

Our Night Sky for the week of August 6th

As I mentioned last week, August brings some much-anticipated viewing opportunities. Foremost is the Perseids meteor shower about mid month, but more on that in a minute.

First let's talk about sky conditions. There are many factors that affect your ability to have a clear view of the night sky. One of the very best resources to help you with seeing the sky is [The Clear Sky Chart](#). If you are interested, there are detailed explanations of the several functions that contribute to good viewing. And if you just want to know what tonight will be like, a couple of quick checks and you can have a good idea of what the sky will be like during the next twelve hours. This is all Canadian Meteorological Centre data and is up to date. I've found it to be very accurate. You can select clocks for other areas and even use it to predict what the weather will be like for a daytime outing. You may miss a pleasant evening under the stars because it is raining but keep in mind that the precipitation is washing some of the smoke from the air and perhaps improving the viewing the next night. The clear sky chart will help you plan your summer outings.

More on the Perseids meteor showers next week but we are already in the debris field from comet Swift Tuttle and you should be seeing an increasing number of meteors each night for the next week or so.