

# Friendly dogs love stargazing meetings

Don't leave Fido home the next time folks gather around scopes.

Dogs are not only good pets and keep the cat burglar away, but they are quite the hit at astronomy meetings.

Yes, they may be bored during the indoor lecture, but that all changes once everybody heads out for the practical stuff.

Some will try to chase the hubcaps off cars while others roll in the mud if the children aren't pulling their tails. I even saw a recycle-minded one eating the cow doo-doo since we were meeting in a rancher's pasture.



**Neel  
ROBERTS**  
YOUR UNIVERSE

No doubt, they are a blast and can even turn into entertainment if the clouds blow in.

It can be tricky getting them to look through the scope. The pups will usually lick it, while the older ones fog up the lenses, but the odd one will try being human about it and show interest — for a whole five seconds.

Let me put it this way, it's like trying to get them to watch TV, so let that sink in.

Overall, they just love the company and make a good experience even better.

What's their favourite celestial object? That's right: Sirius the dog star right out of the constellation, *Canis Major*. Now doesn't that just figure? Stay tuned for the feline version.

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

- *Eta Aquarids* Meteor Shower — caused by comet 1P Halley shoots 10-20 meteors per hour after Friday evening on May 5 and before dawn on Saturday, May 6. The Waxing Gibbous Moon will set before sunrise and prime time in the SEE around 4 a.m.

- Moon rises with Saturn — On Friday, May 12, the moon will rise around 11 p.m. followed by Saturn

after midnight will be in the sky all night.

- Mega Jupiter Double Shadow Transits — Too many to list for May and you can look up the details online for May 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 28 and 29.

- Venus rises with Crescent Moon — On Monday, May 22 before dawn, look east around 4:20 a.m. as these rise followed by Mercury before sunrise.

## **Public Events for the next month:**

Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center takes place Friday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. Join us at the Trek Center for our monthly Star Gazing. Special guest speaker Dr. Gordon Freeman (<http://hiddenstonehenge.com>) will give a detailed talk on "Canada's Stonehenge, the Majorville Medicine Wheel" located an hour northeast of Vulcan near the Bow River. Followed by stargazing on our 11-inch telescope outside with much more. Take photos with your smartphone through our scope and share with other participants. Refreshments are provided, all welcome and no charge. It is held the second Friday monthly at 7:30 p.m. For further information contact the Trek center at 403-485-2994 or the website at: [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com).

Happy Victoria Day long weekend.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada —



Photos by Neel Roberts

**We found this visitor and it fit in like a regular.**

*the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with more than 5,000 members and 29 centres across Canada.*

*He welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or email: [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com).*

*The members meet the second Friday monthly at the Trek Center at 7:30 p.m. and you find out about membership at: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2017.htm>.*



**This pooch takes stargazing more serious than his master.**