

Monthly Publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

November, 2004  
Volume 71, Issue 11  
www.iasindy.org



# The Bulletin

## **The November General Meeting, November 13, Butler's Holcomb Observatory**

**If you show up at Link, I hope you have a scope with you and it is clear as there is no meeting there that night. We have moved to Butler for the Winter.**

### **“A Basic Primer on Radio and Radio Astronomy”**

Long-time member Robert Welch is the featured speaker for our November meeting. Bob will tell us about the fascinating science of Radio Astronomy. Most of us are familiar with astronomy associated with the visual spectrum. Most professional astronomy is focused beyond the visual wavelengths. Several of our members including Bob are involved in radio astronomy. Bob will provide insight into what the pros are finding and how the amateur can participate. Please join us for this lecture on how to “observe” the non-visual end of the spectrum.

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## **Election Night November 13, 2004**

According to the By-Laws of the IAS, the IAS elections will take place during the Annual Meeting to be held November 13, 2004 at the Holcomb Observatory on the Butler campus. The meeting begins at 7:00PM. All members in good standing and their spouses are eligible to vote. If you cannot attend, you may mail a signed absentee ballot to the Secretary. Absentee ballots must be received prior to the election. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by any member at the time of the election. All nominees must agree to serve prior to the election.

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Offices shall be filled by election by majority vote of the membership at large at the annual meeting. Votes by absentee ballot shall be recognized provided the signed absentee ballot is received by the Secretary before or during the annual meeting. Votes by proxy will not be recognized.

## **The report of the Committee on Nominations**

The following slate of candidates have been received and candidates have agreed to run..

President -

Jeff Patterson

Vice President and Program Chairman -

Brian Murphy

Treasurer:

John Shepherd

Secretary:

Larry Phillips

Board of Directors (Three to be elected)

Doug Brown

Bill Conner

Thad Hatchet

Mike Kirsch

Bob Welch

Report presented by Brian Murphy

Nominating Committee

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If you cannot attend the meeting on Election Night, please vote absentee. We need your participation.

**Absentee Ballot**

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Directors (vote for Three

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail ballot to**

Larry Phillips  
9413 South PR Black Hawk Hills Dr.  
Edinburgh, In 46124

**Absentee ballots must be received prior to the election**

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**IAS Member Images Transiting Exoplanet**

Dan Kaiser of Columbus has successfully done what few amateurs have even bothered to attempt. He has imaged the transit of an extra-solar planet orbiting another star. The star, designated TrES-1, was already known to have a planet with a period of 3.03 days that would transit the face of the star. The transiting planet was initially discovered using the Trans-Atlantic Exoplanet Survey (TrES) network and announced publicly on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>. Alonso et al place the mass of the planet at 0.75 +/- 0.07 Jupiter Masses.

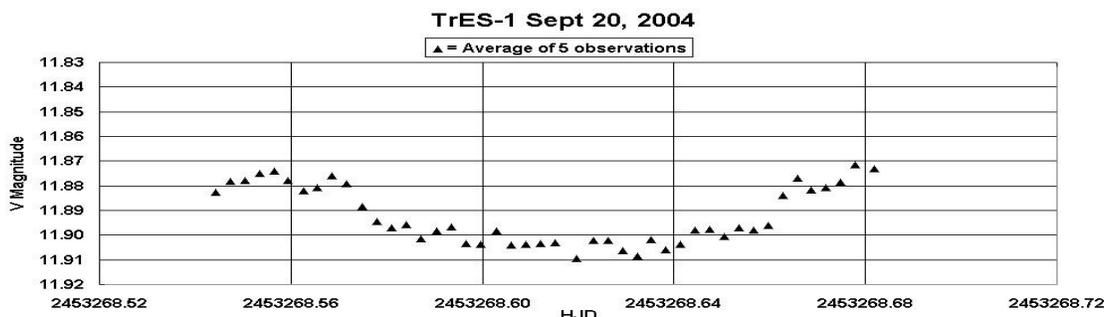
Dan learned of the transit opportunity through the website [transitsearch.org](http://transitsearch.org/) (<http://transitsearch.org/>) and the success of another amateur, Tonny Vanmunster of Belgium, recently highlighted in a Sky and Telescope web article on the first successful imaging of a transiting exoplanet by an amateur, just eight days after the announcement by the TrES team.

