

Total solar eclipse is astronomical show of the decade

Monday, Aug. 21 of this year is well worth taking off work even if you lose a day's pay.

The best view of the total solar eclipse is in the United States at least a day's drive from Vulcan.

You can choose locations by looking online at: <http://www.greatamerican-eclipse.com/> since we'll only get a partial view here. Scheduled to start at around 10:11:13 a.m. (MDT), peaking at 11:26:35 a.m. for about two minutes and ending an hour after that, you'll see the stars during totality. Also, the birds and animals all go quite since they think it's night, so talk about getting freaky.

After much consideration, I've choose the little settlement of Smith Ferry, Idaho on



**Neel
ROBERTS**
YOUR UNIVERSE

Highway 55 (44° 18' 04" N, 116° 05' 32" W). This picturesque area has a lodge and a few campgrounds right on the totality line. Most places are not only charging outrageous prices, but have been booked for more than a year. With sufficient flat land in the mountain range, it's natural dark zone is perfect for the event.

Don't forget to bring proper viewing glasses and filters. You can check out <https://www.all-startelescope.com/sales/index.php?cPath=216> for a list of equipment at market prices. Place your order today as demand is through the roof and maybe already be sold out.

I also recommend the free app eclipse2017.org available for most mobile smartphones. The next local total solar eclipses are in seven years April 8, 2024 and 27 years right here in Alberta Aug. 23, 2044. These events are what legacies are made of and people will love you a lifetime for taking them.

Sky watch for the next month:

- Pre-Dawn Crescent Lunar/Venus/Mars rise — Saturday, Aug. 19 look NEE from 4 a.m. to sunrise.
- Saturn & Waxing Gibbous Dusk Moon — Wednesday, Aug. 30 before sunset, look SEE as these rise until after midnight.
- Milky Way Brilliance — This is an excellent month to view our home galaxy without freezing. Best time is after 11 p.m. until dawn.
- Annual Perseids Meteor Shower- Peak starts Friday, Aug. 11 to Sunday Aug. 13 with estimated rate of 60-100 meteors per hour dampened by the waning gibbous Moon. Best view is starting at 11 p.m. facing the N.E. in the constellation of Perseids until dawn. Check out this viewing guide video for details: <http://www.space.com/32868-perseid-meteor-shower-guide.html>.

Public Events for the next month:

Annual Milky Way Weekend Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis — Mark down Aug. 17-19 from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. There will be an array of scopes operated by University of Calgary astronomers and members of the RASC Calgary. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, and



Photos by Neel Roberts

A father helps his son up to look through the scopes. Many under 18 join Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis monthly public "open houses."

astronomers will be on hand to answer questions. For further information, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca or phone 403-931-2366. Their website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/> is updated regularly. Happy solar eclipse viewing and keep reaching for the sky.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1868 with more than 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or email: Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com. The members meet once a month on weekends at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis and you can check out times at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/calendar>. Like them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/> or check out Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/CalgaryRASC> & YouTube www.youtube.com/user/RASCCalgary.



Karl Ivarson and son Travis set up the 11-inch Celestron scope which no longer serves in the Vulcan Trek Center. The Rothney Observatory is the new home for the Vulcan stargazers and they are excited to serve the public.