



Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society

September 2010

The Next Meeting of the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society will be September 13, 2010 at 7 PM. We will be meeting at the Highland Road Observatory. The meeting starts at 7 PM.

Program Notes: *SOUNDS OF THE UNIVERSE*

It was great to see so many people at our last meeting! Dr. Matese's talk was great, as well. Hopefully WISE will turn up some data that supports their Tyche Conjecture.

As for this month's meeting, we have another great professor from ULL, Dr. Andi Petculescu. Dr. Petculescu's main research interest is experimental acoustics. Along with Molecular Acoustics and Acoustic Gas Sensing, he deals with Alien Soundscapes. (Sounds good to me!) Specifically, how sound waves travel through the atmospheres of Mars, Venus, Earth and Titan. As a musician in my non-astronomical life, I'm really looking forward to this one!

Hope to have another great showing for this meeting so come on out and remember, tell/bring a friend or neighbor if you think they may be interested. Why stay home and watch Discovery Channel when we've got the real thing right here!

Vice President's Message

I have two items for the membership:

1. Our speaker for the September 13th BRAS meeting needs a decent set of computer speakers (preferably with a subwoofer) to enhance the audio portion of his presentation. Does anyone have, and be willing to let us use, a decent computer speaker set? Just send me an email if so and we'll know we are all set! tomanben@gmail.com
2. As we mentioned at the last BRAS meeting, there is going to be a science, math outreach event at Cortanna Mall on September 11th and we would like to be a part of it, but we need a few more bodies to help out.

Continued on next page.

This is a bit of information from Merrill Hess on the matter...

"I need some help with the BRAS display for the Sept. 11th Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) event at Cortana Mall. It is geared toward 6-12 year olds mostly.

I know there is a BRAS banner in the BRAS room at HRPO. Do we have anything nicer?

What kind of handouts, displays, posters, etc can we pull together? Does anyone have a laptop we can use to run a video. If not that, a TV? I have a small DVD player I can bring. I would like to have some kind of looping Powerpoint show or a video. Anybody with a solar scope?"

I believe it is taking place during the daytime so our viewing will be limited, but we can put forth some great astronomical information for the community. Please contact Merrill Hess at merrillhess@gmail.com as soon as possible if you can help out in any way!

That's all for now.

Ben Toman, Vice-President

<tomanben@gmail.com>

MESSAGE FROM HRPO

BRAS's extended loan, the wonderful Samsung LCD screen, is now in operation. BRAS astrophotography, BREC programming and the like are now being displayed.

During the month of September HRPO is having the 4th *Dimension Donation Drive*. We are trying to raise \$360 for nine timekeeping devices that will be on display every fourth Saturday night. Descriptions of the clocks and instructions for donating are on the front page of the HRPO website.

Christopher

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: ON-SITE

Evening Sky Viewing: Saturdays from 7pm to 10pm.

One or two volunteers. To work physical science demos and telescopes and campfire. NOTE: We really do not need volunteers on Friday night on a regular basis.

CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS: OUTREACH

Baker Branch Library: (3501 Groom Road) Wednesday, 22 September from 3pm to 6pm */// One volunteer needed for a three-hour shift.*

Sugar Fest: (845 N. Jefferson Avenue) Sunday, 3 October from 11am to 4pm */// Two volunteers needed each for a three-hour shift.*

HRPO FRIDAY NIGHT LECTURE SERIES

*10 SEPTEMBER "Neutrinos: Ghostly Particles from Space"

*17 SEPTEMBER: "Quasars: Fireworks of the Universe"

*24 SEPTEMBER: "Uranus and Neptune"

*1 OCTOBER: "Is Louisiana Sinking"

September President's Message

And the exoplanet news just keeps on coming.

Just a few days ago a European planet-hunting team announced finding a Sun-like star with at least five and maybe seven planets, based on the star's complex gravitational wobbles as tracked by the super-precision HARPS spectrograph in the Andes.

