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# The British Astronomical Association

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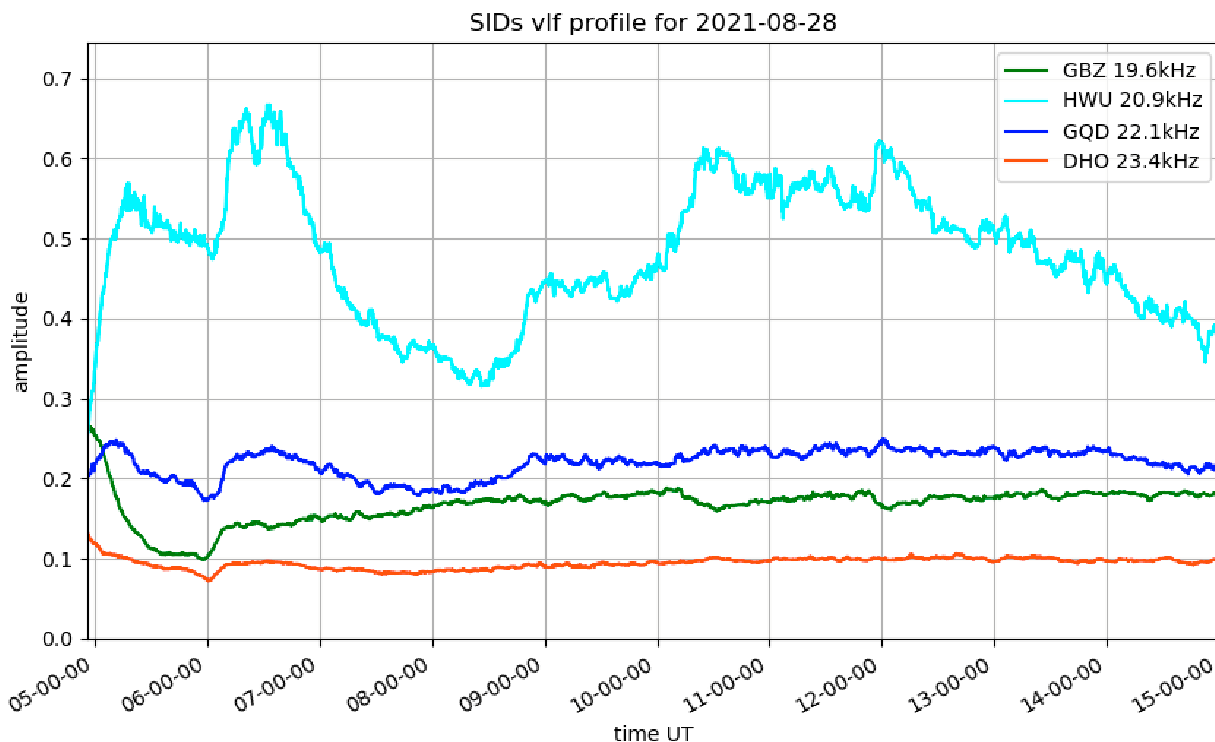


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## BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

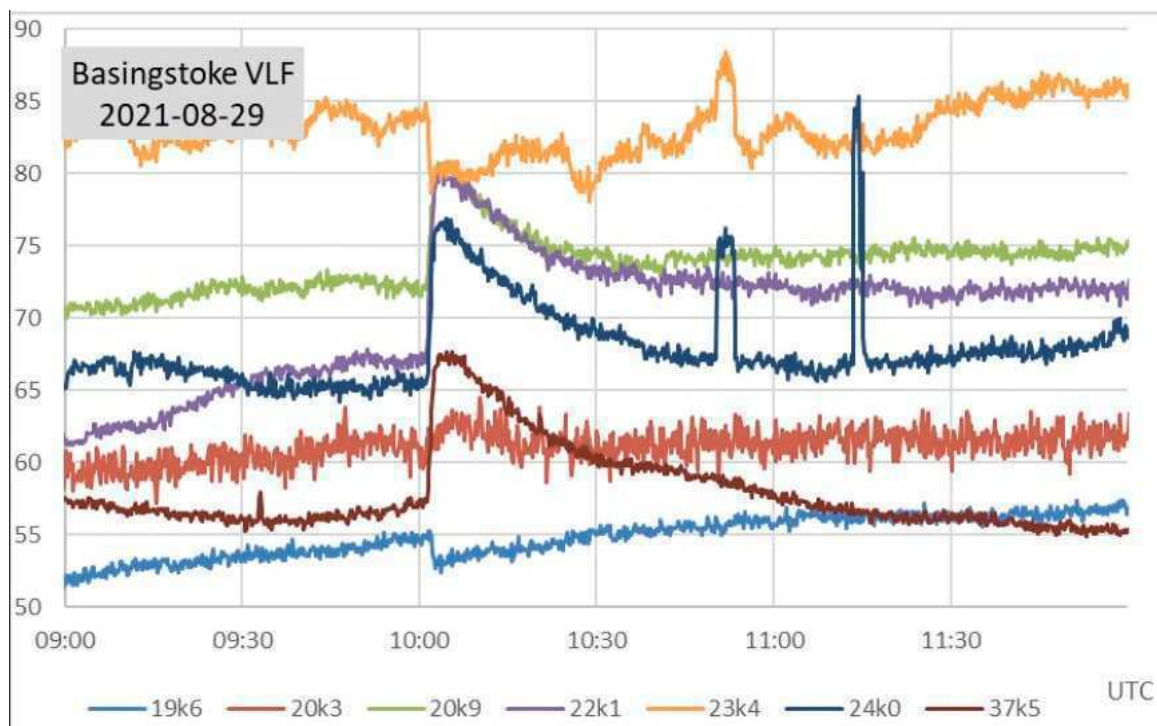
2021 AUGUST.

