

Sky watch for August



NEEL ROBERTS

Sky's the Limit

On Friday, Aug. 18 before sunset, look southwest-west and watch Mars and the moon duo set into the night after 9 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 13 after dark will be the peak of the annual Perseids meteor shower, with an estimated rate of 144 meteors per hour. However, the moon, in Aquarius, will be only two days past full phase at the shower's peak, presenting significant interference throughout the night. The best time to view is starting at 11 p.m. facing the north-northeast in the constellation of Perseids until dawn.

On Saturday, Aug. 26 before sunset, look southwest-west – if you have a good telescope, you can see the rings of Saturn in daylight, which is a treat. Saturn can be seen from 6:38 p.m. before it sets at 6:42 p.m.

August is an excellent month to view our home galaxy, the Milky Way, without freezing. The best time is after 11 p.m. until dawn.

STAR PARTY IN SASKATCHEWAN THIS MONTH

The Saskatchewan Summer Star Party Weekend takes place from Wednesday, Aug. 16 to Sunday, Aug. 20 at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park Centre Block, 30 kilometres south of Maple Creek on Highway 21. The event is presented by the Saskatoon and Regina centres of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. For further details, contact Les Dickson at 306-270-9184 and sssp.sk@sasktel.net, or visit sssp.saskatoon.rasc.ca.