

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS

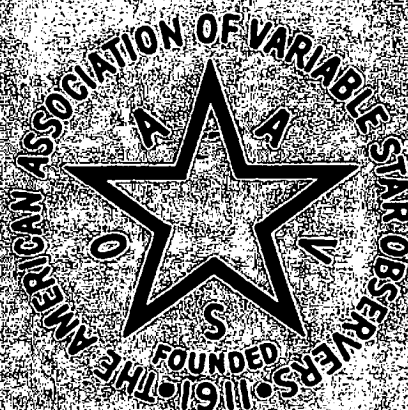
Solar Bulletin

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NOTE — Numbers 159 to 205 inclusive were not issued



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FIRST SPOT OF THE NEW CYCLE:

The first spot of cycle 20 was reported by Thomas Cragg of Mt. Wilson. This was a group at N 34 which Mr. Cragg observed on 7 October. This same group was also reported by Hans Arber of the Philippines as a new cycle group. Mr. Arber observed it at N 34 on 12 and 13 October. An earlier new cycle spot has been reported by Dr. Waldmeier of Zurich, but this was apparently a short lived spot which was not widely observed.

AN ACTIVE SUNSPOT GROUP IN SEPTEMBER:

One of the most active groups of 1963 was at CMP on 21 September. Mt. Wilson classified this as a gamma group. High Altitude Observatory reported that this group came over the East limb on 13 September with surges, coronal loop prominences, and coronal yellow line emission (Ca XV). Several members of the Solar Division's Indirect Flare Patrol (IFP) recorded a strong Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance (SID) at 1713 UT, 13 September. Apparently this SID was associated with a limb flare in this group. Our new observer in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Mr. Pierre Kaufmann (A-16), recorded an exceptionally fine Sudden Enhancement of Atmospherics (SEA) in association with this flare. A photo-reproduction of Mr. Kaufmann's SEA record for 13 September appears at the bottom of page 3.

Terrestrial effects from this group seemed to reach a peak on 15 September when Solar Division observers recorded seven SID events. This is the greatest number of SID events ever recorded in one day since the IFP program started back during the maximum of the present cycle. These SID events were mostly small ones, except the one at 2015 UT. A particularly fine example of an SEA recorded at 2015 UT by another new observer, Mr. Ralph Markson (A-15) of Bennington, Vermont, is also reproduced on page 3.

Activity from this group continued right through its central meridian passage (CMP), the last SID being recorded at 1450 UT on 24 September 1963.

AN EXCELLENT BOOK ABOUT FLARES:

A new book on the subject of flares was published in July 63 by Macmillan (New York). This is SOLAR FLARES by H. J. Smith & E. V. P. Smith. A review of this book appeared in the 11 October 1963 issue of "Science" by A. K. Pierce of Kitt Peak Observatory. Anyone who read this review would hardly be tempted to spend \$12.95 for this 322 page book. This is very unfortunate because here is one book you can't be without if you have a serious interest in the Sun. The writer does not pretend to be competent to dispute Pierce's evaluation of the book. Certainly there are errors in this book, as there are in any book that is primarily a review of such a wide variety of recent literature. Certainly it is also true that it is not suitable as a text book; but then the Smiths never intended it to be. It won't substitute for Kuiper or Aller's books either, but still in spite of the faults that Pierce finds, this is a fine book.

Perhaps you will be doing yourself a favor if, instead of reading Pierce's review, you read Harry Bondy's review of this book. Bondy's review appears in the October issue of The Review of Popular Astronomy. Here you will find the book highly recommended by our, until recently, Solar Division Chairman.

