

Meteor shower to peak Sunday

It's time once again for the popular Perseid meteor shower, and this year we might get two nights of increased meteor activity. The shower is predicted to peak Sunday morning, so there could be increased meteor activity Saturday and Sunday nights.

The best viewing will likely be from dark until moonrise, and even after the moon rises – around 2 a.m. Sunday and 3 a.m. Monday – it will be a waning crescent low in the east and shouldn't create major interference.

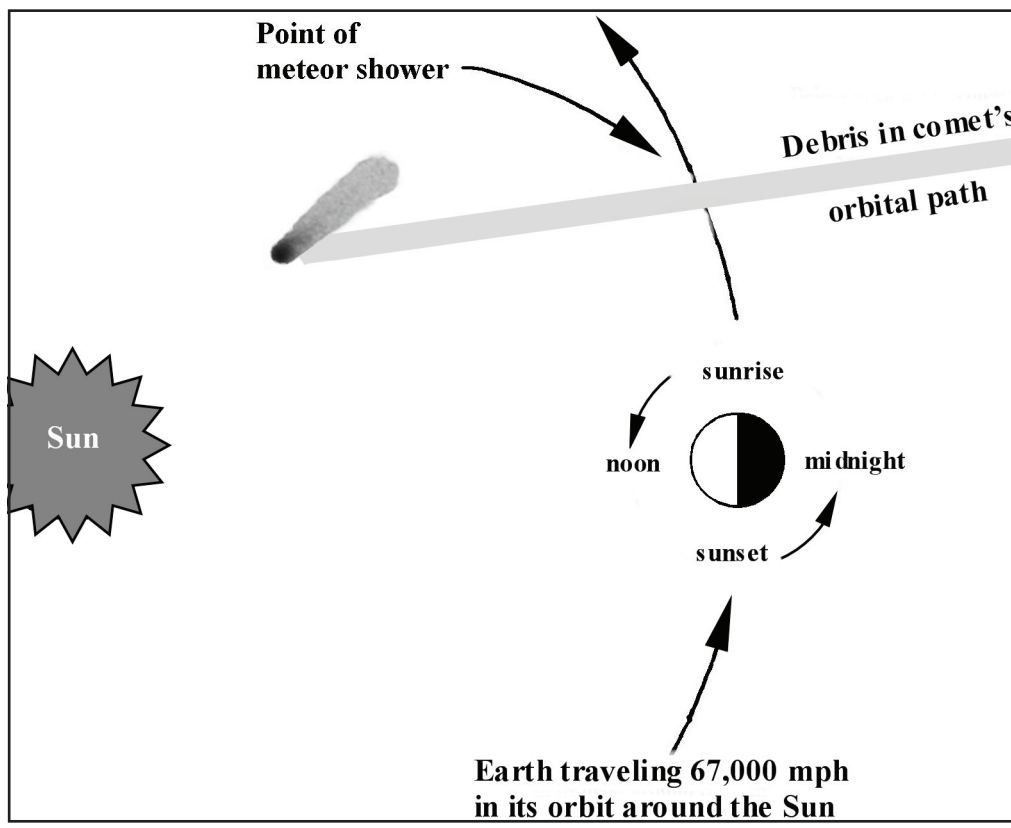
Meteors are best seen with naked eyes in dark skies away from cities, but brighter meteors can be seen even from urban areas. While in a reclined position – and reclining lawn chairs work great – slowly pan the entire sky, focusing most of your attention on the darkest part, which is usually overhead.

Meteors are tiny pieces of space debris entering our atmosphere at such high speeds – thousands of miles per hour – that friction with air molecules causes them to burn up, creating those beautiful momentary streaks across our sky. They resemble “falling stars” and “shooting stars” – hence their nicknames – although they have no connection with the stars. Most meteors are small pieces of debris no larger than a pebble, many as tiny as a grain of sand.

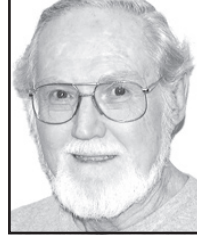
Meteors are commonly seen virtually every night, but several times a year we have meteor showers during which an above-average number are seen – like the Perseid meteor shower each year around Aug. 12.

Many ask why meteor showers occur the same time each year, and so did astronomers until about 150 years ago. Soon after the discovery of Comet Swift-Tuttle in 1862, astronomers could answer the question. They noticed an association between this comet and the annual Perseid meteors, and were able to establish that meteor showers are linked to comets.

Dubbed “dirty snowballs” by astronomer Fred Whipple, comets are chunks of frozen rock and ice, most several miles in diameter, left over from the formation of our solar system some five billion years ago. Countless millions or billions of comets swarm around the sun far beyond the orbit of Pluto in what is called the Oort Cloud, and most will remain out there. Some, however, have their orbits perturbed in such a way that they swing down into the inner solar system where heat from the sun melts off part of their outer layer, freeing and distribut-



Meteor showers result when earth passes through comet debris.



Paul Derrick
● Stargazer

ing bits of rocky debris along their path.

The orbital paths of some comets intersect the orbital path of Earth around the sun. When this happens, Earth passes through the stream of debris left in the comet's path, resulting in an above-average number of meteors – a meteor shower. Meteor shower names derive from the constellation from which the meteors seem to radiate – the Perseids from Perseus, the Leonids from Leo, and so forth. A key work here is “seem” as the meteors don't actually originate from within their named constellations, which are light years away while the debris blazing across our sky are a mere 50-70 miles

up in our atmosphere.

