

Solar Bulletin

SEP 1973

Publisher:

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS — SOLAR DIVISION
540 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.



Volume 29 Number 8

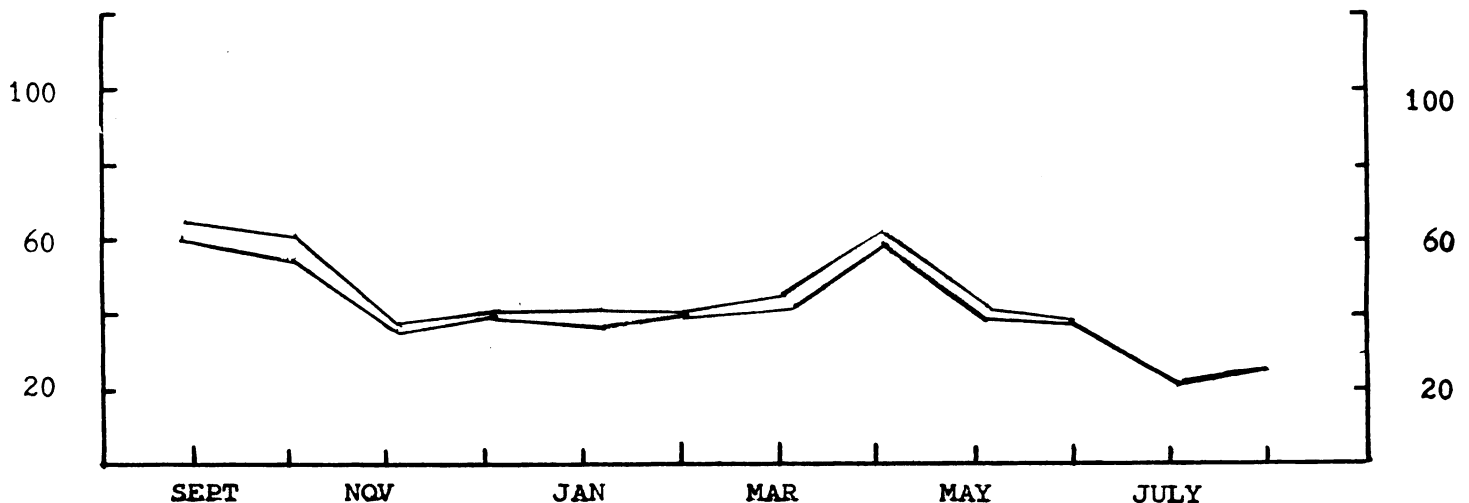
AUGUST 1973

SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING AUGUST

Sunspot activity increased slightly over the level of July. The mean of the American sunspot numbers rose from 20.8 to 25.5 for August. A period of very low activity commenced when a J-type group rotated off the disk leaving the sun spotless on the 12th. Late on the 13th a small A-type group formed near the center of the disk but it was short lived and disappeared early on the 14th to leave the sun again spotless through the 15th.

Only three ionospheric disturbances were recorded by AAVSO observers during August. A recording of the two events on the 6th is reproduced at the bottom of page two. Both were of low intensity with the earlier event starting at 1408 UT hardly detectable. A more intense disturbance occurred on the 9th starting at 1551 UT and three recordings of this event are reproduced. An ses-like trace is also reproduced to show how instrumental effects can sometimes produce results that are most difficult to distinguish from the real thing. This particular "event" was not found on any other charts and it occurred on the 12th, a spotless day, so it is very unlikely that it is a true ionospheric disturbance. It is only by examining several recordings made at different locations that real ionospheric disturbances can be separated from instrumental and interference effects that often mimic the real thing very closely.

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



AMERICAN (R_A) AND ZURICH (R_Z) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS FOR AUGUST 1973

SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES RECORDED DURING AUGUST 1973

DAY MAX SEA SES DEF OBSERVERS

6 1407 1- 4 A-19,38,33,1, 36
 6 1722 1- 5 A-21,19,33,1,36,31,37
 9 1550 1 1+ 5 A-21,33,19,1,36,31,32,37,39

DAY	R_A	R_Z
1	27	36
2	25	28
3	20	21
4	32	28
5	34	34
6	36	40
7	51	42
8	45	40
9	40	38
10	30	27
11	15	23
12	0	0
13	1	0
14	1	0
15	0	0
16	2	0
17	2	0
18	4	7
19	6	7
20	8	7
21	13	15
22	11	10
23	20	17
24	19	22
25	30	28
26	33	38
27	32	37
28	42	47
29	49	56
30	74	64
31	87	82
Means =	25.5	25.6

