

Astronomer shows you the ropes at Spock Days

Have you ever wanted to be taught by the best of the best?

Mark Friday, June 12 on your calendar and learn the skies from author and speaker Alan Dyer. Having written several books and equipped with an information-loaded website, amazingsky.ca, Dyer has been a student of the sky since he can remember.

A resident of southern Alberta, he has given presentations for decades, and this year Vulcan is privileged to host him at the Trek Station on June 12, the first day of Spock Days.

Last year the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) successfully held an astronomy evening with several presentations.

This year we are raising the bar as Dyer will attempt to share decades of experience in one evening. The RASC Calgary, in co-operation with Vulcan Tourism, has steadily been



Neel Roberts

The Sky's the Limit

improving the stargazing evenings that started in December 2010 with technology and guest speakers in specific areas.

Several telescopes and visual aids will be outside, and you are welcome to bring your own binoculars and other stargazing equipment.

Extended daylight hours allow participants to snap pictures with their smartphones of Venus, Jupiter and Saturn with the rings perfectly visible, making Spock Days unique and well worth it.

We meet the second Friday of every month, starting at 7:30 p.m. After

indoor presentations, we go outside to scope the skies with an 11-inch telescope. All are welcome, and there's no charge. Refreshments are provided. For more information, phone the Trek Station at 403-485-2994 or visit www.vulcantourism.com.

Sky watch

On Friday, June 12 in the west at sundown until after midnight, Venus will be next to the Bee Hive Cluster M44. Both are naked eye objects, and we will point this out at the June 12 stargazing session.

On Sunday, June 14 look northeast-east before sunrise at about 5:15 a.m. as Mercury seems to follow the moon up.

On Sunday, June 30 in the west after sundown, Venus and Jupiter will be near conjunction and will be the brightest object in the sky besides the moon, before they set at about midnight. Makes a great smartphone photo object

through a telescope.

Sunday, June 21 is the first day of summer. The sun officially rises at 5:23 a.m. and sets at 9:43 p.m. with high noon at 1:33 p.m. for a total of 16 hours, 19 minutes of daylight.

Public events

Have you ever wanted to be in a parade float? The Calgary chapter of RASC has been in the parade for more than six years, and it's always a blast! We invite you to join us for the one-hour ride through Vulcan. All are welcome on Saturday, June 13, at 8:30 a.m. The float gets going at 10 a.m. Bring candy if you wish to throw out to the crowd, but it's not necessary.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Roberts welcomes your questions and comments, and can be reached at 403-560-6574 and Neel_Roberts@ptc.canada.com.