Our Night Sky for April 21st, 2025

This week we will set aside my suggestions to help you fine tune your night vision and put your night vision to the test. The reason is a truly once in a lifetime opportunity to see an object that will not be in our skies again for two point one million years. Comet Swan has an orbit that extends well beyond our outer solar system but right now is closing in on the sun. Right now, you might catch a glimpse about an hour after sunset close to the northwestern horizon. The comet is becoming brighter as it approaches the sun but you might have better luck if you use binoculars. The best opportunity is tonight and tomorrow after sunset between ten and eleven when the comet slips below the horizon in the northwestern sky. Look during the next several evenings in the same general area as it gets a little brighter and is closest to the earth and brightest on May 1st. A very interesting object but maybe difficult to spot. And...

Tonight, and tomorrow night is the peak of the Lyrid meteor shower. Look well above the Northeast horizon for the bright star Vega easy to spot with the lop-sided square hanging beneath it, this is the Constellation Lyra, the radiant for the meteor shower. Of course, the meteors can show in other areas of the sky but this is a sight pointing at the area of the sky they first encounter our atmosphere. Maybe not a lot of meteors but there is no moon and it is in an easy to access area of our night sky.