

Woodstockers will celebrate 50th Anniversary under a summer meteor shower

When I was a teenager, Bryan Adams' 1985 hit song "Summer of '69" may have been a tribute to the Woodstock festival that took place in mid August of that year.

The average attendee today is about 70 years old as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the concert that took place on Max Yasgur's farm (41°42'05"N,74°52'49"W) just outside of sleepy Bethel, New York. Little did they know those dates August 15-18, 1969 was around the peak of the Perseids meteor shower, so the largest outdoor gig on Earth seemed serendipitous at night with all the fire balls.

The farm was purchased by new

owners in 1997 and the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts (<https://www.bethelwoodscenter.org>) opened in 2008 to commemorate the event. Loaded with memorabilia including pictures and original video, the site also points out the 50th anniversary taking place August 15-18th this month. And yes, the Perseids is peaking around then so clear skies will give patrons that extra treat which money can't buy.

With baby boomers in their senior years, future reunions are becoming doubtful. The Trump rallies have become the "New Woodstock" according to Charlie Kirk of Breitbart <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/05/03/kirk-trump-rallies-the-modern-woodstock/> as multi generations shift to politics from music, so here's a ode from Bryan Adams '69 song to serenade the largest generation, the Baby Boomers!

*That summer seemed to last forever
And if I had the choice
Yeah, I'd always wanna be there
Those were the best days of my life*

Sky watch for the next month:

1. Moon & Jupiter at dusk- Friday, August 09th watch this duo into the night after sunset. A good scope can capture Jupiter during the day.
2. Moon & Saturn midnight- Monday, August 12th after dark while your watching the meteor shower this duo will be a good side show.
3. Milky Way Brilliance- This is an excellent month to view our home galaxy without freezing. Best time is after 11 p.m. until dawn.
4. Annual Perseids Meteor Shower- Runs until August 24th with the peak Monday August 12th to Tuesday August 13th with estimated rate of 10-15 meteors per hour dampened by the waning gibbous Moon. Best view is starting at 11 p.m. facing the NE in the constellation of Perseids until dawn. Check out this viewing guide for details <https://www.space.com/32868-perseid-meteor-shower-guide.html>.

Public Events for the next month:

Annual Milky Way Weekend Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis- Mark down Thursday, August 22nd to Saturday 24th from 22 p.m. to 02 a.m. There will be an array of scopes operated by University of Calgary astronomers and members of the RASC Calgary. See astronomers in their nature habitat, under dark moonless skies.

Late night public observing is a unique opportunity to see deep sky objects such as planetary nebula and globular clusters. You will have the opportunity to look through the telescopes, and astronomers will be on hand to answer questions.

For further information, contact Jennifer Howse at jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca, (403) 931-2366. Their website <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/> is updated regularly.

Happy meteor shower hunting and keep reaching for the Sky!

Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1868 with over 5,000 members and 29 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at (403)560-6574, www.ptccanada.com. The members meet once a month on weekends at Calgary's Rothney Observatory near Priddis and you can check out times at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/rao/calendar>. Like them at Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272037680377/>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/CalgaryRASC> & YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/RASCCalgary>.



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