

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

May, 2004  
Volume 71, Issue 5  
www.iasindy.org



# The Bulletin

**May General Meeting - May 8 7:00PM at the Goethe Link Observatory**

**The Cassini Project and Others**

**Lowell Bailey**

**Indiana Ambassador, JPL, Solar System Ambassadors Program**

In his presentation, Lowell will not concentrate on one mission, but will speak about the following missions: Stardust, Cassini, and the Spitzer Space Telescope.

Lowell is not an astronomer by trade, but more by proxy. He will explain that statement during his presentation.

Lowell has been a professional Geologist in the Anadarko Basin of Texas and Oklahoma, and been a Land and Construction Surveyor on projects in both Ohio and Indiana. He has taught for 19 years at various levels from grade 7 through community college, primarily Earth Science and Geology. He is the current Director of Morrow Observatory on the Bedford-North Lawrence High School campus, and opens the observatory to the public once per month and by scheduling groups, and is a member of the Stonebelt Stargazers. Lowell has been a JPL Solar System Ambassador since 1999, and has been interested in space all his life.

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## **General Meetings Move to the Link Observatory for the Summer**

Remember that we will move to the Link Observatory for General Meetings beginning May 8. Bring your scope as we will have general observing afterwards weather permitting.

## **Work Day At the Link - April 3 - Thanks to all who worked! I did not know the shed could look like that!**

Thanks to all that came out to work at the Link. It looks Fantastic!! And my understanding is the food was great as well. Thanks Angie. You had many compliments.

The back gate will now be open for entering the back area for observing. We have made the change to prevent the rutting of the front and side yards. On observing nights the back gate will be open. Be careful for a while if it is wet that area will really be slick.

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## **RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE!**

Through the efforts of Tom Borlik, Orion Telescopes & Binocular has generously donated a Barlow to the IAS. We will raffle this item off at the May meeting. The Barlow is a high-quality, three element optic which doubles the magnification of any eyepiece used with it. It's perfect for planetary and lunar observing. Details can be found at [www.telescope.com](http://www.telescope.com) (item#05121).

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## **Daffodils were Great**

Although there did not appear to be as many Daffodil folks as in years past we did have quite a few the three weekends that the gates were open. Thanks go out to Dan O'Brien, John May, Jeff Patterson, Doug and Betsy Brown, and Tom Borlik who opened the Observatory and gave tours to people after looking at the flowers. Many appeared to be very interested in the history of the Observatory and grounds.

*Jeff*

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## **IAS Concerns and Condolences**

**Bailey Neal** - Just to let you know a friend and member of the society has passed away. Bailey was going to be John Shephard's in the Messier Marathon but became too ill to participate. Here is what his Step Son sent. "My mother has asked me to notify you that Bailey passed away Sunday 4/11 at 5 PM at I.U. Hospital from complications due to reoccurring cancer. He passed peacefully without pain, with his family by his side." Our prayers go out to the family of Bailey.

**Bob Ault** - Bob was burned in a house fire recently and is recovering from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns on his hands and arms. Fortunately the family and pet escaped. However, many of their belongings were lost. Our prayers and concerns go out to Bob and we hope you will be back soon.

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## **Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations**

**Apollo Rendezvous** - June 11-12 Dayton Ohio

Please keep checking back for the registration forms and for additional activities and speakers as plans are being made. Send an email to: [rendezvous@mvas.org](mailto:rendezvous@mvas.org) with your name and mailing address, to have a registration flyer sent when it becomes available.

**Green Bank Star Quest** - July 8-11 in W. Virginia

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[caacwy.org](http://caacwy.org) or [KVAS.org](http://KVAS.org)

**Indiana Family Star Party** - August 13-15 WVAS has set the date for the annual star party at Prairie Grass Observatories. The IAS will be asked to help out again this year. I need a volunteer to run the IAS part as I will be out the month of August. More to come later.

