



The British Astronomical Association

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BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

Director Paul Hearn.

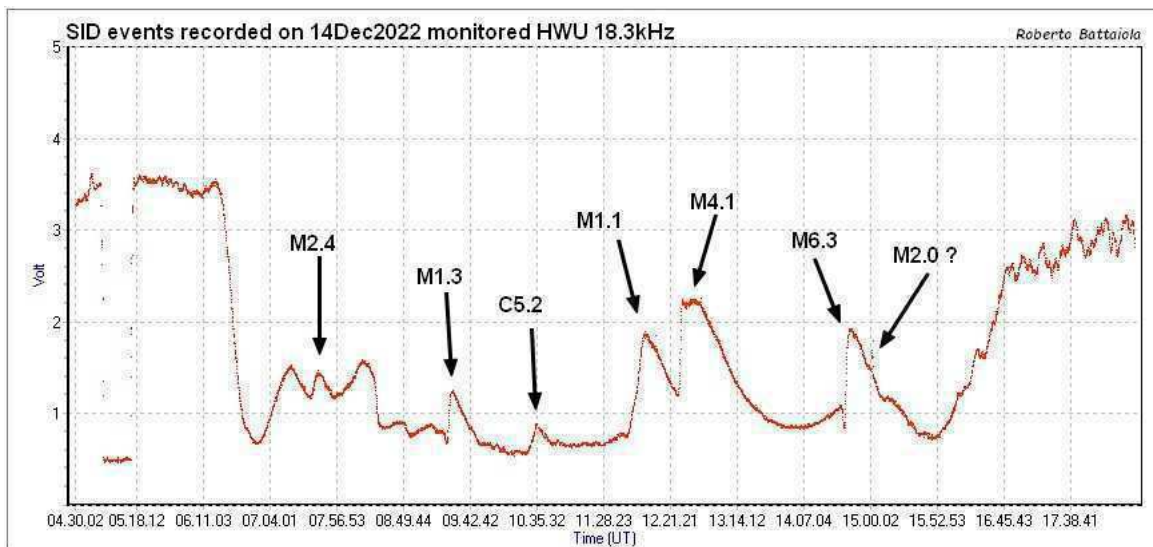
RADIO SKY NEWS

2022 DECEMBER.

First I must correct an error in the November report. The magnetic recording for November 7th was from Roger Blackwell, not Mark Edwards. My apologies for the error.

VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

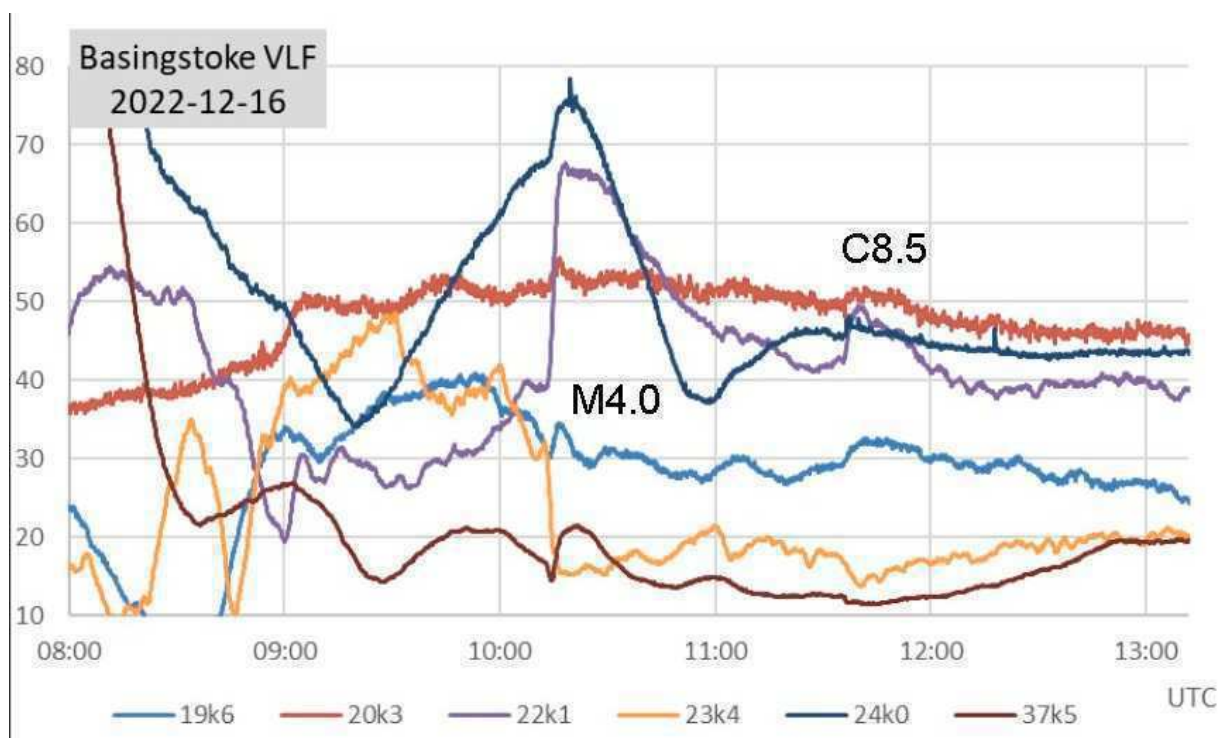
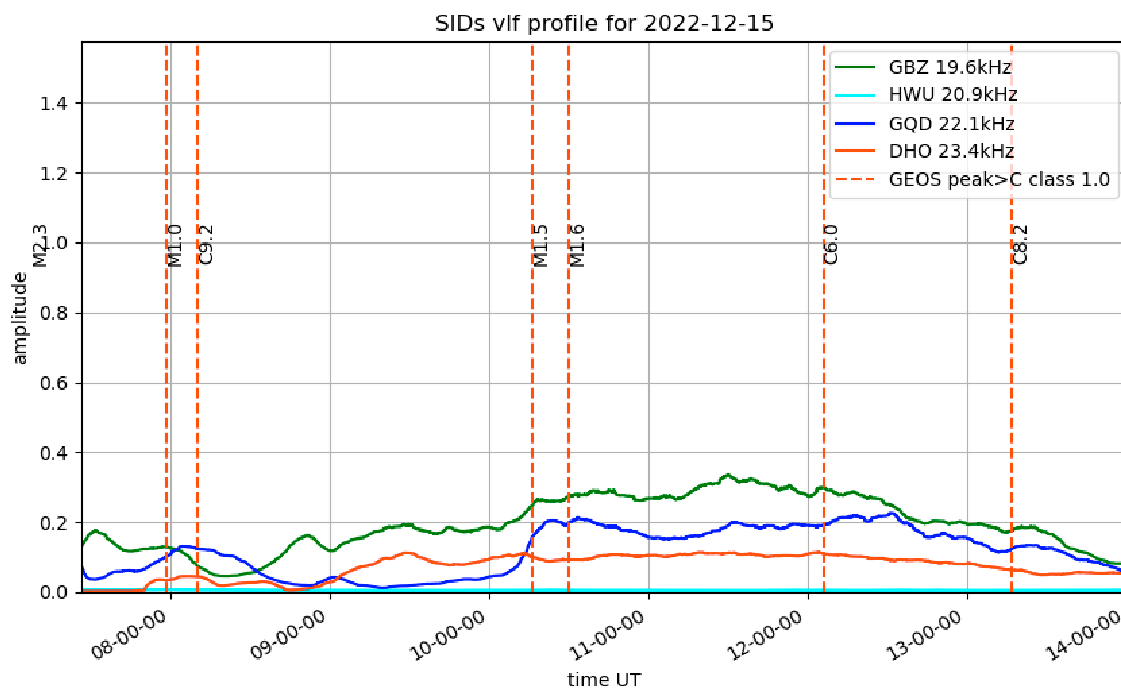
December was a very busy month for solar flares, with plenty of stronger M-class events. Roberto Battaiola describes it as a “fireworks December”, a very good description. His recording from the 14th gives an example of the mid-month activity:



It also shows how many of the flares overlapped and merged, making analysis quite difficult. The spike at 15:00 identified as M2.0? is probably from the M3.2 flare. The very early M2.4 flare is also visible, lost in the morning sunrise to observers here in the UK.

