

The Bulletin – The monthly publication of the Indiana Astronomical Society

October, 2007
Volume 74, Issue 10
www.iasindy.org

The Bulletin



The October General Meeting, October 13, 2007 7:00 PM Link Observatory Auditorium

Mark Your Calendars!!! October 13 It is Party Time!!!

Mark a place in your calendars for October 13. We have two special treats:

Mike Kirsch has agreed to fire up the ole grill and we will have our annual hog roast at the Link. The Society furnishes the meat and drinks and the members are asked to bring a side dish. Always a great event.

But that is not all! Caty Pilachowski has invited the IAS to come to Kirkwood Observatory in Bloomington for a tour of the Kirkwood see and maybe view through the 12" refractor built by Warner & Swasey and, as a special treat, the Remote Observing Center. We may be able to connect to one of the observers at Kitt Peak by video. This is an event you can't miss!!!

We will have maps on where to go.
The Pres

John Dobson Visits Kentucky

John Dobson will be in Kentucky September 24-30. If you get a chance go to hear one of his lectures.

The Louisville Astronomical Society, the Kentucky State Park System and the Sidewalk Astronomers of America are proud to announce that John Dobson, the inventor of the Dobsonian mount and the Father of Sidewalk Astronomy, will be coming to Louisville September 24-30, 2007 followed by several days at Barkley Lodge in western Kentucky. Public events will begin Tuesday night with a scope workshop at the LAS Urban Astronomy Center at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park and culminate Saturday night with A Mile of Scopes on well-traveled Bardstown Road in the Highlands area of Louisville. Here is the itinerary as of Sunday, August 26. A complete itinerary will be published shortly. We hope all of our fellow amateur astronomers can attend as many of these events as possible.

If you have any questions, contact LAS president Ken Alderson at megacoach@aol.com.

Itinerary:

Monday, September 24 2:39 PM- Arrive Louisville

Tuesday, September 25 7:00 PM - Workshop with the Master. Join John Dobson at the LAS Urban Astronomy Center at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park in Louisville. Located in the Root Cellar building at the back of this urban state park, the LAS Urban Astronomy Center features a Meade 178ED 7" refractor, a Meade 12" Light Bridge, a 10" Meade SCT, several historical dob scopes, a virtual solar system tour on the Starship "Unbridled Spirit", a classroom, restroom, kitchen, computer center, kids activities area, a four acre observing field and parking for fifty cars. Our first four events here have drawn over 500 guests. We are proud that John wants to come to our state to see the UAC and to experience the Kentucky State Park System's commitment to astronomy programs.

Wednesday, September 26 8:00 PM - Southern Indiana Event.

Thursday, September 27 7:00 PM - Lecture at U of L Strickler Hall behind the Planetarium. \$5.00 per person.

Friday, September 28 8:00 PM - Sidewalk Astronomy Event at the UAC at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park.

Saturday, September 30 9:00 PM - Mile of Scopes on Bardstown Road. The largest sidewalk astronomy event ever as we set up scopes along one mile of a busy Highlands street!

Sunday, October 1

John leaves Louisville and travels to Barkley Lodge. We will publish his itinerary there as we get it.

Clear Skies!

Ken Alderson

LAS President

Cell (502) 939-0324

The Link to Receive a Face Lift –

In mid September work is scheduled to begin on some renovations of the Link Observatory. First and most importantly, the primary mirror will be removed from the scope and recoated. IU and the IAS will share the costs of this activity. It is long overdue and we are excited about seeing what a newly recoated mirror will be like. I have been a member for about 15 years and it needed it then. We have plans are to redo the secondary and tertiary mirrors at a later date. Apparently it is very difficult to realign all three mirrors at the same time. IU also is planning to work on the ceilings in the auditorium and in the kitchen. They have plans to fix the windows and the roof parapets and replace the lightning arresting system. While the mirror is out we also plan to redo the floors on the observing deck. Prior to mirror removal our plans are to paint the truss tubes of the scope.

