

Mi Aurora Chasers

WORKSHOP

Welcome

4th Annual Michigan Aurora Chasers Workshop



Introductions: Meet Your Admin Team



Founder Melissa F. Kaelin

Founder [Melissa F. Kaelin](#) is an author, speaker and Aurora Chaser, who has been chasing the Northern Lights for over 13 years. She wrote the book "[Beyond the 45th Parallel](#): The Beginner's Guide to Chasing Aurora in the Mid-latitudes" and co-founded the [Aurora Summit](#). Since creating the Michigan Aurora Chasers, she has led more than 10 Live Chases, helping thousands of people catch the Northern Lights for the first time.

Meet Melissa



Patrick Grubba

Admin Patrick Grubba has served on the leadership team of the Michigan Aurora Chasers since 2021. Residing in the Mackinaw City area, he is famous for his call to "Get Outside Now," which has helped people in at least four states catch the Aurora, as well as other countries like Scotland! He has discovered a love for astrophotography, and he volunteers and presents workshops at Headlands International Dark Sky Park. He also serves on the Board of the Mackinaw City Area Arts Council.

Meet Patrick

Introductions: Meet Your Admin Team



Christina Cantu Sharp

Admin Christina Cantu Sharp is an active admin for the Michigan Aurora Chasers. She has taken acclaimed photographs and led Live Chase events across the state.

[Meet Christina](#)



Kris Knutson

Admin Kris Knutson enjoys adventure and she has chased Aurora to the most northern tip of Michigan by land, catching it in Copper Harbor, Michigan.

[Meet Kris](#)

Introductions: Meet Your Admin Team



Kevin Clark

Admin Kevin Clark has enjoyed astronomy and Aurora since he was a kid. He is an expert in photography, and he enjoys finding like-minded people who have a passion to go out in the middle of the night and look up in wonder.

[Meet Kevin](#)



Marybeth Kiczenski

Admin Marybeth Kiczenski was one of the first admins of the Michigan Aurora Chasers. She has been dubbed “The Extreme Aurora Chaser” and she has been featured by The Weather Channel, catching Aurora in unexpected places and times. She offers workshops, education and prints as Shelbydiamondstar Photography.

[Meet Marybeth](#)

Introductions: Meet Your Admin Team



Nate Stovall

Admin Nate Stovall is an avid wilderness hiker, Aurora Chaser, and photographer. The first Aurora Chaser selected to help grow the group, he is also the creator of the #LiveChase, an event held during active conditions where our guides lead guests to the Northern Lights.

Meet Nate



In Memory

We hold in our hearts the late Gerry Beth Buckel, who was a member of the original Admin Team for the Michigan Aurora Chasers until a few weeks before her passing on October 27, 2024. Her quiet leadership, kindness, humor, and talents will inspire our team forever.

1959 — 2024

Our Tip Jars

The Michigan Aurora Chasers is a generous community focused on helping others. It will always be free.

If you benefit from our live alerts, our forecasts, and our guided Aurora Chases, consider showing your support with a small tip or donation. Your support helps us to provide more opportunities to chase together!

Show Your Support:

MichiganAuroraChasers.com/donate

Melissa F. Kaelin



Patrick Grubba



Kris Knutson



Nate Stovall



Christina
Cantu Sharp



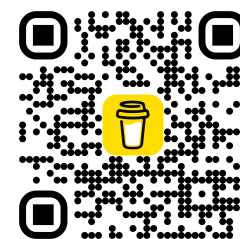
Kevin
Clark



Marybeth
Kizcenski



Pandora
Biskner





Join us in thanking Headlands International Dark Sky Park for hosting the 4th Annual Michigan Aurora Chasers Workshop!

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Let's give our volunteers a round of applause.
Thank you also to those who donated raffle prizes.

We appreciate you!



Congratulations, Photographers!

