

# The Objective Lens

University Lowbrow Astronomers Monthly Newsletter Supplement

June 2024



From **ADRIAN BRADLEY**. May 10 Aurora Show



Note: A special page dedicated to the May 10 Aurora is available on our website  
<https://lowbrows.club/aurora-may-10-2024>



From **GARY NICHOLS**. M13.





From **Matthew West**. Milky Way.





From **ADRIAN BRADLEY**. I'm choosing to post this to the general membership because... well... I'm sharing yet another milestone in astronomy with you all. Plus I think it makes for a poor astroimage, but an exciting capture for me personally. Next time I'll have better equipment and try imaging this thing when there isn't a huge lightbulb in the sky.

Omega Centauri is very elusive up here in Michigan at 42deg north latitude or higher. But in Tombstone, Arizona, at 31deg north latitude, it rises above horizon. I caught it with a 'wildlife camera' set up, a Sony mirrorless camera and a Sigma 150-600mm lens, set at 388mm focal length, f/6.3, and 8" each - on a small tracker that was likely overloaded. I took 55 images, stacked them with deepskystacker, did some edits in Photoshop and Lightroom, and cropped it down. I didn't have perfect focus but I was able to get individual stars and something that to be honest, maybe looks more like M13 or something. You astroimagers ask why not longer than 8 seconds? Because I didn't take a heavier mount and 8 seconds was about all I could get with stars that were somewhat focused and round. I made do with what I had with me. This was a bowling trip and not an astro trip. But my point here is that gaining photons of something that is not normally in my home night sky is still good for astronomy. Even more so than the June 3rd planetary alignment that will leave the masses blind. These people will stare directly at the rising Sun while looking for Jupiter and Mercury. They will witness a beautiful sunrise and then their corneas will be burned out forever.

But it does allow for a challenging wide angle shot of a few planets plus a waning crescent moon with earthshine, so it's not such a bad thing to go after anyways. Safely, that is. And I'm sure I will be asked to go get it here in the next couple of days by someone I play baseball with. "You gonna get the planetary alignment?!?" I know it's coming...

Here's what you can get with an optical setup that was designed for birding, when you aim at the largest globular cluster (or just another dwarf galaxy stripped to the bare bones??) in the sky, during a full moon, with a bright hotel light at your back.



From **GARY NICHOLS. M51**





From **GLENN KAATZ**. I just completed a several session astro imaging project. This time my target was M94, the Cat's Eye galaxy in Canes Venatici. It was a challenge for sure. Only a small number of guide stars were available in the area near the target, adding to the challenge.

M94 is 16 million LY away and has both an inner and outer ring. The outer ring is faint in this image.

I used my Celestron Edge HD 8 inch SCT, CGX mount, and all my usual additional accessories. The camera was an ASI1600MM, my work horse. I captured 3+ hours worth of images per filter using LPro, R,C,B, and Ha filters for a total integration time of 15.75 hours. Processing was done with Pixinsight, RC Astro Blur and NoiseXterminators, and Photoshop.



