MAJOR METEOR SHOWERS

There are dozens of meteor showers, and at least one can be observed every month of the year. Most have so few meteors that they are unnoticeable to the casual observer. This is a list of the major showers during the year.

The approximate date when each shower reaches its maximum is given, along with the active period when smaller numbers of shower members can be seen. Maximum dates are approximate, and can vary a day either way for various reasons. Call your local planetarium for more exact peaks as the time approaches. The radiant is the point in the sky from which shower meteors appear to move, and showers are named for the areas in the sky where the radiants are. The ZHR is the Zenithal Hourly Rate, an idealized number useful for comparing shower strength. In Louisiana, expect to see less than half that number of meteors on a typical clear night. Remember that meteor observing must be done far from lights — suburban viewers will see fewer meteors and city observers will see virtually none.

SHOWER	ACTIVE PERIOD	MAXIMUM	ZHR
Quadrantids	Jan. 1 – Jan. 5	Jan. 3	120
Eta Aquarids	Apr. 19 – May 28	May 6	60
S. Delta Aquarids	Jul. 12 – Aug. 19	Jul. 28	20
Perseids	Jul. 17 – Aug. 24	Aug. 12	90
Orionids	Oct. 2 – Nov. 7	Oct. 21	20
Leonids	Nov. 14 – Nov. 21	Nov. 17	40
Geminids	Dec. 7 – Dec. 17	Dec. 14	20