In addition, the Cincinnati Observatory has asked for IU to return the 10" objective and camera from the scope in the back. They had loaned the objective to IU in the '40's. Plans are to

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evaluate how the IAS can use the back observatory in the future. One thought is to mount a 14" Schmidt-Cassegrain and use it for observing.

Soon we will have a new scope to work with.

While the renovation is going on the observing deck will be closed to the membership and public. The scope will be out of balance and we do not want to see anyone or anything get hurt!!!

Astronomical League

ALCOR OBSERVATIONS

Bill Conner ALcor

New Moon Observing and Public Event at McCloud October 12

Our last New Moon event for the year is at McCloud on October 12. We had a great event in August with several members and their scopes and about 44 McCloud visitors. This has become a very successful activity at the park and it is fun. This is also a public event so we need to have scopes available for them to look through. Careful about parking we do not want to tear up the grass. Come out and enjoy the Indiana night skies.

The Pres

IU Astro e- Bulletin

The IU Astronomy Department has started a new electronic bulletin to let people know about local astronomy activities and events. If you would like to subscribe, send an email to astdept@indiana.edu and we'll put you on the distribution list. Information about activities and events to be included in the e-bulletin should be sent to catyp@astro.indiana.edu.

The Kirkwood Observatory

IU's Kirkwood Observatory Open for 2007

IU's historic Kirkwood Observatory has reopened for the 2007 season. The Observatory houses a 12" refractor built by Warner & Swasey in 1901. The f/15 doublet objective lens, designed for work on visual binaries, was made by John Brashear and produces excellent images when the seeing is good. The Observatory was renovated in 2001 and restored to its original condition, including a massive wooden dome. William Kopp, a machinist in the IU Astronomy Department, refurbished the telescope itself. More information about the Observatory is available on the Web at http://www.astro.indiana.edu/kirk_sch.shtml.

The Observatory is open each clear Wednesday night from now through mid-November. The hours are posted on the Web at http://www.astro.indiana.edu/kirk_sch.shtml, and a new "hotline" is available with current information about weather conditions. Call 812 855-7736 to find out if the Observatory will be open before driving to Bloomington.

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The Observatory is located in Dunn's Woods, near the southwest corner of the IU campus in Bloomington. A campus map is available on the web at <http://www.iub.edu/~iubmap/>. Parking is available after 5 PM in the IU lot at the southwest corner of Indiana Ave. and 4th Street.

Gadgets and Gizmos

This is a new section to discuss new equipment. If you see something or have a new gadget let me know and we will get an article about it.

Meet Our New Members

The Society wants to welcome each of you and if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

Seek out new members out and see if you can help them out.

The Pres

Mentor Program

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 or Thad Hatchett at 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.

Upcoming Star Parties and Registrations

Twin Lakes Star Party Pennyville State Park, Western KY Oct 6-13, 2007
<http://www.wkaa.net/>

Okie-Tex Star Party Camp Billy Joe, OK Oct 6-14
This is supposed to be one of the darkest sites in the US. <http://www.okie-tex.com/>

Eldorado Star Party – Eldorado , Tx (South Central) -October 10-13, 2007

Winter Star Party

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

Public Outreach Programs

Gerald Venne is our Public Events 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.

We need people to help at Link and elsewhere. It is actually a lot of fun.

To schedule a public event contact Gerald Venne 1 317 826-2680 or Jeff Patterson at 1-317 882-8055.

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) 300-0449

E-Mail: KB9SRB@Hotmail.com

For Sale

Digital SLR and Film astrophotographers take note. Vixen R200SS-DG Astrograph for sale. Coma Corrector, Rings, 7 x 50 Finder, custom made Just-Cheney Dew Shield, 2" eyepiece adapter, Direct Wide Field adapter and f/7.5 telextender included. Film images of the Rosette and North American nebula, CCD images of the Helix and Eastern Veil on the IAS photo web site under Bill Conner were taken with this 8 inch f/4 widefield scope. Asking \$1,200 for over \$1,700 of quality equipment listed here.

Contact Bill at 812-828-0499 for more information

For Sale – Astro-Physics 400 German Equatorial Mount

Near new condition. Used less than a dozen times.

