

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:

Norm Van Klompenburg



Norm Van Klompenburg has been a mainstay in DMAS for many years, always able to diagnose and repair equipment problems, and operate telescopes for visitors during Ashton Public Nights. Norm has a thorough knowledge of astronomical targets. You couldn't ask for a better guide to the night sky.

Norm has a BA degree from Buena Vista University, and an MSW from the University of Nebraska. His professional career has been as a clinician in social work, and CEO of State and Regional Behavioral Health Organizations. He continues to volunteer in numerous community needs, including Treasurer for the Iowa Cancer Consortium, Rotary International, District 6000 Assistant Governor, Training Committee, Polio

Eradication Committee, Jasper County, IA, County Compensation Board, Congregational UCC, Newton, IA, Finance and Facilities Committees, and Iowa Conference UCC, Central Association, Committee on Ministry. If all this isn't enough, he is a very capable machinist as well.

In the Des Moines Astronomical Society Norm has offered leadership wherever he was needed, including a member of the Observatory Committee, and Chair of the Dark Sky Committee. Norm was recognized as Member of the Year in 2004 and 2011. When DMAS hosted the national Astronomy League ALCON convention in 2008, Norm was the Program Committee Chair. He has also been recognized by the Astronomical League with their Master Outreach Award.