

Meteor Activity Outlook for June 19-25, 2021

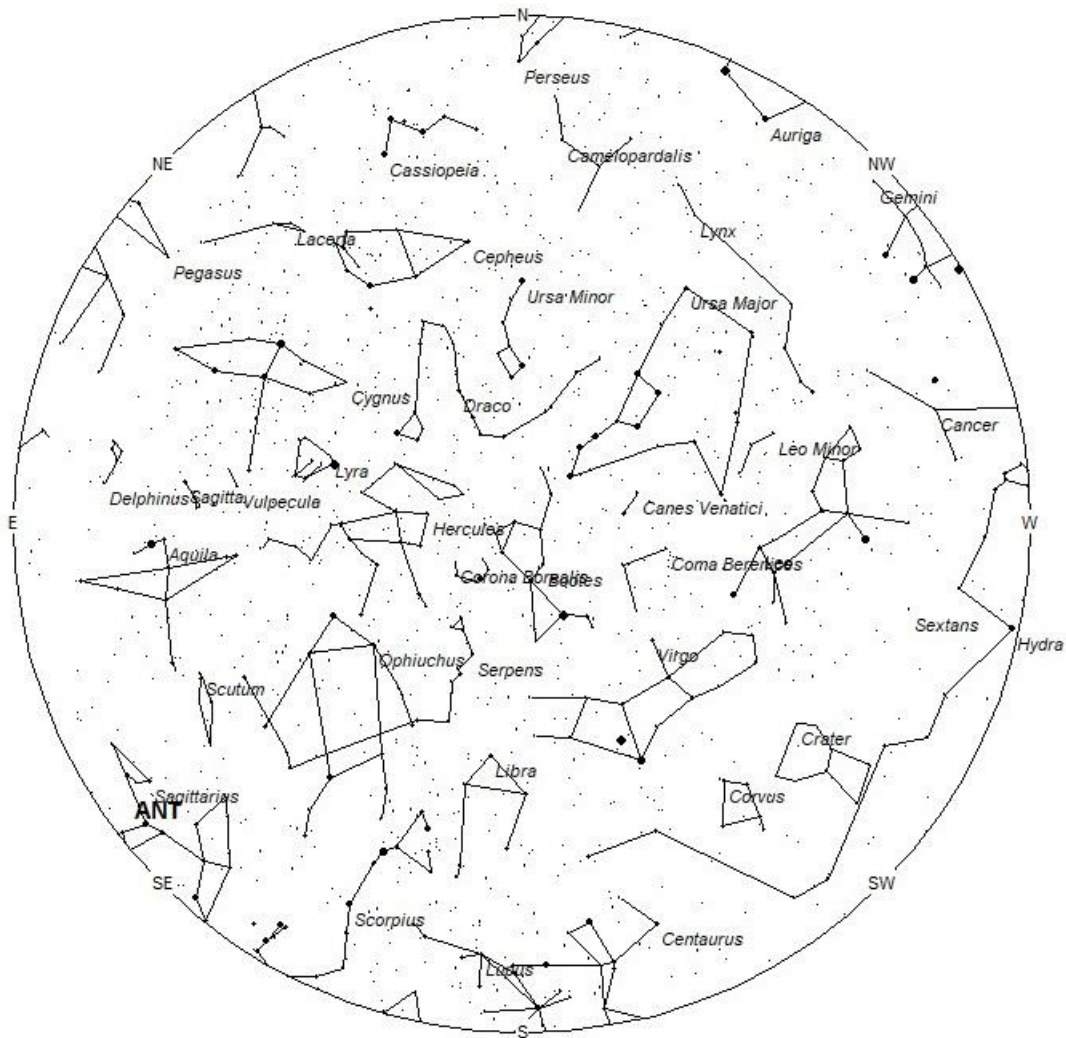


Ken Jamrogowicz captured this impressive fireball through clouds at 02:00 UT (22:00 EDT on May 25) on May 26, 2021, from Haymarket, Virginia, USA. For more information on this fireball visit: https://fireball.amsmeteors.org/members/imo_view/event/2021/2978 ©Ken Jamrogowicz

