

A career of stargazing passion

Alan Dyer, an internationally renowned astronomer and Pulitzer-prize winner is a Canadian who's been in the business since childhood.

Originally from Winnipeg and launching his career at the Edmonton Planetarium in 1975, he's been a Westerner all his live teaching astronomy, writing several books/publications and always involved in various ventures including his personal telescope from his acreage outside Strathmore.

Officially retired 40 years later, he's busier than ever with new projects like marketing an ebook on nightscapes, teaching northern lights sessions in Churchill Manitoba, and partnering with All Star Telescopes (www.allstartelescopes.com) on specialty Photoshop/astrophotography seminars. His website can be found at www.amazing



Neel Roberts
The Sky's the Limit

sky.com.

This Spock Days weekend, on Friday, June 12, we are privileged to have Dyer as our guest speaker at the Tourism and Trek Station. Details will follow, and space is limited, but let him explain why space is the "final frontier."

Sky watch for the next month

See the waxing moon with planets on Friday, Feb. 20. Look southwest-west after sundown — the Moon will almost seem in conjunction with Mars and Venus for about two hours before all three set.

Mars and Venus will be in a near conjunction on Saturday, Feb. 21. Look southwest-west after nightfall as they will seem to overlap each other before setting in two hours.

Betelgeuse, the Valentine's star, will be visible on Valentine's Day starting in the southeast sky from dusk until setting in the west at 3:30 a.m.

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 tough to find, and the best time is from Friday, Feb. 6 for two weeks in the northwest after evening.

Public events for the next month

Join us for the monthly public stargazing session at the Trek Station on Friday, Feb. 13, and learn about the Valentine's Star Betel-

geuse and more courtesy of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Calgary chapter, starting at 7:30 p.m.

During these monthly stargazing sessions, a brief indoor presentation is followed by stargazing outside — weather permitting — through an 11-inch telescope and binoculars.

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

Everyone is welcome to this free event, and refreshments are provided.

For more information, visit www.vulcantomorism.com or contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 and at Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.