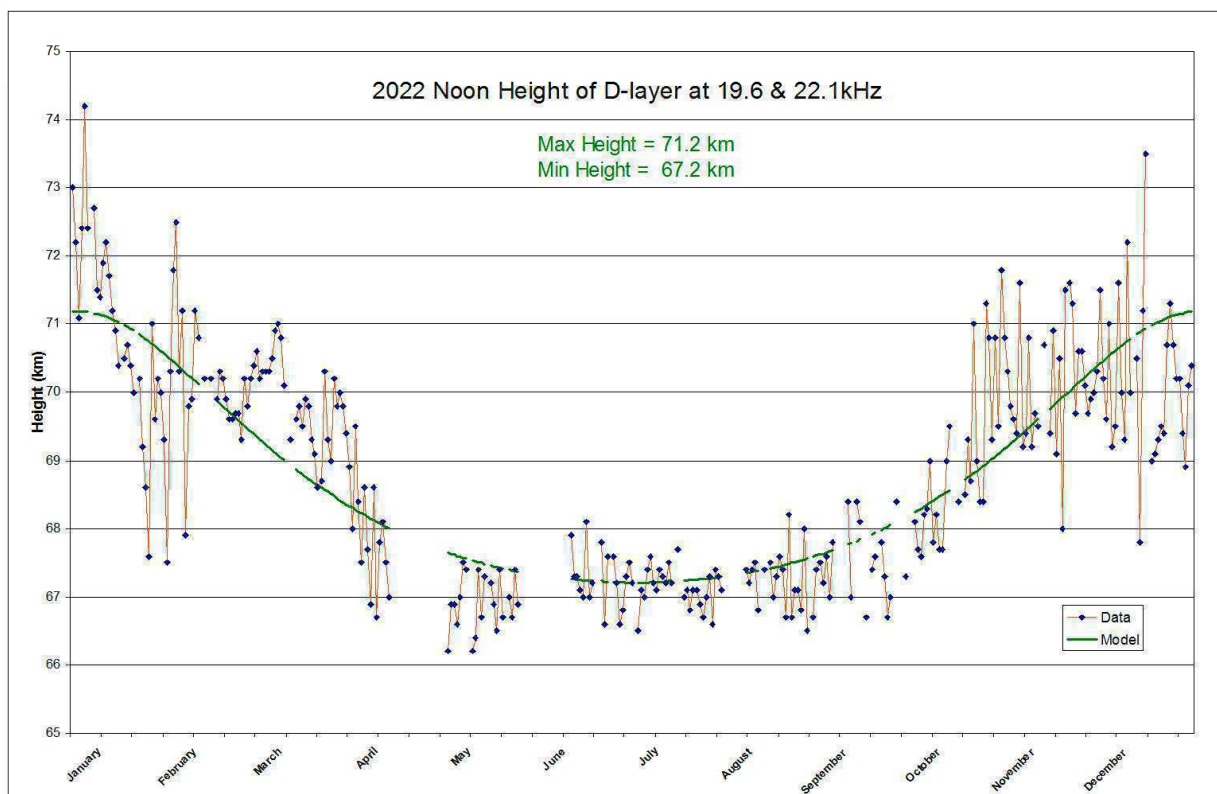
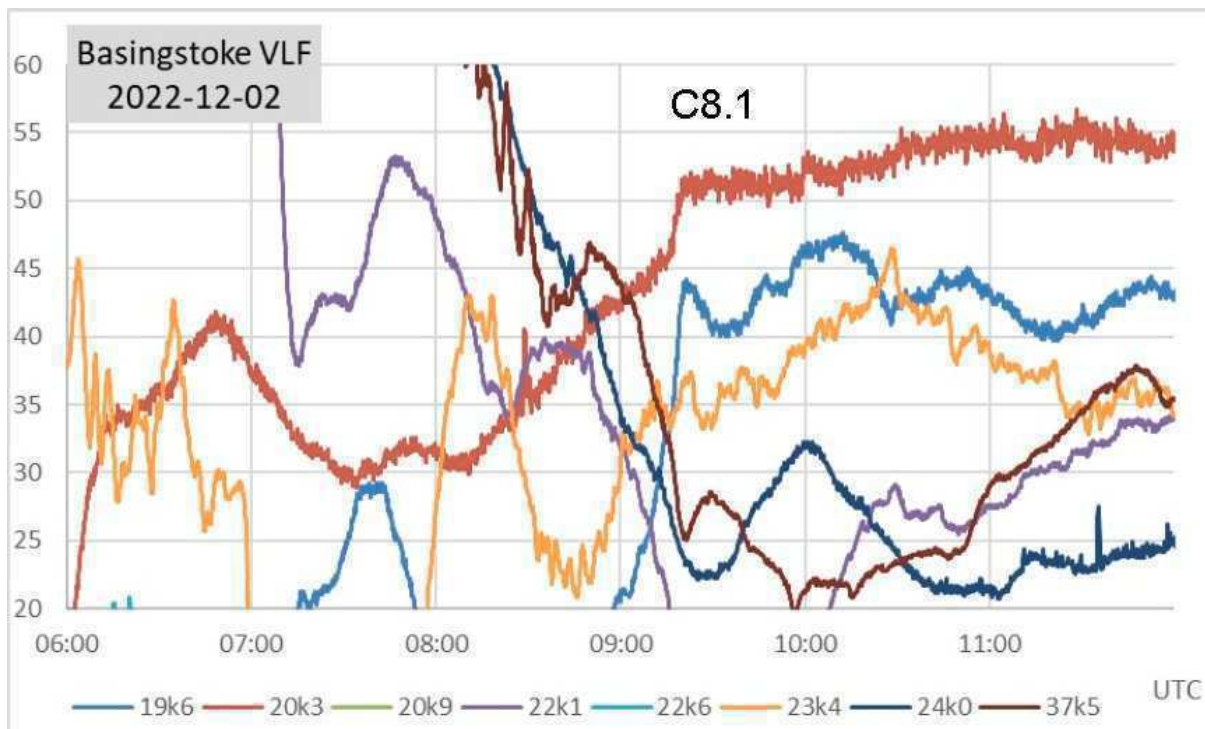
All of the M-class flares in mid-December were produced by active region AR13165, a medium sized Southern hemisphere sunspot group that was approaching the Western limb of the sun. There are no X-class flares shown in the satellite data.

Activity continued on the 15th, shown in the recording by Mark Prescott. Background levels were also quite high, so even the M-class flares did not produce clear SIDs for all observers.

