

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

February 2009
Volume 76, Issue 2
www.iasindy.org

The Bulletin



The February General Meeting, February 14, 2008 7:00 PM Holcomb Observatory

Anniversary Lapel Pins

If you did not receive your Anniversary pin please contact Vicki Switzer. If want another, you can buy one from Vicki for \$5.

IAS Calendar of Events for February

February 14 - General Meeting at Holcomb Observatory

February 17 – Board Meeting

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Winter Star Party – February 21-28, 2008- The party is sold out. Tickets are available on Astromart and elsewhere.. Check www.scas.org or call the registrar at 386-362-5995. This party is always sold out and you need to get a ticket early. This is a premium party and the weather is generally fantastic in the Florida Keyes in February.

Smokey Mountain Stargaze 2009 - Just outside Smokey Mountain National Park - TBD. This is a new party. Should be pretty that time of year.

<http://www.smokymtstargaze.com/index.php>

Tennessee Spring Star Party 2009 - Fall Creek Falls State Park April 24-26

<http://personal.bna.bellsouth.net/s/p/spsmith/default.htm>

Mid-South Stargaze TBD

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 <http://www.rainwaterobservatory.org/stargaze/index.htm>

Indiana Astronomy Day (IAS/PGO) - TBD

<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/schedule.html>

Apollo Rendezvous – Dayton, Ohio June 12-13,2009 <http://mvas.org>

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Texas Star Party West Texas April 19-26, 2009. This is a premier party with very dark skies and a great site. Just a long way. Online registration will open November 15.
www.texasstarparty.org

Tennessee Spring Star Party – April 24-26, 2009

Cherry Springs Star Party Cherry Springs State Park, PA June 18-21, 2009
<http://www.astrohbg.org/s4>

Nebraska Star Party – July 19-24, 2009- North Central Nebraska - This is a premier dark site and has fantastic observing. However, the weather is brutal. Temperatures can reach 105-110 degrees. However you can cool off in the shade of the tree. All activities will be at the Snake Creek Campground again this year. (I wonder why they call it Snake Creek). No activities will be at the resort. <http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

EPOCH 2009 - The 21st Century Midwest Star Party July 21-26, 2009
Beaver City, Indiana. This is a new star party put on by 20-20 Telescopes.
<http://www.2020telescopes.com/EPOCH2007.html>

JEPC Star Gazing Event IL Date To be announced
<http://www.mikewolford.com/IEPC%20Event.htm>

Indiana Family Star Party Camp Cullum, Frankfort, IN July 23-26, 2009
<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/starparty/>

Black Forest Star Party PA Date To be announced
<http://www.bfsp.org/starparty/>

Okie-Tex Star Party – **September 12-20**. This is reported as one of the darkest sites in the US. It is a great deep sky event.

Prairie Skies Star Party – September 19-20 Kankakee, IL

Heart of America Star Party MO October 15-18, 2009
<http://www.hoasp.org/>

Twin Lakes Star Party – October 15-18, 2009
This is an excellent star party located in western Kentucky. One not to miss
If you know of events coming up let me know and I will get them in the Bulletin

ALCor Observations by Bill Conner

Observer's Corner

STARGAZER #496 for Jan. 10, 2009

Jupiter's New Moons

According to popular lore, scientists, upon making a discovery, are supposed to exclaim,

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"Eureka!" However, it's said that, in reality, they are more apt to muse to themselves, or comment to a colleague, "That's funny!" And judging by his notes, that was Galileo's reaction nearly 400 years ago when, using his new telescope, he made the earthshaking discovery that Jupiter has moons.

The night of Jan. 7, 1610, upon seeing a magnified Jupiter for the first time, he noticed "three little stars" which he assumed to be ordinary background stars. "Yet," as he wrote, "they made me somewhat wonder because they seemed to be arranged exactly in a straight line, parallel to the ecliptic."

The next night, he "found a very different state of things, for there were three little stars all west of Jupiter." Curious, he "waited for the next night with the most intense longing, but was disappointed for the sky was covered with clouds."

Over the next several nights, he was able to make observations and each time saw the "stars" in a different pattern. At this point his brilliance and ability to think outside the box came into play, enabling him to infer what he was seeing--and it flew in the face of what was believed about the heavens at that time.

He wrote, "I therefore concluded, and decided unhesitatingly, that there are three stars in the heavens moving about Jupiter, which was established as clear as daylight by numerous other subsequent observations." He even determined "that there are not only three, but four, erratic sidereal bodies performing their revolutions around Jupiter."

His discovery was earthshaking because the prevailing scientific and theological world view held that all heavenly objects orbited Earth which was at the center of the cosmos. Galileo's discovery of bodies orbiting Jupiter provided visual evidence in support of the heretical Copernican theory that the Sun was at the center.

Galileo's four new "stars"--which he called Medicean planets-- are now known as Jupiter's Galilean moons in his honor.

