
Our Night Sky for August 10th, 2026

If you're up at 4:30 tomorrow morning I can offer you a very unique sight. Just before the sun rises there is a brief opportunity to spot Mercury rising beside a barely there new moon. Astronomers enjoy spotting the youngest possible moon. This moon isn't even a day old but with Mercury right on its limb you could set a personal best for spotting a new moon. Jupiter rises a few minutes later just ahead of the morning sun.

But the event we look forward to is the Perseids meteor shower which peaks the night of August 12th. This year should be extra special because the fainter meteors won't be washed out by any moonlight. This is the year if you can find a dark place away from city lights you could spot as many as 100 or more meteors an hour. Patient observers often notice bursts of activity followed by quieter periods throughout the night. Of course, we have on many recent days had a lot of smoke so we can hope for a brief rain shower on Wednesday morning.

The Perseids occurs every year when the Earth encounters the debris stream high in our northeastern sky, left behind by comet Swift-Tuttle. This comet only returns every 133 years; the material dropping into our atmosphere likely originates from well out in the distant reaches of our solar system. These tiny particles travel at tremendous speeds before burning up high above Earth. The resulting streaks of light are among the most popular annual sights for amateur astronomers and casual skywatchers alike. Search Prince George Observatory and check our website or Facebook page for times for our open house at the observatory.