

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

March, 2007
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www.iasindy.org

The Bulletin



The March General Meeting, March 10, 7:00 PM Holcomb Observatory at Butler University “Space, a Journey to our Future”

The exhibit provides a hands on opportunity to experience past and future explorations of space .March 3-September 16. In addition to the other displays, the IAS has agreed to man a booth April 13-14 for the Exhibit's Out of this World's Student and public festivals. We will be providing information about the Society and our hobby. June 23 we will man another booth for their Summer Solstice Celebration. Part of our activities will be to provide solar observing for the public. Thirdly we will participate in a public observing program at a date yet to be announced.

At our meeting a staff member of the Indiana Museum Staff will present more information concerning the exhibit.

Dr. Lisa Randal Speaks at Butler March 7 7:30 PM at Atherton Hall in the Reilly Room (This is the Union building).

Wednesday, March 7, 2007, Atherton Hall: Warped Passages, by Lisa Randall, professor of physics, Harvard University.

Dr. Randall will speak about her book, 'Warped Passages: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions.' The book takes up the topics of particle physics, string theory, brane worlds and extra dimensions in a way that is accessible and entertaining for a general audience.

Lunar Eclipse – March 3rd

The full moon will rise already fully eclipsed by the Earth's shadow. The eclipse ends by 9:25 so you will need to get on this one early. Good luck with the weather.

Astronomy Day Event at Prairie Grass Observatories – April 20-21

We are beginning to plan a joint WVAS/IAS astronomy day event at Camp Cullum in April. We can camp Friday and Saturday night at no charge. It will be a great time kind of in place of NIAG which most of us miss in the early Spring. We plan to invite the public and have a two night event. We need ideas as to how the event would go. If you have ideas contact me at KB9SRB@hotmail.com or 317 882-8055

Sad News

Dave Timmerman's wife Mary passed away after a long battle with cancer. Our prayers and best wishes go out to Dave and the family. Come back to us Dave. We miss you.

NAG Moves to Link

There have been some changes at McCloud in that the hanger has been torn down and there really is no place to have the New Astronomers Group meetings. So, we have decided to move the meeting to Link each month with observing afterwards if the weather permits. We will continue to have New Moon Friday events at McCloud with public observing in the early evening. John and Vicki Switzer will be leading the events again this year. However we need members help providing scopes after the program for observing. Come on out and help open the door to someone to learn to love this hobby.

The dates for the NAG events are as follows:

April 28
May 26
June 23
July 21
August 21
Sept 22

All meetings start at 7:30.

The Pres

Messier Marathon Walk Don't Run!

Our annual Messier Marathon will be held at McCloud Nature Park on March 16 and at the Link Observatory on March 17. The events start at dark. Gates at the Link open at 6 PM. There will be awards for those who obtain the most objects with categories for computer driven and non computer scopes. If you do not have a scope or don't feel confident, partner up with someone and have a ball. You can find a copy of the list and the order that is best to observe on the IAS members only site.

The Messier Marathon is an annual event in which we try to observe all the Messier objects in one evening. Messier took half his life to find them. March is the best time of the year to get them all as the nights are long and dark. There is a specific order to go in so that you get the early and late ones. But Walk Don't Run. Take the time to admire these wonders as well. At our sites we have problems with horizon so just be satisfied with as many as you can find.

Good Hunting

The Pres

Winter Star Party

Well the WSP can get mixed reviews this year. We did not get to observe all night any of the nights. We arrived in a downpour and looked like a good Indiana pig pen pretty quickly. I hope this is not a prelude of the parties this year. Second day, we unloaded and set up the scopes and met old friends. We then had a mixed observing schedule for the next couple of nights. We had a 12, 15, 18, 20, 25 and 30" Obsession telescope farm. Kreige would have been proud. Omega Centauri was as beautiful as ever. I tried to wake John Switzer up but only got a grunt. He did get a view the last night and I saw Eta Carina in my binoculars the last night. All in all, we had a good time and seeing was great at times but the humidity just poured off the scopes. It was a lot better than home however. We worked with one of our friends who had just had a new 30" Obsession delivered. That is an awesome telescope. Meade had one of their new 20" RCX scopes there and it is really cool. It is not your every day portable scope. Mount weighs in at 650#. Still sounds like a coffee grinder though. We were not real lucky with the door prizes as in the past. Chris Dietz did win a prize.

Get to Know Your Officers

Board of Directors – Thad Hatchett

Thad Hatchett was born and raised in Columbus, IN, and attended Columbus North High School. After High School he attended Purdue University where he studied Electrical Engineering.

In 1987 he joined the United States Navy serving for 6 years. While in the Navy he graduated the Navy Nuclear Power School in Orlando, FL, then went on to graduate from the Navy Nuclear Prototype School in Windsor, CT. He stayed on there as student instructor on the S1C reactor for six months awaiting deployment. From Connecticut he traveled to his duty station in Charleston, SC, aboard the ballistic nuclear submarine SSBN 628, the USS Tecumseh. The submarine actually sailed from Holy Loch, Scotland, with either the blue or gold crew flying back to Charleston. Ballistic crews typically served aboard ship for three months then in port for three months while the second crew took the boat out. This allowed the submarine to be "on station" for a greater portion of the year. His longest single deployment was 97 days from dive to surface. He served on the Tecumseh decommissioning crew in Bangor, WA, until leaving the Navy early in 1993.

