# HUNDON 2026 ALASKA'S NORTHERN LIGHTS

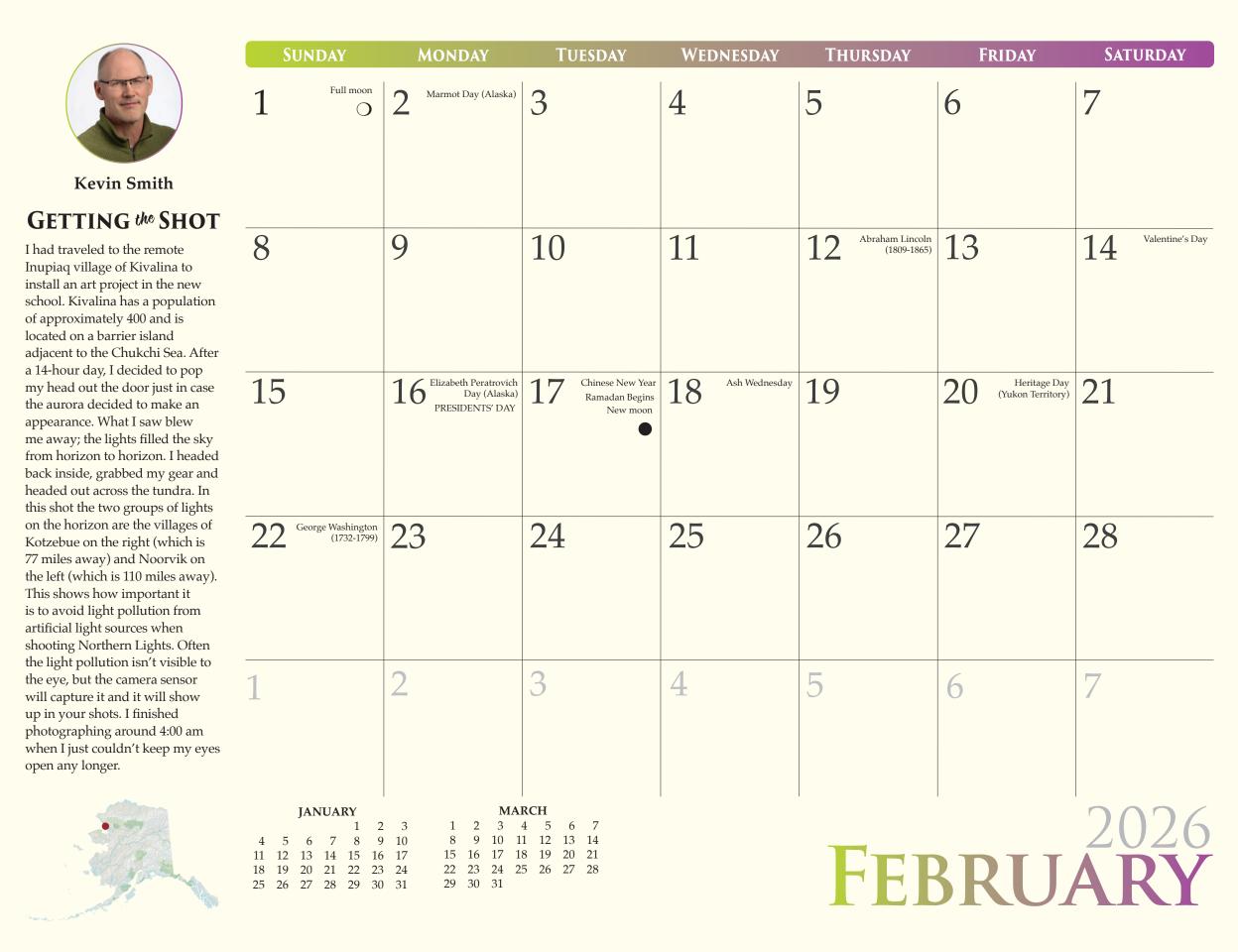
\* \* \* SPECIAL FEATURE Aurora Science Terminology \* \* \* ★ INSIDE ★ GETTING the SHOT PHOTOGRAPHERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

