

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

August, 2004
Volume 71, Issue 8
www.iasindy.org



The Bulletin

There will be no official general meeting at Link for the month of August and the September general meeting has been moved!!!!

August General Meeting – August 14 at the Goethe Link Observatory has been cancelled so that those who want to be at the IFSP at Prairie Grass Observatory to support the Indiana Family Star Party August 13-15. We need all of you there. Look at upcoming star party information for more information.

September General Meeting – September 11 general meeting has been moved to McCloud Nature Preserve as the IAS is having a private star party Sept 10-12. Stay tuned for more information

Indiana Family Star Party

Article by Jeff Patterson

The second **Indiana Family Star Party** will be held on August 13, 14 and 15, noon, Friday, through noon, Sunday, at Camp Cullom, the site of the [Prairie Grass Observatory](#), about 50 miles northwest of Indianapolis. Sponsored by Camp Cullom (Clinton County Foundation for Youth), the [Wabash Valley Astronomical Society](#) (Lafayette, IN), the [Indiana Astronomical Society](#) (Indianapolis), and the [Calumet Astronomical Society](#) (Gary, IN/Chicago).

Registration/Admission:

Full Weekend: \$20 per person or \$30 per family, if preregistered by August 1. Includes a spot for your vehicle, tent/camper, and telescope(s), on the observing field or campground. After August 1, or to register "at the gate", the fee is \$40 per person, \$50 for a family.

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The [Registration Form is available here](#). For those with a slow dial-up connection, a logo-free MS Word .doc version of the registration form is available [here](#).

Single Day: Only \$5 per person, \$10 for a family, no advance registration required, but this does not include a parking/camping space on the observing field. Parking for single-day attendees will be limited to a separate field on the wooded side of the camp, a few hundred yards from the observing field. During evening hours, the camp's ranger will be driving a haywagon to provide transportation back and forth between the parking area and the observing field.

Contact Bill Conner if you would like to volunteer. He has a couple of slots still available to help the Society with our registration activities.

Member Brochure Cover Contest

The IAS has in the past provided a starter kit for its new members. Included in this kit was a brochure introducing the Society and provided a basic outline on astronomy. Over the years since 1988, the information describing the Society has changed and the much needed update seemed necessary. The Society wants to get back into the practice of distributing the "Starter Kit" to new members. Therefore, IAS astronomers and their family members are invited to participate and create an illustration to replace the old "new member brochure" cover, as shown with this article. A suggested theme of the cover illustration could be about Hoosier Astronomy, but this particular theme is not a requirement. Obviously the theme should be about astronomy. Members can submit more than one entry. To prevent any biased selection, outside judges will be selected from the art community and their names will be announced later. Keep your artwork as creative as possible - something different is needed.

Please submit your original entries to: IAS COVER CONTEST, 3820 E. WILSON DRIVE, MOORESVILLE, IN 46158

Questions and other inquiries please contact: J. Philip May at 317-831-8387 or e-mail: motordrive@msn.com

Contest Rules:

- 1. The brochure with its cover will be a 8.5" x 11" vertical publication. The illustration should be proportional in order to take up the entire vertical space.**
- 2. It would be best to create a black/white line drawing with no middle tones.**
- 3. The IAS logo can be inserted into the illustration as long as it is not larger than 1/4 of the entire vertical cover page. The logo is not a requirement. What is a requirement is that you do include the entire wording: The Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc. printed on the cover somewhere and is readable.**
- 4. The illustration will be credited to the artist each time it is published. Your name can be included within the illustration to guarantee your creditation. Please do not copyright your artwork as the material will be used for other IAS purposes, such as: flyers, announcements,**

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tri-folds and the monthly newsletter. These are a few of the possible samples of continuing usage. The IAS will copyright the entire publication in order to protect the text and artwork.

5. The size of the final image should be submitted no smaller than on a 5" x 7" format and no larger than on a 11" x 14" format - keeping in mind that the final image size will be printed on a full 8.5" x 11" format.

