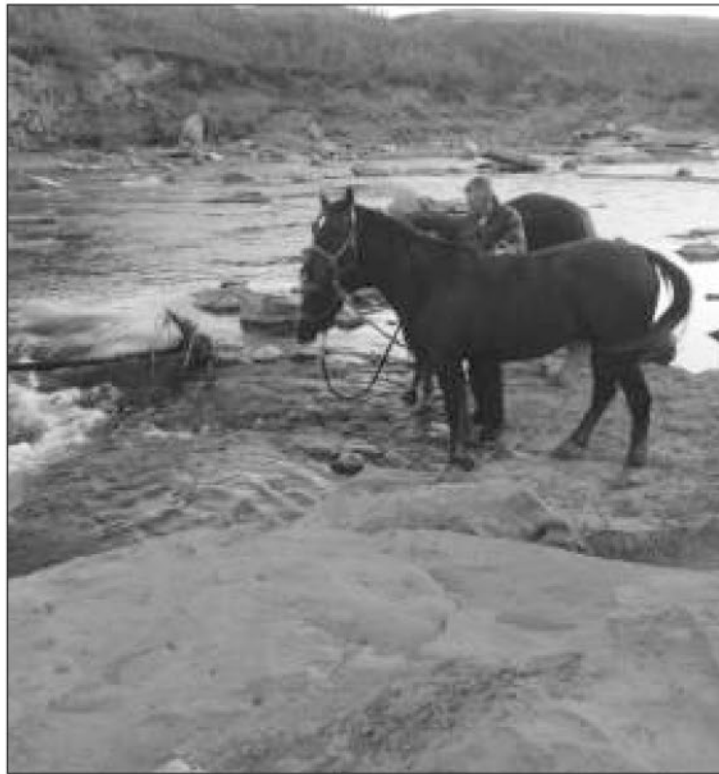




Photos by Neel Roberts

Above: local campers were pleasantly surprised to see the RASC Calgary outreach come out to the natural dark sky area of Maycroft. Above right: Ranchers getting a jump on the hunting season take a water break with mountain fresh water.



Above: peering through solar filtered binos, visitors can see sun spots which are a synonymous with the Northern Lights. Middle: Photographer Karl Ivarson catches Neel Roberts cooking up some burgers as part of the Star-B-Q meal before sunset.

Above: a bonfire was light after the sun is down. In a true dark sky area, it's an astronomer's dream, but hard to walk around.

# First Star-B-Q a success for Vulcan area

BY STEPHANIE LABBE  
VULCAN

A first ever "Star-B-Q" was a great success for the Vulcan area, Sept. 12.

Neel Roberts, event co-ordinator says this was the first event of this kind that they've held in the Vulcan area, but he has seen the location before to scout it out in 2014.

Overall, the event was a great success with beautiful clear skies. It took place near the scenic Maycroft, about an hour and a half from Vulcan.

"Excellent; we had crystal clear skies and saw the details of the Milky Way, which is rare," adds Roberts

in an e-mail interview.

Camping and fishing were available onsite and at the Oldman river.

The event consisted of people showing up before twilight where they enjoyed a barbeque and by night fall, Roberts says they had telescopes, etc., on a variety of objects.

At about 10 p.m. there was a campfire going and hot dogs and marshmallows to roast. Some people even stayed and camped overnight, which was free for all.

"It was a chance to get away from town and take folks on a real tour of the sky in the country,"

adds Roberts.

There were about 12 people who attended the event. People used telescopes and binoculars to look at deep sky objects, which Roberts says are normally hard to see in the city.

There were several people from Calgary who drove down to attend. They found out about the event through the Trek Centre and word of mouth.

With such a successful turnout, Roberts says they plan to keep this going with one event in the winter and one in the summer.

This event will now be part of the events offered via the town of Vulcan to visitors.



Photo Neel Roberts

A BETTER VIEW: Vulcan Tourism Manager Shannon Clarke peers through the 11-inch Celestron while Karl Ivarson Jr. assists at the September viewing of the night sky at the Vulcan Trek Centre. The second Friday every month there is an opportunity to view the stars and learn something interesting about astronomy.