

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

December, 2003
Volume 70, Issue 12
www.iasindy.org



The Bulletin

General Meetings Has Moved to Butler For the Winter

Please do not forget that the November through May general meetings are held at Holcomb Observatory on the Butler Campus in order for us to have heat and be comfortable. If you show up at the Link you better have a scope as you will be by yourself.

The Pres

December General Meeting - December 13 7:00PM at the Holcomb Observatory

It is time to Party!!!

Come one, come all to the second annual Society Christmas Party. There will be no speaker. There will be recognition for those who have worked on the various activities this past year. We will revisit what went well this last year and what we would like to do next year. However the main focus is to have fun and EAT! The Society will be furnishing a buffet of finger foods and drinks. Bring snacks, sweets, finger foods and deserts that do not require utensils. Butler is providing a planetarium show for us at about 8:30. The Society has purchased a pair of astronomical quality 15X70 binoculars to be raffled off. Tickets will be sold for \$5.00. Proceeds will be used to improve the Society's treasury

2004 Elections Results

At the November Annual Meeting the general member ship elected the officers and two new Board members for the Society.

Executive Officers

President: Jeff Patterson 317 882-8055 - Newly Elected

Vice-President and Program Director Brian Murphy 317 841-8511 - Newly Elected

Secretary: Larry Phillips 317 729-2447 - Newly Elected

Treasurer: Dave Timmerman 317844-9431 - Newly Elected

Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006) - Newly Elected

Gerald Venne (2006) - Newly elected

Thad Hatchett (2004)

Doug Brown (2004)

Bill Conner (2004)

Marion Hakes (2005)

John Molt (2005)

2004 Observer's Handbooks Have Arrived - See Dave Timmerman

We have ordered 25 Observer's handbooks for the Society. They have now arrived. If you order one, please see Dave Timmerman. The cost will be \$17.00. These little books are chock full of useful information from moon phases to meteor showers. There probably are some extras. Dave says he will have the books at the December General Meeting

See Dave.

Eagle Creek Park Stargazing Opportunities

Article submitted by Jeff Patterson.

Eagle Creek Park continues to have programs throughout the year at the Eagle's Crest. This month there are two events: December 10 6-8PM, December 21 6:30-8:30 Call 327-7148. Registration is \$3.00. It is free to the IAS if you bring a scope for the public.

Directions to Eagle's Crest

1. Go west on 56th St. across the reservoir and past the golf course.
2. Turn Right on Raceway Rd 0.99 Miles
3. Turn right onto E CR 700N 0.11 Miles
4. E CR 700N becomes N Raceway Rd 1.14 Miles
5. N Raceway Rd becomes Fishback Rd).24 Miles

New Members

The IAS would like to welcome the following new members:

Mark W Kimpel, Westfield

Mike Coons, Indianapolis

Vickie Carson, Indianapolis

You old members seek out these guys and show them the ropes. Get them involved.

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Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Texas Star Party May 16-23 at Ft. Davis, Tx Registration deadline January 19, 2004 <http://www.texasstarparty.org/>

NIA Gest/GreatCon April 23-24 Warsaw IN
<http://clubs.kconline.com/was/niag.htm>

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

Jeff

Orchids and Onions

Orchids to all the officers and board members who have served in 2003.

An orchid to Mike Kirsch for serving on the Board this year and his efforts to support the Society in our work on the small dome. He also organized and cooked the hog roast this year.

Hard Copy of the Bulletin - Do you really need yours?

The Board is looking at the overall expenses of the Society. As it turns out our major expense is printing Bulletins and mailing them each month. Did you know it cost approximately \$2.00 for each Bulletin printed and mailed? That means it costs us \$24 per year for a \$20 membership! That appears to be a loss of four bucks to me. We have approximately 150 members and approximately 55 get their Bulletins in hard copy each month. We understand that there are members who have to have their Bulletin by snail mail but please review your needs and help the Society out. We are exploring options of how to keep our incoming receipts close to our outgoing receipts. We are not interested yet in raising the dues. Some societies actually charge a fee to those who want a hard copy of the newsletter. I would like to urge each of you to reconsider the need to get the Bulletin in hard copy. Suggestions are most welcome.

The Pres

Long Time Member Sherwood Waggy Seriously Injured in Automobile Accident!!

It has come to my attention that Sherwood was seriously injured in a wreck in northern Indiana in July. He was lifelined to Ft. Wayne and was on a respirator for five days. He was hospitalized with severe head and other injuries. He is now at home. He tells me he is on the road to recovery and may be able to go back to work in another month or so. He would appreciate a call. Sherwood we are thinking and praying for you.

