

Winter-Spring 2026

Are you ready for the **2026 Perseids**? Their peak is expected to be on the night of **August 12 through the morning of August 13**, with good showing the nights before and after. You may have already spotted a few Perseids streaking across the summer skies! This shower, part of the debris stream of comet **Swift-Tuttle**, actually starts in mid to late July and lasts through most of August. While most of these nights only showcase a few meteors each hour, the peak of the Perseids brings many, many more. How much more? The number actually varies every year; there can be as few as a dozen per hour, but some rare years bring a brief "burst" of up to 200 beautiful "shooting stars" an hour.



*Image of a Perseid meteor streaking over Joshua Tree National Park.
Brad Sutton/National Parks Service*

This year's Perseids coincide with a new moon, giving stargazers a moonless night to enjoy the peak! This means that if you are in an area free from light

pollution and enjoy clear skies, you may be able to see quite a few meteors over the course of the night! How many will you be able to see? There's only one way to find out for yourself how strong the Perseids will be this year: go outside and patiently watch!

We have a few tips on how to make the most of your meteor shower viewing experience:



If you trace the meteor trails of the Perseids back to their source, you will find they seem to come from a spot near the constellation Perseus - hence their name, and the name of most meteor showers.

What's Up: August 2023, NASA/JPL

- **Get out of the city!** Try to get to the darkest location you can. The darker it is where you are, the more meteors you will see streaking across the sky.
- **Check the weather forecast for that night.** You may need to check out two or three areas for predictions on fog, clouds, and temperature. Some weather sites even offer forecasts specially tailored for sky

watching. Make sure you have clear skies to go along with those dark ones.

- **Find a meteor shower party!** Go to a gathering of like-minded folks in a local park, or an event hosted by a local astronomy club - especially if it's your first time! Find a Perseids party by searching the Night Sky Network [for clubs near you](#), or by [searching for events near you](#)
- **Stay warm and comfortable outside-be prepared!** You will be out for a good long while and will want to lie flat on your back to soak up as much of the sky as possible. To stay cozy, bring a blanket, jacket, hat, a warm drink, and water. You may think it's silly to bring some warm clothes in the middle of the summer, but late at night the temperature can drop just enough to be chilly. If you are in a buggy area, you will want to apply some bug spray to avoid irritating bites
- **Bring your friends and family!** Company under starry skies is wonderful, and they provide a bonus since there are more eyes on the sky! Groups can spot more meteors than single individuals and help each other find 'hot spots' in the sky. (Also- if you are out in the wilderness in the dark, good company helps you feel safer.)

If clouds cancel your plans, NASA has you covered with their live stream [Up All Night! Watch the 2026 Perseids Meteor Shower with NASA Experts!](#) Join the watch party out of Marshall Space Flight Center's [ALaMO](#) – the Automated Lunar and Meteor Observatory, which is celebrating 20 years of discovery this year. We will also share sky views from the International Space Station. During the peak, the shower can produce as many as 50-100 meteors per hour if viewing conditions are right.

For more information on one of our favorite meteor showers, check out [NASA's Perseid page](#) and [EarthSky's great observing guide](#). You should also check out JPL's [August 2023 "What's Up?" video](#) as Preston Dyches offers great tips on how to watch for the Perseids, as well as other objects to look for in the night sky while you wait for these brilliant streaks. You can also use NASA's ["Fluximator" meteor shower activity application](#) to try to predict when the peak activity will be for your location. We also have a handout you can use at your star parties and outreach events: [Heads up! It's a Meteor Shower](#) resource page.

Have fun and may you have clear skies and great weather for your meteor shower party!

Originally posted by Dave Prosper: August 2018. Last Updated by Kat Troche: August 2026.

From: <https://science.nasa.gov/solar-system/skywatching/night-sky-network/prepare-for-perseids/>

The River's Edge Sky Puppies Program:



Sky Puppies finished the 2025-26 classes with 3 students. We completed the series with an activity that had students "building" moon base structures as part of the Artemis mission. The graduation included 28 attendees, including graduates, family, and friends. Feasting on the many foods families brought, observing the students project Powerpoints, examining course

materials and answering questions made for a great interactive evening. We even had a candidate for next year's course in attendance!



Youth Astronomer Program:

We have one new enrollee in this program from our most recent Sky Puppies class. We look forward to getting them back under clear, dark skies soon!

