

### METEOR SHOWER TO LIGHT UP NIGHT SKY

Wednesday August 12 2009 by Emily Garnham for [express.co.uk](http://express.co.uk)

EVER wished upon a shooting star?

Have your say(0)

Well tonight could be your night, as a stunning meteor shower looks set to liven up the night skies with a dazzling display.

The **Perseid meteor shower** takes place every summer as the Earth's orbit takes the planet through debris scattered by the tail of Comet Swift-Tuttle.

As usual, skywatchers will be rigging telescopes and donning binoculars to watch the astronomical sights, which could see up to 80 meteors streaking overhead every hour.

#### EXPRESS PHOTO GALLERY: PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

And this year British stargazers are leading the first global **Twitter Meteorwatch**, using the micro-blogging site to turn the phenomenon into a global social event.



A Perseid meteor streaks across the sky in Vinton, California

Newbury Astronomical Society says its "meteor star party" will include thousands of followers from all over the world live "tweeting" images of the Perseids, as well as pictures of the Moon, Jupiter and other celestial objects.

The meteorwatch follows on from a similar 'Twitter Moonwatch' organised by the UK-based astronomical society in May.

President of the society, Richard Fleet, said: "We realised early on that what people want are images of the night sky, so we used our array of telescopes and cameras to provide a constant stream of pictures which we uploaded straight to Twitter.

"We were amazed at how excited people were about our Twitter Moonwatch; we had thousands of people who had probably never looked through a telescope before asking us questions directly and viewing images."

“ Head out to the countryside for the perfect place to explore the beauty of the night sky, away from the intrusive glow. ”

The mass participation event, part of the International Year of Astronomy, is already underway with amateur astronomers tweeting on their findings.

One tweet said: "Just seen 2 mag 1 meteors streak through Cassiopeia and the Plough."

Another stargazer described seeing "1 meteor so far, 8 planes and a cat!"

WHAT'S CLICKING ON EXPRESS.CO.UK?