There's an irony related to Galileo's discovery. As he focused his attention on Jupiter, the planet Uranus, which would not be discovered for another 171 years, was less than 3 degrees away. However, with his crude telescopes, and given Uranus' distance, faintness,

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and slow movement against the background stars, it is unlikely he would have recognized it as a planet. But if he had, perhaps he would have shouted, "Eureka!"

Next Two Weeks. Avg. sunrise: 7:28 a.m.; avg. sunset: 5:50 p.m. (exact for Waco, TX)

- * Tonight's full Moon is called Moon After Yule and Old Moon.
- * Thursday morning, the gibbous Moon is to the lower left of Saturn.
- * The morning of Jan. 17 the 3rd quarter Moon is to the right of the star Spica.
- * The crescent Moon is just to the lower right of the star Antares the morning of Jan. 21.

Naked-eye Planets. Evening: "Evening star" Venus is brilliant in the southwest with Mercury the brightest object low in the west southwest at dark. Morning: Saturn is the brightest object high in the southwest before dawn.

Star Party. The Central Texas Astronomical Society's free monthly star party is Jan. 17 at the Waco Wetlands beginning at 7 p.m., weather permitting. For directions see my Website.

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Stargazer appears every other week in the Waco Tribune-Herald and other newspapers. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Write him at 918 N. 30th St., Waco, TX 76707, call or fax at (254) 753-6920, or e-mail at paulderrickwaco@aol.com.

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Link Activities for February:

None planned

McCloud Activities for February–

None planned

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:

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.

Recent New Members

Seek out these new members and welcome them and see if there is anything they need.

IAS LIBRARY:

We are still in need of a librarian. Contact Jeff Patterson KB9SRB@Hotmail.com
Our complete list can be found (<http://www.iasindy.org/memonly/iasfiles.php>, which is password protected).

IU Kirkwood Observatory

The Observatory has closed for the Winter. Please visit our schedule at http://www.astro.indiana.edu/kirk_sch.shtml, for a list of dates and times. For updated weather conditions and closings, please call the Kirkwood Observatory Hotline at (812) 855-7736.

The IU Astronomy Department has an electronic bulletin to let people know about local astronomy activities and events. If you would like to subscribe, send an email to astdept@indiana.edu and we'll put you on the distribution list. Information about activities and events to be included in the e-bulletin should be sent to catyp@astro.indiana.edu.

Easy Listening:

Weekly podcasts are available at <http://www.astronomycast.com/> for those who love astronomy and want to learn, yet have no time (or desire) to do extra reading. They cover a variety of topics, and feature a different topic each week, so you can choose your flavor. The cast includes Fraser Cain, the publisher of Universe Today (<http://www.universetoday.com/>), and Dr. Pamela Gay, an assistant professor of physics at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. You do not need an iPod or portable device to enjoy these.

Mentor Program

We are reinstituting 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.

Do you have a question or need?

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We are establishing a list of members who would be willing to receive calls for help on specific objects. If you have a specific skill and would be willing to help others please contact Jeff Patterson KB9SRB@hotmail.com.

Based upon the responses we received to your intro question recently, perhaps we should add a section to the bulletin naming those members who would be willing to receive calls for help on specific subjects.

William Conner (wmtconner@sbcglobal.net) - for CCD imaging and film photography.

Public Outreach Programs

Gerald Venne is our Public Events Coordinator. 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.

We need people to help at Link and elsewhere. It is actually a lot of fun.

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) 300-0449

E-Mail: KB9SRB@Hotmail.com

For Sale - TSA 102 Excellent condition with both 2" and 1 1/4" visual back. Includes two 2.7-inch focuser extension tubes. Optics are perfect. 1 small scratch on the dew shield that does not go through the paint. (new price \$2695.00)

Wood box (hand made) for the TSA 102. (approximate value \$100.00)

Camera Angle Adjuster (new price \$214.00)

1 set of 114mm scope rings from Parallax instruments (new price \$125.00)

1 set of 114mm scope rings from Astronomy Technologies (new price \$99.95)

FeatherTouch Micro focuser for the TSA 102 (new price \$249.00)

Thousand Oaks Type 2+ solar filter (new price \$99.00)

Takahashi Focal Reducer for Astrophotography - slightly damaged threads - optics are perfect (new price \$339.00)

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Adapter to attach focal reducer to t-thread camera (SBIG CCD Camera) (custom made cost \$75.00)

BT Technologies Quick Release Finder Bracket Adapter (\$59.00)

Total New = \$4054.95 Asking \$3000.00

Go to <http://www.dougsastro.net/equipment/ForSaleTakahashiTSA102.htm> for pictures and details

Contact me at drsanqun@gmail.com if you are interested.

For Sale – Celestron 102mm F/5 acromat OTA. I purchased this scope to use as a finder but really do not use it. It would make a great first scope. \$175 Jeff Patterson kb9srb@hotmail.com or 317 506-0325.

For Sale - Lots of astronomy equipment

14" LX-200 GPS-SMT w/UHTC ,Peterson EZ Clutch & Buck's Gears.