Around town

Why We Do What We Do

At the May 1st Quarter Moon Night in Highland, we had the youth visitor we love to have. Dylan brought his approximately 2-inch telescope and asked for help with using it. After some instruction, he was able to view the Moon and was very excited! As the evening progressed, he began asking questions about what part of the moon he was viewing on his and other telescopes. He borrowed a moon map and went back and forth to different scopes until he identified what he was viewing. His tenacity and avid interest led Dave Kirsch to bring his older 114 mm Meade reflector with him to the next Highland Moon Night to donate to this promising astronomy enthusiast. In no

time, Dylan was operating his new equipment! We look forward to working with him for years to come.

Library Telescope Program: We have applied for the Horkheimer award which is a library telescope for the winning club in our region. The Trenton Library is listed as the desired recipient. They have very active and interested patrons in the various services they provide. The decision is typically made at the ALCOR meeting which occurs August 12-15.

By the Way

Club News

Recent outreach events at Schon Park in Glen Carbon have been very successful. The club is now seeking permission from the village to hold these events on a regular basis. Stay posted for updates! We look forward to meeting new friends and sharing the skies at these events!

Officer Nominations: At our August meeting, President Jeff Menz called for nominations for Vice-President and Secretary. The nominations will be received in September and October and are to be sent to Jeff Menz, President, or Treasurer Spencer Chapman. Elections for these positions will be held at the November meeting.

Outreach Photos

Earth Day, Watershed in Edwardsville, April 18



*Jeff Menz with a visitor to Earth Day Event.
(Photo by Terry Menz)*

Earth Day, Carlyle Lake, April 24



Jeff Menz describing how a telescope works to a young visitor. (Photo by Terry Menz)



Jeff Menz gives visitors a close-up of the comet. (Photo by Terry Menz)



Highland Woman's Club volunteer providing clues about nocturnal animals. (Photo by Terry Menz)

Schweitzerfest, Highland, June 14



Jeff Menz describes how comets are made (Photo by Terry Menz)



Dave Kirsch providing solar views to visitors. (Photo by Terry Menz)

Roxana YWCA, June 17



Glow in the Dark constellations made by visitors. (Photo by Terry Menz)

First Quarter Moon Night, Highland, July 20



*Randy Harrison and Jim Reagan work with
Lance Taylor's telescope. (Photo by Terry Menz)*



*Erica Doerr and her son Frankie line up their
telescope on the Moon (Photo by Terry Menz)*



*Returning Member Joe Lopinot talks shop with
Dave Kirsch. (Photo by Terry Menz)*



*Dennis Latinette showing visitors views of the
night sky. (Photo by Terry Menz)*

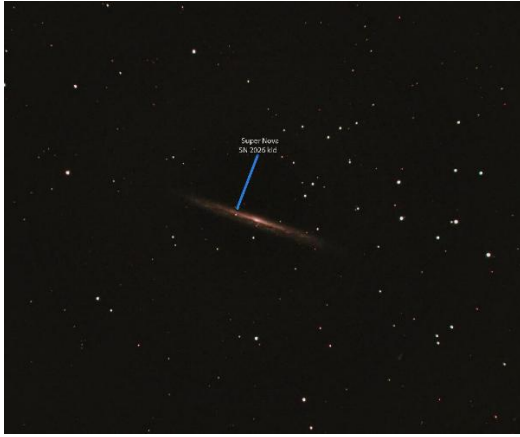


*Karl Smith and his wife Rita getting his
equipment ready for visitors. (Photo by Terry
Menz)*



*Jeff Menz chatting with frequent visitor, Brian
Korte of Highland. (Photo by Terry Menz)*

Gallery



NGC 5907 with supernova SN 2026 KID
Telescope. C8 Mount, AVX Camera 183 MC
pro. Integration time 1 hour and 14 minutes
(Photo by Randy Harrison)



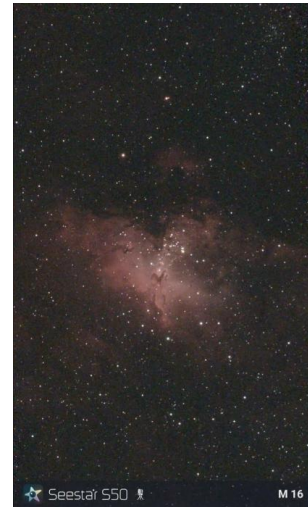
M 94, Telescope Esprit 100, Camera 2600 MC
pro, Mount EQ6, Integration time 2 hour 27
minutes (Photo by Randy Harrison)



Jupiter shot at first quarter Moon Night,
Telescope C 11 Mount. CGX Camera 224 MC
(Photo by Randy Harrison)