Jeff

Notes from the Pres -

Well the elections are over. You have four officers and two new board members. I want to thank Mike Kirsch for his help this past year and look forward to working with the new board this next year. Although Mike did not win in the elections, he has done much for the Society. He was the chief cook for the hog roast and helped pressure wash the little dome this summer. Thanks Mike. We need members like you.

Observer's Corner

Article by Jeff Patterson

The Geminid Meteor Shower occurs on the night of December 13-14. This year we will have a rather bright Moon (and probably the traditional Indiana clouds) which will reduce the number of meteors seen. It is always fun to look for the meteors. Best time should be from Midnight to dawn. They tend to be bright and appear yellow. A Geminid appears to radiate from a point near Castor. Did you know this is a strange shower? It was first observed only about 150 years ago. Most showers are associated from a comet. Thoughts are that the shower is associated an object called Phaethon which may be an asteroid or a dormant comet coated with a thick layer of dust. Phaethon has an extremely elliptical, 1.4-year-long orbit. Phaethon doesn't have a characteristic comet tail and its spectra indicates a rocky surface.

New Astronomers Group

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, Brooklyn, Indiana. 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.

The following is the NAG schedule for the remainder of 2003 and the ensuing year, 2004.

- Nov 22nd, 2003: "The Astronomical Reason for the Seasons"
- Dec 27th, 2003: "Messier Marathon & Observing Techniques"
- Jan 24th, 2004: "Types of Telescopes: Optical & Radio"
- Feb 28th, 2004: "Setting Circles & How to Use Them"
- Mar 27th, 2004: "Constellations"
- Apr 24th, 2004: "Star-Hopping Techniques"
- May 22nd, 2004: "Binocular Astronomy and Other Urban Challenges"
- Jun 26th, 2004: "Moon Phases"
- Jul 24th, 2004: "Types of Telescope Mounts"
- Aug 28th, 2004: "Observing Techniques for Solar & Other Daytime Objects"

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New Astronomers Group Continued

Sep 25th, 2004: "How to Use Star Charts"
Oct 23rd, 2004: "Eyepieces & Magnifications"
Nov 27th, 2004: "Computer Software for the Beginner Astronomer"
Dec 25th, 2004: "MERRY CHRISTMAS" - No meeting tonight.

McCloud Nature Park - A Dark Site for Observing

Submitted by Mike Wolford

McCloud Park Observing For December - December 19 and 26 weather permitting

Hey, when was the last time that you actually saw the Mag 5 stars in the little dipper? Or noticed that one of the stars in Draco's tail is actually a group of four? Or actually even noticed that there **are** stars between the Big Dipper and Polaris? Well, come on out to McCloud Nature Park and see for yourself! McCloud Nature Park is located in Hendricks County and just recently opened. It is 230 acres of --- well --- Nature!!! Those of us who have been out there have been well received and the welcome mat is in place for us when we want to go back.

The interpretive naturalist has requested that we come out for new moon and show the sky to the public. A few of us have been out there for the last two new moons, and have had a few small but very inquisitive groups each time.

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@ccrtc.com

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.

To place an ad contact:

Bulletin Editor

Jeff Patterson

1780 S. Morgantown Rd.

Greenwood, IN 46143

317 882-8055

e-Mail: JMPSR@Iquest.net

Meade Pictor 216XT CCD w/Homeyer flip mirror, never used, \$400 (\$895 new)

Larry Phillips, 317-230-2043 daytime, 317-729-2447, after 5:30PM

Celestron S-80+ 80mm Dia. spotting scope/guide scope \$150.

Larry Phillips, 317-230-2043 daytime, 317-729-2447, after 5:30PM

Astro Ads Continued

60mm Dia, 540mm focal length guide scope \$100.

Larry Phillips, 317-230-2043 daytime, 317-729-2447, after 5:30PM

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

For Sale: Orion 120st refractor with mount and tripod, dual axis drive. Less than a year old.

Contact: Jerry Vessels at jvessels@iquest.net

For Sale: Celestron 8" Dobsonian, metal tube \$400 Contact Jeff Patterson JMPSR@Iquest.net

For Sale: Celestron "Comet Catcher" OTA 5.5"F5 Orange Tube \$250, Contact Jeff Patterson JMPSR@Iquest.net

For Sale: 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 \$750.00 Jerry Barnett (317) 888-8945

For Sale: Giro GR-2 Alt/Az mount. Capacity of 25 lbs. on each side. Like new condition. Mount comes with 4kg. counterweight, SS counterweight shaft, and carrying case. \$300 Contact: Jim Rinehart 317-881-3475 -- jrinehart@spitfire.net