From **DONOVAN DREW**. NGC 5846 & 5850



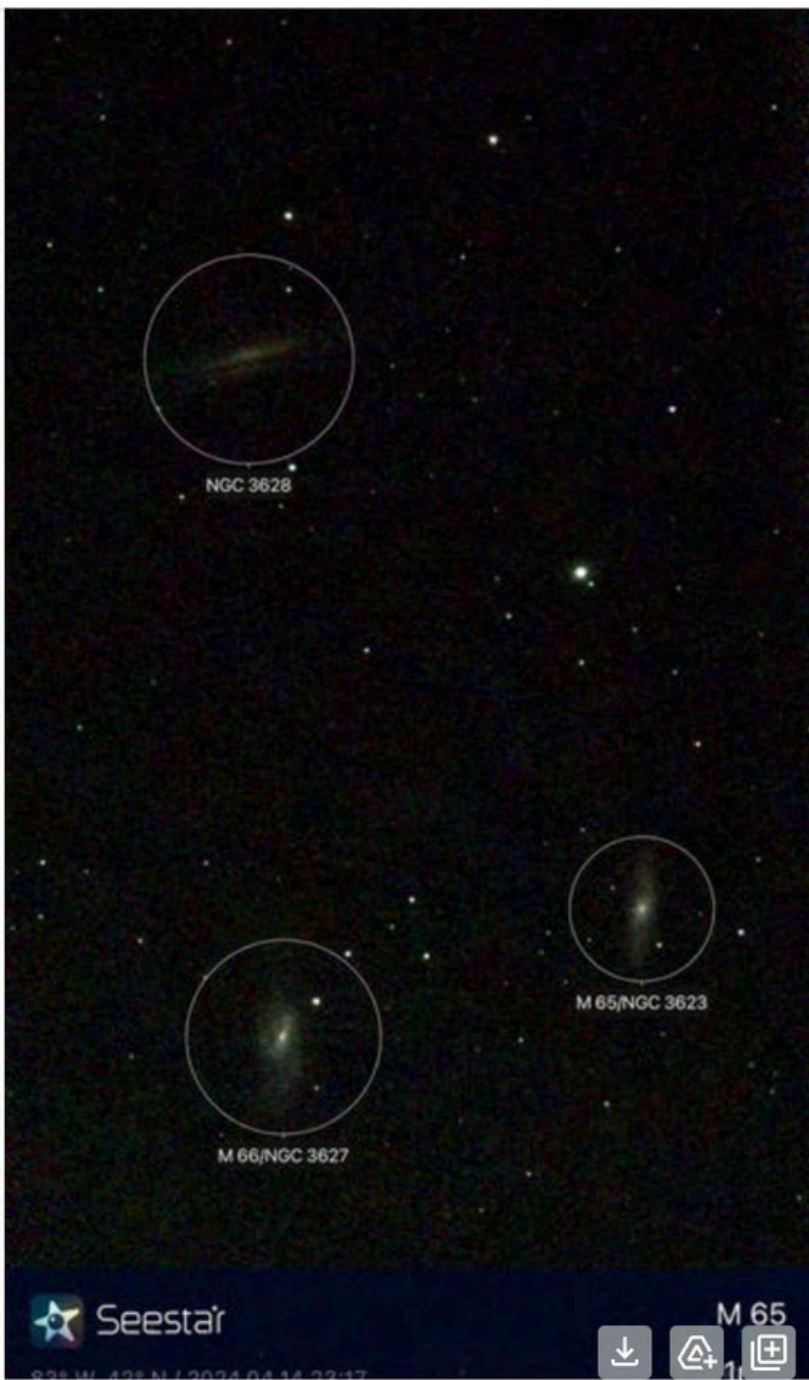
From **JEFF KOPMANIS**. This was thru 70mm Celestron zoom binoculars, taken through one ocular. Cell camera set to ISO 15, 1/90s exposure. It was zoomed to 35x. This was taken from around Allenwood, PA. A bit of haze and clouds, which accounts for some of the yellowish tint.

I purchased these fine binoculars from Lowbrow David Cooke...Thanks, Dave! They're pretty spectacular, but require a tripod.





From **AMY CANTU**. M104. Redcat51, ASI533MC Pro. 30\*240s, 100gain. Flats, Darks, Dark Flats. IR/Cut filter



From **DAVID COOKE**.





From **DAVID COOKE**.

