

Fall meteor showers amaze Christmas shoppers

The longer nights might make it tougher to get around after work if you're packing the malls for presents, but sooner or later you'll take a break hopefully under the starry sky.

The annual Leniids meteor shower, better known as the best one of the fall, is a sure sign winter's on the way.

The heavens will light up the evening sky in mid-November, with the Leniids peaking on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Just before will be a second meteor shower called the Northern Taurids, which peaks the previous week, on Thursday, Nov 12.

With the moon not an issue for both, we'll see some spectacular fireballs light up the night sky.

Lastly, the Southern



Neel Roberts

The Sky's the Limit

Taurids peaks Thursday, Nov. 5 with expectations of seven meteors per hour but will have some interference with the slim waning moon at dawn.

All meteor showers can be seen with the naked eye, but if you have a fast shutter (and finger) they can be photographed.

Or you can watch them online at main.slooh.com.

Sky watch

The Northern Taurids meteor shower peaks on Thursday, Nov. 12 after dark.

The forecast is for seven meteors per hour, and it will be noticeable since the moon is almost new.

The Leonid meteor shower peaks on Wednesday, Nov. 18 after night fall with the moon down till dawn.

It should produce meteors at the rate of 10-15 per hour.

On Thursday, Nov. 12 before sunset, look southwest as Saturn sets with the near new moon.

Public events

The monthly public stargazing session at the Trek Station takes place on Friday, Nov. 13 starting at 7:30 p.m.

A short indoor presentation on the

upcoming Leniids meteor shower will be followed by stargazing through an 11-inch Celestron telescope.

Treats and refreshments are provided free of charge, and all are welcome.

Experts are on hand the second Friday of each month to explain the heavens, teach telescoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of the sky.

For further information, contact the Trek Station at 403-485-2994 or visit www.vulcantourism.com.

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403) 485-2683 and Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com.