Our Night Sky for July 29th, 2024

For the month of July with its short nights and our night sky lacking planets to enjoy, I've offered suggestions, from the Ring Nebula near a bright star overhead to the grand globe of our Milky Way and even impossible to see center of our galaxy and its invisible black hole.

This week an object fairly large but very faint is our neighboring galaxy Andromeda.

The Andromeda Galaxy is 2.5 million light years away from us and is populated by about a trillion stars. Andromeda was instrumental in allowing Edwin Hubble to understand the real size of the universe. Hubble found several measurements that just didn't add up, and he finally understood that it was a separate Island Universe.

To find Andromeda first locate Cassiopeia, the large M or W about half way up from east. The two bright stars appear to point down and right toward Andromeda about a palm width away. Use your averted vision to glimpse the dim fuzzy form or use binoculars to bring out the faint disk. From a trillion stars maybe someone is looking back, a true beauty in Our Night Sky.