

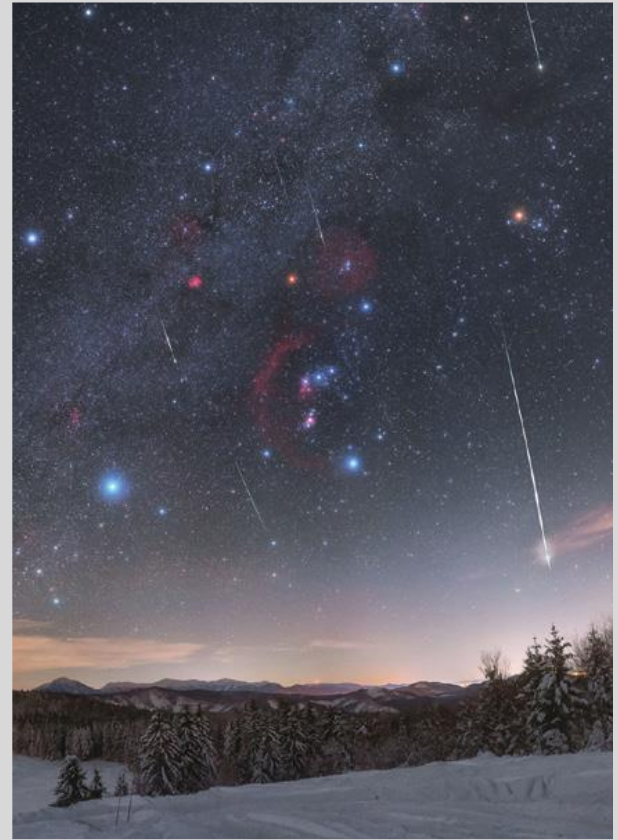
The Quadrantid Meteor Shower Peaks

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- This article compliments of the folks at [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

THANKS TO SERIOUS competition from a 12-day-old Moon, this is an off year for the annual Quadrantid meteor shower. The waxing gibbous moon won't set until the start of morning twilight, essentially shutting the window on dark skies. Peak activity is predicted to occur on January 4th at around 4 UT (11 p.m. EST January 3rd).

Under ideal, moonless conditions, maximum rates can exceed 100 meteors per hour, making the Quads one of the best displays of the year. The shower appears to radiate from northern Boötes, once home to the obsolete constellation Quadrans Muralis and memorialized in the shower's name. Given that the Quadrantids produce a substantial number of fireballs, you might want to check for an hour or so before dawn on the morning of the 4th. Look halfway up the northeastern sky — and be sure to keep a cup of your favorite hot beverage close at hand. ***



Astrophotographer Petr Horálek captured the above composite photo of the 2020 Quadrantid meteor shower over a snowy Slovakian landscape.

