

COSMIC DIMENSIONS

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CENTI ASTRO-SPACE ACTIVITIES

Welcome to the eighth issue of Cosmic Dimensions. We are well into the summer months. August brings many night-sky treats, but the most spectacular is the Perseid Meteor shower. I call it “Celestial Fireworks”. They actually start at the end of July and last till towards the end of August with the peak on August 11 - 13. This year the moon will block some of the fainter meteors, but if you get outside to view them you should see several.

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WHAT’S UP IN THE NIGHT SKY FOR JULY

The Night Sky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4o-x6uxe3w>

METEOR SHOWERS

August Meteor Shower

The Perseids are one of the brighter meteor showers of the year. They occur every year between July 17 and August 24 and tend to peak around August 9-13.

Comet Swift-Tuttle

Made of tiny space debris from the comet Swift-Tuttle, the Perseids are named after the constellation Perseus. This is because the direction, or radiant, from which the shower seems to come in the sky lies in the same direction as

Perseus. The Perseids are widely sought after by astronomers and stargazers because most years at its peak, one can see 60 to 100 meteors in an hour from a dark place.

How to See the Perseids

You don't need any special equipment or a lot of skills to view a meteor shower. Even though all you really need is a clear sky and lots of patience. The following tips can help maximize your shooting star viewing experience.

- Find a secluded viewing spot, away from the city lights. Once at the venue, your eyes may take 15 to 20 minutes to get used to the dark.
- Dress for the weather, and make sure you are comfortable, especially if you plan to stay out long. Bring a blanket or a comfortable chair with you—meteor watching can be a waiting game.
- Once you have found your viewing spot, lie down on the ground and look at the sky toward the north.
- Meteor showers appear to originate from the radiant, but meteors can appear in any part of the sky.

SOURCE: TimeandDate

FAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN ASTROPHYSICIST

Neil deGrasse Tyson



Some have referred to astrophysicist Neil Tyson as the “It” nerd. He is currently the director of the prestigious Hayden Planetarium and host of a hit TV and radio show known as Star Talk.

Neil came from very humble beginnings, growing up in the Bronx and attending public schools in New York for most of his early education. He states that his interest in astrophysics began after a family trip to the very same planetarium that he is a director of. He said that even at the age of 9, he knew he wanted to be an astrophysicist. He has a BA in Physics from Harvard, an MA in physics from the University of Texas, a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Columbia and he did his Postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton.

After his graduation from Colombia, he joined the Hayden Planetarium as a staff scientist, and in approximately a year; he moved up the ranks to become director of the institution. As a director, his primary goal was to modernize and update the facilities within the planetarium. In 2001, he was appointed by the president to be part of a team that would look into the future of the US Space industry and was also part of a committee that was geared towards improving the future of Space exploration. His work within these committees was commendable, and he received the “Distinguished Public Service Medal” from NASA.

He became renowned when, as director; he decided to remove Pluto as a planet in the Hayden Planetarium’s solar system display. He stated that he made this decision because more than half of Pluto is made up of ice. If it were to be placed where Earth is today, the ice would evaporate and a tail would form which is not a common characteristic of a planet. He has written several articles and books as to why he stands by his decision that Pluto is not a planet. It is now called Pluto the Dwarf Planet.



Pluto, the largest of the solar system dwarf planets

His columns in Natural History in the 1990s have been turned into books. These include; Death by Black Hole and Astrophysics for People in a Hurry.

In recent years, he has become a pop-culture figure because of his presence and work in the media. He has hosted TV shows, conducted interviews, and has a podcast known as Star Talk. In 2014, he was brought back to the media to host the show Cosmos, following in the footsteps of one of his mentors, Carl Sagan.

SOURCE: STARGAZER ROCK BLOG

EVENTS - FREE WEBINARS

I will be hosting free webinars on 2 Thursday's during the month of August.

DATES: Thursdays, August 11th and 25th

TIME: 6:00 - 7:00 PM ET

TOPICS: ★ Networking

★ Learn about courses, webinars & workshops I offer.

★ Answer questions

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.

Schedule your spot by the day before each webinar by sending your name and email using the CONTACT page on our website <https://www.centiastro.space> or call us at (716) 338 - 7596.

Once you have registered, a link will be sent to your email for you to log in.

COURSES BEING OFFERED

Just a reminder about the courses I have available. Please visit my website at <https://www.centiastro.space> and check them out. The dates listed are going to be changing. They are set up as live online classes.

