

Antares



The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

Meeting time: **August 18, 2018** 7:30 pm

Location: **Lake Afton Public Observatory**

Speaker: **None Scheduled**

Topic: **N/A**

KAO Website: <http://www.kaowichita.com>

The Night Sky Network: <http://www.nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>

The Astronomical League: <http://www.astroleague.org>

If you have comments or suggestions for an article in the newsletter, e-mail them to:
kevin.l.kight@gmail.com *Please begin the subject line with "Antares"

Current Club Officials

President: Jerelyn Ramirez jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com

Vice-President: Tony Haidai thaidai@cox.net

Treasurer: Paul Ramirez ramirezpm2@gmail.com

Newsletter/Media: Kevin Kight kevin.l.kight@gmail.com

Next Month's Meeting: September 15 @ 7:30pm, Lake Afton Public Observatory

Club Updates:

Call for Meeting Speakers:

For those members that wish to create and present during a club meeting, or that have a suggestion for a guest speaker during the fall, contact Club Vice-President: Tony Haidai (thaidai@cox.net)

Newsletter Items for Publication:

Please submit items for publication prior to the 10th of each month to be included in that month's newsletter.

New Club T-shirts available:

New club T-shirts are available for \$10 each. They are lime green and made from 50% cotton and 50% polyester. See addendum for more information.

Club Membership Update:

We have a total of 7 new club members since our last meeting, they are:

- Mike Ciskowski from Udall KS
- Branden Lee from Goddard KS
- Linnette Lee from Goddard KS
- Alayna Lee from Goddard KS
- Dave Headley from Lenexa KS
- Chuck Wolfe from Valley Center KS
- Carson Wolfe from Valley Center KS

Current head count of 65 club members.

July Club Meeting:

See addendum for a short summary about the July club meeting.

Solar and Planetary Items:

Moon Phases:

Last Quarter: August 4
New Moon: August 11
First Quarter: August 18
Full Moon: August 26

Last Quarter: September 2
New Moon: September 9
First Quarter: September 16
Full Moon: September 24

Planets:

Mercury – Visible in the east before sunrise in Cancer; Rises approximately 6:30 am

Venus – Visible in the west After sunset in Virgo; Sets approximately 10:14 pm

Mars – Visible throughout the night. In the east after sunrise in Capricornus rises approximately 7:52pm

Jupiter – Visible in the South in Libra. Setting approximately 12:10am

Saturn – Visible in the southeast after sunset, transiting approximately 10:20pm in Sagittarius

Uranus – Visible in the morning; rising at 11:30 pm in Aries

Neptune – Visible in the morning, rising approximately 9:30 pm in Aquarius

Comets:

Listed below are comets possibly visible in telescopes from the Wichita area (approximately cutoff at magnitude 15). Magnitudes shown are approximate predictions for mid-month. Links are provided for additional information:

<http://cometchasing.skyhound.com/>

21P/Giacobini-Zinner: An early morning comet in Cassiopeia.

Magnitude 12

<https://theskylive.com/21p-info>

29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann: An early morning comet in Pisces.

Magnitude 14

<https://theskylive.com/29p-info>

C/2018 N1 (NEOWISE): An evening comet in Libra

Magnitude 10

<https://in-the-sky.org/data/object.php?id=132077>

48P/Johnson: A morning comet in Aquarius

Magnitude 10

<https://theskylive.com/48p-info>

66P/du Toit: A morning comet in Aquarius
Magnitude 13
<https://theskylive.com/48p-info>

38P/Stephan-Oterma: An early morning comet in Taurus
Magnitude 14
<https://theskylive.com/38p-info>

37P/Forbes: An early morning comet in Pisces
Magnitude 14
<https://theskylive.com/37p-info>

Event Reports:

If you've participated in a club event, please submit an event report to be included here by the 10th of each month. It doesn't have to be anything formal, just a brief description about the event and how it went. Credit will be given unless you request to be kept anonymous.

