



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.

