



# The Bulletin

## **The June General Meeting, June 10, 7:00 PM Goethe Link Observatory**

### **A New Window on the Extremes of Nature**

**Prof. John P. Finley  
Dept. of Physics  
Purdue University**

The past fifteen years have been a golden age in the field of gamma-ray astronomy. Space based observatories such as the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory (CGRO) and the, soon to be launched, Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST) have opened the 30 MeV to 100 GeV energy domain to scientific investigation. In parallel, ground based gamma-ray astronomy, pioneered by the Whipple collaborations 10 m imaging telescope, has revealed that the night sky is alive with astrophysical objects emitting photons in the 100 GeV to 10 TeV energy domain. At these energy scales the instruments are probing the most energetic processes in the Universe involving compact objects, neutron stars and black holes, and large scale particle acceleration in astrophysical outflows. In this talk, I will describe the techniques used in ground based gamma-ray astronomy and briefly review some of the scientific highlights. I hope to motivate the need for the next generation instrument, the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS), that is currently under construction in southern Arizona.

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### **New Moon Meeting at McCloud**

We are in the process of setting up a second meeting each month at McCloud where we can be there at New Moon as well as the NAG public night. I need to pick the dates and also get permission from the park board.

*The Pres*

## **New Astronomer's Group Meeting at McCloud**

### **THE NAG MEETING WILL BE HELD, RAIN OR SHINE.**

The next meeting of the IAS New Astronomers Group for 2006 will be held on June 2 at McCloud Nature Center starting at 7:30 pm, just prior to the McCloud Friday Night Observing session. *Note that we have changed the night to the Friday closest to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon and the start time is now 7:30.*

#### **Topics for this month:**

- Observing the June evening sky
  - Reading a Star Chart
  - The Late Spring / Early Summer Pointer Stars and Constellations
  - Our Solar System
  - The Deep Sky
    - Alberio – A Colorful Double Star
    - The Coathanger – An Asterism
    - Epsilon Lyrae – The Double Double
    - M13 – Globular Cluster
    - M57 – Planetary Nebula
- Our Closest Neighbor - The Moon
- 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.

Members we need to have sufficient scopes to allow the public to observe. Come on out.

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### **Need a Volunteer to Convert a Loaner Scope**

The Board has decided to convert the 10" Newtonian which was donated to the Society from the cumbersome fork mount to a Dobsonian mount so that we can use it in the Loaner Program. What it would entail is to build a rocker box and bearings for the scope. Is there anyone in the Society who has the woodworking skills to take on this project? The Society will pay the expense for the materials. The scope is a wooden scope and the rocker box probably should match as best can be done. If you have interest in this project, please contact Jeff Patterson at [kb9srb@hotmail.com](mailto:kb9srb@hotmail.com) or John Molt at [1stargazer@indy.rr.com](mailto:1stargazer@indy.rr.com).

## **Help Your RV Refrigerator Stay Colder**

*By John Molt*

During hot weather RV refrigerators just don't keep food safely cold enough, I found something that helps. Measure the inside of your refrigerator and obtain a small (Rubbermaid?) trashcan that with some cutting, will fit into the fridge. Set a bag or blocks of ice in the bottom of the trashcan then other items atop and place into the already cooled refrigerator.

When you need something, just take the whole thing out and close the door to retain as much cool as possible.

Feel better about your food!

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## **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.

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## **Observer's Meeting at Link to Float to be near New Moon**

The Board has decided to float the date of the Observer's Meeting to be closer to the new moon. So you will have to watch the Bulletin. This should facilitate observing at the Link. In addition the Board is considering having a New Moon meeting at McCloud to utilize our dark site as well. More to come on this as we get permission from McCloud.

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### IAS Clothing Sale

Gerald reported we sold \$296 worth of clothing at last month's general meeting. Find below the list of items left. See Gerald if you want something. The Board is considering whether to reorder items at this time.

### IAS Clothing Inventory

Description	Quantity	Unit Price
<b>T-Shirt</b>		
Blue - Small	2	\$5.00
Navy - Small	2	\$5.00
Navy - Medium	3	\$10.00
<b>Sweat Shirt - Small Logo</b>		
Blue - Large	1	\$30.00
Blue - XLarge	1	\$30.00
Blue - 2XLarge	1	\$30.00
<b>Sweat Shirt - Large Logo</b>		
Blue - Medium	5	\$20.00
Blue - Large	10	\$20.00
Blue - XLarge	6	\$20.00
Blue - 2XLarge	3	\$20.00
Gray - Medium	6	\$20.00
Gray - Large	2	\$20.00
Gray - XLarge	1	\$20.00
<b>Lined Jacket - Small Logo</b>		
Blue - 3XLarge	3	\$32.00
<b>Baseball Cap</b>		
Blue	5	\$8.00

## **2006 McCloud Schedule**

The New Astronomers Group held from April thru September is designed with the beginning amateur astronomer in mind. Meetings start at 7:00 pm on the Friday closest to the 1st Quarter Moon (see schedule below). Emphasis is on actual observing to help beginners find their way around the night sky and, in particular, how to find those faint but interesting objects such as planets, galaxies and nebulae of all kinds. In addition to discussing the night sky for the current month, a selected topic of interest to the beginning astronomer will be covered. The currently scheduled selected topics for 2006 are:

April 7 Telescopes, binoculars and other viewing aids

May 5 Resources on Internet for the beginning astronomer

June 2 Our closest neighbor, the Moon

June 30 The Beginners Year around Observing Planner The Messier List

July 28 Celestial Fireworks Meteor Showers

September 1 Autumns Finest Double Stars

September 29 To Be Determined

All sessions are taught by experienced IAS members. If weather conditions permit, observing through IAS members telescopes and binoculars will be available for attendees following the meeting. As this is first quarter time the moon will set early and members can do deep sky observing the remainder of the night.

