

Celebrate summer, Star-BQ style

It's no secret; Albertan's love their barbecues as much as the stuff they grill. Someone once asked "Where's the Beef?" That's your big opportunity to answer it with "At my Star-BQ." Barbecues are a great social excuse and with the summer here, you can now beef that up (oops, that slipped out!) with the evening version of a Star barbecue. Since it's Father's Day on June 17, the old adage "the way to a man's heart is this through his stomach" never seems to die, even if he's on a diet. Star Barbecues are that twist which will amaze your friends and neighbours, especially if you invite them over. Not only will dad be impressed with your ingenuity but others can share the moment even if they're not fathers. This year Father's Day is a few days before the summer solstice, so no need to get him out of bed at some weird hour to wish him "Happy First Day of Summer" while



Neel Roberts
The Sky's the Limit

cooking for him. We'll have over 16 hours of daylight the Sunday before so you can celebrate his day sun up or down.

Sky watch for the next month

There will be a partial lunar eclipse on Monday, June 4 at about 2:48 a.m. The Earth will start to cast its shadow on the moon until it rises in the morning. Western Canada will catch a fairly good view, as the peak is at 5:03 a.m. just before it sets in eclipse mode at 5:45 a.m. in the southwest.

The transit of Venus in front of Sun takes place the next day, on Tuesday, June 5, just after 4 p.m. You can catch Venues making a rare conjunction

with the sun until it sets in the night sky. You will need certified astronomy viewing solar filters to avoid blindness, as this is the hazard associated with this event. The midpoint time is 7:29 p.m.

Then, early on Thursday, June 7 at about 4 a.m., look at the northeast horizon as the Seven Sisters leads Jupiter rise just before the sun follows it while Mars follows it below left. If it's too early, the night owls can see the set together just after dinner at 7 p.m. in the northwest.

The longest day of the year is Wednesday, June 20. We will have 16 hours and 26 minutes of actual daylight. The sun officially rises at 5:21 a.m. and sets at 9:47 p.m. with high noon at 1:34 p.m.

Public events for the next month

Mark down Friday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. on your calendar and join us at the Trek Center for our monthly Star Gazing.

Join the special guests at for the annual meet and greet at the Trek Station followed by gazing with the telescope (weather pending). For further information, contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994 or visit www.vulcantourism.com.

Have you ever wanted to be in a parade float? Last year was our first year in the Spock Days parade, and it was a blast! The Royal Astronomical Society of Calgary invites you to join us for the annual parade. It's lots of fun, and all are welcome. The parade takes place Saturday morning. Bring candy if you wish to throw out to the audience, but it's not necessary. Contact the Trek Station for details.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-485-2683 and Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.