

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

April, 2007
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The Bulletin

**The April General Meeting, April 14, 2007 7:00 PM Holcomb Observatory
at Butler University**

Titan Update

Daniel Cervantes

NASA Solar System Ambassador

If Titan were a planet, it would likely stand out as the most important planet in the solar system for humans to explore. Titan, the size of a terrestrial planet, has a dense atmosphere of nitrogen and methane and a surface covered with organic material. It is Titan that is arguably Earth's sister world and the Cassini-Huygens mission considers Titan among its highest priorities.

Data from the Huygens probe, which touched down on Titan's surface in January 2005, and the Cassini orbiter has shown that many of the processes that occur on Earth also apparently take place on Titan – wind, rain, volcanism, tectonic activity, as well as river channels, and drainage patterns all seem to contribute in shaping Titan's surface.

Dan will present some of the amazing Titan images and data returned from the Cassini orbiter and Huygens probe.

Daniel is currently a manager with the Software Systems Integration Branch at Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana. He has a Masters Degree in Physics from Purdue University and previously taught Physics and Astronomy at IUPUI. Daniel is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador and a member of the Bedford Stonebelt Stargazers and the Indiana Astronomical Society.

Astronomy Day Event at Prairie Grass Observatories – April 20-21

We are planning a joint WVAS/IAS astronomy day event at Camp Cullum in April. We can camp Friday and Saturday night at no charge. It will be a great time kind of in place of NIAG which most of us miss in the early Spring. We plan to invite the public and have a two night event. We need ideas as to how the event would go.

Astronomy Day Camp Cullum and Prairie Grass Observatories

The Indiana Astronomical Society and the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society are sponsoring a free Astronomy Day event at PGO on Friday/Saturday April 20/21. This an opportunity for the public to come out and see Saturn and the other wonders of the night sky and ask questions about astronomy in general. The telescopes of PGO and the Society members scopes will be available for observing through. Bring the kids and come out and enjoy the splendors of the Indiana night sky. Directions to the site can be found at <http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/> and <http://www.iasindy.org/>.

Program for April 20/21:

Friday

7 pm Russ Kaspar (WVAS) will give a presentation on his recent trip to the American Astronomical Society's semi-annual meeting, in January in Seattle. The AAS is the main professional society for professional astronomers in America, and they held this meeting in conjunction with the semiannual meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers, so that joint sessions on teaching astronomy at the high school and undergraduate levels could be discussed.

Evening observing starts at 9 pm

Saturday:

Solar observing (both H-alpha and white light) all day starting at 2 pm

2 pm: Highlights of the Spring Sky, John Switzer (IAS)

4 pm: "How Big is Big?", John Switzer (IAS)

5 pm: Wonders of the Evening Sky, Thad Hatchet (IAS) (a presentation of images)

7 pm: Tutorial/Demonstration of Telescope Types and Binoculars, John Mahony (WVAS)

Evening observing starts at 9 pm

If you have ideas contact me at KB9SRB@hotmail.com or 317 882-8055

New Moon Observing and public Event at McCloud April 13

Our next New Moon event is at McCloud on April 13. This is also a public event so we need to have scopes available for them to look through. Careful about parking. There is limited parking due to the construction. Since the ground will still be saturated I suggest bringing small portable equipment and string out along the road to the maintenance building. Come out and enjoy the Indiana night skies.

The Pres

Space Exhibit at the State Museum April 13 and 14

The IAS has been asked to man a booth on the 13th and 14th of April to talk to the public about astronomy and our Society. We have brochures and cards to hand out. This is a perfect way to promote the IAS. Gerald Venne gvenne@iquest.net is looking for people who can volunteer an hour to help us. Send an e-mail to Gerald if you can help.

Daffodils Are Coming

Each year during April, when the daffodils are blooming, people flock to Tanager Hill and the Link Observatory to see Mrs. Link's flowers. There are thousands of Daffodils that cover the hillside. Tom Borlik TomBorlik@aol.com will organize at least two weekends where we will open the Observatory up for tours of the facilities for those who came to see the daffodils. Tom will need help to meet visitors and tour the observatory. Tom will be selecting the dates as the bloom gets closer. Let Tom know if you can help.

The Pres

NAG Moves to Link

There have been some changes at McCloud in that the hanger has been torn down and there really is no place to have the New Astronomers Group meetings. So, we have decided to move the meeting to Link each month with observing afterwards if the weather permits. We will continue to have New Moon Friday events at McCloud with public observing in the early evening. John and Vicki Switzer will be leading the events again this year. However we need members help providing scopes after the program for observing. Come on out and help open the door to someone to learn to love this hobby.

The dates for the NAG events are as follows:

April 28
May 26
June 23
July 21
August 18
Sept 22

All meetings start at 7:30.

The Pres

Need a Librarian

The Society needs a librarian to care for our current book collection and to pursue additional books. Please contact someone on the Board if you are interested.

