



The Bulletin

The July General Meeting, July 14, 2007 7:00 PM Link Observatory Auditorium

The Milky Way is Doomed! Catastrophic Collision Predicted! The End is Coming! What would you think of a person if you saw him carrying that sign? Well, he'd be right, in about 5-10 billion years. It appears that the Andromeda Galaxy is on a collision course with our Milky Way but most experts say that actual collisions will be few. But until that time, the view of Andromeda will just keep getting better and better.

Since the 1960's, astronomers have been pointing their telescopes and detectors at Andromeda and with each generation our knowledge about almost every kind of astronomical object has improved. It has been a laboratory for discovery and the most recent research has revealed amazing and mysterious events. Until now, no one has put these discoveries in one place for us to read. Don Craig, author of The Andromeda Galaxy A Guide to the Universe has done it and it is the most complete work on the Galaxy now in print. He will talk to us about writing the book and about the remarkable research findings on Andromeda that has shaped our understanding of how galaxies develop.

Don Craig, a Hoosier boy from Ingalls, Indiana, graduated from Pendleton High School and Purdue University and then served in the US Army as a combat medic. He has worked over 40 years for such groups as General Motors, RCA Records, private consulting firms and as an advisor to Federal Government health care planning. Twenty of those years were with the Indiana State Department of Health where he retired in 2004. He is married to Suzanne Craig, has two boys, Eric and Kurt, and will soon be a grandfather.

Upon retiring, he took up many special interests including woodcarving, raising Border Terriers, and astronomy. He is a dedicated amateur astronomer who enjoys observing galaxies with his two large telescopes and he has a special interest in N.E.O.s. Many of his published letters to the editors of Astronomy, Sky and Telescope and other publications show a keen interest in the most recent astronomical findings and cosmological theories. In writing a book on Andromeda, he fulfilled a life-long goal of publishing a book on his favorite subject.

Mid America Star Party –

Whew! Let's do that again!!!

But perhaps we could invite a larger dose of "clear" in those dark skies!

Since we had received some top-secret insider info, Danny Mitchell (who gets his name in the Bulletin more than most members do) and I planned an early arrival at the star

party. Sandy and I left home on Sunday morning, with a stop planned “anywhere the other side of St Louis”! We ended up in Columbia, MO about mid-afternoon on Sunday and discovered a Bass Pro Shop along the road to the campground. A couple of hours (and around a hundred bucks) later, we completed the three mile journey off of I-70 and arrived at the campground.

There was a pretty good storm that went through the area on Sunday night and it continued on Monday morning for a while. I was a bit worried about what we would find when we got to the observing field. It wasn't the mud-pit that I had feared, but the ground was quite soft --- a couple of guys suggested that I park it right where it was, but I told them that I wanted to try to get across the field and set up next to Danny. The Durango did its thing!! We made it to the higher part of the field and drove on back to the rear of the field and got set up. Of course there was a fellow that wasn't quite so lucky --- Chevy pick up truck pulling a 30' trailer got stuck --- REALLY stuck! The Durango pulled him (and the camper) out of the ruts --- I made the absolute necessary comment about a Dodge pulling a Chevy, and had made another new friend! It turns out that it was his first star party, AND he intends on coming to the JEPC event! (Yes that was a shameless plug!!)

I immediately noticed a few new items on the field. They expanded the shelter, had a shower house (which was a bit breezy, but quite nice after spending a day in upper 80 degree temperatures), and had porta johns located in several strategic locations. This group has it together as far as making this event a success!

We didn't get any scopes set up Monday --- it was cloudy and threats of rain were in the forecast.

After a lazy Tuesday morning, Sandy and I decided to go ahead and get our scopes set up --- the forecast looked a bit better, and the Clear, Dark Sky Clock showed some promise. Later in the afternoon, the IAS gang caravan arrived. Thad, Doug, Terry, and John and Vicki --- that made seven (plus Danny) in our group. Quite a showing!

I don't quite remember which nights were clear. Remember --- a bad night at a really dark sky sight is much better than a great night here in central Indiana. We got two partially clear nights and one really good one --- one was good enough that several of us played with really high power. Have you ever seen M-57 at 730X? AWESOME! Or, how about M-13 at over 1100X?? Yeah, all three stars worth! One object that Danny has been trying to see since I have known him --- the “holy grail” of naked eye observing, he FINALLY got to observe the central star in M-57 with his 24” Starmaster!! Congrats! Sandy says that she thought that this was the best view of Jupiter that she had ever seen. From her log --- “lost count of how many “bandlets” were visible (is that a word? What do you call bands within the bands?)”.