During this period, the moon reaches its full phase on Thursday June 24th. This weekend the waxing gibbous moon will set during the early morning hours allowing a few hours of viewing meteor activity under a dark sky between moon set and dawn. This window of opportunity shrinks with each passing night and by midweek the time of moon set and dawn will be simultaneous. The estimated total hourly meteor rates for evening observers this week is near 2 as seen from mid-northern latitudes (45N) and 3 as seen from tropical southern locations (25S). For morning observers, the estimated total hourly rates should be near 9 as seen from mid-northern latitudes (45N) and 12 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. Evening rates are reduced by moonlight during this period. 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.

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 June 19/20. 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.

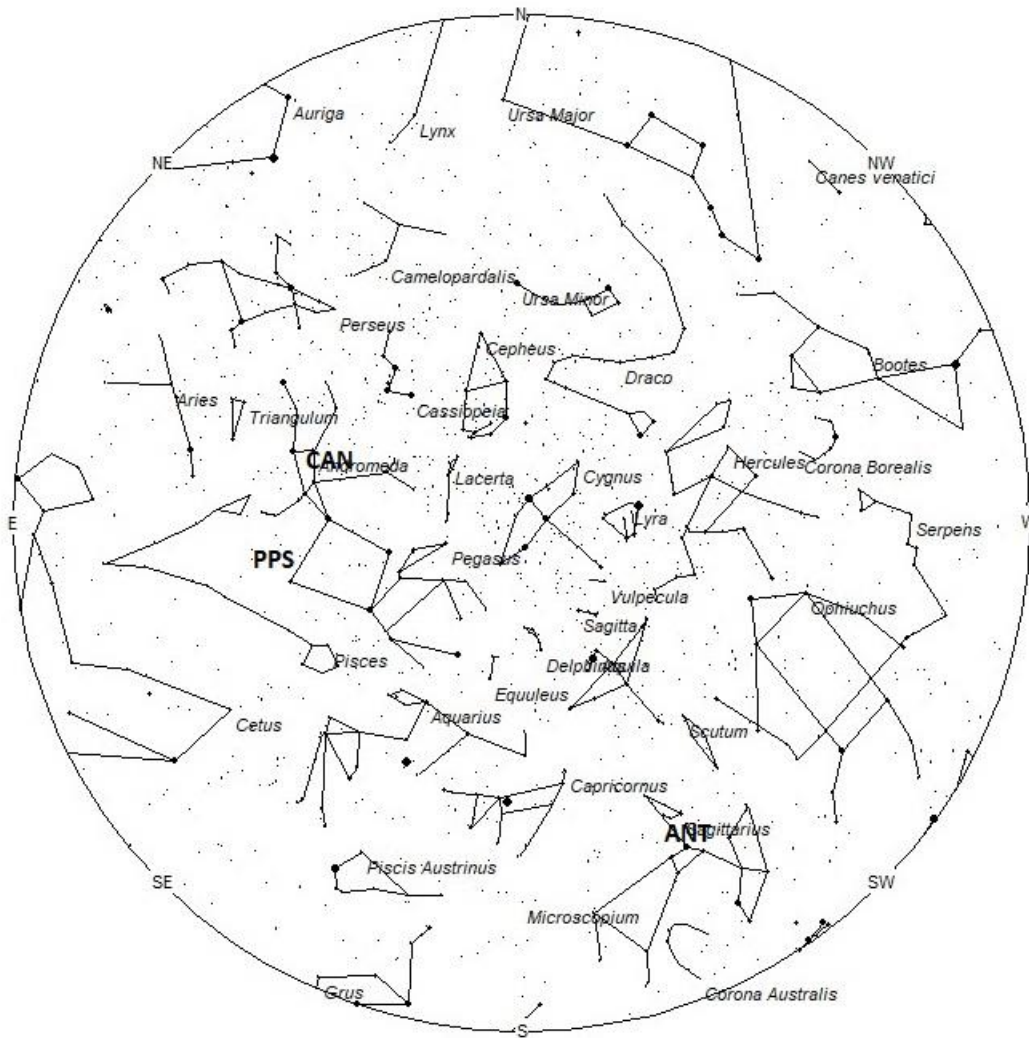
Activity from each radiant is best seen when it is positioned highest in the sky, either due north or south along the meridian, depending on your latitude. It must be remembered that meteor activity is rarely seen at the radiant position. Rather they shoot outwards from the radiant, so it is best to 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 Positions at 10pm Local Daylight Saving Time