AN ALASKA PHOTOGRAPHERS' CALENDAR



	Sunday	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
	28	29	30	31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 Full moon
Benjamin Traylor							
GETTING the SHOT		-	(	Eastern Orthodox	0	0	10
It was a cold evening with a low aurora forecast. I decided out of the blue to drive to Eureka to shoot the moon and the stars as a backdrop to the snow-covered spruce trees. While shooting I noticed a green arch on the	4	5	6	7 Eastern Orthodox Christmas	8	9	10
horizon. That small arch quickly filled the sky along with pinks, purples, and reds. Lucky for me, I was in the right place at the right time.	11	12	13	14 Eastern Orthodox New Year	15	16	17
	18 New moon	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	DECEMBER 2025           1         2         3         4         5           7         8         9         10         11         12           14         15         16         17         18         19           21         22         23         24         25         26           28         29         30         31         11	6         1         2         3           13         8         9         10         2           20         15         16         17         2	<b>RUARY</b> 4 5 6 7 11 12 13 14 18 19 20 21 25 26 27 28		JA	NU	2026 ARY











	Sunday	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
	29	30	31	1 Passover begins Full moon O	2	Good Friday	4
Sean Neilson							
GETTING the SHOT	Easter				0	10	4.4
Social media was absolutely blowing up with talk of a geomagnetic storm. I was excited to get out there but at the same time, my expectations weren't that high. The problem being that it was mid-May, and at a latitude	5 Easter	6	7	8	9	10	11
of 58 degrees, Juneau doesn't have much darkness.	12 Eastern Orthodox Easter	13	14	15 <sup>U.S. tax returns due</sup>	16	17 New moon	18
I went to my favorite local aurora location – Skater's Cabin at the edge of Mendenhall Lake. It was a total party scene out there! Usually there is another							
photographer or two, but obviously the word was out – and so was the aurora. Even though it wasn't truly dark, this aurora was so strong that there was plenty of color in the sky. I took a lot of shots that night but one of my favorites was this	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 Arbor Day	25
shot, taken with a 15mm lens, pointed nearly directly overhead. Amazingly, my daughter in Fairbanks couldn't see it because it just wasn't dark enough.	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
		7         14       3       4       5         21       10       11       12       1         28       17       18       19       2				AI	2026 PRIL



