

May, 2005  
Volume 72, Issue 5  
www.iasindy.org



# The Bulletin

**The May General Meeting, May 14, 7:00 PM Goethe Link  
Observatory**

**REMEMBER WE MOVE TO THE LINK THIS MONTH. If you go to  
Butler, TAKE A BOOK!!!**

**Cataclysmic Variables  
Dr. Kent Honeycutt**

Close binary stars sometimes contain a very compact object called a white dwarf, made of material a million times as dense as water. These binary systems, called cataclysmic variables, are very interesting in their own right, revealing to astronomers details about exotic kinds of stellar evolution and nova explosions. Somewhat unexpectedly, these tiny objects have also become the preferred tool for exploring the nature of the expansion of the Universe, and have been used to learn that the Universe is not only expanding but accelerating. In this talk we will discuss how cataclysmic variables evolve, and why they have become so important for the study of cosmology.

Professor Honeycutt is the John W. Hill Professor of Astronomy at Indiana University Bloomington. He joined the IU Astronomy faculty in 1968 and served as a visiting astronomer at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Flagstaff during 1974-5, 1978, and 1987. Professor Honeycutt received an A.B. in Physics and Mathematics from King College in 1962, an M.S. in Physics from Vanderbilt University in 1964, and a Ph.D. in Astronomy from Case Western Reserve University in 1968. He has served as the director of IU's Goethe Link Observatories since 1980, and has served

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twice as the Chair of the Astronomy Department. He typically teaches A100 (The Solar System), A305 (Modern Observational Techniques), A320 (Computational Problems in Astronomy), and A505 (Principles and Techniques of Observational Astronomy).

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### **Clean Up Day at the Link –**

We had a great clean up day with a good turnout. The Link looks great! Thanks to all

of those that worked. An especial thanks to Angie Molt for providing a great meal.

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### **Daffodils**

The Link Daffodils were gorgeous as usual this year. I want to personally thank Tom Borlik for his organizing the tours. Tom spends many hours each year doing this. Next time you see him thank him for what he does for the Link. We had a lot of people due to the newspaper articles this year. We had many compliments from the public and IU. has expressed an appreciation for what the IAS has done. Our weekend counts were as follows:

Saturday, April 9th - 200

Sunday, April 10th - 300

Saturday, April 16 - 100

Sunday, April 17 - 150

There are many more who did not register as we had the grounds open all week as well. Thanks to those who came to help as well. An special thanks to Dan O'Brien for opening closing the grounds each day. It takes a lot of work to do this but it is worth it.

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### **The Link Observatory**

There has been a lot of speculation and a lot tales have been told recently about the status of the IAS and the Link Observatory. I have received calls saying that they had heard that IU was going to sell it or bull doze it. Please let me set the record straight as we know it today. I have had several meetings with IU personnel and they have told me that they have no new plans for the Observatory. They have been in discussions among themselves concerning the property that has the houses and the Daffodils. Since Mrs. Link died it took a long time to get the estate settled. That is done now. IU owns the entire property and has no intentions of selling it at this time. The real estate department is trying to get a tenant for the property that would take care of the flowers. They have some ideas in the works

to perpetuate the gardens but nothing is worked out. **NOTHING** will change with us and the Observatory. They have asked us to sign a use agreement but that is not new. We actually think that our relationship may strengthen somewhat now. Our plan is to continue to support the Link and our programs there.

If you have questions or if someone contacts you please see me.

The Pres

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## Messier Marathon April 2, Link Observatory

We finally had a good night of observing at the Link. Apparently John Shephard had a good night as well. He got 108 objects! I questioned that until I found that he was doing an observing session at Mt. Palomar and using an 8" computerized APO. He had a good night. Shows you what equipment and site can do for you. Well anyway we had some good reports from here as well.

Terry Steadham found 49 objects with his 4" wide field refractor star hopping.

Gary Schoppenhorst and Gerald Venne observed 77 objects on the Link 36". Thad hatchet observed 63 with his 8" and no setting circles.

John Kramer got 45 objects with his 8" Dob. Dan O'Brien got 41 with his binoculars.

Ron Burgess found 24 with his C-8.