M51 Taken with Seestar S50. (Photo by Jim
Reagan)



M16 Taken with Seestar S50. (Photo by Jim
Reagan)



M27 Taken with Seestar S50. (Photo by Jim
Reagan)

New Members:

Dan Benjey, July 2026

Erica Doerr, May 2026

Outreach Awards:

Dave Kirsch, Master Outreach Award

Dennis Tuchalski, Bronze Award

Note: Award naming system has changed to Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award

Upcoming Events

- RBAC Meeting, Salem UCC, Saturday, August 8, 7 – 9 pm
- Ballard Nature Center, Altamont, IL, Saturday, August 15, 8:30 – 10:30pm.
- First Quarter Moon Night, Northtown, Highland, Mon. August 17, 7-10 PM
- RBAC Meeting, Salem UCC, Saturday, September 5, 7 – 9 pm
- Dobson Fest, Broemmelsiek Park, Defiance, MO, 3 – 11 pm
- First Quarter Moon Night, Northtown, Highland, Mon. September 21, 7-10 PM
- Balloons Over Marine Festival, September 25-26, 2026. Time TBA
- RBAC Meeting, Salem UCC, Saturday, October 10, 7 – 9 pm
- Schoen Park, Saturday, October 17, Glen Carbon, 6-9 PM
- First Quarter Moon Night, Northtown, Highland, Mon. October 19, 7-9 PM
- RBAC Meeting, Salem UCC, Saturday, November 21, 7 – 9 pm
- First Quarter Moon Night, Northtown, Highland, Mon. November 16, 7-9 PM
- RBAC Christmas Potluck, Salem UCC, Saturday, December 5, 6 – 9 pm
- First Quarter Moon Night, Northtown, Highland, Mon. December 14, 7-9 PM



First Quarter Moon Days

Join the River Bend Astronomy Club for our monthly telescope viewing. Enjoy close views of the craters on our Moon and other night sky objects. Amateur astronomers will have a variety of telescopes, and welcome questions about astronomy!

Where? Glik's Northtown parking lot near the stoplight south of Mazzio's in Highland.

When? (All dates are Mondays.)

1/26/26	7-9 PM	7/20/26	7-10 PM
2/23/26	7-9 PM	8/17/26	7-10 PM
3/23/26	7-9 PM	9/21/26	7-10 PM
4/27/26	7-10 PM	10/19/26	7-9 PM
5/25/26	7-10 PM	11/16/26	7-9 PM
6/22/26	7-10 PM	12/14/26	7-9 PM

What if? Cancelled when cloudy or weather prohibits.



Find us on 



WHY ATTEND ALCON?

Some people think astronomy is more of a solitary activity, but most amateur astronomers know it's actually the shared experience that brings richness and depth to astronomy.

ALCON gives us an opportunity for gathering to celebrate and learn about our shared love of astronomy, and to meet other like-minded amateur astronomers, exchange ideas on what we do within astronomy, from observing and astrophotography, to citizen science and public outreach.

The shared experience of astronomy is one of the things which for many justifies this as a life-long endeavor, and attending an **ALCON** is a great way to engage others in pursuit of that experience. It's the reason so many attend **ALCON** year after year.

ALCON 2026 Cincinnati, will give you an opportunity to learn about Mars, asteroids and meteorites, astronomy history, how to engage young scientists, and a well-represented category of how we, as amateurs, can make a real impact through our involvement with citizen science. And much more. It will give you an opportunity to explore a city that has a significant history in the astronomy world, both amateur and professional, and engage with other amateur astronomers from all over the nation.

Please join us this August 12-15 for **ALCON 2026 Cincinnati**, and for the very special afterparty on August 16 under the dark skies of Southern Ohio.

Explore with Us at **ALCON 2026 Cincinnati**.

ALCON2026.org



An Astronomy Festival Sept. 19, 2026, 4-9pm



DobsonFest

Enjoy a FREE Astronomy Day at Broemmelsiek Park in St. Charles County, MO. Kids Activities, Food Truck, Information Booths, Solar and Night-time Viewing. The Sun, The Moon, and other sky objects will be visible in large telescopes.

*Broemmelsiek Park Astronomy Site
1615 Schwede Rd, Wentzville, MO 63385*

Visit WWW.ASEMONLINE.ORG and click on DOBSONFEST

Sponsored by Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri

*with support from St. Louis Astronomical Society, River Bend Astronomy Club,
and Eastern Missouri Dark Sky Observers.*

