

Harvest Moon lightens up September night sky

Look up into the night sky in September to see the following interesting sights:

- Harvest Moon — right after supper on Sept. 8 at 7:38 p.m. in the east watch the legendary Harvest (full) moon raise. In the days before electricity, farmers counted on the lamp of the Harvest Moon to gather their crops and even in the today's harvest, it's a nice bonus considering it stays up all night.

- Mars, Moon and Antares close — as the sun sets look south, southwest on Sept. 29 after 7 p.m. as well see a planet, satellite and star in close proximity for a couple of hours.

- Fall Equinox — Officially arrives Sept. 22, at 8:29 p.m.

- Zodiacal Light — is a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. Discovered by the astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini in 1683 and later explained by Nicolas Fatio de Duillier in 1684, it's trying to find and the best time is from Sept. 21 for two weeks in the east morning twilight.

Public Events for the next month:

Monthly Public Stargazing at the



Trek Center.

Join us Friday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. for our regular meeting. Short indoor presentation followed by outside observing. Topic will be "Fall in the sky" followed by stargazing through our 11-inch telescope and more weather pending.

Experts on hand the second Friday of the month 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 Fall and shorter 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. The members meet the second Friday, once a month at the Trek Center in Vulcan at 7:30 p.m. and you can check them out at www.calgary.rasc.ca.



Photos contributed
Above is an image of iPhone App Pocket Universe, which is a Virtual Sky Astronomy program which allows the user to captivate the sky anywhere; even in a photograph with the normal world in the background.



Regular comer Ann Morse a Vulcan RN and Tourism Co-ordinator Devan Daniels in a normal shot without the app background.

Neel Roberts' column runs the first Friday of the month in Prairie Post.