

Ashton Observatory Public Nights

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

The 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month include a classroom presentation, followed by stargazing as sky conditions allow.

Meet one of our presenters this season:

Paul Caligiuri



Paul Caligiuri was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He became very interested in astronomy around 7 to 8 years of age. He had a small beginning telescope and read several books on astronomy. He started using a 3 inch refractor when he was about 15 years old.

Paul graduated from Des Moines Lincoln High School and then went to the University of Iowa. He studied a wide variety of science courses, including multiple Physics and Astronomy courses, and graduated with BS degrees in Physical and General Science.

When he was about 25 years old he graduated to an 8 inch reflector telescope. He used that telescope with its clock drive mount to do a lot of stargazing. He kept up with astronomical news by reading *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines, and various books.

Paul then earned a Master's degree in Science Education, and taught for several years before working for over 30 years in the areas of technical training, instructional design, and various computer programming and database related jobs. Paul taught multiple sessions of various science classes, including Astronomy and Physical Science, at the Upper Iowa University – Des Moines campus.

Paul has been married for over 45 years and has two children and four grandchildren, who he and his wife try to visit and do Web hangout meetings with as much as possible.

Paul now uses more modern digital telescopes, and is more into astrophotography since 2020.