

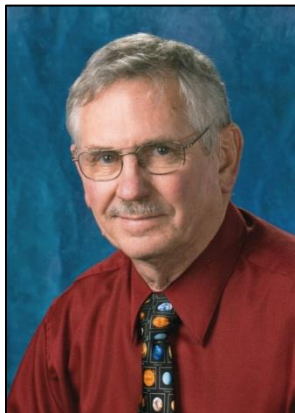
Ashton Observatory Public Nights

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

Most Saturdays include a classroom presentation, followed by stargazing as sky conditions allow.

Meet one of our fine presenters this season:

Derryl Barr



Derryl Barr has been involved in astronomy for most of his life, and has recently witnessed for the second time Saturn's return to the exact location where he first telescopically observed it in 1958, making him two in Saturnian years.

Derryl received his education from Westmar College, in Le Mars, Iowa, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1967, and the University of Northern Iowa where he earned his Masters in 1974.

For an eighteen year period starting in 1991 he wrote an astronomy column for the North Platte, Nebraska Telegraph. Between 2003 and 2011 he taught an observational astronomy course at Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte. And in

2004 he had the honor to serve as chairman for the first session of the 2nd International Solar Eclipse Conference held in Milton Keynes, England. He has also presented countless astronomical programs for various community and educational groups.

The study and observation of solar eclipses is definitely one of his greatest passions. Derryl has observed 22 central eclipses to date, including at least one from each of the seven continents. In addition he has observed from ingress to egress both the 2004 and 2012 transits of Venus. And while he plans to observe as many more solar eclipses as time allots him, he doubts that any more Venusian transits are in his future.

Currently Derryl lives in Indianola, Iowa, occasionally substitute teaches, serves as a volunteer during Drake Observatory Public Nights, attends meetings of the Des Moines Astronomical Society, and spends as much time as he can with his three grandchildren.