

- [Home](#)
- [Blog » »](#)
- [Projects » »](#)
- [Chuck Stuff » »](#)
- [Contact](#)

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[Home](#) > [Blog](#) > Meteor Watching Nov. 17

## Blog

### Meteor Watching Nov. 17

Posted by admin on October 26, 2012



The Michiana Astronomical Society will casually gather at Villa Macri restaurant in Granger for the Leonid meteor shower, which annually peaks around November 17. Bring a lounge chair, blankets, and patience, and set up outside in the patio after 9:00 PM. The site was selected for its history of being supportive of astronomy, such as installing fully shielded lights. Food and beverage service are available indoors.

The Leonids are traced back to the debris trail of Comet Temple-Tuttle and appear to radiate outward from the head of Leo the Lion. The sky is favorable this year because the thin crescent moon, only 5 days old, sets in the west around 9:30 p.m. Guy Ottewell's Astronomical Calendar suggests the Leonids have a zenith hourly rate (ZHR) of 15. The only way to know is to look for yourself.

No enhanced activity is expected in 2012, though in the past the Leonids have had some observed outbreaks that were true showers. I remember one of the best skygazing events of my life when the Leonids went ballistic in 1999. At daybreak that year we were counting 500 per hour. Meteor showers are fickle, so keep expectations in check. If you see some "shooting stars", that's great; if conditions are not favorable, enjoy the company of others. Dress warmly.

Also, check out Jupiter that night in a telescope as it nears opposition a couple of weeks later. Jove dominates the sky near the star Aldebaran, the V of the Hyades star cluster, and the nearby Pleiades.

You can help spread the word by downloading and sharing the flyer [flyer-Leonids.pdf](#) for the MAS gathering to watch the Leonids on November 17. C'mon, good weather.

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Posted by Deb on Nov 18th, 2012

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Deb

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