Dan Walker



Jeff Walsh

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Lee Lumpkin before or at the October general meeting. [llumpkin@gmail.com](mailto:llumpkin@gmail.com) or 440-774-3127.

## BOARD SUMMARY      September 15, 2016

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with 9 Directors present. The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. Schauer read the Treasurer's report in the absence of the Treasurer. It was discovered that there is a seven dollar discrepancy between the Treasurer's report and the total in the minutes. This will be resolved at the next Board meeting.

Bill Ruth, the Guidescope editor reported that all was well with the newsletter, although more articles, of any length, would be appreciated. Members are invited to write an article about any astronomy topic and submit it to Bill. Lee Lumpkin reported that the website was status quo as well. Under Instrumentation, Schauer reported that neither of the Telrad finders that the club owns currently work and suggested that we purchase a new one. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Greg Zmina, and seconded by Tim Kreja, that we purchase two Telrads and also 4 M-4 thumbscrews (10mm or 1/2") from Scope Stuff. Schauer will do so. Both Beadle scopes (8" and 10" Dobsonians) are performing well. John Reising will add a red-dot finder to those scopes.

Under OTAA, Schauer reminded the Board that the CAA OTAA Convention had been moved to Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> with talks starting at 3:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. with door prizes to follow. It was noted that Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> was our back-up date for Public Observing which could be a conflict.

Programming is set through the end of the year as follows:

October	Lee Lumpkin	Elections, Annual Meeting of the Members, Program on the website, Forum, Gallery and TNS
November	Diane Lucas	A history of the BRAS
December	Christmas Party and pot luck dinner at the LCMP Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation	

Next came Old Business with the first item being the solar observing session at the Wellington Farm Market on Friday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. It was discovered that Schauer and Mickey Hasbrook were able to attend. Next came a brief report by Schauer and Zmina on the club's attendance at the Metro Parks Adventure Fest, which was also attended by Hasbrook and Jim Cunningham. The Board was reminded that the last Solar Observing session of the year is Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from noon-4:00 p.m. at Sandy Ridge.

Next came a discussion of Diane Lucas' talk on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at our General Meeting. Diane is one of the original founders of the club, an accomplished telescope maker and a well-known variable star observer. She will be speaking on the club's history, and we are most excited to hear her. It was decided to video tape the presentation, and put it on the club website. We may also ask Diane to do a written version that we could archive on the website as well. BRAS members are encouraged to attend in November as this promises to be an excellent program. **Note:** To accommodate the crowd that we anticipate having for Diane's talk, we will move from the smaller meeting room at Carlisle to the larger room down the hall. A sign will be placed in the hall directing attendees to the larger room.

Finally Secretary Bill Ruth was asked to communicate our possible dates for the tour of the Plum Brook NASA facility to member Ray Sajka to see which date will be best for them.

Next came New Business. The first item was to welcome back an old friend, Greg Honis, to BRAS as he has applied for membership again. The Board was delighted to approve his application. Welcome back Greg!

Schauer next reported that Ron Baker, the editor of the CVAS newsletter, has been in contact as a way to better network between clubs. We have added Ron to the *Guidescope* mailing list (the CVAS President, Marty Mullet, was already on our list). It is useful for both club Presidents and newsletter editors to receive each other's newsletters, so as to coordinate activities and share good ideas and practices.

