

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

March, 2005
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The Bulletin

**The March General Meeting, March 12, 7:00 PM Butler's
Holcomb Observatory**

**"Why We Are Certain Some Meteorites Are From The Moon And Some
From Mars" and General Meteorite Information.**

Al Mitterling

Have you ever wondered how we know that specific meteorites come from the Moon or Mars and are not just plain old Earth rocks from the stream out back? Come to our general meeting on March 12 and find out that these "rocks" are truly not from Earth.

Al Mitterling was a founding member of the Warsaw Astronomical Society which formed in October of 1980. He was first Observatory Director of the Warsaw/Camp Crosley Observatory. This was the largest telescope and observatory facility in Northern Indiana for over a

decade and a half. He has owned and operated his own backyard observatory from 1973 to present. Al has attended one Apollo Launch (17) and six Shuttle Launches as a science writer and reporter. He has toured many world famous Observatories such as, Kitt Peak, Cera Tololo, Chile, Lowell Observatory, Mt. Palomar and McDonald Observatories. Al has written a number of articles for Astronomy Magazine as well as Meteorite Magazine. He currently collects meteorites and have been in the business of selling meteorites for now over 17 years.

Messier Marathon March 5, Link Observatory (April 2 is the rain date)

We will have our Messier Marathon at the Goethe Link Observatory March 5. Gates open at 6PM. Go to the website to get a copy of the Marathon sequence. There will be awards for the most objects observed by binoculars, regular telescopes and

computerized telescopes. If you do not have a scope partner up with someone and work as a team. Remember to get to the observing area behind the observatory enter at the north gate. See you at the Link.

Observer's Corner

This is that time of year when we start thinking of two things. 1) When is this weather going to improve and I can get out of the house and observe and 2) The Messier Marathon. For those of you new to astronomy, annually around March the night sky is such that one can begin early in the evening and work diligently all night and observe all of the Messier objects in one session. That is why they call it a Marathon. One has to really be lucky and work fast to get all 110 objects in. You have to know the rise and set sequence of each of the objects. There is a list on the IAS website that lists the sequence in which one can work to get them all in one session. Well here in Indiana we

have a little more of a task. 1) At the Link you have no horizon in any direction so you are limited with the objects setting too early or rising too late. 2) The light pollution limits us as well. But we try to get as many as we can. The 5th of March we will hold a competition to see how many objects we can see (weather permitting). You can use binoculars, or telescopes. Awards will be given to those who observe the most objects. To make it more fair there will be categories for binoculars and telescopes with and without setting circles. If you do not have a telescope or need help, partner up with someone. This a really fun event. Keep your fingers crossed for the weather.

New Astronomer's Group McCloud Nature Center 7:00 pm - April 8

THE NAG MEETING WILL BE HELD, RAIN OR SHINE.

The first monthly meeting of the IAS New Astronomers Group for 2005 will be held on April 8 at McCloud Nature Center starting at 7:00 pm, just prior to the McCloud Friday Night Observing session.

Topics for this month:

- Observing the April Evening Sky
- Binoculars, telescopes and other observing aids
- Question and answer session

The purpose and intent of the NAG is to introduce the new astronomer 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.

The night sky can be an intimidating place. With a little help everyone can enjoy the celestial beauty that we have all taken for granted our whole lives. From the constellations to the deep sky; with the naked eye or with a telescope, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

McCloud Public Night and Observing Session – April 8

The first McCloud public night and observing session of the year will be April 8, 2005. This will be a public event and we need as many telescopes as we can get there. In addition this is very near New Moon so we can stay

and do our own observing as long as we want to. Observing will begin about 7:00 PM. The Park Board has given us permission to build 6-8 powered concrete pads for observing purposes. We will be construction of those this Spring.

IAS Sponsored Explorer Post – We still need volunteer help!!

I have the privilege assisting Eli Lilly and Company sponsor seven career Explorer Posts (A branch of the Boy Scouts of America) and working with the Central Scout Headquarters for the past 11 years. One of the tasks I performed was managing the 30,000+ name database of Central Indiana students from the ages of 14 to 18 years who have career interests from A to Z. The object of the database is to select students who have career interests in specific areas and offer them an invitation to become affiliated with one of the career-focused Explorer Posts. It is the hope that through practical experience the students can learn and make an educated decision a particular career path is right for them before they pursued that career path in College.

It has been a focus for the Indiana Astronomical Society to provide a learning environment or an educational outreach for schools, organizations as well as individuals it comes in contact. I did a search of those students who had an interest in Astronomy or Space just for curiosity. I was pleasantly surprised to find a list of 70 names. I began a discussion with the Scout Headquarters to see if there was an Explorer Post who focused on astronomy. Again to my surprise there were

Article by John Shepherd

Winter Star Party a Great Success

Seven of us made the annual sojourn to Summerland Key for the Winter Star Party. This is a super place to go in February to get out of the winter weather. It is not the darkest place I have been but the skies are notoriously steady as a rock looking out over the ocean. I had not seriously observed since October. I got in six good nights of observing. The weather was good as usual but a little cool with days being in the 70's and the nights in the 50-60's. It was a little windy but that is usual. We either cuss the wind but if it is still the dew runs off the equipment like a river. WSP is not a place to go without dew heaters.

no Posts with that emphasis. At the McCloud Star Party I asked if I could have some time at one of the Board's meeting to discuss the possibility of the Society sponsoring an Astronomy Explorer Post.

At the October Board Meeting representatives from the Indiana Central Scout Headquarters and I presented the concept of the Society sponsoring an Astronomy Post for future consideration and discussion. After subsequent discussions and review of responsibilities the Board has granted permission to pursue the needed resources to begin an Astronomy Post sponsored by the Society.

