

# Build your own instant observatory for less than \$3,000

Have you ever wanted your own observatory but didn't want to either fork out a wheel barrow of cash or develop drawings that take a century to build?

Meet the Sky Shed Pod ([www.skyshedpod.com](http://www.skyshedpod.com)), which has now been on the market for more than six years.

From just less than \$2,500, you can be stargazing in minutes whether you want to make your station temporary or permanent.

Some of the features available are a glow-in-the-dark option, a zenith table, Pod visor and up to five bays for storage.

The pod is made from materials that can withstand hundreds of degrees of sun heat and allows for fans and even air conditioning.

In the winter, you can opt to insulate it with Ecomate insulation while staying toasty warm in those -40 C howling wind nights.



**Neel Roberts**  
*The Sky's the Limit*

## **Sky watch for the next month**

The moon will be at its annual perigee on Sunday, July 21. Look out for large tides as the moon will be the closest to Earth.

Venus is in the Beehive (M44) on Wednesday, July 3. After sunset, look northwest-west and Venus will be in front of that famous insect cluster until they both set an hour later, at 11 p.m., for the night.

A triple planet rise takes place at dawn on Tuesday, July 23.

Just before the sun comes up, look northeast-east and you will first see Mars and Jupiter just before 4 a.m. followed

by Mercury at about 4:45 a.m.

The Delta Aquarids meteor shower will peak on Monday and Tuesday, July 29-30.

Look in the southern sky after sunset as it is expected meteors will fall at a rate of 15-20 per hour.

## **Public events for the next month**

Mark down Friday, July 12 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar and join us for the monthly Friday night stargazing at the Tourism and Trek Station.

We will try to show you the rings of Saturn during daylight (yes, this is possible with the scope we have!) followed by a short indoor presentation on the cosmos.

Experts are on hand every second Friday of the month to explain the heavens, teach scoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of our sky.

For further information,

contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994 or visit [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com).

Join us for some good times and great viewing under wonderfully dark skies during the annual Royal Astronomical Society of Canada StarBQ, to be held Friday, Aug. 2 to Monday, Aug. 5 at the Eccles Ranch Observatory-just north of Caroline Alberta.

The cost of camping is \$20 per vehicle, and the Saturday buffet is \$21 per person.

For further information contact Greg Bridger 403-547-7044 or email [abstarbq@shaw.ca](mailto:abstarbq@shaw.ca).

On the web, visit [calgary.rasc.ca/starbq.htm](http://calgary.rasc.ca/starbq.htm).

*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](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com).*