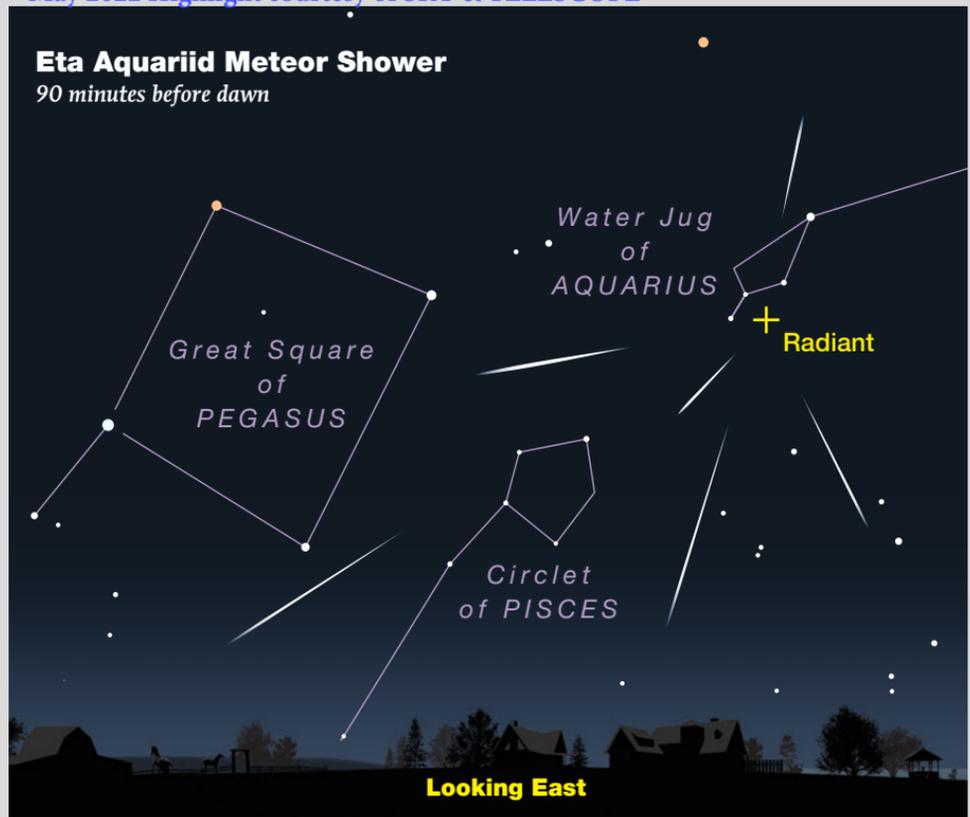


Meteors from Halley in May!

COMET 1P/HALLEY may be a distant 35 a.u. (5.2 billion kilometers) from Earth this month, but fragments spalled from its nucleus during previous flybys will flare just 100 kilometers (62 miles) overhead during [the annual Eta Aquariid meteor shower](#). **Peak activity occurs around 8^h UT on May 6th** (4 a.m. EDT). The timing is ideal because the radiant, located in the Water Jar asterism in Aquarius, doesn't rise until around 3 a.m. local daylight-saving time. However, that also means there's only a one-hour observing window before the start of morning twilight. At least the Moon (a waxing crescent in the evening sky) won't interfere.

For meteor watchers in the Southern Hemisphere, the radiant climbs high in the sky and produces 50 to 60 meteors per hour. From mid-northern latitudes, however, a lower radiant means the rate is likely to be closer to 10 to 30 per hour. Aquariids are swift, with speeds of



66 kilometers per second, and produce persistent trains. The shower has a long maximum, with steady activity from about May 3rd to the 9th.

The Eta Aquariids are no match for the Perseids or Geminids, but the display may be your best shot at sighting some aspect of Halley's famous comet.