

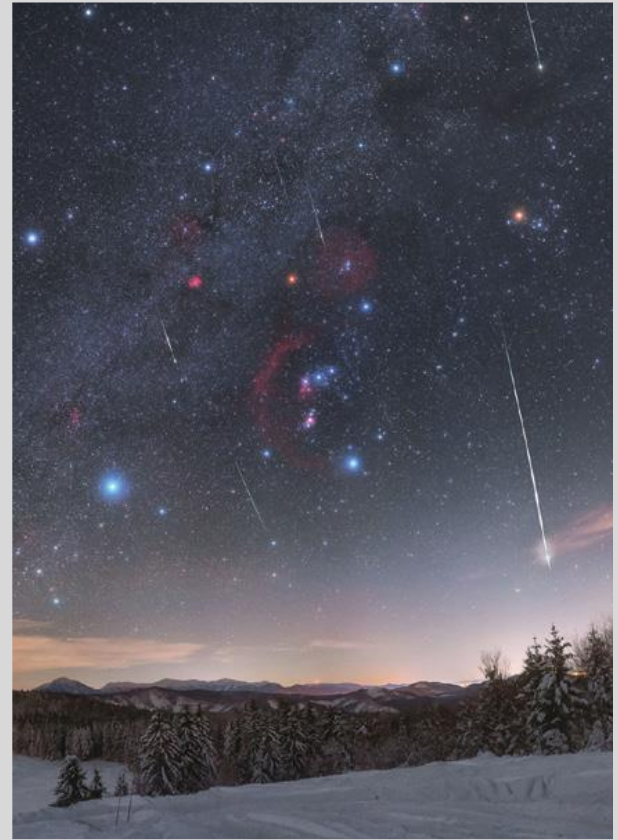
The Quadrantid Meteor Shower Peaks

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

THE ANNUAL QUADRANTID meteor shower will share the sky with the last quarter Moon when the display reaches its maximum during the early-morning hours of January 4th. While this will lower the potential number of meteors visible, the extra light won't ruin the event. It helps that the Moon is in Virgo more than 60° from the shower radiant in northern Boötes, the location of the defunct constellation Quadrans Muralis for which the shower is named.

The Quads have multiple parent bodies, with asteroid 2003 EH1, Comet 96P/Machholz, and possibly other comets all contributing to the shower's dusty flux. The debris stream is narrow, so we zip through it quickly — the reason the shower's peak lasts only about six hours. This year that occurs around 9 UT (4 a.m. EST) — a favorable time for the eastern half of North America, where the radiant will be high in the northeastern sky.***



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

