

Possible meteor outburst this week worth a look up

November 20 2019, by Marcia Dunn



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Scientists are predicting a rare meteor outburst this week that may be brief but incredibly intense.

A brilliant flurry in the sky near the Unicorn constellation is expected

Thursday night over the eastern half of North America and all South America. The action should unfold early Friday morning over the western portions of Europe and Africa.

Hundreds of shooting stars may be visible as Earth plows through the dusty tail of an unidentified comet.

The alpha Monocerotids—named after the constellation Monoceros or the Unicorn—most recently produced an outburst in 1995.

NASA's Ames Research Center scientist Peter Jenniskens and the Finnish Fireball Networks' Esko Lyytinen anticipate another good show. They encourage stargazers to look up, but get out early because peak viewing time is short.

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Possible meteor outburst this week worth a look up (2019, November 20) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-11-meteor-outburst-week-worth.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.