

## Our Night Sky for the week of August 13

The Perseids meteor shower is already in progress. The earth entered a stream of debris thousands of kilometers wide. We will reach the centre or densest area of this stream the night of Wednesday August 12 at approximately 1 am on the 13<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we are on the leading edge of our planet as it circles the sun at a speed of about 30 kilometers a second. Picture yourself standing on the front of a car speeding through a snowstorm.

The meteors radiate out from the constellation Perseus. Some say Perseus has the shape of a stick man, I've never thought it looked like much of anything. Much easier to look high in the northeastern sky just below the big W, Cassiopeia. The exact position is not critical because the meteors will shoot right across the eastern sky covering a half or more of the sky. On a good night you may see sixty to one hundred meteors, but I've been watching Perseids since I was a little kid and I've never seen more than half that.

Which offers a new family tradition, my mom would wake her sons up late at night, mid August to go out and watch the meteors, we did the same with our children and now our children are sharing the Perseid meteor shower with their young children. A great tradition, sharing beautiful summer evenings with the next generation.