

NASA discover's brightest galaxy in space

Back in the spring of 2015, NASA announced its Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) spacecraft found what's believed to be today's most luminous galaxy in the universe.

Estimated at more than 12.5 billion light years away, it's on the edge of the known 13.5 billion light-year universe.

Burning at more than 300 trillion suns bright, the cluster made the record and belongs to a new classification of objects dubbed "extremely luminous infrared galaxies".

WISE has been finding more of these unique galaxies since 2010 using infrared technology. By scanning the whole sky with more diligence than ever before, WISE has captured uncommon cosmic examples not possible before.

Despite this breakthrough, Chao-Wei Tsai of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena,



Neil Roberts

The Sky's the Limit

California explains: "We found in a related study with WISE that as many as half of the most luminous galaxies only show up well in infrared light."

While man took another step forward, I agree we're just at the beginning of how big creation gets.

To put that into perspective, in the time of Galileo (1564-1642), 3,000 known stars were acknowledged while his telescope increased that by a factor of 10 to 30,000.

Sky watch

On Sunday after supper

look at the moon at about 6:45 p.m. and Jupiter will follow it on top until dawn.

On Sunday, April 10 at supper time, look at the moon before 6:20 p.m. and you'll see Aldebaran creep out from behind as night falls.

On Monday, April 25, going into Tuesday, April 26, the Moon, Mars, Saturn and Antares will rise the southeast at about midnight, not setting until sunrise.

The Lyrids Meteor Shower, also known as April shooting stars, are produced by dust particles left behind by a comet. The meteor shower will peak before dawn the morning of Friday, April 22. You should be able to catch 10-20 meteors per hour on average with rare surges of up to 100, but the full moon glare will reduce viewing.

Public events

Check out our stargazing event courtesy of the

Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada starting at 7:30 p.m. this Friday, April 8. A brief indoor presentation on "Star Trek and the Stars" will be followed by a special presentation by Vulcan Tourism. Then we'll be observing through our resident 11-inch Celestron telescope. All are welcome to this free event. Refreshments are provided. Come early as space fills up by the start time.

Experts are on hand the second Friday of each month to explain the heavens, teach telescoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of our sky.

For more information, contact Vulcan Tourism at 403-485-2994 or visit www.vulcantourism.com.

Neil Robert welcomes your questions and comments at 403-485-2683 and Neil_Roberts@ptccanada.com.