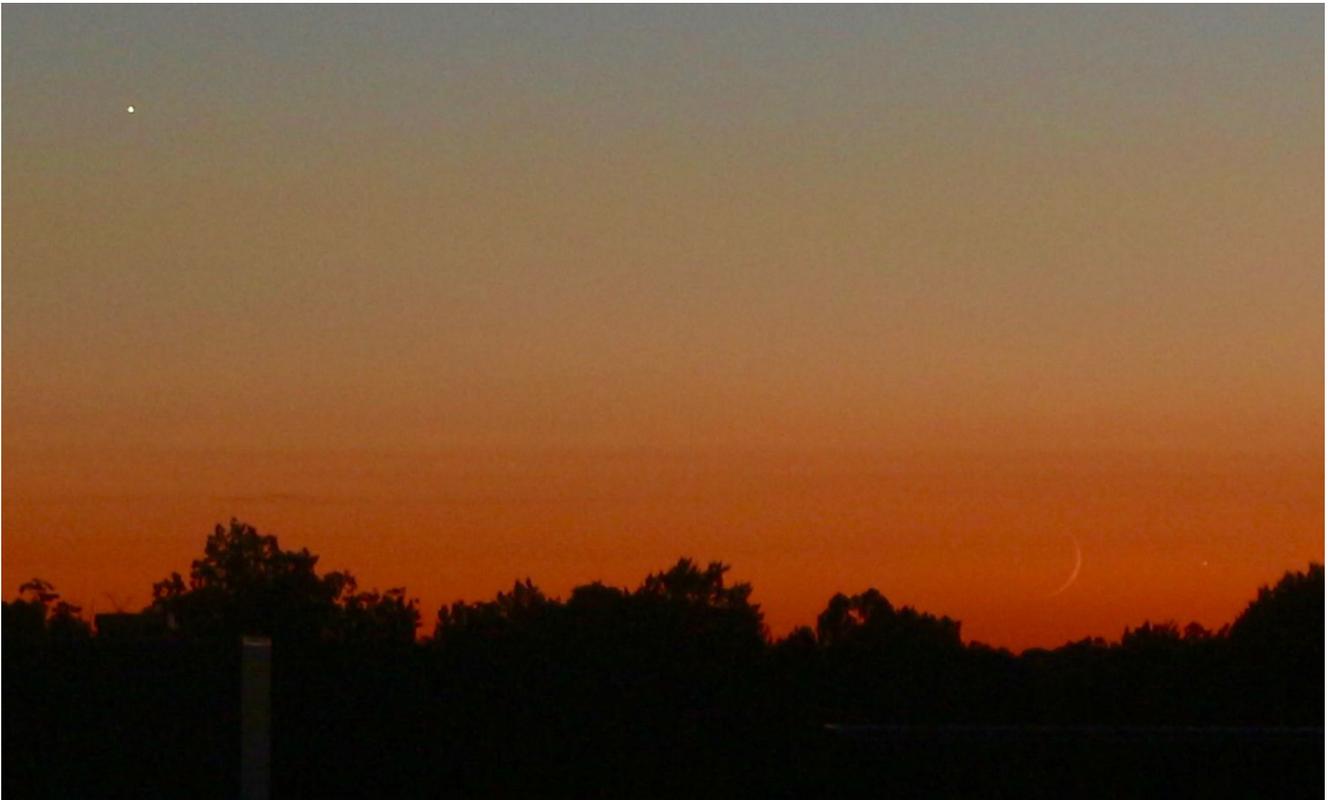
The final item of New Business was to set a tentative date for our 2017 OTAA Convention. We have chosen Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> 2017, but we will want to check the Hidden Hollow and Black Forest/Cherry Springs dates for 2017 so as to not conflict, if possible (everyone wants New Moon, of course!).

Dates were set, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

**NOTE:** The date for the tour of the NASA Plum Brook facility, if it can be arranged, will be announced on the website, the Facebook page and in a TNS. We will also try to send out an all-club email.

