

iPhone the universe

Smartphones are this decade's hottest selling electronic devices for very good reasons. Compared to the clunky desktops that dominated the last decade, the handhelds have definitely come a long way. Not only are they agile and easy to use, their portability does not discount their capability. The iPhone has been Apple's break away success with 50 million units sold in three short years. Hailed by *Time Magazine* as the "Invention of the Year" debuting in 2007, CEO Steve Jobs sees no immediate end in sight for its continued victory. So why are people gobbling them up? Despite the release of iPhone 4, its "apps" (application) based programming is both intuitive for beginners while infinite in possibilities for PHDs.

"Pocket Universe" is one of the "apps" that allows you to point the device at any spot in the sky and in real time it will tell you what you are viewing. At a cost of \$3, it might as well be free. A few more "apps" are "Pro Satellite" and



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The Sky's the Limit

"Satellite Tracker," which track thousands of satellites using your location, so they're a great way to catch the International Space Station. Lastly is "Star Map Pro," which gives you a list of the celestial events each evening from your location. Today, you really can look and sound like an astronomy professor at the push of a few buttons even if you're a layman. **Sky watch for July**

The moon rises with the Seven Sisters early on July 8 in the northeast. The moon rises around 2:30 a.m. and the Pleiades (M45) will crown the moon right into the daylight.

Mercury and Regulus will set into the night on July 27 in the northwest west at about 9 p.m. Mercury and the star Regulus will practically be next to each

other disappearing into the evening with the sun.

The Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower will peak on July 29. Look in the south-southeast at about 2 a.m. as it is expected meteors will fall at a rate of 15-20 per hour.

There will be a total solar eclipse on July 11 at 1:33 p.m. It is the peak of a total eclipse that will take place in the southern Pacific Ocean. Starting in northeast New Zealand and finishing at the southern tip of Argentina/Chile. While most of it will be over the ocean, some Islands like Cook and Easter will be in its path. For further details check out <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEmono/TSE2010/TSE2010.html>.

Public events for July

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is holding an annual Star-B-Q. Join us for some good times and great viewing under wonderfully dark skies. Camping costs \$20 per vehicle, and Saturday's buffet costs \$23 per person. This event takes place July 9-11 with all weekend

camping at Eccles Ranch Observatory, which is located just north of Caroline, Alta. For further information contact Greg Bridger 403-547-7044, email abstarbq@shaw.ca, or go to calgary.rasc.ca/starbq2010.htm.

An event called 40 Years of Discovering Alberta's Skies will be taking place at the Rothney Observatory Open House. Come celebrate the 1970 opening of the observatory with cake and refreshments provided by us followed by stargazing. The cost is \$20 per car at the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, which is located near Priddis, about 30 kilometres southwest of Calgary, and it takes place July 17 from 8-11 p.m. For further information contact Jennifer Howse, 403-931-2366, or visit <http://astronomycalgary.com/events/info/54>.

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