	Sunday	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
	26	27	28	29	30	1 Full moon	2
Todd Salat							
GETTING the SHOT			Cinco de Mayo	1		0	
Unbelievably massive auroras fan out over the Brooks Range north of the Arctic Circle on October 15, 2022 near 1:45 am. I captured eight overlapping vertically- oriented 1.3 second exposures and stitched them together to	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
create this "panaurora," which spans 180° left-to-right and over 90° vertically.	10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day New moon
I was located inside the Aurora Oval looking south when this aurora bubble rapidly expanded toward me and popped, or more like imploded. Multiple							
aurora bands comprised this humongous display, which rippled at supersonic speeds and was so wonderfully overwhelming. This is the BEST aurora show I've ever experienced! It was good to	17	18 Victoria Day (Canada)	19	20 Arbor Day (Alaska)	21	22	23
have a solid earthly base in these tranquil mountains to land in afterwards, because it seemed like the aurora warped the fabric	24	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
of space and time when they went Supernova and took me to the stars.	31 Blue moon						
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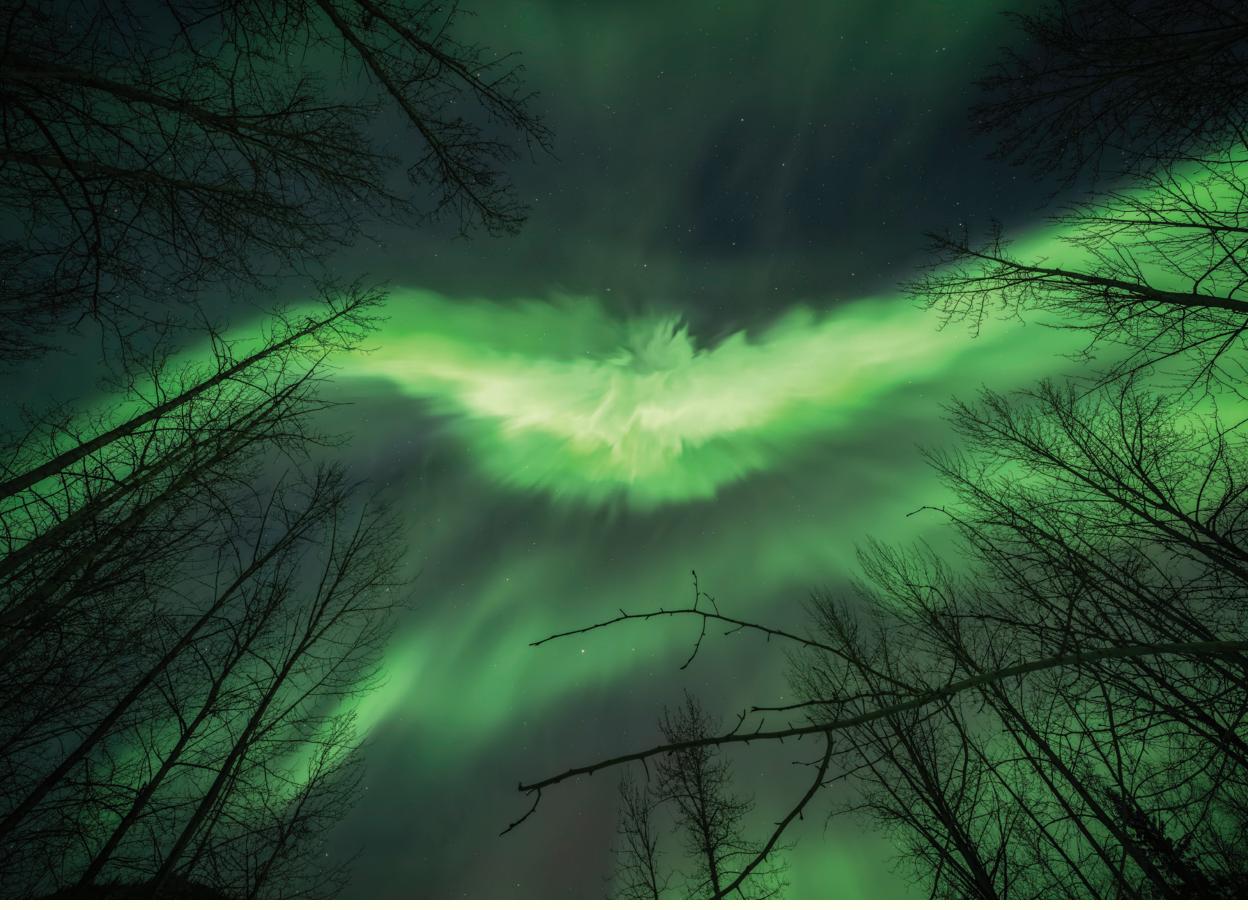
Joe Connolly

