

WHITE LIGHT SOLAR ACTIVITY

White light MDF, 1996 February

| Observer | MDF | | | | R | | Q | |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | North | South | Total | Days | Total | Days | Total | Days |
| P. Meadows | 0.23 | 0.15 | 0.38 | 13 | 4.69 | 13 | 0.92 | 13 |
| W. Heyes | 0.18 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 11 | - | - | 0.36 | 11 |
| B. Hardie | 0.26 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 23 | 3.73 | 23 | - | - |
| G. North | 0.00 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 10 | 3.90 | 10 | - | - |
| T. Tanti | 0.30 | 0.00 | 0.30 | 10 | 4.80 | 10 | 0.70 | 10 |
| G. Johnstone | 0.20 | 0.40 | 0.60 | 5 | 7.40 | 5 | - | - |
| K. Medway | 0.14 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 21 | - | - | - | - |
| E.H. Strach | 0.29 | 0.06 | 0.35 | 17 | 4.35 | 17 | 0.71 | 17 |
| J.G. Gissing | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| M. Götz | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 14 | - | - | - | - |
| CUAS | 0.20 | 0.10 | 0.30 | 17 | - | - | - | - |
| MEANS | 0.17 | 0.06 | 0.24 | 151 | 4.42 | 78 | 0.69 | 51 |

MDF = Mean Daily Frequency of active areas, R = sunspot number, Q = mean quality estimate (JBAA 98,6,pp282-286)

BAA/TA Comparison

| Month | Active areas | | Spot numbers | |
|--------------|--------------|------|--------------|-------|
| | BAA | TA | BAA | TA |
| 1996 January | 0.77 | 0.67 | 11.83 | 11.31 |

Sunspot Activity, 1996 February

Sunspot activity in February was again very low. Strach reports that the MDF he recorded was the lowest in the present cycle and compares with the figures of 1986, the year of the last solar minimum.

Strach noted four groups during the month. A group at N8/220 was seen on the 1st as it was approaching the W

limb. It had departed by the 2nd and the disk was then blank until the 20th when a group was seen at N7/201. Strach comments that this may have been the reappearance of the group seen on the 1st.

On the 27th Strach noted an Axx spot at N10/238. It was not present on the following day. Another short-lived group was recorded on the 29th at S11.5/148 and this too only lasted one day.

Strach recorded *polar faculae* on February 3, 11, 16, 22 and 29, all in the S. Medway observed these features on the 4th when four were seen and on the 18th when nine were seen all in the S hemisphere.

MONOCHROMATIC SOLAR ACTIVITY

Prominence MDF, 1996 February

| Observer | All Latitudes | | | | 0-40° | | | 40-90° | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | North | South | Total | Days | North | South | Total | North | South | Total |
| E.H. Strach | 0.85 | 1.93 | 2.78 | 14 | 0.43 | 1.14 | 1.57 | 0.43 | 0.78 | 1.21 |
| B. Hardie | | | 2.0 | 11 | | | | | | |
| K. Medway | 1.6 | 2.2 | 3.8 | 5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 1.8 |

Prominence activity, 1996 February

Strach reported a pyramidal prominence in the NE at N43 on the 1st. This was seen as a filament on the 8th and 11th and on the 16th it was seen as a similarly shaped prominence on the NW limb. He also followed a long

filament from the 27th onwards. This extended from a small prominence on the E limb at S38.

Medway saw mostly small prominences during the month clustered around the $\pm 40^\circ$ latitude zone. He comments that the most interesting prominences were seen on the 4th when a spindly arch was seen on the SW limb at S3.