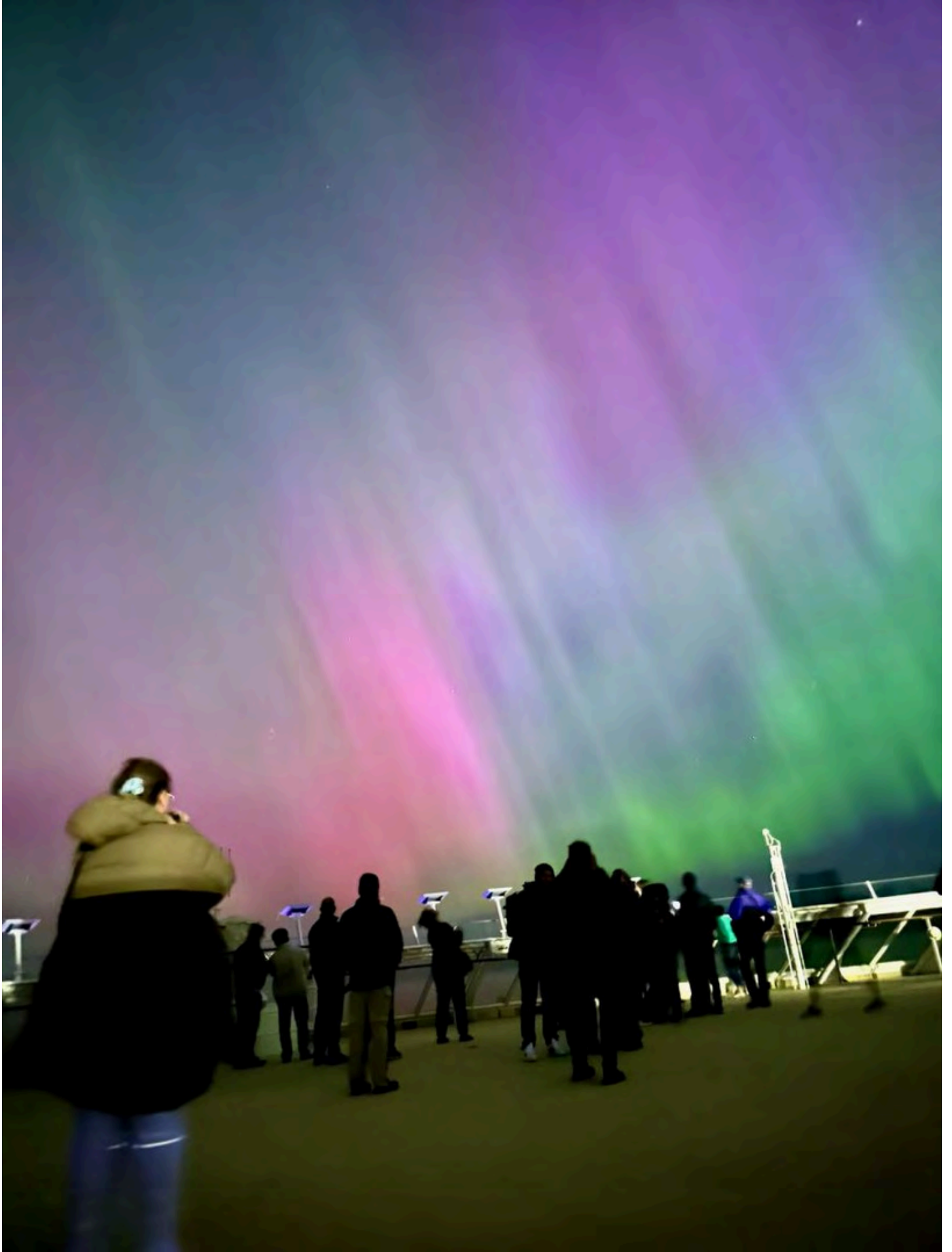


From **CHARLES STEELE**. Aurora from May 10





From **NICHOLAS WUTT**. Aurora from May 10. Lima Township

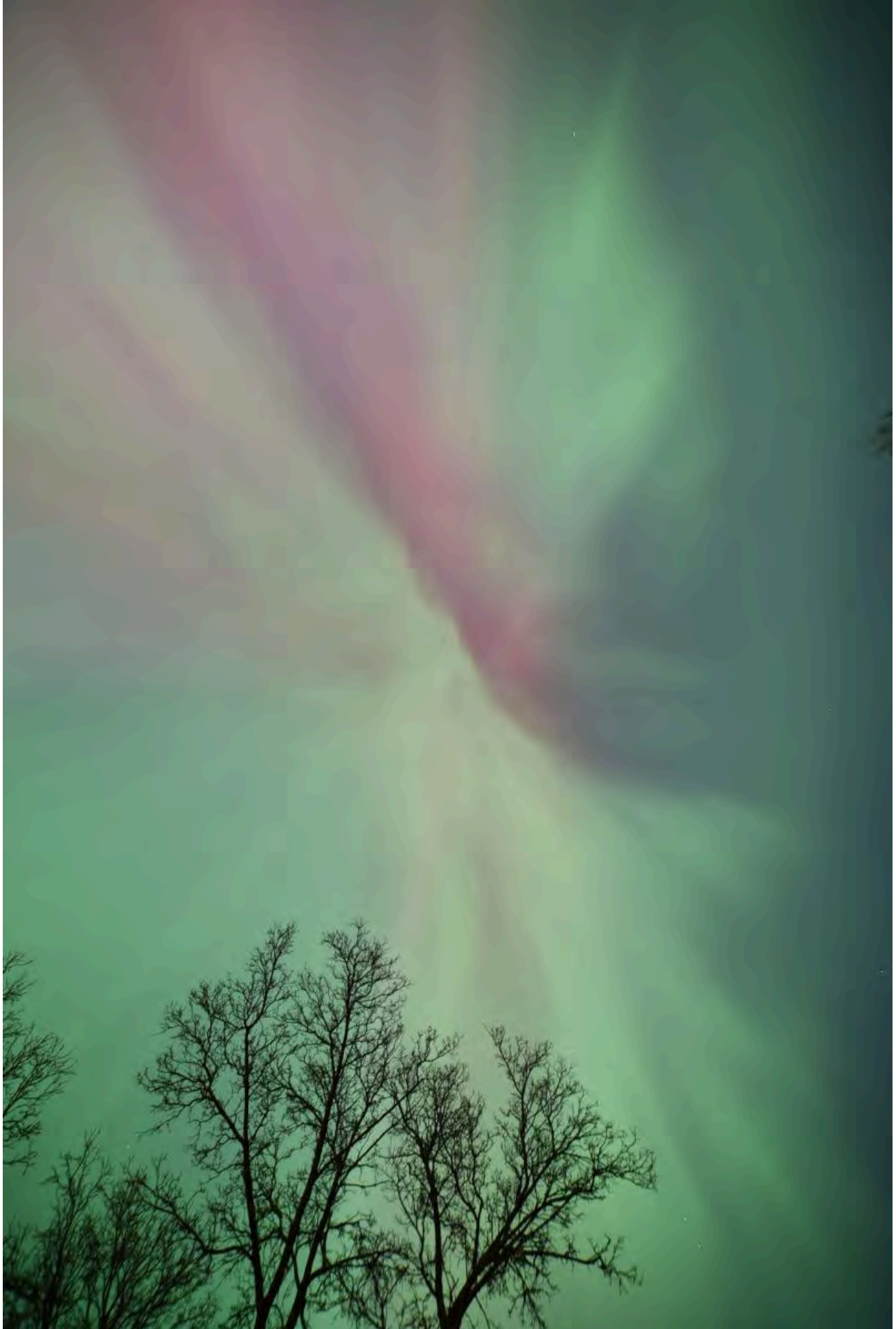


From **CHANDRA COOKE**. Aperture: 2; Camera iPhone 14 Pro; ISO: 8000





