

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

August, 2003

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The Bulletin



No General Meeting at The Link in August!

Due to the field trip to Oakley Observatory in Terra Haute, the general meeting at the Link will not occur. The gates of the Link will not be open on August 9. Come on over to The Oakley Observatory for our field trip and have a ball!

Remember the Field Trip to Oakley Observatory!

Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc.
1780 S. Morgantown Rd.
Greenwood, In 46143

First Class Mail



Field Trip to Oakley Observatory August 9, 2003 7:00 PM

The August General Meeting will take place at Oakley Observatory on the campus of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Our host is Professor of Physics and Applied Optics, Dr. Richard Ditteon. Professor will provide a tour of the observatory and a presentation about the research conducted there. Observing will follow (weather permitting). Oakley Observatory has established itself as one of the premier research facilities for the discovery and tracking of asteroids. The Observatory has several fully computerized telescopes that use CCD imaging to track asteroids. This will be an outstanding opportunity to see a professional observatory and the equipment that a research facility uses.

How to get there:

Oakley Observatory is located on the eastern edge of the Rose-Hulman campus. Take Hunt Rd. (Lost Creek Elementary is on the Southeast corner) North from U.S. 40. Proceed 0.1 mile to a gravel drive on the left. The gravel road leads to the observatory parking lot.

Campus map <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/admissions/visit/campus.map.htm>

For information about Oakley Observatory:

<http://rose-hulman.edu/Users/groups/observatory/>

John May Resigns!!!

John May has decided to hang up the pen. John has diligently served as program chairman and editor of the Bulletin for many many years and editor for the last seventeen years. Under his direction it has evolved into the beautiful electronic gem that we look forward to every month. However he has decided for personal reasons that he cannot continue. July was his last Bulletin. Everyone should talk to John and tell him how much we have appreciated his work. (And it is work!)

So for some time you will see that we will limp along and get the essential news to you. I have volunteered to temporarily take over the editorship. Please be kind!! I do not have the software packages that he has and will take some time to build a format and the expertise. Our plan is to nominate a new editor ASAP. If you have publishing skills and are interested, we need you. John says it takes approximately 8-10 hours per month to do it. If you are possibly interested in this position please contact a member of the Board and we will talk to you.

Mooresville's Pioneer Park Nature Program to be at the Link Observatory August 7, 7:30 PM

Members of the Indiana Astronomical Society have been invited to participate in the Pioneer Park field trip to the Link Observatory. The Link Observatory will host a nature program, which will include a slide presentation, crafts, and stargazing. The evening will focus on the Full Sturgeon Moon - So called the fishing tribes are given credit for the naming of this moon since sturgeon were most readily caught during that month. The field trip to the Link Observatory has been arranged for Thursday night August 7. The tour begins at 7:30 P.M. Any member wanting to participate please contact John May at 317 831-8387 or at motordrive@msn.com

John Molt is home again

John had a setback in that his neck shifted. He had to re-enter the hospital for surgery. They fused three vertebrae and he is doing better. He is home again. He still needs lots of prayer and I imagine that Angie needs it as well. Keep him in your thoughts

Jeff

This is a note from Angie:

Just a note to let you know how John's follow-up visit with the orthopedic spinal surgeon went today. The drainage has stopped as of today! Both incisions checked out just fine and can be left uncovered for the lower back and loosely covered for the back of the neck (to buffer between it and the brace). I feel like I have a young child again. How many of you remember your child so sick when you made the appointment for the doctor only to have them fever and symptom free in the doctors office. This is just what happened today. Friday Dr. Dietz was concerned with the amount of the drainage, cultured it and put John on antibiotics and told us to come back on Friday. Today Dr. Schwartz didn't see a reason for concern. The x-rays looked great and John will be in the Miami j brace for twelve weeks. We will go back for our next "neck" visit September 4th. Looks like we don't have to make a trip on Friday!

Dr. Schwartz has ordered a mri for Johns lower back. The numbness is still in his left thigh, right forearm and now the right big toe. They will call me with the date for that.

John is now up in his chair for 5-10 minutes every hour through the day. His pain is well under control with just the percocet. He hardly has pain at all if he stays in the range of motion he is allowed. He is walking more and I will start taking him outside daily for a small walk. To the garage and back has been the most so far. He is doing well. Sunshine (the big yellow cat) keeps him company at the foot of his bed most of the day. It's kind of cute when they are asleep.

I have an in home care person coming tomorrow so that I may go visit my sister. This will be a test for Bethany and John.

I will update you later. Next appointment is August 14th to check arm and shoulder. You will notice email going out from him starting today. Some of his up time is spent here at the computer. He does have his right hand for the keyboard.

Roses and Onions

Kudos to Gary Schoppenhorst, Andre Bucos, and John Shepherd. They have replaced the spring that broke which caused the dome to move very slowly.

Kudos to the same trio for determining that the security lights were not working and upon investigation found a tree had fallen and we had live power lines on the ground in the back. After calls to Cinergy and Tom Borlick, the problem was fixed. Seems Cinergy was not aware initially that we were their customer. Glad no observers were trudging around in the dark. We might have had a lighting problem. Thanks guys.

