

The world of astrophotography awaits you

Have you ever peered through a scope and were dumbfounded by what the lenses revealed to you? One of the most speechless sites is being able to capture planets like Saturn and Jupiter during broad daylight.

Witnesses simply wish they had snapped a picture for their album for bragging rights to their friends.

Meet Dalton Wilson, a local astrophotographer who takes his hobby seriously and became fascinated by the idea of not letting amazing celestial objects get away.

His website, <http://astrodew.zenfolio.com>, is simply riveting and enough to inspire anyone to try out astrophotography.

It's a pastime that can get really expensive if you become absorbed in it, so check out some free instructional videos at www.all-startelescope.com to get acquainted with it.



Neel Roberts
The Sky's the Limit

One might ask, "Is there more to discover or has everything been found that's out there?"

Let me put that into perspective. Recently, NASA discovered what is believed to be the biggest galaxy ever.

Named "El Gordo" (the fat one), the seven-billion light year object is estimated to contain over two quadrillion stars (our sun is one star!). And guess what? It's not visible with the naked eye!

Sky watch for the next month

On Tuesday, May 21 after sunset that bright object next to the moon is Spica, and it will not

only follow it all night but also sets behind it at dawn in the southwest-west.

Between Friday, May 24 to Thursday, May 30 Mercury, Venus and Jupiter will provide a fascinating show low in the west-northwest twilight sky soon after sunset. They will seemingly shuffle around each other, changing their positions noticeably from one evening to the next. On Tuesday, May 26, the trio will be two degrees apart in a rare formation in the northern twilight, and it's visible to the naked eye.

On Friday, May 24, the moon will be in a semi-eclipse phase all night, so it won't be hard to spot with the naked eye. Check out NASA's <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OHfigures/OH2013-Fig03.pdf> for details.

The Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower is caused by comet 1P Halley shooting 10-20 meteors per hour before dawn on

May 5, and the waning crescent Moon shouldn't reduce visibility by much. Prime viewing is southeast-east at about 4 a.m. until the sun comes up.

Public events for the next month

Mark down Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar and join us at the Trek Station for our monthly star gazing.

There will be a short indoor presentation on "spring stars and constellations," and then we'll check them out on our telescope outside.

Refreshments are provided, all are welcome, and there's no charge.

For more information contact Vulcan Tourism at 403-485-2994.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-485-2683, and Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.