~Steve Schauer

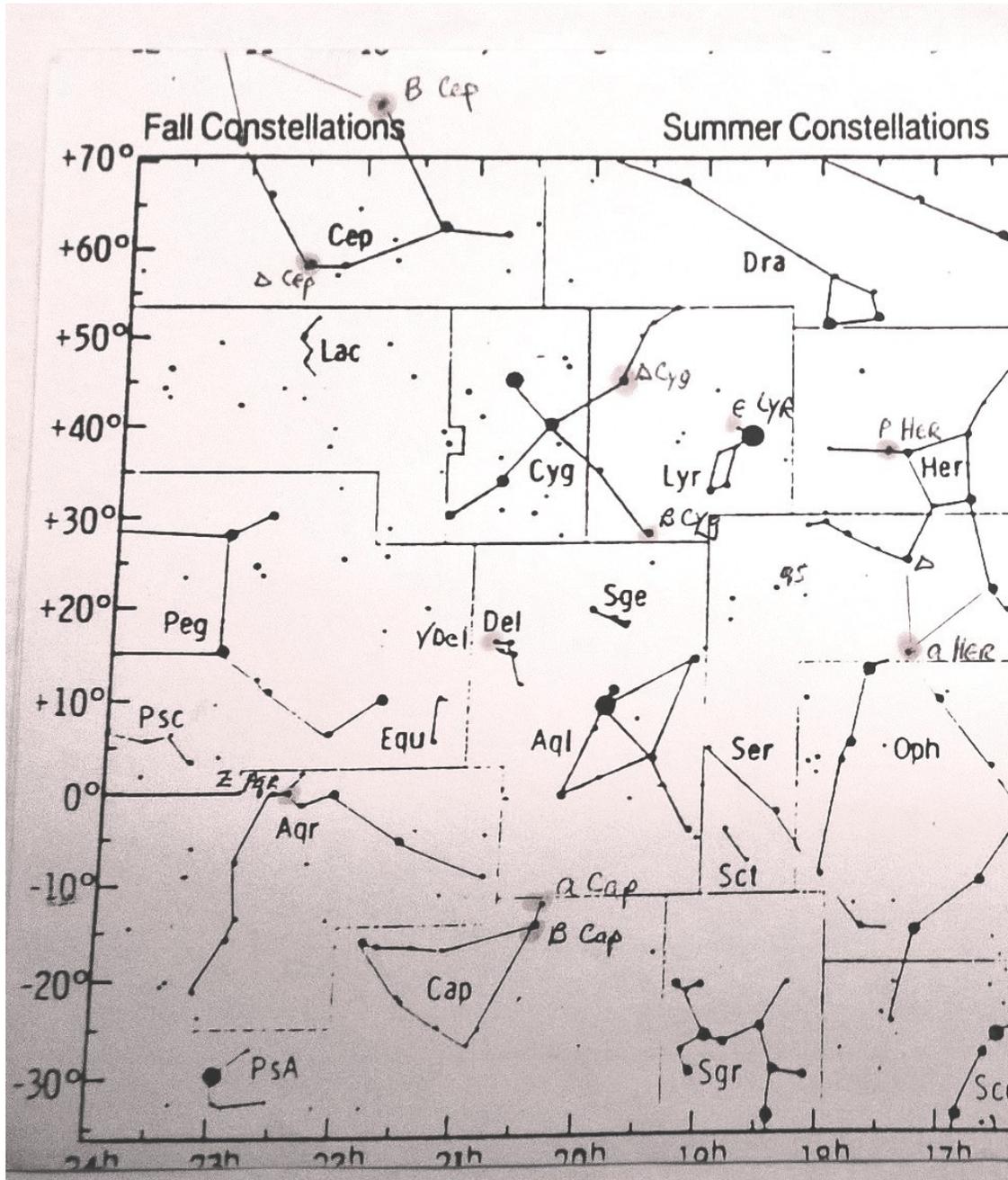
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Because it was exceptionally clear in the early evening yesterday 9/2/16, I was able to easily spot the 40-hour-old waxing crescent Moon along with Venus and Jupiter (only about a degree from the Moon) at 8:40 p.m. yesterday from Oberlin College Observatory. I only had my regular lens on the camera, so the photo is rather highly cropped. Plus, I didn't have my tripod, so I held the camera on the rail, although the exposures were less than one second. ~Dave Lengyel

## Binary Beauties

Attached is a star chart and a short table with the names, locations and specifications for some of the brightest and easiest binary stars visible in the early fall evening sky.



The comments below include the following:

**Name:** Greek letters, (mostly), or numbers with constellation.

**Star Magnitudes:** Primary star first & companion star & colors

**Separation, (“ = arc seconds):** Distance between the primary and the companion star.

Included on the list are the following, which I consider as some of the absolute finest binary stars in the heavens,

**(Alpha),  $\alpha$  Hercules:** A magnificent pair of yellow and red stars with considerable magnitude difference, (3.5 & 7.5), and a somewhat tight separation, (4.4 arc seconds). A challenge in small telescopes;

**(Rho),  $\rho$  Hercules:** Two Jewels!! A blue-white / white pair of 5<sup>th</sup> magnitude stars. Again, a challenge in even the small telescopes!

**(Epsilon),  $\epsilon$  Lyra:** “The Double Double”! A stunning pair with a golden yellow primary coupled with a fainter blue-blue companion. As above, good in any size scope, although a little more of a challenge compared to the two above.

**(Delta),  $\delta$  Cygnus:** Straight above  $\epsilon$  Lyra; The brightest star that marks the right arm of the “Northern Cross”. A bright white 3<sup>rd</sup> magnitude primary with a faint, white, (6<sup>th</sup> magnitude), companion with a tight separation of 2.2 arc seconds; The large mag difference combined with the tight separation make this one of the most challenging doubles in the sky;

**(Beta),  $\beta$  Cygnus:** “Albireo”: One of the most beautiful and easiest to locate double stars in the heavens. The bottom star of the “Northern Cross” part of Cygnus, Albireo sports a 3<sup>rd</sup> magnitude orange primary with a 5<sup>th</sup> magnitude blue companion at a large separation of 35 arc seconds.

