

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

January, 2004  
Volume 71, Issue 1  
[www.iasindy.org](http://www.iasindy.org)



# The Bulletin

## Happy New Year

May you and your family be blessed in this new year. We look forward to a fantastic year with the IAS. Get active and involved.

## January General Meeting - January 10 7:00PM at the Holcomb Observatory

### Planetary Imaging With a "Web Cam"

Some of the best planetary images being taken today are by amateurs using inexpensive "Web Cam" CCD cameras. There have been many articles and hype in the magazines with regard to the use of these small cameras. Brian P. Murphy will demonstrate some of the hardware and software used in this type of astrophotography. We will also look at the way a web, or video cam, can reveal true seeing conditions at your observing site. Brian Murphy is Vice President and Program Director of the Indiana Astronomical Society.

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## December Meeting Was a Great Success!

Our second annual Christmas party was a great success! Thanks to Angie Molt the "spread" was outstanding. Rumors are we may have to establish a new member on the board; Food Chairman!! Thanks Angie, we all enjoyed it. We had a good raffle the Society had purchased a set of astronomical binoculars and Angie had obtained some poinsettias. Gary Schoppenhorst won the astronomical observing binoculars. This activity seemed so popular we plan to do it on a quarterly basis. Awards were presented to members honoring them for their activities in the Society. The Board presented a plaque to John May for his 17 years of dedication as editor of the Bulletin. Thanks John. We did have a meeting and discussed what we did best in 2003 and what we need to improve for 2004. Items falling into the first category included the Indiana Family Star Party at Camp Cullom and the McCloud Park for dark site observing. In 2004 we plan to emphasize the New Moon Group more and expand our observing sessions. We finished the party with a show in the planetarium.

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## Link Keys to be Turned IN by January General Meeting

All the Link keys assigned to IAS personnel need to be turned in to J. Philip May prior to or at the January general meeting. We call in all keys at the beginning of the year and then reassign them to appropriate personnel.

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## 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 may be some extras. Dave says he will have the books at the January General Meeting

See Dave.

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## Eagle Creek Park Stargazing Opportunities

**January Eagle Creek Sessions January 14 7-9PM, January 28 7-9**

*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: January 14 7-9PM, January 28 7-9 Call 327-7148 to let them know you are coming. 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 56<sup>th</sup> 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 0.24 Miles

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### **New Members**

The IAS would like to welcome the following new members:

Jim Earnshaw Plainfield  
Stefan Luebke Indianapolis  
John Wasmuth Fishers

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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/>

**NIAGfest/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

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## Orchids and Onions

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

An orchid to Angie Molt for her planning and catering the December Party.

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## 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. This last month we mailed 90 Bulletins. Did you know it costs 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 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 have had several people send us a note to cease the hard copy. Thanks to each of you. 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. 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

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## Board Considers Expanding Accessibility of the Bulletin

The Board is considering moving the current Bulletin that sits in the "Members Only" section of the web page to the open part of the web page. All other sensitive information will remain in the "Members Only" section for security. We are an open society focused on teaching and developing an appreciation and love of our hobby; the science of Astronomy. We do not bar anyone from any of our functions and we currently hand out current Bulletins free to the public. There are two major reasons for making this change. 1) It would open us up more to our major focus of "Bringing Astronomy to the Public". Why should we hide what we are doing? We want the local public to know what we are doing and when and maybe draw more into the fold. If they see we have activities that are interesting, they will join us. Many societies throughout the country have their newsletters in open sections of their newsletters. 2) Making it easier to get the Bulletin on the website could reduce the number of hard copy Bulletins we have to mail each month. No more having to remember a password. We still have to provide a Bulletin to each member as part of their membership benefits so there will be hard copies for those without internet capabilities. The Board feels that making the Bulletin open to the public would not affect membership. Our feeling is that

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members come to gain association with others interested in their hobby; the Bulletin is one of those benefits. We will make this change as soon as some technicalities are worked through. If you have comment, objections, accolades, or anything else please let me know. Send your comment to Jeff Patterson [JMPSR@Iquest.net](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net) or 882-8055. I need to hear from you, the member.

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## Sky and Telescope Raises Its Rates

Be aware that the reduced Club rate for Sky and Telescope has increased to \$33.00/year. As you renew your membership and your subscriptions be aware that Dave will ask for more money if you send in the old amounts and your re-up will be delayed.  
The forms have been updated.

Jeff

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## Notes from the Pres -

Well we start our 71<sup>st</sup> year as a Society. I feel that we end 2003 on a strong note. Membership has remained good. We appear to have a lot of interest in observing. I am pleased to see the number of new members and the interest. We have new programs such as the New Astronomers group that are geared to the new astronomer. John May has been teaching this program on the fourth Saturday of the month at 7 PM at the Link Observatory. We plan to emphasize New Moon activities more in 2004. We are pursuing additional dark sites that we can use. Don't forget Prairie Grass Observatory at Camp Cullom. Bill Conner was there over Christmas and he said it was excellent.

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## Observer's Corner

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

I would like to see a group start that wants to study the Moon. You know you can observe the Moon about three weeks per month and you know it is always clear when the moon is up. Your observing can change every night. In addition, light pollution is not a major factor. Anyone interested?