And the name doesn't mean that meteors will only be seen in or near the constellation from which they radiate. As with all meteor showers, Perseids are likely to be seen in any part of the sky, not just in the direction of Perseus. So why are they called Perseids? If you trace their paths back far enough, the paths converge at their radiant point within the constellation for which they are named. The radiant point for the Perseids is just inside Perseus, near the Perseus-Cassiopeia border.

As you watch a Perseid meteor burn up in our atmosphere, think about the fact that you're witnessing the demise of an ancient piece of debris that was once part of Comet Swift-Tuttle, and which had been around since the birth of our solar system.

Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer in Waco, Texas. His website is at www.stargazer-paul.com. Contact him at paulderrickwaco@aol.com or (254) 723-6346 or write 918 N. 30th St., Waco, Texas, 76707.

Public Notice

THOMAS COUNTY
STATE OF KANSAS

TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT
ENDING JUNE, 2012

FUND	BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$731,784.02
SPEC RESERVE EQUIP FUND	\$339,841.21
MICRO ENTERPRISE LOANS	\$49,960.35
REVOLVING LOAN REPAYMENT	\$5,517.21
TH CO SHER FORFEITURE FUND	\$1,312.20
FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND	\$40,507.53
TH CO ATTY FORFEITURE FUND	\$20,526.53
INSUFF CK FEE TRUST FUND	\$1,805.75
CONCEALED WEAPONS	\$3,745.00
LANDFILL CLOSURE FUND	\$105,640.41
OFFENDER REIGISTRATION FD	\$3,717.50
TEMP PENDING-JAMES MMA	\$30,000.00
PENDING DRUG FORFIETURE	\$3,260.00
PENDING DRUG FORD MMA	\$155,893.98
SHERIFF FOFIT-GOLDING CD	\$391,373.66
ATTORNEY DIVERSION FUND	\$45,218.54
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$224,074.18
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	-\$66,829.55
FREE FAIR MAINTENANCE	\$2,494.97
HEALTH FUND	\$283,729.60
ELECTION FUND	\$34,642.69
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND	\$282,763.98
NOXIOUS WEED FUND	\$25,788.81
AMBULANCE FUND	\$93,797.58
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FUND	\$251,194.60
SPEC HIGHWAY IMPROV FUND	\$168,433.10
R OF D CAPITOL OUTLAY	\$22,313.21
AMBULANCE CAPITOL OUTLAY	\$92,108.58
NOXIOUS WEED CAPITOL OUTL	\$51,624.64
SANITARY LANDFILL CAP OUTL	\$69,726.18
SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY	-\$0.01
SPECIAL ALCOHOL FUND	\$41,786.29
COMMUNITY VAN FUND	\$3,372.53
PARCEL SEARCH FUND	\$10,564.18
SANITARY LANDFILL	\$193,259.96
HERITAGE TRUST FUND	\$313.61
LANDFILL-CELL PROJECT	\$127,965.59
EAST HALE GENERAL	\$42,973.02
KINGERY GENERAL	\$4,543.04
MORGAN SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	\$25,553.46
ROVOHL GENERAL	\$47,050.32
ROVOHL SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	\$5,975.20
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT 3	\$9,452.90
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT 4	\$44.37
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT 5	\$330.48
USD 315 CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$12,543.27
CCC GENERAL	-\$68,041.54
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HOLDING	\$3,147.53
EXCISE TAX	\$1,102.12
MTR VEH OPERATING FUND	\$23,601.03
PATF	\$16,197.08
REG OF DEEDS TECH FUND	\$59,940.24
SP CO./TWSHP HWY FUND	\$112,462.99
MTR VEH SALES TAX TO STATE	\$33,330.12
MTR VEH-ST & COUNTY AUTO	\$3,725.29
BANKRUPTCY PENDING ACCT	\$3,468.29
ANTIQUA TAXES	\$1,434.00
CURRENT TAX FUND	\$295,350.73
DELINQ 16/20 PERS TAX	\$607.24
PRIOR YEARS ADDED TAX	\$8.01
ADVANCE TAX	\$357.27
IN LIEU OF TAX	\$52,807.76
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX-2605	\$289,038.95
RV MTR VEH TAX-2605	\$4,111.44
16/20 MTR VEH TAX	\$1,834.61
DELINQ PERSONAL TAX FUND	\$8,344.68
REDEMPTION & ASSIGNMENTS	\$42,736.78
PARTIAL PAYMENT ON TAXES	\$5,457.59
CURR YEAR DELINQ PERS TAX	\$21,067.63

TOTAL ALL FUNDS \$4,903,884.51

I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

Donita Applebury
COUNTY TREASURER

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 7 DAY OF August, 2012

Shelly A. Harman
COUNTY CLERK/NOTARY PUBLIC



MY COMMISSION EXPIRES January 13, 2013

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Friday, August 10, 2012)

GEM LIONS CLUB

THANK YOU

To the following individuals and businesses for 4-H hogs donated for the Hog Roast coming up on Aug. 22 at the Gem Community Building.

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Frontier Ag., Mingo	Golden Harvest Seeds
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for the confidence you placed in me during the recent election.

I appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to serve you as Thomas County Attorney.

- Kevin N. Berens

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Thomas County Farm Bureau Association ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

DATE: August 14, 2012

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Community Building, Colby

Speaker will be John Schlageck,
Kansas Farm Bureau Communications

Supper provided • Door prizes to be given away
Election of Board Members • **ALL members are invited!**

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9-11 P.M.
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