Winfield Winery Mars Event:

See addendum for a short summary about the Winfield Winery Mars event held on August 4th.

The Opposition of Mars Event:

See addendum for a short summary about The Opposition of Mars event held on July 28th

Fall River Star Pary:

See addendum for a short summary about the Fall River Star Party event held on August 10th and 11th

Upcoming Regional Events:

Upcoming KAO/Public Events:

Chaplin Nature Center– September 8

Chaplin Nature Center, 27801 27th Drive, Arkansas City, KS 67005

(7:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

Setup Time: 6:30 PM

Arkansas City is the place to be for a night of observing at the Chaplin Nature Center. There are dark skies out there with the Moon nearly New it will be pretty dark out there. We will have an outreach program available for the guests inside while we wait for the Sun to set.

See NSN Calender for details.

The Volland Store – November 3

The Volland Store, 24098 Volland Rd, Alma, KS 66401

(6:00 PM)

Setup Time: 5:00 PM

This is an observing event for the guests of the Volland Store. Dark sky and good horizon all around.

See NSN Calender for details.

Heights Astronomy Night – November 15

Heights High School, 5301 N Hillside, Wichita, KS

(7:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

Setup Time: 7:00 PM

Heights Astronomy Night at the Heights High School in Wichita Kansas. Come on out to the 6th Annual Astronomy Night. The Kansas Astronomical Observers will be providing telescopes for viewing the night sky. What will we see; well the first quarter Moon will be on display high in the sky right near the planet Mars, both in the constellation Aquarius. If we are lucky we can catch Saturn to the west before it sets in the constellation Sagittarius.

This event is open to all visitors. Come one come all, all are welcome.

If we have clouded out skies we will set up inside and have the visitors look at the telescopes up close and discuss other astronomy related topics.

See NSN Calender for details.

Featured Article:



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The Best Meteor Shower of the Year

By Jane Houston Jones and Jessica Stoller-Conrad

If you're a fan of meteor showers, August is going to be an exciting month! The Perseid meteor shower is the best of the year, and in 2018, the peak viewing time for the shower is on a dark, moonless night—perfect for spotting meteors.

The best time to look for meteors during this year's Perseid shower is at the peak, from 4 p.m. EDT on Aug. 12 until 4 a.m. EDT on the Aug. 13. Because the new Moon falls on the peak night, the days before and after the peak will also provide very dark skies for viewing meteors. On the days surrounding the peak, the best time to view the showers is from a few hours after twilight until dawn.

Meteors come from leftover comet particles and bits from broken asteroids. When comets come around the Sun, they leave a dusty trail behind them. Every year Earth passes through these debris trails, which allows the bits to collide with our atmosphere and disintegrate to create fiery and colorful streaks in the sky—called meteors.

The comet that creates the Perseid meteor shower—a comet called Swift-Tuttle—has a very wide trail of cometary dust. It's so wide that it takes Earth more than three weeks to plow all the way through. Because of this wide trail, the Perseids have a longer peak viewing window than many other meteor showers throughout the year.