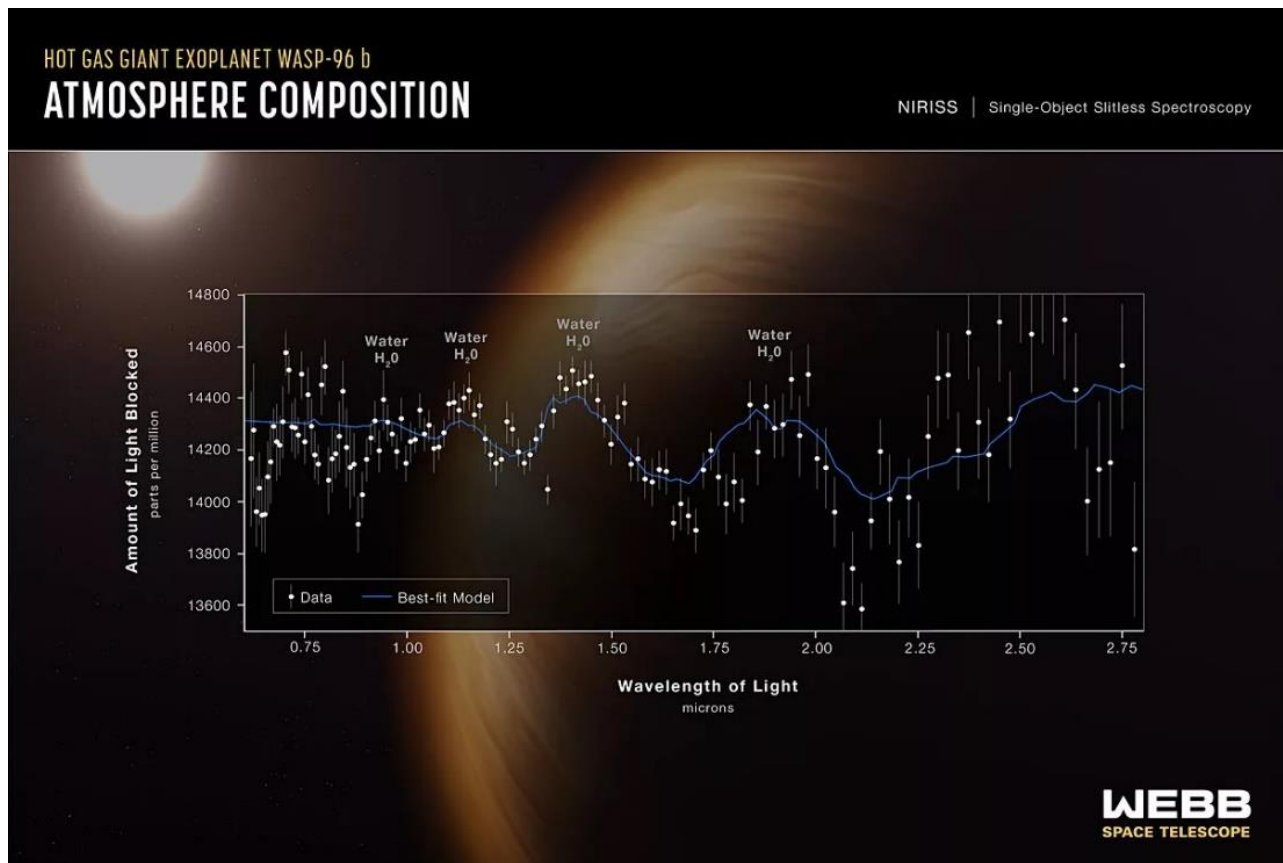
I have also been teaching several Space Exploration classes through VARSITY TUTORS. This is a tutoring site.

Recently, I have set up my profile on a teaching platform named Outschool. Courses are taught live and online for small groups of students. This is great because the teacher student interaction isn't lost like with large group classes. I plan on teaching several of my courses here soon. Currently I am offering a 1 session 60-minute course entitled "How and Why Planets Orbit the Sun". It is being offered on 3 dates, Thursday August 4th, Saturday August 6th and Tuesday August 9th.

To find out more click on this link:

https://outschool.com/teachers/Christopher-Centi?usid=1ByY0Ht3&signup=true&authTrigger=follow_teacher&follow=true&utm_campaign=share_leader_link

SPACE PIC OF THE MONTH



JWST SPECTRUM OF WASP-96 B This spectrum is made from observations by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, which analyzed the atmospheric composition of a distant exoplanet called WASP-96 b. WASP-96b is a **gas giant exoplanet**. Its mass is 0.48 Jupiters. It is 0.0453 AU from the class G star WASP-96, which it orbits every 3.4 days. It is about 1120 light-years away, in the constellation Phoenix. It was discovered in 2013. JWST detected signatures of water and haze in the gas giant's atmosphere. [NASA/ESA/CSA/STScI](#)

SPACE SPINOFF

Space exploration has many benefits that people aren't aware of, but here is something worth noting.

Creation of STEM Jobs

NASA employs more than 18,000 people. SpaceX more than 12,000. And that's not counting outside contractors with whom those numbers at least double.

A lot of those jobs are positions for engineers, data analysts, mathematicians, physicists, astronomers, doctors, biologists, geologists, etc.

Space exploration is one of the industries that require the largest percentage of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) jobs.

These positions require highly qualified people to fill them but are also some of the highest-paid jobs in the market. The average entry-level STEM job pays approximately 26% higher than non-STEM fields for college graduates.

So, in summary, the growing space industry creates high-paying jobs.

ASTROSPACE JOKE of the MONTH

What do astronomers do when they finish calculating the time from sunup to sundown?

They call it a day.

SPACE QUOTE of the MONTH

*“What everyone in the astronaut corps shares in common is not gender or ethnic background, but motivation, perseverance, and desire — the desire to participate in a voyage of discovery.” -- **Ellen Ochoa***

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE of the MONTH

*“The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.” -- **Bob Marley***

CONTACT

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