9 lb. Stainless Steel Counterweight

6 lb. Stainless Steel Counterweight

Wooden AP case

Encoders

NGC-MAX DSC Computer

\$1995

Contact: Jim Rinehart 317-881-3475 or jrine33@comcast.net

For Sale Omega DII Enlarger S/N: 62112 This is an enlarger that I have used for several years but it hasn't seen much service since I switched to digital photography. It has some dust and dings but is still quite serviceable. I am just trying to find a good home for this fine old enlarger. The Bogen adjustable easel and the developing tank are worth more than the asking price for the whole system.

Features:

6" glass condenser lenses

Filter Carrier with polycontrast filter set from 1 through 4 in 1/2 steps

Negative Carriers: 4x5, 3x4 35mm

Lenses: Beslar 50mm f/3.5, Kodak 51mm f/4.5. Elgeet 127mm f/5.6 [Colorstigmat]

42" high counterweighted column

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18" x 27" wooden projection base

Includes:

New Bogen 8" x 10" Adjustable Enlarging Easel

New 4" x 5" Film developing tank

Buyer pays shipping.

Photos available on Astromart at:

http://www.astromart.com/classifieds/details.asp?classified_id=517465

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Donn

Donn Starkey

starkey73@mchsi.com

<http://www.starkey.ws>

Onions and Orchids

A bouquet of orchids to Tom Borlik and Doug Brown. They have been working on the back door of the Observatory and have installed a new threshold. Thanks guys.

The Loaner 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 (lstargazer@indy.rr.com) or (317) 989-1875

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.

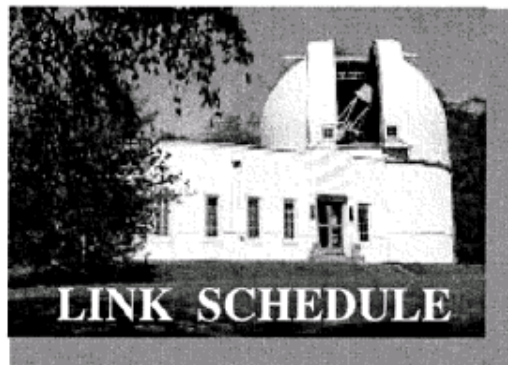
Board Meeting – September 13, 2007 - 7:00 PM

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.

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.*

Link Activities for September:

September 8 General Meeting
September 8 New Moon Observing
September 15 General observing
September 22 NAG – 7:30PM

McCloud Activities for September:

September 14 New Moon and public observing event

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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 park caretaker, Jim Holtsclaw, at the park office 765 676 5490 before 4PM on the day you want to go out. He will give you permission to be there at night and cut off the lights.

Bulletin Stats

Accessing the Bulletin

The current bulletin can be found on the website 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) 300-0449
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>

Executive Officers

President: Jeff Patterson (317) 300-0449
Vice-President and Program Director: Brian Murphy (317) 841-8511
Secretary: Betsy Brown 1-317-872-4050
Treasurer: John Shepherd (317) 862-3442

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Board of Directors

Gary Schoppenhorst (2009)
Gerald Venne (2009)
Thad Hatchett (2007)
Doug Brown (2007)

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

Public Event Coordinator

Gerald Venne gvenne@iquest.net 1 317 826-2680





Library Committee Coordinator

Larry Marcus marcus@mwmacoustics.com 317 842-6658

Astronomical League Coordinator

Bill Conner wmtconner@sbcglobal.net 1-812 828-0449

September Calendar, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 	4	5	6	7	8 General Meeting at Link New Moon Observing
9	10	11 	12	13 Board Meeting	14 McCloud Observing	15 General Observing at Link
16	17	18	19 	20	21	22 NAG at Link General Observing at Link
23	24	25	26 	27	28	29
30						

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.

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Annual Regular Membership (\$25.00)	
Annual Student Membership (\$10.00)	
Astronomy Magazine Renewal (\$34.00)	
Sky and Telescope Magazine (\$33.00) (New Subscription)	
Astronomical League*	
Total Enclosed	

* If you want to join the Astronomical League please contact John Shepherd ((317) 862-3442) first to determine the amount of prorated dues required.

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.