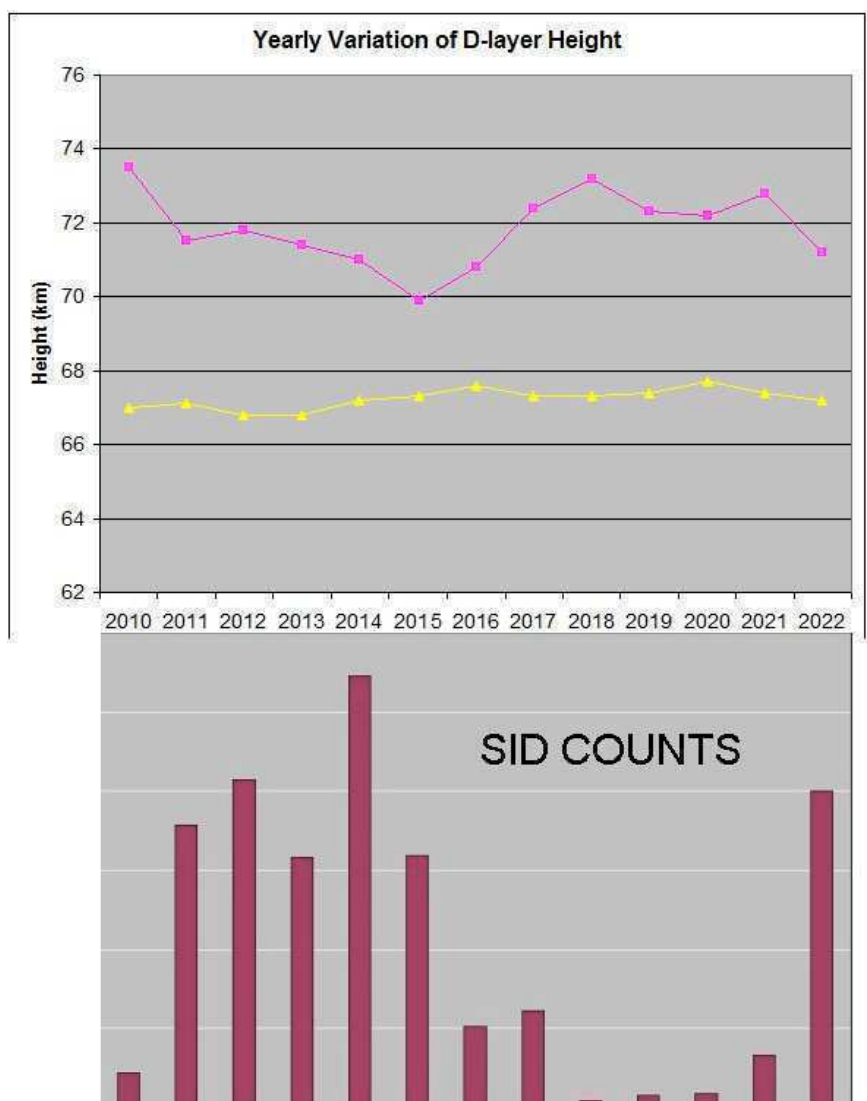


Paul Hyde's recording from the 16th shows the M4 flare peaking at 10:19UT. There is a clear SID at 22.1kHz, with a much less distinct effect at 19.6kHz. There is a small 'spike & wave' SID at 37.5kHz, while it sits on sunrise for the 24kHz trans-Atlantic signal.

With the sun at its lowest altitude in the sky during December, the Ionosphere D-region is often very unstable. My own recordings have been very noisy, saturating the receiver on several days. Paul Hyde's recording from the less active 2nd shows a well camouflaged C8.1 flare, nearly lost shortly after the local sunrise, followed by generally unstable conditions.

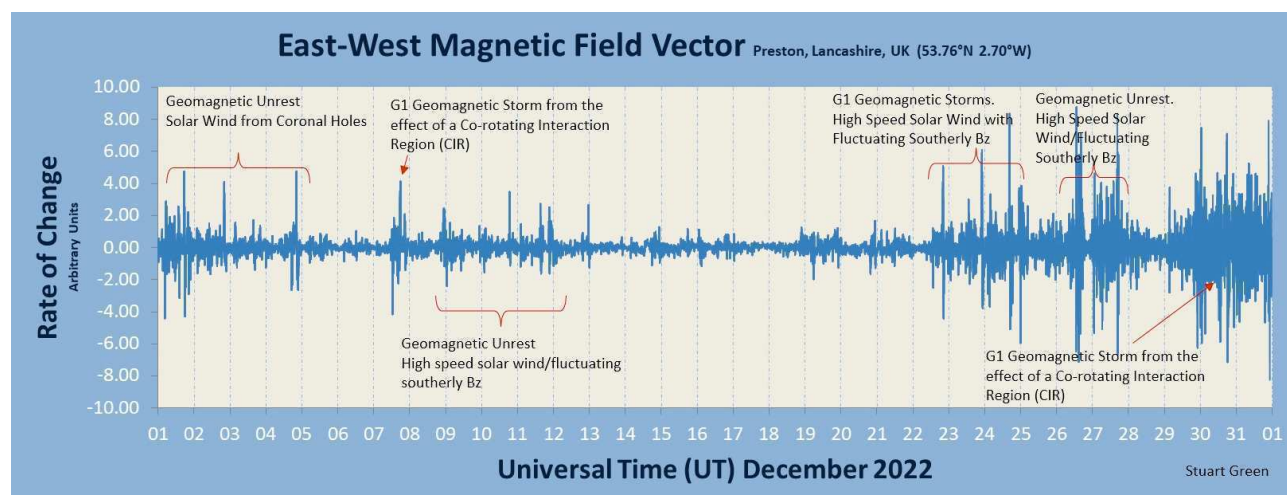


Mark Edwards has produced his analysis of D-region heights through the year, data points shown in red with the model output in green. The general winter instability just described results in the wider spread of data points from November to February. The chart on the next page shows how these heights have varied since 2010, compared with our SID counts over that period. The minimum height has been fairly stable around 67km, while the maximum height seems to fall as solar activity increases, rising during the solar minimum period.



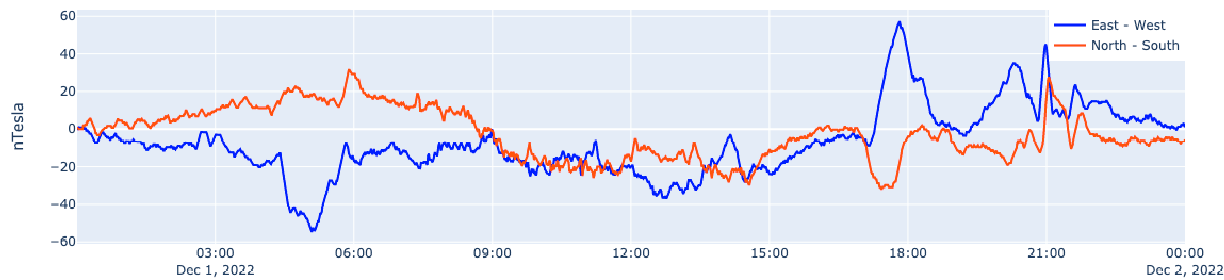
The SID counts are the number of individual peaks recorded, rather than the number of classified flares. This probably better represents solar activity, given that many of the stronger flares do have multiple peaks. The chart shows that the current solar cycle is making a very strong start, with 800 SIDs recorded in 2022.

MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.

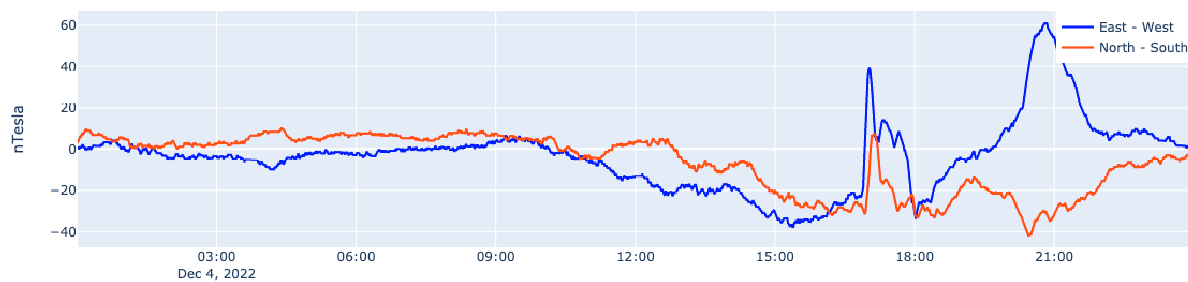


Stuart Green's monthly summary of magnetic activity shows a fairly gentle start to December, becoming much more active during the last week of the month. Once again most of the activity has been from faster solar winds, with little effect from CMEs. Some of the M-class flares did produce a CME, but they were not directed towards Earth, and so had little impact. The fast solar winds at the end of November continued into early December with some mild magnetic disturbances. Nick Quinn's recording from the 1st shows the disturbance:

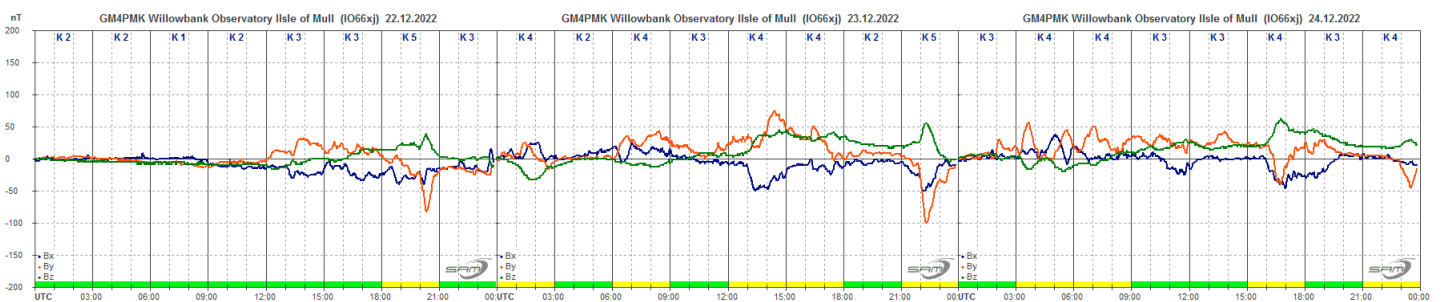
Steining Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



Steining Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)

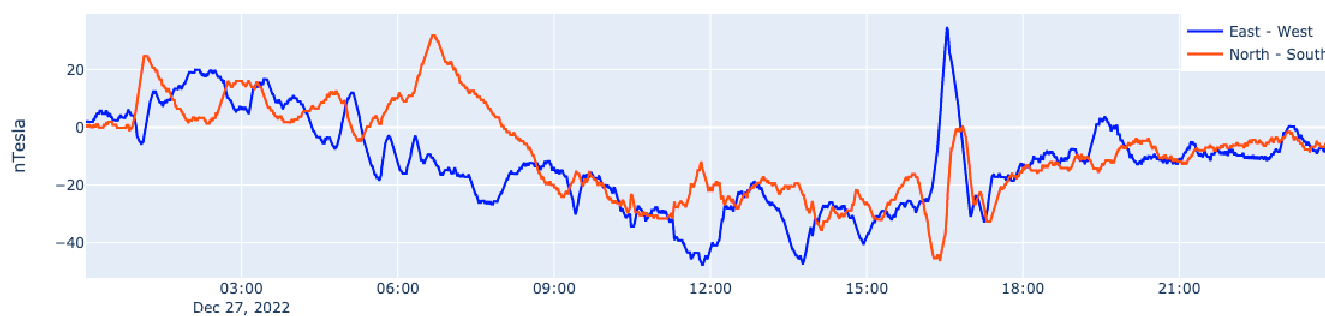


This continued into the 4th, with a larger equatorial coronal hole creating a more turbulent solar wind and a more active magnetic disturbance from the afternoon into the evening. There was less disturbance on the 5th and 6th, with another mild disturbance on the 7th. Conditions then remained fairly quiet until the coronal holes again began to be geo-effective from the 22nd.



Roger Blackwell's recordings over the 22nd to 24th show some moderate disturbance from the solar wind. The 25th remained fairly quiet, activity increasing again in the afternoon of the 26th. The disturbance continued on the 27th, shown in the recording by Nick Quinn:

Steysning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)

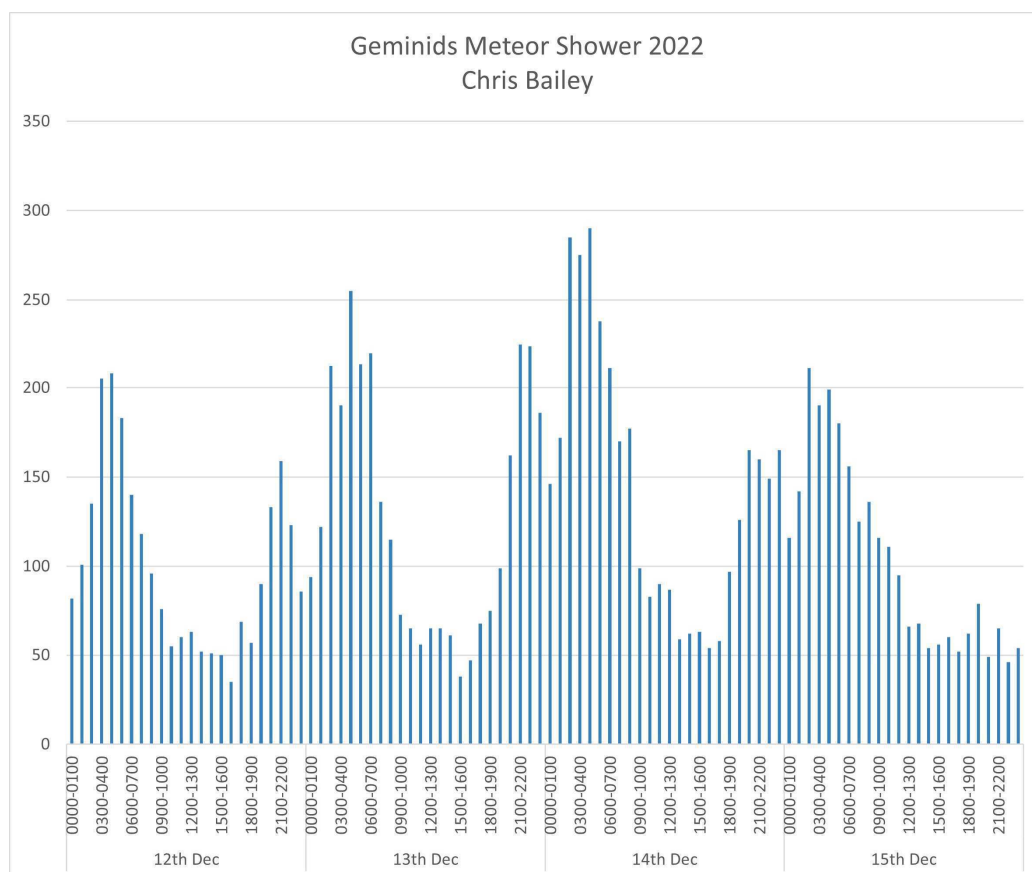


The 28th and 29th were less disturbed, activity increasing again on the 30th.

