

Rare super blue moon eclipse will be blood red

This year starts off with a lunar eclipse on the last day of the month — and it gets better.

You might have heard the old saying “once in a blue moon” but how about twice in a blue moon? Yes, we have two of them with a bonus one this year.

The first will be at dawn on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and the second on Saturday, March 31.

While the moon won't physically turn blue, there will be two full moons. The second one is called this because it's rare.

The bonus is on Jan. 31, and is also a total lunar eclipse, turning blood red. It peaks at 6:27 a.m. You'll catch



Neel Roberts
The Sky's the Limit

some of the red against the blue sky as it sets, which makes it even more unique.

The 19-year metonic cycle will repeat itself on Jan. 31, 2037 with a carbon copy of a blue moon turned eclipse red. Capturing a picture of the lunar eclipse against a blue day sky is not only spectacular but it also only happens “once in a

blue moon”!

Sky watch

On Jan. 13, look to the southeast after 7:15 a.m. until sunrise as the waning crescent moon pulls Mercury and Saturn up.

Public events

Check out the first stargazing event at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis for the year on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 3-9 p.m. That day, there will be a special event hosted by Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) in celebration of RASC's 150th anniversary.

There will be an array of scopes operated by University of Calgary astronomers and members of RASC Calgary.

You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, there will be an indoor presentation and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions. The entrance fee is by donation.

For further information, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca or 403-931-2366. The website <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/> is updated regularly.

Happy new year and the best for 2018 and beyond!

Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 and at Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.