

# Meteor Activity Outlook for November 7-13, 2020

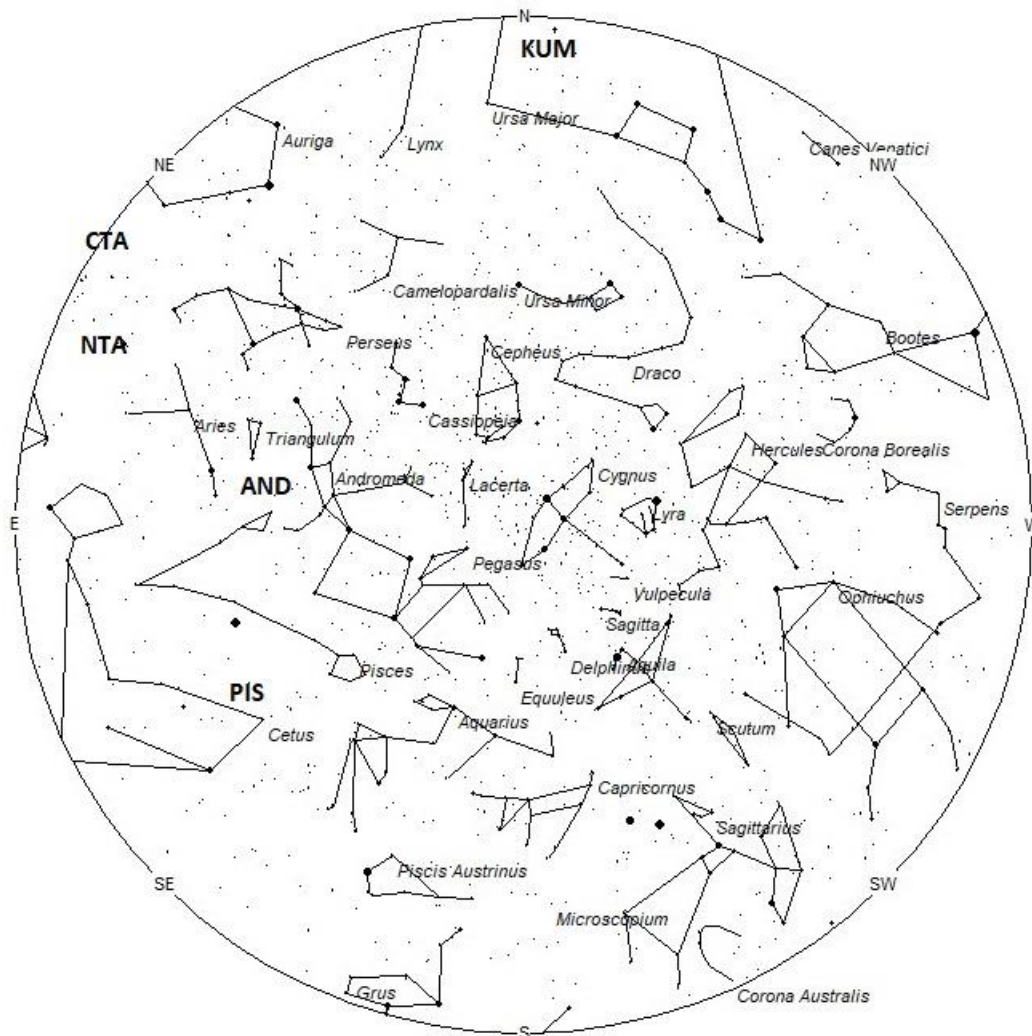


Wade Earle was photographing from the dark skies of eastern Oregon, USA, when this bright meteor happened to shoot through the camera frame, just to the south of the Pleiades. This meteor occurred on the morning of 21 July 2020. Notice the bright planet Venus just clearing the horizon. Credit Wade Earle.