John Shephard found 108 with his 8" computerized APO. Top award winners are Thad Hatchett (again!!) for a standard scope, John Shephard for a computerized telescope, and Dan O'Brien for his use of binoculars. Great observing guys.

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## McCloud

We have our first McCloud new moon event under our belt and it was great! We had 78 people and 27 scopes. Thanks to Mike Wolford for the planning. I finally froze out about 2 A.M. but several were going strong and I think continued until dawn. I got chilled. Needed more clothes. Thanks for

coming out. The NAG met and we also had a good turnout. There were 49 people at the talk. Thanks to John and Vickie for the planning and presentation. Everyone seemed to be interested in the new format (and content). Try it again next month.

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## New Astronomer's Group McCloud Nature Center 7:00 pm – May 6

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

The next monthly meeting of the IAS New Astronomers Group for 2005 will be held on May 6 at McCloud Nature Center starting at 7:00 pm, just prior to the McCloud Friday Night Observing session.

Topics for this month:

Observing the May Evening Sky  
Astronomy Resources for the Beginner  
Drawing for a one year subscription to Astronomy Magazine  
Question and answer session

The purpose and intent of the NAG is to introduce new astronomers to observing the

night sky. All types of observing will be discussed including naked eye, binocular and telescope.

If the weather cooperates, following the meeting, IAS members will have telescopes set up and attendees will have an opportunity to view some of the night sky objects discussed during the meeting.

Our first meeting in April had an attendance in excess of 50 individuals. Come join us for the May meeting and see what we have to offer.

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## McCloud Public Night and Observing Session – May 6

The second McCloud public night and observing session of the year will be May 6,

2005. This will be a public event and we need as many telescopes as we can get there.

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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.

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### **Board Votes to Increase Family Membership Dues**

.After several years of spending more than we receive, the Board voted to increase family membership dues to \$25 beginning July 1, 2005. There may be some anticipated expenses to improve our situation at McCloud and we would like to have funds to make improvements at Link as well as possibly purchasing some more "loaner" scopes.. We have done an evaluation of membership costs at other societies in the area and we were the lowest and still are below the average of \$32 for a family membership. If you have any questions please contact me and I will explain in more detail.

*The Pres*

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### **Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations**

**Apollo Rendezvous & Telescope Fair** - June 10-11, 2005 Dayton, Ohio

[http://www.mvas.org/ar2005/AR2005\\_1.htm](http://www.mvas.org/ar2005/AR2005_1.htm)

**Patoka Lake Star Gaze on the Beach** - July 2nd. Right now the schedule will be similar to last year. We will have 3 programs to present at the Newton-Stewart Nature center starting at 1pm and running through 4pm. We plan to do a Constellations tour after the skies get dark. If you want to help please bring your green lasers. Observing on the beach will begin around 8 or so. Many of us go eat lunch at one of the restaurants in town after the afternoon programs. If you want to join us, meet us at the nature center around 3:30-3:45. We will also do solar observing at the nature center during the afternoon programs. I hope to see you all there.

**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/>

**Indiana Family Star Party** - August 5-7 Held at Prairie Grass Observatories

**Astrofest** - September 8-11 – Kankakee, Il. This is a good four day party and has a great flea market. It is located at a new location (new last year) called Vana's Farms. It is about the same distance out of Kankakee as the old site but in a different direction.

**McCloud Under the Skies** - September 2-5 McCloud Nature Preserve This is the IAS' own party and is open to the McCloud public as well.

**Prairie Skies Star Party** - September 29 through October 02, 2005. Kankakee, Illinois  
[www.prairieskies.org](http://www.prairieskies.org)

**Twin Lakes Star Party** – October 1-9, 2005 Pennyryle State Park, Kentucky,  
<http://www.wkaa.net/article.php?articleid=56&cat=SE&ret=index.php>

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

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### Local School Events and Star Parties

#### May 14 Washington Township Park, Avon,

It's for a large cub scout pack on Saturday, May 14 at Washington Township Park in Avon. This year we will have Saturn, Jupiter, and a favorable Moon phase. Food and drinks were available last year, and I even had a s'more. The scouts will be camping overnight. If anyone wants to email me, [srussell@iquest.net](mailto:srussell@iquest.net) I can let them know of any last-minute. Please plan to be ready when it is dark enough to find Saturn.