Meade 14" Superwedge 07007

Meade DC Cord ETX/LXD/GPS 07043

14" AstroZap Dewcap

Meade 12mm MA rect w/cord 07065

Meade Giant Tripod, black 42-0100-03

Meade f3.3 CCD reducer 07567

Orion O-III Filter 1.25" 05581

Meade E/P, SP 26mm 1.25" Eyecup 07175-02

Meade 930: 2" Diagonal mirror UHTC 07223

Meade V/F, #554 8X50, Blue 8/10SC

Meade Focuser, Zero Image Shift 37-7280-00

Meade LPI, AutoStar Suite

Meade DSI, AutoStar Suite

2 ea. Meade DSI-Pro-II AutoStar Suite w/RGB Filters

Astronomical Image Processing Tutorials by Donald Waid

A Beginner's Guide to the Meade LX200GPS by AstroDude

Moon Atlas CD

Edmund Scientific Astroscan Telescope 4 1/4" Dia., 4 1/8" (105mm) f/4.2, 17 1/2" (445mm) F.L. parabolic, 1/8 wave, borosilicate, aluminized and overcoated

Edmund Scientific 28mm 1.25" Eye Piece

Note: AutoStar Suite Version 3.0 w/Drizzle is available on LPI, DSI & DSI Pro-II.

If interested call Bob Westwater at 317.332.9471

Onions and Orchids

The Loaner 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

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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) 989-1875

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

This service is our main communication tool. The list server is accessible only by IAS members.

Being a member does **not** mean you are automatically entered into the “Members Only” section. If you are a new member, please go to the “Members Only” section and fill out an application. The webmaster will set you up and notify you that you can get into the system. Make sure we have your correct e-mail and you will have access for late updates to events and functions. Unless you opt out for the List server, you will automatically have access to it when you are approved for the “members only” section.

Note: The list server is for use of Society business. It can only be used according to the rules as outlined previously. Basically it is used to communicate astronomical information to the general Society that would be unique. Please do not send out information from websites that we all generally subscribe to. Also please note: Do not add the list server address to your general address lists. Our problems have generally come from this when a member sends out mail to all their addressees. Members abusing the service will be eliminated from the service.

Board Meeting – Board Meeting February 17, 2008

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 entrance to the building is to the left of Starbucks around on the side. We meet in the basement. Ride the elevator (around the corner to your left) 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 on his cell phone 716-8124 or Jeff Patterson 317 506-0325.

General Meeting Dates 2008 and 2009

December 20 Christmas Party at Holcomb Observatory

	NAG	General	Board
January		17-Jan	19-Jan
February		14-Feb	17-Feb
March		14-Mar	17-Mar
April		18-Apr	21-Apr
May	2-May 30-May	16-May	19-May
June	27-Jun	13-Jun	16-Jun
July	25-Jul	11-Jul	14-Jul

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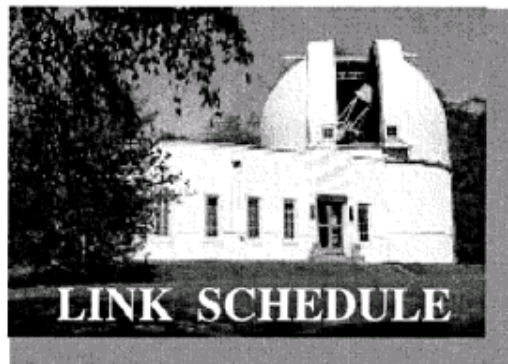
August	22-Aug	8-Aug	11-Aug
September	26-Sep	12-Sep	15-Sep
October		10-Oct	13-Oct
November		7-Nov	10-Nov
December		12-Dec	15-Dec

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.*

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) 300-0449
KB9SRB@hotmail.com

Membership information

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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) 300-0449
Vice-President and Program Director: Doug Brown (317) 872-4050
Secretary: Betsy Brown 1-317-872-4050
Treasurer: John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2009)
Gerald Venne (2009)
Tom Borlik (2010)
John Switzer (2010)

Ron Burgess (2010)
Greg McCauley (2011)
John Molt (2011)

Public Event Coordinator

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

Library Committee Coordinator

Currently vacant



Astronomical League Coordinator

Bill Conner wmtconner@sbcglobal.net 1-812 828-0449

Membership Coordinator

Vicki Switzer vschwitzer42@verizon.net 1 812-835-2251

February Calendar, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1 st QTR 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Full Moon 	10	11	12	13	14 General Meeting at Butler
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

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	3rd QTR ☾	Board Meeting				
22	23	24 New Moon ●	25	26	27	28

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
- Membership in the Astronomical League
- 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.

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Annual Regular Membership (\$30.00)	
Annual Student Membership (\$10.00)	
Astronomy Magazine Renewal (\$34.00)	
Sky and Telescope Magazine (\$33.00) (New Subscription)	
Total Enclosed	

Make checks payable to: The Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc

Please complete Member Profile and include with the application

Mail Application to:

Vicki Switzer Membership Coordinator
2115 N. Private Rd 50 E
Centerpoint, IN 47840

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.