

# 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:

## Dave Lynch

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Dave Lynch was born in Texas but moved to Des Moines right after WWII. After graduating from Des Moines Technical High School in 1962 he continued his education at Iowa State University, graduating from there in 1966. Then, Dave says, “I took my senior trip to Viet Nam where I was a Scout with the 1st Infantry Division.”

After military service, Dave says “an attitude adjustment” led him to decide against his original plan for teaching. Instead he went to work for the Des Moines Water Works, completing 31 years as a service man before retiring at the age of 55.

Dave’s interest in astronomy started in August 1954 when he was ten years old and observed a UFO flying at high speed over Des Moines, an observation that has been corroborated by others in several books. That got Dave thinking more and more about “what’s out there.”

Solar astronomy is Dave’s main interest today – not only the physical make-up of stars but also the creation and death of stars.

Dave is a dedicated solar eclipse chaser. He reports that he has had the pleasure of going almost everywhere in the world to photograph and observe solar eclipses. He already has two more solar eclipse trips planned in the next three years. He’s especially excited that for the first time one of those trips will allow him to enjoy an eclipse within the continental United States.

Dave is a long time member of DMAS, and has served as Ashton Observatory Director in the past. He also assists regularly at the Drake Observatory on their Friday public nights.