## **GETTING** the SHOT

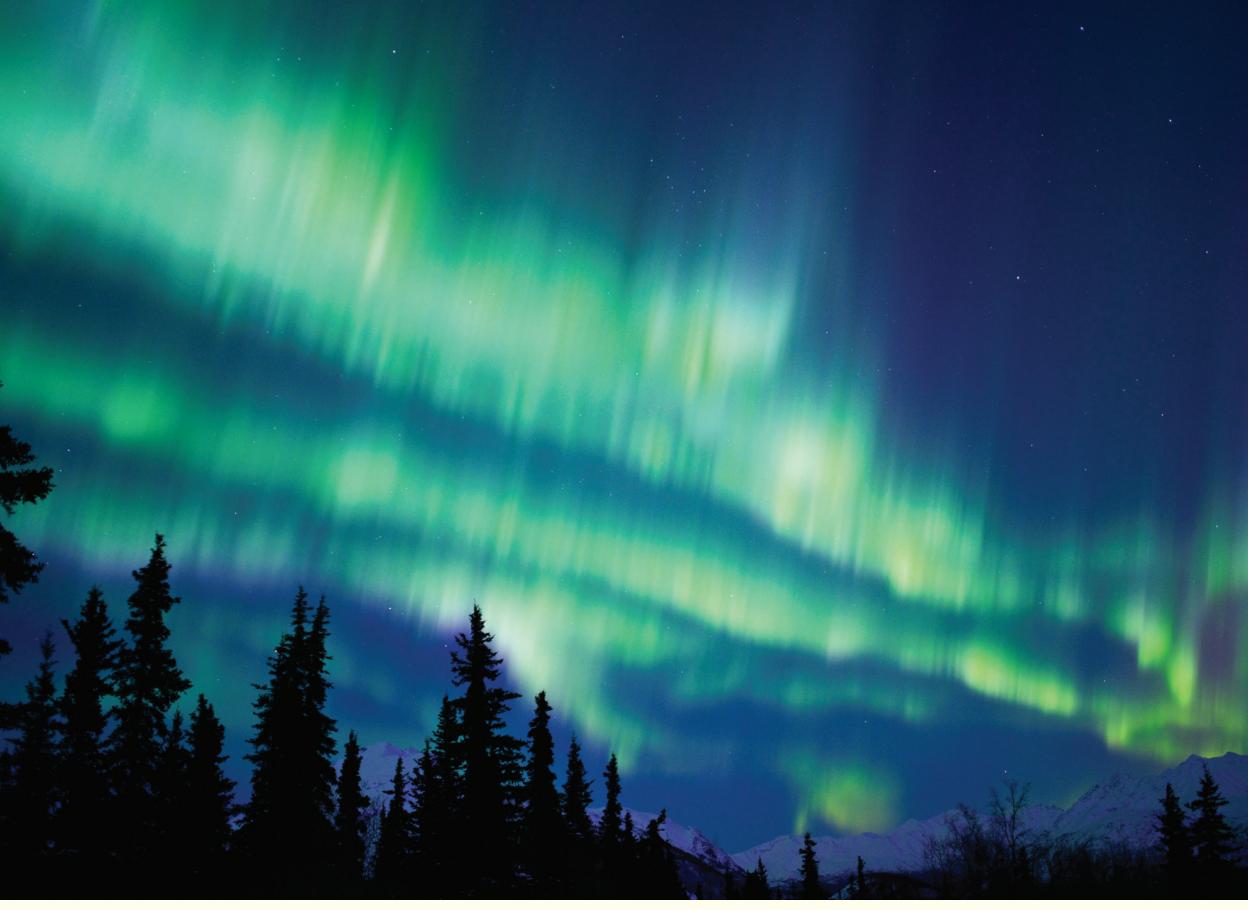
I woke up on May 10, 2024 at 7 a.m. in Anchorage and realized one of the best Aurora Borealis displays in decades was about to happen. Due to the forecasted cloud cover in Anchorage and minimal darkness available, I bought a list-minute airline-miles ticket for me and a friend for a 10 a.m departure to Ketchikan flying the classic, multi-stop "milk run" with 3 stops before our final destination. Upon reaching Ketchikan, we found crystal clear skies and warm temperatures. We eagerly awaited the darkness, and at around 9:30 p.m. the first pinks appeared followed by one of the best overall displays I have ever seen! This image is interesting because it suggests the contemplative tranquility of a single person, but we were surrounded by about 200-300 other people on all sides! By standing along the shoreline of the ocean, my friend was "allalone," visually anyway, for just a moment.



	SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
-		1	2	3	4	5	6
L	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
es 0 ng nr	14 Flag Day New moon	15	16	17	18	19 EMANCIPATION DAY (Juneteenth)	20
s,	21 Summer Solstice Fathers' Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29 Full moon	30	1	2	3	4
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	Sunday	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
	28	29	30	Canada Day (Canada)	2	3 INDEPENDENCE DAY (Observed)	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
Benjamin Traylor							
GETTING the SHOT		1	-	0	Alaska Flag Day	10	4.4
This was the beginning of a great night of aurora chasing, and toward the end of the season here in Southcentral Alaska. I was walking back to my vehicle when I happened to look up and saw this corona display exploding	5	6	7	8	9 Alaska Flag Day	10	11
overhead. The border created by the birch tops made the perfect framing. It was a great way to end a fantastic night of aurora chasing.	12	13	14 New moon	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Ted Stevens Day (Alaska)
	26 Parents' Day	27	28	29 Full moon	30	31	1
	JUNE 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30	2 13 2 3 4 9 20 9 10 11 1	$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$			J	2026 ULY



	Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Fred Hirschmann							
GETTING the SHOT		Civic Day (Canada)		_	-		
Near the eleven-year solar cycle's peak, sunspots pepper the sun. Strong solar flares from these sunspots often produce coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and plasma clouds from two CMEs impacted Earth's magnetosphere on the night of February 26	2	3 Civic Day (Canada)	4	5	6	7	8
and 27, 2023. As the skies darkened, my wife, Randi, our two Australian Shepherds, and I were on a ridge near timberline 1,000 feet above our home by the Matanuska Glacier. The temperature at home was -10° Fahrenheit, but up on the ridge it was a more comfortable 5°	9	10	11	12 Solar Eclipse New moon	13	14	15
Fahrenheit. Around 10:00 p.m. the show commenced and oh, what a display! The night sky exploded with substorm after substorm of green, purple and red northern lights. When the embedded polarity in the incoming stream of solar particles points south, it	16	17 Discovery Day (Yukon Territory)	18	19	20	21	22
connects with Earth's magnetic field and wonderful auroras occur. This show proved to be an all-nighter with the last	23	24	25	26	27 Lunar Eclipse Full moon	28	29
dancing aurora washed out by the approaching dawn around 5:30 a.m.	30	31					
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	Sunday	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Amy Johnson							
GETTING the SHOT		-	1	<b>P7</b>	0	0	10 New moon
In October 2023, my friend and I embarked on a photography trip to the Brooks Range. During the day, we scouted a potential scene near Sukakpak Mountain featuring a freshly frozen ice eddy. Unfortunately, while photographing it in daylight,	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 New moon
the eddy broke apart and floated down the Koyukuk River. As night fell, we returned to the same spot, and to our delight, a new eddy had formed and froze into place, offering a unique composition. By the end of the night, the spiral became barely visible as ice continued to form	11	12 Thanksgiving (Canada) COLUMBUS DAY Indigenous People's Day (Alaska)	13	14	15	16	17
and accumulate around it. This was one of those magical moments when everything aligned perfectly—being in the right place at the right time.	18 Alaska Day	19 Alaska Day (observed)	20	21	22	23	24
	25 Full moon	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween
	SEPTEMBER           1         2         3         4           6         7         8         9         10         11           13         14         15         16         17         18           20         21         22         23         24         25           27         28         29         30         30	1         12         8         9         10         1           3         19         15         16         17         1	4 5 6 7 1 12 13 14 8 19 20 21		00	CTO	2026 BER





and onto the wide riverbank, a green streak shot from the distant mountains to the one I parked my Jeep beside. It wasn't long before the entire sky lit up from the dancing lights. Pink streaks accompanied the green, followed by purple. While driving home, I didn't know if it was all a dream, standing so small amongst the vast Alaskan landscape in the dead of night and into the early morning. I'll always have the quiet memories and luminous images to remind me.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
F	1 Daylight Saving Time ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
<b>Г</b> d	8 New moon	9	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY Remembrance Day (Canada)	12	13	14
d I n,	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24 Full moon	25 Order next year's Aurora calendar today at GreatlandGraphics.com	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	OCTOBER         1         2           4         5         6         7         8         9           11         12         13         14         15         16           18         19         20         21         22         23           25         26         27         28         29         30	10     6     7     8       17     13     14     15     1       24     20     21     22     2	2 3 4 5 9 10 11 12 6 17 18 19 3 24 25 26	1	JOV	<b>ÆM</b>	2026 BER



	Sunday	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Steven Miley	29	30	1	2	3	Hanukkah begins	5
GETTING the SHOT							
I snowshoed to Canwell Glacier under a nearly full moon on an unusually warm winter night looking for shots of the aurora with glacier ice in the foreground. Hiking at night was quite peaceful, though I stayed alert after passing many	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 New moon	9	10	11	12
fresh moose and wolf tracks. I stumbled on this ice arch glowing in the moonlight and set up my camera gear there while I awaited the arrival of a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). Shortly after midnight, the entire sky lit up in brilliant naked-eye red and green colors as the aurora.	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
-	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23 Full moon	24 Christmas Eve	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 Boxing Day (Canada)
	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1	2
			$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$		DEC	CEM	2026 BER

## **AURORA SCIENCE TERMINOLOGY**

There is more to understanding what conditions produce a good aurora than simply looking at the Kp forecast. These are some of the key terms used in aurora forecasting. Knowing how these factors interact is key to successful aurora chasing.



