

Has 50 years of Star Trek changed the world?

2015's passing of Leonard Nimoy brought great sorrow around the world, especially to our small community who welcomed him more than six years ago.

Marked as the greatest influx of visitors to Vulcan in recent history, that one event changed the world's perception of our town forever.

When I travel our great nation and the globe, people are "fascinated" to hear I'm from Vulcan. Now there's even a good chance they know where it is. Maybe not exactly up there with renowned Banff or spacey Roswell, but let's face it, 50 years of *Star Trek* made the difference.

In the mid 1960s, most of the people involved with the show were relatively unknown. Bill Shatner and Leonard Nimoy had a few Hollywood gigs like *Twilight Zone*, *Night Gallery* and while they made some ground during the original 1966-1969 airing of the series, it was not until the 1970's syndicate reruns its popularity started its stratosphere climb.

No one ever dreamed of teleportation (which still hasn't happened), travel to others planets/worlds was still a plan (that's happened many times) and communicators are now known as smartphones.

Yet today the world is hardly recognizable, especially from a technological point of view. While the sci-fi broadcast was meant to intrigue us with futuristic space travel, it accelerated many other inventions

such as computers, telecommunication, etc. which would make going back to the 1960's lifestyle impossible.

Sky watch for the next month:

- Moon between Regulus and Jupiter — on Friday, June 10 look S.W. after sunset halfway up and the moon will be squeezed between a planet and star visible to the naked eye, but catch Jupiter's moons with binos.

- Saturn at Opposition — Friday,



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YOUR UNIVERSE

June 3 in the S.E. after sundown Saturn will be at magnitude 0 (as bright as Vega) with titled rings under binos even spottable at daylight with a strong scope.

- Demon Star winks after night fall — On Wednesday, June 15 to Saturday, June 18 look N.N.W. as Algol will dip touching the horizon for a short time around 10 p.m. before rising again.

- Longest Day of the Year/Full Moon — Wednesday, June 22 is officially the summer solstice at 4:34 p.m. MDT and we will have 16 hours and 33 minutes of actual daylight. Sun officially rises at 5:22 a.m. and sets at 9:45 p.m. with high noon at 1:38 p.m. followed with a full moon at night.

Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center. Mark down Friday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar and join us at the Trek Center for our monthly stargazing. We will be the feature attraction instead of the usually meet in greet at Spock Days and plan to be there most of the evening. Short indoor presentations followed by scoping the skies with the 11-inch telescope outside and much more. Refreshment provided, all welcome and no charge. Held the second Friday of monthly at 7:30 p.m. For further information contact the Trek center at 403-485-2994, www.vulcantourism.com.

- Royal Astronomical Society of Calgary Spock Days Float — Have you ever wanted to be in a parade float? We've been doing this for more than seven years and it's always a blast. We invite you to join us for the one-hour ride through Vulcan. It's a lot of fun and all are welcome Saturday, June 11, at 8:30 a.m. Float departs at 10 a.m. and usually lasts about an hour. Bring candy if you wish to throw out to the audience, but not necessary.

Happy Father's Day and welcome to summer. Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of



Photos by Neel Roberts

Neel Roberts, Karl Ivarson Jr. and Roland Dechesne show off the prize-winning RASC Calgary's 20-inch mobile telescope at the morning parade for Spock Days. Since 1992, Spock Days keeps gaining popularity with visitors.

the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with more than 5,000 members and 28 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574, Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet the second Friday monthly at the Trek Center at 7:30 p.m. and you find out about membership at: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2016.htm>.



Star Trek cookies are one of the many unique themed treats served over the Spock Days weekend.



Professional astronomer Alan Dyer (www.amazingsky.net) returns to Vulcan for another spellbinding presentation.