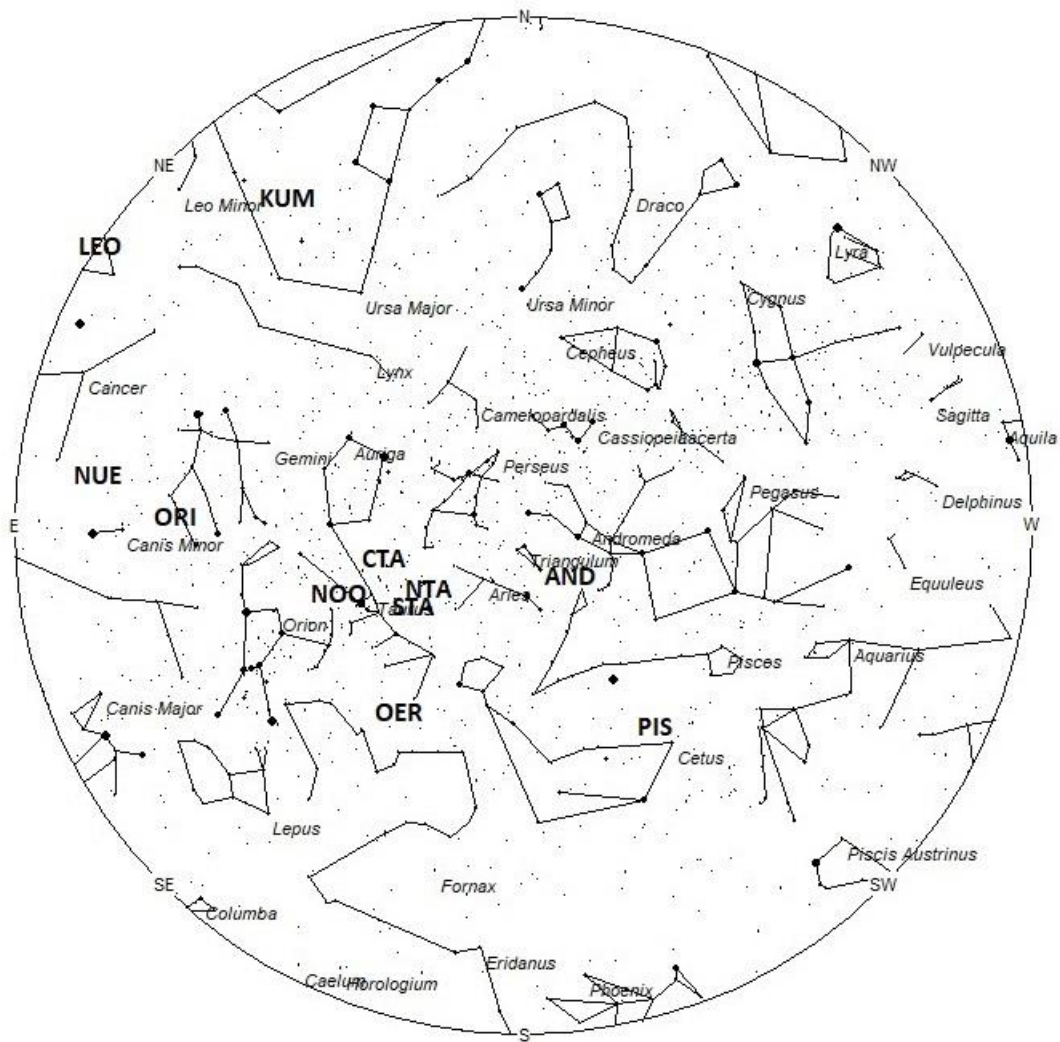
During this period, the moon reaches its last quarter phase on Sunday November 8th. At this time, the moon is located 90 degrees west of the sun and will rise near 0100 local standard time (LST). As this period progresses, the waning crescent moon will rise later with each passing night, allowing a greater period of dark skies as the week progresses. The estimated total hourly meteor rates for evening observers this week is near 4 as seen from mid-northern latitudes and 3 as seen from tropical southern locations (25S). For morning observers, the estimated total hourly rates should be near 17 as seen from mid-northern latitudes (45N) and 10 as seen from tropical southern locations (25S). The actual rates will also depend on factors such as personal light and motion perception, local weather conditions, alertness, and experience in watching meteor activity. Note that the hourly rates listed below are estimates as viewed from dark sky sites away from urban light sources. Observers viewing from urban areas will see less activity as only the brighter meteors will be visible from such locations. Meteor rates are reduced during the morning hours during this period due to moonlight.

