

Our Night Sky for November 18th ,2024

Last week I said I would continue with gift suggestions for a Christmas gift for someone interested in astronomy.

Of course, top of my list would be a membership in our astronomy club. Just search Prince George astronomy club and you will get several links including help to sign up for a membership.

While you have a search engine open enter a search for robotic telescope.

This is an exciting new product even to a long time amateur like me. Technical improvements in the last few years probably because of the high-quality optics you can purchase in cell phones and widespread interest in what is considered a complex hobby. The software and electronics in these devices mean that even with no experience within a few minutes you can be exploring deep sky objects, our solar systems planets and even the sun.

I am most interested in the Seestar series, although there are several excellent choices from under \$500 to under \$1000. These all couple with your cell phone to operate and it can be as simple as setting it on the tripod removing the lens cover and telling it to locate its position. It will find it's location and then identify the stars that it has in sight. Most of these units are also very good for ground-based observation, it's like having a camera with a telephoto lens that you operate with your phone. There are many reviews on YouTube check it out for yourself and get ready to really enjoy our night sky.