

TWO METEOR SHOWERS THIS MONTH



NEEL ROBERTS

Sky's the Limit

Did you catch the Zodiacal Light last month? It's a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. The best time to view it this month is until Oct. 17, before dawn each day, in the east.

The Draconid meteor shower peaks on Friday, Oct. 8. It's best seen after twilight facing north-northwest, high up. While not as dramatic as other meteor showers, it can occasionally spew hundreds an hour. Fortunately, the waning gibbous moon will not rise until mid-to-late evening, providing a few to several hours of dark sky.

On Monday, Oct. 18 at around 8 a.m., you can catch Comet SOHO 342P without binoculars or a telescope. The tail should be visible for at least an hour before 8 a.m.

The Orionids meteor shower peaks on Wednesday, Oct. 21 for one to two hours before dawn just to the north of constellation Orion's bright star Betelgeuse. With the second-fastest entry velocity of the annual showers at 10-20 per hour, meteors from the Orionids produce yellow and green colours and have been known to produce an odd fireball, but the near full moon will not help.

Download this month's sky free chart at whatsouttonight.com/Resources/2021OctSkyWOT.pdf.