**Patoka Lake** - July 10, 2004 It is time once again for the Annual "Stars on the Beach" Program at Patoka Lake. The time schedule will be the same as last year. There will be programs at the Newton-Stewart Nature Center During the day. These will be at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm. There will also be some solar scopes at the nature center from 1-4 pm. If there are enough solar telescopes, additional people will be stationed at the beach to show more people the sun. Around 4:30pm the Evansville Society will leave the nature center and head to town for lunch. Anyone interested should meet at the nature center between 4-4:30pm. Between 6-8 pm people can bring their scopes down to the beach and set up for the night time activities. An addition to the schedule this year will be a Constellation Tour. They will need for volunteers with green laser pointers and a good knowledge of constellations to help point them out to the crowds as we play the Constellation tour tape from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Evansville would love to have as many people from as many clubs as possible to come and help out. The crowds usually clear out by 10:30pm, and this gives astronomers a chance to observe together with reasonably dark skies. This is a reasonably dark site and presents a good opportunity to observe the summer objects. Hopefully we can have a good IAS turnout.

**Astrofest** - Kankakee, Il. - September 16, 17, 18 - This is a very good three day event with about a thousand astronomers. Beware, early registration is required. Walk-ins will be charged \$100/day per person. Get information off the Chicago Astronomical Society website. There is some concern about this star party this year as we have heard it is moving to a new site. I will keep you posted. Registration is about July.

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

*Jeff*

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## NIAGfest

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

We had a great time at NIAG this year. Best guess was there was 18 of us there. Friday night was clear and we observed virtually all night. Bill Conner imaged until his batteries died about 4:30 am. My body batteries died about 3AM. Saturday started out good with a very interesting talk about the Argus project. They are putting together a great observatory complex. The remaining talks were interesting as well. Thad and I were asked to judge the scopes and equipment entered in the contest. It began to cloud up and I began putting equipment away

The IAS did well in the Astro quiz. Thad said it was humbling. Christopher Hakes won First place in the Junior Astro Quiz. Karyn Hakes won 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Astro Quiz. Doug Sanquetti won First Place for color CCD Imaging and First Place overall for imaging. Bill Conner won Second Place for Color CCD Imaging - M33 The Pinwheel Galaxy and Second Place for Web Cam Imaging - Jupiter Marion Hakes won Second Place in regular sky photographs under 500 mm. Betsy Brown won a set of Celestron binoculars as a door prize. John Switzer and Marion Hakes won Meade ETX 90SLs as the grand prizes. Pretty good day for the IAS.

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### Public Events

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

One of more fun opportunities as a member of the IAS is to go to various public events and share our hobby with the public. More and more schools are asking for our help to participate in their astronomy events. We need you!! You don't have to be an expert; just willing to take time and show someone the wonders of the heavens. If you have interest, please contact Bill Conner or me.

We had a great event at Sunnyside with 11 telescopes and about 300 kids. The kids and parents were very interested. We also had a great Challenger Center event with 15 telescopes and about 400 people. Thanks to everyone who turned out. They were both very successful.

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### Messier Marathon Results

We had a good night on Saturday except for the wind. It was clear as a bell until about 12:30. However the thirty mile per hour wind made seeing faint and fuzzies really difficult. The second Saturday was pretty cloudy so not many objects were reported.

Results:

#### **Binoculars**

David Williams Binoculars and the Wilkens - 17 with Binoculars and 4 with the Wilkens  
Dan O'Brien 12x36 IS Binoculars - 17 objects  
John Kramer Celestron 10x50 binoculars - 9 objects  
Fritz Kleinhaus 6x30 IS Binoculars - 5 objects  
Jeff Patterson RB6x6 Binocular with setting circles - 30 objects

#### **Telescopes**

36" 23 objects and 3 planets  
Bernadette de Leon  
John and Vicky Switzer  
Bret Hanson  
Gary Schoppenhorst  
John Shepherd  
Thad Hatchett 8" Meade 31 objects  
Richard Pflum 8" Celestron Computer operated telescope - 13 objects

Well looks like Thad has won the overall number of objects again for the second straight year. Great job Thad. It is good to see folks interested in using binoculars. If there were others please let me know. Awards for various categories were presented at the April general meeting.