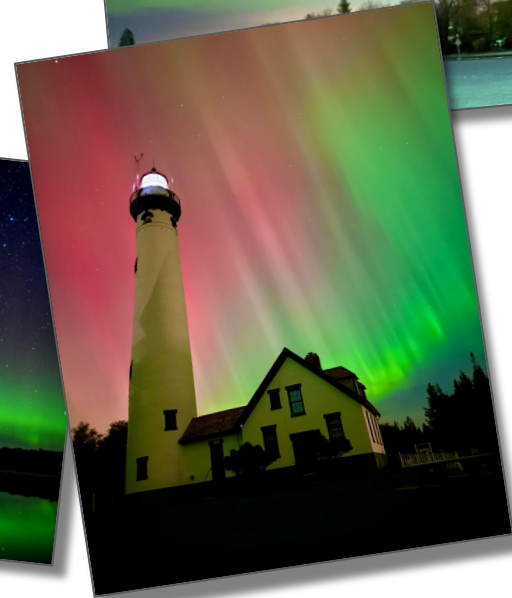
#MiAuroraWorkshop

Graphic Photograph by April Driscoll

#MiAuroraCookie Contest Winners

Leasa Benefiel

Jenifer Selwa





Photograph by April Driscol

Photography by Jen Selwa

August 12, 2024

Aurora with Big Dipper

Newaygo County, Michigan



*Photograph by
Leasa Benefiel*

*October 10, 2024
10:04 p.m.*

*New Presque Isle
Lighthouse*



Congratulations, Photographers!

Kick-Off Party Cake Images

Aubrieta Hope [↔ Group expert](#)
August 12, 2024, Copper Harbor, MI.



Michele Duff Aucello
Sept. 14, 2025, 10:10 pm, Glen Lake.



Aniket Lande
Port Austin May 2024



Terri Norris
September 2, 2023. From Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse Park.



Judy Bolger Haenke
Saginaw Township, January 20, 2026



5th
anniversary

MICHIGAN AURORA CHASERS

Get our best content!
View our Quick Links: MichiganAuroraChasers.com/links

Inaugural Capture the Dark Sky Contest

Congratulations to the winners!

