

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

January, 2005
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The Bulletin

**The January General Meeting, January 8, 7:00 PM Butler's
Holcomb Observatory**

Mysterious Titan

Daniel Cervantes

Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is remarkably similar to the Earth. Like the Earth, Titan's atmosphere primarily consists of Nitrogen and Titan's surface pressure is about 1.6 times that of Earth. Titan possesses many of the building blocks thought to once exist in the early Earth. Because Titan's atmosphere consists of a thick haze, little can be seen of Titan's surface.

The Huygens probe successfully detached from NASA's Cassini orbiter on December 24, 2004. Huygens will remain dormant until the onboard timer wakes it up just before the probe reaches Titan's upper atmosphere on January 14, 2005. Then it will begin a dramatic plunge through Titan's murky atmosphere, tasting its chemical makeup and composition as it descends to touch down on its surface.

Our talk will begin by reviewing the history of Titan. Next, we will review Titan's latest data returned from the Cassini spacecraft. Finally, we will discuss the upcoming Huygens mission to Titan.

Daniel is currently a physicist with the Tactical Software Branch at Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana. He has a Masters Degree in Physics from Purdue University and previously taught Physics and Astronomy at IUPUI. Daniel is a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador and a member of the Indiana Astronomical Society.

Long Time Member John May Passes Away

John Philip May, age 61 of Mooresville, Indiana, died December 14, 2004 in Yellow Rose Hospice in Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana. He was born September 14, 1943 in Beech Grove, Indiana to the late James & Eleanor Robinson May.

He was a graduate of Howe High School and attended St. Mary's Seminary. He was a photographer for the Indianapolis Star and was a stringer for UPI. He then retired in 1991 after 21 years as a photographer for Eli Lilly & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana. Following retirement, he owned and operated Memories Studio and 1 Hour Photo in Mooresville, Indiana for 5 years. He attended St. Thomas More Catholic Church, was a member of the Indiana Astronomical Society and the Logan Masonic Lodge, Indianapolis, Indiana. He was a photographer and Certified 1st Class Firefighter with the Brown Township Fire Department. He was a peace time Navy Veteran. He was also preceded in death by

two sisters Barbara May and Merry Nicole Caluza.

Survivors include his wife Margaret McCarty May (Married July 9, 1983) of Mooresville, Indiana; sons Jonathan S. May & Todd P May of Mooresville, Indiana; daughters Leanna L. Collisi of Brownsburg, Indiana, Yovonne S. Grego of Indianapolis, Indiana and Dorea C. May of Brownsburg, Indiana and 3 grandchildren.

There is a memorial gathering on Saturday, January 15, 2005 from 5-8 P.M. in Carlisle & Son Funeral Chapel, Mooresville, Indiana. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Brown Township Fire Department or the Indiana Astronomical Society.

The family has asked that instead of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the IAS.

The IAS has lost a great friend and a piece of our history. He was a long time member of the IAS and served as program coordinator and Editor of the Bulletin for fourteen years. I watched him in awe as he told folks about the sky. He had a love for telling stories and teaching people about our hobby. One thing I will remember John for was he once told me, "Jeff, this is a hobby and you should be having fun." Let's all remember that and the legacy he gave us. We will miss you John, your great knowledge, and sense of humor. When I go to a meeting or a lecture and stop to have a bite to eat, I will think of you. We had a lot of fun Old Friend. Please keep his family in your prayers. Just remember he is in a better place now.

The Pres

The Christmas Party was a Success

Well you did it again. We had a great time. Thanks to Angie Molt and Crew, there were tons of food and we really had a good time. The raffles went well as well. There were flowers for almost everyone. If you did not win something you wanted there was even a little horse trading going on. In fact, some folks can start a flower garden with their winnings.

Thanks to everyone who brought snacks and thanks to Angie. You did a super job again this year.

Do you need a new case for your “Stuff”?

Article by Jay Simmons

Jeff-I found a place called C. H. Ellis on Southeastern Ave. that manufactures (and sells) those really nice molded cases for tools, test equipment, laptop computers and ASTRO GEAR. They make them in various sizes and they sell seconds and blemish items at their plant. They are located at 2432 Southeastern is between Rural and State

Street. They are just past the Brylane on the same side of the road, that being north I bought a case there a week ago for \$40 that they say retails for \$120. I cannot find a thing wrong with it other than being a bit dusty when I bought it. They have some that would be perfect for some telescopes. .

Yerkes On the Block

Yerkes Observatory may soon have a new owner. The University of Chicago is considering selling the observatory's telescopes, buildings, and about 80 acres of lakefront property in southeastern Wisconsin says director Kyle M. Cudworth, the only astronomer still working full time at the former research facility. According to Sky and Telescope, a sale seems imminent, and it remains unclear what the future holds for the observatory's century-old refractor (the world's largest), its Romanesque main building, and its two dozen employees.

