

March 2009
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www.iasindy.org



The Bulletin

2009 International Year of Astronomy

**The March General Meeting, March 14, 2008 7:00 PM
Holcomb Observatory**

VINTAGE TELESCOPES

Jim Ehlers

My interest in Astronomy began at age 10 when I watched "Cosmos" by Carl Sagan. The series had a profound influence on my view of the Universe. By 13, I had built a small 4 inch reflector with the help of a local science store manager. The astronomy education I received from him was inspiring. This mentoring relationship gave me purpose to coordinate and restore the Albion College 8.25 inch Alvan Clark refractor, the Adrian College 6 inch GOTO refractor, and some smaller personal telescopes.

The talk will touch on the Albion College telescope restoration. This will be a slideshow for the most part, including photographs and articles as early as the late 1800s. If time allows, I'll also talk about brands of the 1950's to the early 1980's -- Cave, Unitron, Optical Craftsman, etc. I'll also bring along a few vintage Unitron items for show and tell. A Unitron photographic glass-plate camera specially manufactured for astrophotography, a Unihex rotary eyepiece holder, a Duetron multiple observing beam splitter, and a brass "weight drive" to drive the telescope in RA. All these items were produced during the 1950's to late 1970's.

Bio:

I'm not the real scientific type although it would appear that way from my scientific bent. Most of my interests are more emotional than practical. I enjoy astronomy for the camping aspect of being outside under the big sky. The stars and planets are part of a stellar clock that is consistent and comforting. Nostalgia is grounding because it gives perspective of time. My interests include astronomy, old tube radios, vintage stereo equipment, classic cars, music, clocks, antiques, and jukeboxes. I guess you could say I have a renaissance interest in all things. For those who like nostalgia they can check out my website @ www.vintagejukes.com



Jim with his 6in F12 AP Super Planetary Refractor

Anniversary Lapel Pins

If you did not receive your Anniversary pin please contact Vicki Switzer. If you want another, you can buy one from Vicki for \$5. If you want a pin mailed to you, contact Vicki and send her a check for \$7 made out to the Indiana Astronomical Society.

IAS Calendar of Events for March

March 14 - General Meeting at Holcomb Observatory

March 17 – Board Meeting

Winter Star Party

Well the 25th Anniversary WSP has come to a close. Ten members of the IAS “braved” the weather to get to West Summerland Key in southern Florida. Actually, this year it was a little cool. The days were in the 70’s and the nights in the low 60’s. One problem was that the clouds

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would begin to form around 1-2 am every night. So we were not able to get the really early morning observing that we are used to. Hey that is better than I have done here in Indiana this winter. I had not had the scopes out since October. Some mornings did clear but most of us were warmly tucked into our beds watching the objects on our eyelids. We still had a ball! Observing this time of year gave us about 11 hours of observing time and if cut in half it was still great. The comet was really magnificent and we were all amazed at how fast it was moving. Bill Conner noted that a star in the same field moved significantly during the short exposures. Secondly, Saturn without its rings was very interesting to watch. One early evening we noted that the crescent moon was about the same crescent of Venus, which was located just above the moon. It was gorgeous. The other problem was the wind. Bill had set up on the beach to see the low southern objects. However, he needed a couple of rocks in his pocket to stay upright and finally moved down with us away from the shore where we were more protected. The door prizes were really outstanding this year but none of us won anything. Terry and I noted that we really liked the Keys when we got to Macon when it had just snowed. Oh! Well! It is only about 50 weeks before next year's event. If you get a chance to go it is a lot of fun.

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Smokey Mountain Stargaze 2009 - Just outside Smokey Mountain National Park - TBD. This is a new party. Should be pretty that time of year.

