

WHITE LIGHT SOLAR ACTIVITY

White light MDF, 1996 December

Observer	MDF				R		Q	
	North	South	Total	Days	Total	Days	Total	Days
K.J. Medway	0.19	0.19	0.38	16	-	-	-	-
P. Meadows	0.36	0.27	0.64	11	8.00	11	1.55	11
G.F. Johnstone	0.50	0.33	0.83	6	6.90	6	-	-
E.H. Strach	0.47	0.40	0.87	15	10.17	12	2.60	15
J.G. Gissing	0.40	0.20	0.60	5	-	-	1.00	5
T. Tanti	0.53	0.41	0.94	17	13.60	17	2.60	17
J. Isles	0.75	0.50	1.25	4	15.75	4	-	-
J. Shanklin	-	-	0.60	23	7.00	23	-	-
MEANS	0.42	0.32	0.71	97	9.68	73	2.19	48

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 November	1.06	0.75	18.76	17.49

On the 8th Strach noted a Bxo group consisting of four spots at S29/354. Over the next few days the group developed into an Eso type and on the 13th no less than 11 spots were visible. Meadows noted that an area of faculae were seen between the spots of this group. It was last seen on the 15th, just before passing over the W limb.

The second southern group was recorded by Strach on the 17th at S28/229. Bad weather prevented further observations and the spot was not present on the 22nd.

In the N Strach reported a quiet penumbral spot of type Hsx at N6/252 on the 13th. It was visible near to the CM on the 17th and on the 22nd a second, Cro, group could be seen following it at N4/239. On the 23rd only the Hsx spot remained near to the W limb. By the 24th Meadows reported that only a single pore was visible at S17/170 and from the 25th onwards the disk was blank.

Sunspot Activity, 1996 December

Strach reports that he observed a total of four groups in December. Two old-cycle groups were seen in the N and two new-cycle groups were seen in the S at a latitude of S29. The freezing temperatures in the UK towards the end of the month provided some practice for those observers planning to visit Mongolia in March.

The large E-type group observed at the end of November was still present in early December. By the 2nd Meadows reports that it had declined to an Hsx spot near to the W limb at S2/171. By the 4th the disk was again spotless.

MONOCHROMATIC SOLAR ACTIVITY

Prominence MDF, 1996 December

Observer	All Latitudes				0-40°			40-90°		
	North	South	Total	Days	North	South	Total	North	South	Total
K. Medway	0.75	1.25	2.00	4	0.25	0.75	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00
E.H. Strach	1.54	1.73	3.27	11	1.00	1.09	2.09	0.55	0.64	1.19

Prominence activity, 1996 December

My apologies. Last month's monochromatic activity column was incorrectly titled 1996 October. It should, of course, have been 1996 November.

Medway reports that prominences were mostly small and unimpressive during the month. The main feature was a long winding filament which stretched from the SE limb at S40 to near the CM at N5.

Strach recorded some interesting filaments emanating from the N spot at N6/252. Unfortunately they did not lead to any prominence activity as the spot cleared the limb. On the 22nd Strach noted a group of Hydrogen plages just to the E of the CM at S4/171. He notes that they were a remnant of the large spot seen at S4/169 on the previous rotation.

Four interacting prominences were seen on the W limb on the 25th extending from N13 to N22.