The few sunspots present in the first half of August were fairly small and inactive, with just a few B-class flares shown in the satellite X-ray data. The second half was rather more active with some more complex regions present. The strongest flare was the M4.7 peaking just after 06UT. This was rather early in the morning, but it was well recorded. This chart shows the SID recorded by Mark Prescott:

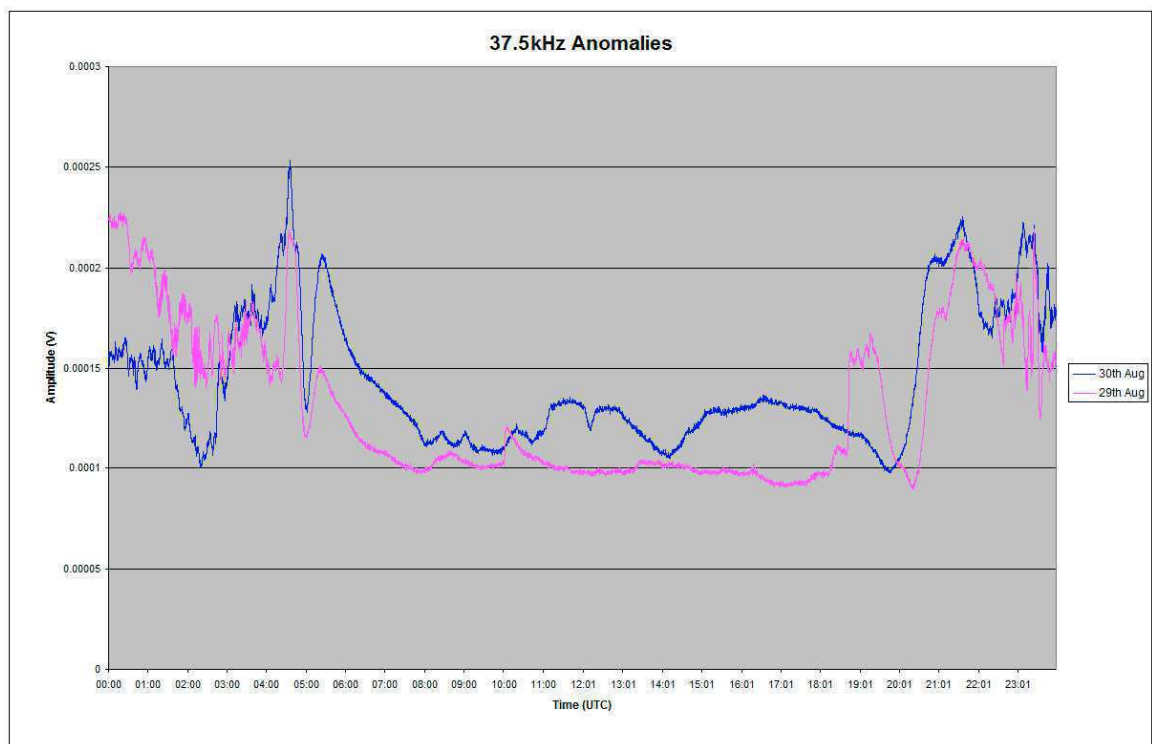


Having multiple signals does make it easier to identify the SID at 19.6, 22.1 and 23.4kHz. The response at 20.9kHz is strange in that it appears to start at the peak time, decaying over about 2.5 hours. Reading it as an inverted SID puts the peak back at 06UT, with a start around 05:15. The GOES satellite data gives an X-ray start time of 05:39, so not at all clear. Most probably the signal was still recovering from sunrise, and that has contaminated the effects of the flare. The C2.7 flare at 12UT was much weaker, but is just visible at 19.6 and 22.1 kHz. There is also a response at 20.9kHz, but on a much noisier signal it is less obvious.

The most widely recorded flare was the C8.1 mid-morning on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The same active area, AR12860, was responsible for both of these flares. It was quite a large and complex group spread over a large area.

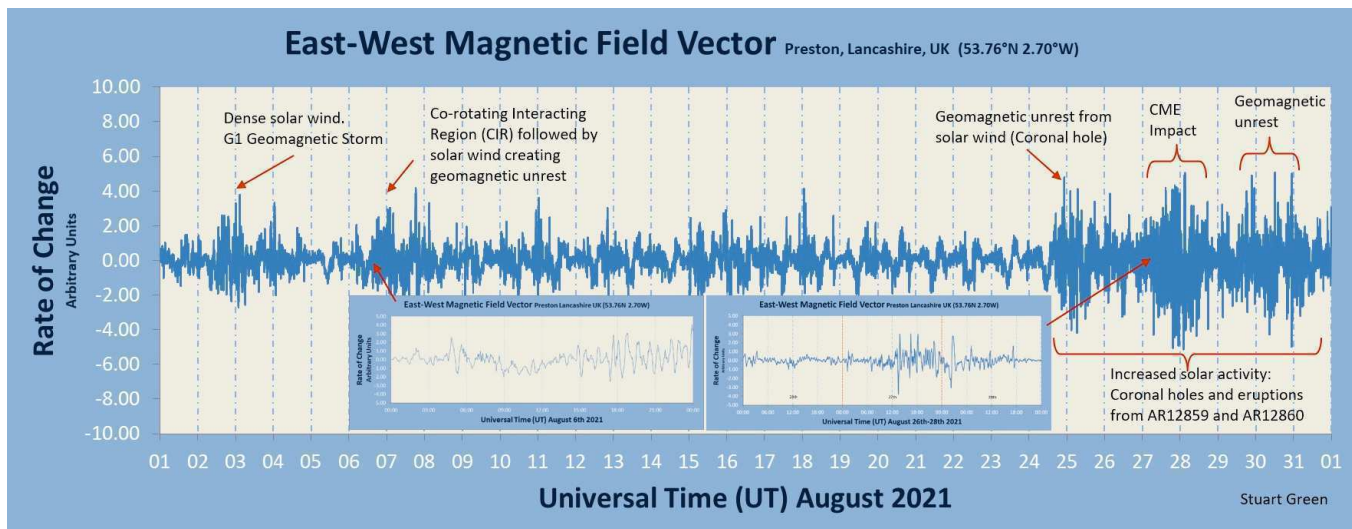


This recording by Paul Hyde shows the C8.1 flare peaking at 10:05UT. Most of signals show a very clear SID, although 23.4kHz is very noisy with a less obvious SID. There are also some strong interference spikes at the higher frequencies from 10:45 to 11:15.

