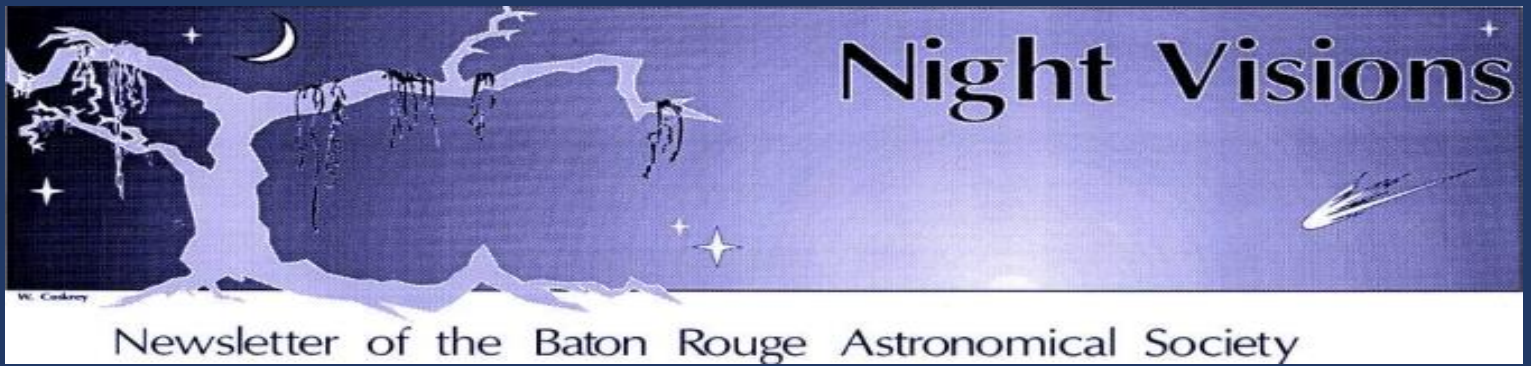




November 2025

Meetings at Highland Road Park Observatory and online through YouTube and Jitsi

<https://meet.jit.si/brasmeet>

Calendar:

- 1 November, 10AM: Science Saturday at LIGO, Livingston
- 10 November, 7PM: Monthly Meeting at HRPO
- 24 November, 6PM: Sidewalk Astronomy at Ascencion Parish Library
- 25 November, 6PM: Sidewalk Astronomy at Perkins Rowe
- 26 November, 7PM: LSU's Astronomy on Tap at the Varsity

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President's Message

November is here. Although we know better, at least there's hope that the dog days of summer are finally winding down. As I write this, our first autumn "cold front" is setting in. With cooler, drier air comes better conditions for stargazing.

Our first Sidewalk Astronomy night of the season at the Gonzales library was a great success. Five of our club members (Don, Roz, Chad, Steve, and David) set up telescopes and we counted 32 visitors enjoying the views of the night sky. The moon was at first quarter, so the shadows grazing the surface highlight the details of the craters. Saturn was well placed in the sky; that's always a favorite. David was able to show everyone Comet Lemmon through his scope.



At our last meeting, we discussed the annual field trip to Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. It was decided to move the event from January to March next spring. I spoke with the folks at the refuge, and the weekend of March 13-15, 2026 was confirmed for our visit. We'll talk more about that as the date approaches.

Closer on the horizon is the Deep South Star Gaze. The dates are November 18-23. The Pontchartrain Astronomy Society has been hosting this event for over 40 years now. If you've never been to a star party, this is a great one to try. You don't have to stay for the entire time. Whatever works for your schedule is good. Most people show up on Friday and Saturday nights.

Finally, a note about the passing of a legend in amateur astronomy. Al Nagler, the vision behind TeleVue Optics, died this week at the age of 90. I never had the honor of meeting him, but his impact on astronomy was far reaching. Some of you, no doubt, have telescopes or eyepieces designed and built by his company.

Vice President's Word

Hi Everyone,

I'm sorry to have missed last month's meeting. I was told by several members that Abby and Amy both gave great presentations and the meeting was well attended. I love seeing those attendance numbers up even when we DON'T have food!