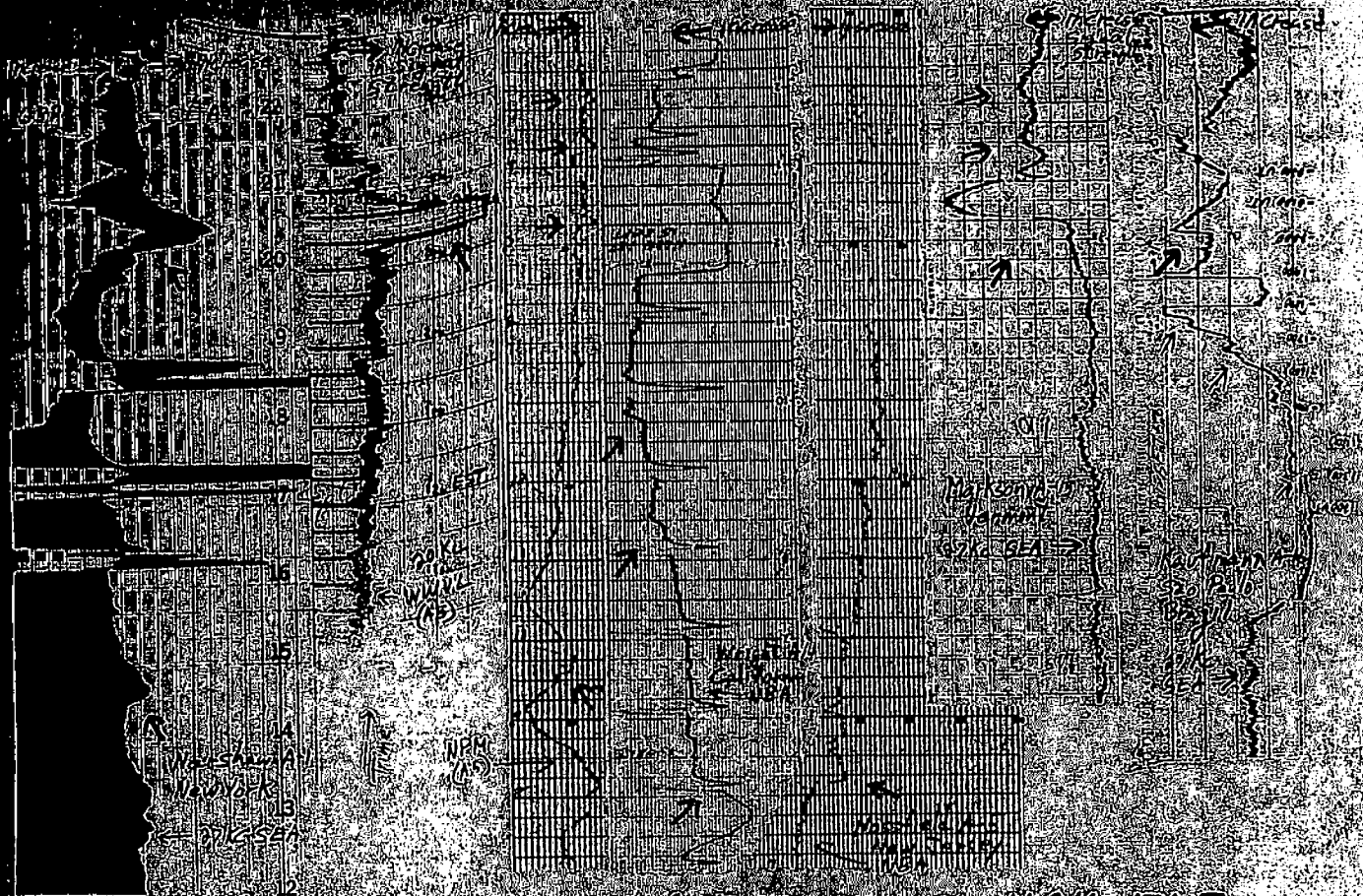
A "NEW CYCLE" OF BULLETINS:

This is the new editor's first attempt to get out a Solar Bulletin. Like the first spot of the new cycle, it is a small one. Needless to say, it is also late. It is expected that these deficiencies will be corrected in the months ahead.

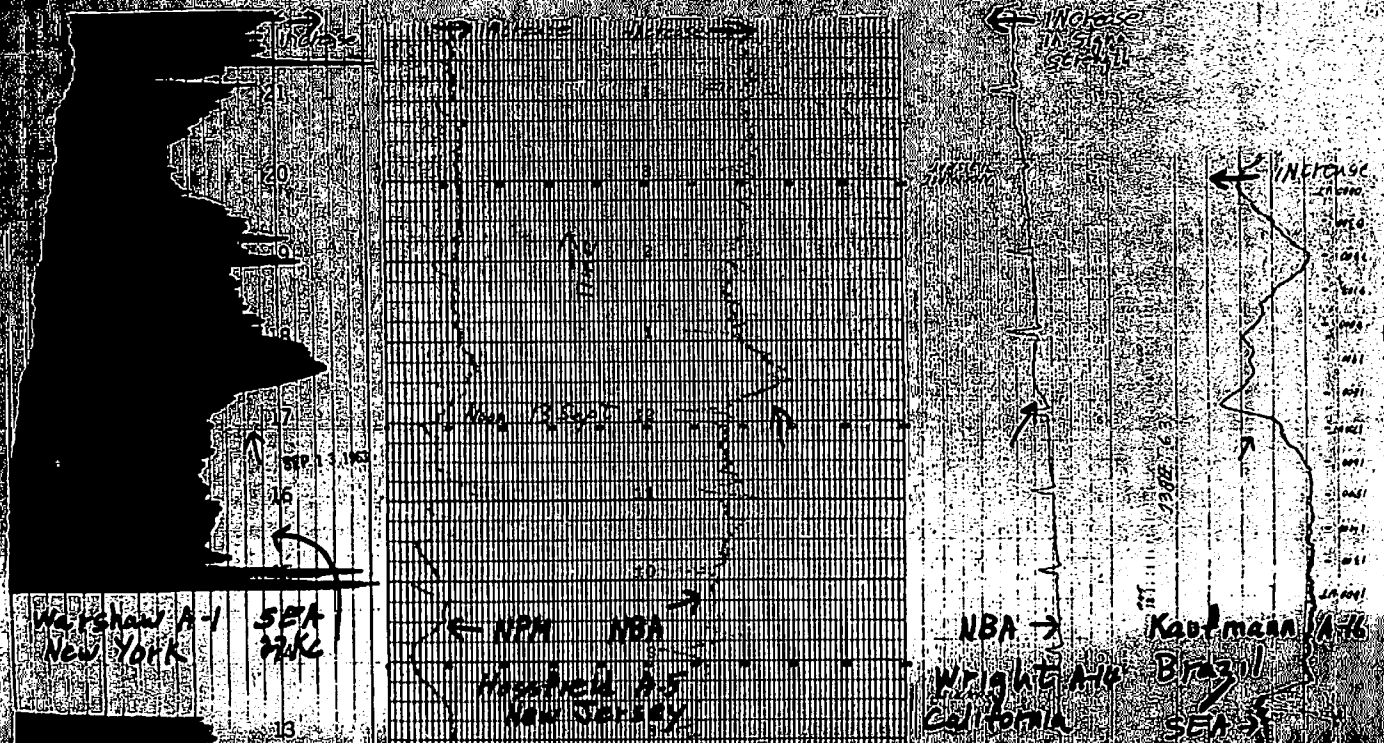
AMERICAN RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS, (R_A) FOR SEPTEMBER 1963

Day	Number	Day	Number
1	20	16	65
2	15	17	64
3	41	18	56
4	52	19	45
5	37	20	50
6	22	21	49
7	12	22	39
8	13	23	35
9	15	24	26
10	19	25	20
11	22	26	12
12	31	27	0
13	42	28	5
14	68	29	0
15	60	30	0

Above reductions by Dr. Sarah J. Hill, White Observatory, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, from observations made by Solar Division sunspot observers.



15 September 1963 SID at 1305, 1431, 1624, 1745, 2015, 2110, 2148 (all UT)



13 September 1963 (1715 UT)