Something new in my toy box --- BLUETOOTH!!! How to control a telescope with a virtual serial cable --- sweet! Click on an object in the planetarium program, click

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“center scope” and --- its magic! The scope slews to the object! Look ma, no cables to get tangled up! Aren't computers and gadgets great??!?!??

All good things must come to an end. So ends another week at a star party. We all joked and teased and laughed till we cried. The sky cooperated just a little and teased us with several dark sky gems. We all will remember what we saw --- until next time, when we do it all over again!

Come on out to a star party --- you MIGHT just have some fun!

Mike Wolford

Astronomical League?

The Board of Directors, with your input, has decided that the IAS should become a club member on an individual basis. We decided on the “individual membership” which costs \$2.50 more per person because although over half the membership said they are interested, the Board felt that it was wasteful to charge those who did not want the literature to sign them up as well. What this means is that as of June 1 each year, those who want to also be members of the Astronomical League, should submit their dues to John Shepherd. Members of the IAS wishing to join the League after the deadline may join by submitting prorated dues to John. New names are submitted to the A/L on a quarterly basis. After our canvassing of the membership, we had 64 IAS members who indicated they wanted to join by sending in the money. If you would like to join, contact our treasurer,
John Shepherd, Treasurer
4609 Callahan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Bill Conner has volunteered to be our ALCOR who is the correspondent who verifies your observations and submits your information for awards.

The Astronomical League

The Astronomical League is a Federation of Astronomical Societies. Its purpose is to:

- To promote the science of astronomy;
- By fostering astronomical education;
- By providing incentives for astronomical observation and research
- By assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.

OK, so what does this do for me?

The AL provides the following material to each member of Member Societies.

A three ring BINDER filled with astronomically related reference material (more later)

- A Guide to the Messier Objects
- Subscription to *The Reflector*, a quarterly magazine
- Awards of Observing Certificates and Recognition Pins
- Voting Privileges
- National and Regional Conventions
- 10% discount on Astronomy related books.

THE BINDER contains the following material

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Astro Notes

Astronomical League Services and Benefits for members

Field Instructions of a technical nature such as:

Polar Alignment, Use of Setting Circles, Purchasing a Telescope

Reporting a Discovery, Basic Astro Data, Astrophotography, and more

Forms for recording your observing

Pronunciation Guides

Club related organizational material

Observing Programs - you receive certificates and pins for completion of the following observation lists:

Messier Objects, Binocular Messier, Caldwell Objects, Herschel 400,

Deep Sky & Deep Sky Binocular, Comet & Meteor, Lunar & Sun Spotter

Planetary Observer, and others.

This is a lot of material, support and award opportunities for each member for \$7.50 per year.

I think this is something we should do. Virtually every Society in Indiana is a member and I I am proud to say we have joined them.

The Pres

The Kirkwood Observatory

IU's Kirkwood Observatory Open for 2007

IU's historic Kirkwood Observatory has reopened for the 2007 season. The Observatory houses a 12" refractor built by Warner & Swasey in 1901. The f/15 doublet objective lens, designed for work on visual binaries, was made by John Brashear and produces excellent images when the seeing is good. The Observatory was renovated in 2001 and restored to its original condition, including a massive wooden dome. William Kopp, a machinist in the IU Astronomy Department, refurbished the telescope itself. More information about the Observatory is available on the Web at http://www.astro.indiana.edu/kirk_sch.shtml.

The Observatory is open each clear Wednesday night from now through mid-November. The hours are posted on the Web at http://www.astro.indiana.edu/kirk_sch.shtml, and a new "hotline" is available with current information about weather conditions. Call 812 855-7736 to find out if the Observatory will be open before driving to Bloomington.

The Observatory is located in Dunn's Woods, near the southwest corner of the IU campus in Bloomington. A campus map is available on the web at <http://www.iub.edu/~iubmap/>. Parking is available after 5 PM in the IU lot at the southwest corner of Indiana Ave. and 4th Street.

New Moon Observing and Public Event at McCloud July 13

Our next New Moon event is at McCloud on July 13. We had a great event in June with 8 members and about 23 McCloud visitors. This is also a public event so we need to have scopes available for them to look through. Careful about parking we do not want to tear up the grass. Come out and enjoy the Indiana night skies.

The Pres

Space Exhibit at the State Museum June 23 – Summer Solstice Event

Well the outside solar observing was a bust. It had not rained in several weeks but decided to do it on the 23rd. Gerald said we had a good turnout for the booth inside.



