

VollieNews

OCT/NOV 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE POVG (PERTH OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER GROUP INC.)

A 300-mile-wide patch that outshines everything else on Titan at long infrared wavelengths appears not to be a mountain, a cloud or a geologically active hot spot, University of Arizona scientists and Cassini team members say.

An international team of scientists using data from a small NASA spacecraft has put into place a large piece of the astronomical puzzle of short-duration gamma-ray bursts.

Demonstrating the power of a multiwavelength investigation using diverse facilities, astronomers have deciphered the true nature of a mysterious object hiding inside a dark cosmic cloud. They found that the cloud, once thought to be featureless, contains a baby star, or possibly a failed star known as a "brown dwarf," that is still forming within its dusty cocoon.

Common wisdom holds that we can never see a black hole because nothing can escape it -

not even light. Fortunately, black holes aren't completely black. Within a few years, astronomers believe they will be able to peer close to the horizon of the black hole at the center of the Milky Way.

Almost 90 years after Albert Einstein first postulated his general theory of relativity, scientists have finished collecting data to put it to a new, different kind of experimental test.

The newly discovered 10th planet is looking more and more like one of the solar system's major players. It has the heft of a real planet, a catchy code name and it is the solar system's farthest detected object. Now, astronomers have discovered it has a moon.

Stunning images of Saturn's moon Hyperion taken by the Cassini spacecraft show a surface dotted with craters and modified by some process, not yet understood, to create a strange, "spongy" appearance, unlike the

surface of any other moon around the ringed planet.

NASA's Cassini spacecraft recently encountered Saturn's moon Tethys, coming closer than ever before. The probe's stunning images reveal an icy land of steep cliffs and craters on Tethys' scarred, ancient surface. Cassini photographed the moon's south pole, a region not seen by the Voyager spacecraft.

Two of NASA's Great Observatories, the Spitzer and Hubble Space Telescopes, have teamed up to "weigh" the stars in several distant galaxies. One of these galaxies, among the most distant ever seen, appears to be unusually massive and mature for its place in the young universe.

Astronomers have glimpsed dusty debris around an essentially dead star where gravity and radiation should have long ago removed any sign of dust. The discovery might provide insights into our own solar system's eventual

demise several billion years from now.

Astronomers have found compelling evidence that a supernova shock wave has produced a large amount of cosmic rays, particles of mysterious origin that constantly bombard the Earth. This discovery, made with NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, supports theoretical arguments that shock waves from stellar explosions may be a primary source of cosmic rays.

Newborn stars are difficult to photograph. They tend to hide in the nebulous stellar nurseries where they formed, enshrouded by thick layers of dust. Now, Smithsonian astronomer T.K. Sridharan and his colleagues have photographed a pair of stellar twins in infrared light, which penetrates the dust. And these babies are whoppers, weighing several times the mass of the sun.

Source: Online Oct 2005

<http://www.astronomynow.com/>

PHASES OF THE MOON FOR 2005

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Jan 10 20:03	Jan 17 14:57	Jan 25 18:32	Jan 4 01:45
Feb 9 06:28	Feb 16 08:16	Feb 24 12:54	Feb 2 15:27
Mar 10 17:10	Mar 18 03:19	Mar 26 04:58	Mar 4 01:36
Apr 9 04:32	Apr 16 22:37	Apr 24 18:06	Apr 2 08:50
May 8 16:45	May 16 16:56	May 24 04:18	May 1 14:24
Jun 7 05:55	Jun 15 09:22	Jun 22 12:14	May 30 19:47
Jul 6 20:02	Jul 14 23:20	Jul 21 18:60	Jun 29 02:23
Aug 5 11:05	Aug 13 10:38	Aug 20 01:53	Jul 28 11:19
Sep 4 02:45	Sep 11 19:36	Sep 18 10:01	Sep 25 14:41
Oct 3 18:28	Oct 11 03:01	Oct 17 20:13	Oct 25 09:17
Nov 2 09:24	Nov 9 09:57	Nov 16 08:57	Nov 24 06:11
Dec 1 23:01	Dec 8 17:36	Dec 16 00:15	Dec 24 03:36
Dec 31 11:12			

<http://www.wa.gov.au/perthobs/hpc5mm05.htm>

JOIN THE POVG NEWS GROUP

If you've got any news, information or pics post them on the news-group. To join simply send your email address to Bevan Harris at: ngc2070@bigpond.com

To unsubscribe send an email to: perthobsvollies-unsubscribe@yahoo.com.au
To modify your subscription, visit the group website at: <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/mygroups>

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2005/06 Volunteer Training & Meeting Nights

Below are listed the training nights scheduled for 2005/2006.

Training is important for our volunteers, they enjoy it, and we need to support these staff members in return for the assistance they render.

All staff are directed NOT to ROSTER ANY ACTIVITY THAT WILL INTERFERE WITH TRAINING night attendees access to the lecture theatre and the VOF (and associated telescopes). Generally (but not necessarily depending on Public Holidays etc), these training nights are scheduled for 7pm the Monday after the week of Last Quarter. This list is also displayed on the volunteer notice board.

Also, could you please bring the details of this message to the attention of all staff under your direct supervision. Your co-operation is appreciated. Jamie Biggs.

2005

28 Nov

2006

23 Jan
27 Feb
27 Mar
18 Apr: (NOTE: this is a
Tuesday)
22 May
19 Jun
17 Jul
21 Aug



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POVG

Perth Observatory Volunteers Group