

Vulcan Star Trek Center hosting rare 'partial' solar eclipse viewing

By ROSE SANCHEZ

VULCAN

Residents of Vulcan and area will have a chance to view a partial solar eclipse at the Star Trek Space Station in Vulcan Oct. 23.

The event gets underway at 1:30 p.m. Members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, based out of Calgary, will be on hand to help viewers see this special event.

There will be telescopes and binoculars available to help those in attendance get a better view of this partial solar eclipse as the moon shadows the sun. It will be visible for about four hours.

"Special solar filters over visual aids are required as it's not a normal, naked eye object which can be viewed safely in Western Canada," points out Neel Roberts, astronomy co-ordinator.

This rare event doesn't happen very often. The last one was on Sunday, May 20, 2012 and it won't happen again until Aug. 21, 2017 and Oct. 14, 2023.

"Cash in while you can in the country with no crowds or line ups for viewing," says Roberts. "Solar eclipses can happen every year over the oceans, deserts or unpopulated area, but rarely in your own backyard with good weather."

According to Wikipedia: "A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, thereby totally or partly obscuring the image of the Sun for a viewer on Earth. A partial solar eclipse occurs in the polar regions of the Earth when the center of the Moon's shadow misses the Earth."

More information about solar eclipses is available online at: <http://www.space.com/15613-solar-eclipses-observing-guide-infographic.html>.

Information about the Royal Astronomical Society



Photo contributed

Neel Roberts, Roland Dechesne and Karl Ivarson Jr. pose with some of the equipment used for viewing sky events including a 20-inch telescope.

of Canada is available on the website at: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/> or information about the Vulcan Star Trek Centre and its various activities is available online at: www.vulcantourism.com or by phoning 403-485-2994 and their Friday monthly meetings at <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2014.htm>.