

WHITE LIGHT SOLAR ACTIVITY

White light MDF, 1997 March

Observer	MDF				R		Q	
	North	South	Total	Days	Total	Days	Total	Days
M. Götz	-	-	0.23	13	4.94	13	-	-
CUAS	0.26	0.37	0.63	19	8.26	19	-	-
T. Tanti	0.13	0.47	0.60	15	9.90	15	1.60	15
P. Meadows	0.35	0.41	0.76	17	12.65	17	3.17	17
K. Medway	0.09	0.62	0.71	21	-	-	-	-
G. Gissing	0.00	0.27	0.27	11	-	-	0.60	11
E. Strach	0.34	0.31	0.66	29	6.86	29	1.66	29
G. North	0.23	0.00	0.23	13	2.77	13	-	-
G.F. Johnstone	0.23	0.15	0.38	13	3.80	13	-	-
W. Hayes	0.33	0.33	0.67	9	-	-	1.89	9
MEANS	0.23	0.35	0.55	160	7.30	119	1.85	81

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
1997 February	0.71	0.52	9.71	8.78

An area of faculae seen on the 27th near to the E limb heralded the appearance of a Dao group at S24/297 on the following day. This group developed into an Eai type with an area of 110 millionths by the 30th. The following day Meadows reported that the leading spot had decayed reducing the group to 70 millionths.

Sunspot Activity, 1997 March

This month continued the recent low levels of solar activity. Strach reports that he observed four white-light groups during the month. He also managed to observe the Sun on 29 of the 31 days in March. A rare achievement from the UK. Meadows reports that after the first two days of the month showed blank disks his next observation, on the 6th, revealed an Hsx spot near to the E limb. This became a group at N7/209 which Meadows classified as Cao. This group was seen up to and including the 14th.

Strach observed one pair of polar faculae on the 22nd in the S.

Total Eclipse. 1997 March 8/9.

On the 14th and 15th Meadows reported a high-latitude Axx group at S31/210. Also on the 15th a small Cao group was seen at S4/199. This had not been visible on the previous day.

According to observers the disk was quiet on eclipse day with only one small spot group visible. The weather in Mongolia was always likely to be marginal and many of the British party were clouded out. Ken Medway saw nothing and his sky cleared five minutes after third contact! Hazel McGee was a few miles to the north and did see the eclipse through a small gap in the clouds. She reports that the corona appeared evenly circular with one streamer to the SE and a wide helmet to the SW. Other observers who travelled to Siberia or MoHe had better weather and some spectacular pictures are available.

MONOCHROMATIC SOLAR ACTIVITY

Prominence MDF, 1997 March

Observer	All Latitudes				0-40°			40-90°		
	North	South	Total	Days	North	South	Total	North	South	Total
E.H. Strach	2.79	3.58	6.37	19	1.63	2.26	3.89	1.16	1.31	2.47
K.J. Medway	2.85	2.61	5.46	13	1.38	1.54	2.92	1.46	1.07	2.53

Prominence activity, 1997 March

Both Strach and Medway report high levels of prominence activity during the month. Many different

types of prominence were visible. Strach reported a lofty tree-like formation on the W limb on the 11th and 12th. Medway observed an interesting looping prominence visible on the W limb throughout the day of March 31.