Thank you!

Steve Russell  
317-770-1913

This is general meeting night and Steve could really use your help. If for some reason you are not coming to general meeting and are available, call Steve.

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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](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net)

**For Sale: Astro-Physics 130mm f6 Starfire EDF Triplet Apochromatic Refractor.** 400 German Equatorial Mount w/ Dual Axis Drive + encoders. Adj. Hardwood Tripod. 2.7" focuser & 8 X 50mm right-angle finder (illuminated). 2" precision mirror diagonal. 2" photo-visual Barlow (2X). 9mm Televue Nagler & 27mm Panoptic eyepieces. 48mm prem. Lumicon UHC + four other filters. Rechargeable battery pack, Kendrick dew removal system, JMI computerized digital setting circles (miniMax). Cases, bags and more. Used three times. \$5,500 or best offer. Call Mike Zurcher, 260-459-0368, <<mailto:mlzurch@comcast.net>>mlzurch@comcast.net. (8/05)

**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)

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**For Sale:** Celestron 6" F5 Newtonian on Celestron SP equatorial mount. Dual axis drives and polar alignment scope. Excellent starter scope. All in good condition. \$700.00 Jeff Patterson  
[jmprs@Iquest.net](mailto:jmprs@Iquest.net) 6/05

**For Sale:** Celestron 20X80 Binoculars. In like new condition. \$250.00 Jeff Patterson  
[jmprs@Iquest.net](mailto:jmprs@Iquest.net) 6/05

**For Sale:** Blaho Binoculars mount. In like new condition. \$200.00 Jeff Patterson  
[jmprs@Iquest.net](mailto:jmprs@Iquest.net) 6/05

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### **Loaner Equipment Program**

Did you know you can borrow a scope or piece of astronomy equipment from the Society and take it for a test drive? The Society has a program where members who are trying to determine what kind of equipment to buy can borrow one of the Society's scopes for a month or two and see how they like it. John Molt is the chairman of

the program and can arrange for your pickup and training on the use of the particular instrument. This is a great way to see what telescope you want to purchase. We have several scopes, eyepieces and binoculars to loan. Contact John Molt at [1star-gazer@earthlink.net](mailto:1star-gazer@earthlink.net).

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### **List Server Online - Don't be left in the cold - Sign up!**

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

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

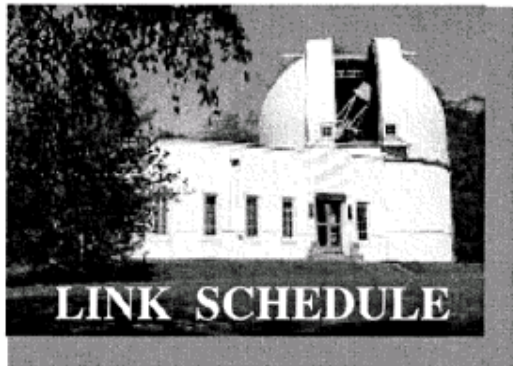
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### **May Board Meeting – May 19, 2005 - 7:00 PM**

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.

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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. 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 May:**

Observing sessions - May 14 and May 28

New Moon Group –\*

\* New Moon Group meets at McCloud on May 6

Observer's Meeting – May 28

Link Training – May 28

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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.

## **The Bulletin The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society**

### **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: John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

### **Board of Directors**

Gary Schoppenhorst (2006)

Gerald Venne (2006)

Thad Hatchett (2007)

Doug Brown (2007)

Bill Conner (2007)

Marion Hakes (2005)

John Molt (2005)



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May Calendar, 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 McCloud> New Moon Event NAG	7
8 New Moon	9	10	11	12	13 <	14 General Meeting General Observing
15	16 First Qtr Moon	17	18	19 Board Meeting 7:00	20	21
22	23 Full Moon	24	25	26	27	28 General Observing Observer's Mtg Link Training
29	30 Last Qtr Moon	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 article for new members and may be used by the society to match people with similar interests.