

RASC Calgary Celebrates 5 Years Having a Float at the Annual “Spock Days” Parade in Vulcan

by Neil Roberts



12 year old Emily Morse helps prepare the double vehicle long float by putting the finishing touches on the RASC-Calgary banner.

Spock Days is like the Calgary Stampede for the 1,800 populous Town of Vulcan which almost doubles during its annual celebration. In 2009, the RASC looked at the idea of offering public monthly stargazing meetings at the Trek Center located at the entrance of the town, so they got a head start by putting a float in the annual parade that summer.

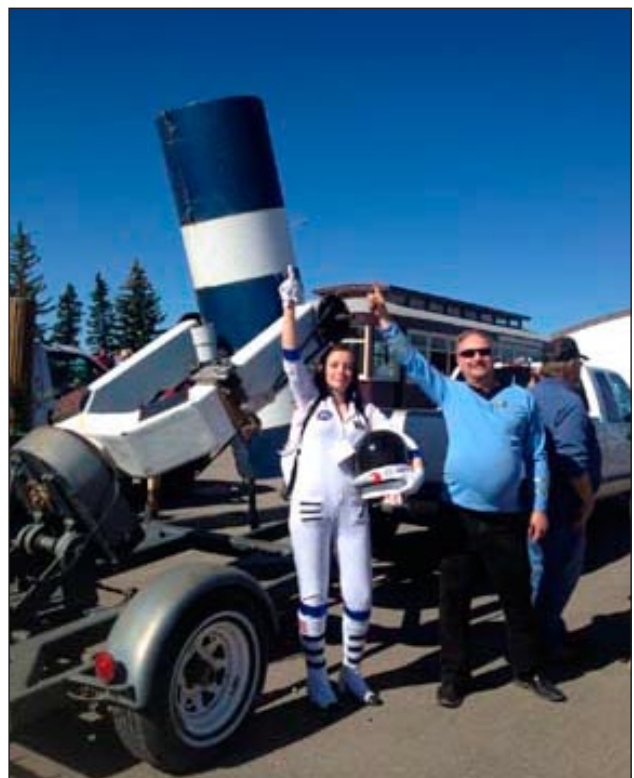
It paid off as it got immediate attention from all over Southern Alberta and in late 2010, RASC Calgary and Vulcan Tourism entered into an agreement to host free astronomy meetings. Since then it has seen hundreds make the trip to the small agriculture municipality which has not only caught the attention of various media but is well matched with the town's Star Trek theme.

5 years later, they now have a devoted team and steady dedicatees who ride the float in the annual parade. Newcomer Cassandra Kirk, an inspiring astronaut from Edmonton made the trip down to hook up with RASC Calgary's float. She thought the whole idea was "fascinating" as Mr. Spock said so famously in the '60's original series. Regular attendees Ann & Emily Morse (mother/daughter) faithfully show every year to throw out freezies and other treats to the several thousand spectators on the streets of the small town. Karl Iverson Jr., RASC member and main telescope operator/expert brought his small telescope was joined with astronomy

binoculars but was dwarfed by the 20" mobile scope which was trailered by Roland Dechesne's pick-up truck behind the passenger flat deck.

Normally they're scheduled meetings get between 20-35 participants from all over the province and Devan Daniels, tourism co-ordinator for Vulcan Tourism just loves the idea. "I'm all for this" he explained in an earlier interview with the local paper the Vulcan Advocate. Vulcan Tourism spends lots of time during the month marketing the event on various radio stations, media publications and institutions like schools and the featured 11" Celestron telescope always captives them. Roland Dechesne, past president of Calgary RASC usually starts the evenings off with indoor presentations which take place in the "bridge section" of the Trek Center set up as a theater followed by refreshments and gazing for hours.

The RASC Calgary and Vulcan Tourism welcome the public every second Friday of the month starting at 19:30 p.m.. Full facilities and small town amenities available and all are welcome and there's no charge. For further information contact the Trek Center at (403) 485-2994 or check out the RASC special webpage for Vulcan. Also, if you're ready to brave it on the float, join us at the next one in a year Saturday, June 7th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Vulcan arena !



20 years old Cassandra Kirk an inspiring astronaut came all the way from Edmonton for Spock Days reaches for the sky with Roland Dechesne