

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

May, 2006  
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www.iasindy.org



# The Bulletin

**Note the General Meetings move to the Goethe Link  
Observatory for the summer.**

**The May General Meeting, May 13, 7:00 PM Goethe Link  
Observatory**

## **FHiRE in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest!**

As Kent Honeycutt completes commissioning of IU's new 1.25-meter telescope in the Morgan-Monroe State Forest, a new spectrograph is taking shape for the telescope. The Fiber High Resolution Echelle spectrograph is designed to conduct a survey of 10,000 bright stars with accurate distances determined by the European "Hipparcos" satellite. The new spectrograph will be fed with an optical fiber from the Cassegrain focus and will utilize new, state-of-the-art CCD detectors. The design includes a 0.5-m parabolic collimating mirror and a 0.4-m grating. The spectrograph is expected to be operational in two years.

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### **Note from the Editor**

Since returning from the TSP I have been experiencing severe internet problems. Several of the articles that I wanted to put into this edition are stuck in Insight. I apologize and will put them in next month's Bulletin.

Jeff

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### **The Texas Star Party**

In my estimation the party was a great success again. Terry Steadham, Chris Dietz, and Jeff Patterson made the sojourn to Texas. We all arrived Saturday night and began trying to find a place to sleep. Carolyn and I had a reservation at the State Park near the ranch. About dusk one of our star party friend from North Carolina showed up and asked if he could sleep at our site. Seems all the motel rooms in town were taken by a movie crew and the park was sold out. We invited him in and waited for dark to start observing a day early. Can't miss a night of the Texas sky. After dark a car drives up and it is Terry. He needs a place to sleep as well. So now we are a bigger group but still all is well. Luckily, Chris didn't show up or we would have been in trouble. Sunday broke clear as a bell and cool and we headed for the

ranch and check in. The weather looked like it was going to be bad all week but each night it would clear off and the wind would die down and observing began. We did have a dust problem since they had had 0.05" of rain since October. We had one night of non observing. Friday and Saturday were magnificent.

Bill Conner decided not to come to the party but I did find a new observing partner. One night I was over at the snack bar having my midnight brisket burrito when I looked down next to my foot to find a skunk (Floyd) standing on my left foot. The concessionaire suggested I not move. Floyd was looking for food and just sniffed my feet and after walking between my legs moved on off. Later he came to my observing site and sat under my chair for some time. To say the least we used a little more light when walking around. Floyd visited the concession stand every night and became the topic of discussion. No one was sprayed so all went well other than a few nerves being frayed.

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## **New Astronomer's Group Meeting at McCloud**

**New Astronomers Group Meeting  
McCloud Nature Center  
7:30 pm – May 5, 2006**

It's spring again and time for the second monthly meeting of the IAS New Astronomers Group for 2006. Our first meeting last month was met with clouds and tornado warnings. We will be meeting on May 5 at McCloud Nature Center starting at 7:30 pm, just prior to the monthly McCloud Friday Night Observing session. *Note that we have changed the night to the Friday closest to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon and the start time is now 7:30.*

### **THE NAG MEETING WILL BE HELD - RAIN OR SHINE.**

Topics for this month:

- Observing the May Evening Sky
  1. Reading a Star Chart
  2. The Spring Pointer Stars and Constellations
  3. Our Solar System
  4. The Deep Sky
    1. M3 – Globular Cluster
    2. M53 – Globular Cluster
    3. M64 – Black Eye Galaxy
    4. The Coma Berenices Star Cluster – Open Cluster
    5. M51 – Whirlpool Galaxy
- Astronomy Resources for the Beginner
- 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.

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## **Link Cleanup**

Gary reports that the cleanup day at the Link was a great success! Thanks to everyone who came out and I understand that Angie did it again with the food.

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## **IAS Clothing**

The IAS has a considerable inventory of Logo clothing. At our first general meeting at the Link on May 13, we will have the inventory there for your perusal and purchase. This is really nice clothing that is distinctively IAS. See the list of inventory on hand below.

