



The Bulletin

The April General Meeting, April 9, 7:00 PM Butler's Holcomb Observatory

**“Beware of the infective disease of Star Partying!!”
Jeff Patterson**

Have you ever thought about going to a Star Party? Be careful, or you might may be stricken by the “bug”! Or have you been asked by a non astronomy nut, “What is a star party?” In words and pictures, Jeff will walk you through the trials and tribulations of these special events and the benefits that one

receives by going to them. We will discuss what star parties are and where the good ones are.

Jeff has been a member for approximately 14 years and is the current president of the IAS. He is an avid star partier.

Clean Up Day at the Link – April 2, Noon to 6PM

We need to clean up the Link after the winter months and prepare it for our use as well as get it ready for the public. We will have a cleanup day (rain or shine) scheduled for April 2 beginning at noon. Bring tools

(Shovels, rakes, lopping shears, chainsaws) and cleaning equipment to spruce the place up. Afterwards stay over for the Messier Marathon. We need all who can help.

Messier Marathon April 2, Link Observatory

We will have our Messier Marathon at the Goethe Link Observatory April 2. Gates open at 6PM. Go to the website to get a copy of the Marathon sequence. There will be awards for the most objects observed by binoculars, regular telescopes and computerized telescopes. If you do not have a scope,

partner up with someone and work as a team. Remember to get to the observing area behind the observatory enter at the north gate. See you at the Link.

Observer's Corner

This is that time of year when we start thinking of two things. 1) When is this weather going to improve and I can get out of the house and observe and 2) The Messier Marathon. For those of you new to astronomy, annually around March the night sky is such that one can begin early in the evening and work diligently all night and observe all of the Messier objects in one session. That is why they call it a Marathon. One has to really be lucky and work fast to get all 110 objects in. You have to know the rise and set sequence of each of the objects. There is a list on the IAS website that lists the sequence in which one can work to get them all in one session. Well here in Indiana we have a little more of a task. 1) At the Link you have no horizon in any direction so you are limited with the objects setting too early

or rising too late. 2) The light pollution limits us as well. But we try to get as many as we can. Dan O'Brien is already ahead of us in that he got 19 objects the first night. We thought we were rained out but the sky cleared around midnight and observing was great according to Dan. I was like you in that I was sawing logs. The 2nd of April, we will hold a competition to see how many objects we can see (weather permitting). You can use binoculars, or telescopes. Awards will be given to those who observe the most objects. To make it more fair there will be categories for binoculars and telescopes with and without setting circles. If you do not have a telescope or need help, partner up with someone. This is a really fun event. Keep your fingers crossed for the weather.

New Astronomer's Group McCloud Nature Center 7:00 pm - April 8

THE NAG MEETING WILL BE HELD, RAIN OR SHINE.

The first monthly meeting of the IAS New Astronomers Group for 2005 will be held on April 8 at McCloud Nature Center starting at 7:00 pm, just prior to the McCloud Friday Night Observing session.

Topics for this month:

- Observing the April Evening Sky
- Binoculars, telescopes and other observing aids
- Question and answer session

The purpose and intent of the NAG is to introduce the new astronomer to observing the night sky. All types of observing will be

discussed including naked eye, binocular and telescope.

If the weather cooperates, following the meeting, IAS members will have telescopes set up and attendees will have an opportunity to view some of the night sky objects discussed during the meeting.

The night sky can be an intimidating place. With a little help everyone can enjoy the celestial beauty that we have all taken for granted our whole lives. From the constellations to the deep sky; with the naked eye or with a telescope, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Instructions to get to McCloud can be found on the Webpage.

McCloud Public Night and Observing Session – April 8

The first McCloud public night and observing session of the year will be April 8, 2005. This will be a public event and we need as many telescopes as we can get there. In addition

this is very near New Moon so we can stay and do our own observing as long as we want to. Observing will begin about 7:00 PM.

Dan O'Brien resigns as Library Committee Chairperson

Dan has informed the Board that he has become swamped with personal and business matters and cannot continue as Chairperson of the Library Committee. We would like to thank Dan for his

dedication and innovation in establishing the IAS Library. Next time you see Dan tell him thanks. A new chairperson will be announced soon. Ed Otto has assumed temporary leadership of the committee.