Radiant Positions at 1am Local Daylight Saving Time



Radiant Positions at 4am Local Daylight Saving Time

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

The center of the large **Anthelion (ANT)** radiant is currently located at 18:44 (281) -23. This position lies in northern Sagittarius, 3 degrees northwest of the 2nd magnitude star known as Nunki (sigma Sagittarii). Due to the large size of this radiant, Anthelion activity may also appear from Scutum as well as Sagittarius. This radiant is best placed near 0100 local Daylight Saving Time (LDST), when it lies on the meridian and is located highest in the sky. Rates at this time should be near 2 per hour as seen from the Northern Hemisphere and 3 per hour as seen from south of the equator. With an entry velocity of 30 km/sec., the average Anthelion meteor would be of slow velocity.

The **phi Piscids (PPS)** have been found to be comprised of two components with separate activity periods. Component A is active from June 13 through July 5 with maximum activity occurring on June 25th. Current rates are less than 1 meteor per hour. The position of the radiant lies near 00:25 (006) +19. This position lies in northwestern Pisces, 4 degrees northeast of the 3rd magnitude star known as Algenib (gamma Pegasi). This area of the sky lies highest in a dark sky during the last hour prior to dawn. With a entry velocity of 66km/sec., these meteors are swift.

The **c-Andromedids (CAN)** were discovered by Sirko Molau and Juergen Rendtel using video data from the IMO network. Activity from this source is seen from June 21 through July 28 with maximum activity occurring on July 12. The radiant currently lies at 00:39 (010) +41, which places it in northern Andromeda, on the western edge of the Great Andromeda Galaxy, which is visible to the naked eye as a small cloud. This area of the sky is best seen during the last dark hour before dawn when the radiant lies highest in a dark sky. Observers in the northern hemisphere are better situated to view this activity as the radiant rises much higher in the sky before dawn compared to southern latitudes. Current rates would be less than 1 per hour no matter your location. With an entry velocity of 56 km/sec., the average meteor from this source would be of swift velocity.

As seen from the mid-northern hemisphere (45N) one would expect to see approximately 7 **sporadic** meteors per hour during the last hour before dawn as seen from rural observing sites. Evening rates would be near 1 per hour. As seen from the tropical southern latitudes (25S), morning rates would be near 9 per hour as seen from rural observing sites and 2 per hour during the evening hours. Locations between these two extremes would see activity between the listed figures. Evening rates are reduced by moonlight during this period.

SHOWER	DATE OF MAXIMUM ACTIVITY	CELESTIAL POSITION	ENTRY VELOCITY	CULMINATION	HOURLY RATE	CLASS
		RA (RA in Deg.) DEC	Km/Sec	Local Daylight Saving Time	North- South	
Anthelion (ANT)	-	18:44 (281) -23	30	02:00	2 - 3	II
phi Piscids A (PPS)	Jun 25	00:25 (006) +19	66	08:00	<1 - <1	IV
c- Andromedids (CAN)	Jul 12	00:39 (010) +41	56	08:00	<1 - <1	IV