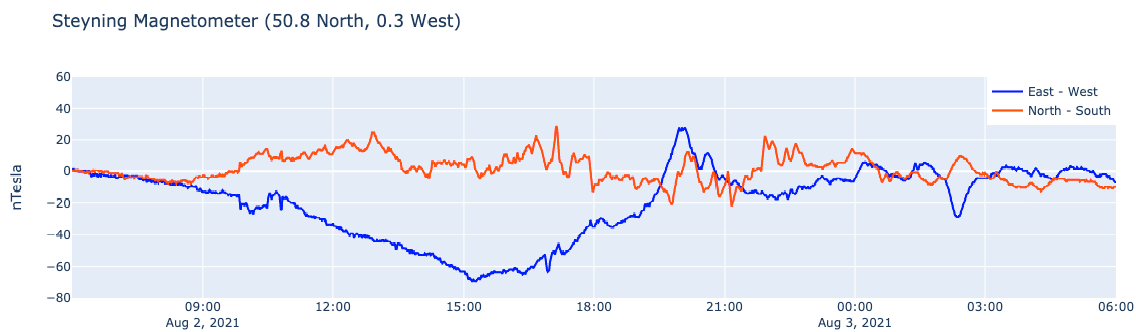


This recording by Mark Edwards shows the C8.1 flare at 37.5kHz on the pink trace. The blue trace shows the same signal on the 30<sup>th</sup>, with some unusual behaviour during the day. The only notable flare on the 30<sup>th</sup> was the C1.1 at 09:36UT. There is also a sudden large rise in the signal at 18:43 on the 29<sup>th</sup>, just before the expected sunset. There seems to have been a very turbulent solar wind over this period, with a large change in polarity at 12:12 on the 30<sup>th</sup>, corresponding to the dip seen in the 37.5kHz signal.

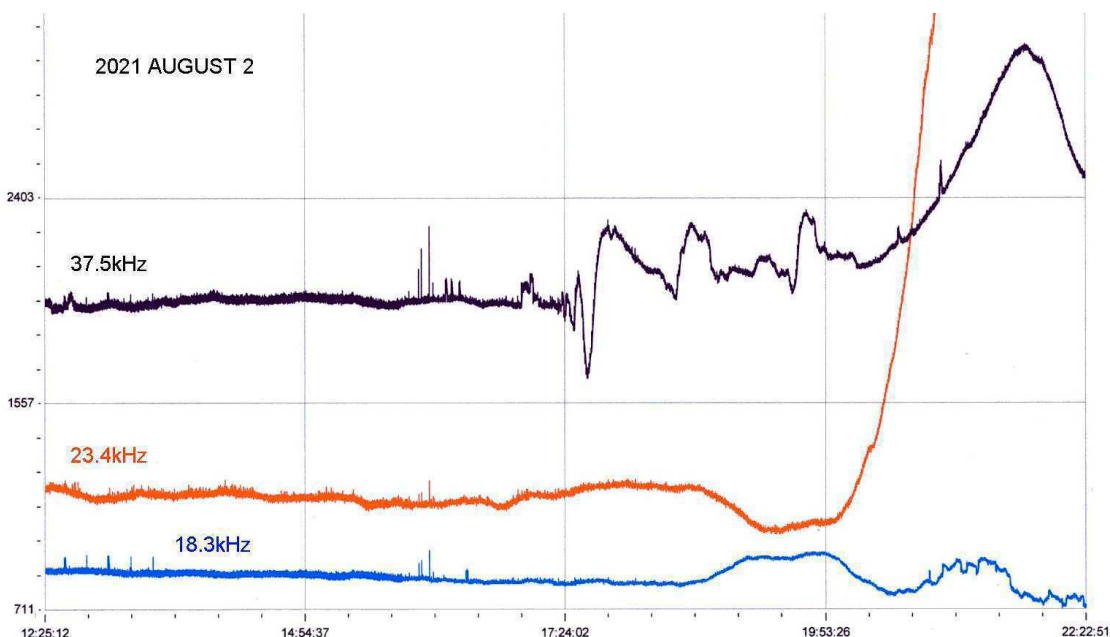
## MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.



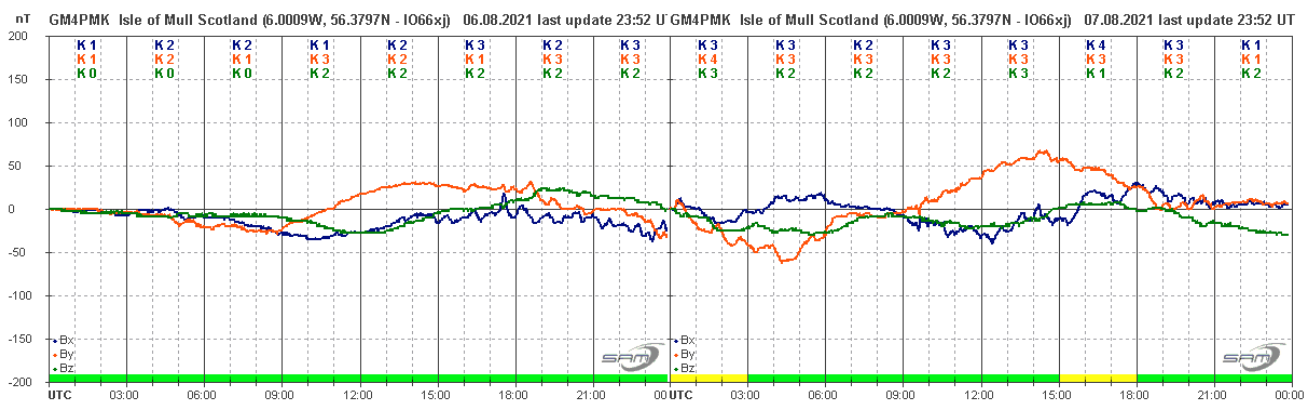
The magnetic summary for August by Stuart Green shows strong activity at the end of the month, matching the increase in solar flares. There is also a period of activity starting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, resulting from a CME recorded in satellite images from late July. The recording by Nick Quinn shows this activity:



