

New Braunfels Astronomy Club

Texas, USA

August 17th, 2017

220th Meeting

Larry's

Celestial Calendar & Newsletter

August 18th to September 21st, 2017

242nd Edition

Get Ready to Umbra... or Penumbra... This is it!

August 21st, 2017

Local Partial Eclipse Peaks at 1:10 pm CDT

Observer's Highlight Calendar for Clear Skies

Month Date Time Event

| Month | Date | Time | Event |
|-------|------|--|---|
| Aug | 21 | 1:30 CDT Various local times | New Moon A total solar eclipse occurs across the USA from Oregon through S. Carolina |
| Aug | 25 | Dusk | A waxing crescent Moon, Jupiter, and Spica make a pretty triangle in the West-Southwest |
| Aug | 29 | 3:13 am CDT | First quarter Moon |
| Sep | 1 | Late night | Aurigid meteor shower peaks. Start looking east-northeast around 3am, after the Moon has set. Notice brilliant Venus is on the horizon. |
| Sep | 6 | 2:03 am CDT | Full Moon |
| Sep | 12 | 7:39 – 8:16 am CDT OBSERVING CHALLENGE | A waxing gibbous Moon occults Aldebaran. Use a telescope to view this event high in the Southern morning sky. Disappearance occurs at 7:39 and reappearance occurs at 8:16, in the morning light. |
| Sep | 12 | Pre-Dawn | Check out Mercury at greatest elongation in the pre-dawn Eastern sky about 11 degrees up from the horizon. |
| Sep | 13 | 1:25 am CDT | Last Quarter Moon |
| Sep | 16 | Dawn | Looking East. Brilliant Venus heads up a somewhat vertical formation with bright Regulus 4.5 degrees below and a Mars- |

| | | | |
|-----|----|--------------|--|
| | | | Mercury close pairing 7 degrees below and left of Regulus. Use binoculars. |
| Sep | 18 | Dawn | As with the Sep 16 line up, but add a waning crescent Moon |
| Sep | 20 | 12:30 am CDT | New Moon |

Solar System Roundup

Comet PANSTARRS (C/2015 ER61)

Stay up late, past midnight on the evenings of August 18 -21 and you get a chance to check out this comet hanging just below the Pleiades cluster. Use big binoculars or a telescope to see this 9th magnitude fuzzball.

- ✚ **Mercury** becomes a morning “star”, climbing toward greatest elongation on September 12th.
- ✚ **Venus** is a morning “star”, still brilliant but losing its shine a little. It’s in Cancer, moving toward Leo.
- ✚ **Earth** still spins, and we are still here to marvel at the wonders of our universe.
- ✚ **The Moon** has interesting features, including rays, caused by ejected crust from a meteor strike. On September 4th check out the rays coming from crater Messier A.
- ✚ **Mars** is not a good target but teams up with Mercury in September to make an interesting view in the pre-dawn eastern sky.
- ✚ **Jupiter** is getting closer to the western horizon every week so check it out in the early evening.
- ✚ **Saturn** is ruling the night, and its rings are nicely tilted for a beautiful view.
- ✚ **Uranus** is rising late night, in Pices.
- ✚ **Neptune** can be viewed in Aquarius at night and is at opposition starting on the night of September 4/5
- ✚ **Pluto** is in Sagittarius

What is it?

