



21 October 2018 Highlight

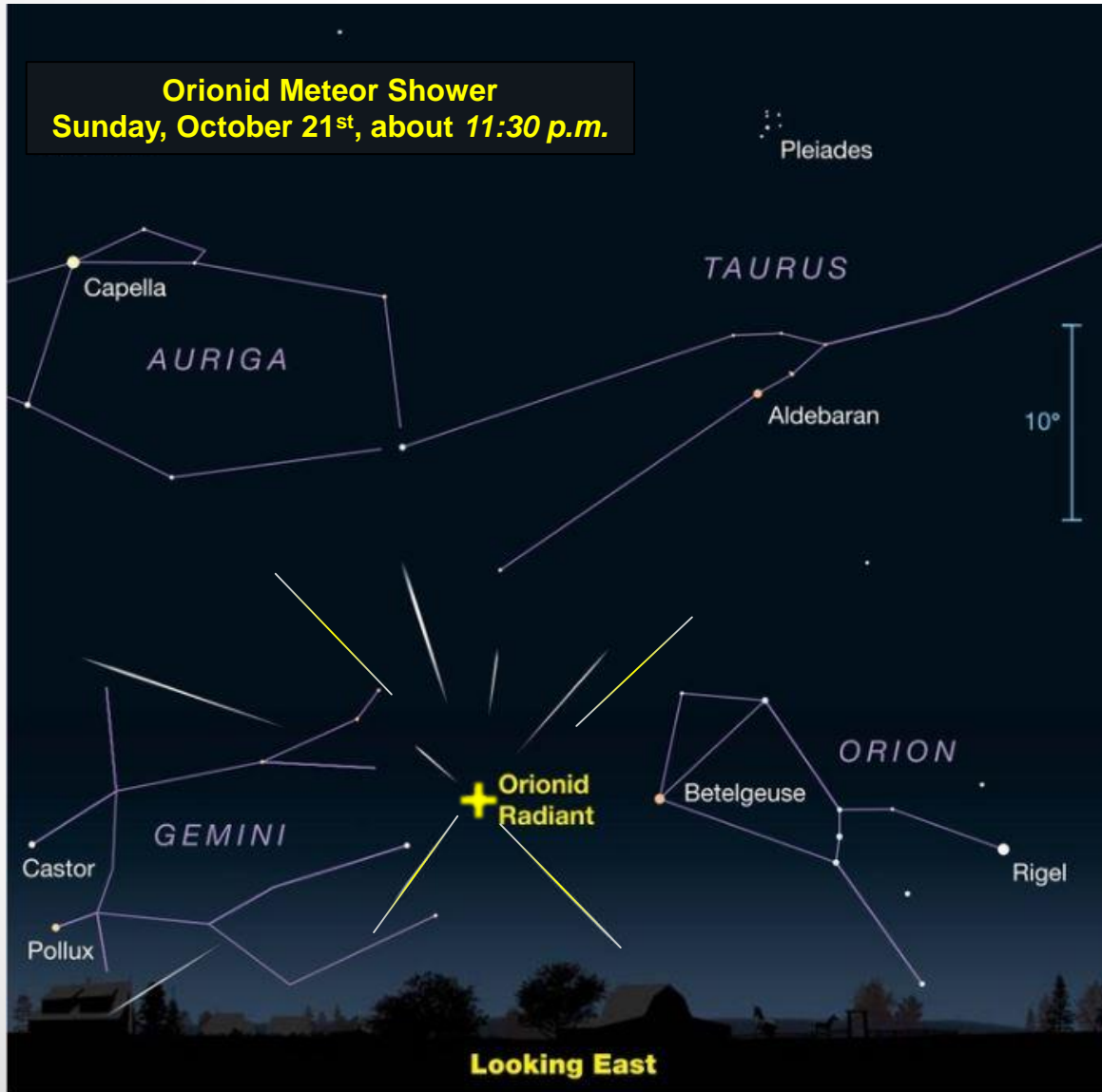
Orionid Meteor Shower

- ★ October's **Orionid** meteor shower is the second of the year associated with debris from **Halley's Comet** (the other is the spring's **Eta Aquariids**.)
- ★ Like all meteor showers, the Orionids are named after their **radiant**, the place where they *appear to originate* in the sky (near the hunter's club in the constellation Orion.)
- ★ The peak is expected to arrive during the afternoon hours of **Sunday, October 21st**, though you'll have to stay up late to catch this shower – the constellation Orion doesn't rise in the east until close to midnight.
- ★ There is bad news: this year's shower peaks as the Moon's phase approaches full, so **observing will be affected by bright moonlight**.
- ★ The frequency of meteors each year is thought to be cyclical, and 2018's Orionids are predicted to produce 10 or so meteors per hour.



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The Orionids coincide with another minor meteor shower, the Southern Taurids, expected to peak around October 9th–10th.

While this shower's peak typically produces just 5 meteors per hour, it is known for its fireballs – bright meteors which often fragment spectacularly!