

Solar and lunar eclipse a rare pre-Halloween treat

Sky watch for the next month:

- Total Lunar Eclipse — Wednesday, Oct. 8 starting at 1:17 a.m., peaking at 3:55 a.m. and ending before dawn at 6:32 a.m. Night owls will have a beautiful view if you'll willing to stay up overnight.

- Partial Solar Eclipse — Thursday, Oct. 23 starting at 1:37 p.m. peaking at 3:45 p.m. and ending before sunset at 5:51 p.m. Be sure to wear proper eye wear as the corona can blind you if viewed directly.

- Orionids Meteor Shower Peaks — Tuesday, Oct. 21, one to two hours before dawn just to the north of constellation Orion's bright star Betelgeuse. With the second-fastest entry velocity of the annual showers at 10 to 20 per hour, meteors from the Orionids produce yellow and green colors and have been known to produce

an odd fireball. With a near New Moon the dark skies will produce bright meteors.

- Zodiacal Light — Did you catch this last month? It's a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. Best time is from Monday, Oct. 20 for two weeks in the northeast before dawn.

Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center.

Have you checked us out this year at all? We've had a great year so far, so don't hesitate to get involved. We'll talk about Solar and Lunar Eclipses this month on Friday, Oct. 10 starting at 7:30 p.m. Small indoor presentation followed by stargazing weather permitting. Treats and refreshments provided free of charge and all welcome. Experts 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 over 4,000 members and 29 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 in Vulcan and you can check them out at <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2014.htm>.



Photos contributed

Left, astronomical binoculars are part of the equipment the Trek Center visitors use free of charge. Right, Karl Ivarson Jr.'s expertise allows youth to use the 11-inch Celestron telescope with ease.