

# Fall meteor showers amaze Christmas shoppers

The longer nights may make it tougher to get around after work if your packing the malls for presents, but sooner or later, you'll take a break hopefully under the starry sky.

The annual Lenioids Meteor Shower, better known as the best one of the fall, is a sure sign winter is on the way. The heavens will light up the evening sky in mid-November with the Lenioids peaking Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Just before will be a second meteor shower called the Northern Taurids which peaks a week previous on Thursday, Nov. 12. With the moon not an issue for both, we'll see some spectacular fireballs light up the night sky.

The Southern Taurids peaked Nov. 5 with expectations of seven meteors per hour, but with some interference with the slim waning moon at dawn.

All meteor showers are naked eye objects, but if you



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have a fast shutter (and finger) they can be photographed, or if you prefer someone else do all the work, watch online at <http://main.slooh.com>.

#### **Sky watch for the next month:**

- Northern Taurids Meteor Shower peaks — Thursday, Nov. 12 after dark. Forecast is seven meteors per hour and noticeable since the moon is almost new.
- Saturn next to New Moon — Thursday, Nov. 12 before sunset, look southwest as saturn sets with the near new moon.
- Leonid Meteor Shower peaks — Wednesday, Nov. 18 after night fall with the moon down until dawn looking towards the constellation of Leo.

Originating from the comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle, it should produce meteors at the rate of 10 to 15 per hour.

#### **Public Events for the next month:**

The monthly Public Stargazing at the Trek Center is Friday, Nov. 13 starting at 7:30 p.m. Short indoor presentation on the upcoming Lenioids Meteor Shower followed by stargazing through the 11-inch Celestron telescope. Treats and refreshments provided free of charge and all welcome. Experts on hand the second Friday monthly at 7:30 p.m. to explain the heavens, teach scoping skills and help you develop your knowledge of the sky. For further information, contact the Trek Center at 403-485-2994. The website [www.vulcantourism.com](http://www.vulcantourism.com) is updated regularly.

Happy cooler days and meteor watching.

*Neel Roberts is a member of the Calgary chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—the nation's leading astronomy club founded in 1849 with more than 5,000 members and 28 centers across Canada. Neel welcomes your questions and comments at 403-560-6574 or email: [Neel\\_Roberts@ptccanada.com](mailto:Neel_Roberts@ptccanada.com).*

*The members meet the second Friday monthly at the Trek Center in Vulcan. Check them out on the website at: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/vulcan2015.htm>.*



Photos by Neel Roberts

**A Vulcan County employee stops by to check out the stars. Below, telescope expert Karl Ivarson Jr. points out objects while regular attendees from Calgary Dave Watterson and Maggie Sevilla move in different directions.**



**Roland Dechesne points out his presentation which is shown at the beginning of the Friday night meetings.**