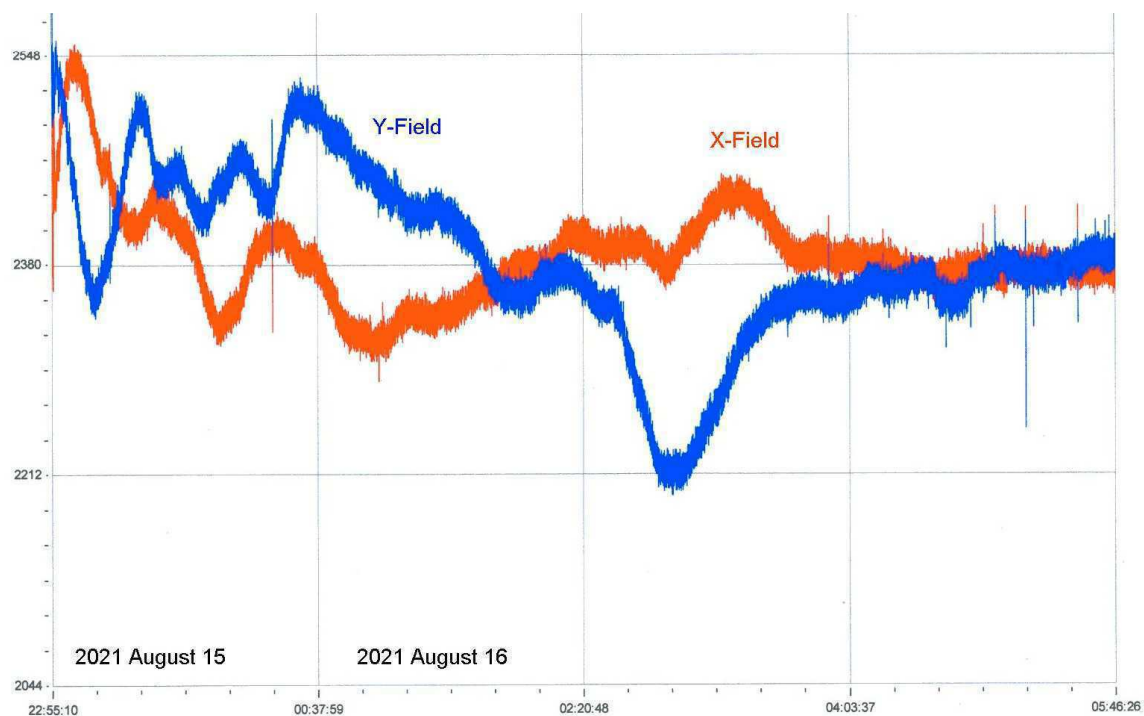
The north-south field in particular is very turbulent through the afternoon and into the early morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.



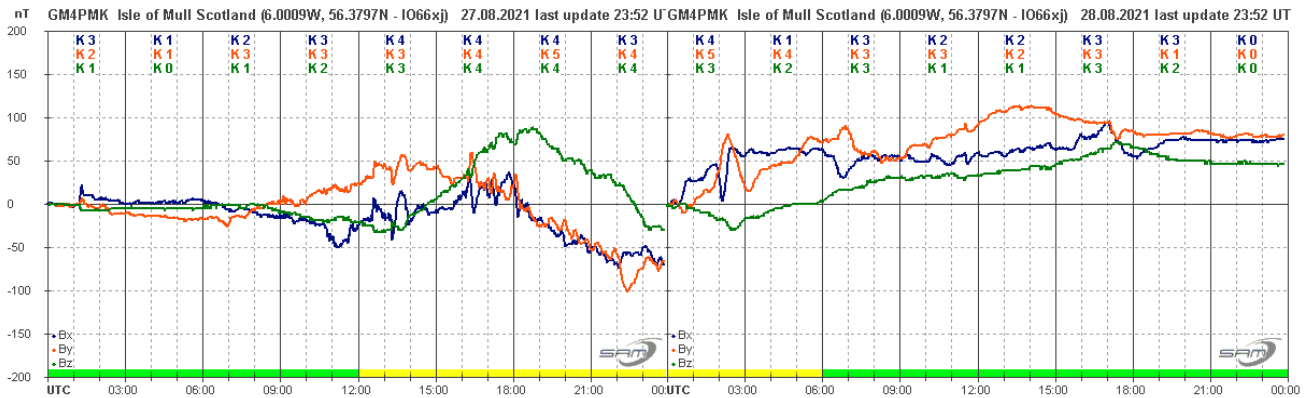
The recording by Colin Clements shows the 37.5kHz response to the magnetic disturbance, starting around 17:30 and continuing until sunset takes over. The other signals show more normal curves, with the sunset dominating. There is some minor local interference around 16:00UT.



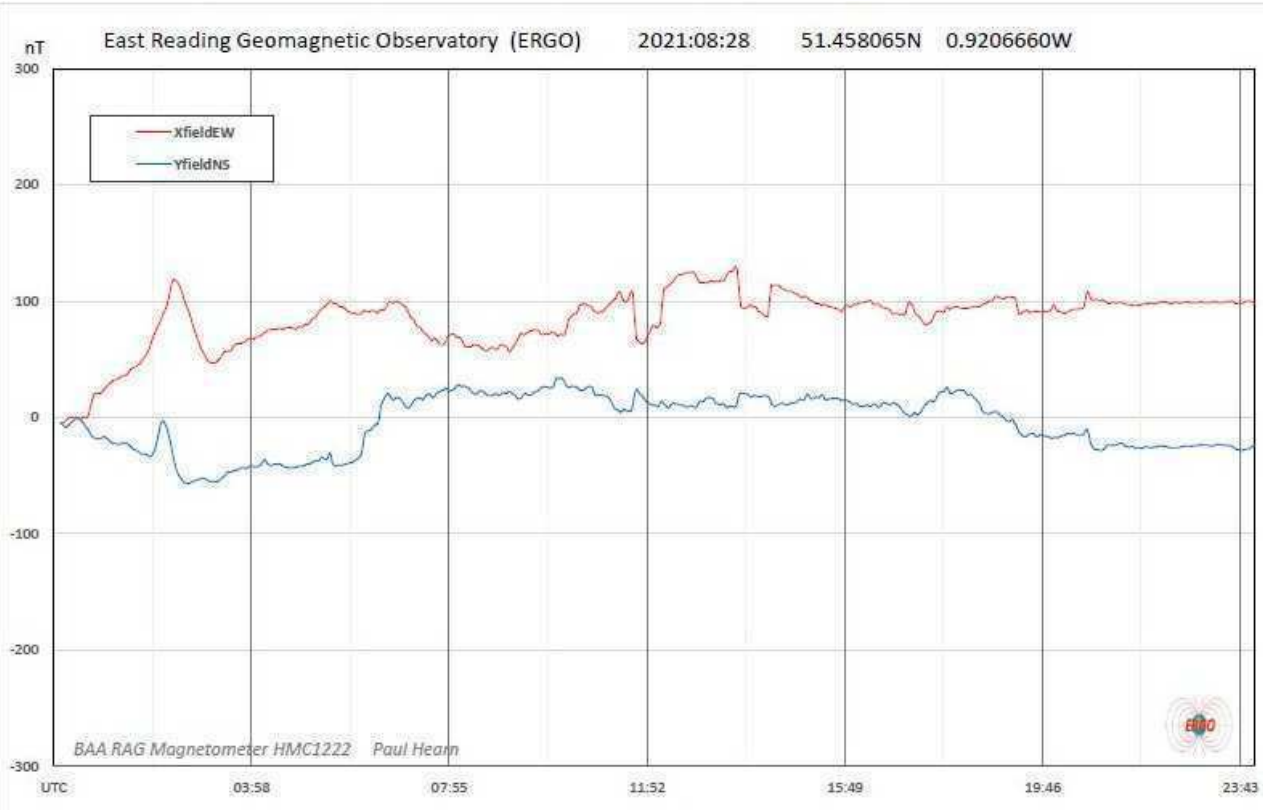
A north polar coronal hole produced a mild disturbance over the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, shown in this recording by Roger Blackwell. There were periods of rapid oscillation, although the magnitude remained quite low. Another north polar coronal hole was responsible for a minor disturbance in the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> and early morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>. It is barely visible in the summary chart by Stuart Green, but was recorded by Colin Clements:



Activity increased again on the 25<sup>th</sup>, with a combination of coronal holes and CMEs. Disturbance from the high speed wind on the 25<sup>th</sup> was fairly mild, with a further mild period on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The CME impact was recorded just after 01UT on the 28<sup>th</sup>, shown in this recording by Roger Blackwell:



Magnetic activity increased around 11:00UT, continuing through to the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup>, with  $\pm 100$ nT shown in Roger's recording. Note that the midnight discontinuity is due to the sensor being reset. Paul Hearn made this recording from the 28<sup>th</sup>:

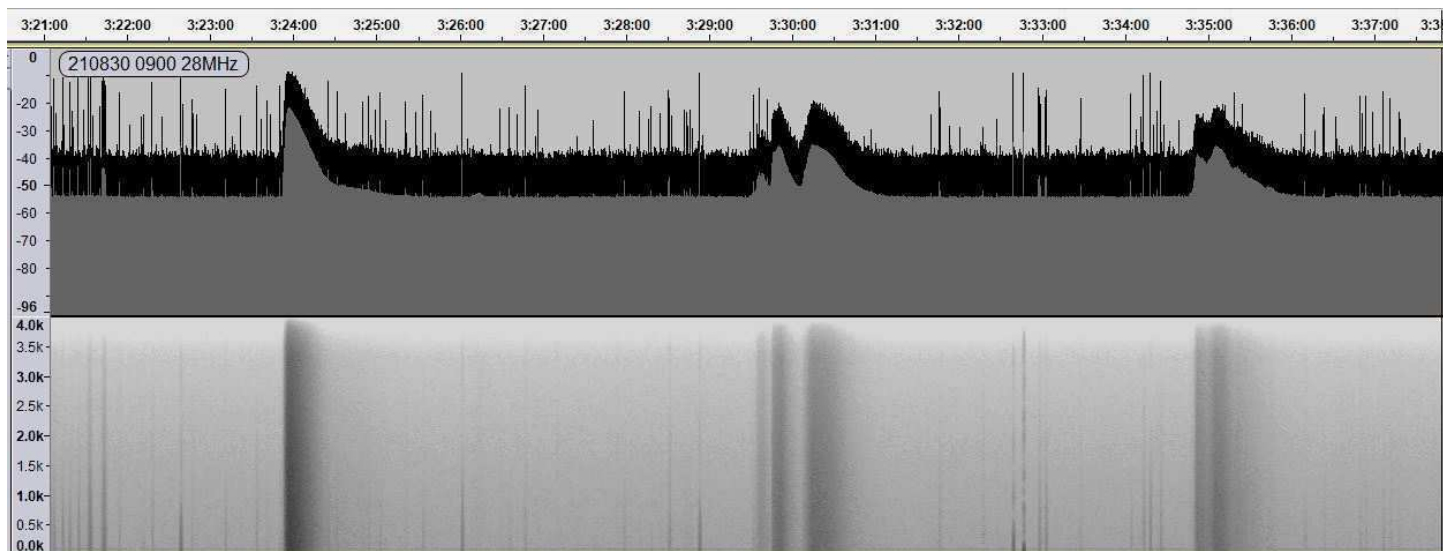


Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Colin Clements, Stuart Green, Paul Hearn, Andrew Thomas, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

### SOLAR EMISSIONS.

Colin Briden has been making 28MHz recordings of solar radio emissions. These are not always directly related to larger solar flares, and he recorded a series of three type III emissions on August 30<sup>th</sup>. During that period, satellite X-ray data shows nothing stronger than B6, and SWPC timings do match well with his recordings. Equipment used included an Icom R70 receiver and a half-wave dipole aerial.