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### New Moon Group Travels to Prairie Grass Observatories - May 15

This month the New Moon Group meeting will be at Prairie Grass Observatories near Frankfort for their Comet Watch. Prairie Grass Observatories is a relatively dark site operated by the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society. There is a meeting there in the afternoon discussing the Indiana Family Star Party so we decided to make it an evening as well. See <http://www.indianastars.us/> for directions.

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### Observer's Corner

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

I still haven't had time to look for the Comet but it is time. This is the month. Comet C/2002 T7 (LINEAR) is approaching Earth and brightening every day. May 15 it will be near the Beehive

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(M44). May 19th is the date of closest approach (0.27 AU). At that time C/2002 T7 might glow brighter than a 1st magnitude star--easily seen with the unaided eye.

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### McCloud Nature Park - A Dark Site for Observing

**McCloud Park Observing For May 21, 2004 at 8:00 PM - weather permitting**

McCloud Nature Park is located in Hendricks County. It is 230 acres of Nature!!! The interpretive naturalist has requested that we come out for new moon and show the sky to the public.

It's only 30 miles from the intersection of I-465 and I-74 Off of SR-75. Curious? Come and join us on New Moon Friday.

Call, or e-mail Mike Wolford for further information. 317 445-2173 e-mail: [mwolford@crtc.com](mailto:mwolford@crtc.com)

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### New Astronomers Group "Binocular Astronomy and Other Urban Challenges"

**This Months Program will be held May 22 at 7PM at the Link. Note if weather is bad call John May to confirm the program will be presented.**

*Article submitted by J. Philip May*

The New Astronomers Group (NAG) is a program designed to teach the novice amateur astronomer and even for those experienced astronomers who may want a refresher course in the basics of astronomy. The NAG meets in the early evening of the 4th Saturday of every month at the Goethe Link Observatory. The classes start at 7pm in the Link auditorium. During the winter months, if the snow is deep and/or the temperatures have dropped considerably below freezing, the event will be canceled. To confirm program schedules please contact J. Philip May, the NAG program coordinator, at [motordrive@msn.com](mailto:motordrive@msn.com) or 317-831-8387. If any IAS member or new IAS member has a suggestion for a meeting topic, please contact Mr. May. Also, experienced IAS members are encouraged to participate as an instructor for any choice of the following NAG programs - please volunteer your time and expertise. This should be a fun event as well as being instructive for the novice astronomer.

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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.

To place an ad contact:

Bulletin Editor

Jeff Patterson

1780 S. Morgantown Rd.

Greenwood, IN 46143

317 882-8055

e-Mail: [JMPSR@Iquest.net](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net)

For Sale: A special opportunity!! The Oakley Observatory at Rose-Hulman is upgrading some of our equipment. This summer we anticipate getting two new Paramount ME mounts to replace two Paramount GT1100 mounts. I would like to offer the old mounts for sale to members of the IAS. I am asking \$5000 per mount. Each mount is in perfect working condition, I am only replacing them because of some of the advanced features available on the ME. The mounts will come with the original documentation and software and appropriate weights to handle a C-14. The



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software consists of TheSky, CCDSoft, Orchestrate, and TPoint. The mounts are still in use and can be viewed by any interested persons by contacting me directly (Richard.p.ditteon@rose-hulman.edu). You can also see the mounts at our website <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/Users/groups/Observatory/Newequipment.htm> The mounts I'm selling are under the Clark and Maksutov telescopes.

For Sale: Tel-Vue Ash Gibraltar with encoders installed. Includes the TV carry bag. Perfect condition. \$500 Contact: Jim Rinehart 317-881-3475 or [jrine@iquest.net](mailto:jrine@iquest.net)

For Sale: Criterion RV-6 f/8.1 six inch Newtonian with equatorial mount. Includes original eyepieces, telestar, as well additional motor drive. \$375 or will also consider trade for a equal price GOTO telescope. Marion Hakes at [vhorani@yahoo.com](mailto:vhorani@yahoo.com).