Thank you,

Mackinaw City Area
Arts Council

Headlands International
Dark Sky Park

Michigan Aurora Chasers



Aurora Alerts Only

- Download the Free Telegram App
- Subscribe to @MichiganAuroraAlerts

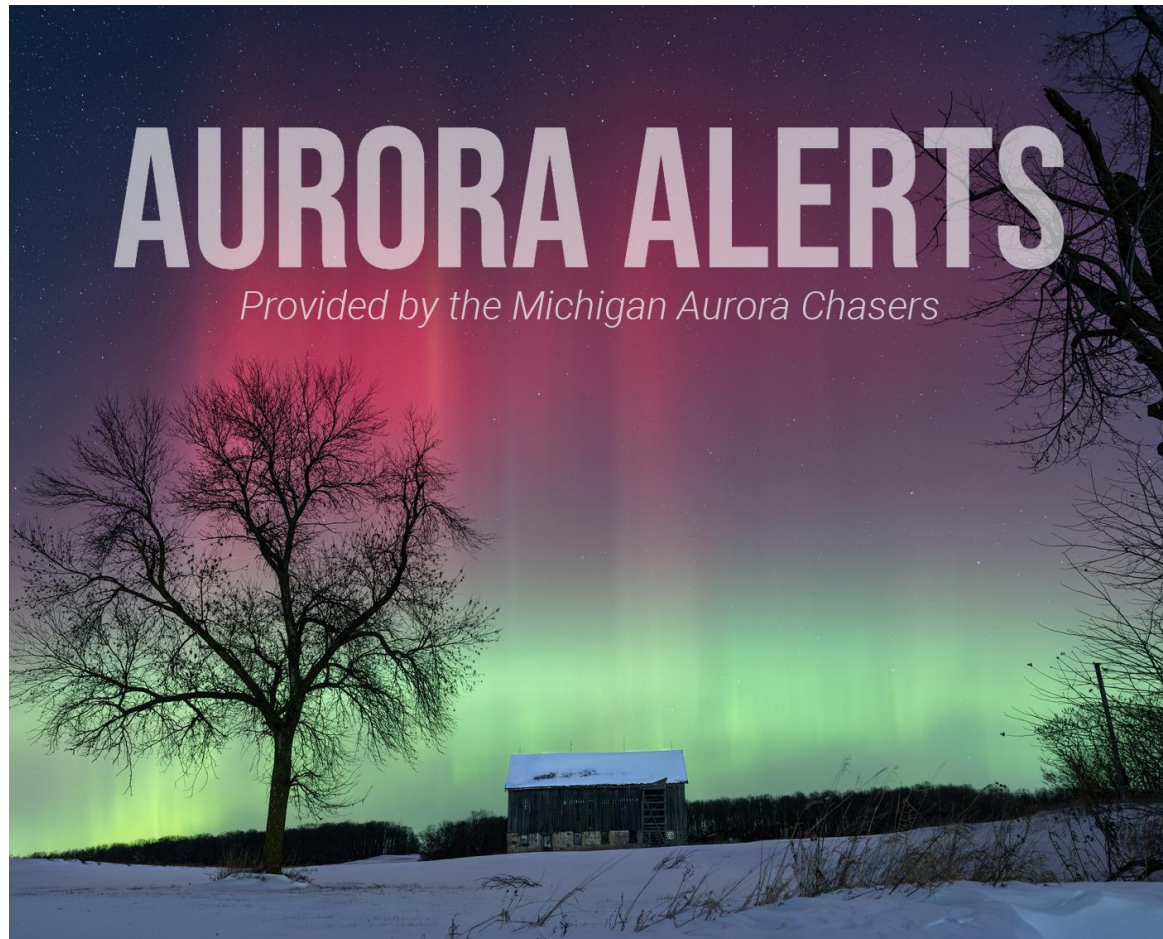


Photo by Richard Montano

Volunteer with Us

Become a Spotter!

Find an admin to sign up on Telegram.

Two Channels:

@MichiganAuroraAlerts

@AuroraRelayChannel: GLOW Alerts

Love Instagram? Melissa could use help!

Note on Group Experts



Connect with Us!

- Facebook Page
- Instagram Channel
- Telegram Alerts
- Email Updates
- Your Stories



Photo by Lisa Dohn



MI Aurora Resources

- Recommended Apps
- Live Aurora Webcams
- General Resources Used Everywhere
- Resources Developed by the Group & the Founder
- Fun Stuff