## SOLAR WINDS

The solar wind continuously flows outward from the Sun and consists mainly of protons and electrons in a state known as a plasma. The solar magnetic field is embedded in the plasma and flows outward with the solar wind. Speeds in excess of 500 km/s are preferred.



### INTERPLANETARY MAGNETIC FIELD

Solar winds carry the magnetic charge of the sun out into space, which is called the Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF). This IMF has two components. The Bz is the measurement of the IMF magnetic polarity. The Bt is the measurement of the strength of the IMF. A negative Bz is needed for good aurora, while a Bt of 6 or greater will produce more active aurora displays. The more negative the Bz, the more active the aurora.



## **CORONAL HOLE/MASS EJECTION**

Coronal Holes are large cooling areas that emit a constant stream of fast solar winds and can remain open for months. A Coronal Mass Ejection is a one-time burst of plasma resulting from a sunspot that has produced a solar flare. Both can spark geomagnetic storms. Coronal Holes are more active at Solar Minimum, while Coronal Mass Ejections occur more around Solar Maximum.



## DENSITY

Proton density is a value that indicates the number of particles coming from the sun. High proton density will produce brighter, more visible aurora borealis displays. Measured in cubic centimeters, a density in excess of 8 cm<sup>3</sup> is preferred.



## **HEMISPHERIC POWER**

This measures the deposition rate of charged particles into the atmosphere where they collide with upper atmosphere particles, transferring kinetic energy. The higher the number, the more charged particles are depositing in the upper atmosphere. Generally, a HPI of 20 or greater is indicative of visible aurora in Alaska.

## PLANETARY K-INDEX

The Planetary K-Index, or Kp Index, is an indicator of global geomagnetic activity based on three-hour measurements from groundbased magnetometers from around the world. It indicates how far south an aurora might be visible. The Kp Index is on a scale of 0 to 9. At Kp0, the aurora oval runs through the Central Brooks Range of Alaska. At a Kp9, an aurora could be visible overhead as far south as southern Kansas and Missouri.

## 2027

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## rora 2026 ALASKA'S NORTHERN LIGHTS CALENDAR



Glacier View, AK

Brooks Range, AK

Benjamin Traylor Kivalina, AK

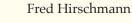




Todd Salat Ketchikan, AK

Carl Johnson Brooks Range, AK





Sean Neilson



Laura Gregory Canwell Glacier, AK Steven Miley



people, communities, and the land we all

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**INSIDE** 

Photographers share

the story behind the photo and reveal how they "Got the Shot"

**Special Feature:** Aurora Science Terminology

Photo location map

8 12 feature photos from Alaska's top aurora photographers including camera and

lens settings

US \$14.95 | Printed in Canada

photo locations



## **ALASKA'S AURORA PHOTOGRAPHERS**





Amy Johnson Delta Junction, AK



Each year we publish the best images from Alaska's top aurora photographers in this Alaskan-produced calendar. They spend hours under the shimmering aurora-filled night skies to bring you outstanding images of this amazing night sky

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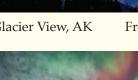






Cathy Hart Juneau, AK







FSC\* C016245

Anchorage, AK

#### **Ø** SUSTAINABLE

This calendar was printed with plant-based inks on paper milled from trees harvested in accord with guidelines promoting responsible forest management.

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phenomenon. See our full line of award-winning calendars, books, and distinctive Alaska art at GreatlandGraphics.com.

### 🖤 RESPECT ALASKA

We love Alaska's big and wild spaces, the beautiful landscape, and abundant wildlife. We believe these natural treasures must remain for our children's children and generations that will follow.

#### **GIVING BACK** We support the future of Alaska and its

select Alaska non-profits.













## Joe Connolly Knik River, AK