NAG July 21 7:30 PM at Link

The next monthly meeting of the Indiana Astronomical Society's New Astronomers Group for 2007 will be held on July 21 at Goethe Link Observatory starting at 7:30 pm. Weather permitting there will be an observing session using IAS member's telescopes and binoculars following the meeting. *Note that we have changed the night to the Saturday closest to the 1st Quarter Moon and the start time is still 7:30.*

The next monthly meeting of the Indiana Astronomical Society's New Astronomers Group for 2007 will be held on July 21 at Goethe Link Observatory starting at 7:30 pm. Weather permitting there will be an observing session using IAS member's telescopes and binoculars following the meeting.

THE NAG MEETING WILL BE HELD - RAIN OR SHINE.

Topics for this month:

- Observing the Late July/Early August evening sky
 - Reading a Star Chart
 - The Summer Pointer Stars
 - The Summer Triangle
 - Our Solar System
 - The Deep Sky – Sagittarius (The Tea Pot)
 - M8 – Lagoon Nebula
 - M17 – Omega Nebula
 - M20 – Trifid Nebula
 - M21 – Open Cluster
 - M22 – Globular Cluster
 - M23 – Open Cluster
 - M25 - Open Cluster
 - M55 – Globular Cluster

- Celestial Fireworks – Meteor Showers
- A Beginners Introduction to the Telescope
- Question and answer session

The purpose and intent of the NAG is to introduce new astronomers to observing the night sky. All types of observing will be discussed including naked eye, binocular and telescope.

If the weather cooperates, following the meeting, IAS members will have telescopes set up and attendees will have an opportunity to view some of the night sky objects discussed during the meeting.

August 18
Sept 22

IU Astro e- Bulletin

The IU Astronomy Department has started a new 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.

Gadgets and Gizmos

This is a new section to discuss new equipment. If you see something or have a new gadget let me know and we will get an article about it.

Astro Gizmo's (www.astrogizmos.com) is a relatively new vendor that is working hard to provide a lot of unique equipment. One of their new items is their Stargazer portable observatory. It is built on the design of the old sky tent except the tubing is aluminum. It is advertised to be set up in 30 minutes and breaks down to two bags. The material is waterproof and light proof. I had a sky tent once and really liked it but could not fit my refractors nor my dob in it. They are 10 feet

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in diameter and 10 feet tall. Perfect for a Schmidt. Price right now is \$2100 which is \$1000 less than the old sky tent. And the good news is that they have them in stock.

Check their website out.

Meet Our New Members

Seek out new members out and see if you can help them out.

Paul Morrow Carmel, IN

Greg Hazard 888 Greenwood, IN

Stephen Brown

The Society wants to welcome each of you and if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

The Pres

Mentor Program

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 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.

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Wolford/Mitchell Star Party - July 13-14 Dates --- We are planning on the new moon weekend in July. That would be Friday, and Saturday nights, July 13th and 14th. I have had one couple ask if adding Thursday night would be possible. Send me an e-mail if you are interested. Perhaps we can extend the rent of one of the campgrounds a night earlier if there is enough interest. Even if we don't get enough interest to warrant renting the entire campground for an extra night, keep in mind that it is a state park and individual campers are welcome! (Sandy and I may go on over on Thursday --- don't know yet.)

The site --- Jim Edgar Panther Creek is where the Illinois Dark Skies star party is held. Several of us were there last year and the sky appeared pretty good --- in between the tornadoes that were passing through!

The campgrounds --- we have rented two entire campgrounds in order to better control the possibility any stray light. There is PLENTY of space for everybody! The campground host will not allow any wheeled vehicles to be parked in the grass. Cars and RV's will have to remain on the parking areas.

Cost --- Hey, Danny and I are going (along with Debbie and Sandy, of course), if you want to come and join us --- come on!!! We "might" pass the hat in case you've got an extra buck or two to toss in. We don't want to make any money folks we just LOVE to share the dark skies!!!

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Agenda --- none! I REALLY just want to go out and have a great weekend with a bunch of friends. Just pack a bit of common sense, a dab of star party etiquette, and a huge desire to have a great time, and come on over!!!

Address any questions or comments to me at: mike@mikewolford.com

Nebraska Star Party - July 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 or set up a chair in the lake. There have been some changes this year and all observing 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 this year. The classes and the exhibitors are in Valentine. The speakers are on Wednesday this year in Valentine. <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 Aug 10-12
<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/starparty/>

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

Astrofest Vana Farms, Kankakee, IL. September 6-9
<http://www.chicagoastro.org/>

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

Illinois Dark Skies Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Park, IL. September 13-16
<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
This is supposed to be one of the darkest sites in the US. <http://www.okie-tex.com/>

Eldorado Star Party – Eldorado , Tx (South Central) -October 10-13, 2007

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

Public Outreach Programs

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.