IAS Webpage to be updated

We are currently planning on updating the IAS Homepage and would like to have any ideas that you, the reader, would like to see on our site.

- Is there something that you would like to have added to the site, or removed from the site?
- Do you like the current layout or would you like to see a new type of layout?
- If you want a new style, what kind of a new style would you like to see?
- If you like the style of another homepage, please let us know the URL of that other site and what you like or don't like about it.

That way we can see the style that you may like on our site.

Please let us know of any ideas, good or bad, that you may have. Please be as specific as you can with your ideas. The more information that we get the better the new homepage will be. There is a section set up on the forum that is located on our homepage where you can post any ideas that you may have. Or you can send your ideas to Gary Schoppenhorst at schoppy@mw.net

Article by Gary Schoppenhorst, webmaster

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Niagfest GreatCon 2005 – April 22-23 – This is a great two day event for those who want to try a close party. See the Warsaw Astronomical Society Webpage for details.

<http://clubs.kconline.com/was/>

Apollo Rendezvous & Telescope Fair - June 10-11, 2005 Dayton, Ohio <http://www.mvas.org/>

Patoka Lake Star Gaze on the Beach. - July 2nd. Right now the schedule will be similar to last year. We will have 3 programs to present at the Newton-Stewart Nature center starting at 1pm and running through 4pm. We plan to do a Constellations tour after the skies get dark. If you want to help please bring your green lasers. Observing on the beach will begin around 8 or so. Many of us go eat lunch at one of the restaurants in town after the afternoon programs. If you want to join us, meet us at the nature center around 3:30-3:45. We will also do solar observing at the nature center during the afternoon programs. I hope to see you all there.

Nebraska Star Party - The 12th Annual Nebraska Star Party will be held the week of July 31st to August 5th, 2005 at Merritt Reservoir, 27 miles south of Valentine, Nebraska. This is an excellent dark sky party. It is approximately 900 miles from Indianapolis. <http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

Indiana Family Star Party - August 5-7 Held at Prairie Grass Observatories

The Bulletin The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

Astrofest - September 8-11 – Kankakee, Il. This is a good four day party and has a great flea market. It is located at a new location (new last year) called Vana's Farms. It is about the same distance out of Kankakee as the old site but in a different direction.

McCloud Under the Skies - September 2-5 McCloud Nature Preserve This is the IAS' own party and is open to the McCloud public as well.

Prairie Skies Star Party - September 29 through October 02, 2005. Kankakee, Illinois
www.prairieskies.org

Twin Lakes Star Party – October 1-9, 2005 Pennyrile State Park, Kentucky,
<http://www.wkaa.net/article.php?articleid=56&cat=SE&ret=index.php>

If you know of events coming up let me know and I will get them in the Bulletin

Local School Events and Star Parties

Sunnyside Elementary School – April 14 63rd and Sunnyside. Go out Pendleton Pike to Sunnyside and north to 63rd. We meet in back of the school.

Set this date into your calendar as we will need as many scopes as possible.

Astro Ads

Are you changing or upgrading your equipment? Do you have or are you looking for astronomical materials and equipment? The Indiana Astronomical Society as a service to its members, will publish non-commercial ads at no charge. The ad will stay in the Bulletin for 4 months and then may be renewed at the owner's request.

To place an ad contact:

Bulletin Editor
Jeff Patterson
1780 S. Morgantown Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46143
(317) 882-8055
E-Mail: JMPSR@Iquest.net

For Sale: Orion XT12 IntelleScope. This 12" Dob was purchased new from Orion in November of 2004 and is in excellent condition. It includes the IntelleScope computer, 10mm & 25mm plossl eyepieces, the holder for computer and an Orion Deluxe Laser collimator. The original purchase price including the extras was \$1150.00. I am selling it all for \$900.00. I also have all of the original packaging and boxes. You will also save the shipping cost if you live in Indiana. Go to the Orion site at www.telescope.com and look up the details. Contact Rob Stokes at (317) 557-1323 or rob.stokes@insightbb.com (7/05)