Thad currently works for an electrical contractor doing Computer Aided Design work. He designs electrical and lighting distribution systems for factories and larger commercial stores. He then typically serves as electrical project coordinator for those projects. In 1996 he married Jennifer and together they have two children, Nathan is 6 and Anna is almost 2.

Thad's interest in Astronomy started early with a trip to the local planetarium at Columbus East High school with the cub scouts. Then while in High School a friend with a 10" dobsonian mount telescope showed him how much there was to see beyond the casual glance, and he was hooked. He joined the IAS in 1999 and has served on the Board of Directors ever since. He enjoys all forms of meetings and public outreach. He particularly enjoys the star parties and the friends you acquire there.

Board of Directors: John Molt

John is married to Angie, father of Bethany (16) and stepfather to J.D. (23). He is a self-employed arborist and past President of the Indianapolis Landscape Association.

John was born in Chicago, raised in Indianapolis and Carmel and a friend to nature, (mostly insects and small animals). He is not much of a sports enthusiast except for NASCAR and hockey – played until injuries were too frequent (early 40's). His father (Jack) has similar interests though with more passion and is also an arborist. His mom (Nancy) is a retired chaplain and minister in the United Methodist Church. His brother (Tom, wife and son) live in Bloomington, and the nature vein runs through them as well.

An observant and caring wife, Angie, awakened a passion within John like no other hobby before (much to her dismay - just kidding!). Angie noticed how often he glanced upward but never mentioned the interest. For Christmas in 2001 she surprised John with a small refractor. As soon as possible he went out in search of the moon. After that first night he wasn't able to get the moon and telescope to cooperate so the little (but now cherished) instrument was returned.

A web search that Holiday period revealed organizations with persons interested in astronomy too, and, much to his surprise there was a society meeting within a few miles of home! The Indiana Astronomical Society meeting being held at Holcomb Observatory a few weeks later changed his life to say the least. Many friendly faces that night for someone so new was welcoming (Thanks to Jeff, Brian, Gary and Ron that night).

Over the next few months nearly every event was attended by John at which he probably asked silly questions. Very good information was offered such as to reading, keep looking up and perhaps starting off with binoculars.

That spring John saw a galaxy that helped sway his decision – deep sky views with a 15" dobsonian would be the ultimate instrument forever (so he thought and exclaimed to his trusting wife). Eventually (11 months later) it arrived and was carted to Link, Holcomb, schools and parks and then a Star Party - AstroFest 2002 - John was hooked! Camping, late nights, astro stuff, food and door prizes! Since that time he's attended star parties in many locations near and far with his faithful friend Terry. Talking for hours of planning trips and adventures and even more hours traveling just talking astro stuff.

Part of one's dedication to any hobby or community lies in being of service to others - in John's case, Board Member, Equipment Loaner Program director and public events supporter. As each gives, we receive.

Meet Our New Members

We have new members to the Society. Seek them out and see if you can help them out.

Rick Baron	Decatur, IN
Gary Jackson	Indianapolis
Deepak Bhakta	Indianapolis
Rocio Carrasco	Indianapolis
Kevin Kyle	Edinburgh
Joel Trammell	Indianapolis
Eric Frantz	Indianapolis

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

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

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>

PGO/IAS Astronomy Day – Prairie Grass Observatories April 20-21 Camping is free.

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

Earth, Wind and Sky Star Party, Vana Farms, Kankakee, IL. May 9-13, 2007. This is to be a traditional star party plus exhibits, talks, and demonstrations in other science fields.
<http://www.chicagoastro.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>

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

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. 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 this year.

<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 Western Missouri 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.

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

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

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 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. I can send photos by email if you are interested.

For Sale – Losmandy G-11 Mount and tripod with adjustable legs with Losmandy DSC and polar scope. (Polar scope has a small chip that does not affect its function). Three counter weights and a case for the head are included. Everything works fine. I am just upgrading to a different mount. Includes a custom Bill Conner equipment and eyepiece holder. \$2100 contact Jeff Patterson KB9SRB@hotmail.com or 317 882-8055.

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) 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.

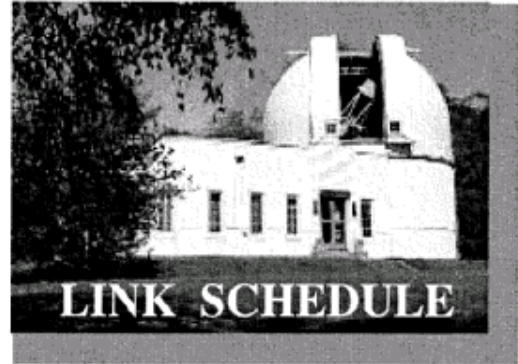
Board Meeting – March 15, 2007 - 7:00 PM

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 March:

March 17 New Moon and Messier Marathon event
March 24 Observer's meeting

McCloud Activities for March:

March 16 Messier Marathon and public observing event

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

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 5PM 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

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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

Ed Otto ecottol@comcast.net

March Calendar, 2007

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

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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.