Now the science team for NASA's Kepler probe has performed radial-velocity follow-ups at the Keck Observatory confirming that a different Sun-like star, known as Kepler 9, is transited by the silhouettes of two planets. And the team determined an accurate mass for each of them. A model of the Saturn-mass bodies Kepler 9b and 9c, and an unconfirmed super-Earth candidate closer in, transiting their sun like star. The light curves show the relative amount of dimming that each causes as it blocks a little of the star's face.

But that's just the start. The timing of each planet's transits is *changing*. The orbital period of one world is slowing down and the other is speeding up. The two planets are gravitationally interacting with each other. Strongly.

Now with findings like the above coming to us amateurs almost daily, the world of astronomy is a fun activity to be a part of. We at BRAS may not have discovered any eggplants but some of our members have discovered asteroids and we have a lot of fun observing and learning out our night sky.

In the way of fun, it will be interesting to hear our speaker next Monday talk about the sounds that are made on the different planets. Come on out and be a part of this fun hobby.

MARVIN E OWEN, ATTORNEY-CPA

MARVIN@MEOCPA.COM

PH 225-292-0099

From Merrill Hess; This is a hoot!

<http://indianinthemachine.wordpress.com/2010/05/08/indian-in-the-machine-a-tribute-to-our-healing-sun/>

Here is a sample of what you will find on the site:

2012 represents a quantum shift that our solar system is going through as a result of our system traveling through a strong band of Light called the "photon belt".

("Photon belt"? That's right. It's all those photons, just kinda hanging out in space causing the changes. Walt once told me he had problems with photons puddling up on his mirror. Each observing session, he had to dump them out a couple times a night. Darn photons. :o) And its not just a shift but a QUANTUM shift!!! We've all heard people use the phrase "quantum shift or quantum change" to describe something grand. Which is ironic because a quantum shift is one of the smallest events in the universe. - MH)

It continues (with more stationary photons):

To use a metaphor of boiling water...as we travel into the photon belt into this increased Light....the water increases in temperature the water molecules begin to agitate. As our planet travels past a strong edge of the photon belt, this is like a pot of water reaching a boiling point as it moves from liquid to vapour. As our planet and thus us, is exposed to very strong Light, are very cells, our very DNA, begin to vibrate in a different pattern, thus triggering essentially the birth of an entirely new species. In the old Light, we are "Homo Sapiens...in the new bright Light...we become "Homo Christos".

(Later they identify the "photon belt" as a "gamma radiation" belt. (Again, static radiation??? - MH) that our planet is passing through and that is why the earth is heating up. Well, as long as they are sure. - MH)

B.R.A.S. Meeting Notes for 8-9-2010

Meeting Started at 7:10

Visitors Introduced - Charles Genovese (returning member) & Mohammed Syed

NEW BUSINESS: Trevor McGuire informed us an idea for a Award for Area National Science High School Jr./Sr student is being considered. \$200? Plaque? and 1 yr membership to club? Time line is tentative. Teachers select nominees. Our committee makes final selection. To be discussed at next officers meeting.

Main Program of the Evening

John J. Matese , Emeritus Professor of Physics
University of La. - Lafayette

The Tyche Conjecture - A Jovian mass solar companion orbiting in the Oort comet cloud. Thank You, Professor.

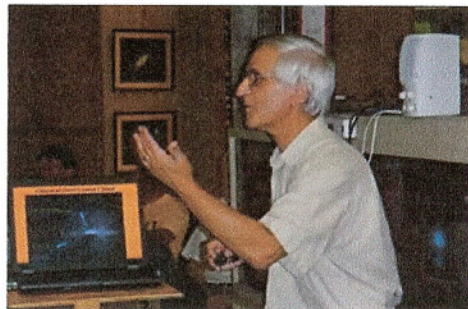
October's Program is not set. September's speaker is Charles Genovese

Volunteers are needed for the STEM Program Outreach at Cortana Mall, September 11th, 11am -3pm

Persieds Meteor Shower – It was asked- Is anyone going to the Dark Sky site for it?

Raffle at 8:35 while Tom shared photos of *The Johnson Space Center*

Dave Thomas,
B.R.A.S. Club Secretary



Dr. John J. Matese giving talk on *The Tyche Conjecture*.