At the moment, I'm still working on lining up a program for the November meeting which will be held on **Monday, November 10th at 7pm at the Highland Road Park Observatory**. I've got some feelers out and some ideas cooking so hopefully something comes to fruition soon. Regardless of the rest of the programming, we'll also discuss the officer positions for the next year and continue our raffle for the old C8 telescope which will have a winner drawn at the December meeting.

Of course, after the regular session and if the clouds/weather cooperate, we'll stick around for a bit to do some telescope observing. We've got plenty of scopes collecting dust in the closet that would LOVE some action so maybe you can be the one to take it out on the pad! I'll also point out that these mini observing sessions are great opportunities to get started on one of the Astronomical League observing clubs. Messier, Double Star, Constellation...there are several clubs for which observations can be made right outside the Observatory doors. It's also a great time to do them if you need a little bit of guidance because we usually have 2 or 3 experienced observers on hand. I hope you'll stick around and hang out with us!

Finally, I'm putting a call out for some new \$1 raffle items. If you have any ideas for some fun raffle items, let us know. If you HAVE any items you'd like to donate as future raffle prizes, we'd love to have them. We still have some older astronomy books and a couple of knick-knacks, but it would be nice to get some newer, fun items in the mix.

Clear Skies,

Ben Toman

Vice President

Outreach Report

Hi Everyone,

All I can say is "WOW"! That was the busiest month of outreach we have ever had as a club. To recap, we started October with Sidewalk Astronomy at Perkins Rowe (rescheduled due to clouds from the night before) then it was off to the races. Port Hudson Historical Site, LIGO (a mini preview for November), MSA West, West Baton Rouge Museum, a homeschool collective in Lafayette, Maker Faire at the Main Library, a Church fair in Lafayette, Oak Grove Primary, Glasgow Middle...and as I write this we still have Sidewalk Astronomy events at both the Library in Gonzales and Perkins Rowe yet to come.

A HUGE thank you to our volunteers that made it all happen. Roz, Chad, Scott C., Annette, Chris R., Chris K., Susan, John, David, Troy, Steven, Coy and Ben. I'd really like to see some more new names and faces on this list and at our events. We have a great time at these events and I encourage everyone to at least THINK about coming out for one in the future.

The impact that we make can be tough to register, but based on the feedback we receive, it is significant. I love to see the faces of faculty and staff light up when they see us arrive because they look forward to having us around helping each year. One Mom at the Halloween event in Port Allen told me her young daughter associates the event each year with being able to look through our telescopes and that they are getting her her first telescope for Christmas this year. Stories like those are part of the reason we continue to do outreach in the community.

Of course, we have a fantastic outreach opportunity to kick off November with another outing to LIGO. For their Science Saturday on November 1st, we are their official partner in presenting some educational outreach involving astronomy and space. I think we should all be very proud that we can think of the folks out at LIGO as our colleagues in this special way. Even if you don't come out to volunteer, I hope you'll make it out to show your support for BRAS and LIGO. Tell your friends, too! The event is FREE and open to the public.

I'll close here and just ask that you take a look at the list below and be sure to let me know if you'd like to help out with any of our upcoming events.

Clear Skies,

Ben Toman

Outreach Chairperson



Moment of Grace: Chris sees the light as he and Annette do solar observing for the Barefoot University Homeschool group in Lafayette. We're hopeful he'll stay off the rock, but we'll see.

Upcoming Outreach Events

Saturday, November 1st

10am-4pm

Science Saturday at LIGO

2-3 additional volunteers needed for shifts at demo tables and/or solar observing

Monday, November 24th

6pm-7:30pm

Sidewalk Astronomy at Ascension Parish Library

Tuesday, November 25th

6pm-9pm

Sidewalk Astronomy at Perkins Rowe



Natural Masters: Ben and Roz set up scopes on the Levee near campus for the Master Naturalists levee walk.

