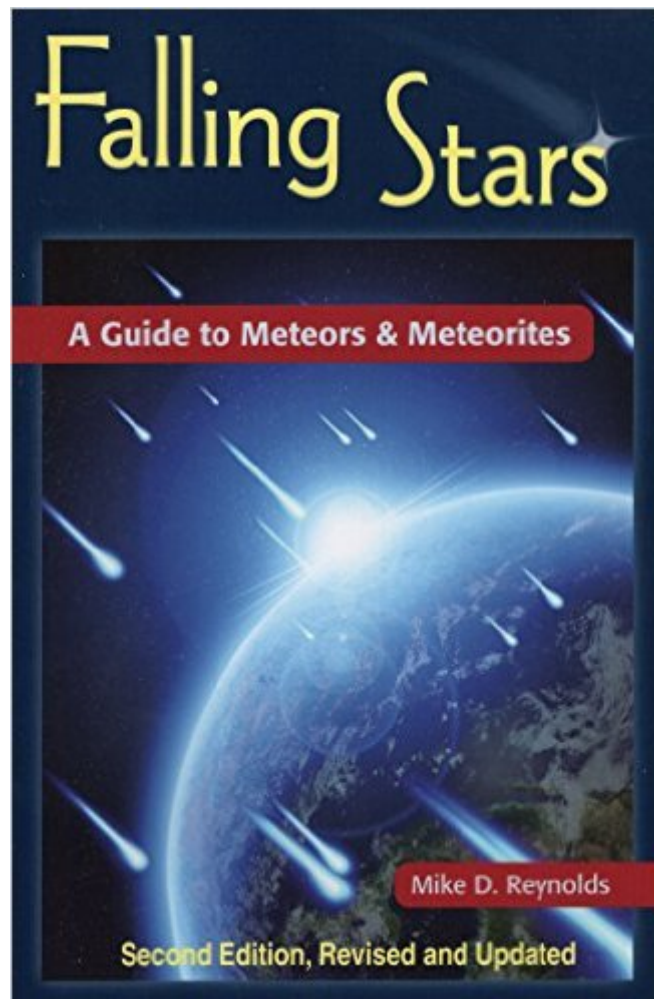


The book was found

Falling Stars: A Guide To Meteors & Meteorites



Synopsis

Month-by-month information on meteor showers and how to make the most of watching them
Advice on starting and building a meteorite collection plus the scientific explanation of what meteors are and where they come from
Includes new information about recent space exploration and studies of meteors
Mike Reynolds' guide to meteors and meteorites is revised and updated to include the latest information about meteor study and sightings. The book covers the basics of observing, studying, and collecting meteors and meteorites, appealing to a range of readers, from the amateur astronomer to the aspiring meteorite collector. Included are helpful tables and references, such as a list of yearly meteor showers and a directory of meteorite dealers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most of us have looked up at the night sky and seen what is commonly called a falling or shooting star. These momentary streaks occur when meteors, objects ranging from the size of dust particles to fist-size masses, enter the earth's atmosphere and are heated to incandescence. Few of these objects survive their encounter with our atmosphere. What we see on earth is a streak of light that lasts about a half second on average -- generally speaking, the larger the material that enters the atmosphere, the brighter the meteor. Brighter meteors will occasionally leave a smoke trail in their path lasting a few seconds; trails produced by very bright meteors, referred to as fireballs, may last minutes. Fireballs that appear to break up, or produce sound, are called bolides. One of the most prolific meteor showers known as the Perseids occurs in August. The Perseids are so called

because the point they appear to come from lies in the constellation Perseus. Meteor showers occur when Earth moves through a meteor stream. The stream in this case is called the Perseid cloud and it stretches along the orbit of the Comet Swift-Tuttle. The shower is visible from mid-July each year, with the greatest activity between August 8 and 14, peaking about August 12. During the peak, the rate of meteors reaches 60 or more per hour. To experience the shower in its full, one should observe in the dark of a clear moonless night, from a point far outside any large cities, where stars are not dimmed by light pollution-such as Cherry Springs state park. If you are looking for a good introduction to the wonderful world of meteors and meteorite collecting, check out *Falling Stars, A Guide to Meteors & Meteorites* by Mike D. Reynolds.

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