Good-By to a Star Gazer

Jack Foley Horkheimer
Jun. 11, 1938 Aug. 20, 2010

Television Personality. Born Foley Arthur Horkheimer, he was the creator, writer, producer and host of the weekly television show "Star Gazer." The show began broadcasting nationally on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in 1979 as "Star Hustler," after debuting locally in Miami, Florida, three years earlier. The show ran on PBS without interruption for an unprecedented 31 years, and was carried by over 200 PBS affiliates. The five minute television series was watched by an estimated six million viewers weekly, and focused on naked-eye astronomy, including planetary movements, star constellations, and lunar and solar events. In addition to hosting "Star Gazer," he also served as the executive director of the Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium for 35 years, and also appeared as a regular on the Cable News Network (CNN) as an astronomy advisor. He was the author of "Child of the Universe," "Star Bound" and "Mother Won't Let Me Ride in a Flying Saucer." He was known for his signature sign-off at the end of each telecast with the words "Keep Looking Up" which became part of his epitaph. He died at his home from complications of respiratory illness at the age of 72.

(bio by: [Nils M. Solsvik Jr.](#))

Inscription:

*Keep Looking Up was my life's admonition;
I can do little else in my present position.*

BRAS Observing Notes

September 2010

Constellation of the Month - Lyra:

This small musical constellation is host to one of the brighter stars in the night sky, Vega. Lyra was pictured by the Greeks as a musical instrument made by Hermes from a tortoise shell strung with gut strings. Hermes found the tortoise, cleaned out its shell and tied seven strings across it to match the number of the Pleiades.

A Greek story tells of how the lyre helped Hermes out of trouble when he stole some of Apollo's cattle. Apollo found the cattle with Hermes and demanded their return. Hermes played his lyre for Apollo who so enjoyed the music that he decided to allow Hermes to keep the cattle and take the lyre in return.

Sky Chart

Position in the Sky

Right Ascension: 19 hours

Declination: 40 degrees

Named Stars

VEGA (Alpha Lyr)

Sheliak (Beta Lyr)

Sulafat (Gamma Lyr)

Double Double (Epsilon 1 Lyr)

Double Double (Epsilon 1 Lyr)

Double Double (Epsilon 2 Lyr)

Double Double (Epsilon 2 Lyr)

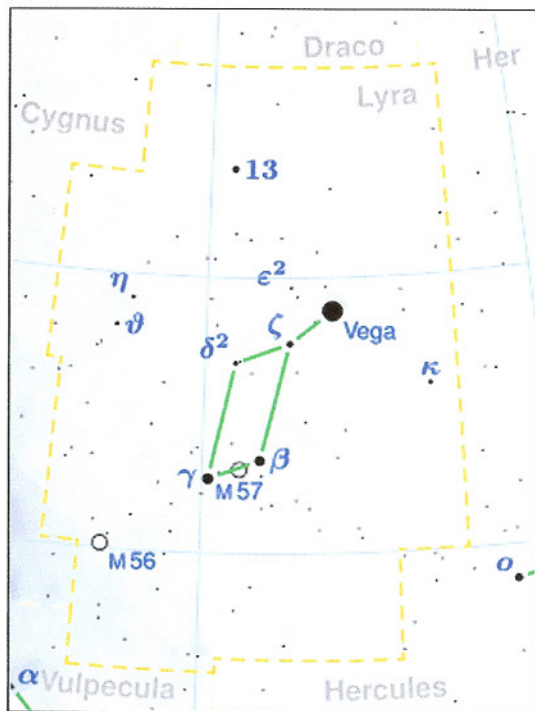
Aladfar (Eta Lyr)

Alathfar (Mu Lyr)

Messier Objects

M56 (globular cluster)

M57 The Ring Nebula (planetary nebula)



BRAS Dark Sky Site Viewing Dates

September 4th and 11th 2010

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

Directions to BRAS Dark Sky Site:

From Baton Rouge take I-10 west about 19 miles from the Mississippi River Bridge. Take exit 135, LA Hwy 3000, to Ramah-Maringouin exit. Go north about 100 feet. You will see a bait shop on left, turn left here. Go about 200 feet, you will see a gas station on right, turn right. Go about 400 feet until you come to the levee, turn left (south). Go 1.6 miles down the gravel road along the levee. You will see a road on right going up onto the levee, turn on this road and either stop on top of the levee or directly on the other side.