According to S&T, Cudworth first learned in July that the University had received, and was close to accepting, an unsolicited offer for Yerkes from a developer hoping to build houses on the observatory's landscaped grounds!! Amazingly the reported price for the “priceless” observatory and grounds is approximately \$10 million. Some local area residents are trying to possibly purchase the facilities for Aurora University whose properties butt up to the Yerkes properties. Chicago University reportedly may make a decision as early as the end of January. Loss of this historic site would be a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. Why is it here in the US we seem ignore our historical heritage and destroy the “old” and go for what is good for now and the future. I urge you to write letters or see if there is any way to lend support to preserving this historical facility.

The Pres

Thoughts from the Pres – 2005

I believe that 2004 will go down as a great year for the Society. What do I see for next year? I hope to see more growth in the Society. We need to figure out how to keep those new members active. We will begin a three pronged approach to observing and our activities. We will continue to support the Link and hopefully develop a plan to use it more. We are going forward using McCloud on a more permanent manner by developing an astronomy program there. That should allow us to have more “dark” nights to observe the fainter fuzzies as well as to provide a platform for our public outreach. 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. We have a pretty good contingency attending various star parties and hopefully more of you will get involved. They are a lot of fun. 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. If you have any ideas please let me know. 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.

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. (Note see the ad for tickets in the ads section of this Bulletin)

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

Observer's Corner - New Visitor during the Christmas season; Comet Macholz.

As the moon begins to be a little less bright go out and locate the new wanderer that we have in the heavens. In a dark sky (No Moon) the comet at 4th magnitude should be easily visible to the naked eye and very pretty in binoculars. It is located just west of Orion's shield early in the month. Check out daily location in Sky and Tel's website and charts.

Article by Jeff Patterson

New Astronomers Group In the Planning Stages

The New Astronomer's Group has been suspended for the winter but John Switzer has agreed to organize and lead this program this coming year. John has some good ideas and is planning a hands on type of program rather than a lecture program. Plans are to continue the program in the spring as the weather improves.

Jeff Patterson

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

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

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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. **\$220** Contact: Jim Rinehart at 317-881-3475
jrine@iquest.net 03/05

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

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

For Sale – Celestron 8” Dobsonian – Excellent condition. Includes 26mm eyepiece. \$350. Jeff Patterson
JMPSR@Iquest.net. (2/05)

For Sale: Televue 27mm Panoptic eyepiece. This is a 2” eyepiece. \$250 obo Contact: Jim Zdobylak 317-862-4715 zobe1@aol.com

For Sale - 2 tickets (with camping) to the Winter Star Party, February 7 - 12 2005. This can be 1 of the most enjoyable astronomical experiences, although it's crowded, weather isn't always good and is a long trip, some consider it a pilgrimage. The price is \$123 per ticket, will sell them separately. John Molt 1star-gazer@earthlink.net 317-989-1875

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

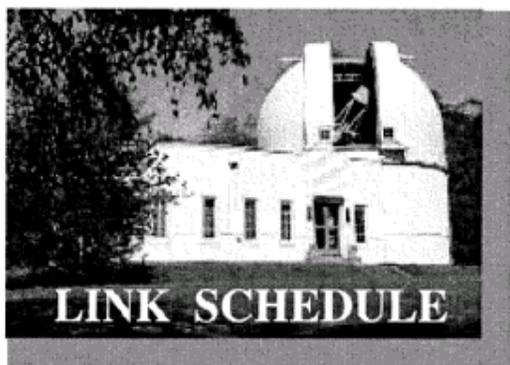
This service is our main communication tool. The list server is in the “Members Only” section of the site and is accessible only by IAS members. Make sure we have your e-mail and you have access for late updates to events and functions.

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.

January Board Meeting – January 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. 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
Tom Borlik: 849-4113
Gary Schoppenhorst: 297-1405

Brian Murphy: 841-8511
Dave Williams: 769-7430
Gerald Venne 826-2680

Link Activities for January:

Observing sessions - January 15 and 29
New Moon Group – None this month*

Observer's Meeting – January 29
Link Training –January 29

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

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: John Shepherd 317 862-3442

Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006)

Gerald Venne (2006)

Thad Hatchett (2007)

Doug Brown (2007)

Bill Conner (2007)

Marion Hakes (2005)

John Molt (2005)

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January Calendar, 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Last Qtr Moon	4	5	6	7	8 General Meeting
9	10 New Moon	11	12	13 Board Meeting 7:00	14	15 General Observing
16	17 First Qtr Moon	18	19	20	21	22 General Observing
23	24	25 Full Moon	26	27	28	29 Observer's Mtg Link Training
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: John Shepherd, Treasurer
4609 Callahan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

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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.