



## Moonless Quadrantids

**ONCE A YEAR**, Quadrans Muralis, the obsolete constellation that once resided among the dim stars of northern Boötes, reminds us that it's not dead yet. The Quadrantid meteor shower streams from the defunct Mural Quadrant every January and blitzes Earth with scraps of asteroid 2003 EH<sub>1</sub>.

**The Quads peak this year at around 15:00 UT (10 a.m. EST) on Friday, January 3rd** — nearly ideal for observers in Alaska, but rather less so for the rest

of North America. Timing is more of a concern with this shower than most because its peak is so brief, lasting only about six hours. If you happen to live where the radiant is well placed in a dark sky, you could witness more than 100 meteors per hour. Less ideal locations will see closer to 25 per hour.

Quads are swift, pinging the atmosphere at more than 147,000 kilometers per hour (91,000 miles per hour), and they often produce bright fireballs.