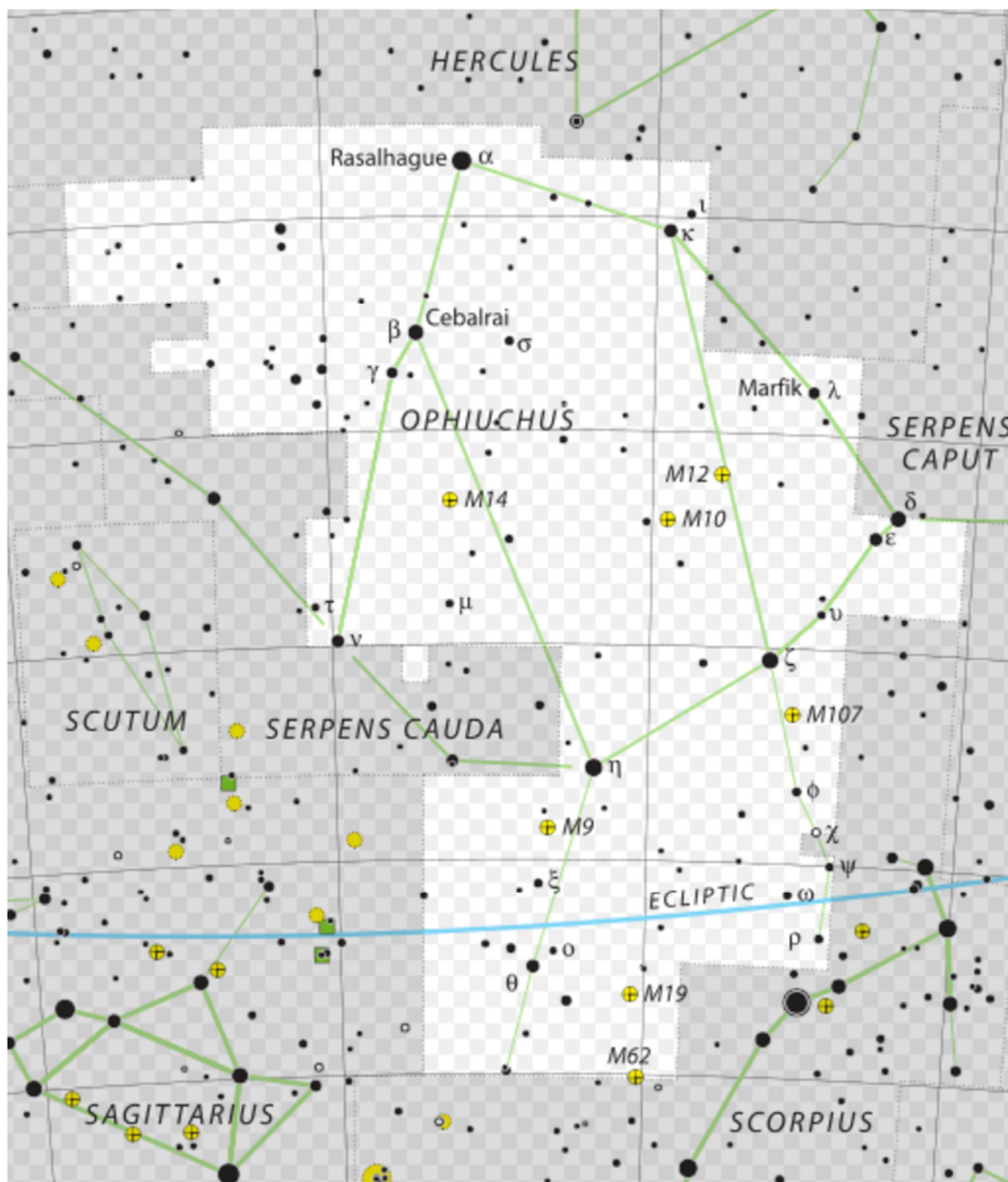
Asterism:

A grouping of stars forming a recognisable pattern. An asterism might be part of a constellation, such as the big dipper, part of Ursa Major. An asterism can also be unassociated with a constellation, such as the Pleiades.

My Observing Pick: Ophiuchus...the Thirteenth

The thirteenth constellation of the Zodiac that is. Ophiuchus is stuck between Sagittarius and Scorpius, to their north. This name means serpent bearer, a man grasping the snake of Serpens. While part of it resides on the ecliptic, astrologers do not include it as a zodiacal constellation, boo hoo! There are 7 Messier objects to gaze at!

| Name | Object Type | Location | Description |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| M9, M10, M12, M14, M19, M62, M107 | Globular cluster | Spread throughout, see below | Globular clusters |



Prepping for the Eclipse?

If you are heading out to find totality nirvana along the path of totality you are likely already ready. For those hanging back in Texas, there will be a decent 65-70% partial eclipse so why not get ready? Get a solar filter for your scope, cardboard solar glasses, heck, do what Mark Goll did and grab an objective from an old cheap scope to make a solar scope. His works great. Make a pinhole viewer or the cool **Sun Funnel** viewer – go to NASA's website and search for sun funnel. They have plans! It's for telescopes and spotting scopes.

Also use NASA's website to find the names of manufactures of ISO certified viewing supplies.

Coming up: **OUR 221st** ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING

Thursday, **September 21st**, 2017 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., held in the conference room of TJ's restaurant on Loop Road (337). Have dinner and/or a beverage if you like. The New Braunfels Astronomy Club can be reached at www.astronomyntx.org

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