

November, 2006  
Volume 73, Issue 11  
www.iasindy.org



# The Bulletin

**Note the General meetings move to Holcomb Observatory.  
Please do not go to the Link. It will not be open**

**The November General Meeting, November 11, 7:00 PM Holcomb  
Observatory at Butler University**

## **The Apollo Program John A. Beetham**

John will speak on the background of the Apollo program, key individuals that made it happen, guidance to the Moon and back to Earth, technology and man related reliability, and a few stories.

Our speaker this month is John A. Beetham. Mr. Beetham was Director of Product Support for Allison Gas Turbine Division of General Motors, one of 13 Directors reporting to the General Manager. He directed more than 400 people who supported Allison products worldwide.

Born May 21, 1930, in Boscobel, Wisconsin, he graduated from Fennimore High School in 1948, and from St. Louis University in 1952, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aero Engineering.

Mr. Beetham served as an officer in the United States Air Force Tactical Air Command (TAC) as an armament systems and radar fire control officer.

In 1964, he was appointed Reliability Program Manager for the Apollo guidance and navigation systems for the command and service module and the lunar landing vehicle. In this function, he was responsible for design reliability, product quality, subcontractor reliability, field support, and system flight readiness reliability until 1970, when Apollo production ended.

Mr. Beetham retired from General Motors in 1990 and now is active in the Experimental Aircraft Assoc., and the American Helicopter Society among other interests.

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## **Election Night November 11, 2006**

According to the By-Laws of the IAS, the IAS elections will take place during the Annual Meeting to be held November 12, 2005 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.

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:

Betsy Brown

Board of Directors (Two to be elected)

Gerald Venne

Gary Schoppenhorst

Report presented by Jeff Patterson

Nominating Committee

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 Two

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail ballot to

John Shepherd, Treasurer

4609 Callahan St.

Indianapolis, IN 46239

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

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### **Field Trip to Morgan/Monroe**

After the hog roast, we had an opportunity to go to IU's research facilities in Morgan Monroe state forest. Dr. Caty Pilachowski and Dr. Kent Honeycutt told us of their research and showed us both the 16" and the new 50" telescopes. Dr. Honeycutt related to us the history of the facility and the heartaches and frustrations getting the 50" up and running. We were able to stick an eyepiece on the 50 and see M57 and NGC7131. Fortunately we had a very clear night and the views were impressive. Thanks to IU and Caty and Kent for the tour. Good luck on your future work with the spectroscopy.

*The Pres*

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### **Hog Roast**

We had a fantastic day for the hog roast and picnic! It was a little cool but all seemed to have a good time. Thanks to Mike Kirsch's great cooking, all of us had a great meal. Thanks to all who brought the side dishes. We had over 50 people in attendance and several werenew members. All of us had time to chat and get to know each other.

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### **Twin Lakes Star Party 2006**

Continuing the fine tradition of southern hospitality, the folks of Western Kentucky Astronomical Association made sure we were well fed and provided unlimited hot beverages. Plenty of fruit and snacks all week, a catered meal of pork chops, ham and lots of sides preceded door prizes for many of our group (including Thad).

Talk about a well-attended event by IAS members! Mike & Sandy Woldford, Doug & Betsy Brown, John & Vicky Switzer, Doug Sanquetti, Thad Hatchett, Jay Simmons, Dick Pflum, Jon Williams, Terry Steadham, and John Molt. Others with ties to IAS included Ron Pflum (all the way from Alaska!) and Dan & Debbie Mitchell (and Barabus the English Mastiff from Illinois).

Again weather was a factor. Seems like attendees suffered through inclement weather during much of 2006. While many of us locally enjoyed the Hog Roast and field trip to Morgan Monroe State Forest, those who had ventured to Pennyrile State Forest in western Kentucky for the first day or 2 of the week-long event had good observing. Wednesday evening started with ground fog but gave way to decent skies, Friday evening was clear but with poor transparency, Saturday was fantastic, until dusk, and then clouds rolled in as predicted. Most had packed up and left by evening but a few hardy souls stuck it out for conversation and in hopes we'd see more Orionids, meteors were prevalent all week. Thursday evening many attendees went to the Lodge for dinner, it was cold and rainy most of the day so we headed there and followed it up with movies in the shelter later that evening.