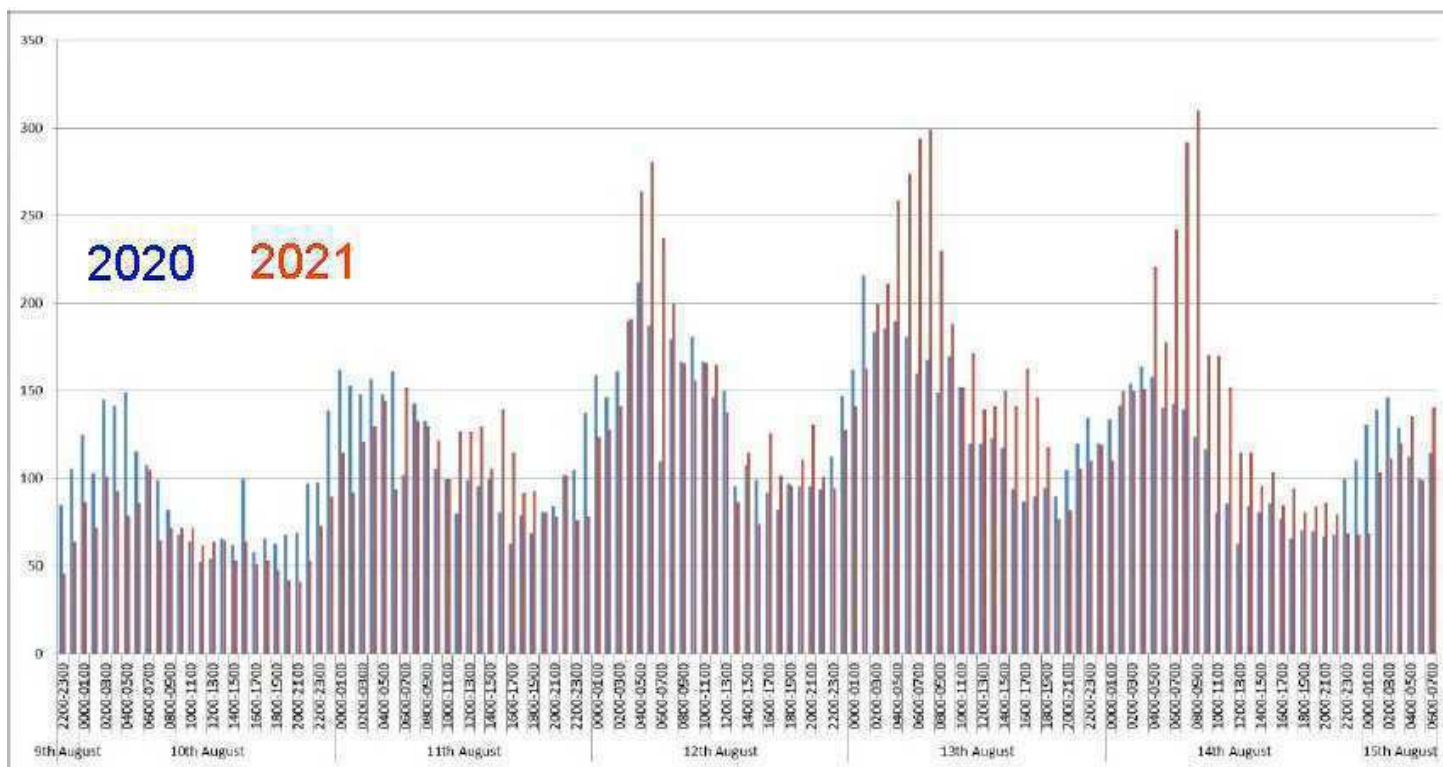




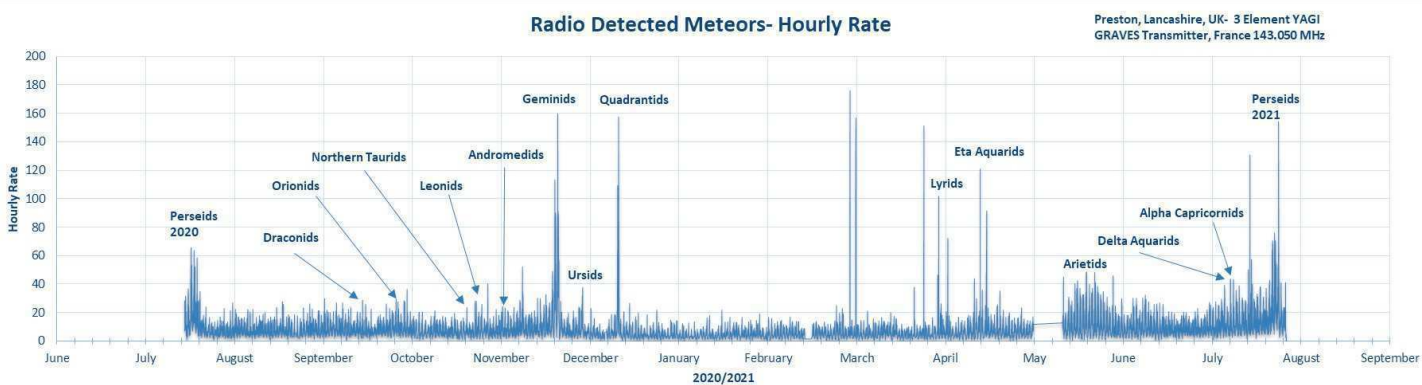
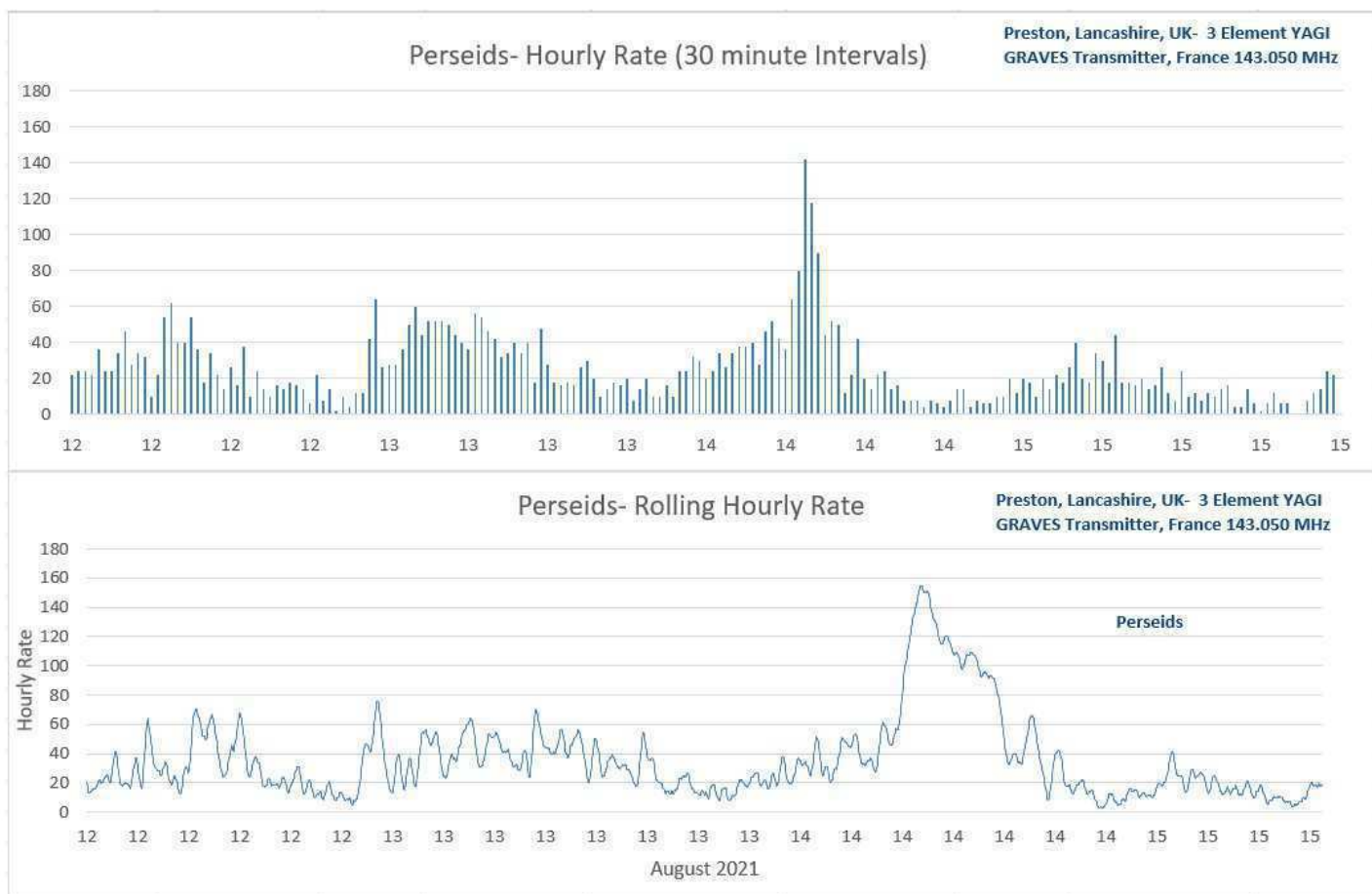
The first peak measures about 30dB above noise level, slightly lower for the others. Local interference can be a problem, but the signals here are quite strong.

