

# A BRIEF INTRO TO THE GLENDALE APP

PRESENTED BY KRIS KNUTSON 31 MAY 2025

- AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WORKSHOP OF THE MICHIGAN  
AURORA CHASERS

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APP WAS DEVELOPED BY ANDY STABLES IN SCOTLAND AND IS DESCRIBED AS  
“THE ONLY ACCURATE AURORA APP”

[PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A BEGINNER’S INTRO TO GET YOU STARTED.  
THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO THIS APP THAN PRESENTED HERE.]

# GLENDALE \*IS\* AN APP BUT NOT IN AN APP STORE!

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- Go to: [www.aurora-alerts.uk](http://www.aurora-alerts.uk)
- Create your free account
- Sign up for the Aurora Alert channel through the **Telegram** messaging app by following the instructions on the Glendale App page to sign up for alerts

# WHERE TO START? – AT THE TOP OF COURSE WITH THE “NOWCAST”

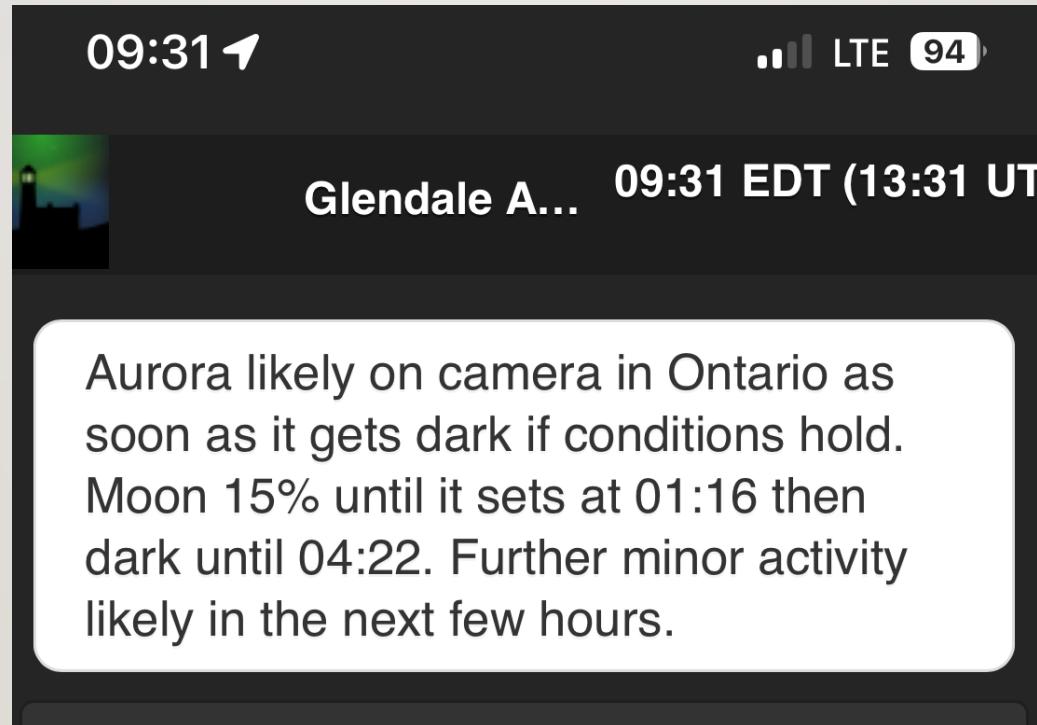
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- Top of the page has easy to understand description of what aurora is doing right now! 'The "NOWCAST" is a plain English summary of what the ... numbers are telling us right now.'
- Example: "Aurora likely on camera in northern US states as soon as it gets dark if conditions hold. Moon 18% until it sets at 01:16 then dark until 04:22."
- If there is an active ALERT, you'll find it just below the written text. It will be colour-coded, for example "**ORANGE ALERT: Moderate geomagnetic substorm in progress**"
- The User Guide says to: 'Substitute **substorm** for **aurora**. **Substorm = Aurora**'

(Items in single quotation marks are taken from Glendale User Guide)

# NOWCAST EXAMPLE

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# THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER

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- Next on the page is LIVE REPORTS and shows member reported aurora sightings (green check marks) or cloudy conditions shown by a black cloud! Sadly in Michigan, we know about clouds!
- Directly under the map you will see a number in a colour-coded text box, along with an arrow in the square textbox to the right of the negative number.
- This number shows the strength of the aurora at the moment. The larger the negative number the better it is, especially for those of us at mid-latitudes.
- Arrow “falling” is best. And the steeper the downward trend the better. These are typically the times that Patrick Grubba is sending us GET OUT NOW alerts!

# THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER EXAMPLE: (-523 IN THIS SCREENSHOT)



# ALERT COLOURS & LEVELS:

MONITOR YOUR AREA AND NOTE WHICH LEVEL YOU NEED TO SEE AURORA

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- Yellow – Minor
  - GOOD (according to Hendrik Anne Zwart's book - "Aurora – Prepare, Predict, Photograph")
- Orange – Moderate
  - GREAT (according to Zwart's book)
- Red – Strong
  - FABULOUS (according to Zwart's book)
- Purple – Major/Severe/Extreme
  - AMAZING (according to Zwart's book)

# ALERT COLOURS & LEVELS (IMAGE BELOW IS FROM USER GUIDE)

MONITOR YOUR AURORA SIGHTINGS COMPARED TO THE GLENDALE ALERT LEVELS – THIS WILL GIVE YOU A PLAN FOR FUTURE AURORA

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Alert Levels	
ONSET	Applicable to Northern Scotland, Iceland and Northern Scandinavia.
YELLOW	Applicable to Northern Scotland, Iceland and Southern Scandinavia upwards. Tasmania & New Zealand.
ORANGE	Applicable down to Southern Scotland, Northern England, Northern Ireland, Denmark and Lithuania upwards, Victoria.
RED	Applicable to the whole UK and Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, southern Canada upwards. Australia up to Melbourne.
MAJOR SEVERE EXTREME	Additional levels indicating exceptionally strong auroras. Do not miss these.

# REPORT YOUR AURORA SIGHTINGS

- OR TIMES YOU DON'T SEE AURORA!

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- Report your sightings under the “**Who’s Shouted Tonight?**” section
- First, make sure the section called **Your Details** is correct
  - Scroll almost to the bottom of the app
  - Be sure **Current Location** is correct
  - Click “**Save Changes**”
- Reporting helps others know when aurora is being seen near their area
- Reporting will ‘unlock’ more options for reporting the details of myour sightings.
- iPhone users may, from time-to-time, see a pop-up message asking you to update. Simply click to update. Easy peasy!

WHEN YOU POST YOUR SIGHTINGS,  
YOUR DATES ARE RECORDED, GIVING YOU  
A PERSONALIZED, ON-GOING AURORA LOG!

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- MY REPORTS ARE SHOWN IN THIS SCREENSHOT.  
I LIVE AT 41.5°N SO MY VIEWING IS LIMITED!
- YOU CAN ADD REPORTS AFTER THE FACT – IT IS EASY  
TO FORGET IN THE EXCITEMENT OF VIEWING (OR YOU  
MIGHT NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS)
- IF YOU MAKE A REPORT BY MISTAKE YOU CAN “DELETE” IT

Your Reported Aurora Dates			
	Date	Dip nT	
Michigan			
July	29th/30th	-498	<a href="#">delete</a>
August	11th/12th	-1687	<a href="#">delete</a>
	30th/31st	-526	<a href="#">delete</a>
	31st/1st	-137	<a href="#">delete</a>
September	1st/2nd	-122	<a href="#">delete</a>
	12th/13th	-476	<a href="#">delete</a>
	16th/17th	-914	<a href="#">delete</a>
Mears, Michigan			
October	10th/11th	-1355	<a href="#">delete</a>
Berrien Springs Michigan			
November	8th/9th	-153	<a href="#">delete</a>
Yellowknife Nt Canada			
March	6th/7th	-49	<a href="#">delete</a>
	7th/8th	-272	<a href="#">delete</a>
	8th/9th	-167	<a href="#">delete</a>
New Buffalo Mi			
	25th/26th	-293	<a href="#">delete</a>
Munising, Michigan			
May	26th/27th	-123	<a href="#">delete</a>
	28th/29th	-676	<a href="#">delete</a>
Mackinaw City, Michigan			
	29th/30th	-211	<a href="#">delete</a>

# USER GUIDE & HELP WITHIN THE APP

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- The Glendale App's User Guide is at the bottom of the page (left side)
- I did not "see" this for months after I started using the app! Don't be like Kris!
- Within the sections of the app, look for a lower case **i** in a white circle at the bottom right of a section. This will give you more information about that part. Education is built right into the app!
- You can "open" and "close" sections of the app that you don't want/need to see at the moment. Click on the **V** symbol to open, or the **Λ** symbol, to close a section

# RESOURCES FOR GLENDALE

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- Remember the User Guide within the app – Scroll to the bottom left
- Sign up for Telegram alerts (see first slide for details)
- Follow on facebook: Glendale Skye Auroras
- Follow Andy Stables on facebook. (He is also a member of Michigan Aurora Chasers!)
  
- Hendrik Anne Zwart's book: Aurora – How to Prepare – Predict – Photograph (Your Step by Step Guide – Capture the Aurora with Success) – has almost 100 pages on the Glendale App (Image on the next slide)

# AURORA

PREPARE ✓

PREDICT ✓

PHOTOGRAPH ✓

HENDRIK ANNE ZWART

YOUR STEP BY STEP GUIDE – CAPTURE THE AURORA WITH SUCCESS

# IN CONCLUSION

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- The Glendale App is not available in app stores – go to [www.aurora-alerts.uk](http://www.aurora-alerts.uk)
- Pair the app with Telegram Alerts to let you know when aurora is out
- Always monitor Earth Weather as it affects our ability to see aurora
  - The Glendale App summary at the top of the page often adds: “Weather permitting in dark-sky areas.”
- During daylight hours, scout out an area that is safe for aurora viewing. Ensure you have a clear view of the northern horizon and have the darkest skies possible.
- Happy Aurora Chasing!