

# Look to the skies this month for some interesting views

## Sky watch for the next month:

• Daylight Saving Saturn Morning — As you set your clock ahead at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 8 look SSW before dawn as Saturn is easy to catch with a magnitude of 0.41. Good binos can scope the rings on a clear day.

• Venus next to Thin Crescent Moon — On Sunday, March 22, look SWW after sunset as Venus will that bright object next to the Moon while Mars is halfway down.

• New Moon Spring Equinox and Total Solar Eclipse — Warmer days officially start coming Friday, March 20 at 4:45 p.m. and Newfoundland will catch the total Solar Eclipse as the sun rises around 5:36 a.m. EDT.

• Zodiacal Lights — 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 Sunday, March 8 for two weeks in the West after evening twilight.

## Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center. Check out our stargazing event courtesy of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Calgary) starting at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 13. Brief indoor presentation on "Spring in the Sky" followed by observing through the resident 11-inch Celestron telescope. All welcome for no charge and refreshments provided. Come early as space fills up by show time. Experts on hand the



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second Friday monthly 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 or [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com).

## Saturday Observer's Night at the Telescope Farm in Didsbury

Hosted by the All Star Telescope (<http://www.all-startelescope.com/>) just outside Didsbury, March 21, starting at 7 p.m. until midnight. This full facility telescope dealer has a heated showroom, with refreshments, washrooms and everything is provided for no charge. I am planning to attend and you are welcome to caravan with a group I am assembling

leaving Vulcan around 3:30 p.m. weather permitting. We stop for a Chinese buffet before heading to the celestial farm for the evening and Tim Hortons on the way back. For further information, contact Ken From at 866-310-8844 or visit: <http://www.all-startelescope.com/pages/observer-nights>.

Happy spring and warmer days.

*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 e-mail: [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com). The members meet the second Friday monthly at the Trek Center at 7:30 p.m. and you can find out about membership at [www.calgary.rasc.ca](http://www.calgary.rasc.ca).*



Photos by Neel Roberts

Above, several attendees from the Carlesland area gather around a Dobson telescope operated by Roland Dechesne. Second from right is regular Ela Thakore of Twin Valley with her husband John at right. At left, a raw shot of Venus in the morning taken with a Samsung Note 3 smartphone. Its

brilliant near -4.0 magnitude can almost be blinding through even binos and the -40 Celsius still environment can actually add to clarity. Photo was taken by Neel Roberts on his farm just outside of Vulcan.

