

# December 2018 Sky Events

## Geminid Meteor Shower

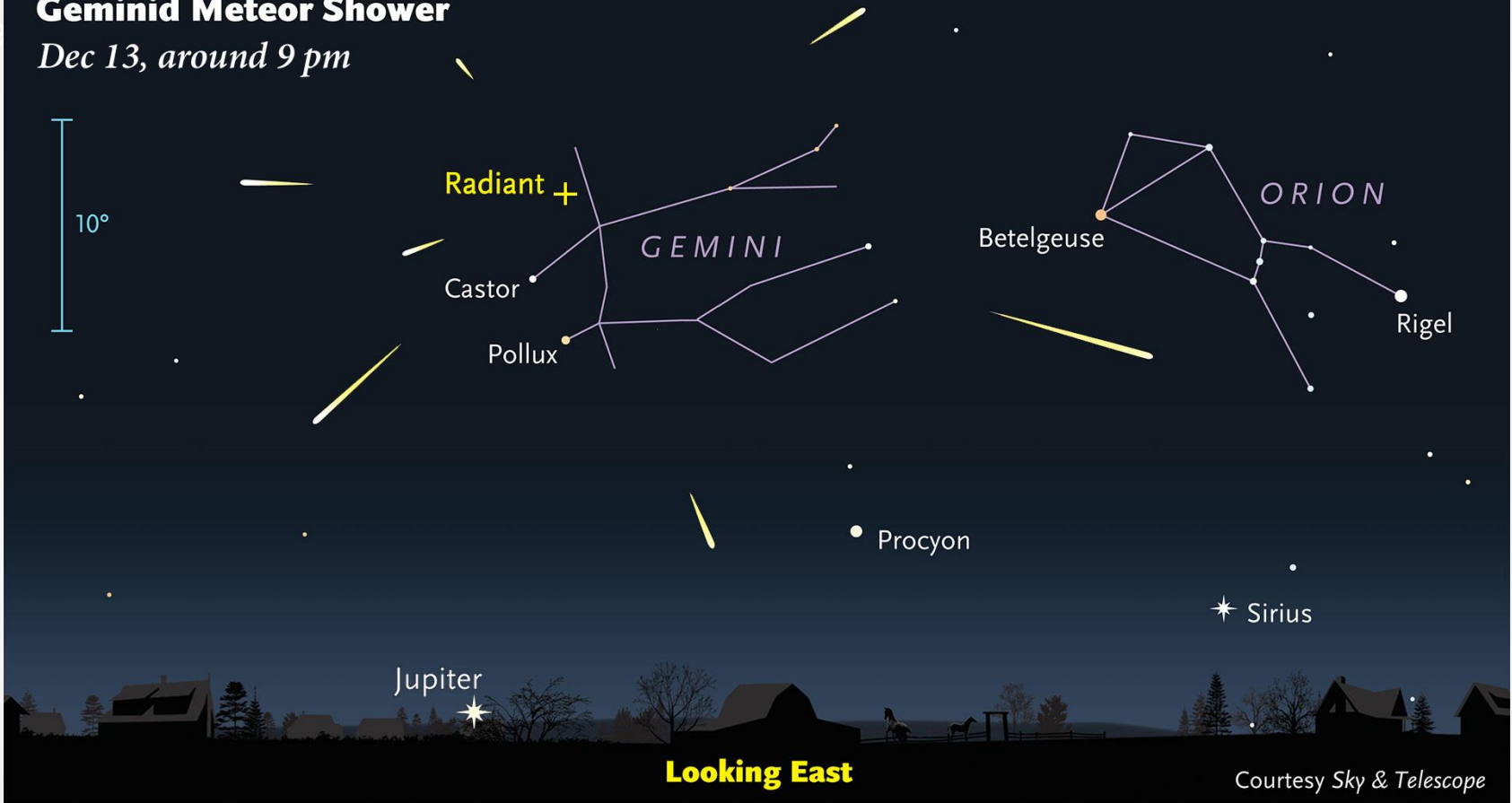
- ★ The Geminid Meteor Shower peaks on the night of **Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** and into the morning hours of **Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>**, with estimates upward of **100 meteors** per hour under ideal conditions!
- ★ The meteors appear to radiate from the direction of the **constellation Gemini** – hence their name.
- ★ The Geminids are associated with an object named **3200 Phaethon**. Thought to be an asteroid or extinct comet, the object has an orbital period of only 523 days.
- ★ With meteors travelling at a medium speed of 22 miles per second (about 80,000 mph!), the shower often produces bright meteors called bolides, or *fireballs*.
- ★ This year, skies will be compromised by a near-first quarter Moon, which fortunately sets around 10:30 p.m. Thursday night. With clear conditions from a dark location, meteor hunters should expect a good show, especially in the hours before dawn Friday morning.

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Dec 13, around 9 pm



Around 9 p.m. on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Geminid meteors will appear to radiate from this area of the sky. By midnight and into the early morning hours on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, the radiant point will be high in the sky, near the meridian.