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A funny thing happened on the way to the moon

Written by Neel Roberts



Karl Iverson of Champion, Alberta sets up his 4" telescope before the crowd shows at Calgary's Rothney Observatory. Since 1970, the Cowboy Trail based meeting place gets busy in the summer as they can get as many as 1,000 show up at their open house weekends; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/events/calendar>

Contributed

I need to thank readers for their feedback and most importantly willingness to challenge a narrative.

Recently I was sent a short documentary by Bart Sibrel called "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Moon" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xciCJfbTvE4> essentially the reality of the Moon landing.

As a big fan of the Moon landings, I normally throw such nonsense in the garbage like a multi level marking program pamphlet, but the sender promised me it wouldn't be a waste of time. Well after watching it, he was right. Sibrel, who claims the movie has an 80% conversion rate, is most convincing. I researched both the filmmaker and topic and found out this meme known as the "Moon Landing Hoax" has been around since the '70s by several different people well before Sibrel's time. With powerful new telescopes coming on board, we can now have clear views of the lunar surface which will be able to see the American flag and even the 50-year-old footprints left behind since there's no weather to erode them. As of today, I'm sticking with the official narrative that we landed in 1969 however as a person who is teachable, I'm open to correct facts, in proper context that prove otherwise. I'd love to hear your feedback once you see the movie, etc.!

Sky watch for the next month:

- 1 Jupiter Brightest- on Wednesday, May 09th after dusk look SE for the evening as the king planet is in opposition until dawn.
- 2 Venus next to Crescent Moon- on Thursday, May 17th after dusk look West as these 2 set around 23:00 in the NW.
- 3 Quarter Moon near Beehive cluster- On Monday, May 21st, you can check these out with your Victoria Day fireworks from sunset in the SWW.
- 4 Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower- caused by comet 1P Halley shoots 15-20 meteors per hour after Saturday evening May 05th and before dawn on Monday the 07th. The Waning Gibbous Moon will be out and blind much of it the Constellation Aquarius (SEE).

Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Open House at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis- "How to Astronomy" for all visitors. Book ahead and you can bring your telescope. We will be helping new astronomers learn about the how, they when and the what to look for in the sky. This is a hands-on experience to help you get started with Astronomy. The evening will kick off with an observatory check-in, then a presentation on what's up the sky by the RASC Calgary Centre. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, indoor presentation and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions on Saturday May 26th 22:00 to 02:00am. The entrance fee \$30 per car. further information, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca, (403) 931-2366. Their website <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/> updated regularly.

Happy Victoria Long Weekend!

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403)560-6574, Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet once a month on weekends at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis and you can check out times at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/calendar>. Like them at Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/CalgaryRASC> & YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/RASCCalgary>.

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