

Lyrids 2011

Active: Apr 16-25.

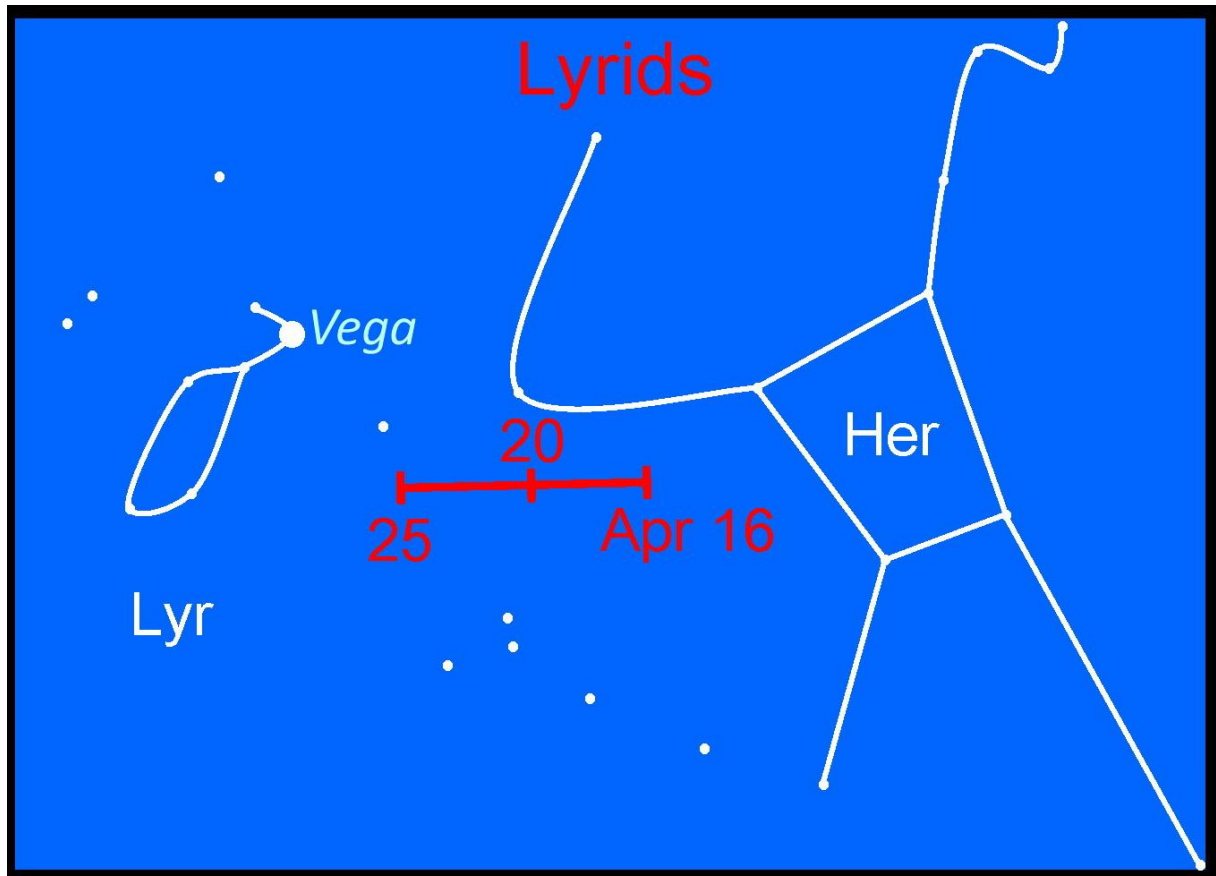
ZHR: variable, may be up to 90, generally averaging 18.

Radiant: 18h04m +34°.

Daily radiant drift: +4.4m & +0.0°.

Atmospheric velocity: 49 km/sec.

r: 2.1.



An analysis of IMO Lyrid data from 1988-2000 found the peak time might fall between solar longitudes 32.0°-32.45° (2011 April 22, 15h to April 23, 03h UT), with an ideal at 32.32°, as above, typically producing somewhat higher rates, ZHRs around 23. The further the peak fell from this ideal, the lower the rates - ZHRs down to 14 or so. Unfortunately, the last really high return was without the examined database, in 1982, when American observers briefly recorded a ZHR of 90, so giving no clues as to when another such outburst might happen (hence the shower is always one to watch). From the mid northern latitudes where it is best seen, the radiant, on the Lyra-Hercules border at maximum, is usefully on view after about 22h30m local time, improving in elevation all night. Unhappily, the waning gibbous Moon will rise within 90 minutes or so of

this time for similar places on April 22 (rising later further north), leaving just a short observing window before moonrise. The ideal peak time would favour sites from Europe east to the Near East especially, albeit accompanied by darker skies only for western Europe. Lyrids are swift meteors, occasionally spectacularly bright, with approximately 20-25% leaving persistent trains.

A guide about Visual Meteor Observations is available on IMO (International Meteor Organization) website at <http://imo.net/visual>

You can report your observations online on IMO website at <http://imo.net>
Updated information about the Lyrids activity, based on the online reports, can be seen on IMO Lyrids 2011 website at <http://imo.net/live/lyrids2011>

Clear skies!

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