6. Remember the drawing should be an original piece of art created by the IAS artist. Do not copy other works - this may cause copyright infringement and an embarrassment to the IAS. Stay away from brand name products. Generic illustrations are best. Do not use recognizable people, they may not be around in years to come.

7. Do not include any image illustration that depicts the Goethe Link Observatory. This site is owned and operated by IU; the Astronomy Department does not want to advertise this site as if it was an IAS facility.

8. More than one entry is allowed to be submitted - no limitation. Once the original artwork is submitted, they immediately become the property of the Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc. It may be necessary to copy your submission(s) for personal record purposes.

9 **Deadline:** September 30th, 2004

10. The winner will receive an IAS T-shirt and a year's free membership in the IAS.

11. The winner will be announced first at the Link Hog Roast, October 9th, 2004 at the Goethe Link Observatory during the 7pm General Meeting. The winner will also be announced on the IAS website and in the November, 2004 issue of the BULLETIN.

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Indiana Family Star Party - August 13-15 WVAS has set the date for the annual star party at Prairie Grass Observatories. The IAS will be asked to help out again this year. Bill Conner has taken on the task of providing support for the Party. The IAS needs volunteers to help man the gates. In addition I hope all will come to have fun. It is close and convenient. You can find information on the WVAS website on the party and how to get there.

Prairie Skies Star Party (Old Astrofest Site) - September 9 -12, 2004-The Amateur Astronomy Events and Conventions Association (AAECA) will sponsor the Prairie Skies Star Party at Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See, near Kankakee IL, September 9 -12, 2004. Our brochure containing details of the event will be available shortly. Individuals familiar with Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See, and interested in attending Prairie Skies, should forward their name and mailing address (via e-mail or by phone) to the contact listed below as soon as possible. If you would like more immediate information concerning this event, do not hesitate to contact me.

The Prairie Skies committee looks forward to your attendance.

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Prairie Skies Star Party
prairieskies@ameritech.net
708 481-7970

McCloud under the Stars - September 9 - 12, 2004. This is a private party for the IAS to camp, picnic, have our general meeting under the stars Saturday night and two nights of observing. See article below for details. There will not be any vendors or people from other societies but the public will be invited by the park.

Astrofest - Kankakee, Il. - September 16, 17, 18 - This is a very good three day event with about a thousand astronomers. Beware, early registration is required. Walk-ins will be charged \$100/day per person. Get information off the Chicago Astronomical Society website <http://www.chicagoastro.org>. Astrofest will be at a new site this year. Registration is about July.

"ScopeOut 2004" – Saturday September 25, 2004. ScopeOut is held at the historic Cincinnati Observatory and is geared toward children, families, teachers and amateur astronomers of all levels.

Tour our nation's first professional observatory! Lectures and presentations throughout the day. Astrophotography and telescope making displays. Local and regional vendors of astronomical merchandise. Doorprizes and raffle. Marvel at our recently restored astronomical clocks. Help celebrate our 16" Clark refracting telescope's centennial. Activities for all ages and experience levels! ScopeOut 2004 is held rain or shine.

The Cincinnati Observatory Center, 3489 Observatory Place, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Date & Time: Saturday, September 25, 2004, 12-10:30 p.m.

Activities Run 12-5pm.

Vendors and Exhibitors 12-10pm

Dinner and Keynote Lecture at 6pm.

Viewing follows (weather permitting) through our historic 1842 11" Merz & Mahler & 1904 16" Clark refracting telescopes.

Admission:

General	\$7.00
Student (13-18)	\$5.00 Under 13 Free
Add the Lecture & Dinner	\$15.00

For more information, directions, or to pre-register for the Dinner and Keynote Lecture, contact the Cincinnati Observatory Center: (513) 321-5186, or visit www.cincinnatiobservatory.org

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

Jeff

Speaking of Star Parties We're Havin' us a star party (for the IAS)!!

Article by Mike Wolford

The idea is a couple of months old and the thoughts began with the political split of the group that has been presenting Astrofest. With that group splitting and doing two star parties, the weekends are split, the talent is split, the vendors are split, and the excitement of Astrofest has been pretty much killed. I have heard some talking amongst several of the IAS folks that it might be a really good year to go to Twin Lakes Star Party in Kentucky (in October) this year instead of Astrofest.