The Bulletin The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

For Sale: Celestron Nexstar 11 Brand New with 6 eyepieces, barlow, and 7 filters in Celestron case; dew cap; original boxes \$2,899.00 L.D. Reuter 812-988-7571(06/05)

For Sale: Star Chaser AG 70 Guide/Finder Scope made by BC&F Astro Engineering. 70mm Achromatic Doublet with 700mm focal length. Focuser has large knobs and includes 1.25 " diagonal. Excellent for autoguiding use or as a finder for large scope. I also have 5 1/2" standard mounting rings for this scope. Asking \$275 for scope and rings. Call Don Craig, (317) 849-9688. 04/05

For Sale: Celestron 6" F5 Newtonian on Celestron SP equatorial mount. Dual axis drives and polar alignment scope. Excellent starter scope. All in good condition. \$700.00 Jeff Patterson jmpr@Iquest.net 6/05

For Sale: Celestron 20X80 Binoculars. In like new condition. \$250.00 Jeff Patterson jmpr@Iquest.net 6/05

For Sale: Blaho Binoculars mount. In like new condition. \$200.00 Jeff Patterson jmpr@Iquest.net 6/05

Loaner Equipment Program

Did you know you can borrow a scope or piece of astronomy equipment from the Society and take it for a test drive? The Society has a program where members who are trying to determine what kind of equipment to buy can borrow one of the Society's scopes for a month or two and see how they like it. John Molt is the chairman of

the program and can arrange for your pickup and training on the use of the particular instrument. This is a great way to see what telescope you want to purchase. We have several scopes, eyepieces and binoculars to loan. Contact John Molt at 1star-gazer@earthlink.net.

List Server Online - Don't be left in the cold - Sign up!

This service is our main communication tool. The list server is in the "Members Only" section of the site and is accessible only by IAS members. Make sure we have your correct e-mail and you will have access for late updates to events and functions.

Note: The list server is for use of Society business. It can only be used according to the rules as outlined previously. Members abusing the service will be eliminated from the service.

April Board Meeting – April 14, 2005 - 7:00 PM

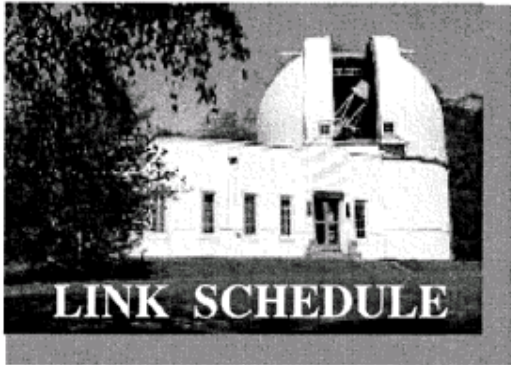
The IAS Board Meeting is being held at 430 Massachusetts Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. The building is at the point of convergence of Mass. Ave., Vermont and Alabama Streets. There is a Starbucks located in the frontage of the building. The coffee shop stays open late into the evening. Try to park as close to Starbucks as possible,

preferably in a metered space. On-street parking is free after 5pm. Handicapped parking is directly in front of Starbucks entrance. The main entrance to the building is to the right of Starbucks, but it will be locked. To get into the building, walk around the building to the left as you are facing Starbucks. You will cross Starbucks outdoor

The Bulletin The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

patio seating area and you will come to the double door entry into the building (this is the south building façade). These doors will be unlocked. Enter the lobby and ride the elevator (to your right) to the basement. Turn right as you exit the elevator and go through

the first door on your right. This is the conference/meeting room. If you need further assistance, please contact Brian P. Murphy, IAS Vice-President on his cell phone 716-8124.