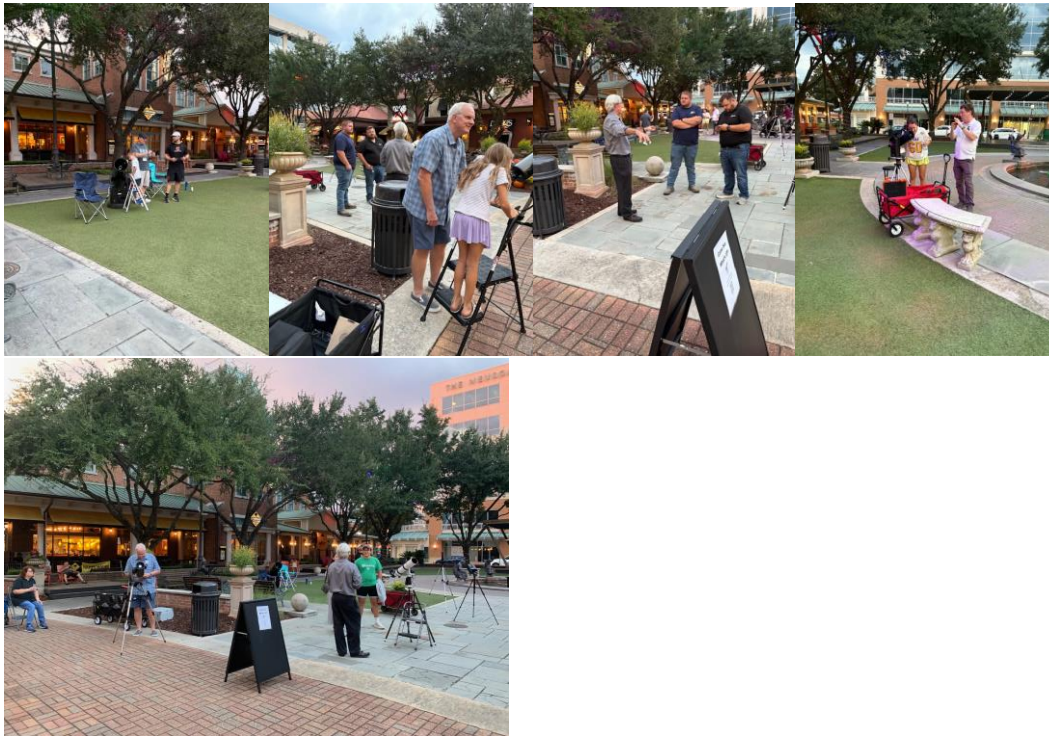


Port Hudson: Top, Ben welcomes the students, Susan Talks about the solar system, and Roz plays with lunar craters.

Bottom: Ben goes the relative distance, Ben and Scott setup Solar viewing, and Students line up to see the Photosphere and Chromosphere.

Secretary's Summary

- Meeting called to order, 32 people in attendance
- Return of the Don: Fresh from his summer travels, Don is welcomed back to the club
- Two presentations were given: Amy Northrop talked about the current status of select NASA missions and Abbi gave a talk on her work over the summer on creating a lunar habitat.
- Don spoke about upcoming outreaches and the need for more volunteers to join up to help us
- We spoke at length about the upcoming Deep South Star Gaze at Feleciana Retreat center. For more information and to sign up, visit <https://dssg.boards.net/> and find the carefully hidden link than they can never figure out how to sticky to the top of the discussion forum where it can readily be found by newcomers, <https://dssg.boards.net/attachment/download/378> (you will have to register on the forum to download the file).
- Don discussed the annual club visit to Rockefeller. This year, the dates will be from the 13 to 14 of March.
- Scott spoke briefly about a new opportunity for a club star party outside of Clinton, LA. Details are still being worked out.
- A raffle was held. Tickets will still be sold for the C8 up until the drawing during the December end of year party.
- Members were invited to stick around to do some stargazing or imaging.



From Perkins Rowe, Coy Ben, Chad, Roz and Scott engaging the crowds while yelling at clouds.



At MSA West Scott and Ben set up the solar viewing, Chad works the lunar models, and Ben remembers to grab an image of Roz.



West Baton Rouge Parish Museum: Ben shares the dream of astronomy while Scott shines a light for the twins and the wicked witch of the Roz hands out treats for the children.

NIGHT VISIONS



Making the most of it: Maker's Faire: Top: Annette talks relative scale, Coy shows off the sun in H-Alpha, and Chad explains lunar features. Middle, Steven explains just how far away the moon, John and Roz help clean up after the deluge and Ben wonders why nobody wants to explore his black hole. Bottom, even the Library mascot comes around to have a peek at the sun. Oh, and it looks like Chris is stoned again—worse, he seems to be trying to recruit LSU physics astronomy students into his soiled way of living.

