

We can all learn much more at our public library.  In the United States, knowledge is free to everyone.

BACKYARD AND PARKING LOT ASTRONOMY: IT'S FREE; ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LOOK UP AT THE NIGHT SKY

Q&A: While it is safe to look at the light from our Moon, the stars, comets, planets, asteroids, and meteors in the night sky, why is it never safe to look directly at the Sun?



FULL MOON



PLANET VENUS AND CRESCENT MOON



A METEOR, PLANETS, AND STARS

A FEW OF THE BEST ANNUAL METEOR SHOWERS WE CAN LOOK FOR OUTDOORS AT NIGHT:

QUADRANTIDS:	Peak activity around January 3-4	Approximate speed of the meteors:	90,000 mph
PERSEIDS:	Peak activity around August 11-12	Approximate speed of the meteors:	133,000 mph
LEONIDS:	Peak activity around November 17-18	Approximate speed of the meteors:	158,000 mph
GEMINIDS:	Peak activity around December 13-14	Approximate speed of the meteors:	79,000 mph

SOME OBSERVATORIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SCHEDULED NIGHTS SO THAT WE CAN ALL LOOK THROUGH A TELESCOPE, AT STARS, COMETS, PLANETS, MOONS, AND ASTEROIDS, (BUT NOT METEORS).

Q&A: Why don't we use telescopes or binoculars to watch meteors?



In this photograph of comet Hale-Bopp, taken from the ground, glaring light is intruding into the left side of the frame making that part of the picture look grayish.

As we are looking at the night sky through a telescope, a lot of interfering light from buildings, streetlights, and cars is being blocked out. However, for our backyard or parking lot observing, we need to get outside into an open area, with as few lights around us as possible, so we can see better what's up above. (Before you decide to go wandering around outside at night, please get permission first, and take someone with you.)



We can't use our brains on drugs; *that's why it's called dope.*