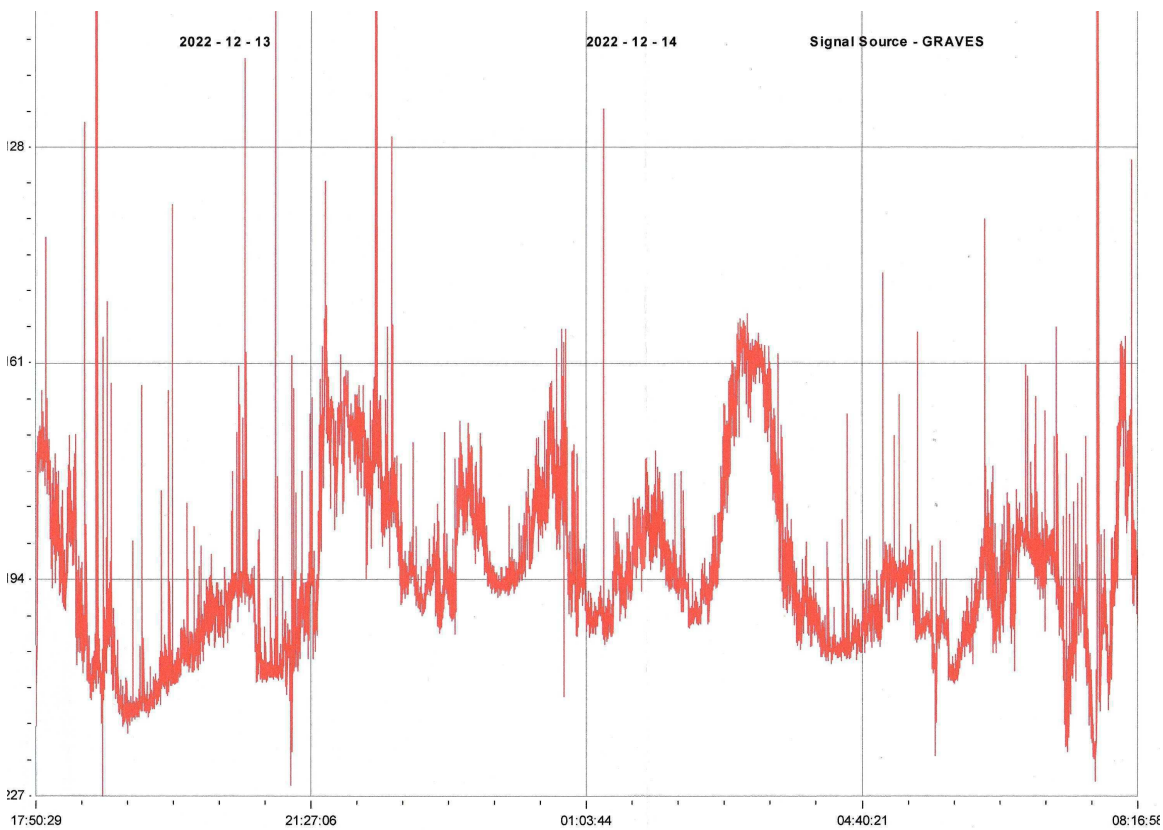
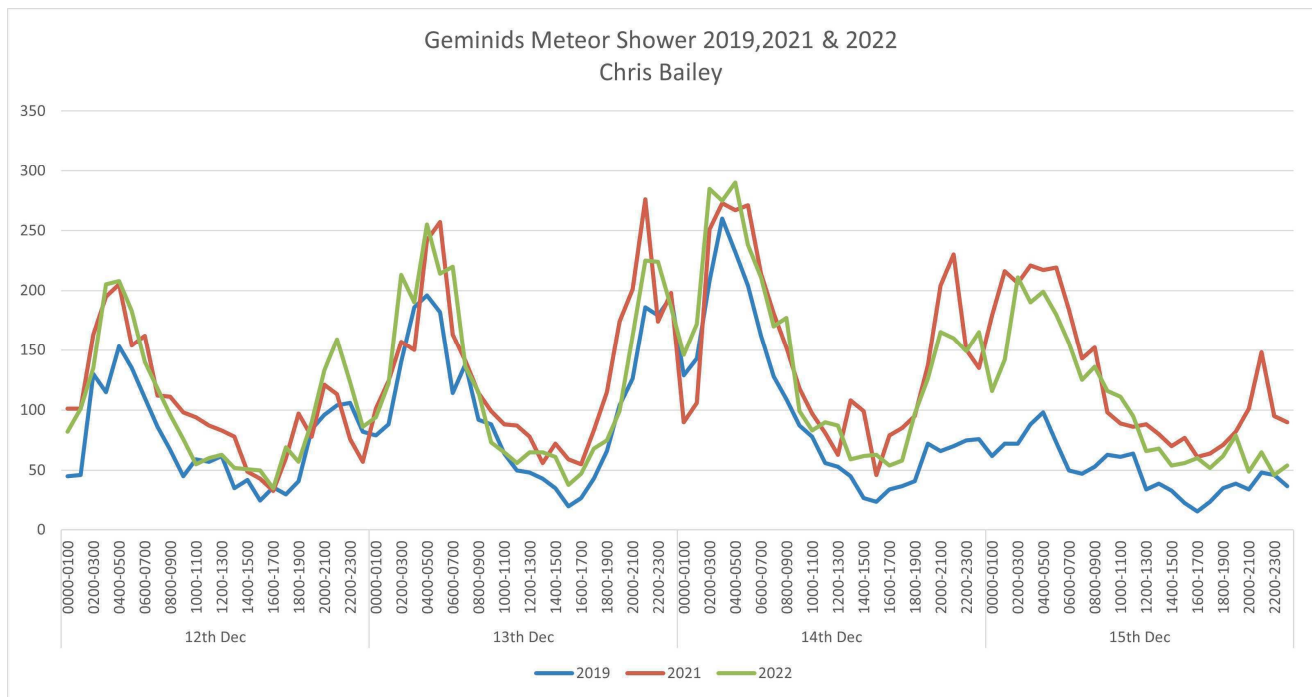
Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Stuart Green, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

METEORS.

Observations of the Geminid meteor shower were made by Colin Clements and Chris Bailey, showing some good activity.