NIGHT VISIONS



Oak Grove STEAM night: Scott hunts down Saturn while Roz gets blitzed by curious students.



At Glasgow Middle: Scott promises not to blind people, Chad explains the motions of the Earth and Moon, Ben gets kids sucked into the gravity well, and Roz talks about the planets. Finally, the space folk came to take Chad, Ben, and Roz home, this being their final outreach for October. Oh, wait, sidewalk astronomy!

NIGHT VISIONS



Don, David, Steve, and Chad ready the scopes for the Ascencion Parish Library sidewalk astronomy event.



Chad, Scott, Roz and Ben finish up the endless month with another sidewalk astronomy at Perkins Rowe.

Observatory Notes

SCIENCE ACADEMY

Saturdays from 10am to 12pm.

for Cadets aged eight to twelve / \$5 per Cadet per week (\$6 if out-of-parish)

advanced registration via [WebTrac](#) strongly recommended

[activity #331320] / parents may stay with or leave Cadet

Four Cadet minimum and sixteen Cadets maximum per session.

1 November = “Surveying the Earth”

8 November = “Planet, Star, Galaxy, Universe I”

15 November = “Uranus and Neptune”

22 November = “ISS Expedition 12”

EVENING SKY VIEWING

for ages six and older / no admission fee

Saturdays (1, 8, 22 and 29 November) from 7:30pm to 10pm

Friday 14 November from 8:30pm to 10pm

HRPO houses a 50-cm reflector, a 40-cm reflector and several smaller telescopes to bring the majesty of the night sky to the public. Trained operators, sharing duties via a rotating roster, work throughout the year in shifts. Each operator has a pre-planned list of objects to highlight. However, requests will be taken if there is time and if all present have viewed the previous target.

SUPERMOON RISING!

Tuesday 4 November from 5:45pm to 7:15pm

for ages six and older / no admission fee

HRPO opens for the closest Supermoon in every calendar year that has one. The thrill comes from a combination of that actual closeness combining with the illusion that makes a Full Moon look closer still when it is near the horizon. Be part of the crowd to experience a Supermoon Rising at HRPO!

THE EDGE OF NIGHT (Fall Session)Friday 7 November from 4:45pm to 6:45pmfor ages six and older / no admission fee

It's not light, it's not dark. It's that special time called twilight, and HRPO wants to introduce you to it! Are all sections of the sky the same shade of blue? Which stars are seen first? Are Mercury and Venus or the Moon out? Is that moving object a plane, a satellite or space debris? There is no other time like twilight. Bring it into your life!

BATON ROUGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEETINGMonday 10 November from 7pm to 9pmfor ages fourteen and older / no admission feeSOLAR VIEWING SPECIAL SESSIONFriday 14 November from 10:15am to 1:15pmfor ages six and older / no admission fee

Weather permitting, viewing of the Sun's image in three different manners—transferred onto a white surface, directly with safely-filtered optical light, and directly in safely-filtered hydrogen-alpha wavelength—will take place for three hours. Protective clothing and sunscreen are recommended. [This is the final Special Session.]

FRIDAY NIGHT LECTURE SERIES7:30pm / for ages fourteen and older / no admission fee

14 November = “The Shackleton Expedition” The only continent never permanently settled, Antarctica is brutal to visitors. Ernest Shackleton and his crew experienced an astounding and terrifying adventure as their ship *Endurance* crossed the Arctic Circle just before the beginning of 1915. Amy Northrop speaks on one of the most courageous treks ever undertaken on planet Earth.

PLUS NIGHT: “Right Ascension 1”Saturday 15 November from 7pm to 10pmfor ages six and older / no admission fee / binocular recommended

During Plus Nights and extra features are available to the public...

- *The well-known marshmallow roast takes place at the campfire ring (weather-dependng).
- *Seven to ten of HRPO's collection of over fifty physical science demonstrations will be on hand to perplex and amaze. Which demos will it be?
- *An unaided eye sky tour takes place, showing the public major features of the sky for that month.
- *Filters are inserted into the viewing mechanisms, to show patrons "hidden" details of the Moon, Mars and Jupiter (when they are available).
- *Reveal your age and be shown any "birth stars" in the sky at that time.