The above information is presented so that you can make a decision based on facts and not salesmanship. If you feel that you should go to Astrofest, then by all means do, but come to McCloud the weekend before.

We are on for the first (annual?) "**McCloud Under the Stars Party**"!! Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 10, 11, and 12. We have special permission from the park board to be able to camp for the weekend. Come on out, the skies are great! There really IS a little dipper, and Draco's tail DOES swoop down between the dippers!!!

There will be a pitch-in picnic late Saturday afternoon, followed by September's monthly general meeting on Saturday evening in "The Hanger".

Oh, the cost –The cost is free to the IAS. We are booked at the park as "programming". The way that I understand this is that we have acquired our special permissions, because we will be presenting a "program" to the public. That is it --- that is all that coming out for the weekend will cost you --- simply share a view and entertain the public. In the past, most folks are gone by ten in the evening, leaving us alone to enjoy the sky with little interruption.

I am open to suggestions for some ideas for possible "impromptu" talks as the curious may (or not) gather during the day on Saturday. I am thinking about simple "How to find the North Star", "Take a look at the Sun", type of five or ten minute topics.

So, if you are interested in attending, please let me know. I want this to be YOUR star party. Let's make it a good one!

Mike mwolford@ccrtc.com

Nebraska Star Party

Bill Conner and I headed for Merritt Reservoir in north central Nebraska for a star party we have read about for years. It is reported to have 6-7th magnitude seeing and no lights. As you can see from the picture below there are not many trees either to obstruct the view. Bill and I decided to leave for the party a couple of days early to catch more of the new moon. The trip (915 miles) is easy and really pretty going across the prairie of Nebraska. We arrived and checked into the resort and found our campground. It is 3 miles from the lodge and really isolated. The campground was nice and had trees which is odd for the country as it is mostly a vast grassland. This is good as the temperature this time of year is 95-105°. We set up and had three beautiful straight nights of observing. Skies are probably as good as the Texas Star Party. The weather changed and we got only two additional good nights but with a lot of wind. Five out of 8 is still pretty good for Indiana boys. The committee did well with an ice cream party on Tuesday evening. This went over pretty

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well since it had been 104° in town that day. Thursday evening treated us to free hotdogs, buffalo brats, and Italian sausages at the resort.

This is a strange party. We are used to being cooped up in a relatively small area with a lot of gazers. At NSP there are 350 gazers on about 500 to 1000 acres of ground. All festivities and vendors are at the resort 3 miles from the observing field and Friday the speakers and the finale was held at the high school in Valentine 36 miles away.

We had a good time. We had two auroras, many big meteors and several beautiful bollides. Bill worked on his binocular Messier list and was surprised that he could see 7th magnitude objects with the 9x35 binoculars. Shows what no lights will do. Made some new friends and Bill won first place in the imaging contest with a picture of the Dumbbell Nebula that he took on Sunday night.

If you are interested in a good party with good clear skies and want to observe the summer milky way objects this is a good place to come. The only drawback to me was the heat. I believe I will be back.



This is our observing site with my Dob and Bill's scope in the back.

Article by Jeff Patterson

Observer's Corner

Perseid Meteor Shower

By August 12th when the shower peaks, sky watchers can expect to see dozens, possibly even hundreds, of meteors per hour.

This is a good year for Perseids, for two reasons, explains Bill Cooke of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. First, the Moon is new in mid-August; moonlight won't spoil the show. Second, in addition to the usual shower on August 12th, there might be an extra surge of meteors on August 11th caused by a filament of dust newly drifting across Earth's orbit.

The filament, like all the rest of the dust in the Perseid cloud, comes from Comet Swift-Tuttle. The difference is, the filament is relatively young. It boiled off the comet during the Civil War, in 1862. Other dust in the cloud is older (perhaps thousands of years old), more dispersed, and responsible for the month-long shower that peaks on August 12th. The filament will eventually disperse, too, but for now it retains some of its original ribbon-shape.