### PERSIED METEORS.

August is of course the month for meteor watching, with the Perseid shower peaking around the 13<sup>th</sup>. This year there was the extra surprise of a further peak on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This chart of Perseid counts by Christopher Bailey compares activity in 2021 with 2020:



In 2020, activity levels on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> were very similar, with a lower count on the 14<sup>th</sup>. This year, the activity increased each day, with the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> giving the highest counts. Each column on the chart covers a one hour period, showing the number of echoes exceeding 10dB. Non-meteor echoes have been removed as far as possible. Stuart Green made similar observations, with 30 minute intervals. The lower panel of rolling hourly rates shows the peak on the 14<sup>th</sup> very well:

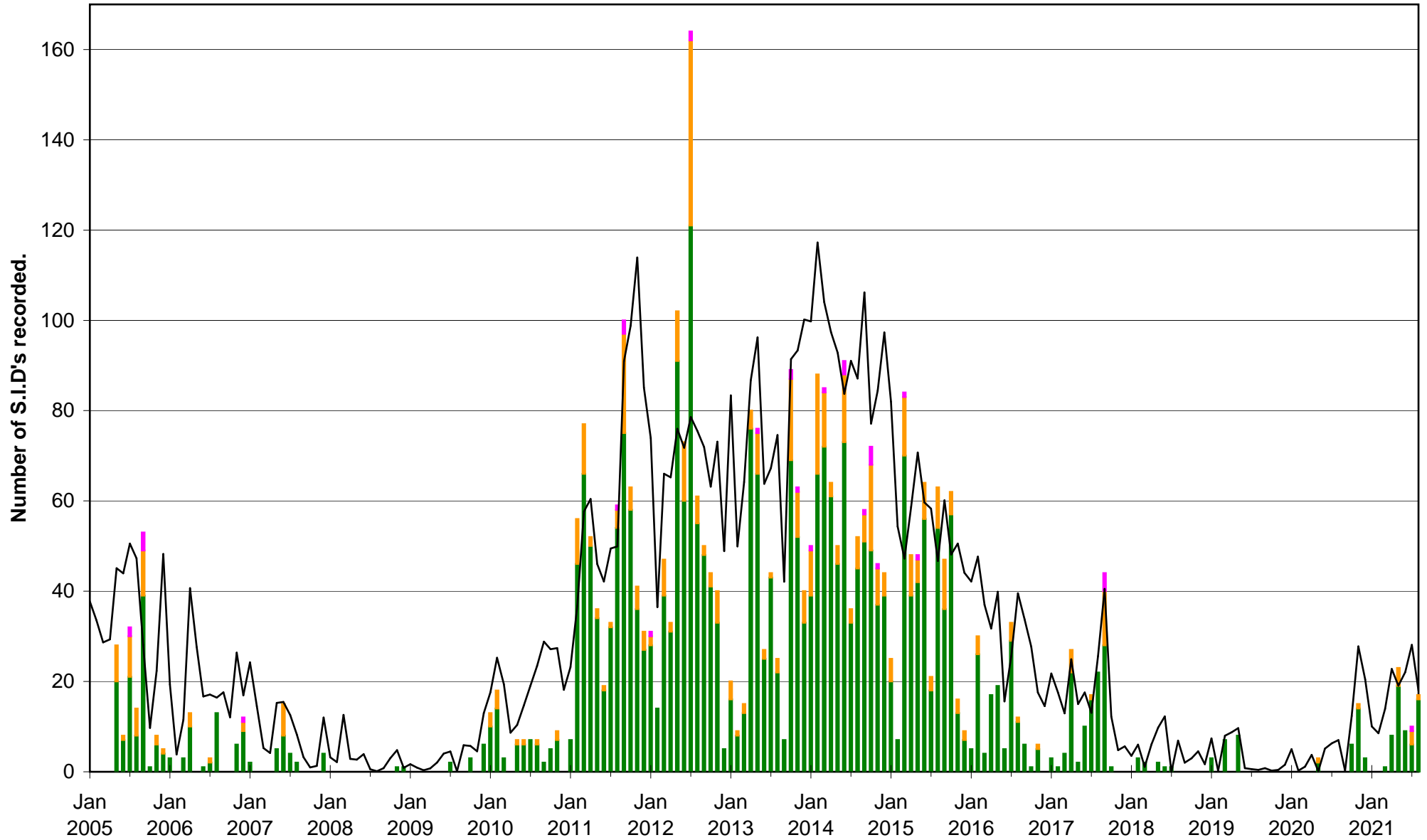


Stuart has also made a chart covering the last 12 months, starting with the 2020 Perseids. Most of the major showers show good peaks, but the 2020 Orionid and Leonid peaks are very weak. It will be interesting to see how they compare this year. Colin Clements also made Perseid counts with the GRAVES signal, covering the expected peak late on the 12<sup>th</sup> and into the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the recording period did not cover the unexpected peak on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

VLF emissions from meteors have been discussed before, and there is a paper by David Morgan covering this topic. Chris Bailey has been experimenting, and in a session in the morning of August 10<sup>th</sup> recorded 42 such signals. Two of these matched the timing of meteors caught on camera, and so could possibly be connected. A 25,000 turn coil was used as the aerial.