**(Gamma),  $\gamma$  Delphinus:** The furthest left or tip star of the diamond shaped part of the small constellation of Delphinus above an left of bright Altair. A beautiful pair with a 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude yellow primary and a 5<sup>th</sup> magnitude white companion separated by 9 arc seconds;

**(Alpha 1 & Alpha 2),  $\alpha 1$ ,  $\alpha 2$  Capricorn:** An attractive pair of 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude stars with a wide separation of 6.4 arc minutes. Each of these stars also sports faint companions with magnitudes, separations and position angles listed below:

$\alpha 1$	4.3 & 9.0	45.5"	221 deg
$\alpha 2$	3.6 & 10.0	6.6"	172 deg

**(Zeta),  $\zeta$  Aquarius:** Middle 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude star of the Y asterism of Aquarius. 2 4.5 magnitude white stars with a rather tight separation of 1.9 arc seconds. A challenge in small telescopes due to its tight separation;

**(delta),  $\delta$  Cepheus:** One of the small triangle of 4<sup>th</sup> mag stars at the top right hand part, of the upside-down house shaped constellation of Cepheus, just left of the “W” shaped Cassiopeia. An orange 4<sup>rd</sup> magnitude primary and a white 6<sup>th</sup> magnitude companion with a separation of 41 arc seconds;

**(beta),  $\beta$  Cepheus:** The bottom left hand star of the upside-down house shaped constellation of Cepheus, just left of the “W” shaped Cassiopeia. A blazing white 3<sup>rd</sup> magnitude primary and a blue 8<sup>th</sup> magnitude companion with a separation of 14 arc seconds.

~John Reising

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## TELESCOPE DONATIONS

The club has been very fortunate this year to receive several most welcome telescope donations. First, Diane Lucas, who will speak at our November meeting on the history of the club, donated a 6” f23 Maksutov telescope that she built over 50 years ago. This telescope won an Amateur Telescope Making award at Stellafane, and as such, is a valued piece of club history. We are most appreciative of Diane's generosity.

Next, Swen Nielsen contacted us through our Facebook page, and most kindly put us in contact with a woman named Mrs Pat Gus. Her husband, who passed away, was building a 16” f4.5 Newtonian telescope on an equatorial mount that he had almost finished. She kindly offered to donate the scope to us if we would finish it and use it with the public. We have picked it up, courtesy of Lee Lumpkin and John Reising. It needs the secondary mirror installed

and it needs a focuser. John has a 2' focuser he will donate. It will also need an optical finder and probably a red-dot finder of some kind in order to complete it. We will also consider Wheely Bars or something similar so as to allow the scope to roll out of the building to be used outside. This scope has a dual axis motor drive with a hand controller. This was a most generous donation by Mrs. Gus and we most appreciate Swen Nielsen for facilitating the donation. It is nice to have such considerate friends!

Finally, we were contacted via the email on our website by Kim Kroc of Avon Lake. She volunteers at the Good Neighbor Thrift Shop which recently had two telescopes donated. She wondered if we could use them. She was kind enough to bring them to the home of Board Member Jeff Walsh who also lives in Avon Lake. One scope is a small 40mm Meade refractor with no diagonal and a tabletop tripod. This scope takes 0.96 eyepieces. The other is an 8" Bushnell Dobsonian with a 1-¼ in. rack and pinion focuser. There are two eyepieces with it, a 25mm Kellner and a Celestron 10mm SMA wide angle. We also appreciate Ms. Kroc for thinking of us. The Meade might be a good starter telescope for a young astronomer, and the 8" Dob could be used as a loaner scope, along with our 4.5" Dob.

As our club continues to grow, these telescopes are most welcome and will allow us to better accomplish our primary goal which is to bring knowledge of astronomy and the beauty of the night sky to the public.

~Steve Schauer

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### **A Very Tubular Site for You**

I recently ran across this most amazing YouTube website...

<https://youtube.com/user/ouramazingspace>

...particularly amazing for their most recent and live streaming video of the Juno Mission from JPL. The videos and narrative are varied and super high quality. Next best thing to direct from NASA...

~Len Jezior

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***Our dues are due in October.***