

Fall lunar eclipse on Sunday, Sept. 27

On Sunday, Sept. 27 after supper will be a special full moon rise. Known as the harvest moon by farmers, it will come up in near semi-eclipse mode at about 7:30 p.m. in the east.

It will reach its maximum eclipse at 8:47 p.m. for about 45 minutes, so there's lots of time for pictures and observation. It will de-eclipse for about two more hours before going back to normal.

It is a wonderful sight to see with your eyes alone, but it can be appreciated even more through a telescope. You should be able to capture pictures with your smartphone, and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) will be set up that evening at the Vulcan Tourism and



Neil Roberts
The Sky's the Limit

Trek Station for this special event starting at 7 p.m.

Sky watch

On Friday, Sept. 4, and going into Saturday morning, look northeast-east as the moon rises with the star Aldebaran in eclipse but comes out from behind after about 30 minutes.

On Thursday, Sept. 10 just before sunrise, look

east before 7 a.m. to catch Venus and Mars next to the crescent moon. Jupiter is not far behind before dawn.

The Zodiacal Light, a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extending up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac, is difficult to find, but the best time is from Friday, Sept. 11 for two weeks in the east morning twilight.

A partial solar eclipse takes place on Sunday, Sept. 13 with the peak at 12:52 a.m.

Public events

Join us Friday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. for our regular monthly meeting. A short indoor presentation will be followed by outside observing. The topic this month

will be on the total lunar eclipse and the Star Barbecue being held near Maycroft on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The presentation will be followed by stargazing through our 11-inch telescope, weather pending. Experts will be on hand to explain the heavens, teach telescoping 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.

Neil Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He welcomes your questions and comments at (403) 485-2683 and Neil_Roberts@ptccanada.com.