Art Barrios

BRAS Observing Chairman

art.barrios@cox.net

The Evening Sky Map

FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

EQUATORIAL EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2010

Sky Calendar - September 2010

Get Sky Calendar on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/skymaps>

- 1 Moon near the Pleiades (morning sky) at 0h UT.
- 1 Venus 1.0° SSW of Spica at 2h UT. Mags. -4.4 and +1.0.
- 1 Last Quarter Moon at 17:22 UT.
- 3 Mercury at inferior conjunction with the Sun at 12h UT. Mercury passes into the morning sky.
- 5 Moon near Beehive cluster M44 (morning sky) at 22h UT.
- 5 Mars 2.1° NNE of Spica at 22h UT. Mags. +1.5 and +1.0.
- 8 Moon at perigee (closest to Earth) at 4h UT (357,190 km; 33.1'). Perigee is only 6.5 hours before New Moon so high tides are expected.
- 8 New Moon at 10:30 UT. Start of lunation 1085.
- 9 Moon near Saturn (19° from Sun, evening sky) at 18h UT. Mag. +1.0.
- 11 Moon near Spica (evening sky) at 0h UT.
- 11 Moon near Mars at 4h UT. Mag. +1.5.
- 11 Moon near Venus at 14h UT. Mag. -4.5.
- 14 Moon near Antares (evening sky) at 5h UT.
- 15 First Quarter Moon at 5:50 UT.
- 18 Jupiter 0.8° SSE from Uranus (midnight sky) at 18h UT. Mags. -2.9 and +5.7.
- 19 Mercury at greatest elongation, 18° west from Sun (morning sky) at 17h UT. Mag. -0.4.
- 21 Moon at apogee (farthest from Earth) at 8h UT (distance 406,165 km; angular size 29.5').
- 21 Jupiter at opposition at 11h UT (mag. -2.9). Best time to observe the largest planet in the solar system.
- 21 Uranus at opposition at 17h UT (mag. +5.7).
- 23 September equinox at 3:13 UT. The time when the Sun reaches the point along the ecliptic where it crosses into the southern celestial hemisphere marking the start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 23 Moon near Jupiter (midnight sky) at 4h UT. Mag. -2.9.
- 23 Full Moon at 9:17 UT.
- 27 Venus at its brightest at 15h UT. Mag. -4.6.
- 28 Moon near the Pleiades (morning sky) at 4h UT.

