

**WHITE LIGHT SOLAR ACTIVITY**

As I write this I am eagerly awaiting news of the expedition to observe the total eclipse in Mongolia. Early reports indicate that the weather was clear over parts of the track and Hale-Bopp was a spectacular sight above the eclipsed Sun. A number of TA solar observers ventured to the snowy wastes of central Asia and have hopefully returned with all of their limbs intact!

**White light MDF, 1997 February**

Observer	MDF				R		Q	
	North	South	Total	Days	Total	Days	Total	Days
G. North	0.75	0.25	1.00	4	14.50	4	-	-
W.F. Heyes	0.14	0.29	0.43	7	-	-	1.00	7
K. Medway	0.14	0.00	0.14	14	-	-	-	-
G.F. Johnstone	0.25	0.25	0.50	4	7.00	4	-	-
E. Strach	0.47	0.41	0.88	17	11.80	15	2.65	17
J.G. Gissing	0.40	0.00	0.40	5	-	-	0.60	5
P. Meadows	0.50	0.50	1.00	8	14.63	8	2.63	8
M. Gotz	-	-	0.27	11	4.13	11	-	-
CUAS	0.15	0.15	0.30	13	4.40	13	-	-
MEANS	0.32	0.24	0.52	83	8.78	55	2.06	37

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

**Sunspot Activity, 1997 February**

Low activity levels were maintained this month. The month started with two active areas on the disk. Strach first observed these on the 2nd and Meadows reports that two small Dsi groups were seen on the 3rd. One was located at N7/11 and the other at S20/327. Both of these groups were still present on the 5th but the southern group had decayed into an Hsx group and this was last seen as an Axx spot on the 9th.

Strach reports that high latitude faculae and plages were seen on the 6th and 7th near to the W limb. He noted a very small, but definite spot in their midst on the 7th at N32/356.

Meadows reported a small group at N11/196 on the 18th of type Bxo and one at N26/4 on the 25th of type Sxx.

Meadows observed prominent southern *polar faculae* on the 5th, 8th and 15th. Strach observed polar faculae on February 5, 15, 25 and 28 all in the S.

**MONOCHROMATIC SOLAR ACTIVITY**

**Prominence MDF, 1997 February**

Observer	All Latitudes				0-40°			40-90°		
	North	South	Total	Days	North	South	Total	North	South	Total
E.H. Strach	1.86	2.71	4.57	14	1.43	1.57	3.00	0.43	1.14	1.57
K.J. Medway	1.66	2.34	4.00	3	0.66	2.34	3.00	1.00	0.00	1.00

**Prominence activity, 1997 February**

Strach notes that his prominence count increased for the first time since 1995 February. Despite this most prominences were unremarkable. The only larger ones were observed on the 6th in the SE and the 15th in the NW. The prominences on the 15th were also seen by Medway. On the 25th Strach observed a low arch between N18 and N22 on the W limb and a more sweeping and incomplete arch from S14 to S30 on the E limb.

According to Strach the most interesting formation was seen on the E limb on the 28th in the form of an extended hedgerow. Its most northerly part was seen as a small filament on the disk.

Strach saw an array of filaments at the beginning of the month, most likely associated with the very high jet on January 31 at S45 on the E limb. The filaments were visible up to the 6th but, by the following day, only a faint remnant was seen at S45 on the CM.