*John Switzer*

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## **Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations**

**Apollo Rendezvous** Dayton Ohio, June 16 - 17. Boonshoft Museum of Discovery Dayton , Ohio  
Speakers include Al Nader, David Eicher (Astronomy Magazine), Terry Mann, and Tom Trusock.  
[www.mvas.org](http://www.mvas.org), Star party is at John Byran State Park Observatory in Yellow Springs, OH

**Heart of America MO** Jun 22-25 - 530 miles 9 hour drive  
<http://www.askconline.org/dsstarparty.pdf>

**Cherry Springs Star Party**, June 22-26, Cherry Springs State Park near Caudersport, Pa.  
[www.cherrysprings.org](http://www.cherrysprings.org)

**Nebraska Star Party** North Central Nebraska Jul 23-28 - 950 miles 18 hour drive  
<http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

**Black Forest Star Party PA** Aug 25-27 600 miles 11 hour drive <http://www.bfsp.org/starparty/>

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**Indiana Family Star Party** – Camp Cullum near Frankfort August 18-20 – 50 miles  
<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/starparty/>

**Okie-Tex Star Party** Western Oklahoma September 16th - September 24th , 2006  
<http://www.okie-tex.com>

**Illinois Dark Skies** IL Sep 21-23 225 miles 5 hour drive <http://www.sas-sky.org/main.htm>

**Astrofest** Sept 21-24 Kankakee , IL 4 hour drive <http://www.chicagoastro.org/> In the past this has been a premier party with lots of vendors. Lately they have had some organizational problems and last year many vendors did not come.

**Prairie Skies Star Party** Kankakee, IL Sep 28-30 175 miles 4 hour drive  
<http://www.prairieskies.org/>

**Twin Lakes Star Party** KY Oct 14-21 225 miles 5 hour drive <http://www.wkaa.net/>

**McCloud Under The Stars** (MUTS) will happen one weekend of September.

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

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### **Local School Events and Star Parties**

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.

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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. 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

None this month

## **Loaner Equipment Program**

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.

Following is a list of equipment currently available through the IAS Equipment Loan Program. Members in good standing are eligible to use loanable equipment for about 30 days. Telescopes usually include an eyepiece or 2 (depending availability).

Scopes available:

6" Reflector on equatorial mount (tracks objects)

13" Dobsonian

10" Newtonian on fork mount

40 mm Plossl eyepiece (1¼")

(More 6" reflector telescopes and a pair of binoculars will be available fairly soon as well)

John Molt ([1stargazer@indy.rr.com](mailto:1stargazer@indy.rr.com)) or 317-844-1799)

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## **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.

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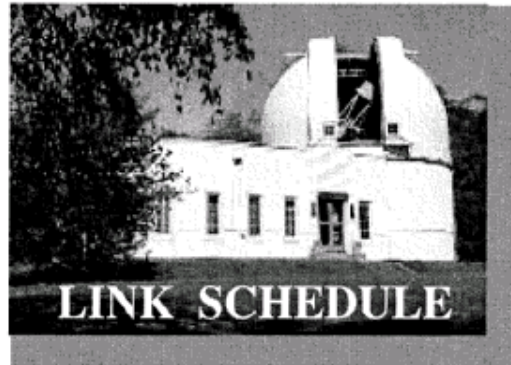
## **Board Meeting – June 15, 2006 - 7:00 PM**

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

## 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.*

## 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 June:

General Meeting – June 10  
Observer's Meeting – June 24  
Link Training – June 24

## McCloud Activities for May:

Beginners Astronomy June 2  
Public observing June 2

## 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.



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For those interested in going to McCloud to observe, please call the caretaker Cecil Rich at 765 366-3235 before 5PM on the day you want to go out.

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### **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)

### **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 (2006)

Gerald Venne (2006)

Thad Hatchett (2007)

Doug Brown (2007)

Bill Conner (2007)

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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 [ecottol@comcast.net](mailto:ecottol@comcast.net)

**June Calendar, 2006**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
				1	2 NAG McCloud Park	3  First Qtr Moon
4	5	6	7	8	9 McCloud NAG Observing at McCloud	10  General Meeting Link
11  Full Moon	12	13	14	15  Board Meeting	16	17
18  Last Qtr Moon	19	20	21	22	23	24 New Moon Meeting at Link Observers Meeting at Link
25  New Moon	26	27	28	29	30	

## 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.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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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

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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.