The guys also tracked down some of the reasons why we had a leak in the auditorium. They were a busy crew for a training night.

Notes from the Pres

I would like to personally thank John May for his efforts to the IAS. He has been a stalwart member as long as most of us can remember. His devotion to the Bulletin has been almost a passion. It is a hard job that has no vacations. In addition to that, he is our contact with IU, the program chairman for the Link facilities, the contact to the public in most instances and the person who can come over and open up on the spur of the moment. In the past he has organized all the hog roasts and the Founders Day event this year. We all should be thankful. Thanks John from the bottom of our hearts. Don't go away we need you.

The Pres

Observer's Corner Mars is coming Are you ready?

Well it is here. The 27th of this month, Mars will be closer to the Earth than it has been in recorded times. It will be the size of Jupiter! Do you have your filters and short focal length eyepieces ready. It is best to view Mars in an orange or a red filter. Green is sometimes used. We should have a couple of months of pretty good observing. Make the best of it.

Loaner Scope Program

Did you know you can borrow a scope 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 scope 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 but Brian Murphy can arrange for your pickup and training. This is a great way to see what you want to use. We have several scopes and at this time there is no demand. Contact Brian Murphy at bmurf@tcon.net.

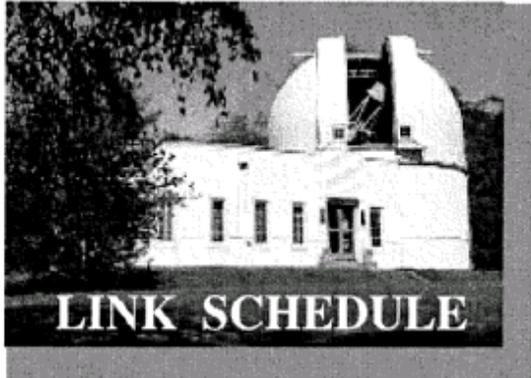
List Server Now online

The list server is now on-line for use of Society business. The Board has authorized Gary Schoppenhorst to add members addresses to this server. It can only be used according to the rules as outlined previously. Members abusing the service will be eliminated from the service. In this time of transition with the Bulletin, this service will be our main communication tool. The list server is in the "Members Only" section of the site and is accessible only by IAS members. You will be contacted by Gary Schoppenhorst with more information.

The Pres

August Board Meeting – August 14 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.



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: J. Philip May (317)831-8387. 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

J.Philip May:831-8387

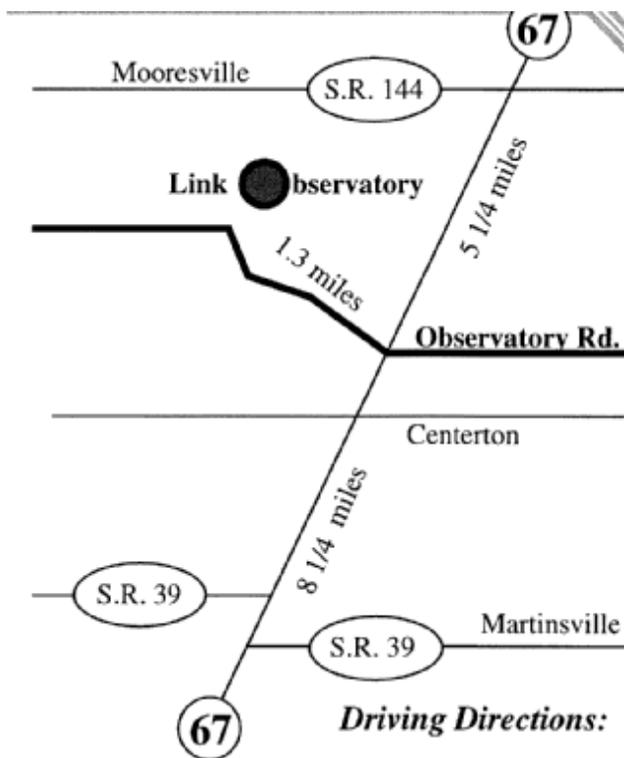
Gary Schoppenhorst:297-1405

Brian Murphy:841-8511

Dave Williams:769-7430

Tom Borlik:849-4113

Map to the Goethe Link Observatory



The Link Observatory is located 5 1/4 miles south of the S.R. 67 & S.R. 144 interchange in Moorsville. A diamond shape hi-way transportation sign will warn you of the approaching Observatory Road intersection. Turn right (west) up the steep hill and continue 1.3 miles to the observatory, where there is a one-lane drive on your right named: Observatory Lane. The driveway to the observatory is immediately to your right when you make your turn onto the lane. It's easy to miss; watch your odometer.

Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc. Calendar

August 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Indiana Family Star Party	2 Indiana Family Star Party
3 Indiana Family Star Party	4	5 1 st Qtr Moon	6	7 Pioneer Park Nature Program	8	9 Field Trip to Oakley Observatory 7PM
10	11	12 Full Moon	13	14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM	15	16
17	18	19 Last Qtr Moon	20	21	22	23 Observer's Meeting Link Training New Moon Group
24	25	26	27 New Moon Mars at maximum diameter	28	29	30 Mars Observing at the Link
31						