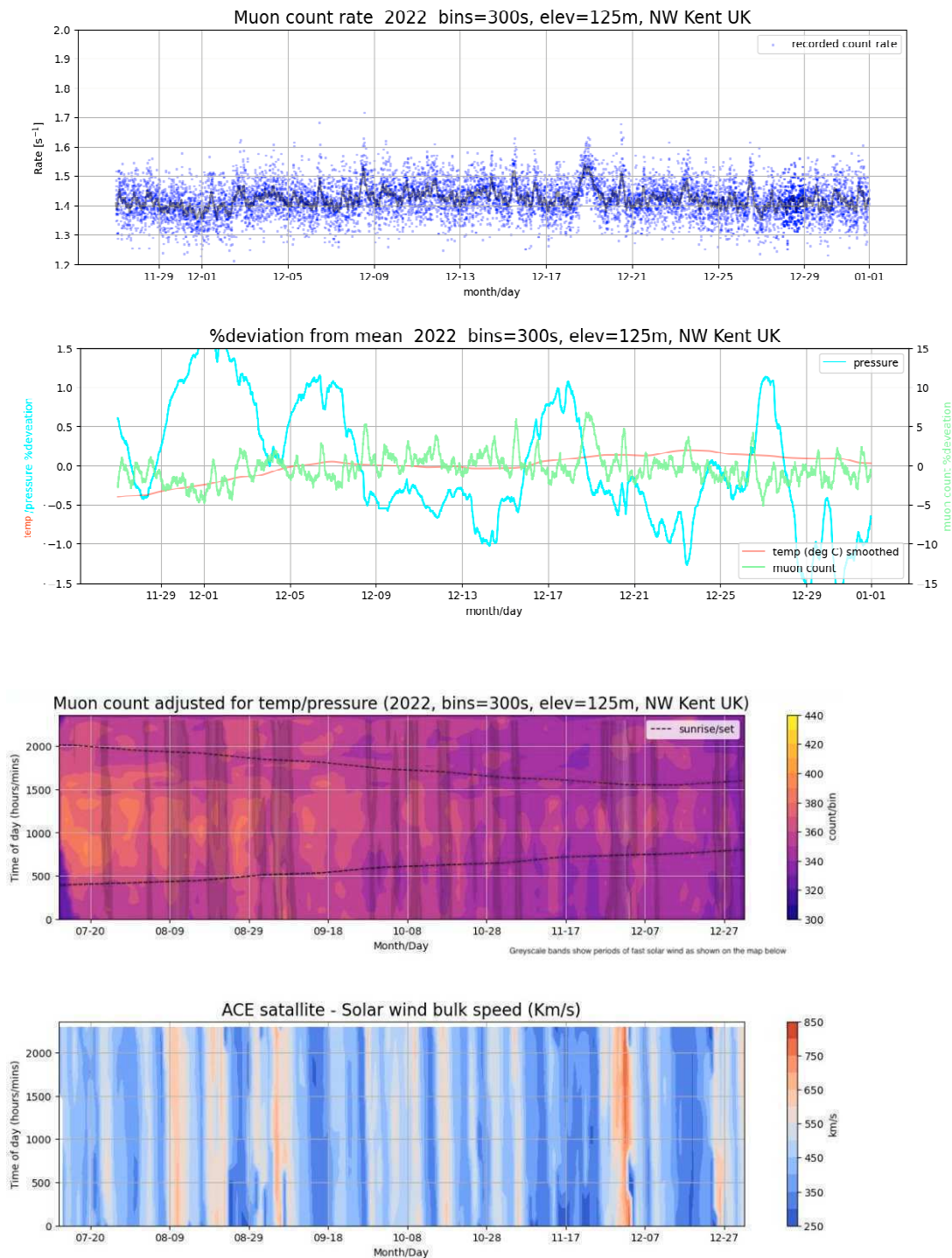


This chart from Chris Bailey shows activity peaks around 03 to 07UT over the 12th to 15th, strongest on the 14th. This matches well with the predictions in the 2022 BAA handbook. Chris has also compared Geminid counts over the last four years, shown on the next page. 2019 seems to have been slightly weaker, with similar numbers in 2021 and 2022. Counts were made over 30 second bands, and carefully examined to remove Starlink interference. 2020 is missing due to equipment problems.



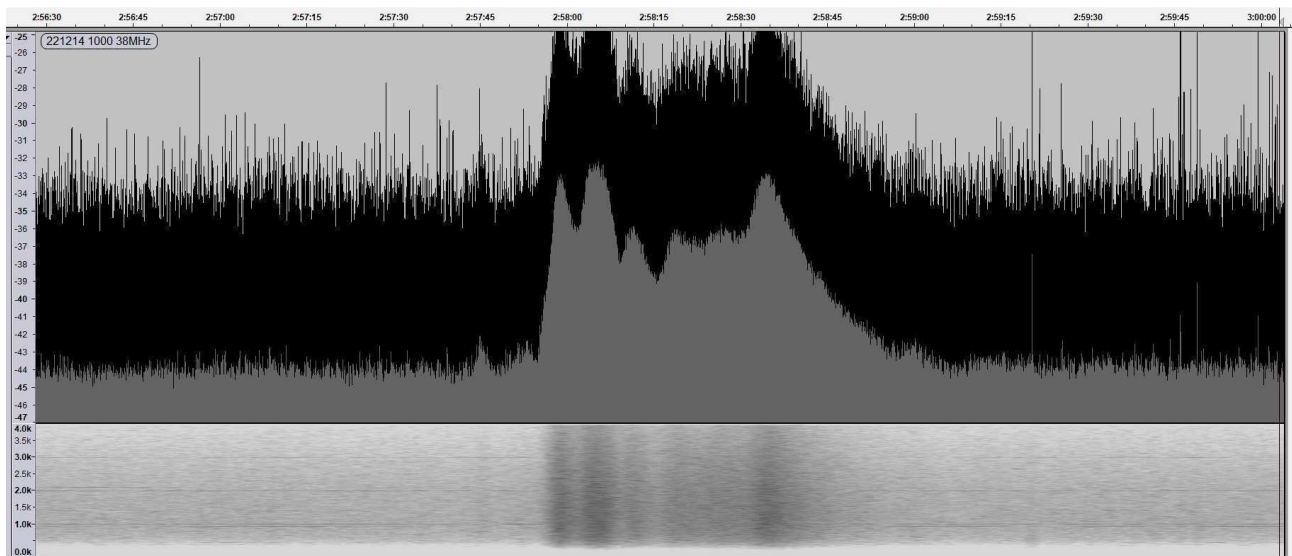
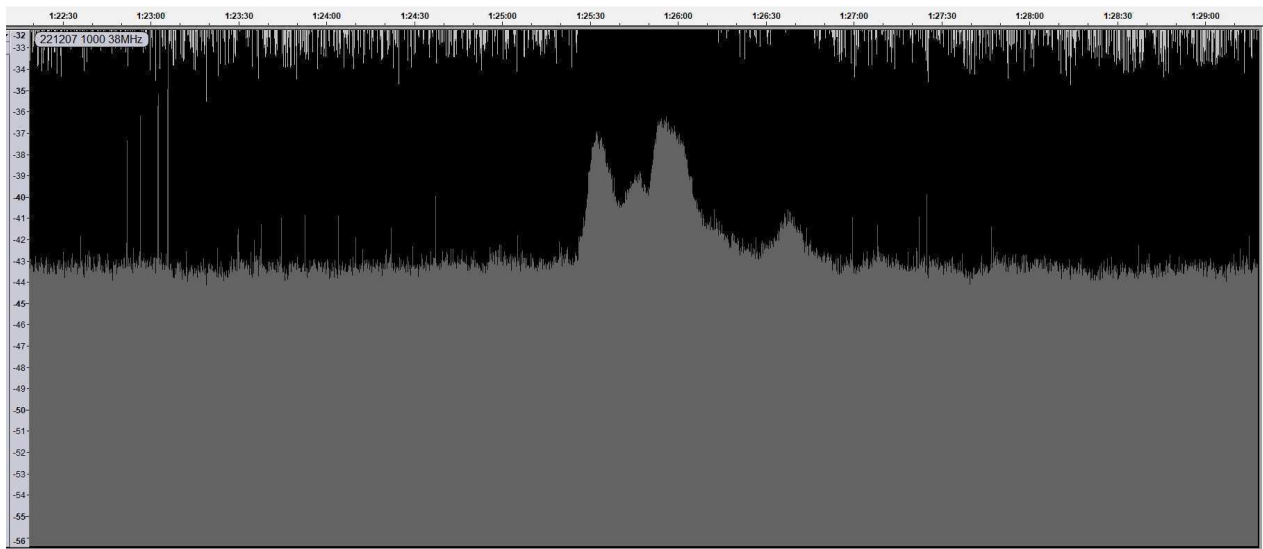
Colin Clements' chart shows the evening of the 13th into the morning of the 14th, but does include 'noise' spikes unrelated to meteors. The early morning peak is also clear, with smaller peaks throughout the period. Similar small peaks were also recorded on the 15th.