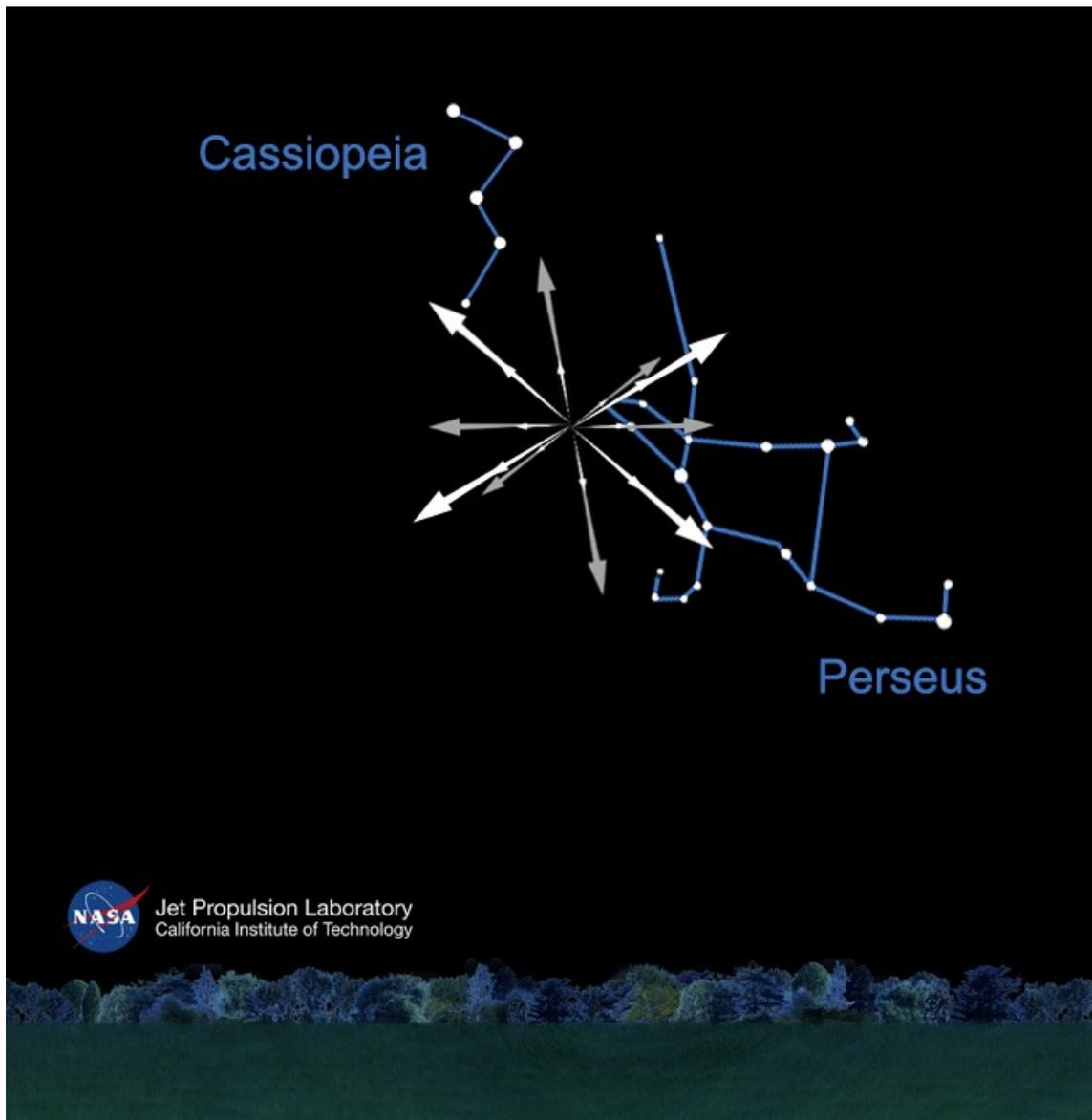
In fact, this year you should be able to see some meteors from July 17 to Aug. 24. The rates of meteors will increase during the weeks before Aug. 12 and decrease after Aug. 13. Observers should be able to see between 60 and 70 meteors per hour at the shower's peak.

The Perseids appear to radiate from the constellation Perseus, which is where we get the name for this shower. Perseus is visible in the northern sky soon after sunset this time of year. Observers in mid-northern latitudes will have the best views.

However, you don't have to look directly at the constellation Perseus to see meteors. You can look anywhere you want to; 90 degrees left or right of Perseus, or even directly overhead, are all good choices.

While you're watching the sky for meteors this month, you'll also see a parade of the planets Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn—and the Milky Way also continues to grace the evening sky. In next month's article, we'll take a late summer stroll through the Milky Way. No telescope or binoculars required!

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Caption: The Perseid meteor showers appear to radiate from the constellation Perseus. Perseus is visible in the northern sky soon after sunset this time of year. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech