

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society

## SEPTEMBER, 2011

The fall is now here and we are back to having our regular monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month. Our next meeting is only a few days away on Monday, Sept 12, 2011 at the observatory at 7 PM

### Current Meeting Notice

This month we are being treated to a talk from our own **Dr. Brad Schaefer**. His talk is entitled "**Solving the Uber-Important Type Ia Supernova Progenitor Problem.**" It is known what causes these supernovae, but the question of "what kind of system does this" has been weighing on the minds of cosmologists more and more over the last decade. They need this answer to help provide more precision in their work. Brad, with a result soon to be published in **Nature**, believes the question has been answered! (But you'll need to come out to the meeting to find out what it is...)

### Summer Meetings

We have had a good summer program beginning in June with a program at the La Arts and Science Museum and the Planetarium there hosted by the director Jon Elvert and our own member, Lisa Chumney. Then in July, we had a BBQ and tour hosted by the LIGO observatory in Livingston, La. We wrapped up the summer series with a talk by Kirk Aymond of our sister club, PAS, in New Orleans on the Electro-Magnetic Spectrum.

We have some good meetings scheduled for October and November with our annual Christmas meeting in December. You should plan to attend that meeting if that is the only one that you attend.

**Marvin E Owen, BRAS President**  
**Ben Toman, BRAS Vice President**

## FUTURE MEMBER PARTICIPATION

During this year, the officers have tried to find things that the members could participate in, to become a closer knit club, to grow our membership and to grow in the field of astronomy. We have had two field trips this summer for monthly meetings. However, we cannot sit back and let others do all the work and planning. We need suggestions from the membership as to how we can achieve the goals that I have set out above. If you have any suggestions or want to put on a presentation or set up an activity, please let us know and we will be glad to let you do it.

### OUTREACH

Trevor McGuire has worked out a plan of **outreach with CC Coffee and Best buy** where we can have telescopes set up at those two locations on Jefferson Hwy and \_-. See the next page for a more specific schedule and for a flyer that we plan to put out. We may need some volunteers to operate a scope or talk to the public at these various times so if you are available and interested in having a good time, talk to Trevor or let me know and we will try to fit you in.

### OBSERVING CHAIRMAN

As you know, Art Barrios does a great job each month of providing us with the BRAS **Observing Notes** (see attached) and of coordinating our deep sky site in the Atchafalaya Basin. If you use the data that Art provides, please let him know that you use it and that we appreciate the work that he does in preparing the data for us.

### EXPANSION OF CLUB ACTIVITY

We had a presentation a couple of years ago by Jack Huerkamp, the USA representative for the **Mallincam astrophotography system**. If you were present at that time, you will recall how impressive the system was, including showing us a photo of the Ring Nebula (M57) that was taken in mid-day with blue sky. The officers have been having some conversations about the possibility of BRAS acquiring a Mallincam system for use by the members. At the present, we have in excess of \$4,000 in our treasury and our bills and expenses are being taken care of without dipping into this excess. Last year, BRAS purchased a 40" flat screen TV that has been put to good use by HRPO and we can further expand the usage with possible live video feed from a scope to the TV via the Mallincam. The basic system is available for \$1,500 but we should probably consider accessories and other items to make a total purchase of at least \$2,000.

Is Astrophotography something that BRAS members would want to learn to do? would you use the camera either at the observatory or to check out the system to work on at home? Is this a good way to encourage activity in astronomy? Is this a feasible amount to invest or is it too high for our club to get into? I hope to circulate these questions and to get some input from the group. If you want to learn more about the system, go to <http://mallincamusa.com>

### DEEP SOUTH STAR PARTY

The **Deep South Regional Start Gaze** is coming up next month on Oct 26-30, 2011. I have attached the registration form and Release of Liability for you to complete and attend. This is planned to be another great event and it is close to Baton Rouge.

# SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY

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Come see the wonders of the night sky for free!



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## All events start at sundown

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October 4th	CC's on Jefferson
November 1st	Millerville Best Buy
December 6th	CC's on Jefferson
January 31st	Millerville Best Buy
February 28th	CC's on Jefferson
March 27th	Millerville Best Buy

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[www.BRaastro.org](http://www.BRaastro.org)

# BRAS Observing Notes September / October 2011

## Constellation of the Month

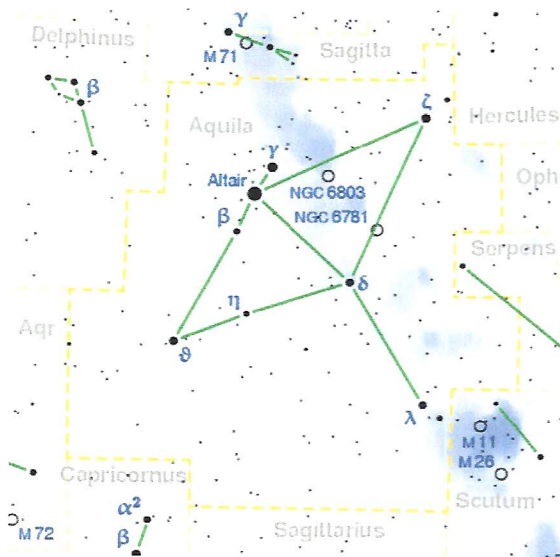
### Aquila: The Eagle

This month we are learning a little Latin. If you take that as a hint that Aquila is Latin for eagle then you are correct. The Roman god Jupiter was said to use Aquila as the retriever of his wrathful thunderbolts after hurling them at his enemies. The brightest star of this constellation is Altair which in Arabic means 'flying eagle' giving us another bird related references to this grouping of stars. The list of early astronomers identifying this constellation includes Ptolemy, Eudoxus and Aratus.

Two major novae events have been observed within the constellation of Aquila. The first one occurred in 389 AD and is recorded to have been brighter than Venus.

In addition to being part of the constellation of Aquila, Altair is also part of the formation called the Summer Triangle along with Vega and Deneb.

### Star Chart



### Position in the Sky

Right Ascension: 20 hrs  
Declination: 5 degrees

### Deep Sky Objects

None

### Named Stars

ALTAIR (Alpha Aql)  
ALSHAIN (Beta Aql)  
TARAZED (Gamma Aql)  
Deneb el Okab (Epsilon Aql)  
Deneb el Okab (Zeta Aql)

### October Meteor Showers: Orionids

Duration: October 2 – November 7

Peak: October 21<sup>st</sup>

Radiant: Constellation Orion

Right Ascension: 6 hours

Declination: 16 degrees

Expected Rate: up to 20 per hour

Origin: Halley's Comet

### BRAS Dark Sky Site Viewing Dates

September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2011

October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

For more information check out the BRAS website at <http://www.brastro.org>

Art Barrios

BRAS Observing Chairman

[art.barrios@cox.net](mailto:art.barrios@cox.net)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Cash Balance, Jan 1, 2011		\$ 4,591
Receipts		
Dues	\$ 1,105	
Donations and Sales	<u>635</u>	
	Total receipts	1,705
Disbursements		
Insurance	\$ 334	
LIGO BBQ	277	
Postage	132	
Astronomical Calenders	130	
Shelving for BRAS Room	171	
Astronomical League Dues	385	
All other expenditures	<u>476</u>	
	Total Disbursements	<u>1,905</u>
Ending Cash Balance, August 31, 2011		<u><u>\$ 4,426</u></u>

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### REMINDER OF CHANGE IN DUES PAYMENT SCHEDULE

All dues will be due on an annual basis beginning January 1, 2012. If a person joins during the year, the dues will be prorated as follows:

- Join during first quarter, dues will be \$20 for the year
- Join during second quarter, dues will be \$15 for the year
- Join during third quarter, dues will be \$10 for the year
- Join in the fourth quarter, dues will be only \$5 with payment of \$20 for the next year

If you need to pay dues or have questions, please contact our treasurer, Bob Sinitiere at:

cell 266-9515  
e-mail [bobstar9@bellsouth.net](mailto:bobstar9@bellsouth.net)

Bob Sinitiere  
14558 Cottingham Ct  
Baton Rouge, La 70817

# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Deep South Regional Star Gaze Registration Form

## Feliciana Retreat Center – October 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB AFFIL. (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Registration Fee - All attendees must register (1a or 1b) regardless of lodging choices

#### 1a) Full Registration - \$25.00 per person / \$35.00 per family *if in advance and postmarked by 10/14/2011.*

Registrations postmarked *after* this date are \$40.00 per person / \$60.00 per family. Refunds will be made only if notified on or before this date or in the unlikely event of a Star Gaze cancellation. One door prize ticket per full reg.

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ List names \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1b) Reduced Registration - \$10.00 per person / \$15.00 per family. This applies if you do not want a door prize ticket, you are not setting up any equipment and you will not be staying overnight.

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ List names \_\_\_\_\_

Total Registration Fee (1a OR 1b) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Lodging Reservation Choices - Select desired lodging type (2a, 2b or 2c) if staying onsite

#### 2a) Cottage Reservations

	Rate		# of people		Amount Due
Wednesday (10/26)	\$21.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____
Thursday (10/27)	\$21.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____
Friday (10/28)	\$21.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____
Saturday (10/29)	\$21.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____

Cottage Reservations Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2b) Tent, Camper & RV Reservations – Limited electrical hookup is for telescopes only, and there are no sanitary hookups for campers nor RVs. Generator use is not permitted on the observing field at night. Picnic canopies are permitted on the observing field in compliance with our Light and Parking Rules.

	Rate		# of people		Amount Due
Wednesday (10/26)	\$5.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____
Thursday (10/27)	\$5.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____
Friday (10/28)	\$5.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____
Saturday (10/29)	\$5.00 per person	X	_____	=	_____

Tent, Camper or RV Reservations Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2c) Lodge Reservations** – The Lodge has 24 motel style rooms (*two of the rooms have queen beds*). The other rooms have 1 twin bed & 1 twin bunk bed. All have a private bathroom with a shower. Linens and towels are provided. Queen rooms are only upon request, first come, first serve (*check here \_\_\_ to request a queen*).

	Rate		Number of rooms		Amount Due
Wednesday (10/26)	\$47.00 (single) OR \$72.00 (double)	X	_____	=	_____
Thursday (10/27)	\$47.00 (single) OR \$72.00 (double)	X	_____	=	_____
Friday (10/28)	\$47.00 (single) OR \$72.00 (double)	X	_____	=	_____
Saturday (10/29)	\$47.00 (single) OR \$72.00 (double)	X	_____	=	_____

Lodge Reservations Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Meal Reservations** – To eat in the FRC dining hall, you must reserve all meals here in advance

Meals are breakfast (\$7) at 10 a.m. and dinner (\$10) at 4 p.m. on the days shown below. Sunday breakfast will be held one hour earlier at 9 a.m.

Note - Meals have to be paid in advance, so there will be no on-site meal payment.

Please indicate the number of meals you want –

Wednesday (10/26)		Dinner \$10 X _____ = \$ _____
Thursday (10/27)	Breakfast \$7 X _____ = \$ _____	Dinner \$10 X _____ = \$ _____
Friday (10/28)	Breakfast \$7 X _____ = \$ _____	Dinner \$10 X _____ = \$ _____
Saturday (10/29)	Breakfast \$7 X _____ = \$ _____	Dinner \$10 X _____ = \$ _____
Sunday (10/30)	Breakfast \$7 X _____ = \$ _____	

All Meals Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total**

Total of sections 1, 2 and 3

**TOTAL REMITTED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All checks (*only, no cash nor money orders*) should be made payable to "Deep South Regional Star Gaze" (or "DSRSG") and mailed to:

Barry Simon, DSRSG Co-Director  
842 Crystal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70124

Email me at [bsimon615@aol.com](mailto:bsimon615@aol.com) if you have any questions. For registration verification, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope or include an email address at the top of this form. Please note if you will need a receipt.

