

## **Our Night Sky for June 30th, 2025**

**Whether you call them Aurora Borealis or Northern lights, I'm sure you enjoy the spectacle every time you happen to notice them. And there is the problem. You may be outside and you may happen to glance at the right part of the sky at just the right time, or you may just miss them. Some people plan trips to Canada and further north to try and catch sight of Aurora Borealis. As most northerners would know, planning a vacation weeks ahead of time would be a long shot. There is no predictable season for Northern lights, but this year we are at solar max, the peak of the sun's activity on an eleven-year cycle. Meaning the sun is currently producing very high levels of sunspots and geomagnetic storms. The sunspots and coronal holes produce much higher levels of coronal mass ejections. Predicting Northern lights is still somewhat hit and miss because these solar eruptions are high energy particles thrown off into space and they may miss the earth entirely.**

**The high-speed particles that cause Northern lights will take approximately eighteen hours to reach earth compared to eight minutes that radiation at the speed of light takes. This means that the likelihood of Northern lights can be predicted within about a three-hour window depending on the energy level of the particles.**

**An internet search for Northern lights alerts will produce dozens of applications, some even offering email alerts. I just loaded the Google app on my phone. I'll see how it works out in the next few days. This is another way to enjoy Our Night Sky.**