The radiant (the area of the sky where meteors appear to shoot from) positions and rates listed below are exact for Saturday night/Sunday morning November 7/8. These positions do not change greatly day to day so the listed coordinates may be used during this entire period. Most star atlases (available at science stores and planetariums) will provide maps with grid lines of the celestial coordinates so that you may find out exactly where these positions are located in the sky. A planisphere or computer planetarium program is also

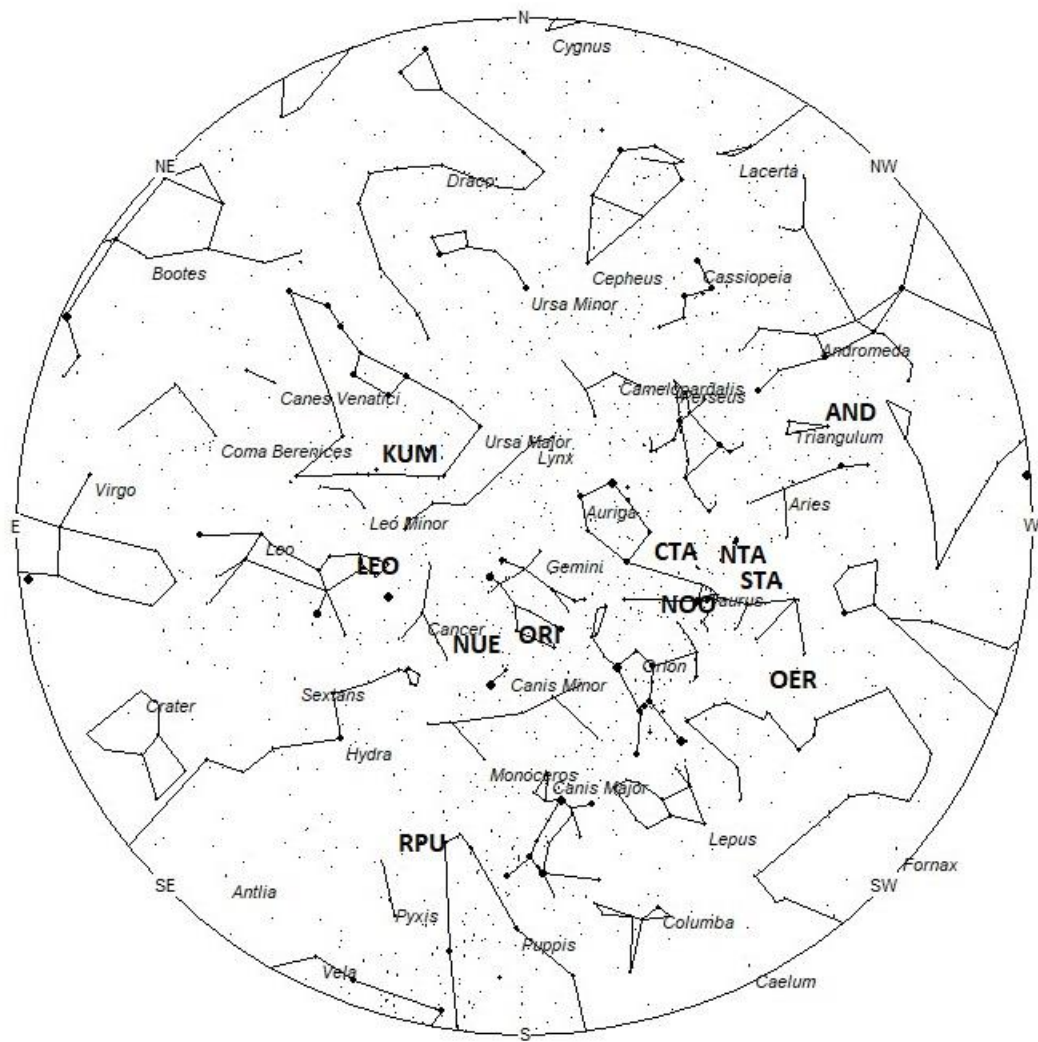
useful in showing the sky at any time of night on any date of the year. Activity from each radiant is best seen when it is positioned highest in the sky, either due north or south along the meridian, depending on your latitude. It must be remembered that meteor activity is rarely seen at the radiant position. Rather they shoot outwards from the radiant, so it is best to center your field of view so that the radiant lies at the edge and not the center. Viewing there will allow you to easily trace the path of each meteor back to the radiant (if it is a shower member) or in another direction if it is sporadic. Meteor activity is not seen from radiants that are located far below the horizon. The positions below are listed in a west to east manner in order of right ascension (celestial longitude). The positions listed first are located further west therefore are accessible earlier in the night while those listed further down the list rise later in the night.