Observatory Address

**Goethe Link Observatory
8403 N. Observatory Lane
Martinsville, IN 46151**

**Observatory 's Phone:
(317) 831-0668**

This schedule is being published to assure proper access to the Link Observatory for programs that are designed as observational, general education, astronomy conferences or amateur research projects. Training programs are tentatively scheduled for Saturday evenings only. Although other requests can over-ride these sessions. It is the purpose of this listing to prevent activity conflicts. If you need to acquire use of the 36-inch telescope: remember two important IAS guidelines: 1) *There has to be two or more IAS members present.....* 2) *contact the Observatory Manager: Gary Schoppenhorst (317)297-1405. DON 'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAKE YOUR REQUEST OR YOU MAY NOT GET ACCESS.*

Designated Link Observatory Key Holders

Jeff Patterson: 882-8055
Tom Borlik: 849-4113
Gary Schoppenhorst: 297-1405

Brian Murphy: 841-8511
Dave Williams: 769-7430
Gerald Venne: 826-2680

Link Activities for April:

Cleanup – April 2
Observing sessions - April 2 and April 23
New Moon Group – None this month*
* New Moon Group meets at McCloud on April 8

Observer's Meeting – April 23
Link Training – April 23

Bulletin Stats

Accessing the Bulletin

The current bulletin can be found on the website www.iasindy.org in the "Upcoming Events" section.

Bulletin - Bulletin deadline on the 20th of every month

The monthly newsletter welcomes articles of local astronomical interest information and want ads:

Please submit to

The Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc

Jeff Patterson, editor

1780 S. Morgantown Rd

Greenwood, IN 46143

Phone: (317) 882-8055

JMPSR@Iquest.net

Membership information

Contact any IAS officer or the membership chairman

Larry Phillips

9413 South PR Black Hawk Hills Dr.

Edinburgh, In 46124

llpastro@lightbound.com

Link Observatory

Latitude: 39 degrees, 33 minutes North

Longitude: 86 degrees, 24 minutes West

Phone: (317) 831-0668

IAS Internet address

<http://www.iasindy.org>

Executive Officers

President: Jeff Patterson (317) 882-8055

Vice-President and Program Director: Brian Murphy (317) 841-8511

Secretary: Larry Phillips (317) 729-2447

Treasurer: John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006)

Gerald Venne (2006)

Thad Hatchett (2007)

Doug Brown (2007)

Bill Conner (2007)

Marion Hakes (2005)

John Molt (2005)

The Bulletin The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

April Calendar, 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Messier Marathon Last Qtr Moon
3	4	5	6	7	8 <McCloud> New Moon	9 General Meeting
10	11	12	13	14 Board Meeting 7:00	15	16 First Qtr Moon
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 General Observing Observer's Mtg Link Training
24 Full Moon	25	26	27	28	29	30

The Bulletin The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

Membership Application to the IAS

Benefits:

- Use of the Goethe Link Observatory
- Formal monthly programs with guest speakers
- Local and regional astronomical functions
- Discounted Astronomy publications
- New Moon observing activities
- Access to IAS member experts and problem solving
- The Bulletin monthly newsletter
- Free admission to the Holcomb planetarium
- Star party events and observing sessions

Please mark whether this is a new or renewal application

New

Renewal

Note: Magazine subscription renewals forms and payment must be submitted to the Treasurer in order to maintain publisher's club discount.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

How do you want to receive the IAS monthly newsletter?

Downloadable from Website Hard Copy*

* Please note that hard copy costs the Society about \$1.50 per issue. Please consider this when selecting mode of receiving the newsletter.

Annual Regular Membership (\$20.00)	
Annual Student Membership (\$10.00)	
Astronomy Magazine Renewal (\$29.00)	
Sky and Telescope Magazine (\$33.00)	
Total Enclosed	

Make checks payable to: The Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc

Please complete Member Profile and include with the application

Mail Application to: John Shepherd, Treasurer
4609 Callahan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

The Bulletin The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

Member Profile

Spouses Name: _____

Children's names and ages: _____

Education: _____

Occupation: _____

How many years associated with Astronomy? _____

Special astronomical interests or projects: _____

Equipment: _____

What can the Society do for you? _____

What can you do for the Society? _____

Note: Profile information is not a requirement for membership to the Society. This information is entered into the IAS database and is not given nor sold for solicitation purposes. It does provide for a brief welcoming article for new members and may be used by the society to match people with similar interests.