

## Frederick Pilcher:

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Frederick Pilcher earned a Bachelor's degree from Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, in 1959 and a Master's degree from the University of Kansas in 1962. From 1962 until 2005 he was Chairman of the Physics Department at Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois, where for many years he also taught a course in Descriptive Astronomy for liberal arts students. In 1968 he became a pioneer in visually observing asteroids with the technique of identifying them from their absence on the 13th magnitude Vehrenberg Atlas Falkau and later with the 15th magnitude Atlas Stellarum. In 1973 he became a charter member of the Minor Planets Section of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers upon its founding by Richard Hodgson. From 1982 through the present he has served as Coordinator of the Minor Planets Section.

In 2005 he retired from physics teaching at Illinois College. He visited several active asteroid lightcurve observers, among them Dan KlingleSmith of New Mexico Tech, to learn the trade. Then he moved to Las Cruces where he built a back yard observatory. For four years his research activity has been asteroid CCD photometry and lightcurve analysis. He has collaborated with other amateurs in the field from all over the world and published many papers on asteroid lightcurves and rotation periods in the Minor Planet Bulletin of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers.