

Ashton Observatory Public Nights

The Des Moines Astronomical Society invites you to visit the Ashton Observatory Saturdays, 8:00 p.m., April through October.

Every Saturday offers stargazing through the large telescopes at Ashton, and some Saturdays include a classroom presentation, followed by stargazing as sky conditions allow.

Meet one of our presenters this season:

Jon Voisey



Jon Voisey is an amateur medieval astronomer. This unusual hobby was born out of the intersection of his longstanding interest in historic re-creation and his background in Astronomy.

Jon began doing historic re-creation around 1999 and obtained a BS in Astronomy from the University of Kansas in 2008, after which he was a writer for *Universe Today* and taught high school science.

As his participation in re-creation grew, he repeatedly came across references to medieval astronomers, instruments, and more, which he found surprising, since medieval times are often depicted as a "Dark Age" for astronomy.

In response, Jon has been researching the history of pre-telescopic astronomy with a hands-on approach, working through Ptolemy's *Almagest* page-by-page, and reconstructing one of Tycho Brahe's instruments to understand what the practices of these astronomers must have been like.

His eventual goal is to work through the publications of Copernicus and Kepler and hopefully, by then, have enough observations using pre-telescopic instruments to model the solar system using these historic techniques.