### **IAS Clothing Inventory**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>
<b>T-Shirt</b>		
Blue - Small	2	\$5.00
Navy - Small	2	\$5.00
Navy - Medium	3	\$10.00
Navy - Large	1	\$10.00
Navy - XLarge	3	\$10.00
<b>Golf Shirt (Pocket)</b>		
Blue - Medium	0	\$15.00
Blue - XLarge	0	\$15.00
Blue - 2XLarge	0	\$15.00
<b>Sweat Shirt - Small Logo</b>		
Blue - Large	1	\$30.00
Blue - XLarge	1	\$30.00
Blue - 2XLarge	1	\$30.00
<b>Sweat Shirt - Large Logo</b>		
Blue - Medium	5	\$20.00
Blue - Large	10	\$20.00
Blue - XLarge	6	\$20.00
Blue - 2XLarge	4	\$20.00
Gray - Medium	7	\$20.00
Gray - Large	3	\$20.00
Gray - XLarge	1	\$20.00
<b>Hooded Sweat Shirt - Small Logo</b>		
Navy - Medium	1	\$30.00
Navy - Large	0	\$30.00
Navy - 2XLarge	1	\$30.00
<b>Lined Jacket - Small Logo</b>		
Blue - Medium	0	\$32.00
Blue - Large	3	\$32.00
Blue - 2XLarge	1	\$32.00
Blue - 3XLarge	3	\$32.00

**Baseball Cap**

Blue	6	\$8.00
White	0	\$4.00

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**Mentor Program**

The board has been studying retention of members. Of the 50 or so members that do not renew their membership each year over half are first year members. So we want to do some things to reduce that exodus. 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](mailto:KB9SRB@hotmail.com) or Thad Hatchett at [astronomynut@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

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**2006 McCloud Schedule**

The New Astronomers Group held from April thru September is designed with the beginning amateur astronomer in mind. Meetings start at 7:00 pm on the Friday closest to the 1st Quarter Moon (see schedule below). Emphasis is on actual observing to help beginners find their way around the night sky and, in particular, how to find those faint but interesting objects such as planets, galaxies and nebulae of all kinds. In addition to discussing the night sky for the current month, a selected topic of interest to the beginning astronomer will be covered. The currently scheduled selected topics for 2006 are:

April 7 Telescopes, binoculars and other viewing aids

May 5 Resources on Internet for the beginning astronomer

June 2 Our closest neighbor, the Moon

June 30 The Beginners Year around Observing Planner The Messier List

July 28 Celestial Fireworks Meteor Showers

September 1 Autumns Finest Double Stars

September 29 To Be Determined

All sessions are taught by experienced IAS members. If weather conditions permit, observing through IAS members telescopes and binoculars will be available for attendees following the meeting.

*John Switzer*

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**McCloud Nature Park**

We have now built 6-8'X8' concrete pads at McCloud and each pad has 2 110 volt electrical outlets. One pad has been optimized for the 6" F/15 refractor that was donated to the club.

Our plan is to build a pier and install the pier and mount to the pad. Then when we want to observe, all we have to do is attach the scope and off we go. The pads are done and all that remains is landscaping and reseeding.

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### **Orchids and Onions**

There are a few people in the Society that will always step up to the plate when needed. They are generally quiet and go unnoticed but when help is needed they are there. Angie Molt is one of those members. She volunteers to provide food and snacks for many of our events. No one and I mean no one can do it like she can!! A bouquet of orchids to you Angie!

An orchid to Doug Brown for organizing and leading the McCloud landscaping project. Thanks to John Molt and John Shepherd for helping finish this project.

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### **McCloud Nature Park Project Fund**

In an effort to fund the project the IAS Board has created a "McCloud Fund". All donations to the Fund will go directly towards funding the improvement project which will include the storage building and warming room and six electrified concrete pads.

If you would like to make a cash donation to the McCloud Fund, please send it to:

John Shepherd, Treasurer  
4609 Callahan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46239

The IAS is a Not-For-Profit 501 C-3 corporation. Your donation may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.

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### **Observer's Meeting at Link to Float to be near New Moon**

The Board has decided to float the date of the Observer's Meeting to be closer to the new moon. So you will have to watch the Bulletin. This month the meeting will be on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This should facilitate observing at the Link.

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

**Starfest** May 20-21, 2006 - New Event - at Vanna's Farm (Not Astrofest), Kankakee, IL.  
[www.chicagoastro.org](http://www.chicagoastro.org)

**Apollo Rendezvous** Dayton Ohio, June 16 - 17. Boonshoft Museum of Discovery Dayton, Ohio  
Speakers include Al Nader, David Eicher (Astronomy Magazine), Terry Mann, and Tom Trusock.  
[www.mvas.org](http://www.mvas.org), Star party is at John Byran State Park Observatory in Yellow Springs, OH

**Heart of America** MO Jun 22-25 - 530 miles 9 hour drive  
<http://www.askconline.org/dsstarparty.pdf>

**Cherry Springs Star Party**, June 22-26, Cherry Springs State Park near Caudersport, Pa.  
[www.cherrysprings.org](http://www.cherrysprings.org)

**Nebraska Star Party** North Central Nebraska Jul 23-28 - 950 miles 18 hour drive  
<http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

**Black Forest Star Party** PA Aug 25-27 600 miles 11 hour drive <http://www.bfsp.org/starparty/>

**Indiana Family Star Party** – Camp Cullum near Frankfort August 18-20 – 50 miles  
<http://jmmahony.home.insightbb.com/pgo/starparty/>

**Okie-Tex Star Party** Western Oklahoma September 16th - September 24th , 2006  
<http://www.okie-tex.com>

**Illinois Dark Skies** IL Sep 21-23 225 miles 5 hour drive <http://www.sas-sky.org/main.htm>

**Astrofest** Sept 21-24 Kankakee , IL 4 hour drive <http://www.chicagoastro.org/> In the past this has been a premier party with lots of vendors. Lately they have had some organizational problems and last year many vendors did not come.

**Prairie Skies Star Party** Kankakee, IL Sep 28-30 175 miles 4 hour drive  
<http://www.prairieskies.org/>

**Twin Lakes Star Party** KY Oct 14-21 225 miles 5 hour drive <http://www.wkaa.net/>

**McCloud Under The Stars** (MUTS) will happen one weekend of September.

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

Thanks to Mike Wolford for this information.

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## Local School Events and Star Parties

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.

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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 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

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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

1stargazer@indy.rr.com.

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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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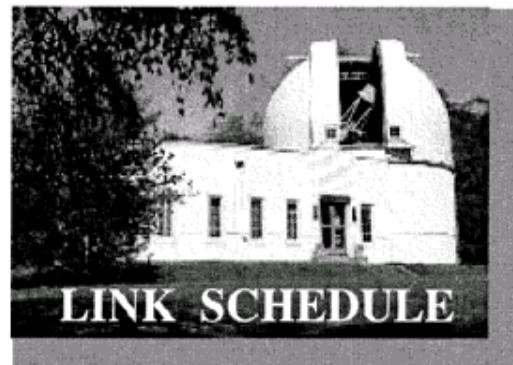
## **Board Meeting – May 18, 2006 - 7:00 PM**

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

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## **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.*

### **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:**

Observer's Meeting – April 29  
Link Training – April 29

### **McCloud Activities for May:**

Beginners Astronomy May 5  
Public observing May 5

### **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 caretaker Cecil Rich at 765 366-3235 before 5PM on the day you want to go out.

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### **Bulletin Stats**

All personal and professional opinions presented herein do not, in any way, represent the opinion or policy of JPL or NASA.

### **Accessing the Bulletin**

The current bulletin can be found on the website [www.iasindy.org](http://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](mailto:KB9SRB@hotmail.com)

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

### **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

### **Board of Directors**

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

Bill Conner (2007)  
Marion Hakes (2008)  
John Molt (2008)

### **Public Event Chairman**

Gerald Venne [gvenne@iquest.net](mailto:gvenne@iquest.net) 1 317 826-2680

### **Library Committee Chairman**

Ed Otto [ecottol@comcast.net](mailto:ecottol@comcast.net)

### May Calendar, 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 First Qtr Moon	5 NAG McCloud Park	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 McCloud NAG Observing at McCloud	13 General Meeting Link  Full Moon
14	15	16	17	18 Board Meeting	19	20  Last Qtr Moon
21	22	23	24	25	26  New Moon	27 New Moon Meeting at Link Observers Meeting at Link
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\*

\* 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)	

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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

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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.