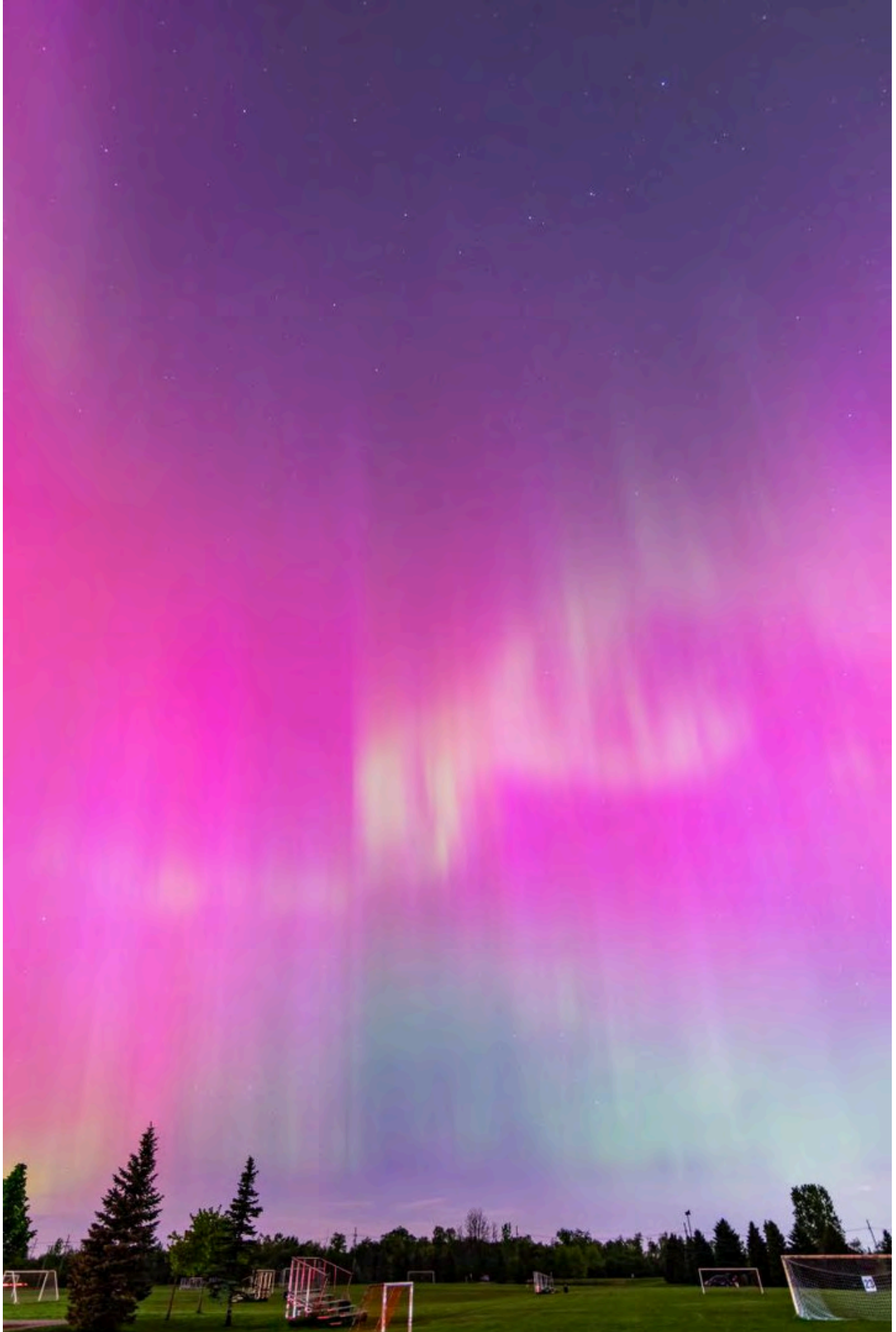
From **ANDY VIANA**. Aurora from May 10



From **BRIAN CLOSE**. Aurora from May 10, Bozeman, MT

From **ED HERNANDEZ**. Aurora from May 10, Canton, MI





From **GLENN KAATZ**. Aurora from May 10. Canton, MI



From **NICHOLAS WUTT**. Aurora from May 10. Lima Township.





From **DMITRI TSAHELNIK**. Aurora from May 10. Port Austin, MI





From **MILES MERCIER**. Aurora from May 10. Port Austin, MI



From **JEFF KOPMANIS**. Aurora from May 10. Ypsilanti, MI



From **GINIA FORRESTER**. Aurora from May 10. Seattle, WA.





