

Our Night Sky for July 22nd, 2024

Last week I suggested you attempt to see the enormous globe of stars that under average sky conditions we refer to as the milky way. You may be able to plan a trip this summer to areas of B.C. less populated and with excellent sky quality. If you are fortunate to be under these excellent sky conditions and can see the horizon you will see a small constellation that very much resembles a teapot. This is called Sagittarius which we rarely see here in Prince George. Sagittarius is located in a very busy area of the sky because this area looks almost exactly toward the very center of our galaxy. Locating the center of the galaxy requires precise telescopes but on a galactic scale, Sagittarius is almost exactly where to look.

If you're on about Vancouver's latitude, the top star of the teapot will be about 10 degrees above the horizon and if you elevate your eyes about the same distance above it, this is the location of the Eagle Nebula made famous by the Hubble picture the 'Pillars of Creation', one of the many wonders of Our Night Sky.