It's a great location for the last reasonably nearby star party of the season, not too far away, usually with 6.5 magnitude skies. Accommodations can be anything from camping on the field, to the Lodge, to cabins within a short drive.

#### The Gang



*Submitted by John Molt*

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## Observer's Corner

This month we have an opportunity to see Mercury as it sojourns across the face of the sun. The transit starts at approximately 2:12 PM EST on November 8. It will take approximately 5 hours for the transit to complete. This is a telescope event and **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PROPER FILTERING SYSTEMS**. Looking at the Sun can be dangerous. The next such event will be in 2016 so get out and try to see this one. I have seen one before and it is an exciting site.

The second opportunity we have this month is the Leonids meteor shower on the night of November 18/Morning of November 19. We have a waning crescent Moon so it will not be a problem. Predictions are for a good shower though not a storm. Look to the East around Midnight

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## Logo Clothing

We still have IAS logo hats, t shirts, polo shirts, sweat shirts and insulated jackets. Please contact Gerald Venne at the next general meeting.

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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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## Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

**Winter Star Party** – February 12-18, 2007- Registration ends November 15 but tickets are always available on Astromart and elsewhere.. Check [www.scas.org](http://www.scas.org) or call the registrar at 386-362-5995. This party is always sold out and you need to get a ticket early. This is a premium party and the weather is fantastic in the Florida Keyes in February.

**Texas Star Party** West Texas May 13-20,2007 1500 miles. This is a premier party with very dark skies and a great site. Just a long way. Registrations start November 18. [www.texasstarparty.org](http://www.texasstarparty.org)

**Nebraska Star Party** North Central Nebraska Jul 15-20, 2007 - 950 miles 18 hour drive  
<http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

I am working on a new list of parties for next year. 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

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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## Orchids and Onions

A special bouquet of Orchids to Mike Kirsch for being top chef in Indiana! Mike provided the Bar-B-Q for the hog roast. Thanks Mike. It was outstanding and all I heard were compliments on the flavor and quality of the meat.

Another orchid for each of you who helped set up and take down the tables and chairs.

*The Pres*

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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](mailto:KB9SRB@Hotmail.com)

**FOR SALE** – Celestron Nexstar 8, field tripod, 40 and 24mm eyepieces, Barlow, carrying case, Orion accessory case. There is a wedge available at an additional expense. If interested, please call Robert Kaiser at 317-339-2759 or e-mail at [rwkai@aol.com](mailto:rwkai@aol.com).

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## Loaner Equipment 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 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.

John Molt ([1stargazer@indy.rr.com](mailto:1stargazer@indy.rr.com)) or 317-844-1799)

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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 – November 16, 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 assistance, please contact Brian P. Murphy, IAS Vice-President on his cell phone

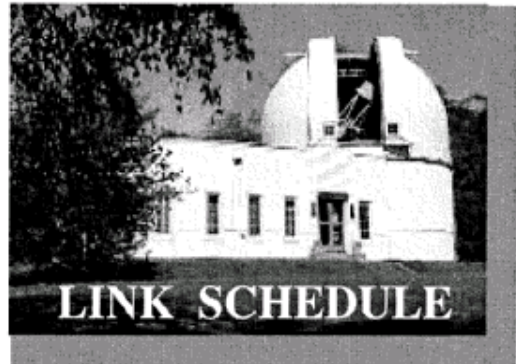
716-8124.

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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.*

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

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

Observer's Meeting – November 25

Link Training – November 25

New Moon – November 18

### **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 Paul Miner at the park office 765 676 5490 before 5PM on the day you want to go out. As a last resort you can reach him on his cell phone at 317-371-8222 before 5 pm.

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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)

### **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>





## 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\*

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

\* 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)	
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 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.