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 as John recovers from his injuries. This is a great way to see what you want to use. We have several scopes to loan. Contact Brian Murphy at bmurphy@monumentcompanies.com

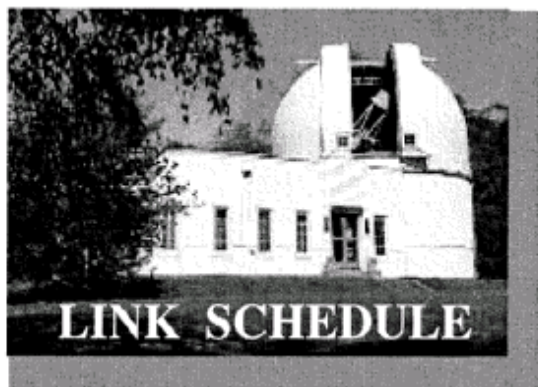
List Server Now online - Don't be left in the cold

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 now on-line 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.

December Board Meeting – December 18, 2003 - 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
Tom Borlik: 849-4113

Gary Schoppenhorst: 297-1405
Brian Murphy: 841-8511
Dave Williams: 769-7430

Link Activities for December:

New Moon Group Meeting December 27
Observer's Meeting December 27

New Astronomers December 27
Link Training December 27

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Bulletin Stats

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: Dave Timmerman 317844-9431

Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2003)

Mike Kirsch (2003)

Thad Hatchett (2004)

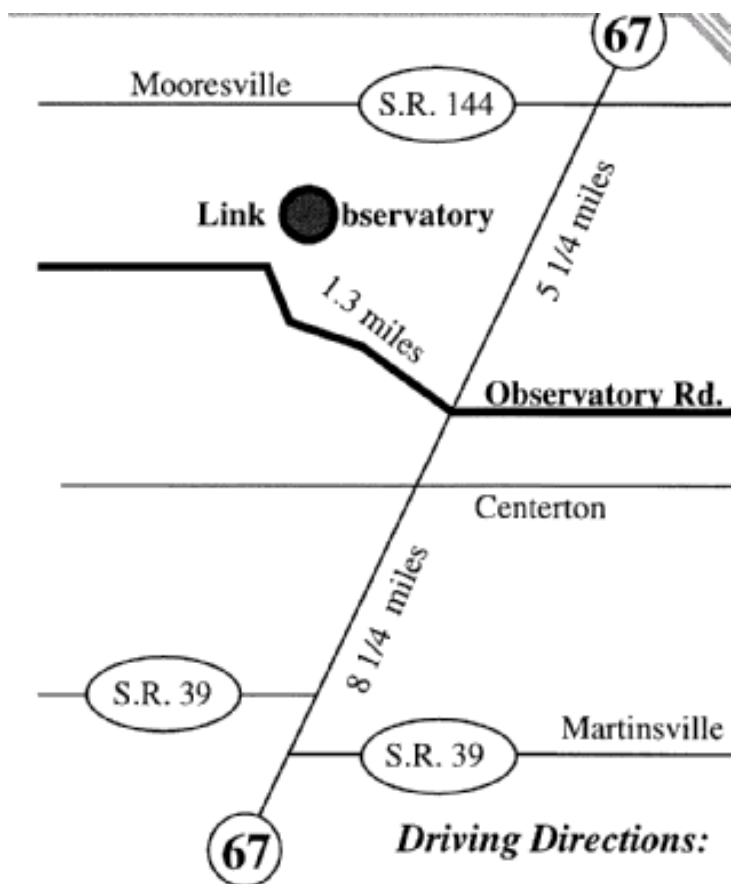
Doug Brown (2004)

Bill Conner (2004)

Marion Hakes (2005)

John Molt (2005)

Map to the Goethe Link Observatory



Driving Directions:

The Link Observatory is located 5 1/4 miles south of the S.R. 67 & S.R. 144 interchange in Mooresville. 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.

December Calendar, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Full Moon	9	10 Eagle Creek Park	11	12	13 Gen. Mtg 7:00PM Geminid Meteor shower
14 Geminid Meteor shower	15	16 Last Qtr Moon	17	18 Board Meeting 7:00	19 McCloud Park Observing	20
21 Eagle Creek Park	22	23 New Moon	24	25 Christmas	26 McCloud Park Observing	27 New Moon GP NAG Meeting Observer's Mtg Link Training
28	29	30 1 st QTR Moon	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

Annual Regular Membership (\$20.00)	
Annual Student Membership (\$10.00)	
Astronomy Magazine Renewal (\$29.00)	
Sky and Telescope Magazine (\$30.00)	
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
780 Woodview North Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

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 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.