

# Surprise dad with a star barbecue

The last thing we have on our mind this time of year is Christmas shopping, but if you're like me and a few others, you may do it all year round. That's one way to think about what to buy that person who has everything, but what about a new twist to celebrate Father's Day? Sure there's always new ties coming out and tools are always handy, but the old saying "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach" never seems to die, even if he's on a diet. Star barbecues are that twist which will amaze your friends and neighbours, especially if you invite them over. Not only will dad be impressed with your ingenuity but others can share the moment even if they're not fathers.

Last year, coincidentally Father's Day was also on the summer solstice, and I suggested it was a great time to get him out of bed and wish him "happy first day of summer" while cooking



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him a star barbecue at the crack of dawn. For those who followed my advice, we had some surprised dads at 4 a.m., but this year, do it the other way around. Wish him a happy Father's Day while flipping a burger but at the "end" of the day, when all his buddies can help you do it under the starry night.

## Sky watch for the next month

Early on June 28 at about 3 a.m. look at the northeast horizon as the Seven Sisters leads the moon rise while Mars follows it below left. If it's too early, you can see the set together just after dinner at 7 p.m. in the northwest.

Venus leads the sunrise early on June 9 at roughly 4:30 a.m. The morning star Venus in the northeast-east horizon signals the sun is about to come up. A short 45 degree upper right is Mars and if you go further, that's Jupiter. Because they're so bright, you can see them with the naked eye.

Both the partial solar and a total lunar eclipse are not visible from our location, but you can check out the solar eclipse today (Wednesday) from 1:25 p.m., peaking at 3:16 p.m. and ending at 5:05 p.m., at <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEsaros/SEsaros118.html>. The lunar eclipse is on June 15 from 11:24 a.m., peaking at 2:12 p.m. and ending at 5 p.m., and can be seen at <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEsaros/LEsaros130.html>.

June 21 at 11:16 a.m. is officially the summer solstice, and we will have 16 hours and 33 minutes

of actual daylight. The sun officially rises at 5:21 a.m. and sets at 9:55 p.m. with high noon at 1:38 p.m.

## Public events for the next month

Have you ever wanted to be in a parade float? Last year was the Royal Astronomical Society of Calgary's first Spock Days float, and it was a blast! We invite you to join us for the ride through Vulcan on Saturday morning, from about 8:30 a.m. to roughly 10 a.m. Bring candy if you wish to throw out to the audience. Contact the Vulcan Tourism and Trek Station at 403-485-2994 for details.

Happy Father's Day and welcome to summer!

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