

Check out Betelgeuse — The Valentine's Star

Sky watch for February, 2015:

- **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, it's trying to find and the best time is from Friday, Feb. 6 for two weeks in the northwest after evening.

- **Betelgeuse** — the Valentine's star is visible Valentine's Day, Friday, Feb. 14 starting in the S.E. sky from dusk until setting in the west at 3:30 a.m. Impress your date by showing him or her the easy-to-find red pulsating star which is Orion's shoulder.

- **Waxing Moon with planets** — Look S.W.W. Friday, Feb. 20, after sundown. The moon will almost seem in conjunction with Mars and Venus for about two hours



RASC Calgary Astronomy lecturer Roland Dechesne briefs visitors on what to expect while stargazing. Dechesne has given talks about astronomy for decades and is the regular presenter in Vulcan.

before all three set.

- **Mars and Venus in near conjunction** — Look S.W.W. the next day, Saturday, Feb. 21 after nightfall as they will seem to overlap each other before setting in two hours.

Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center. Join us Valentine's evening Friday, Feb. 13 and learn about the Valentine's Star Betelgeuse and more courtesy of the RASC (Calgary) starting at 7:30 p.m. Brief indoor presentation followed by stargazing by the 11-inch telescope and binocular outside (weather permitting). All welcome, no charge and refreshments provided. Experts on hand the second Friday monthly at 7:30 p.m. to explain the heavens, teach scoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of the sky. For further information, contact the Trek Center at 403-485-2994. The website www.vulcantourism.com will be updated regularly.

Happy Valentine's Day 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 more than 4,000 members and 29 centres across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or e-mail: Neel_Roberts@ptc.canada.com. The members meet the second Friday monthly at the Trek Center in Vulcan and you can check them out at <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2015.htm>.



Neel ROBERTS
YOUR UNIVERSE



Photos contributed by Neel Roberts

Telescope expert Karl Ivarson always has the 11-inch Celestron ready so regular patrons including Maggie Sevilla of Calgary (faced away) can observe while he and astronomy co-ordinator Neel Roberts point to various objects.