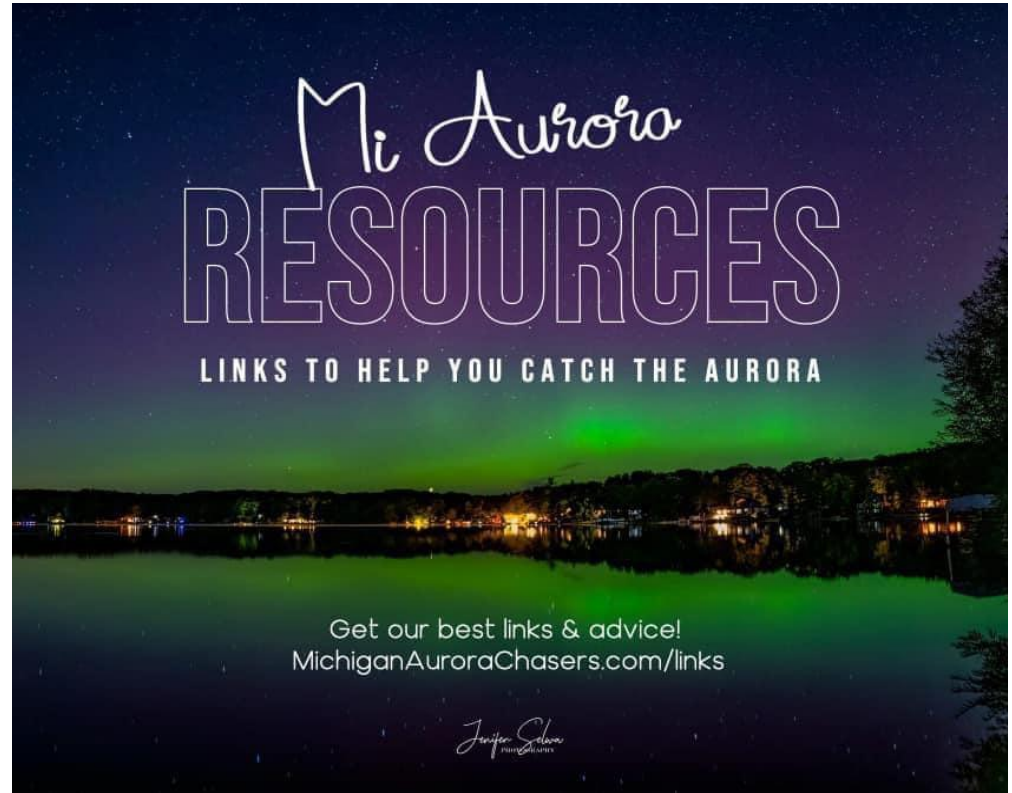


Photo by Jen Selwa

MichiganAuroraChasers.com/camera

camera note card



Our Traveling Exhibit

Submit your photo of
Aurora in Michigan to be
featured.

Browse our Exhibits!

A stylized map of Michigan with a color gradient from green at the top to purple at the bottom. The map is overlaid with a silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees. The word "Michigan" is written in a white, cursive script across the center of the map.

Michigan

AURORA CHASERS

On the Web

Visit us online to find everything from guides to gear!

Mi Aurora
GEAR

SHOP OUR STORE



Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/MiAuroraGear>



Michigan Aurora Chasers

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Quick Links

Get our best links & advice! Use this list of shortcuts to find our best content for the Michigan Aurora Chasers. If you prefer, you can also visit the MiAuroraChasers link tree: linktr.ee/MiAuroraChasers

[Michigan Aurora Chasers Official Website](#)

[Is It Go Time Yet?! Click to See if the Ovation Model Map Will Turn Red!](#)

[Where can I go to see Aurora? A Guide to Viewing Locations](#)

[New! Get Aurora Alerts Only on Telegram](#)

[Quick Camera Notes](#)

[Download "The Beginner's Guide to Aurora Chasing" By Patrick Grubba](#)

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Shop Apparel & Gear



MichiganAuroraChasers.com/shop

Photography & Design Contests



Cover Photo by Lavanya Kannan

MichiganAuroraChasers.com/contests



Contests & Exhibits

Capture the Dark Sky Contest for Headlands International Dark Sky Park Annual, Cash Prizes — Watch for summer/fall launch

Graphic Design Contest: 4th Edition Design Contest for new MAC shirts!
\$150 Cash Prize, Deadline: May 1, 2026

Mini Traveling Exhibit — Not a Contest!
Rotating Deadlines, Various Locations

Shape of the Sky Book Project

A Project to Publish 100 Michigan Aurora Photographers
Three Deadlines, Early Deadline: April 15, 2026