## Radiant Locations at 6:00pm Local Standard Time



**Radiant Locations at 11:00pm Local Standard Time**



**Radiant Locations at 4:00am Local Standard Time**



## **These sources of meteoric activity are expected to be active this week.**

During the week centered on November 13<sup>th</sup>, there is the possibility of activity from a source known as the **29 Piscids (PIS)**. These meteors would radiate from an area located near 00:27 (007) -07. This area of the sky is located on the Pisces/Cetus border, 3 degrees northeast of the 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude star known as Deneb Kaitos Shemali (iota Ceti). This area of the sky is best placed during the evening hours near 21:00 local standard time (LST). With an entry velocity of 11 km/sec., any meteors from this source would be very slow. It's not certain whether a repeat of the 2019 activity will occur, but if any meteors from this source are observed, it would be notable.

The **Andromedids (AND)** should be active from a radiant currently is located near 01:35 (024) +29. This position lies in eastern Triangulum, 3 degrees west of the 3rd magnitude star known as Mothallah (alpha Trianguli). This part of the sky is best placed near 2300 LST, when the radiant lies highest above the horizon. Current rates would most likely be near 1 per hour as seen from the northern hemisphere and less than 1 as seen south of the equator. With an entry velocity of 19 km/sec., the average Andromedid meteor would be of very slow velocity.

The **Southern Taurids (STA)** are active from a large radiant centered at 03:35 (054) +14. This area of the sky is located in western Taurus, 4 degrees northwest of the 3rd magnitude variable star known as lambda Tauri. This source is best placed near midnight LST when it is located highest in the sky. Current hourly rates would be near 2 no matter your location. With an entry velocity of 27 km/sec., most activity from this source would possess medium-slow velocities.

The **Northern Taurids (NTA)** are active from a large radiant centered at 03:45 (056) +23. This area of the sky is located in western Taurus, 1 degree south of the naked eye open star cluster known as the Pleiades. This source is best placed near midnight LST when it is located highest in the sky. Current hourly rates would be near 2 as seen from the northern hemisphere and 1 as seen from south of the equator. With an entry velocity of 27 km/sec., most activity from this source would possess medium-slow velocities.

The **omicron Eridanids (OER)** were discovered by Japanese observers using video data from SonotoCo in 2007-2008. The activity period ranges from October 16–November 24 with maximum activity occurring on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The radiant is currently located at 03:50 (058) -01, which places it in northern Eridanus, 3 degrees southeast of the faint star known as 10 Tauri. These meteors may be seen all night long but the radiant is best placed near midnight LST when it lies on the meridian and is located highest in the sky. Current hourly rates should be near 1 no matter your location. With an entry velocity of 29 km/sec., the average omicron Eridanid meteor would be of medium-slow velocity.

The **chi Taurids (CTA)** were discovered by Dr. Peter Brown during his 7-year survey using the Canadian Meteor Orbit Radar (CMOR). This source is active from October 20 through November 17 with a maximum occurring near November 4<sup>th</sup>. Current rates would be less than 1 per hour no matter your location. The radiant is currently located at 04:34 (069) +27, which places it in northern Taurus, 10 degrees north of the 1st magnitude star known as Aldebaran (alpha Tauri). These meteors may be seen all night long but the radiant is best placed near 0100

LST when it lies on the meridian and is located highest in the sky. Current rates should be near 1 per hour as seen from the northern hemisphere and less than 1 as seen from south of the equator. With an entry velocity of 41 km/sec., the average chi Taurid meteor would be of medium velocity.

The **November Orionids (NOO)** are active from a radiant located at 04:39 (070) +16. This area of the sky lies in central Taurus, only 1 degree east of the bright orange star known as Aldebaran (alpha Tauri). This radiant is best placed in the sky near 0300 LST, when it lies highest above the horizon. This stream is active from November 7 through December 17, with maximum activity occurring on November 29. Rates should be less than 1 per hour no matter your location. With an entry velocity of 43 km/sec., most activity from this radiant would be of medium speed.

The **Orionids (ORI)** are still active from a radiant located at 07:06 (107) +16. This area of the sky lies in southwestern Gemini, 3 degrees west of the 4th magnitude star known as lambda Geminorum. The radiant is best placed near 0400 LST, when it lies highest above the horizon. Hourly rates would be near 1 per as seen from the northern hemisphere and less than 1 as seen from south of the equator. With an entry velocity of 66 km/sec., most activity from this radiant would be of swift velocities.