# VLF flare activity 2005/21

C M X — Relative sunspot number





	Xray class	Observers	John Cook (23.4kHz/22.1kHz)	Roberto Battaiola 20.9kHz	Paul Hyde (22.1kHz/24kHz)	Mark Edwards (24.0kHz/19.6kHz)	Colin Clements (18.3kHz)
			Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.58m frame aerial.	Modified AAVSO receiver.	Spectrum Lab / PC 1.5m frame aerial.	Spectrum Lab / PC 2m loop aerial.	Tuned Radio Frequency receivers, 0.76m screened loop aerial.
DAY			START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)
20	C1.7	1			15:46 15:55 ? -	15:48 15:58 16:29 2	15:46 16:01 16:25 2
20	C3.0	4		15:49 15:57 16:08 1	15:55 15:58 ? -	16:46 16:50 16:53 1-	
20	C2.3	2			16:43 16:49 17:00 1-		
22	C1.9	6		10:14 10:20 10:36 1	10:17 10:21 10:41 1	10:20 10:22 10:43 1	10:18 10:23 10:45 1+
24	C1.5	1				14:31 14:50 15:26 2+	
27	C1.8	3			12:51 12:59 13:48 2+	12:53 12:59 ? -	
27	C1.0	1				13:05 13:15 13:21 1-	
27	C1.0	1				13:24 13:26 13:50 1+	
27	C1.1	1				15:11 15:15 15:29 1-	
28	M4.7	6	05:59 06:05 06:17 1-	05:40 05:57 06:08 1+		05:37 06:05 06:46 2+	
28	C4.2	1			08:43 08:48 09:12 1+		
28	?	1				10:12 10:25 10:42 1+	
28	C2.7	5	11:52 11:55 12:11 1		11:50 11:58 12:35 2	11:53 11:59 12:24 1+	
28	C1.7	1				12:41 12:47 12:51 1-	
28	C1.4	1				16:30 16:45 17:06 2	
29	C8.1	8	10:02 10:04 10:40 2		10:00 10:04 10:41 2	10:02 10:06 10:56 2+	10:03 10:07 11:01 2+
29	C2.9	3			17:11 17:32 18:17 2+	17:18 17:31 17:55 2	
30	C1.1	1			09:31 09:36 09:57 1+		

	Xray class	Observers	Steve Parkinson (Various)	Andrew Thomas (19.6kHz/22.1kHz)	Phil Rourke (23.4kHz)	John Wardle	Christopher Bailey (18.3kHz)
			Tuned radio frequency receiver, frame aerials.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.	Spectrum Lab, 0.6m frame aerial.	SpetrumLab/Starbase, mini-whip aerial. Active	Spectrum Lab
DAY			START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)
20	C1.7						
20	C3.0						
20	C2.3						
22	C1.9						10:18 10:21 10:36 1-
24	C1.5						
27	C1.8						12:49 12:50 13:05 1-
27	C1.0						
27	C1.0						
27	C1.1						
28	M4.7			06:00 06:11 07:32 3	06:00 06:12 07:53 3		
28	C4.2						
28	?						
28	C2.7			11:50 11:58 12:21 1+			
28	C1.7						
28	C1.4						
29	C8.1		10:01 10:05 10:36 2	10:00 10:03 11:24 2+			
29	C2.9						
30	C1.1						

	Xray class	Observers	Colin Briden (22.1kHz)	Andrew Lutley (23.4kHz)	Peter Meadows (23.4kHz)	John Elliott (18.3kHz)	Mark Prescott (20.9kHz)
			Spectrum Lab / PC, 1.2m frame aerial.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.5m frame aerial.	
DAY			START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)
20	C1.7						
20	C3.0						
20	C2.3						
22	C1.9						10:16 10:25 11:38 2+
24	C1.5						
27	C1.8						
27	C1.0						
27	C1.0						
27	C1.1						
28	M4.7						
28	C4.2						
28	?						
28	C2.7		11:52 11:57 12:08 1-				?
28	C1.7						06:03 ? -
28	C1.4						
29	C8.1		10:02 10:04 10:15 1-				
29	C2.9		17:14 17:30 17:43 1+				10:03 10:11 10:36 2
30	C1.1						

## BARTELS DIAGRAM

ROTATION	KEY:	DISTURBED.	ACTIVE	SFE	B, C, M, X = FLARE MAGNITUDE.	Synodic rotation start (carrington's).
2529	F	26 27 28 29 30 31	2019 January 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	2213 17	18 19 20 21
2530	F	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2019 February 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2214 13	14 15 16 17
2531	F	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2019 March 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2215 13	14 15 16
2532	F	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2019 April 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2216 9	10 11 12
2533	F	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	2019 May 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2217 6	7 8 9
2534	F	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2019 June 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2218 3	4 5
2535	F	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	2019 July 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2219 30	1 2
2536	F	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	2019 August 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	2220 27	28 29
2537	F	30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	2019 September 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2221 23	24 25
2538	F	26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	2019 October 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2222 19	20 21
2539	F	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	2019 November 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2223 17	18
2540	F	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2019 December 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2224 13	14
2541	F	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2020 January 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2225 10	11
2542	F	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2020 February 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2226 1	2
2543	F	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2	2020 March 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2227 1	2
2544	F	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	2020 April 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2228 28	29
2545	F	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	2020 May 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2229 27	28
2546	F	29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	2020 June 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2230 25	26 27 28 29 30
2547	F	25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2020 July 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2231 22	23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
2548	F	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	2020 August 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2232 18	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2549	F	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	2020 September 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2233 15	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
2550	F	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2020 October 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2234 11	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
2551	F	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6	2020 November 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2235 7	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2552	F	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3	2020 December 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2236 4	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2553	F	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	2021 January 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2237 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2554	F	31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	2021 February 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2238 29	30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2555	F	27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	2021 March 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2239 26	27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2556	F	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	2021 April 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2240 20	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
2557	F	20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	2021 May 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2241 16	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
2558	F	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	2021 June 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2242 15	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2559	F	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2021 July 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2243 11	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2560	F	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2021 August 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2244 8	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3
2561	F	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3	2021 September 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2245 4	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2562	F	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	2021 October 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2246 5	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
2563	F	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	2021 November 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2247 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
2564	F	28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	2021 December 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2248 24	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
2565	F	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	2021 January 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	2249 24	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19