

# The Street Astronomer's Guide to Summer Meteor Showers

Most meteor showers are best viewed after midnight and have a specific peak night. However, don't worry if you can't see a meteor shower on the night recommended, showers still display increased activity a few days before and after the peak dates indicated. On a night when there is no active meteor shower, you expect to see an average of 7 meteors per hour.

The South Delta-Aquarid meteor shower reaches its peak on the night of July 28<sup>th</sup> and morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Aquarius is a zodiacal constellation low in the southern sky during July, so meteors from this shower are best observed from the southern hemisphere. From our location, we can expect to see around 10 meteors per hour from this shower after midnight. Unfortunately, the nearly full moon will interfere with observing this shower in 2010. Meteors in this shower enter the atmosphere at a speed of 25 miles per second

Arguably, the best meteor shower, the Perseid meteor shower reaches its peak intensity on the night of August 12<sup>th</sup>. With the warm nights of August, this is one of the better attended night time events. This year the moon is only three days old and will set long before the show begins. So expect to see up to 60 meteors per hour from this shower in 2010.