MUONS



The top chart shows the muon counts for December, recorded by Mark Prescott, together with pressure and temperature variations. The second chart shows adjusted counts from July to the end of the year in the upper panel. The black lines show sunset and sunrise times, with the brighter yellow regions indicating higher muon counts. These clearly follow the day length and season. The higher solar altitude gives a warmer atmosphere in summer, causing it to expand slightly resulting in a lower density. This allows more cosmic particles into the lower regions, converting into muons as they react with the atmospheric gases. This does give some confidence in the detection equipment and method.

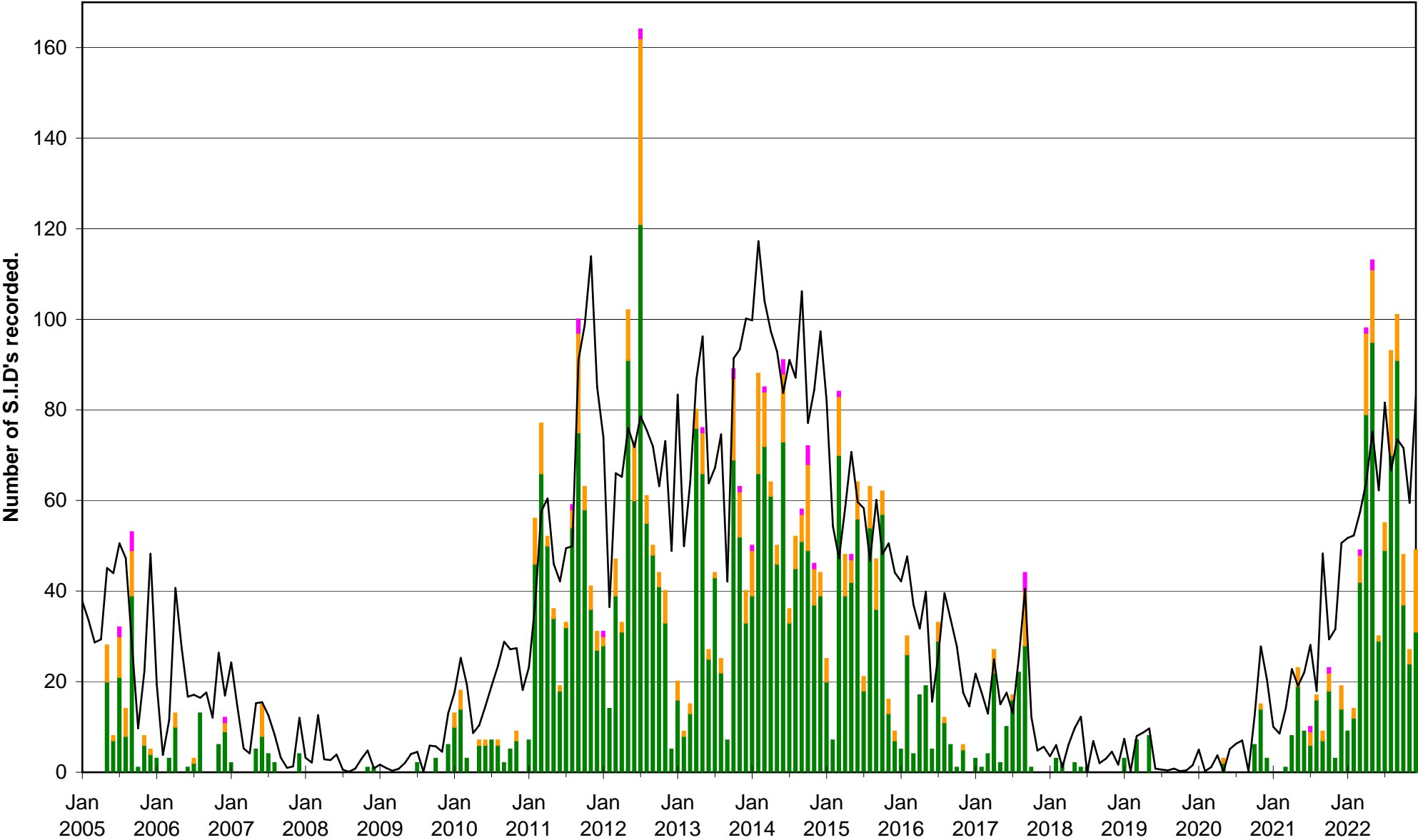
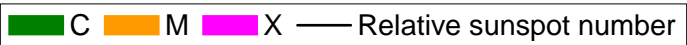
SOLAR EMISSIONS.



Colin Briden has recorded two type III radio bursts. The first was at 11:25UT on the 7th, matching a small C1.2 flare. The burst lasts about 1 minute, and rises about 6dB above the background. The second was at 12:58UT on the 14th, matching the series of M-flares recorded as SIDs. This one rises about 11 dB above the background level and also lasts about a minute. Colin has added a spectrogram below the main amplitude display. He also notes that interference has become more of a problem while the sun is lower in the winter sky. Looking forward to the spring, I hope that this problem improves.

Our series of zoom meetings organised by Paul Hearn continues. Full details of these meetings can be found through the BAA web site.