For Sale: Two heavy-duty, surveyors' tripods. One is very heavy-duty wood and in fair shape cosmetically, but in functional condition. The other is aluminum, new in the box. Price: \$60 each. They make great replacement tripods for commercial mounts on shaky, undersized legs. I'll bring them to the May meeting for inspection. Brian Murphy, [bmurphy@monumentcompanies.com](mailto:bmurphy@monumentcompanies.com)

For Sale: Celestron C-5 with tripod, astromaster(installed), power pack/inverter, cases, filter, eyepieces, and lots more. \$1500 Call: Paul at 317 888-1605

For Sale: Orion 120st refractor with mount and tripod, dual axis drive. Less than a year old. Contact: Jerry Vessels at [jvessels@iquest.net](mailto:jvessels@iquest.net)

For Sale **Price Reduced:** 5" f5 refractor, Jaegers Objective. Orion Skyview Deluxe EQ with Accutrack SVD DC Motor Drive (New) 17mm and 12.5mm Plossl eyepieces plus Barlow 3X \$600.00 (OBO) Jerry Barnett (317) 888-8945

For sale: Starlight Express MX7C one-shot color CCD camera, STAR2000 self-guider, and AstroArt software. \$1300. [srussell@iquest.net](mailto:srussell@iquest.net)

For Sale: Meade LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain (non GPS), 10" f/6.3. Equatorial Superwedge, Custom Steel Pedestal, Pictor CCD, and many lenses. Sell whole Package for \$5,482, or portions. Contact: Mike Smith, 317-823-8171 for further details."

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### **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 [johnmolt@iquest.net](mailto:johnmolt@iquest.net)

## **List Server Now 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 e-mail and you have access for late updates to events and functions.

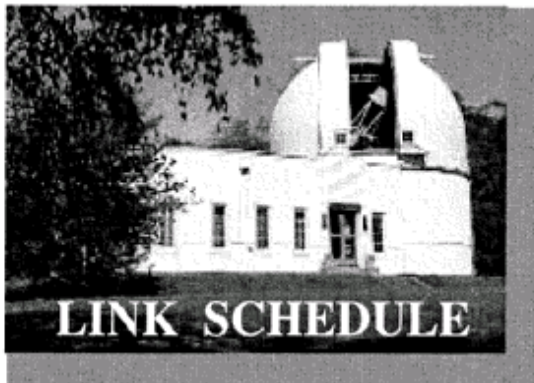
**Note: The list server is for use of Society business. It can only be used according to the rules as outlined previously. Members abusing the service will be eliminated from the service.**

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## **May Board Meeting - May 13, 2004 - 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.

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### **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.



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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: J. Philip May (317)831-8387. 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  
J. Philip May: 831-8387  
Tom Borlik: 849-4113

Gary Schoppenhorst: 297-1405  
Brian Murphy: 841-8511  
Dave Williams: 769-7430

### **Link Activities for May:**

General Meeting - May 8  
Observer's Meeting - May 22

Link Training - May 22  
New Astronomers - May 22

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## **Bulletin Stats**

### **Accessing the Bulletin**

The current bulletin can be found on the website [www.iasindy.org](http://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](mailto: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

[llpastro@lightbound.com](mailto:llpastro@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: Dave Timmerman 317844-9431

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**Board of Directors**

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006)  
 Gerald Venne (2006)  
 Thad Hatchett (2004)  
 Doug Brown (2004)

Bill Conner (2004)  
 Marion Hakes (2005)  
 John Molt (2005)

**May Calendar, 2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Full Moon	5	6	7	8 Gen. Mtg 7:00PM
9	10	11 Last Qtr Moon	12	13 Board Meeting 7:00	14	15 New Moon GP Prairie Grass
16	17	18	19 New Moon	20	21 McCloud SP	22 NAG Meeting Observer's Mtg Link Training General Observing
23	24	25	26	27 First Qtr Moon	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: Dave Timmerman, Treasurer  
786 Woodview North Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032

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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.