

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/milky-way/>

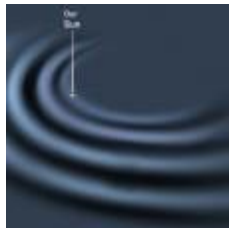


Milky Way

Our Milky Way Galaxy is one of the most mysterious galaxies we observe. That's because we're studying it from inside its spiral disk, surrounded by its stars, gas, and dust. But what we do see tells us a lot about the Milky Way's formation. Astronomers have managed to piece together a [map of what our galaxy looks like](#) from the outside, though even [counting its spiral arms](#) has been a lesson in humility.

Still, the Milky Way has plenty of secrets. Astronomers are tenaciously trying to glimpse [the silhouette of its supermassive black hole](#), and they're working to discover what created the [Fermi bubbles](#), the humongous dumbbell belched from the galaxy's core.

Here you'll find the latest news on the bustling stellar metropolis we live in, the dwarf galaxies that make up its suburbs, and our evolving picture of everything Milky Way.



Ripples in the Milky Way

By: [Camille M. Carlisle](#) | March 16, 2015 | Comments 5

Astronomers have detected what look like four undulations in the Milky Way Galaxy's disk. If the structures are all part of the disk, our galaxy is more than half again as large as we thought it was.



New Stars On Strange Orbits in Milky Way

By: [Monica Young](#) | March 5, 2015 | Comments 0

Astronomers have found two just-born star clusters an incredible 16,000 light-years above the plane of the Milky Way galaxy.



New Stars in the Shadow of a Black Hole

By: **Monica Young** | March 3, 2015 | Comments 1

New observations suggest that several dozen low-mass stars, and eventually perhaps even planets, are forming just 2 light-years from our galaxy's supermassive black hole.



Cepheids Map Milky Way – and Beyond

By: **Monica Young** | February 20, 2015 | Comments 3

Cepheid variable stars are helping astronomers see what our galaxy looks like from within.



Yellowballs: A New View of Star Formation

By: **Monica Young** | February 2, 2015 | Comments 2

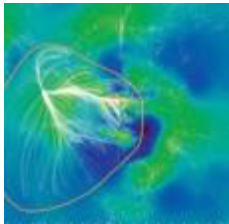
Thanks to the help of the general public, astronomers have discovered a new signature marking a hidden phase of star formation.



G2 Survives Black Hole Pass

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | October 16, 2014 | Comments 1

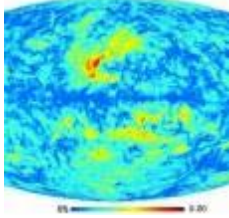
The gaseous object G2 has survived its swing around the Milky Way's central supermassive black hole, but the questions of what it is and where it comes from remain unanswered.



Laniakea: Our Home Supercluster

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | September 3, 2014 | Comments 1

Astronomers have mapped the cosmic watershed and discovered a massive supercluster that extends more than 500 million light-years and contains 100,000 large galaxies. The Milky Way sits on the edge of this humongous structure.



Big Bang Inflation Evidence Inconclusive

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | June 2, 2014 | Comments 11

New analyses suggest that observations heralded as evidence for the universe's brief growth spurt don't conclusively show what researchers thought they did.



Planck's Magnetic Map of Our Galaxy

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | May 14, 2014 | Comments 1

The ESA's Planck mission has released one of the most detailed maps of the Milky Way's magnetic field.



Young Stars Lead the Magellanic Stream

By: **Shannon Hall** | March 18, 2014 | Comments 0

Astronomers have discovered hot, young stars in the Leading Arm of the Magellanic Stream, calling the history of the Magellanic Clouds once again into question.



Fingerprinting the Circumgalactic Medium

By: **Shannon Hall** | March 4, 2014 | Comments 1

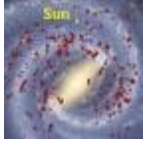
A new study finds the space surrounding dwarf galaxies in the nearby universe to be shockingly pristine.