Long Time Member John Brand

John's daughter called to let us know that his wife passed away last September and that John has fallen and is in Marquette Manor near St. Vincent Hospital on 86th St. John is in room 209. She mentioned he might enjoy some astro pix but doesn't read, watch tv or listen to music.

If you knew John send him a card.

The Pres

Messier Marathon

The Pres

Well we did not have much of a turnout due to the cold weather and the five of us did observe at McCloud and about fifteen showed up at the Link Saturday. Both nights we froze out by about midnight.

Results:

Dan O'Brien - 17 Binoculars

Terry Steadham – 23 Binoculars

John Molt – 17 Scope

Ron Burgess – 29 objects

Jeff Patterson – 7 Binoculars

If you have not reported your results, please get them to me ASAP.

Jeff

Get to Know Your Officers

Board of Directors – Bill Conner

Bill Conner - Director/Astroimager

Bill's interest in astronomy dates from the late forties when his parents moved the family to a home near the little crossroads of Nora, Indiana. He acquired a "Little Golden Book" on Astronomy at 11 years of age and found it interesting, but beyond his comprehension. Photography was also an area of interest and easier to understand. Bill borrowed his Mother's Brownie 116 Box camera and learned to shoot, develop and print photographs.

Bill attended Broad Ripple High School in Indianapolis and graduated from Muncie Burriss in 1956. He acquired a "Ham Radio" license while at Burriss and built his own equipment. This experience helped Bill decide that electrical engineering would be his field. He competed for and won a Navy scholarship which made it possible for him to attend Purdue University. The launch of "Sputnik" precipitated a major modernization of the curriculum at Purdue much to Bill's pleasure. He graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and an officer's commission in the U.S. Navy. Bill volunteered for Submarine duty and received intelligence photography training. He acquired celestial navigation skills as a Submariner and navigated the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans submerged. Bill learned the constellations in order to identify stars used for navigation. The seasonal appearance of constellations began to make sense and rekindled his interest in astronomy. He retired from the Navy in 1980 and obtained a Masters of Business Administration from IU in 1982. He chose Investment Management as a second career and earned his Certification as a Financial Planner and Investment Advisor.

The motivation to become more involved with astronomy came in 1994 with the news that comet "Shoemaker-Levy had been captured by the planet Jupiter and was going to impact. Bill attended an astronomy event on the front lawn of Holcomb Observatory on Butler's campus and learned of the Indiana Astronomical Society. He joined the society and began to benefit from mentoring by the experienced members. Bill chose an Orion

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8” Dob as a modest way to start. His first view of the Orion Nebula was awe inspiring. After a few years he decided to make use of his submarine intelligence photography skills, and he made the necessary upgrades to take astrophotos. CCD imaging became feasible for him in 2002 and it removed some of the frustrations associated with film photography. He currently produces professional quality astroimages and has won many awards at “Star Parties” for his work. He enjoys helping others acquire these skills.

Bill has served as the Vice President, Program Director, and Outreach Coordinator of the Society. He is currently serving his third term as a Director.

Bill is building a log cabin in the Owen-Putnam State Forest near Spencer, Indiana. The site is dark and he will assemble an observatory there. His two sons, Bill and Wade, live and work in Indianapolis area and he has four grandchildren.

Meet Our New Members

We have new members to the Society. Seek them out and see if you can help them out.

Andy Bowman Indianapolis

Scott Hare Indianapolis

The Society wants to welcome each of you and if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

The Pres

Mentor Program

We are reinstating the mentor program which will provide the new member with lots of information and help them assimilate into the Society. Thad Hatchett has volunteered to lead this program. We need your help. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact me at Jeff Patterson KB9SRB@hotmail.com or Thad Hatchett at astronomynut@sbcglobal.net. We will put your name on the list and assign a new person to you. Our goal is to retain people and make this hobby a lot more fun.

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Mid-South Stargaze The Observatory is one mile southeast of the Natchez Trace Parkway at French Camp. French Camp is about half-way between Jackson and Tupelo, Mississippi, at Natchez Trace mile marker 181. Mississippi Apr 11-14
<http://www.rainwaterobservatory.org/stargaze/index.htm>

PGO/IAS Astronomy Day – Prairie Grass Observatories April 20-21 Camping is free.

Texas Star Party West Texas May 13-20,2007 1500 miles. This is a premier party with very dark skies and a great site. Just a long way. Online registration is open now.
www.texasstarparty.org

Earth, Wind and Sky Star Party, Vana Farms, Kankakee, IL. May 9-13, 2007. This is to be a traditional star party plus exhibits, talks, and demonstrations in other science fields.
<http://www.chicagoastro.org/>

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Cherry Springs Star Party Cherry Springs State Park, PA May 17-20
<http://www.astrohbg.org/s4>

Heart of America Star Party MO June 12 – 17, 2007
<http://www.askconline.org/index.htm>

