

Project Star Talk — is anyone out there?

One of the “not so great” movies of the late ‘60’s was a sci-fi film called “The Terronauts.”

Dr Burke’s small team called “Project Star Talk” had a mission to establish contact with any order of astuteness outside the earth. Burke, played by British actor Simon Oakes, was ridiculed daily by his boss yet one evening not only did he get his answer but was also drafted by predecessors to a small asteroid to save the Earth from advancing enemy forces. The long and short of it is “Project Star Talk” team members turned out to be “not so popular” heroes who saved our planet from an alien attack.

Man has always been fascinated with the idea of life outside our planet, and the “Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence” institute celebrated its 25th anniversary this year doing what Dr. Burke acted out over 40 years



Neil Roberts
Sky’s the Limit

ago. SETI (www.seti.org), based in Mountain View, Calif., has more than 150 staff attempting to establish the existence of life in the universe. While no concrete results have shown up, one of the greatest questions not answered is “if life existed outside the Earth, would it be in a way we understood it”?

Sky watch for the next month

Starting at sunrise in the east May 9, both Uranus and Jupiter will follow our moon until it sets. Jupiter is visible with the naked eye, but you’ll need binoculars for Uranus.

On May 21 at sunset,

look north-northwest about one-third up and with a telescope you’ll see the M35 cluster under Venus right until it sets around midnight in the NW.

If you’re up at midnight when the calendar turns to May 28, that’s Anteras revealing itself and eventually both setting in the southwest around 5 a.m.

The Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower runs from May 4-7 and usually produces about 10 meteors per hour. It is radiant May 5 and 6 in the east after midnight.

Public events for the next month

All-Star Telescope offers regular free stargazing nights at its premises just south of Didsbury on Highway 2A and Wescott Road. Bring along your own scopes or share views from the many they have on display. A toasty showroom with bathroom is available.

There is no charge or registration required and refreshments are sometimes also provided. Show up May 15 from 9-11 p.m. at 31020 Highway 2A and look for the starlit driveway. For further information contact Ken or Bev From at 1-866-310-8844, www.all-startelescope.com.

On May 24, from noon to 3 p.m., weather permitting, enjoy daytime telescope viewing of the Sun through safe solar filters using telescopes set up outside the Creative Kids Museum at the TELUS World of Science.

For further information contact Cassandra McAuley, 403-268-8328, or astronomycalgary.com/events/info/306.

Neil Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Neil welcomes your questions and comments at (403) 485-2683 and Neil_Roberts@ptccanada.com.