

SOLAR DIVISION BULLETIN.

Neal J. Heines, Editor.

Number 13, Page 24.  
November 1946.

560 Broadway,  
Paterson 4, N.J.

The 1946 Fall Meeting of the A.A.V.S.O. was one of great interest and was well attended. Details of the various sessions will be published in various journals mainly by Popular Astronomy and Sky and Telescope. Details from the human point of view will be published in Variable Comments, later in 1947, and distributed to AAVSO membership.

The Solar Division was well represented considering the distribution of membership. We missed Mr. R. N. Buckstaff of Wisconsin, member of the AAVSO Council who could not get advance hotel accommodations.

In addition to the S.D. Chairman's Report, several papers by observers on sunspots were presented. Dr. Bartlett's report on "Solar Granulations" and "Color in Sunspots" was read by Mr. James Pickering. Mr. Pickering is the son of the late Mr. David C. Pickering, whose devotion and interest in the AAVSO was outstanding. "Jimmie" follows in his father's footsteps. Soon his book "Astronomy For The Layman" will be published. A later announcement will be made in this Bulletin concerning its availability.

Reverend William Kearns of West Bridgewater, Mass., one of the finest photographers of sunspots presented to the Solar Division a number of prints of the great major sunspot group of July 1946. These were on exhibition as well as some prints showing Rev. Kearns' new Camera Telescope arrangement. A later bulletin will give more detail about this.

While we are on the subject of photos it might be well to remind those of you who have not as yet sent in your Observer-telescope print to the chairman. Do not be so modest about this. The photos which have been received to date were placed in a large album and presented to the Recorder of the AAVSO for permanent keeping at the Harvard Observatory. There were too many to mail around the world as was the original plan. Help us with this so as to complete the project. If you do not have a photo perhaps you have a print of some kind. The instruments of educational institutions are especially desirable along with the observatory.

One of the important items of the meeting was a personal request by Dr. Donald B. Menzel of the Harvard Observatory for more observations in the Solar Granulations program. This project has developed into one of vital importance as it fits in with some new research work undertaken by Dr. Menzel. If you can spare a little extra time write directly to Dr. J. C. Bartlett Jr., 300 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md. for details and instructions. Those of you having Reflectors are earnestly requested to participate.

An important change has been made in the "Reductions Report" (enclosed). To it has been added the Zurich Provision Sunspot Number, (not the final Relative No.) for your convenience in order to make comparison possible. There remain as before two classes of observers in order to obtain a more nearly perfect Relative number. The reason for this is as follows, quote, (Bureau Standards Letter)

"Due to the press of work we have found it necessary to reduce the number of observers in preparing the monthly reports. A slight modification of the method devised by Mr. A. H. Shapley has been made. The mean deviation of the four monthly constants from the four-month mean must be kept within 15% of the four-month mean rather than within a value of 0.16 of the four-month mean.

Also the observer must have values for at least half of the month during three-fourths of the year. This last requirement should not unduly handicap any observer because of weather conditions beyond his control. All the observers who meet these basic requirements will be handled as formerly. For the others their uncorrected daily values will be published in the table but it will be necessary for them to work out their own constants from the published Heines' observations by the method outlined in Mr Shapley's paper "American Observations of Relative Sunspot Numbers in 1945 for Application to Ionospheric Prediction" Popular Astronomy, Vol.54, No. 7 pp. 351-358, Aug. 1946.

The continued cooperation of the AAUSO Solar Division is desired and as observers meet the requirements of A observers they will be placed in the group. We still feel it is valuable to continue the American Relative Sunspot Number parallelling the one published by Zurich." end quote.

We will soon give you some information on a new type of filter which we are testing. Present results are so promising that they warrent advance notice.

In S.D.Bulletin No.9, June 1946, p. 18, we mentioned that in the observations of High Flying Migratory Birds something was happening that never had been reported before except by your chairman who wished to substantiate it. So far one observer has been very alert and has had the privilege of seeing the same phenomena. He is Mr.David B.Rosebrough of 87 Fern Circle, Waterbury,Conn. Congratulations Dave !!! We need a few more such observations, come on along and help. Advance notice will be given again before the spring migration starts. Your chairman has witnessed this phenomena at least a dozen times this fall.

The dates of Zero Longitude Rotation of the Sun, for 1947 are as follows;

January	21
February	17
March	16
April	12
May	9
June	5
July	2 and 24
August	25
September	21
October	18
November	14
December	11

Mr.B.C.Parmenter has a friend who has a finished 8 inch pyrex cassegranian F-5 Mirror with silver coating, a 2 inch perforation and of excellent definition for sale. For price and additional details write directly to Mr.Parmenter who resides at 14014 25 N.E. Seattle 55, Washington.

What have you to offer to your fellow observers. This is a non profit arrangement. We make known th item and the buyer deals directly with the owner.

In an early issue of Popular Astronomy there will be published a paper by our Executive Committee member Mr.H.B.Rumrill, Conestoga Road, Berwyn, Pa., on "Physical Characteristics Of Sunspots". Mr.Rumrill has written many articals on sunspots and is an authority on special eyepieces. He has a fine observatory and an excellent collection of eyepieces. Also we are proud to state that his devotion to, and interest in, sunspots, is outstanding. Mr.Rumrill is now observing his fourth sunspot cycle, a record few of which can claim. Your chairman is at present reviewing the paper and can promise you a real treat. It will be beneficial to all of us as it contains subject matter conducive to new enlightenment for many. Advance notice will be given as soon as arrangements can be ascertained from the Editor of Popular Astronomy Dr.Curwin H.Gingrich.

Mr.H.Helm Clayton.

---

We regret, and grieve to announce, the death, of Mr.H.Helm Clayton, one of the members of our A.A.V.S.O. Solar Division Committee.

Mr.Clayton was long an ardent observer of Sunspots and an untiring research worker on Solar Relations to Terrestrial Activity.

For many years Mr.Clayton was a Technician in the U.S.Weather Bureau at the Blue Hill Station in Massachusetts. Later he was loaned to South America as a Director in one of the prominent weather observatories there.

He was the author of many papers as well as a number of books on weather. His outstanding book was, "World Weather" with its companion book World Weather Records. Both are used throughout the world for research purposes.

In 1943 "Solar Relations And Weather " Vols I - II were published. These two volumes are the greatest contributions of Mr.Clayton. In 1944 they were chosen as the outstanding individual contribution, in the form of a book, or contribution to the subject of rhythmic fluctuation. This award was given by the, Foundation For The Study Of Cycles.

Mr.Clayton carried out an enormous amount of correspondence with collaborators throughout the world. Many of these became his lifelong friends.

Mr.Clayton was a member of many learned societies as well as a contributor to them. His death removes from the field of science one of great devotion to it.

Mr.Clayton died on October 27, 1946, in his 86th year after a short illness, in his home at Canton, Massachusetts.

A.A.V.S.O. Solar Division.  
Neal J.Heines.