<http://www.smokymtstargaze.com/index.php>

Tennessee Spring Star Party 2009 - Fall Creek Falls State Park April 24-26

<http://personal.bna.bellsouth.net/s/p/spsmith/default.htm>

Mid-South Stargaze April 22-25 The Observatory is one mile southeast of the Natchez Trace Parkway at French Camp. French Camp is about halfway between Jackson and Tupelo, Mississippi, at Natchez Trace mile marker 181. Mississippi

<http://www.rainwaterobservatory.org/stargaze/index.htm>

Apollo Rendezvous – Dayton, Ohio June 12-13,2009 <http://mvas.org>

Texas Star Party West Texas April 19-26, 2009. This is a premier party with very dark skies and a great site. Just a long way. Online registration will open November 15.

www.texasstarparty.org

Tennessee Spring Star Party – April 24-26, 2009

Indiana Astronomy Day (IAS/PGO) – April 24-26

<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/schedule.html>

JEPC Star Gazing Event IL May 21-24 Our requested dates for the 2009 JEPC Event has been confirmed! Come and join us for our 2009 Event May 21 – 24, 2009. Go ahead, mark your calendars now!!! As usual, we are only going to charge what the park charges us --- four dollars per person, per night. You simply can't spend less than that on a weekend outing!

<http://www.mikewolford.com/JEPC%20Event.htm>

Cherry Springs Star Party Cherry Springs State Park, PA June 18-21, 2009

<http://www.astrohbg.org/s4>

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Nebraska Star Party – July 19-24, 2009- North Central Nebraska - This is a premier dark site and has fantastic observing. However, the weather is brutal. Temperatures can reach 105-110 degrees. However you can cool off in the shade of the tree. All activities will be at the Snake Creek Campground again this year. (I wonder why they call it Snake Creek). No activities will be at the resort. <http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

EPOCH 2009 - The 21st Century Midwest Star Party July 21-26, 2009
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 July 23-26, 2009
<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/starparty/>

Black Forest Star Party PA September 18-20, 2009
<http://www.bfsp.org/starparty/>

Okie-Tex Star Party – September 12-20. This is reported as one of the darkest sites in the US. It is a great deep sky event.

Prairie Skies Star Party – September 19-20 Kankakee, IL

Heart of America Star Party MO October 15-18, 2009
<http://www.hoasp.org/>

Twin Lakes Star Party – October 15-18, 2009
This is an excellent star party located in western Kentucky. One not to miss
If you know of events coming up let me know and I will get them in the Bulletin

ALCor Observations by Bill Conner

THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE'S PLANETARY OBSERVERS CLUB

The Planetary Observers Club involves a list of twenty-seven selected projects designed to introduce you to the pleasures of planetary observing. Dark skies and moonless nights are not an impediment for any of the listed projects. You may want to consider joining the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, if you are intrigued by the listed projects. ALPO members regularly observe solar system objects and have contributed significantly to science.

Briefly, the projects are as follows:

SUN: Sunrise, Sunset, and Azimuth Position

MOON: Maria, Highlands, Crater Ages, Scarps and Occultations

MERCURY: Locate and observe once in the morning and once in the evening.

VENUS: Low Power Crescent, Daytime Observation, and Phases

MARS: Albedo Features, Retrograde Motion

ASTEROIDS: Course Plotting, Measuring their movement

JUPITER: The Great Red Spot, The Galilean Satellites, The Cloud Belts, Satellite Discovery, Satellite Shadow Transits, Satellite Transits, and Satellite Occultations/Eclipses

SATURN: The Rings, Cassini Division, Disk Markings, The Satellites (6 of the brightest)

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URANUS: Locating

NEPTUNE: Identifying

To qualify for the AL's Planetary Observers Club Certificate and Pin, you need to complete 25 of the 27 suggested projects. Record your observations on copies of Astro Note 3 – Observing Data Sheet and turn them in to the AL Awards Coordinator or an officer of the Society for review. Project details may be downloaded from the Astronomical League's web site at: www.astroleague.org I will be happy to provide hard copies to those who do not have web access.

Observer's Corner

Link Activities for March:

None planned

McCloud Activities for March–

None planned

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.

Membership Status

The following changes in membership took place in February:

Current Membership Total is 141

Renewals: 8

New student members:

January New Members: Were not reported in the February bulletin.

Greg Meade - Springville, IN

Phil Dimpelfeld - Columbus, IN

Jim Ehlers - Zionsville, IN

Seek out these new members and welcome them and see if there is anything they need.

