

Look to the sky in January to see some neat sights

Sky watch for the next month:

- Half Moon rises with Saturn before dawn — Look in the SEE horizon Friday, Jan. 16 at around 4:30 a.m. and the ringed planet rises with the Moon. With good binoculars, you can actually see the rings.

- 4 Planets at Dusk — Just after sunset Monday, Jan. 19 in SWW you'll see Venus and Mercury on the horizon setting and look more up SW and you'll see the red planet Mars. With a good telescope you can spot Neptune to the upper right of Mars.

- Venus sets with Moon at dusk —



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Look SWW Wednesday, Jan. 21 before sunset as the bright star is actually Venus setting with Mercury ahead of it with Mars behind.

- Quadrantid Meteor Shower — Peaks Saturday, Jan. 3 night going into the morning of Jan. 4 with an average fall of 40 meteors per hour. Best viewing time is 2:30 a.m. to dawn in the Bootes constellation (NEE) but unfortunately the nearly full moon will block out all but the brightest meteors.

Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center. Check out our first stargazing event for 2015 which also happens to be on Friday, Jan. 9 courtesy of the

RASC (Calgary) starting at 7:30 p.m. Brief indoor presentation followed by stargazing with the 11-inch telescope and binocular outside (weather permitting). All welcome, no charge and refreshments provided. 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.

Happy New Year and the best for 2015 and beyond!
Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with more than 4,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or e-mail: Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet the second Friday monthly at the Trek Center in Vulcan once a month and you can check them out at <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2015.htm>.



Photos by Neel Roberts
Above, Wade Williamson of Calgary shows off the sky with the scope he brought down while pointing the stars out a la "Spock Style". At left, youth warm up inside with refreshments compliments of the Trek center.



Roland Dechesne, chief astronomer at the Friday night presentations, explains details on a iPad.



Photos by Neel Roberts

BEAUTIFUL NIGHT FOR STAR GAZING:

It was beautiful, warm weather for the fourth anniversary event of star gazing at the Vulcan Trek Centre Dec. 12, although the more than 12 people who showed up for the event did have to deal with overcast skies. The event takes place the second Friday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. At left, Karl Ivarson Jr. shows the GPS feature of the 11-inch Celestron scope. At right, Karl Ivarson stands by the telescope while David Watterson and Maggie Sevilla point out the stars. Watterson and Sevilla of Calgary have been regulars the last couple of years. They plan to visit while bringing others in 2015 and beyond.