Details: KaelinArt.com/aurora-projects



Upcoming Events

Upper Peninsula Dark Sky Festival
April 16-18, 2026, Copper Harbor, Michigan

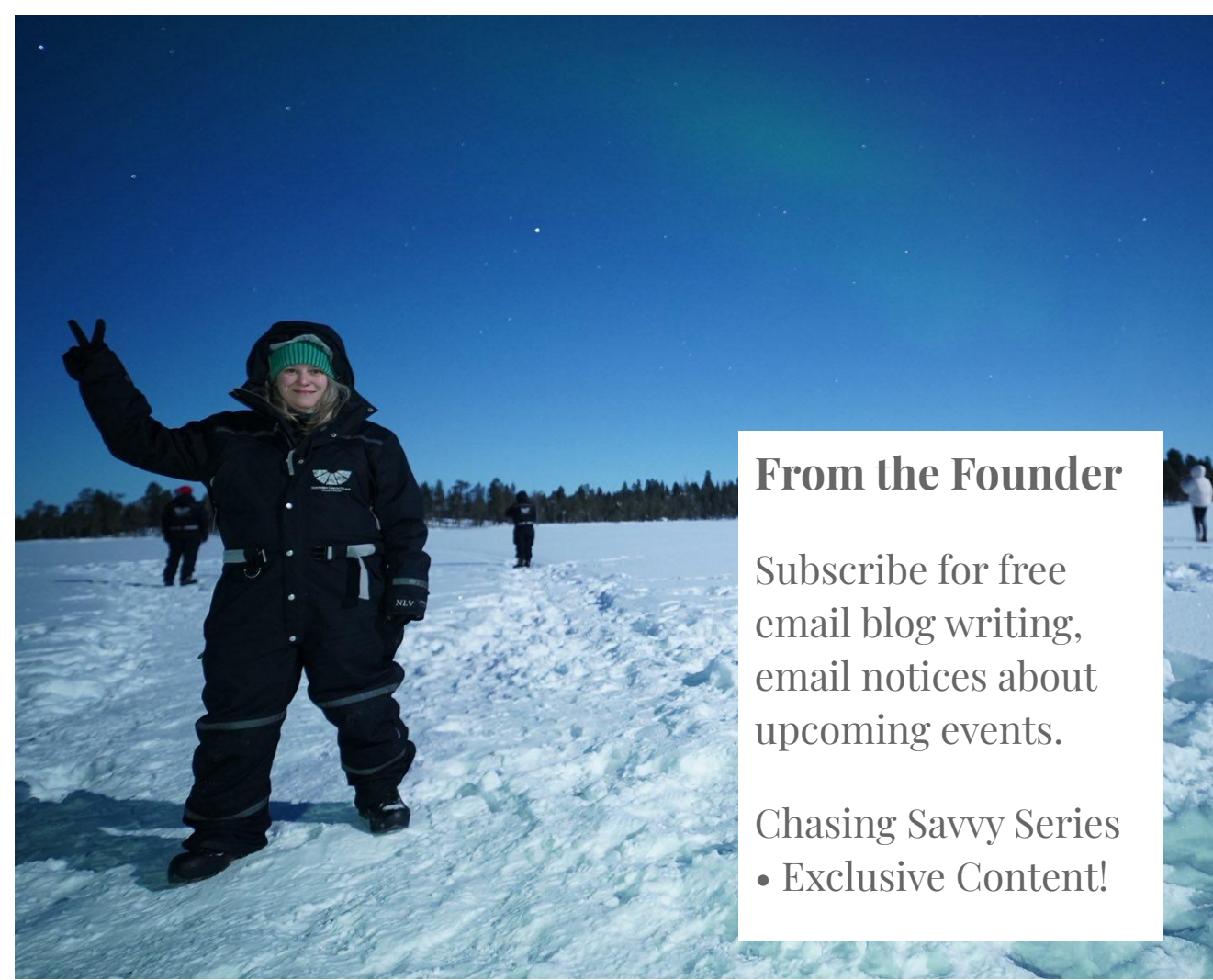
After Dark: Michigan Science Center
April 24, 2026, Detroit, Michigan

Longway Planetarium: *Dome Aurora Presentation* — Enter by July 1st
August 7, 2026, Flint, Michigan

**Aurora Summit 26: Celebrating the Art, Culture,
Science & Photography of the Northern Lights**
November 6-8, 2026; Houghton, Michigan
Registration launches in June:

TheAuroraSummit.com





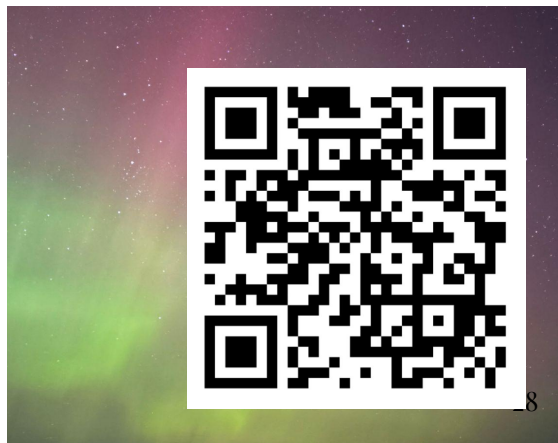
From the Founder

Subscribe for free email blog writing, email notices about upcoming events.