February New Member - John Bush – Bargersville, IN

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Inactive status:

Christian Freitag
Greg Pfau
Therin Showalter
Bob Westwater

IAS LIBRARY:

Greg McCauley has volunteered to be the new librarian. The complete list can be found (<http://www.iasindy.org/memonly/iasfiles.php>, which is password protected). If you have comments or questions about the library please contact Greg at 317 663-3289 or greg@ultrasoundconsulting.net.

IU Kirkwood Observatory

The Observatory has closed for the winter. Please visit our schedule at http://www.astro.indiana.edu/kirk_sch.shtml, for a list of dates and times. For updated weather conditions and closings, please call the Kirkwood Observatory Hotline at (812) 855-7736.

The IU Astronomy Department has an 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.

Easy Listening:

Weekly pod casts are available at <http://www.astronomycast.com/> for those who love astronomy and want to learn, yet have no time (or desire) to do extra reading. They cover a variety of topics, and feature a different topic each week, so you can choose your flavor. The cast includes Fraser Cain, the publisher of Universe Today (<http://www.universetoday.com/>), and Dr. Pamela Gay, an assistant professor of physics at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. You do not need an iPod or portable device to enjoy these.

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.

Do you have a question or need?

We are establishing a list of members who would be willing to receive calls for help on specific objects. If you have a specific skill and would be willing to help others please contact Jeff Patterson KB9SRB@hotmail.com.

Based upon the responses we received to your intro question recently, perhaps we should add a section to the bulletin naming those members who would be willing to receive calls for help on specific subjects.

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William Conner (wmtconner@sbcglobal.net) - for CCD imaging and film photography.

Public Outreach Programs

Gerald Venne is our Public Events Coordinator. 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.

We need people to help at Link and elsewhere. It is actually a lot of fun.

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) 300-0449

E-Mail: KB9SRB@Hotmail.com

For Sale – **Takahashi FS-128** F/8.1 apochromatic refractor, Serial No: 01065. Excellent condition! I am the original owner, purchased 3/20/2002. The OTA has an upgraded Takahashi 10-to-1 Micro Edge Focuser and comes with a custom Scopeguard case (silver). \$3200.

If interested, I also have the following FS-128 accessories (not included with the OTA);

TAK Tube Holder

Takahashi 7x50 Finder Bracket

BT-Tak Quick Release

Takahashi 1.25" Diagonal

Kendricks (P-6010-A, Baader) Solar Filter (photographic)

Kendricks (6010, Baader) Solar Filter (visual)

Takahashi 2" Compression Ring Adapter

Takahashi 2" Threaded extension

Daniel Cervantes muddy@bluemarble.net or (812) 361-7746,

For Sale – Sony 21" Model G520 Graphics CRT. Excellent condition, manual, all cables, for \$15. Contact Fritz Kleinhans, Starman@iupui.edu or 317-290-1689 (cell).

Free astrophotography film to good home (or bad). I have dozens of rolls of Kodacolor Royal Gold 400 (red sensitive version) and LE 400 (red sensitive) color negative film. This film has been in the

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freezer since about 2001 and has expiration dates of about 2002-2003. Contact Fritz Kleinhans, Starman@iupui.edu or 317-290-1689 (cell).

For Sale - Lots of astronomy equipment

14" LX-200 GPS-SMT w/UHTC ,Peterson EZ Clutch & Buck's Gears.

Meade 14" Superwedge 07007

Meade DC Cord ETX/LXD/GPS 07043

14" AstroZap Dewcap

Meade 12mm MA rect w/cord 07065

Meade Giant Tripod, black 42-0100-03

Meade f3.3 CCD reducer 07567

Orion O-III Filter 1.25" 05581

Meade E/P, SP 26mm 1.25" Eyecup 07175-02

Meade 930: 2" Diagonal mirror UHTC 07223

Meade V/F, #554 8X50, Blue 8/10SC

Meade Focuser, Zero Image Shift 37-7280-00

Meade LPI, AutoStar Suite

Meade DSI, AutoStar Suite

2 ea. Meade DSI-Pro-II AutoStar Suite w/RGB Filters

Astronomical Image Processing Tutorials by Donald Waid

A Beginner's Guide to the Meade LX200GPS by AstroDude

Moon Atlas CD

Edmund Scientific Astroscan Telescope 4 1/4" Dia., 4 1/8" (105mm) f/4.2, 17 1/2" (445mm) F.L. parabolic, 1/8 wave, borosilicate, aluminized and overcoated

Edmund Scientific 28mm 1.25" Eye Piece

Note: AutoStar Suite Version 3.0 w/Drizzle is available on LPI, DSI & DSI Pro-II.