URANIAN OPPOSITION

Thursday 20 November from 7:30pm to 9:30pm

for ages six and older /no admission fee

Uranus is rising as the Sun is setting. We are now the closest we'll be to Uranus this year! The light-blue, high-ice planet (during these years in the constellation Taurus) is very compelling. Although rather small due to its distance, its enormous size and unique color allow one to distinguish it from the stars. Saturn and Neptune will be available also!

NATURAL SKY CONFERENCE

Friday 21 November from 4:30pm to 8:30pm

for ages twelve and older / no admission fee

Quite possibly the most important four hours a stakeholder will spend at HRPO this year will be this networking opportunity allowing HRPO parents, BRAS members and LSU physics professors and students talk to those organizations in the area who have the greatest ability—and desire—to curb light pollution.

FALL SPACE EXPLORATION CAMP

Monday 24 November and Tuesday 25 November (8am to 5pm daily)

for ages nine to thirteen / \$55 per Camper for both days (\$66 if from outside EBR Parish) / registration via WebTrac [activity #331180]

Campers will build and fly a single-stage chemical rocket, while learning about the latest upcoming missions and space news! All materials are supplied; campers will need a sack lunch

and drink that does not require refrigeration. Explorers will also need to bring a hat and sunscreen.

SOLAR VIEWING

Saturday 29 November from 11:30am to 2:30pm

for ages six and older / no admission fee

Weather permitting, viewing of the Sun's image in three different manners—transferred onto a white surface, directly with safely-filtered optical light and directly in safely-filtered hydrogen-alpha wavelength—will take place. Protective clothing and sunscreen are recommended.

STEM EXPANSION: “Anatomy”

Saturday 29 November from 2:30pm to 6:30pm

for ages twelve to sixteen. / \$15 each per in-parish registrant; \$18 each per out-of-parish registrant. Advanced registration via [WebTrac](#) required [activity #331321].

This program offers advanced topics, topic extensions and all-new games and activities to an older crowd. Certificates will be earned, and a section of archived experiments, some not seen in over fifteen years (and some *never* performed on site) take place. There are also giveaways and door prizes.

AMATEUR ASTRONOMY COURSES

Saturdays from 3:30pm to 7:30pm / registration in progress [activity #431322 and #131322]

Registrants must be eighteen or older. / \$15 per registrant (\$18 if non-EBR Parish)

These exciting one-day classes are tailor-made to instruct the patron in the use of a personal telescope or binocular for skygazing, or the basics of the unaided-eye Baton Rouge sky. Sign up for one or more!

“Learn Your Sky” = 20 December

“Learn Your Binocular” = 4 January

“Learn Your Telescope” = 11 January

Sky Map



<https://in-the-sky.org>

Quick Picks—Events for November

- Sat 1 [Venus](#) 3.3°N of Spica
- Sun 2 [Saturn](#) 3.7°S of [Moon](#)
- Wed 5 South Taurid Meteor Shower
- Wed 5 [Full Moon](#)
- Wed 5 [Moon](#) Perigee at 356,833 km.
- Thu 6 Pleiades 0.8°S of [Moon](#)
- Sat 8 [Mercury](#) 2.6°N of Antares
- Mon 10 Pollux 2.7°N of [Moon](#)
- Mon 10 [Jupiter](#) 4.0°S of [Moon](#)
- Mon 10 Beehive 1.7°S of [Moon](#)
- Tue 11 [Last Quarter Moon](#)
- Wed 12 North Taurid Meteor Shower
- Wed 12 Regulus 1.1°S of [Moon](#)
- Wed 12 [Mercury](#) 1.2° of [Mars](#)
- Mon 17 Spica 1.2°N of [Moon](#)
- Mon 17 Leonid Meteor Shower
- Wed 19 [Moon](#) Apogee at 406,693 km.
- Thu 20 [New Moon](#)
- Thu 20 [Mercury](#) in Inferior Conjunction
- Fri 21 [Uranus](#) at Opposition
- Sun 23 [Mercury](#) at Perihelion
- Fri 28 [First Quarter Moon](#)
- Sat 29 [Saturn](#) 3.7°S of [Moon](#)

Check Stellarium.org for local times.

Contact Information

President-----Don Weinell president@brastro.org

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS3Xkk1t7C9IRnB8GKrt9MQ>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Baton-Rouge-Astronomical-Society-122591151112271/>

Reddit: <https://www.reddit.com/r/BRAstro/>

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