Chasing Savvy Series

- Exclusive Content!

Chasing Aurora at Sea: Our Norway Voyage





Books on Aurora Chasing

1st Edition

Below the 45th Parallel:

The Beginners Guide to Chasing the Aurora in the Great Lakes Region

2nd Edition

Beyond the 45th Parallel:

The Beginner's Guide to Chasing Aurora in the Mid-latitudes

\$16 /Both for \$30



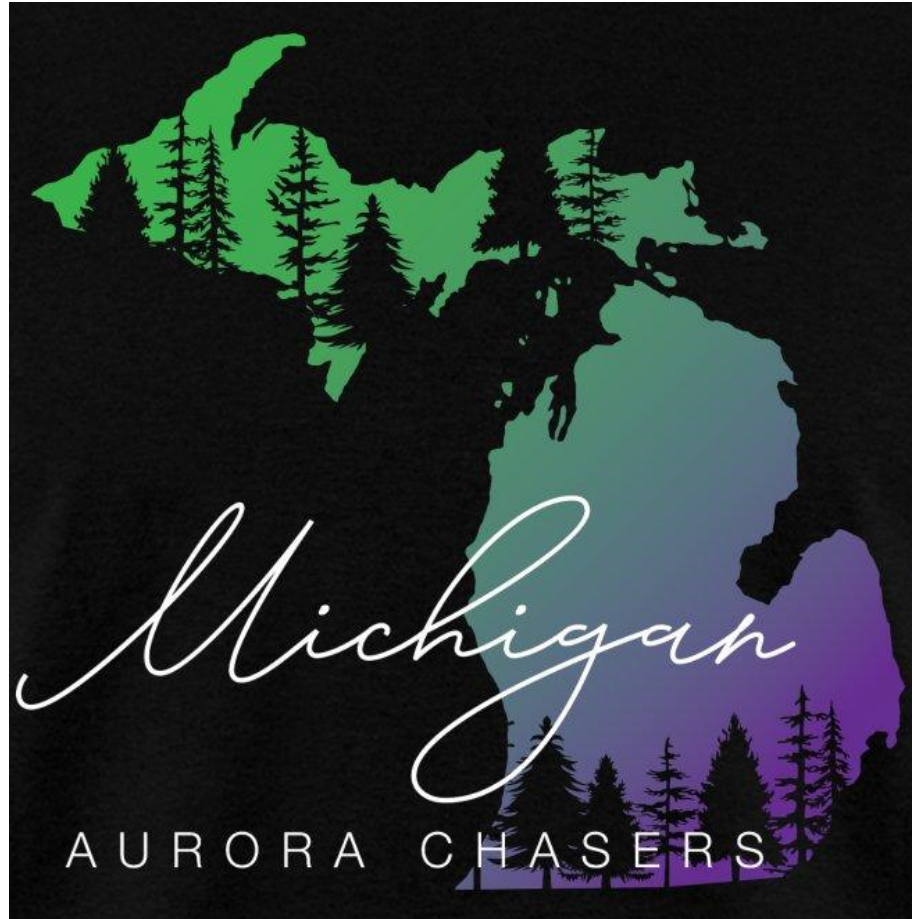
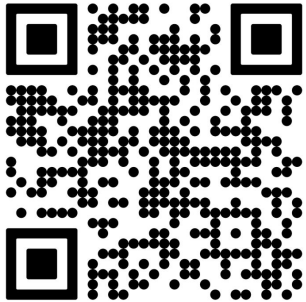
Dinner is served!

We appreciate your patience,
as we may need to release tables one at a time.



Michigan Aurora Chasers

- Guides
- Methods & Resources
- Live Chases & Events
- MI Aurora Workshop



3rd Edition Design by Shea Sarns