

Observatory hosting Radio Astronomy Open House

A Radio Astronomy Open House takes place at the University of Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis on Saturday, March 9, from 8-11 p.m.

Radio Astronomy is a relatively young branch of astronomy that takes advantage of radio-frequency emission, instead of the more familiar optical emission, according to the observatory's website.

At the open house, astrophysicist Jo-Anne Brown will present her research unlocking the mysteries of the nebulous universe.

In the sky, the Gemini Twins will be directly overhead and the stars Castor and Pollux are the brightest stars in the constellation. A total of 85 stars are visible in Gemini without a telescope – see how many you can observe. There will be an array of scopes operated by University of Calgary



Neel Roberts

The Sky's the Limit

astronomers and members of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes. The entrance fee \$30 per car. For further information, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca or 403-931-2366. Visit www.ucalgary.ca/rao for more information, including directions to visit the observatory.

Sky watch

On Sunday, March 17 after sunset, look in the southeast-east as the moon hangs near the Beehive Cluster on St. Patrick's Day.

The Spring Equinox occurs Wednesday, March 20 at 3:58 p.m. The days are getting noticeably longer.

Did you catch the Zodiacal Lights last month? It's a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic, or zodiac. The best time to see the Zodiacal Lights is from Thursday, March 21 for two weeks, after the evening twilight, in the west.

Neel Roberts, a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 and at Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.