

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

December, 2004  
Volume 71, Issue 12  
www.iasindy.org



# The Bulletin

**The December General Meeting, December 11, Butler's  
Holcomb Observatory**

**It is time to Party!!!**

Come one, come all to the third 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 have raffles and are working on getting a special showing at in the planetarium. 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 deserts that do not require utensils.

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## Election Results

The Society has spoken. Your new elected officials for 2005 are as follows:

President	Jeff Patterson
Vice President and Program Chairman	Brian Murphy
Secretary	Larry Philips
Treasurer	John Shepherd
Board of Directors	Bill Conner Thad Hatchet Doug Brown

We welcome the new officers and we thank those for last year's service. We thank those who unsuccessfully ran for office. In particular we thank Dave Timmerman (outgoing Treasurer). Dave has served several years in a job that takes considerable effort. If you see Dave tell him you appreciate the work he did. It is easy to be president when you have officers and a Board like we have had.

## **IAS Members Visit LAS Dark Site**

IAS members Terry Steadham, Jay Simmons and John Molt visited the Louisville Astronomical Society's recently acquired observing site in southern Indiana. Located east of Patoka Lake near Curby IN. The skies are good, perhaps 6.5 magnitude viewing with only a few light issues.

The terrain is moderately rolling boarded by corn field and woods with plenty of room to accommodate observers - those that would like to camp are asked to setup near the north perimeter woods.

Club members have done an outstanding job constructing a roll-off roof observatory which houses a 16" Meade Newtonian, 12" Meade LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain and a 178mm Meade refractor, all donated by local folks. Adjoining the observatory is a well-equipped electronics room. An extremely nice feature of the observing floor is thick rubber matting - very comfortable to walk on not to mention for the occasional dropped eyepiece.

They are in the final stages of converting a trailer that will be used for a warm room, small group meetings, refreshments and a restroom.

A very friendly group and have extended an open invitation to us all. Their web site is: [www.louisville-astro.org](http://www.louisville-astro.org)

*Article by John Molt*

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## **Search for a Dark Site**

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

The Board continues to look for a dark site for the Society. Basically, we are looking for a site or sites that fits the following criteria:

- a. Relatively dark.
- b. A secure site
- c. Easily accessible to most of our members
- d. Accessible on an unlimited basis
- e. A place where the IAS can promote astronomy

We have developed a three pronged plan:

- a. We plan to continue to support the Link. Jeff Patterson has been appointed to discuss with IU how we can expand our activities at Link.
- b. McCloud has given us the go ahead to develop an astronomy program there. Through the great work of Mike Wolford they have given us permission to construct concrete pads with electrical outlets for observing. Brian Murphy has been appointed the point person to develop a use agreement and plan.
- c. For those who would like to have a truly dark site for astrophotography or imaging, Bill Conner has been asked to continue to look for a really dark site.
- d.

Hopefully, what this means to you, the member, is a better, darker observing site you can use whenever you want to. We will keep you posted

## **Thoughts from the Pres – 2004 In Retrospect**

I believe that 2004 will go down as a great year for the Society. We have had more requests for outreach than I can remember. We had our second annual Indiana Family Star Party at Prairie Grass Observatories. We participated in a successful program on New Moon Fridays at McCloud Nature Park in Hendricks county. We have been asked and are preparing for a third year of programs. We were involved in many “star parties” for schools, churches, scouts, and other groups. I see more members involved in Star Parties. These are events that offer good observing, good shopping and facilitates great friendships. I urge you to go to local ones and get the feel of the fun of our hobby. I see that some of our members have developed their astrophotography skills. Bill Conner had his picture of Jupiter in Astronomy and Doug Sangunetti has been told his M-51 is going to be published. If you have not seen that image it was taken up at Prairie Grass and is magnificent.

We have begun searching for a site that we can use as a dark site and promote astronomy. Membership appears to be down a little and we are looking into it to see what is the cause. It might be associated with the fact that we did not hold general meetings during the Summer. However, they do not appear to be coming back as we are meeting regularly again. The Board has decided not to suspend general meetings next year due to special activities. We may be a little sparse at the meetings but they still will occur. Most people dropping out of the Society appear to be new members. We need to do a better job here.

We had a great Hog Roast thanks to Mike Kirsch and Brian Murphy. Your Board and Officers have worked hard to make this the best Society in the state and you should thank them for their efforts. I thank each of them personally as they make my job easy.

What do I see for next year? I hope to see more growth in the Society. We will begin a three pronged approach to observing and our activities. We will continue to support the Link and hopefully can develop a plan to use it more. We are investigating the use of McCloud on a more permanent manner by developing an astronomy program there. Lastly, we are still looking for a dark site where we can effectively observe deep sky objects and do astrophotography. I see us supporting Prairie Grass and the Indiana Family Star Party. The one thing I pray for is an improvement in the sky conditions here in Indiana. This seems to have been a continuation of terrible weather for observing. Someone is must be on someone’s list. I wish the best for you and your family in the upcoming season and wish the best for everyone in the coming new year.

Thanks for your support.

*The Pres*

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## **Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations**

**Winter Star Party** – February 7-13. Registration is over but you can still buy a ticket from individuals. Watch Astromart. See the Southern Sky Astronomical Society’s website.

**Texas Star Party** – May 1-8, 2005. Registration ends January 15. <http://www.texasstarparty.org>

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

## **Society Concerns**

John May is still in Methodist Hospital. He is in Room B691. John is not doing well and his situation has deteriorated significantly. He can still have visitors and would appreciate a visit. Please hold John and his family in your prayers.

Ed Otto has been in the hospital but is now released. Hold him in your prayers for a continued recovery.

Keep Ed, and John in your prayers

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## **Observer's Corner**

Bill Conner received a note from Joe Goss who is one of our past presidents. Joe now lives in Arizona. It particularly struck me as I had set up my portable observatory to get a little observing at the house and find that I have now sat for eight straight days with out one second of observing! Weather is not predicted to change for another four days. Indiana Sucks with regard to observing!! Note from Joe: The weather in Indiana was the main reason I moved to Arizona. If you plan 5 star parties in Indiana, you might get lucky and have a clear sky for one of them. If you plan 5 star parties in Arizona, you might get unlucky and have clouds for one of them. I hated to leave the Link Observatory and the IAS, but I could not do the visual observing in Indiana that I wanted. I have used an LX-200 10" for the last 7 years to observe the Herschel 400, 110 Messier objects in one night, and observed 462 galaxies in Virgo. In March, of this year I bought a Celestron CGE 14". In June, I saw a 15.5 mag galaxy in Virgo with this telescope. With this new telescope I have set a goal to see 700 galaxies in Virgo.

Joe

There was a really good article in the latest Astronomy Magazine. It highlights the objects of the Winter sky. Starting with the constellation Auriga, one can find three great open clusters, M-36, 37, and 38. These are easily detectable at low power or in binoculars. Higher power brings out the red giants imbedded in the clusters. If one wanders South to Taurus, you can find the v-shaped cluster the Haedes. As you observe Taurus, look for the splatter of the Crab(M-1). It is had to see in Indiana. Look for then naked eye visible Plaedes cluster in Taurus. This is one of the most beautiful clusters in the sky. Again a low power object. Move on the Gemini and look at Castor and (Pollux. Castor is a great double (actually it is an astounding sextuplet system) At the feet of Gemini ones finds the great open cluster M-35. Thennnnn we move on to the fantastic constellation Orion. You could spend your life looking at this area of the sky. It has great stars, nebulae, dark nebulae. Look for a small group of stars NGC1981. South of this one finds the little gas cloud, The Running Man Nebula. South of this one runs smack into M-42 the great Orion Nebula. I still get goose bumps when I observe it. See how much you can split the Trapezium. How many stars can you see? Move on to Monoceros and see if you can see the cluster of the Rosette Nebula. You won't be able to see the nebula but the cluster is obvious. Move on to Serius and go 5° south to the open cluster M-41. It is very nice. M-46 and M-47 in Puppis are both excellent clusters.