The **nu Eridanids (NUE)** were co-discovered by Japanese observers using SonotoCo and Juergen Rendtel and Sirko Molau of the IMO. Activity from this long-period stream stretches from August 24 all the way to November 16. Maximum activity occurred on September 24th. The radiant currently lies at 08:00 (120) +15, which places it in southwestern Cancer, 10 degrees northeast of the zero magnitude star known as Procyon (alpha Canis Minoris). This area of the sky is best seen during the last dark hour before dawn when the radiant lies highest in a dark sky. Current rates are expected to be less than 1 per hour during this period no matter your location. With an entry velocity of 67 km/sec., the average meteor from this source would be of swift velocity.

The **rho Puppids (RPU)** were discovered by Damir Šegon and the Croatian Meteor Network team based on studying SonotaCo and CMN observations (SonotaCo 2007-2011, CMN 2007-2010). These meteors are active from November 10-20 with maximum activity occurring on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The current position of this radiant is 08:23 (126) -25. This area of the sky lies in eastern Puppis, 3 degrees east of the 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude star known as Tureis (rho Puppis). These meteors are best seen during the last dark hour prior to dawn when it lies highest in a dark sky. Rates are expected to be less than 1 per hour no matter your location. With an entry velocity of 58 km/sec., most activity from this radiant would be of swift velocity.

The **Leonids (LEO)** are active from a radiant located at 09:40 (145) +25. This position lies in northwestern Leo, 2 degrees northwest of the 3rd magnitude star known as Algenubi (epsilon Leonis). The Leonid radiant is best placed during the last hour before morning twilight when the radiant lies highest in a dark sky. Leonids may be seen from the southern hemisphere but the viewing conditions are not quite as favorable as those north of the equator. With an entry velocity of 70 km/sec., most activity from this radiant would be of swift speed with numerous persistent trains on the brighter meteors.

The **kappa Ursae Majorids (KUM)** were discovered by cameras of the SonotaCo network in Japan during an outburst of activity on November 5, 2009. This radiant is active from November 3-10 with maximum activity occurring on the 8th. At maximum, the radiant is located at 09:49 (147) +45. This position lies in southeastern Ursa Majoris, 5 degrees northwest of the 3rd magnitude star known as Tania Borealis (Iamha Ursae Majoris). Rates, even at maximum, are expected to be less than 1 regardless of your location. These meteors are best seen during the last hour before dawn when the radiant lies highest above the horizon in a dark sky. With an entry velocity of 66 km/sec., the average Kappa Ursae Majorid meteor would be of swift velocity.

As seen from mid-northern hemisphere (45N), **sporadic** morning rates would be near 9 per hour as seen from rural observing sites and 3 per hour during the evening hours. As seen from the tropical southern latitudes (25S), one would expect to see approximately 5 sporadic meteors per hour during the last hour before dawn as seen from rural observing sites. Morning rates would be near 2 per hour. Locations between these two extremes would see activity between the listed figures.

Details on each source will continue next week when lunar conditions are more favorable.

<b>SHOWER</b>	<b>DATE OF MAXIMUM ACTIVITY</b>	<b>CELESTIAL POSITION</b>	<b>ENTRY VELOCITY</b>	<b>CULMINATION</b>	<b>HOURLY RATE</b>	<b>CLASS</b>
		<b>RA (RA in Deg.) DEC</b>	<b>Km/Sec</b>	<b>Local StandardTime</b>	<b>North- South</b>	
29 Piscids (PIS)	Nov 13	00:27 (007) -07	11	21:00	<1 – <1	IV
Andromedids (AND)	Nov 06	01:35 (024) +29	19	22:00	1 – <1	IV
Southern Taurids (STA)	Nov 03	03:35 (054) +14	27	00:00	2 – 2	II
Northern Taurids (NTA)	Nov 12	03:45 (056) +23	27	00:00	1- <1	II
omicron Eridanids (OER)	Nov 05	03:50 (058) -01	29	00:00	1 – 1	IV
chi Taurids (CTA)	Nov 04	04:34 (069) +27	41	01:00	<1 – <1	IV
November Orionids (NOO)	Nov 29	04:39 (070) +16	43	01:00	<1 – <1	II
Orionids (ORI)	Oct 21	07:06 (107) +16	66	04:00	2 – 1	I

nu Eridanids (NUE)	Sep 24	08:00 (120) +15	67	05:00	<1 – <1	IV
rho Puppids (RPU)	Nov 14	08:23 (126) -25	58	05:00	<1 – <1	IV
Leonids (LEO)	Nov 18	09:40 (145) +25	70	06:00	<1 – <1	I
kappa Ursae Majorids (KUM)	Nov 08	09:49 (147) +45	66	06:00	<1 – <1	IV