

2019 Twilight Zone reboot perks astronomers on its 60th Anniversary

"Where is Everybody?" was the name of the premier episode of Rod Serling's Twilight Zone Oct. 2, 1959.

Launched by CBS near Halloween, it was well received for six seasons until 1964.

Revived in 1985 for three seasons and in 2002 for 2 seasons the original restart was the movie in 1983.

With several of the 1960's actors still alive today, its one of the longest running franchises in TV history including the 2019 series.

"Twilight" is the light between sunset rise/set and total darkness, whereas "Zone" refers to a metaphysical place contrary to natural law.

The first episode featured a lonely astronaut Mike Ferris, played by Earl Holliman (91 years young as of today!), having a nightmare on a deserted Earth while he was in fact being tested for a solo flight to the Moon.

The episode concluded that while man was able to address many issues during a flight, the need for companionship could not be artificially replicated.

Many more episodes went on to deal with planetary exploration, time travel



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and paranormal situations; well before the 1969 Apollo 11 Moon Landing, so it's somewhat foretelling. Given it has some similarities to shows like "The Outer Limits", "Night Gallery" and less known "One Step Beyond", fans agree Twilight Zone is "The" American TV benchmark that fed the nation's growing interest in the mystical, paralleling the cold war of that day. The 2019 relaunch is yet to announce the exact date of its premier on CBS but what's known so far, is the Vancouver, B.C. filmed series has at least 10 episodes for this season include a remake of the Oct. 11, 1963 "Nightmare at 20,000 feet" originally starring Captain Kirk's William Shatner. More to come and you can check out the website at <https://www.cbs.com/shows/the-twilight-zone/>.

Sky watch for the next month:

1. Jupiter & Moon rise together - Look SEE Wednesday, February 27th at 3

a.m. see this duo come up as they fade into daylight.

2. Saturn & Venus rise together- At dawn on Monday February 18th looking SEE at 05:30 am see these planets come up as they fade into daylight.

3. Betelgeuse- the Valentine's star is visible Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14th starting in the SEE from dusk until setting in the West after 3:30 am. Impress your date by showing them the easy to find red pulsating star which is Orion's shoulder.

4. Zodiacal Light- is a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. Discovered by the astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini in 1683 and later explained by Nicolas Fatio de Duillier in 1684, its best time is from Thursday, Feb. 21 for two weeks in the West after evening.

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Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Open House at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis-Space Race Open House. In the sky, Regal Leo the Lion will be rising in the East. The waxing first quarter moon will provide dark sky conditions perfect for observing the night sky. There will be an array of scopes operated by

University of Calgary astronomers and members of the RASC Calgary. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, indoor presentation and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions on Saturday Feb. 9 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. The entrance fee \$30 per car. further info, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca, (403) 931-2366. Their website is at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/> updated regularly.

Happy Valentines and stargazing!
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 times at 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>.