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Anchorage, Alaska News

Skies light up over East Coast

NEW YORK — Colorful sky lights provided a spectacle along much of the East Coast overnight, leaving astronomers puzzled Wednesday as to just what caused the display. One astronomer in Washington, D.C., speculated that the glow Tuesday night was debris from the last passage of Halley's Comet in 1910. But a colleague in Baltimore said he doubted that possibility. Other skywatching agencies, such as the National Weather Service and the Federal Aviation Administration, had no answer. The sky lights — by some accounts a bright ball, by others glowing bits of color that changed as they streaked and faded — were reported along the East Coast from here to Washington. Green was the predominant color in the reported sightings, most of which occurred around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Fiery meteor sparks reports of enemy attack

United Press International

NEW YORK — A fiery red and pink meteor with a green head lit up the night sky across the Eastern seaboard, prompting speculation Wednesday about its cause and floods of calls to police to report everything from UFOs to enemy attack. *Dallas Morning News*

Amateur astronomer Frederick Janicke watched the show from an observatory in Boonton, N.J., and said the meteor took 10 seconds to streak across the sky. *Aug 26*

"It was bright green with orange sparks and left a train across the sky," he said. "It was spectacularly bright. To someone who didn't know, it might have looked like we were invaded."

Larry Brown, an astronomer at the Hayden Planetarium in New York, said the light show was "most likely associated with the Kappa Cygnid meteor shower," a minor shower that occurs annually between Aug. 9 and Oct. 6.

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