

Fall meteor showers a pre-Christmas treat

Are you looking for something amazing in the sky this month?

The upcoming Leonid meteor shower is a heavenly show that Christmas shoppers take in during autumn nights. With less daylight saving time over this month, the dark sky is available for all shifts. Peaking Thursday, Nov. 17 in the constellation of Leo, look for the backwards question mark star pattern rising after midnight in the northeast until dawn. While the peak is Oct. 17, you'll still catch some of the streaks a few days before and after. Unfortunately, the moon will block out some fireballs no matter which day you see it.

The most famous Leonid meteor shower was back in 1833 when an estimated "storm" dumped an incomprehensible 26,000 fire-



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The Sky's the Limit

balls per hour. While such occurrences are a once-in-a-lifetime event, don't miss the many that happen year round by getting free apps like "Meteor Shower Calendar". Available for most smartphones, the app actually alerts you when one comes into peak, plus provides details for future ones.

Sky watch

Daylight's Savings Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 a.m. You'll get that extra hour of sleep.

Northern Taurids meteor

shower peaks on Saturday, Nov. 12 after dark. The forecast is for seven meteors per hour, but the waxing, gibbous moon will hinder it until after midnight.

The Leonid meteor shower peaks Thursday, Nov. 17 after nightfall but will be hindered by the bright, waning and gibbous moon till dawn. To find it, look towards the constellation of Leo. This meteor shower should produce meteors at the rate of 10-15 per hour.

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, you can see the new moon after sunset in the southwest before it sets for the evening.

Public events

The monthly public stargazing session at the Trek Station takes place Friday, Nov. 18, starting at 7:30 p.m.

A short indoor presentation on the peaking Leonid

meteor shower followed by stargazing through an 11-inch telescope. Treats and refreshments are provided free of charge. All are welcome to attend.

During the monthly sessions, which take place the second Friday of each month, experts are on hand to explain the heavens, teach telescoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of our sky.

For further information, contact Vulcan Tourism at 403-485-2994 or visit www.vulcantourism.com.

Happy cooler days and meteor watching!

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