



The Northern Lights



When we planned

our trip to Alaska, I never once thought about seeing the Northern Lights. The Northern Lights, or the Aurora Borealis, were something that I believed only happened in the dead of winter.

Then, when we stopped in Talkeetna and visited the Aurora Dora gallery, Dora, the photographer, told us that she had seen the Aurora Borealis as early as August 22nd. Dora gave Hector the name of an application that provides forecasts about the Aurora, based on NASA spacecraft observations of the

How it happens?
Let's 'say' the space weather forecast is pretty bad today! The 'winds' blowing in our galaxy are radioactive (it's not wind actually but let me finish) The most dangerous is coming from stars which explodes or black holes which desintegrates!
BUT IT ALSO COMES FROM SOMETHING CLOSE TO US!

Our sun is an enormous nuclear furnace!
When it errupts, IT'S SUPER DANGEROUS
Sometimes, a mass equivalent to Everest is coming straight toward us! This mass is called

THE SOLAR WIND!

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ned to be in Haines. We checked her forecast.

A couple of days later on the

This crazy stuff deviates the solar wind, like a shield! In two words, the magnetism of our planet kicks out the magnetically charged particles from the solar wind! Exactly like two aimants which 'push' each other actually! So thanks to our magnetism,

WE ARE SAFE!



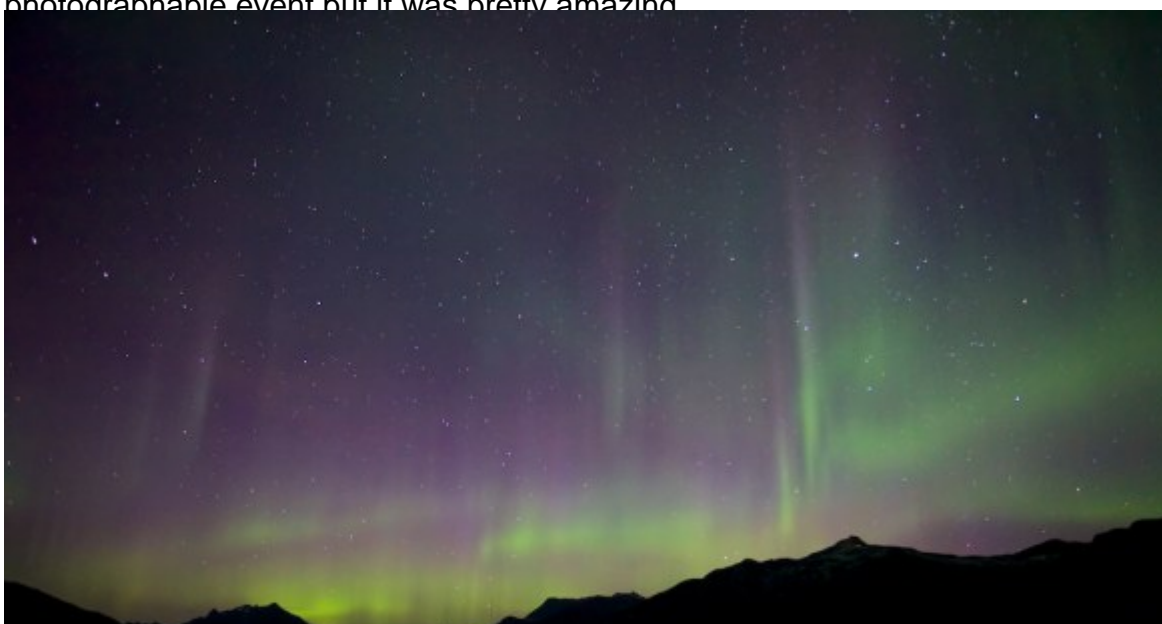
The only 'incident' for us are the lights which occurs in the pole calls "Aurora Borealis" or Northern lights! Because we are an aimant, some of those charged particles are attracted to the poles, where the magnetism is the strongest (let's say the magnetism gets IN and OUT there, like a circle around our planet)



and saw light coming from the

That evening we in fact "saw"

the Aurora for the first time ever, but it was just a faint colored light moving behind the thinnest clouds. There was one fleeting moment when an intense moving light pierced the clouds. It was not a photographable event but it was pretty amazing.



weather was only



thern Lights.

The Aurora is

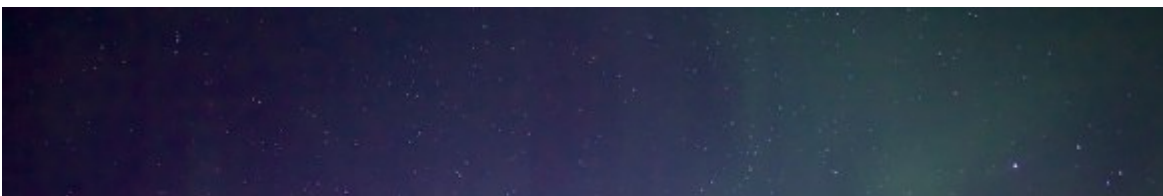
caused by the interaction of the earth's magnetic field with invisible charged particles of radiation,



drawn to the
gas atoms, causing

The Aurora Borealis

appears around the North Pole and the Aurora Australis appears around the South Pole. Although they exist day and night, they are not visible to the human eye during daylight and twilight.



That night we saw rays of light shooting across the sky, some very subtle wisps unfolding, others more



Sometimes one

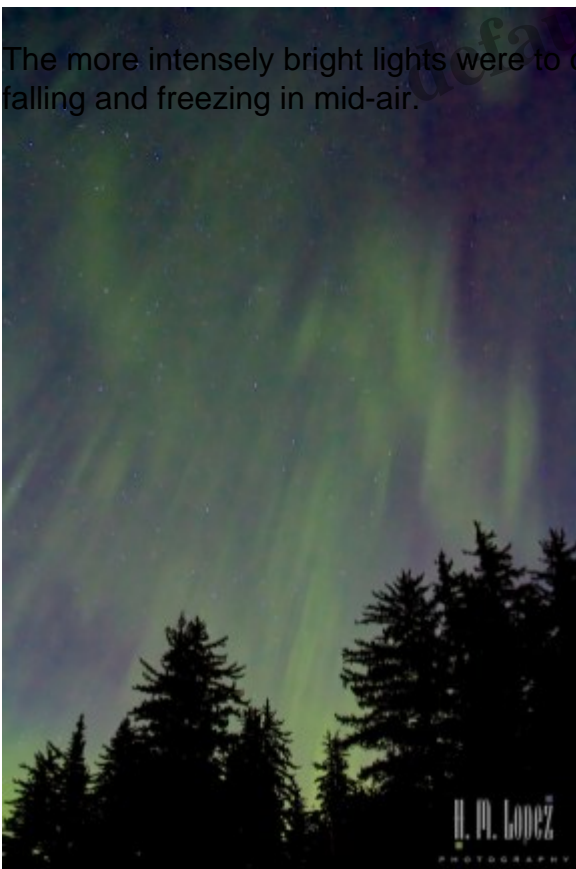
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particular section of the Aurora would begin to glow and intensify as it moved across the sky.



