

Re: What was it? Meteor?

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2007-08/msg02056.html>

- *From:* Chris L Peterson <clp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 28 Aug 2007 18:58:02 -0600
-

On Tue, 28 Aug 2007 20:28:13 -0400, Atreju <someone@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I was just outside my house when I saw a VERY bright dot move from approximately 60° down toward the horizon ... I only saw as far as the treetops... around 20°. Rough estimates here. This traversal took around 1.5 seconds.... quite longer than I'm used to seeing meteors. Far too fast for an aircraft, far too bright and fast to be a satellite. It was like seeing Venus travel down the sky like a rocket.

Any ideas?

My location is 40°42'7.69"N x 73°38'49.47"W. I was facing NNW, approximately 8:20 PM Eastern USA

That's a good description of a bright meteor. In the early evening, meteors are likely to be in prograde orbits. These are the slowest meteors, and the direction you saw it in means it could have been descending towards you, making it appear even slower.

Chris L Peterson
Cloudbait Observatory
<http://www.cloudbait.com>