Galaxies Grow By Snacking

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | January 17, 2014 | Comments 9

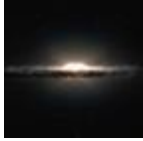
Evidence from observations and computer simulations supports a picture of galaxy growth that isn't dominated by the rough-and-tumble crashes of big galaxies. Instead, most of the universe's stellar metropolises appear to feed themselves with nibbles instead of feasts.



Mapping the Milky Way's Arms

By: **Kelly Beatty** | December 27, 2013 | Comments 5

Astronomers continue to debate whether our home galaxy has big arms and some smaller appendages — or, as new results suggest, four major arms.



New 3D Maps of Milky Way's Bulge

By: **Monica Young** | September 18, 2013 | Comments 7

New 3D maps of the Milky Way's central bulge of stars show a distinctively peanut-like shape. The maps give clues about how our galaxy evolved to its present-day form.



Astronomers Discover Black Hole's Dieting Strategy

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | August 29, 2013 | Comments 5

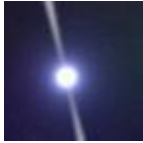
The Milky Way's central supermassive black hole eats only a fraction of the gas available to it. New X-ray observations suggest how the beast manages to stay so trim when faced with a feast.



Source Found for Magellanic Stream

By: **Monica Young** | August 22, 2013 | Comments 3

New observations solve the origins of a long rivulet of gas encircling the Milky Way.



New Pulsar Explores Heart of Milky Way

By: **Monica Young** | August 15, 2013 | Comments 10

A pulsar discovered last April is helping astronomers measure the magnetic field surrounding our galaxy's central black hole.



Glimpse the X-ray Sky

By: **Monica Young** | July 31, 2013 | Comments 0

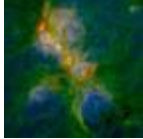
Time and tide wait for no man. So the XMM-Newton space telescope is making every second count. As the telescope shifts its gaze from source to source, it's recording the X-ray sky.



Snack Starts Swinging Around Black Hole

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | July 24, 2013 | Comments 6

Astronomers around the world are watching as the gaseous object called G2 heads for a close pass around the Milky Way's central supermassive black hole. Now it looks like the distended cloud is starting to swing back toward us.



Cat's Paw Nebula: Nearby Mini-Starburst?

By: **Shari Balouchi** | June 17, 2013 | Comments 1

The Cat's Paw Nebula is home to many bright, young stars. But thousands of fainter stars concealed behind dust reveal themselves in a new infrared image.



A Cosmic Sleight of Hand

By: **Monica Young** | May 10, 2013 | Comments 2

Astronomers have been waiting for our galaxy's slumbering supermassive black hole to stir for a snack. Instead, the universe handed them a different treat.



Can Stars Form in our Galaxy's Center?

By: **Monica Young** | April 3, 2013 | Comments 9

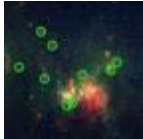
Observations of Milky Way's chaotic center show hints of stars forming just two light-years away from our galaxy's supermassive black hole.



Baby Black Hole Discovered

By: **Monica Young** | February 18, 2013 | Comments 3

Astronomers investigating a supernova remnant see nothing but swirls of gas. The lack of stellar remains means the explosion must have birthed a black hole only 1,000 years ago.



Mapping the Milky Way

By: **Monica Young** | January 18, 2013 | Comments 1

New observations of spaghetti-thin clouds, faraway star-forming regions and mysterious magnetic fields are revealing the hard-to-see structure of the galaxy we call home.



Galactic Bubbles Spark Debate

By: **Camille M. Carlisle** | January 16, 2013 | Comments 4

New microwave and radio observations resurrect controversy over gigantic lobes seen ballooning from the Milky Way's center.
- See more at: <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/milky-way/#sthash.68dnmgGx.dpuf>