If predictions are correct, Earth will plow through the filament on Wednesday, August 11th at 2100 UT (5 p.m. EDT). This will produce a surge of mostly-faint meteors over Europe and Asia. Observers might see "as many as 200 meteors per hour," says Cooke, who recommends getting away from city lights to watch the flurry.

Reprinted from Space Weather

Public Events

Article by Jeff Patterson

One of more fun opportunities as a member of the IAS is to go to various public events and share our hobby with the public. More and more schools are asking for our help to participate in their astronomy events. We need you!! You don't have to be an expert; just willing to take time and show someone the wonders of the heavens. If you have interest, please contact Bill Conner or me.

New Members - Welcome to the IAS

Michael Coulson Stinesville
Laurie Hardin Noblesville
Michael Pitts / Elizabeth Darroch Indianapolis
William E. Byrd Bloomington,
Jack Cooney Indianapolis(Woodruff Place)

Find these members and make them welcome.

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McCloud Nature Park - A Dark Site for Observing

McCloud Park Observing For August 13, 2004 at 8:00 PM - weather permitting

McCloud Nature Park is located in Hendricks County. It is 230 acres of Nature!!! The interpretive naturalist has requested that we come out for new moon and show the sky to the public.

It's only 30 miles from the intersection of I-465 and I-74 Off of SR-75. Curious? Come and join us on New Moon Friday.

Call, or e-mail Mike Wolford for further information. 317 445-2173 e-mail: mwolford@cctc.com

Thoughts from the Pres

It's that time of year to begin thinking about elections. Each year in November we elect new officers and Board members up for election. This year there will be three Board positions up for election. If you would like to run or have ambitions to work and help set policy for the Society please contact one of the officers or Board members. A nominating committee will be selected this month and we will be looking for good candidates. You have to be a member in good standing, a member for a year and willing to attend the Board meeting each month. Actually it is fun guys!

The Pres

New Astronomers Group "Observing Techniques for Solar & Other Daytime Objects"

This Months Program will be held August 28 at 7PM at the Link. Note if weather is bad call John May to confirm the program will be presented.

Article submitted by J. Philip May

The New Astronomers Group (NAG) is a program designed to teach the novice amateur astronomer and even for those experienced astronomers who may want a refresher course in the basics of astronomy. The NAG meets in the early evening of the 4th Saturday of every month at the Goethe Link Observatory. The classes start at 7pm in the Link auditorium. During the winter months, if the snow is deep and/or the temperatures have dropped considerably below freezing, the event will be canceled. To confirm program schedules please contact J. Philip May, the NAG program coordinator, at motordrive@msn.com or 317-831-8387. If any IAS member or new IAS member has a suggestion for a meeting topic, please contact Mr. May. Also, experienced IAS members are encouraged to participate as an instructor for any choice of the following NAG programs - please volunteer your time and expertise. This should be a fun event as well as being instructive for the novice astronomer.

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

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Jeff Patterson
1780 S. Morgantown Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317 882-8055
e-Mail: JMPSR@Iquest.net

For Sale: A special opportunity!! The Oakley Observatory at Rose-Hulman is upgrading some of our equipment. This summer we anticipate getting two new Paramount ME mounts to replace two Paramount GT1100 mounts. I would like to offer the old mounts for sale to members of the IAS. I am asking \$5000 per mount. Each mount is in perfect working condition, I am only replacing them because of some of the advanced features available on the ME. The mounts will come with the original documentation and software and appropriate weights to handle a C-14. The software consists of TheSky, CCDSoft, Orchestrate, and TPoint. The mounts are still in use and can be viewed by any interested persons by contacting me directly (Richard.p.ditteon@rose-hulman.edu). You can also see the mounts at our website <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/Users/groups/Observatory/Newequipment.htm> The mounts I'm selling are under the Clark and Maksutov telescopes.(10/04)

For sale or trade: Astroscan outfit including scope, two eyepieces, travel bag, Astroscan tripod, manual and camera tripod bracket \$235 or trade for small wide field refractor. Great scope for kids. If interested e-mail Jay Simmons @ jmsrps@juno.com with questions or description of trade. .(10/04)