Dan's imaging session covered the transit of September 19<sup>th</sup>. The star is mag V=11.79 and the depth of transit is approximately 2%. This represents a great challenge for any amateur with the right

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equipment and willing to challenge the Indiana weather. Dan used a 14" Celestron equipped with an SBIG ST-9E. The light curve below represents over 200 images.

The next time you see Dan be sure and congratulate him as this is quite an accomplishment. There are very few amateurs in the world that can claim this!



*Article by Thad Hatchett*

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### Member Brochure Cover Contest –

It is final. We had four art entries for the New Member's Packet Cover. And the winner is Thad Hatchett! His winning design will be used as a logo on some of our publications as well as the New Member's Brochure. Thad wins an IAS T shirt and a free year's membership. We would like to thank Ron Burgess, Bill Conner and Bernadette De Leon for their submissions as well. They each will receive an IAS hat for their submission.

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### The Hog Roast was a great success!!

Well the Hog Roast was a great success. We need to thank Mike Kirsch for cooking a great meal once again. We even ran out of meat it was so good. Mike we need the recipe for the rub. It appeared that every one had a ball. Thanks to all who came. Thank you for all the carry ins. Thanks also to Brian Murphy for his making sure that the accessories were taken care of. We even were honored by the presence of Goethe Link Jr. and his wife. They had been involved in the estate auction of Helen Link and were tired and ready for a meal. I personally enjoyed sitting down with them and talking to them about the observatory and its history. He had many good comments about how pleased he is that the IAS is helping to preserve the Observatory and its grounds.

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### Twin Lakes Star Party

John Molt's report: Twin Lakes Star Party 2004 ended up with a great evening of observing albeit cold. It got down to 32 degrees so many packed it in early. They are the most friendly bunch and have a remote site with good skies (no cell phone coverage or electricity). Rain was plentiful Weds/Thurs, otherwise clouds. Evenings we had the wood stove going with popcorn, snacks and movies, Stars Wars, Caddie Shack, and some Humphry Bogart and George C. Scott films, days were spent napping, reading, drying instruments and shoes. We hiked

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and socialized too. Local astronomer, Jay McNeil's presentation on discovering the nebula near M78 in Orion was enlightening.

Not many attendees, about 100 registered and had a few walk-ins. They provided a catered lunch on Saturday which may become tradition. We had a vendor from Louisville come for Friday.

I attended as did Mike & Sandy WOLFORD, John Kramer, Terry Steadham - I think Marion Hakes stopped in but I never saw him (I left Sat AM to return for high school reunion so he may have come back for Saturday evening).

I only saw stars for 5 hours in the 4 days I was there - a few of those were really dark skies.

*Article by John Molt*

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## **Okie-Tex**

Chris Dietz decided to pass on the Twin Lakes party and went to the Okie-Tex party located in the panhandle of Oklahoma. Long range weather indicated they were probably safe. Well apparently they had a poor week as well due to the massive tropical storm which affected most of the mid west. Okie-Tex is noted to have some of the darkest skies in the United States and should be considered for the future as a place to go.



I hope more of you think about going to various star parties this next year. It gives you a great opportunity to observe under good skies (usually) as well as make good friends.

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

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## **Search for a Dark Site**

Those of you who attended the last general meeting listened to an interesting story of how the Louisville Astronomical Society has purchased property and developed an astronomical complex in southern Indiana. We in the IAS are looking at the possibility of us developing a dark site as well. A committee has been appointed by the board to research the prospects and to come forward with a direction for the IAS to move. If you know of a dark piece of ground in reasonable range of Indianapolis, please let us know. If you have comments please let me know.

There are relatively few dark sites in central Indiana available to us at this time. Several of us are beginning to use the facilities of Prairie Grass Observatories. All you have to do is check in with the Caretaker. Hoppie will let you camp and spend several days if you like. There is a minimal camping fee.

This spring we will begin to use McCloud again and again we are welcome to come out and observe.

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

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## **Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations**

**Winter Star Party** – February 7-13. Registration is over but you can still buy a ticket from individuals. Watch Astromart. See the Southern Sky Astronomical Society's website.

**Texas Star Party** – May 1-8, 2005. Registration will be in January.

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

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## **Society Concerns**

John May is still in Methodist Hospital and would like cards and/or visits. He is in Room B691. John would truly enjoy talking to you. Although he is not healing well, he is in good spirits and likes to talk. Come by and have a chat.

