

Conditions outside our stratosphere makes life beyond Earth unlikely

Hollywood has made billions promoting the idea that men can live in outer space with no hang ups.

Star Trek is one of many TV shows or movies which depict "post terra firma" existence like a drive in the country.

Yet, is this purely fantasy?

Several researchers seem to think so, and recently science journalist Charles Quixote Choi of www.space.com in his June 4, 2014 article *Extreme Space Weather of Common Stars Could Make Alien Life Scarce* points out conditions are simply too hard outside our planet.

PhD planet researcher and professor Jay Richardson and Guillermo Gonzalez, respectively, couldn't



Neel Roberts
The Sky's the Limit

agree more.

Their 10-year-old book and movie *Privileged Planet* goes into great detail into the Earth's uniqueness.

While they hold to a creation worldview, they point out objectively that if in fact the Earth progressed out of random chance as the evolutionists hold to, we definitely won the "cosmic lottery."

Sky watch

Right after supper on Monday, Sept. 8 at 7:38 p.m. in the east, watch the legendary harvest

(full) moon rise.

In the days before electricity, farmers counted on the lamp of the harvest moon to gather their crops, and even with harvesting these days, it's a nice bonus considering it stays up all night.

The Zodiacal Light is a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. It's trying to find, and the best time is from Sunday, Sept. 21 for two weeks in the east morning twilight.

The fall equinox officially arrives Monday, Sept. 22, at 8:29 p.m.

As the sun sets look south-southwest on Monday, Sept. 29 after 7 p.m. to see Mars, our moon and star Antares in close proximity for a couple of hours.

Public events

Join us Friday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. for our regular meeting.

A short indoor presentation is followed by outside observing.

The topic this month will be "fall in the sky" followed by stargazing through our 11-inch telescope, weather pending.

Experts are on hand each 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 the website www.vulcantourism.com.

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