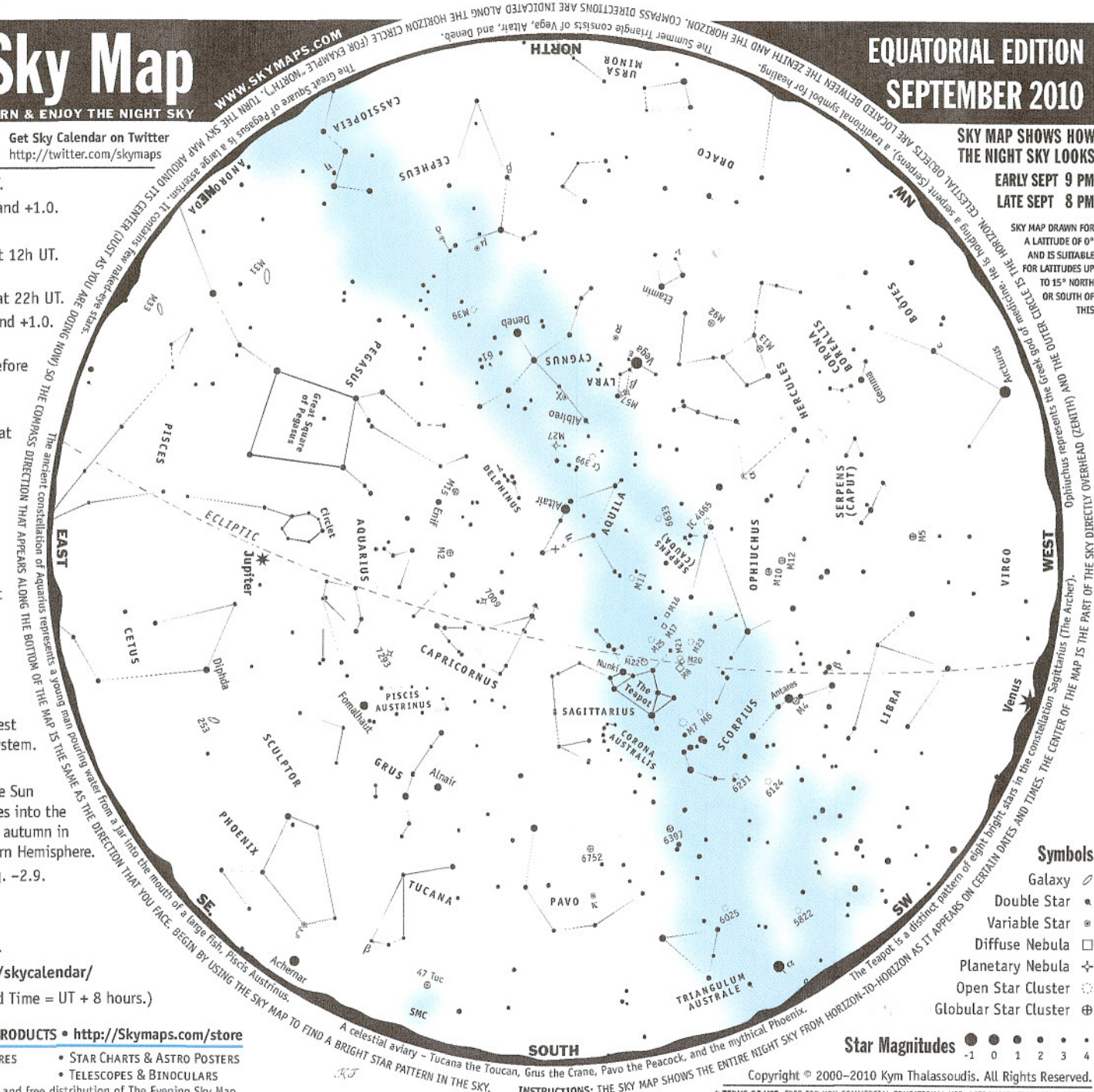
More sky events and links at <http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/>

All times in Universal Time (UT). (Singapore Standard Time = UT + 8 hours.)



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What's Up With the Astronomical League August 2010

August 10, 2010

Compiled by
Carroll Iorg,
President-Elect

The Astronomical League Needs You, A Special Price for Astronomical Calendar and 2010 Youth Awards Publicity

Publications Chair: The duties of this position include proofing of League publications such as observing manuals to make sure they adhere to generally accepted standards. Also this person electronically files copyright information with the United States Copyright Office for League publications. Also a part of this position is to give recommendations and guidance to writers of new observe manuals and other publications to insure accuracy and clarity.

Publicity Chair (Press Officer): The position deals with the news media in spreading the word about the League. This would involve such things as contacting the local newspapers and other media in award-winners home-towns, responding to media inquiries regarding various astronomical events, in coordination with the League's leadership and preparing proactive news releases regarding upcoming League and/or astronomical events.

Past experience in public relations is important.

Grant Writer: If you have a successful record of applying for and obtaining grants, we invite you to volunteer your special skills to the League.

Historian: An appreciation of history and specifically for the League's history would be an excellent background for this position. Strong computer skills is important as much of this position would involve organizing electronic records including photos from past League events such as ALCons and converting older paper documents into digital format.

Fundraising & Merchandising Specialists: If you have successfully concluded fundraising campaigns or your background has emphasized product branding we would also like to talk to you.

If you can volunteer for any of these positions, please contact me at carroll-iorg@kc.rr.com. We appreciate your support.

