

Space travel activists believe 21st Century is their era

Since man's first flight off the ground more than a century ago, the dream to be space bound past the birds has been one of fascination and goals.

Leonard Nimoy's advocacy for the common man to ride like today's astronauts was expressed in his Jan. 24, 1982 *In Search of* series episode *Time and Space Travel*.

One of the featured advocacy groups OASIS (<http://www.oasis-nss.org/wordpress/>), the Los Angeles chapter of National Space Society is introduced in the show and still beating the drum today for all of us to travel past the stratosphere.

Entrepreneur Elon Musk is answering that call with his company Space Exploration Technologies which is coincidentally located near OASIS's backyard.



**Neel
ROBERTS**
YOUR UNIVERSE

The first private company to ship cargo to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2012, it's the big step to non-government journey's mission and score for groups such as OASIS.

Richard Branson's space travel project Virgin Atlantic's VSS Enterprise suffered a tragic setback when it was destroyed on an Oct. 31, 2014 test flight, but such ambitious projects come with a hefty price tag and human cost.

The ISS has been upgraded to accommodate guests and while it's nowhere the freedom we're looking for, it's well ahead of what groups such as OASIS would have envisioned from their start ups more than 30 years ago.

Sky watch for the next month:

- Mars, Moon and Saturn cluster — Thursday, Sept. 8 after sun down look S.S.W. at this trio before they set at midnight.
- Harvest Moon Rise — Friday, Sept. 16, look east at 8 p.m. for a spectacular upsurge which will seem huge.
- Fall Equinox — On Thursday, Sept. 22 at 8:21 a.m. the summer's officially over.
- Zodiacal Light — is a faint, roughly triangular, white glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. Discovered by the astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini in 1683 and later explained by Nicolas Fatio de Duillier in 1684, it's trying to find and the best time is from Thursday, Sept. 29 for two weeks in the east morning twilight.

Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center. Join us Friday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. for our regular meeting. Short indoor presentation followed by outside observing. Topic will be "Fall in the sky" followed by stargazing



Photos contributed by Neel Roberts

Neel Roberts cooks up burgers and more for everybody before a nightfall of stargazing which will be held this year on Oct. 1 free for anyone interested.

through our 11-inch telescope and more weather pending. Special Star BQ will be at Maycroft Saturday, Oct. 1 free of charge. Experts will be on hand the second Friday monthly at 7:30 p.m. to explain the heavens, teach scoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of our sky. For further information, contact the Trek Center at 403-485-2994 and the website www.vulcantourism.com will be updated regularly.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with more than 4,000 members and 29 centres across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or email: Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet the second Friday, once a month at the Trek Center in Vulcan at 7:30 p.m. and you can check them out at: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2015.htm>.



A campfire allows hotdog roasts and warmth.