



Karl Iverson has had a lifetime interest with telescopes and enjoys showing the public what's up in the sky during star gazing sessions held at the Vulcan Tourism and Trek Station. For more information on star gazing in Vulcan, visit www.vulcantourism.com.

PHOTO COURTESY NEEL ROBERTS

Stargazers continue to enjoy monthly Trek Station meetings

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Are New Year's resolutions meant to fail?

Not according to those dedicated to making astronomy happen in Vulcan. In January of 2011 Vulcan Tourism and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Calgary formed a joint venture to host monthly stargazing meetings which have proven successful a year later.

"We've had hundreds of extra visitors as a result of these gatherings and want to expand the project," explains tourism co-ordinator Catherine Pooley.

Pooley was encouraged from day 1 when the Trek Station hosted a total lunar eclipse observation on Dec. 20 at midnight. A family from Australia heard about the event on CBC that afternoon and shelved their plans to visit Banff for the Trek Station.

Roland Deschene, lecturer with (and former president of) RASC Calgary, has prepared unique demonstrations from

the significance of Friday the 13th and space science to how the constellations are relevant to people.

Karl Iverson has had a lifetime fascination with telescopes and is a natural when it comes to showing the public what's up in the sky. Using an 11-inch Celestron telescope, he's made known a variety of objects from the moon to the Andromeda Galaxy two million light years that simply amazed the curious.

This stirred the interest of his daughter Alicia, who finally checked it out and ended up taking a remarkably clear photo of Jupiter and four moons with her iPhone.

In fact, the younger generation seems gravitated to this with the average age being in the 20s.

For more information on star gazing sessions in Vulcan, contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994 or visit www.vulcantourism.com. Check out the RASC link, <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2012.htm>, as well.