

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

January, 2007  
Volume 74, Issue 1  
www.iasindy.org



# The Bulletin

**The January General Meeting, January 13, 7:00 PM Holcomb Observatory  
at Butler University**

## **"What Happened to Pluto?"**

Dr. Richard P. Ditteon

Professor and Director of Oakley Observatory, Rose-Hulman Institute of  
Technology

At the 2006 meeting of the International Astronomical Union a new definition of what is meant by a planet was approved. The new definition demoted Pluto to dwarf planet status. This change in status caused an emotional outburst from the public and a very strong reaction from some astronomers as well. Why was a new definition needed? Is this the right definition? The history and science of planetary discovery will be explored in this talk in an attempt to answer these questions.

---

## **Welcome to 2007 – The Pres Dreams a Little**

Happy New Year to all the membership. I hope that the holidays treated you well. 2006 was a good year for the Society and we accomplished a lot. In 2007 we have an opportunity to do even more. Hopefully we can expand on our events at McCloud. I would like to see participation increase there. That needs to be more than dedication of a few. This is a good dark site and we need to utilize it. I believe that the site is not being used to the utmost. We can use it outside of planned programs by calling the office and making arrangements to use the facility at night. See the Bulletin for the telephone numbers.

We are in discussions with IU on increased use at Link and how to improve activities there. Link is still an outstanding opportunity for us to promote astronomy in our outreach programs. It is a good place to observe from and it is safe and secure. One just has to be selective on what you want to observe. Do you know that one time not many years ago the observatory was open every weekend!! How can we do that again? Again we will need participation from the members. If you have ideas bring them to the Board. The Board has approved money to buy a video camera for the Link so that we can project the images to monitors. Did you know that there are training sessions each month to train people to use the 36"? If you are interested see Gary Schoppenhorst.

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

You know we are always moaning that the moon is out and it is clear. What about lunar and planetary observing? Anyone interested in those activities? We have a good tool at the Link in the big scope. It's hard to beat 90000 mm when looking at planetary objects.

Star parties are fun, fun, fun! You don't have to go to Florida or Nebraska. It doesn't have to be expensive. There are several close ones here that you can go to. You learn a lot about observing and equipment by looking at how others do it. Contact me or one of the Board to get help.

We need to grow our outreach. The Governor just about killed us with Daylight Savings Time but we need to learn to live around it. Gerald Venne is the contact person for outside groups wanting programs. We already have programs coming at Ft. Harrison, and the State Museum. We will need your help.

As I have said. I would like to see us take some field trips.

Let us know if you have suggestions of things to do. Get involved. Let's have a ball this year!!

*The Pres*

---

### **Observer's Handbooks**

After our second request for interest in buying the Observer's Handbooks in bulk, we find that only 12 members want the books. We have to purchase 25 to get a discount. Therefore we will not be buying them this year. They can be obtained from the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society (<http://www.rasc.ca/handbook>).

*The Pres*

---

### **Get to Know Your Officers**

#### **President: Jeff Patterson**

Jeff was born and raised in the oil fields of West Texas. In high school in the 1950's he was a science Geek and became interested in astronomy and observed the sky with a 3" Newtonian mounted on a piece of drill pipe.

Jeff attended the University of Texas at Austin graduating with a B.S. degree in Chemistry. While at the University of Texas he met his wife Carolyn while studying quantum mechanics. Upon graduation they moved to Indiana as he went to work for Eli Lilly and Company. He worked for Lilly as a pharmaceutical chemist for 37 years retiring from Lilly in 2003. Carolyn continued her education and received her PhD in Biochemistry. Jeff and Carolyn own a consulting company Patterson Biomedical Consulting, Inc.

Jeff lives in the Greenwood area with his wife Carolyn and eldest son and his two sons. His hobbies are astronomy, hunting, fishing, and he plays tuba in two local bands.

Jeff was introduced again to Astronomy while in college when his roommate built a 6" Newtonian telescope. They used to go out on the street in Austin and observe. (Man times have changed.) In 1993 his interest was rekindled when he purchased a Celestron C-6 out of the Trader. He joined the IAS in 1994. He has served in some capacity on the Board or as an officer since 1995. His interests are observing Deep Sky Objects and promoting astronomy to the public. He enjoys the ability to go to star parties, meet new friends, and observe from dark sites.

## Vice President and Program Chairman – Brian Murphy

Brian P. Murphy is a life-long resident of Indianapolis. He attended Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, and received his BA (Philosophy/History) from DePauw University in 1982. While there he lettered in football and was named to the Phi Gamma Delta All-American team.

Since 1996 Brian has served as president of Monument Realty and Management Companies. These companies specialize in commercial real estate development and property management. He is a licensed Indiana Real Estate Broker, licensed Indiana Appraiser, member of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors, president of the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County. Brian is an advisor to the Indiana Council on Outdoor Lighting Education.

Brian lives on the northeast side of Indianapolis with his wife and four sons. He is active in his school and church, serving as St. Matthew Catholic School Commissioner, football and baseball coach, and Cub Scout leader.

Brian was drawn to astronomy at the age of 13 during the visit of much publicized (but ultimately a fizzle) Comet Kohoutek. He first joined the IAS in 1973. He renewed his interest in astronomy and rejoined the IAS in 1994 during the approach of Comet Shoemaker-Levy. He enjoys the tranquil beauty of observing, and the camaraderie of IAS membership. Brian has served as the IAS VP and Program Director since 2002. If you know of any interesting speakers for the IAS general meetings, please get in touch with Brian!

---

### IAS Logo Stuff

We still have IAS logo hats, t shirts, polo shirts, sweat shirts and insulated jackets. Please contact Gerald Venne at the next general meeting.

---

### Mentor Program

The Board has been studying retention of members. Of the 50 or so members that do not renew their membership each year over half are first year members. So we want to do some things to reduce that exodus. We are reinstating 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](mailto:KB9SRB@hotmail.com) or Thad Hatchett at [astronomynut@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

---

### Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

**Winter Star Party** – February 12-18, 2007- Registration has closed but tickets are always available on Astromart and elsewhere.. Check [www.scas.org](http://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 fantastic in the Florida Keyes in February.

**Tennessee Spring Star Party** - Fall Creek Falls State Park      Mar 16-18,2007  
<http://www.personal.bna.bellsouth.net/s/p/spsmith/default.htm>

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

**Mid-South Stargaze** 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 Apr 11-14  
<http://www.rainwaterobservatory.org/stargaze/index.htm>

**Texas Star Party** West Texas May 13-20,2007 1500 miles. This is a premier party with very dark skies and a great site. Just a long way. Online registration is open now.  
[www.texasstarparty.org](http://www.texasstarparty.org)

**Cherry Springs Star Party** Cherry Springs State Park, PA May 17-20  
<http://www.astrohbg.org/s4>

**Heart of America Star Party MO** June 12 – 17, 2007  
<http://www.askconline.org/index.htm>

**Nebraska Star Party** - Jul 15-20, 2007 North Central Nebraska - 950 miles 18 hour drive. This is a premier dark site and has fantastic observing. However, the weather is brutal. Temperatures this last year reached 108 degrees. However you can cool off in the shade of the tree. There have been some changes this year and all activities will be at the Snake Creek Campground this year. (I wonder why they call it Snake Creek). No activities will be at the resort.  
<http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

**EPOCH 2007** The 21st Century Midwest Star Party July 8-15, 2007  
Beaver City, Indiana This is a new star party put on by 20-20 Telescopes.  
<http://www.2020telescopes.com/EPOCH2007.html>

**Indiana Family Star Party** Camp Cullum, Frankfort, IN To be announced  
<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/starparty/>

**Black Forest Star Party** PA Sep 14-16  
<http://www.bfsp.org/starparty/>

**Astrofest** Kankakee, IL To be Announced  
<http://www.chicagoastro.org/>

**Prairie Skies Star Party** – Kankakee IL – September 13-16, 2007  
<http://www.prairieskies.org/>

**Illinois Dark Skies** Kankakee, IL To be announced  
<http://www.sas-sky.org/>

**Twin Lakes Star Party** Pennyville State Park, Western KY Oct 6-13, 2007  
<http://www.wkaa.net/>

**Okie-Tex Star Party** Camp Billy Joe, OK Oct 6-14  
<http://www.okie-tex.com/>

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

---

## Public Outreach Programs

**Lakeside's Family Science Night** is on the calendar for Tuesday, January 23, 2007 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. If you are available contact Gerald. We need your help.

Gerald Venne is our Public Program Chairman. 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.

To schedule a public event contact Gerald Venne 1 317 826-2680 or Jeff Patterson at 1-317 882-8055.

---

## Orchids and Onions

Everyone who attended the Christmas party knows how hard Angie Molt works to provide the best Christmas party imaginable. We owe her a bouquet of Orchids and roses for what she does for this Society. Next time you see her thank her for what she has done.

---

## 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) 882-8055

E-Mail: [KB9SRB@Hotmail.com](mailto:KB9SRB@Hotmail.com)

**FOR SALE**- Celestron Nexstar 4GT telescope with Skyalign. Also included area hard shell Celestron case, tripod with built-in wedge, serial computer cable, homemade dew shield and a 25mm SMA eyepiece. This scope comes with the latest programmable hand controller with version 4.03 software. I upgraded to this controller for the improved tracking and Skyalign. The price is \$350.

If interested, please call Jeff O'Dair at 317.856.3860 or my email is [jodair2@comcast.net](mailto:jodair2@comcast.net). I can send photos by email if you are interested.

**FOR SALE** – Celestron Nexstar 8 , field tripod, 40 and 24mm eyepieces, Barlow, carrying case, Orion accessory case. There is a wedge available at an additional expense. If interested, please call Robert Kaiser at 317-339-2759 or e-mail at [rwkai@aol.com](mailto:rwkai@aol.com).

---

## **Loaner Equipment 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 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](mailto:1stargazer@indy.rr.com)) or 317-844-1799)

---

## **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 correct e-mail and you will 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.

---

## **Board Meeting – January 18, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

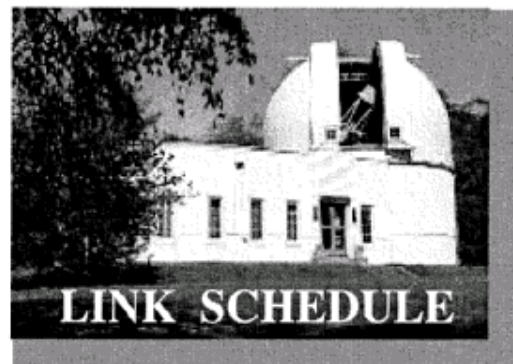
The IAS Board Meeting is being held at 430 Massachusetts Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. The building is at the point of convergence of Mass. Ave., Vermont and Alabama Streets. There is a Starbucks located in the frontage of the building. The coffee shop stays open late into the evening. Try to park 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.

---

## **Goethe Link Observatory Observatory Address**

**Goethe Link Observatory  
8403 N. Observatory Lane  
Martinsville, IN 46151**

**Observatory's Phone:  
(317) 831-0668**



The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

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.*

### **Link Activities for January:**

January 20 New Moon Meeting weather permitting  
January 27 Tech Meeting at Link

### **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 Paul Miner at the park office 765 676 5490 before 5PM on the day you want to go out. As a last resort you can reach him on his cell phone at 317-371-8222 before 5 pm.

---

### **Bulletin Stats**

All personal and professional opinions presented herein do not, in any way, represent the opinion or policy of JPL or NASA.

### **Accessing the Bulletin**

The current bulletin can be found on the website [www.iasindy.org](http://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) 882-8055  
[KB9SRB@hotmail.com](mailto:KB9SRB@hotmail.com)

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

### **Membership information**

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) 882-8055  
Vice-President and Program Director: Brian Murphy (317) 841-8511  
Secretary: Betsy Brown 1-317-872-4050  
Treasurer: John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

### **Board of Directors**

Gary Schoppenhorst (2009)  
Gerald Venne (2009)  
Thad Hatchett (2007)  
Doug Brown (2007)

Bill Conner (2007)  
Marion Hakes (2008)  
John Molt (2008)

### **Public Event Chairman**

Gerald Venne [gvenne@iquest.net](mailto:gvenne@iquest.net) 1 317 826-2680

### **Library Committee Chairman**

Ed Otto [ecotto1@comcast.net](mailto:ecotto1@comcast.net)



### January Calendar, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Full Moon	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Last QTR Moon	12	13 General Meeting at Butler
14	15	16	17	18 Board Meeting  New Moon	19	20 New Moon at Link
21	22	23	24	25 1 <sup>st</sup> QTR Moon	26	27  Observer's Meeting at Link
28	29	30	31			

## 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\*

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

\* 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 (\$25.00)	
Annual Student Membership (\$10.00)	
Astronomy Magazine Renewal (\$34.00)	
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

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.