If interested call Bob Westwater at 317.332.9471

Onions and Orchids

Thanks to Angie Molt for snacks at the February General Meeting.

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.

Did you know you could 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 accessible only by IAS members. Being a member does **not** mean you are automatically entered into the "Members Only" section. If you are a new member, please go to the "Members Only" section and fill out an application.

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The Webmaster will set you up and notify you that you can get into the system. Make sure we have your correct e-mail and you will have access for late updates to events and functions. Unless you opt out for the List server, you will automatically have access to it when you are approved for the “members only” section.

Note: The list server is for use of Society business. It can only be used according to the rules as outlined previously. Basically it is used to communicate astronomical information to the general Society that would be unique. Please do not send out information from websites that we all generally subscribe to. Also please note: Do not add the list server address to your general address lists. Our problems have generally come from this when a member sends out mail to all their addressees. Members abusing the service will be eliminated from the service.

Board Meeting – Board Meeting March 17, 2008

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 entrance to the building is to the left of Starbucks around on the side. We meet in the basement. Ride the elevator (around the corner to your left) 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 on his cell phone 716-8124 or Jeff Patterson 317 506-0325.

General Meeting Dates 2008 and 2009

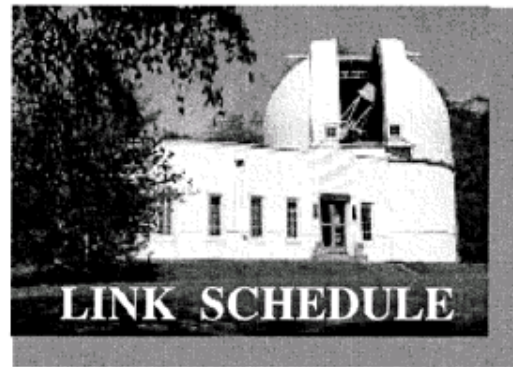
December 20 Christmas Party at Holcomb Observatory

	NAG	General	Board
January		17-Jan	19-Jan
February		14-Feb	17-Feb
March		14-Mar	17-Mar
April		18-Apr	21-Apr
May	2-May 30- May	16-May	19-May
June	27-Jun	13-Jun	16-Jun
July	25-Jul	11-Jul	14-Jul
August	22-Aug	8-Aug	11-Aug
September	26-Sep	12-Sep	15-Sep
October		10-Oct	13-Oct
November		7-Nov	10-Nov
December		12-Dec	15-Dec

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.*

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) 300-0449

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>

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Executive Officers

President: Jeff Patterson (317) 300-0449

Vice-President and Program Director: Doug Brown (317) 872-4050

Secretary: Betsy Brown 1-317-872-4050

Treasurer: John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2009)

Gerald Venne (2009)

Tom Borlik (2010)

John Switzer (2010)

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Greg McCauley (2011)

John Molt (2011)

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Gerald Venne gvenne@iquest.net 1 317 826-2680

Library Committee Coordinator

Greg McCauley greg@ultrasoundconsulting.net

Astronomical League Coordinator

Bill Conner wmtconner@sbcglobal.net 1-812 828-0449

Membership Coordinator

Vicki Switzer vswitzer42@verizon.net 1 812-835-2251

March Calendar, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1 st QTR ☾	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Full Moon ○	10	11	12	13	14 General Meeting at Butler
15	16 3 rd QTR ☾	17 Board Meeting	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 New Moon ●	25	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
- Membership in the Astronomical League
- 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 (\$30.00)	
Annual Student Membership (\$10.00)	
Astronomy Magazine Renewal (\$34.00)	
Sky and Telescope Magazine (\$33.00) (New Subscription)	
Total Enclosed	

Make checks payable to: The Indiana Astronomical Society, Inc

Please complete Member Profile and include with the application

Mail Application to:

Vicki Switzer Membership Coordinator
2115 N. Private Rd 50 E
Centerpoint, IN 47840

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.