For Sale - WAGNER's best Wide Shot Super Duty Paint Sprayer used on Link Observatory Machine Shop only twice & thoroughly cleaned - 7.2GPH - \$150 at Lowes. Used two times. Will sell for \$95 OBO. - Tom Borlik at (317) 849-4113/tomborlik@aol.com .(10/04)

For Sale - Criterion RV-6 f/8.1 six inch Newtonian with equatorial mount. Includes original eyepieces, telestar, as well additional motor drive. \$375 or will also consider trade for a equal price GOTO telescope. Marion Hakes at vhorani@yahoo.com .(10/04)

For Sale - One heavy-duty, wood, surveyors' tripod in fair shape cosmetically, but in functional condition. Price: \$60. It makes a great replacement tripod for commercial mounts on shaky, undersized legs Brian, bmurphy@monumentcompanies.com .(10/04)

For Sale - Celestron C-5 with tripod, astromaster(installed), power pack/inverter, cases, filter, eyepieces, and lots more. \$1500 Call: Paul at 317 888-1605 .(10/04)

For Sale - Orion 120st refractor with mount and tripod, dual axis drive. Less than a year old. Contact: Jerry Vessels at jvessels@iquest.net .(10/04)

For Sale - Price Reduced: 5" f5 refractor, Jaegers Objective. Orion Skyview Deluxe EQ with Accutrack SVD DC Motor Drive (New) 17mm and 12.5mm Plossl eyepieces plus Barlow 3X \$600.00 (OBO) Jerry Barnett (317) 888-8945 .(10/04)

For Sale - Meade LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain (non GPS), 10" f/6.3. Equatorial Superwedge, Custom Steel Pedestal, Pictor CCD, and many lenses. Sell whole Package for \$5,482, or portions. Contact: Mike Smith, 317-823-8171 for further details. .(10/04)

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 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 to loan. Contact John Molt at 1star-gazer@earthlink.net.

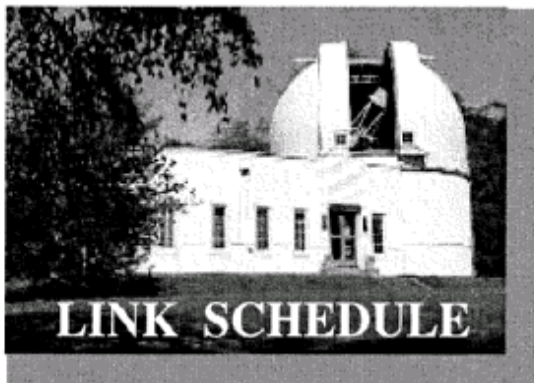
List Server Now Online - Don't be left in the cold - Sign up!

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 e-mail and you 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.

August Board Meeting – August 15, 2004 - 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 Address

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**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: 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
Tom Borlik: 849-4113

Gary Schoppenhorst: 297-1405
Brian Murphy: 841-8511
Dave Williams: 769-7430
Gerald Venne 826-2680

Link Activities for August:

General Meeting - none

Observing session - None*

New Moon Group – None*

Observing will be at Prairie Grass observatories

Observer's Meeting – August 28

Link Training – August 28

New Astronomers – August 28

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

lpastro@lightbound.com

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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: Dave Timmerman 317844-9431

Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006)	Bill Conner (2004)
Gerald Venne (2006)	Marion Hakes (2005)
Thad Hatchett (2004)	John Molt (2005)
Doug Brown (2004)	

August Calendar, 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Last Qtr Moon
8	9	10	11 Perseids	12 Perseids	13 McCloud	14 Indiana Family Star Party Link Closed
15 New Moon	16	17	18	19 Board Meeting 7:00	20	21
22	23 First Qtr Moon	24	25	26	27	28 NAG Meeting Observer's Mtg Link Training General Observing
29 Full Moon	30	31				

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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: Dave Timmerman, Treasurer
786 Woodview North Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

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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 articles for new members and may be used by the society to match people with similar interests.