This time of year we can again observe an object that is the love of all our hearts. No matter how many new objects I find and study, I am still overwhelmed when I look at Saturn. Study it. Saturn is a rather small object. It is smaller than Jupiter. The Cassini Division separating the A and B Rings is obvious even in a small telescope. See if you can see the Enke Division separating the A Ring from the F Ring. Generally, the F Ring is invisible. Study the shadows; A) Look for the shadow from the rings on the face of the planet. B) Study the shadow of the planet on the back of the ring. Lastly look at the subtle rings and colors on the globe of the planet itself. You know what I will be looking at over the next couple of months.

Hey! Start getting ready for the Messier Marathon in March. There will be awards for the most successful individuals and teams. If you aren't experienced or don't have a telescope hook up with another member and work as a team

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## New Astronomers Group

**This Months Program Types of Telescopes January 24 at 7PM at the Link.**

*Article submitted by J. Philip May*

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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 2004.

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"  
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.

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## McCloud Nature Park - A Dark Site for Observing

*Submitted by Mike Wolford*

### **McCloud Park Observing For January - weather permitting Call Mike for Dates**

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

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## The Board Awards Lifetime Membership to Dan Goins

The Board awarded past president Dan Goins life time membership as a result of his many years of devotion to the Society. Dan this is our way of saying thanks.

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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.

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)

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

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](mailto:jvessels@iquest.net)

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

For Sale: Celestron "Comet Catcher" OTA 5.5"F5 Orange Tube \$250, Contact Jeff Patterson

[JMPSR@Iquest.net](mailto: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](mailto:jrinehart@spitfire.net)

For sale: Starlight Express MX7C one-shot color CCD camera, STAR2000 self-guider, and AstroArt software. \$1300. [srussell@iquest.net](mailto:srussell@iquest.net)

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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 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](mailto:bmurphy@monumentcompanies.com)

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

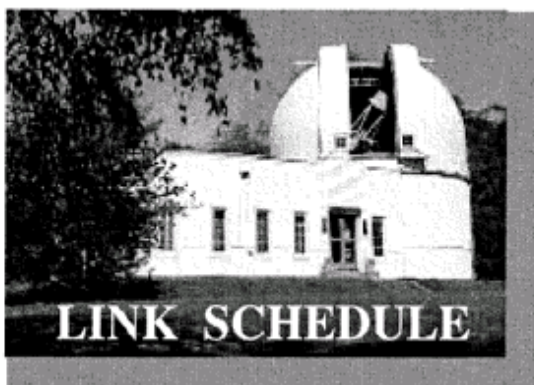
This service is our main communication tool. The list server is in the "Members Only" section of the site and is accessible only by IAS members. Make sure we have your e-mail and you have access for late updates to events and functions.

**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.

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## January Board Meeting – January 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.



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### **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 January:

New Moon Group Meeting January 24  
Observer's Meeting January 24

New Astronomers January 24  
Link Training January 24

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## **Bulletin Stats**

### Bulletin - Bulletin deadline on the 20<sup>th</sup> 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>

### 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

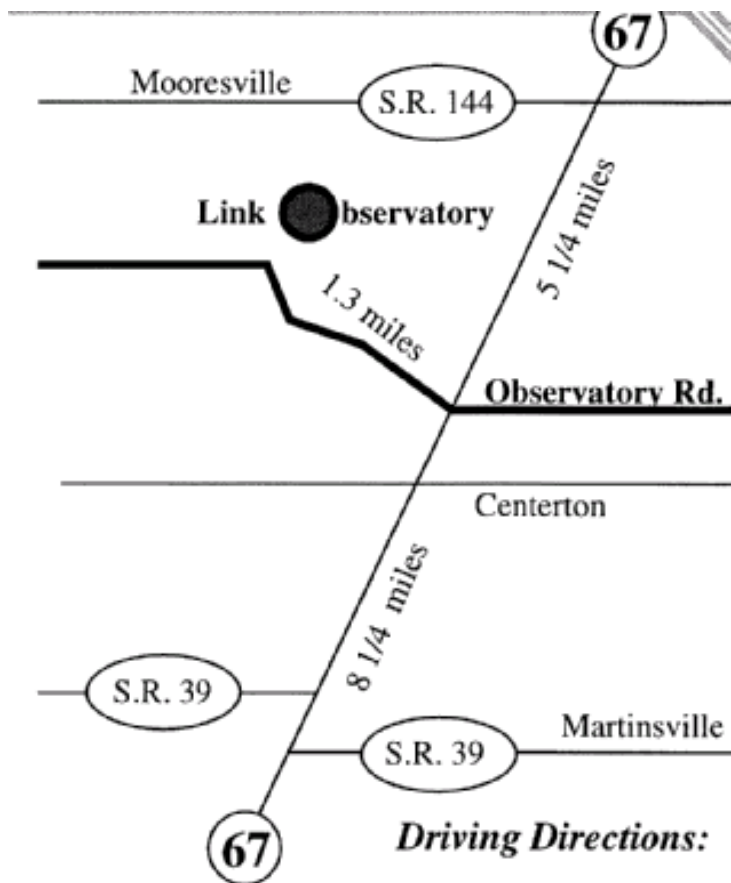


Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006)  
Gerald Venne (2006)  
Thad Hatchett (2004)  
Doug Brown (2004)

Bill Conner (2004)  
Marion Hakes (2005)  
John Molt (2005)

**Map to the Goethe Link Observatory**



***Driving Directions:***

**T**he 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.

**January Calendar, 2004**

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

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  
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.