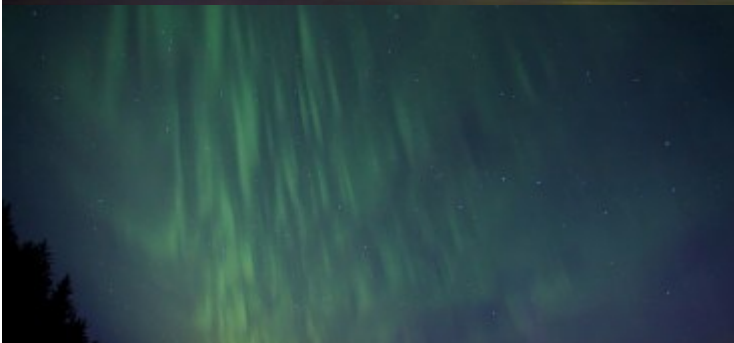
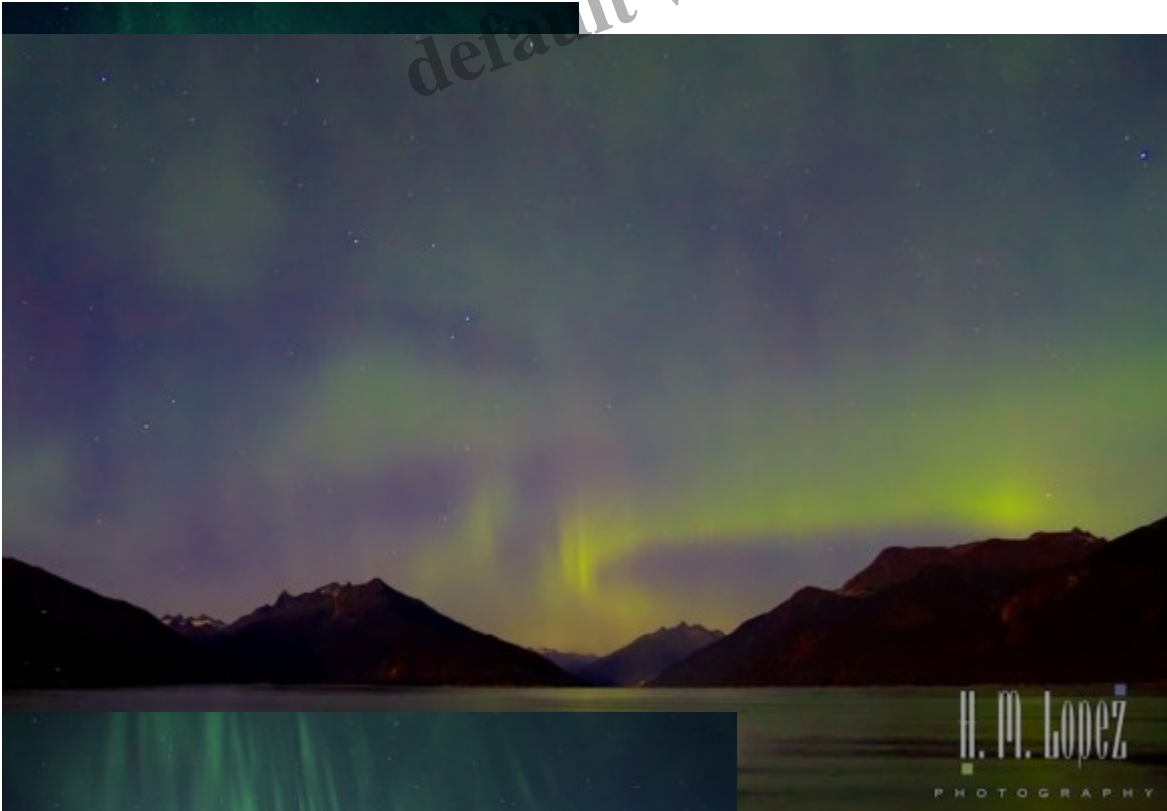


The more intensely bright lights were to our north, but there were also lights above us, like colored rain falling and freezing in mid-air.





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Tagline

several cycles. The colors were not as vivid as we knew they could be, because it was just a couple of days past the full moon. Even though the moon was behind a mountain and only some of its light shone through, it still dimmed the Aurora.



After several cycles, the Northern Lights

seemed to be fading and it was past 2 a.m. so we headed back to our campground. We heard later from a neighbor that she saw a pretty intense Aurora at 3 a.m.



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Seeing the Northern Lights has been one of my

dreams, and I could hardly believe that we had a chance to see them. But now we were even more determined to see them again.

~ Brenda

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2. harbors

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