

# Spooks in space

Halloween doesn't seem synonymous with stargazing to the average person but that's why you take the time to listen to what the experts say. Few actually are aware that there are many objects named around the Halloween theme. The Tarantula Nebula (NGC 2070) located 160,000 light years away is very noticeable, measuring 300 light years large. The Cat's Paw Nebula (NGC 6334) is further at 5.5 million light years. On a similar note, the Cat's Eye Nebula (no relation-NGC 6543) is much closer at 3,300 light years and while its features are very unique, it is a dying star throws off shells of glowing gas as seen through the Hubble Space Telescope. Lastly, the Witch Head Nebula (IC 2118) seems comparably local at 1,000 light years. Located in the constellation of Orion, it is extremely faint with Earth-like clouds shaping the head of the sorceress image. There's more, but whether these scare or excite you, they're



**Neel Roberts**  
*The Sky's the Limit*

never boring!

## **Sky watch for the next month**

The Penumbra Hunter's Moon takes place Friday, Oct. 18 starting at 6:26 p.m. in the northeast horizon. You can see it all night and it sets just before 9 a.m. in the northwest sky. We in the west will just miss the eclipse.

With a good telescope you can see two moons casting a shadow in the northeast on Friday, Oct. 18 from 10:13 p.m. until two hours later. Stick around until 2 a.m. and you'll see Comet ISON rise right next to Mars. Also, stick around until 02:00 am and you'll see Comet ISON rise right next to Mars which is predicted to be the comet of the century

next month.

The Orionids Meteor Shower peaks on Monday, Oct. 21 for one to two hours before dawn, just to the north of the constellation Orion's bright star, Betelgeuse. With the second-fastest entry velocity of the annual showers at 25 per hour, meteors from the Orionids produce yellow and green colours, and have been known to produce an odd fireball. Unfortunately the light from the bright waning gibbous moon this year is sure to wash out all but the brightest meteors.

Did you catch the Zodiacal Light 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 it is before dawn from Thursday, Oct. 3 for two weeks, in the northeast.

## **Public events for the next month**

An observer's night is being hosted by All-Star Telescope ([\[startelescope.com\]\(http://startelescope.com\)\) just outside Didsbury on Saturday, Nov. 9. The event starts at 7 p.m. and lasts until midnight. This full facility telescope dealer has a heated showroom, and everything is provided for free. I am planning to attend and you are welcome to caravan with a group I am assembling leaving Vulcan around 3:30 p.m. weather permitting. We stop for a Chinese food buffet before heading to the celestial farm for the evening. For further information contact Ken From at 866-310-8844.](http://www.all-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

At the monthly public stargazing at the Trek Station, we'll talk about about the Hunter's moon rising and much more, weather permitting, on Friday, Oct. 11, starting at 7:30 p.m. Small indoor presentation is followed by stargazing. Treats and refreshments are provided free of charge and all welcome.

Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403)485-2683, [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com).