Clyde Fishburn was in the hospital with heart arrhythmia but has returned home.

Ed Otto has been in the hospital but is now released. Hold him in your prayers for a continued recovery.

Keep Ed, Clyde, and John in your prayers

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## **Observer's Corner**

As I said last month, it is good seeing the winter stars and objects coming back. However, I did not have a chance to get out and look at the sky. This year looks similar to last when we had almost no good nights during the winter. I got out with a friend but the Moon was so bright that I could see only bright objects. I love the Fall. It was good to see the Orion Nebula the other night. I felt like the return of an old friend.

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Next time you are out I suggest you look for NGC7333. This is a galaxy cluster in Pegasus. If you look really hard you can catch the wispy galaxies that make up this cluster. I found it while in Nebraska and then went to Stephen's Quintet which is relatively close to 7333. Boy that was faint even in the 18". Try it as a challenge. I have had little luck in Indiana.

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

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### **Public Events**

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.

Our Lady Of Grace Elementary- November 2

Home school group from Franklin – November 5

Challenger Center Anniversary – Brownsburg November 12-13

\*\* We will need several scopes at this event. I am not sure how we will handle the 13<sup>th</sup> as it is election night.

I will put out a call for scopes with more information as these approach.

*Article by Jeff Patterson*

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### **New Members - Welcome to the IAS**

David Rowe, Franklin IN,

Find these members and make them welcome.

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### **New Astronomers Group Suspended**

**The New Astronomer's Group has been suspended for the winter. Plans are to continue the program in the spring as the weather improves. This program has never been very popular and if you have suggestions please let me know.**

*Jeff Patterson*

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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

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317 882-8055

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

**For Sale** - Giro 2 alt-az mount. Not a mark on it. Comes with SS counter weight shaft, 8.8 lb. counter weight and carrying case. \$250  
Contact: Jim Rinehart at 317-881-3475 [jrine@iquest.net](mailto:jrine@iquest.net) 01/05

**Trade** - Telrad with mount for a Rigel with mount. Marion Hakes at [vhorani@yahoo.com](mailto:vhorani@yahoo.com). (317-370-4425).(01/05)

**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 \$500.00 (OBO) Jerry Barnett (317) 888-8945 .(12/04)

**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. .(10/04)

**For Sale** – Celestron 20X80 Binoculars and Bill Blaho mount (no tripod) - \$450. Jeff Patterson [JMPSR@Iquest.net](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net). (2/05)

**For Sale** – Celestron 8” Dobsonian – Excellent condition. Includes Tel Rad and 26mm eyepiece. \$400. Jeff Patterson [JMPSR@Iquest.net](mailto:JMPSR@Iquest.net). (2/05)

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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 [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 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.**

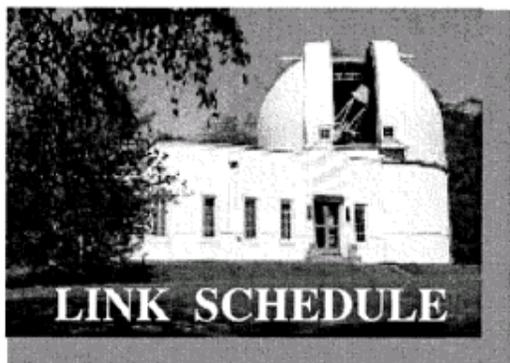
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### **November Board Meeting – November 18, 2004 - 7:00 PM**

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

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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.



### **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 Temporary 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  
J. Philip May: 831-8387  
Tom Borlik: 849-4113

Gary Schoppenhorst: 297-1405  
Brian Murphy: 841-8511  
Dave Williams: 769-7430  
Gerald Venne 826-2680

### **Link Activities for November:**

Observing sessions - November 20 & 27\*  
New Moon Group – November 20\*

Observer's Meeting – November 27  
Link Training – November 27

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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  
[lpastro@lightbound.com](mailto:lpastro@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

### **Board of Directors**

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

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

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**November Calendar, 2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Last Qtr Moon	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Brownsburg Challenger nite  New Moon	13 General Meeting
14	15	16	17 Leonids meteor shower	18 Board Meeting 7:00	19  First Qtr Moon	20 New Moon Group
21	22	23	24	25	26  Full Moon	27 Observer's Mtg Link Training General Observing
28	29	30				

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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.