

# Love for astronomy grows each year

Can you turn your passion for something into a career? Ken From of All Star Telescopes in Didsbury went from Christian missionary to owing a successful telescope business in less than 2 years. He recalls looking up at a pitch dark African sky marvelling at the stardom above while reflecting of the Old Testament Scriptures in Psalm 8:3 "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place".

Starting on a little farm he took over from his grandfather in 2007, Ken, with his high school sweetheart wife, Bev, have been full time in the telescope business for more than six years. Hosting Saturday evening observation nights is one of the many events they offer to the public as a free opportunity to not only see the skies but also make entry into



**Neel Roberts**  
*The Sky's the Limit*

astronomy easier.

People who come here have one thing in common — a passion to get involved with exploring the skies. Having previously written an astronomy column called "What's up in the Sky?" for the *Regional* newspaper for years, Ken has lots of experience dealing with folks at all skill levels.

**Sky watch for the next month**

The midnight moon will be cloaking Spica. Be sure to be looking southeast-east on the weekend of Saturday, Feb. 25, from sunset; Venus will be visibly below the moon until it sets at about 10:30 p.m. in the northwest-

west. Also, the next day, on Feb. 26, Jupiter will take its place from dusk until its setting at about 11:30 p.m.

Mars pulls the moon up on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 8:30 p.m. Look east and Mars will introduce the moon rising and will stay close to it all night until they set at dawn in the west.

Betelgeuse, the Valentine's star, will be visible Valentine's Day, Thursday, Feb. 14, starting in the southeast sky from dusk until setting in the northwest-west at 3:30 a.m. Impress your date by showing him or her the easy-to-find red pulsating star, which is Orion's shoulder.

Did you catch the Zodiacal Light 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. The best time to view it is from Wednesday, Feb.

27 for two weeks in the northwest after twilight.

**Public events for the next month**

For this month's public stargazing session at the Trek Station, Ken From of All Star Telescopes will help first-time telescope buyers find the right telescope for them on Friday, Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. A small indoor presentation will be followed by stargazing, and we'll check out Betelgeuse, weather pending. Treats and refreshments are provided free of charge, and everyone is welcome. For further information, visit [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com) or contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994.

Happy Valentine's Day and stargazing!

*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, [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com).*