From **NORB VANCE** and **JACK UNDERWOOD**. Aurora from May 10. Hell, MI



From **DOUG SCOBEL**. Aurora from May 11. Traverse City, MI



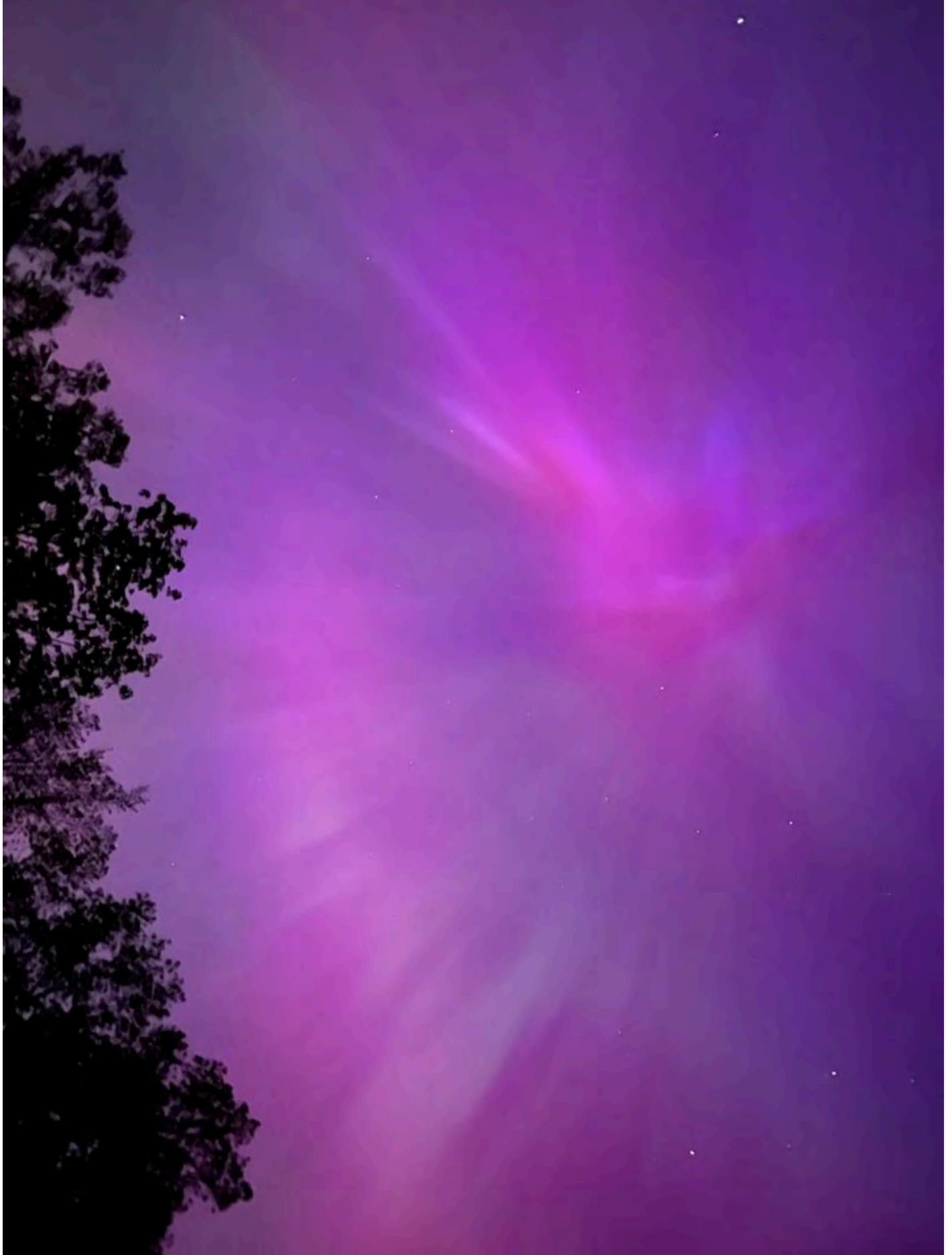


From **DENISE SEKAQUAPTEWA**. Aurora from May 10. Dundee, MI

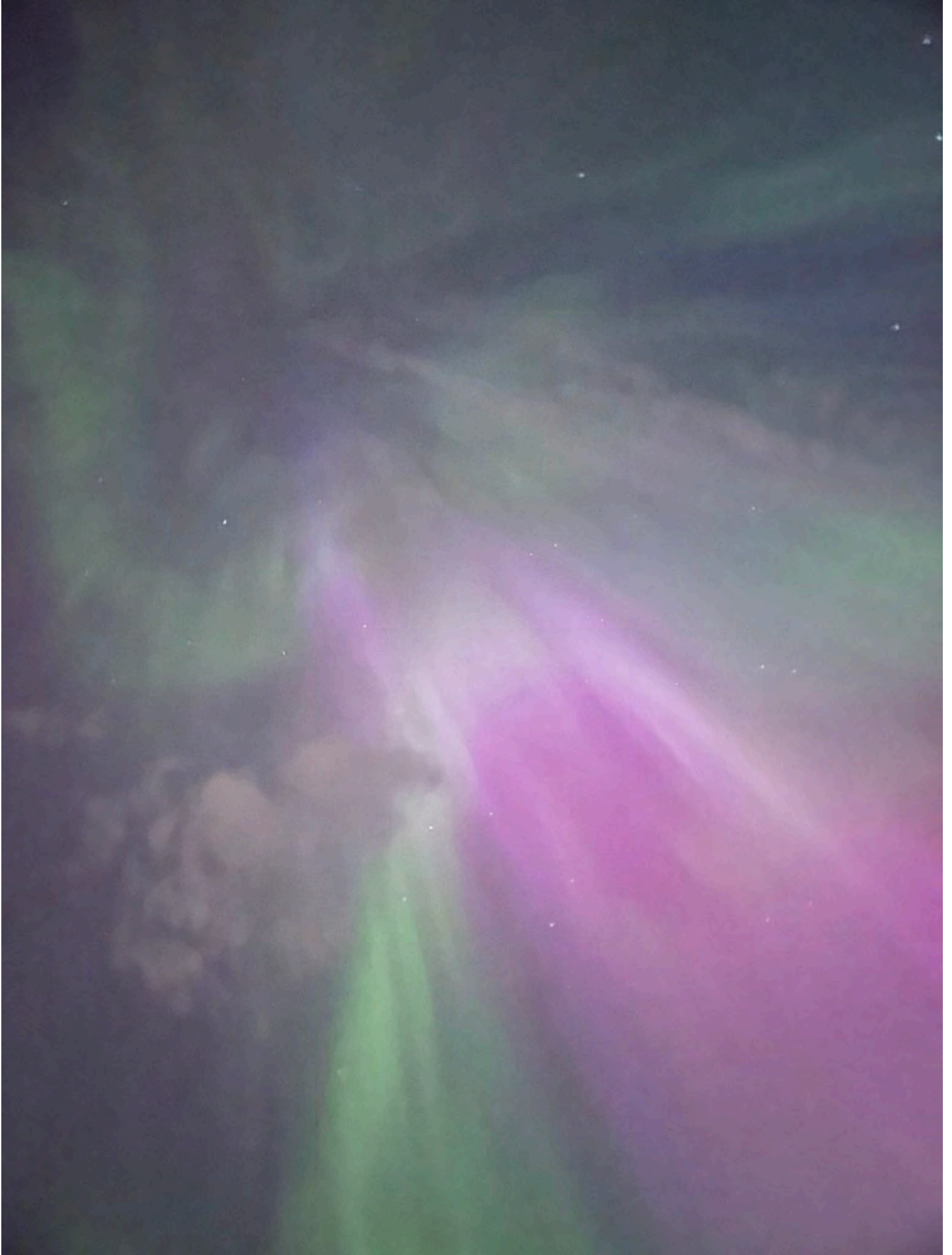




From **BARRY CHAPMAN**. Aurora from May 10. Ypsilanti, MI