Look at the article in Astronomy and get out the atlas. I guarantee you will have fun.

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

## **Public Events**

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.

We just did one at The Challenger Center at Brownsburg. It was a challenge in that here were no planets, no Moon just deep sky objects. But we had a ball. Note John Switzer having fun showing a deep sky object to a new astronomer.



There are none scheduled to date but I will put out a call for scopes with more information as these approach.

*Article by Jeff Patterson(Thanks to The Star for the photograph of John)*

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## **New Members - Welcome to the IAS**

Robert B Westwater	Greenwood
David Clingman	Carmel
Lonnie Whelan	Indianapolis
Tracey Callis	Indianapolis
Mark Stahl	Chesterton
Woody Peyton	Indianapolis

Find these members and make them welcome.

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## **New Astronomers Group Suspended**

**The New Astronomer's Group has been suspended for the winter. Plans are to continue the program in the spring as the weather improves. This program has never been very popular and if you have suggestions please let me know.**

*Jeff Patterson*



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### 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](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net)

**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 -** Giro 2 alt-az mount. Not a mark on it. Comes with SS counter weight shaft, 8.8 lb. counter weight and carrying case. \$250  
Contact: Jim Rinehart at 317-881-3475 [jrine@iquest.net](mailto:jrine@iquest.net) 01/05

**Trade -** Telrad with mount for a Rigel with mount. Marion Hakes at [vhorani@yahoo.com](mailto:vhorani@yahoo.com). (317-370-4425).(01/05)

**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 \$500.00 (OBO) Jerry Barnett (317) 888-8945 .(12/04)

**For Sale –** Celestron 20X80 Binoculars and Bill Blaho mount (no tripod) - \$450. Jeff Patterson [JMPSR@Iquest.net](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net). (2/05)

**For Sale –** Celestron 8" Dobsonian – Excellent condition. Includes 26mm eyepiece. \$350. Jeff Patterson [JMPSR@Iquest.net](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net). (2/05)

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### 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](mailto:1star-gazer@earthlink.net).

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

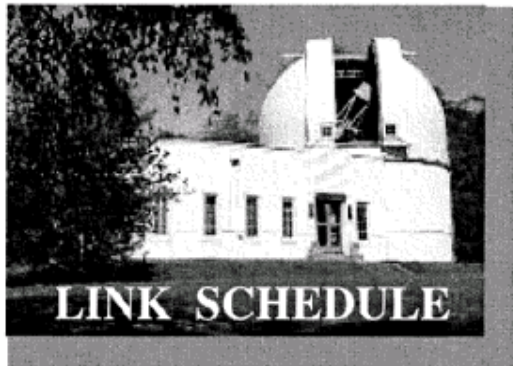
This service is our main communication tool. The list server is in the "Members Only" section of the site and is accessible only by IAS members. Make sure we have your e-mail and you have access for late updates to events and functions.

**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.**

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## **December Board Meeting – December 16, 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**

**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.

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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 Temporary 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  
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 December:**

Observing sessions - December 18 & 25  
New Moon Group – December 10\*

Observer's Meeting – Cancelled  
Link Training – Cancelled

\*Note this is Friday Night!! Observer's meeting and Link trained cancelled for Christmas.

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## **Bulletin Stats**

### **Accessing the Bulletin**

The current bulletin can be found on the website [www.iasindy.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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>



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**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)

Gerald Venne (2006)

Thad Hatchett (2004)

Doug Brown (2004)

Bill Conner (2004)

Marion Hakes (2005)

John Molt (2005)

**December Calendar, 2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Last Qtr Moon
5	6	7	8	9	10 New Moon Group	11 General Meeting New Moon
12	13	14	15	16 Board Meeting 7:00	17	18 General Observing First Qtr Moon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26 Full Moon	27	28	29	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.