

# Two meteor showers this month

We actually have two mild meteor showers this month.

The Geminid meteor shower peaks on Wednesday, Dec. 13 just after midnight on a moonless night in the constellation of Gemini.

The Ursid meteor shower peaks Friday, Dec. 22, in the morning before sunrise, when the earth moves through the centre of the dust trail left behind by comet 8P/Tuttle on a moonless sky.

For more on all meteor showers next year, check out the International Meteor Organization at [www.imo.net/calendar/2018](http://www.imo.net/calendar/2018).



**Neel Roberts**

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The Sky's the Limit

On Wednesday, Dec. 13 before dawn look southeast at the moon from about 4:30 a.m. as it rides above Mars.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, before dawn, look southeast at the moon from about 5:30 a.m. as it rides above Jupiter.

Thursday, Dec. 21 is officially the shortest day of

the year. This occurs when the sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.5 degrees and likewise the North Pole is tilted 23.5 degrees away from the sun.

Depending on the Gregorian calendar, the December solstice occurs between Dec. 20 and Dec. 23. On this date, all places above a latitude of 66.5 degrees north are now in darkness while locations below a latitude of 66.5 degrees south receive 24 hours of daylight.

## Public events

A Christmas Observers Group meeting takes place at the Wilson Coulee Observatory, near Okotoks, on

Saturday, Dec. 16 starting at 8 p.m.

Dress warmly even when daytime temperatures seem mild — standing at telescopes can get chilly. Happily, the Sid Lee building is heated.

For further information, contact Jack Milliken at [cal\\_rascsec@telus.net](mailto:cal_rascsec@telus.net) and the website [calgary.rasc.ca/RecurringEvents.htm#recOG](http://calgary.rasc.ca/RecurringEvents.htm#recOG).

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