Resource. We are looking for individuals who would be interested in assisting with this effort. Deep astronomy knowledge is not required just the willingness to share the truly amazing facts and sights above. There will be some training provided by Scout Headquarters for those who wish to assist. If you are interested in assisting and wish to find out more please contact me at jshepherd25@comcast.net or give me a call at 317-997-3904.

Bill got some good pictures of the southern objects. The lectures were interesting and it is nice to sit down in the evening and have a cup of chocolate and discuss eyepieces with "Uncle Al". That is the fun of a star party. We were pretty lucky in the door prize give away and I even sold a telescope in the flea market. The vendors were fun as well. John even got a new toy. Ask him about it next time you see him. Chris also went scuba diving on the reefs off the Keyes and Angie had fun petting dolphins. As you can see there are a lot of things to do. I truly

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recommend this one to you as a fun party.

Takes about 10 days to do it though.



Tough Winter weather!!
The Pres

KENTUCKIANA STAR GAZE AND MESSIER MARATHON PARTY

**March 10-13, 2005 Taylorsville Lake State Park
Taylorsville, Kentucky**

The **Louisville Astronomical Society** will be hosting the **Kentuckiana Star Gaze and Messier Marathon Party** at Taylorsville Lake State Park just 30 minutes from Louisville March 10-13, 2005. This first-ever star party for the society is located only minutes away from Kentucky's finest attractions and sight-seeing. Taylorsville Lake State Park is a small Kentucky State Park around a 3,050 acre lake and we will have the park and its facilities all to ourselves. The park

manager has worked with our friends in the Western Kentucky Amateur Astronomers at Pennyriple State Park, so he is enthusiastic about having a star party at the park. Park management will turn off all the campground security lights at night to give us a view of the dark Kentucky skies above. Registration costs are only \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Camping at the sites with electricity is \$10.00 per site per night camping fee for

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an unlimited amount of persons per site. Basic campsites are \$3.00 per night. All Camping fees are payable directly to the park. T-shirts will be available at a cost of \$18/shirt.

The members of the **Louisville Astronomical Society** are looking forward to hosting you. Pat Peak, a

survivor of many star parties, will be chairing the event with many of our club members helping. So, ya'll come! Our skies are yours and we have a great site and facilities. Now all we need is you! See you at the **First Annual Kentuckiana Star Gaze and Messier Marathon Party March 10-13, 2005.**

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

KENTUCKIANA STAR GAZE AND MESSIER MARATHON PARTY - March 10-13, 2005
Taylorsville Lake State Park Taylorsville, Kentucky See the web page for registration information. Also information at <http://www.Louisville-astro.org>

Niagfest GreatCon 2005 – April 22-23 – This is a great two day event for those who want to try a close party. See the Warsaw Astronomical Society Webpage for details.
<http://clubs.kconline.com/was/>

Apollo Rendezvous & Telescope Fair - June ? To be announced Dayton, Ohio

Nebraska Star Party - The 12th Annual Nebraska Star Party will be held the week of July 31st to August 5th, 2005 at Merritt Reservoir, 27 miles south of Valentine, Nebraska. This is an excellent dark sky party. It is approximately 900 miles from Indianapolis. <http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

Astrofest September 8-11 –Kankakee, Il. This is a good four day p[arty and has a great flea market.

Prairie Skies Star Party - September 29 through October 02, 2005. Kankakee, Illinois
www.prairieskies.org

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

Local School Events and Star Parties

Fishback Creek Elementary - It's that time of year again to start thinking about our Trimester 2 Sleepover event for the Job Corps workers at Fishback Creek. The kids were bitterly disappointed when it was cloudy last year, and they have been asking already if your team will be here! I figured I needed to get

on the ball and see if you and some of your friends can join us!

The event is Thursday, March 3 from 7:30--11:00 PM.

Set this date into your calendar as we will need as many scopes as possible.

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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 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: Celestron Nexstar 11 Brand New with 6 eyepieces, barlow, and 7 filters in Celestron case; dew cap; original boxes \$2,899.00 L.D. Reuter 812-988-7571(06/05)

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

For Sale: Celestron 6" F5 Newtonian on Celestron SP equatorial mount. Dual axis drives and polar alignment scope. All in good condition. \$700.00 Jeff Patterson jmpr@Iquest.net 6/05

For Sale: Celestron 20X80 Binoculars In good condition. \$250.00 Jeff Patterson jmpr@Iquest.net 6/05

For Sale: Blaho Binoculars mount In good condition. \$200.00 Jeff Patterson jmpr@Iquest.net 6/05

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!

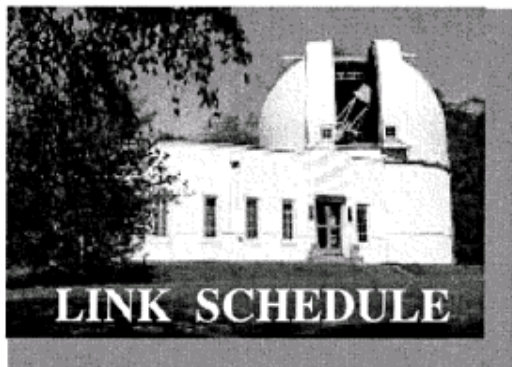
This service is our main communication tool. The list server is in the "Members Only" section of the site and is accessible only by IAS members. Make sure we have your correct e-mail and you will have access for late updates to events and functions.

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.

March Board Meeting – March 17, 2005 - 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 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 March:

Observing sessions - March 5 and March 26

New Moon Group – None this month*

Observer's Meeting – March 26

Link Training – March 26

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
lpastro@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

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Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006)
 Gerald Venne (2006)
 Thad Hatchett (2007)
 Doug Brown (2007)

Bill Conner (2007)
 Marion Hakes (2005)
 John Molt (2005)

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