

International Dark Sky Week celebrates natural night skies all year round



NEEL ROBERTS
Sky's the Limit

No matter where in the world you live pressure is mounting to preserve “natural dark skies.”

The International Dark-Sky Association, based in Tucson,

Arizona, has a mission to lead a movement to protect the night from light pollution. If you check out its website, the association has made significant strides.

April 22-30 is International Dark Sky Week, dedicated to raising awareness about the movement.

SKY WATCH

The Lyrids meteor shower will peak at dusk on Friday, April 22. Look north-northeast into the constellation of Lyra near

Vega and you should be able to catch 10-20 meteors per hour on average, with rare surges of up to 100 after the moon sets at around 5 a.m. Visit timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/lyrids.html for more information.

On Saturday, April 23, look southeast at 4 a.m. as a quarter moon pulls up Saturn, Mars, Venus and Jupiter into the morning.

On Friday, April 29, look northwest-west after dusk and watch Mercury and the open star cluster M45 set into the night.

On Saturday, April 30, look east at 5 a.m. as Jupiter and Venus rise into the morning.

Neel Roberts is a local astronomer in southern Alberta and welcomes your comments at Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com and 403-560-6574. Check out his work at www.ptccanada.com.