The 2011 Astronomical Calendar: Specially Priced for League members

The Astronomical League is pleased to announce a special offer for our members from the Universal Workshop, the producers of Guy Ottewell's popular Astronomical Calendar. They are making the 2011 edition of the Astronomical Calendar available at a discounted price. There are plenty of good reasons why it has been published for over thirty years. The 2011 edition will not disappoint!

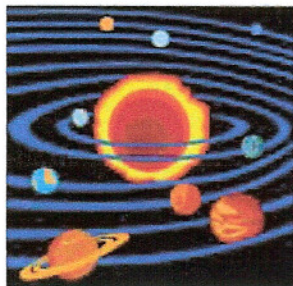
Packed throughout its 84 pages are monthly sky charts; daily celestial highlights; charts, tables, and explanations of planetary movements; eclipse times and paths; and lunar occultation specifics. There are extensive descriptions of the year's meteor showers and periodic comets, as well. This calendar tells, in clear language, what events occur and when they happen.

League members can order this incredible compilation of the year's celestial events for \$19.95, shipping included (standard ground shipping to US addresses, only). Volume discounts, beginning with a minimum of 11 copies, for clubs are available. But, to take advantage of the free shipping offer, you must order by Friday December 31, 2010, and either use the special website, www.Universalworkshop.com/clubs.htm, or call 800-533-5083. The newly edited Astronomical Companion is also available at \$19.95, shipping included — if it is ordered at the same time as the Astronomical Calendar. Universalworkshop.com accepts Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express and PayPal.

Place your order today!

League's Youth Awards Recognized by Sky & Telescope Online:

Kelly Beatty, Senior Contributing Editor, Sky & Telescope, has posted a well-written article regarding the 2010 League Youth Awards on the magazine's website. The link is at <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/news/100783674.html>.



***** Astronomy Magazine club subscriptions and renewals*****

****Deadline is Sept 25, 2010****

1 year = \$34.00 2 years = \$60.00 Make check payable to B.R.A.S.

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone: _____ **Complete as on your label or send me your Mag. Label**

Indicate **New subscriber** _____ **Renewal subscriber** _____
Renewing subscriber converting to club subscription (must give exp date)
*** _____ and subscription # _____**

Remember Deadline is Sept 25, 2010 Mail to **Bob Sinitiere, Treas**
BRAS
14558 Cottingham CT
Baton Rouge, LA 70817-3543

.....
Sky and Telescope Subscriber. Renewals: send \$ 32.95 Directly to Sky and Telescope (before your subscription expires). Payable to "Sky and Telescope"
(Sky and Tel will send you a direct renewal notice)

****** New Sky and Telescope Subscribers only: Note--**
NEW subscriber to Sky and Telescope Send check to treasurer and
Pay to B.R.A.S. before Sept 25th.

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Mail to Bob Sinitiere, Treasure, BRAS, 14558 Cottingham CT., B.R. La 70817-3543

BATON ROUGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

**You can pay your Membership Dues at our next Meeting or
Send your Dues to:**

**Baton Rouge Astronomical Society, inc.
c/o Bob Sinitiere, Treasure,
14558 Cottinham Ct.,
Baton Rouge, LA 70817-3543**

**If you have questions about dues or receiving your News Letter call Bob
at 755-2079**

◆ Regular Membership \$20.00 \$_____

◆ Each Additional Family Membership \$ 5.00 \$_____

◆ Student Membership \$10.00 \$_____
(through age 17)

◆ Donation* toward club building fund or
(_____) \$_____
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**How do you wish to receive the Society's Newsletter *Night Visions*-
____ By Mail or by ____ E-Mail
(Please Check one)**

**PLEASE CHECK THAT YOUR ADDRESS AND E-MAIL ARE CURRENT AND
CURRENT.**

**Meetings are usually held the second Monday of each month at 7pm, except for June and July.
Most meetings are held at the Highland Road Observatory.**

*All donations to the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society, Inc. are tax-deductible under IRS Section 501(c)(3) & (a)(1) and also 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

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