

A VARIETY OF CELESTIAL EVENTS TO TAKE IN THIS MONTH

NEEL ROBERTS

On Sunday, July 9 before sun-down, look west as Venus will be up until 11:16 p.m.

On Thursday, July 13, a few hours before dawn, look north-east-east to see a conjunction of the moon and Pleiades star cluster.

On Wednesday, July 26 after 9:30 p.m., look northwest-west as Mercury, Venus and Mars set into the night an hour later.

From Sunday, July 30 until July 31, look in the constellation Aquarius one to two hours before dawn as it's expected debris from comet 96P Machholz will fall at a rate of 15-20 per hour. The near full moon will reduce visibility.

For this month's events, check the calendar at calgary.rasc.ca/calendar2023.htm#Jul.

This month, the University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory near Priddis features "Milky Way Nights."

"Close to the new moon, the dark sky conditions are perfect for viewing the summer sky. Soaring above is the eagle constellation, in which the brightest star is the young herdsman Altair who falls in love with Vega as she weaves the fabric of the universe," reads information on eventbrite.ca about Milky Way Nights. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes and listen to an indoor presentation, and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions. Sessions take place on Thursday, July 13 to Saturday, July 15, starting at 11 p.m. The entrance fee is \$11.98 per person, and tickets can be purchased at eventbrite.ca.

Neel Roberts is a local astronomer in southern Alberta and welcomes your comments at Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com and 403-560-6574. Check out his work at www.ptccanada.com.