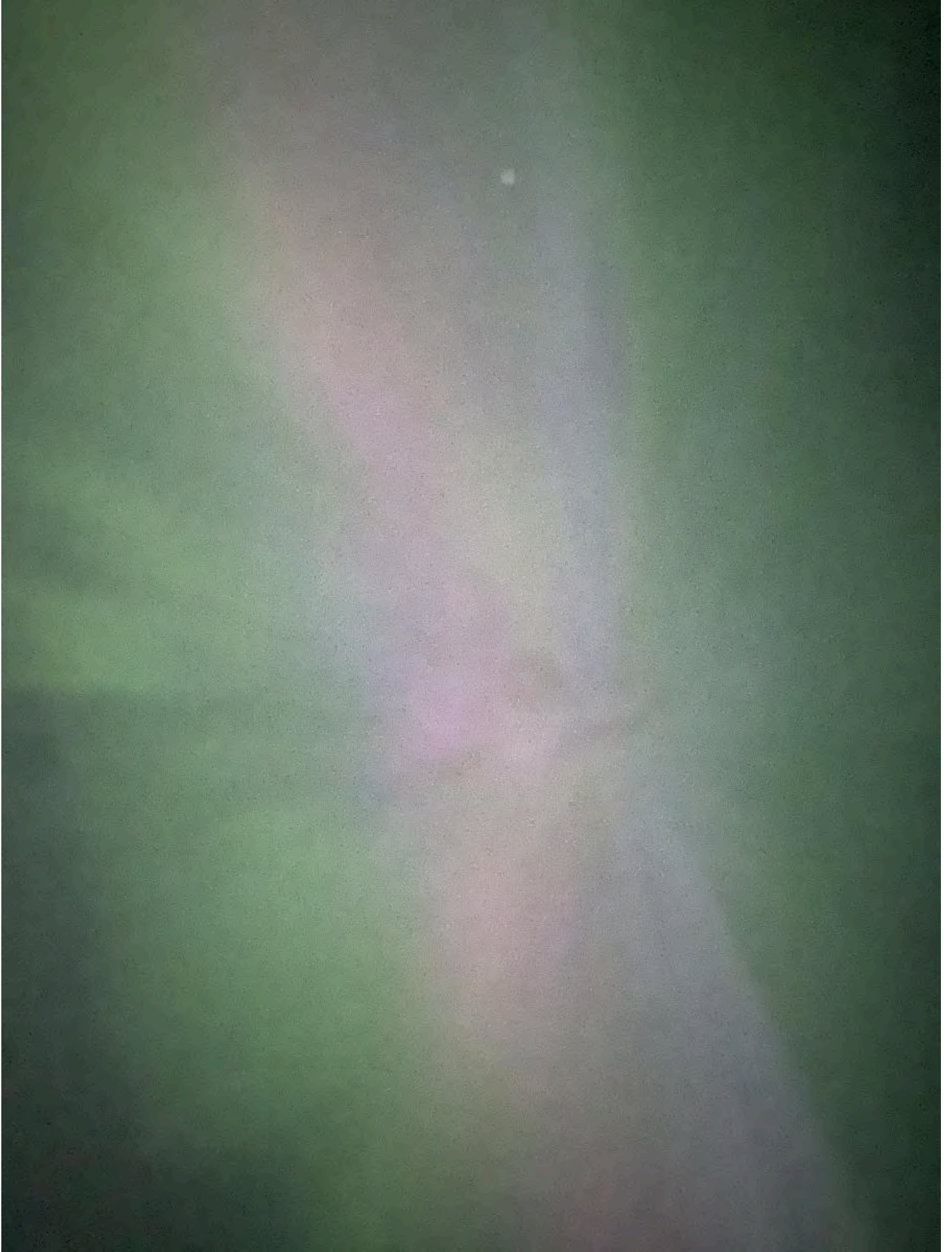


From **ROBERT KEAST**. Aurora from May 10. Manchester, MI



From **CHRIS COLLINS**. Aurora from May 10. Dexter, MI

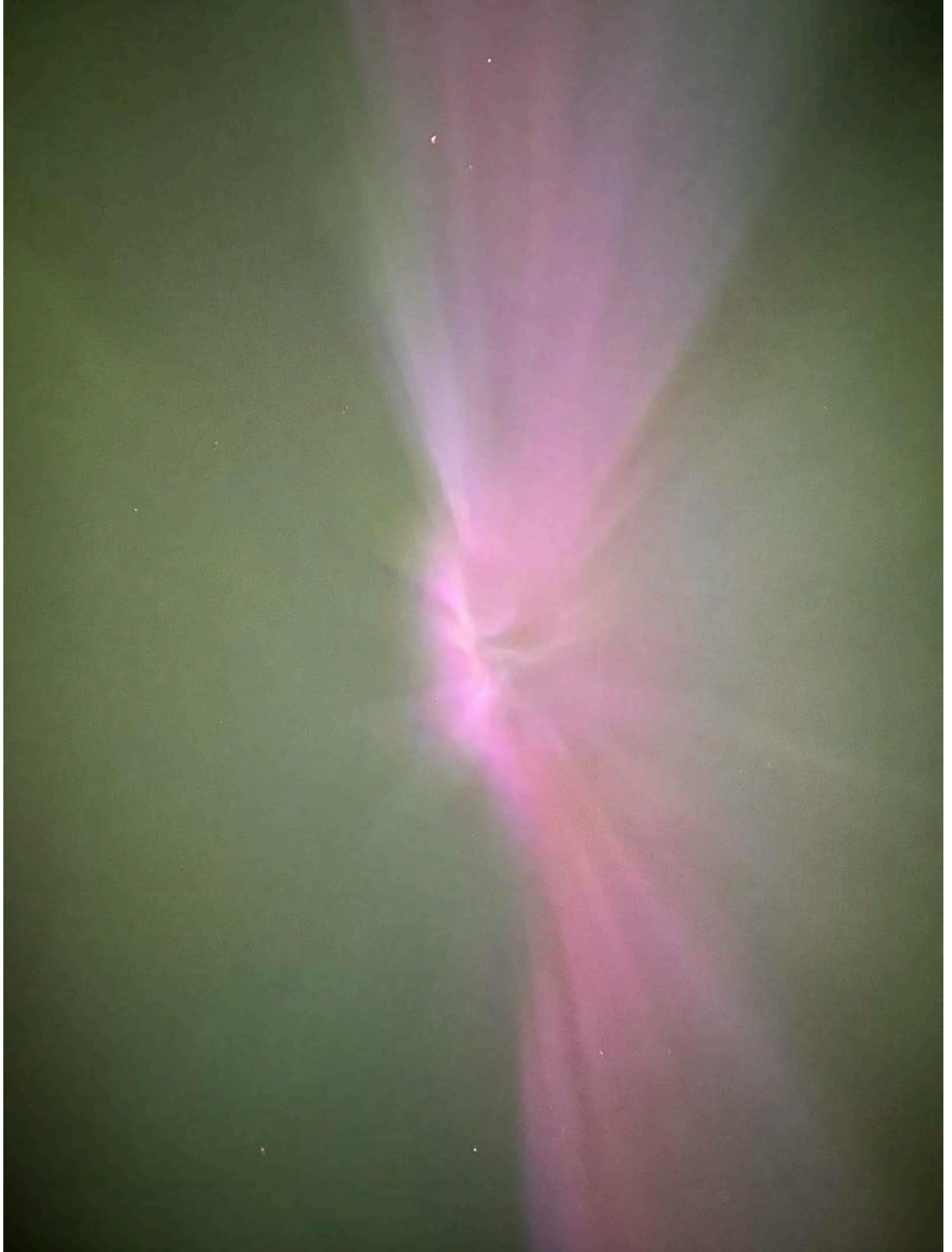




From **AVITAL KEELEY**. Aurora from May 10. Port Huron, MI



From **JODI AND ROY MCCULLOUGH**. Aurora from May 10. Salem, OH



From **YOGESH CHAVARKAR**. Aurora from May 10. Ypsilanti, MI





From **MATTHEW WEST**. Aurora from May 10. Dexter, MI



From **JOHN HICKEY**. Aurora from May 10. Petoskey, MI



From **DON SWETZIG**. Aurora from May 10. Wisconsin.





From **AMY CANTU**. Aurora from May 10. Manistee National Forest



From **BECK RAMOTOWSKI**. Aurora from May 10. Alamogordo. New Mexico