Nebraska Star Party - July 15-20, 2007 North Central Nebraska - 950 miles 18 hour drive. This is a premier dark site and has fantastic observing. However, the weather is brutal. Temperatures this last year reached 108 degrees. However you can cool off in the shade of the tree. There have been some changes this year and all activities will be at the Snake Creek Campground this year. (I wonder why they call it Snake Creek). No activities will be at the resort this year.
<http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

EPOCH 2007 The 21st Century Midwest Star Party July 8-15, 2007
Beaver City, Indiana This is a new star party put on by 20-20 Telescopes.
<http://www.2020telescopes.com/EPOCH2007.html>

Indiana Family Star Party Camp Cullum, Frankfort, IN Aug 10-12
<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/starparty/>

Black Forest Star Party PA Sep 14-16
<http://www.bfsp.org/starparty/>

Astrofest Vana Farms, Kankakee, IL. September 6-9
<http://www.chicagoastro.org/>

Prairie Skies Star Party – Kankakee IL – September 13-16, 2007
<http://www.prairieskies.org/>

Illinois Dark Skies Western Missouri September 13-16
<http://www.sas-sky.org/>

Twin Lakes Star Party Pennyville State Park, Western KY Oct 6-13, 2007
<http://www.wkaa.net/>

Okie-Tex Star Party Camp Billy Joe, OK Oct 6-14
This is supposed to be one of the darkest sites in the US. <http://www.okie-tex.com/>

Eldorado Star Party – Eldorado , Tx (South Central) -October 10-13, 2007

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

Public Outreach Programs

Gerald Venne is our Public Program Chairman. He will be responsible for coordinating Public Events for the IAS. He needs your help. Let Gerald know if you would like to show the public our sky.

The season is coming upon us. We need people to help at Link and elsewhere. It is actually a lot of fun.

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To schedule a public event contact Gerald Venne 1 317 826-2680 or Jeff Patterson at 1-317 882-8055.

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 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: KB9SRB@Hotmail.com

Loaner Equipment Program

The Loaner Program has been helpful to those new to the hobby and others in need of observing equipment. We consider offers of equipment you may not have need for any longer.

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.

John Molt (1stargazer@indy.rr.com) or 317-844-1799)

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.

Board Meeting – April 19, 2007 - 7:00 PM

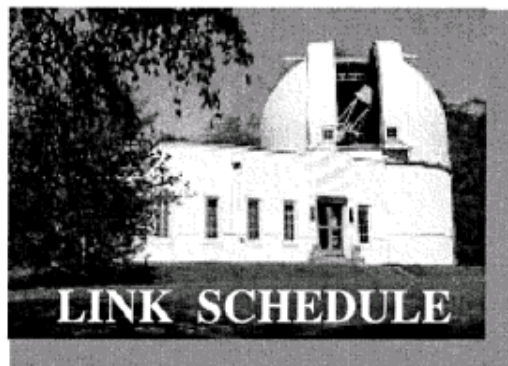
The IAS Board Meeting is being held at 430 Massachusetts Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. The building is at the point of convergence of Mass. Ave., Vermont and Alabama Streets. There is a Starbucks located in the frontage of the building. The coffee shop stays open late into the

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 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.

Goethe Link Observatory 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.*

Link Activities for April:

April 28 Link Cleanup
April 28 Observer's meeting and NAG – 7:30PM

McCloud Activities for April:

April 13 New Moon and public observing event

Prairie Grass for April:

Astronomy Day – April 20-21 Gates open at 5pm

Observing Activities

We are able to go to the Link, Prairie Grass Observatories and McCloud Nature Park at non scheduled times if they do not conflict with reserved activities:

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For those interested in going to The Link Observatories for observing call Gary Schoppenhorst 1 317 297-1405.

For those interested in going to Prairie Grass Observatories for observing call Hoppe at 1-765-296-2753.

For those interested in going to McCloud to observe, please call the park caretaker, Jim Holtsclaw, at the park office 765 676 5490 before 4PM on the day you want to go out. He will give you permission to be there at night and cut off the lights.

Bulletin Stats

Accessing the Bulletin

The current bulletin can be found on the website www.iasindy.org

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

KB9SRB@hotmail.com

Membership information

Contact any IAS officer or the Treasurer

John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

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: Betsy Brown 1-317-872-4050

Treasurer: John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

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Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2009)
Gerald Venne (2009)
Thad Hatchett (2007)
Doug Brown (2007)

Bill Conner (2007)
Marion Hakes (2008)
John Molt (2008)

Public Event Chairman

Gerald Venne gvenne@iquest.net 1 317 826-2680

Library Committee Chairman

April Calendar, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Full Moon	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Last QTR Moon	11	12	13 New Moon at McCloud	14 General Meeting at Butler
15	16	17 New Moon	18	19 Board Meeting	20 Astronomy Day at PGO	21 Astronomy Day at PGO
22	23	24 1 st QTR Moon	25	26	27	28 Observer's Meeting NAG Link Cleanup
29	30					

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*

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* 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 (\$25.00)	
Annual Student Membership (\$10.00)	
Astronomy Magazine Renewal (\$34.00)	
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

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.