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ASTRONOMICAL  
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## Astro Advisory

*Notice of an upcoming  
astronomical event.*

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### QUADRANTID METEOR SHOWER IN 2017

**Rosman, NC (December 20, 2016)** – Astronomers at the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) alert the public to the Quadrantid Meteor Shower in early January.

Meteors result from particles of dust causing the atmosphere to glow as the particles enter the upper atmosphere of the Earth. Most meteor showers are caused by debris from comets, but a couple, like the Quadrantids, are known to originate from asteroids. The particles that cause the Quadrantid meteor shower originate from the asteroid 2003 EH1. Since the orbit of 2003 EH1 is highly inclined to the orbit of the Earth, the Earth passes through it very quickly. Thus, while meteors of the Quadrantid meteor shower can be seen for several nights, the peak is an extremely short one, lasting only a few hours.

In 2017 the Quadrantids are predicted to reach a peak of about 120 meteors per hour about 9 a.m. EST on Tuesday, January 3. This meteor shower has a narrow peak and will last only about 8 hours around maximum. The moon this year will be a waxing crescent that will be setting around 10 p.m. on the 2nd. Since the peak of this shower is narrow and occurs in the morning hours, the best observing will be in the hours before 7 a.m. (Civil twilight begins at 7:12 a.m.) One should observe from a clear, dark location with a good horizon. Look for meteors appearing to radiate out of a point between the constellations of Hercules and Boötes.

Incidentally, meteor showers are usually named after the constellation out of which the meteors seem to originate, i.e., their *radiant point*. However, there is no modern constellation of *Quadrans*. Instead, this shower retains its name from the obsolete constellation of *Quadrans Muralis* an instrument used to measure the positions of stars.

PARI is a public not-for-profit public foundation established in 1998. Located in the Pisgah National Forest southwest of Asheville, NC, PARI offers STEM educational programs at all levels, from K-12 through post-graduate research. For more information about PARI and its programs, visit [www.pari.edu](http://www.pari.edu).

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