The season is coming upon us. We need people to help at Link and elsewhere. It is actually a lot of fun.

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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.

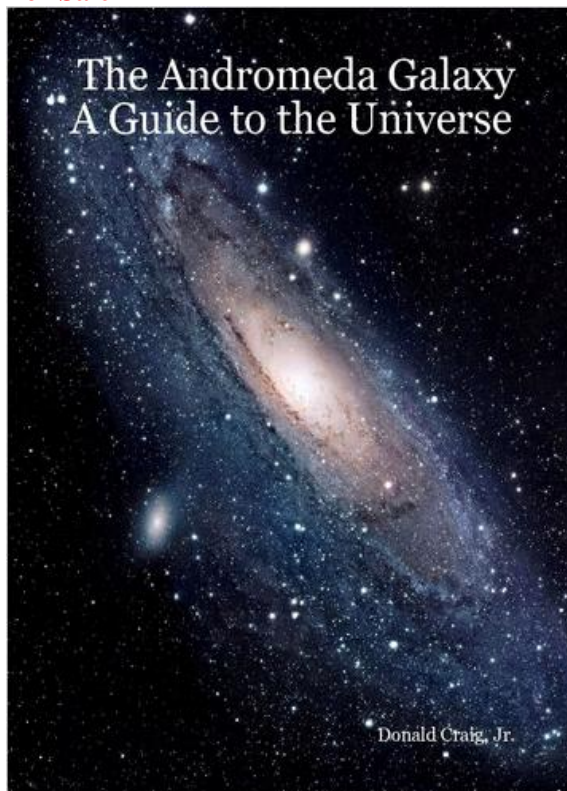
Greenwood, IN 46143

(317) 882-8055

E-Mail: KB9SRB@Hotmail.com

For Sale – Celestron 4" F5 acromat OTA. Excellent shape \$200.00. I bought the scope new as a finder scope but just don't use it. Jeff Patterson kb9srb@hotmail.com

For Sale



A small mist of light, known for centuries, has opened up our Universe.

At last, here is the complete story of the Andromeda Galaxy, written for the amateur astronomer, by an amateur astronomer.

Read about the early history as well as the latest research findings from observatories and universities around the world, written and assembled in a two-year effort by Donald Craig, Jr. in Indianapolis, Indiana.

You will see stunning astrophotographs covering the entire electromagnetic spectrum from the HST, GALEX, SPITZER, CHANDRA, RadioGBT, XMM-NEWTON, and beautiful color photographs from many well –known astrophotographers.

The book has ninety-six, 8 ½ “ X 11” pages written in a natural, informative style with guidance for the amateur astronomer.

It's available in both paperback (\$25.99) and hardback (\$36.41) editions at:
<http://stores.lulu.com/andromeda>

For Sale – Astro-Physics 400 German Equatorial Mount

Near new condition. Used less than a dozen times.

9 lb. Stainless Steel Counterweight
6 lb. Stainless Steel Counterweight
Wooden AP case
Encoders
NGC-MAX DSC Computer

\$1995

Contact: Jim Rinehart 317-881-3475 or jrine33@comcast.net

Onions and Orchids

Folks we need to really thank Bill Conner for his researching out the requirements for membership in the Astronomical League.

Thanks to John Shepherd for getting the databases to A/L. He did not have much time to get it done.

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.

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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) 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 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.

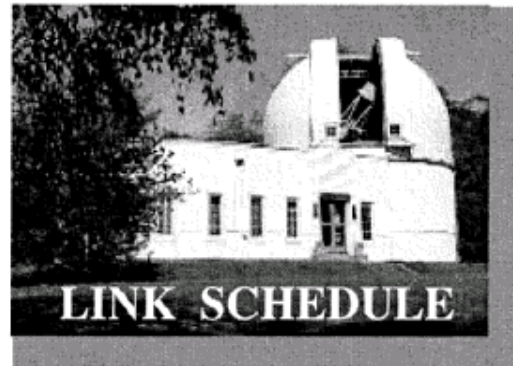
Board Meeting – July 19, 2007 - 7:00 PM

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**



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 July:

- July 14 General Meeting
- July 14 New Moon at Link
- July 21 NAG – 7:30PM
- July 28 Observer's meeting at Link

McCloud Activities for July:

- July 13 New Moon and public observing event

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.

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) 882-8055

KB9SRB@hotmail.com

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 1 317 826-2680

Library Committee Chairman

Larry Marcus marcus@mwmacoustics.com 317 842-6658

July Calendar, 2007

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

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* 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.