VLF flare activity 2005/22



	Xray class	Observers	John Cook (23.4kHz/22.1kHz)				Roberto Battaiola 18.3kHz				Paul Hyde (22.1kHz/24kHz)				Mark Edwards (24.0/18.3/37.5kHz)				Colin Clements (23.4kHz/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)	
2	C8.1	4									09:19	09:24	09:41	1	09:17	09:23	09:41	1				
3	M1.2	1													17:41	17:46	17:56	1-				
7	C5.8	6	13:03	13:04	13:13	1-	13:02	13:05	13:15	1-	13:01	13:04	13:20	1	13:03	13:04	13:23	1				
11	C2.9	1									11:30	11:40	11:51	1								
14	M2.4	1					07:34	07:41	07:53	1												
14	M1.3	7	09:23	09:27	09:54	1+	09:20	09:28	09:49	1+	09:20	09:25	09:48	1+	09:22	09:29	09:46	1				
14	C5.2	2					10:25	10:34	10:47	1					10:27	10:35	10:45	1-				
14	?	1													11:48	11:52	?	-				
14	M1.1	6	11:54	11:59	?	-	11:45	12:00	12:25	2	11:52	11:59	12:22	1+	11:55	12:00	12:18	1	11:55	12:15	12:27	1+
14	M4.1	8	12:27	12:33	13:23	2+	12:27	12:31	13:38	2+	12:25	12:30	13:36	2+	12:28	12:33	13:14	2+	12:29	12:30	13:10	2
14	?	1													12:55	12:57	13:03	1-				
14	?	1													13:14	13:23	13:33	1				
14	M6.3	8	14:37	14:39	?	-	14:39	14:43	14:57	1-	14:33	14:43	15:32	2+	14:36	14:44	?	-				
14	M3.2	3	14:56	14:59	15:10	1-	15:00	15:02	15:03	1-					14:57	14:59	15:59	2+				
15	C9.2	1					07:54	08:07	08:12	1-					10:01	10:20	?	-				
15	?	2													10:26	10:29	11:26	2+				
15	M1.6	5	10:05	10:24	11:14	2+	09:59	10:31	11:22	2+					10:46	10:52	11:07	1				
15	?	1													12:03	12:11	12:35	1+				
15	C6.0	2	12:01	12:05	?	-									12:46	12:48	13:04	1-				
15	?	1													13:10	13:18	?	-				
15	C8.2	4	13:10	13:15	13:32	1	13:07	13:16	13:24	1-	13:11	13:15	13:33	1	13:37	13:40	14:04	1+				
15	?	1													14:08	14:18	15:21	2+				
15	C9.1	3					14:02	14:14	14:25	1	14:04	14:12	14:38	2	15:50	15:52	15:59	1-				
15	C8.0	1													16:04	16:09	16:12	1-				
15	M1.0	1																				
16	M1.5	2	09:01	09:05	?	-	08:56	09:06	09:28	1+					10:15	10:21	10:33	1-				
16	M1.1	3	09:31	09:34	09:38	1-	09:28	09:43	09:55	1+					10:57	11:07	?	-				
16	M4.0	7	10:15	10:18	10:56	2	10:02	10:18	11:01	2+	10:12	10:19	10:59	2+	11:35	11:42	12:48	2+				
16	?	1													13:27	13:31	13:40	1-				
16	C8.5	5	11:38	11:41	12:05	1+	11:33	11:38	12:10	2	11:35	11:38	12:11	2	13:48	13:55	14:09	1				
16	C4.7	3	13:28	13:31	13:39	1-	13:20	13:27	13:35	1-	13:47	13:53	14:02	1-	14:32	14:43	?	-				
16	C5.8	3					13:44	13:50	14:05	1	14:31	14:41	?	-	15:15	15:17	?	-				
16	M2.4	6	14:32	14:41	15:00	1+	14:31	14:39	15:04	2					15:36	15:41	15:55	1				
16	?	1																				
16	M1.2	1																				
18	C5.8	2	10:07	10:10	10:27	1	09:57	10:08	10:24	1+					14:14	14:16	14:22	1-				
18	C4.7	1																				
19	C4.5	1					10:31	10:40	10:46	1-					14:23	14:30	14:41	1-				
19	C7.3	1					11:34	11:51	12:04	1+					13:53	13:59	?	-				
19	C8.0	1													14:03	14:08	15:02	2+				
20	?	4									13:51	13:56	?	-								
20	M1.1	6	13:54	13:56	?	-	13:52	14:06	14:23	1+	14:04	14:07	14:28	1								
21	C3.2	2					12:04	12:08	12:15	1-					12:08	12:11	12:15	1-				
22	C3.4	1													15:00	15:03	15:15	1-				
23	C2.3	2					10:46	10:51	11:02	1-												
23	C6.6	3					14:33	14:41	14:56	1					14:40	14:45	15:00	1				
24	C1.9	2					13:50	13:55	13:58	1-					13:56	13:59	14:02	1-				
26	C2.8	1													09:55	10:03	?	-				
26	?	1													10:10	10:12	10:16	1-				
26	C3.6	2					12:28	12:31	12:40	1-					12:29	12:31	12:35	1-				
26	?	1													13:35	13:37	13:45	1-				
26	C3.3	2					13:37	13:42	13:47	1-					13:46	13:49	13:56	1-				
27	C3.3	1													12:55	12:59	13:07	1-				
27	M1.2	1													16:23	16:26	16:37	1-				
29	C3.9	1					11:09	11:18	11:24	1-												
29	M2.4	1													18:16	18:20	18:27	1-				
30	C5.5	1					07:55	07:57	07:59	1-					11:10	11:16	11:25	1-				
30	C9.6	7	11:09	11:13	11:22	1-	11:07	11:12	11:24	1-	11:07	11:14	11:26	1	14:03	14:08	14:35	1+				
30	C4.5	1													15:27	15:29	15:49	1				
30	M1.4	3					15:17	15:22	15:28	1-	15:26	15:28	15:35	1-								
31	C4.9	3	11:28	11:32	11:46	1-									11:30	11:36	11:53	1				

2022 DECEMBER.

	Xray class		Steve Parkinson (Various)	Andrew Thomas (18.3kHz)	Phil Rourke (23.4kHz)	Mark Prescott (19.6kHz/20.9kHz)	John Elliot (18.3kHz)
			Tuned radio frequency receiver, frame aerals.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.	Spectrum Lab, 0.6m frame aerial.	SpetrumLab/Starbase, mini-whip aerial. Active	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)
2	C8.1					? 09:14 09:25 -	
3	M1.2						
7	C5.8		13:02 13:04 13:15 1-				
11	C2.9						
14	M2.4						
14	M1.3		09:23 09:28 09:37 1-			09:23 09:31 09:47 1	
14	C5.2						
14	?						
14	M1.1		11:47 12:00 ? -				
14	M4.1		12:27 12:37 13:05 2			12:31 12:36 13:04 2	
14	?						
14	?						
14	M6.3		14:37 14:44 15:11 2			14:41 14:47 15:08 1+	14:40 14:45 15:30 2+
14	M3.2						
15	C9.2						
15	?					10:07 10:23 ? -	
15	M1.6					? 10:34 11:04 -	
15	?						
15	C6.0						
15	?						
15	C8.2						
15	?						
15	C9.1						
15	C8.0						
15	M1.0						
16	M1.5						
16	M1.1					09:42 09:47 09:55 1-	
16	M4.0		10:15 10:29 11:05 2+			10:21 10:31 10:53 1+	
16	?						
16	C8.5		11:38 11:43 12:05 1+				
16	C4.7						
16	C5.8						
16	M2.4		14:34 14:41 14:59 1			14:36 14:45 15:02 1+	
16	?						
16	M1.2						
18	C5.8						
18	C4.7						
19	C4.5						
19	C7.3						
19	C8.0						
20	?		13:52 13:57 ? -			13:55 14:00 ? -	
20	M1.1		14:03 14:07 14:20 1-			? 14:10 14:42 -	
21	C3.2						
22	C3.4						
23	C2.3						
23	C6.6						
24	C1.9						
26	C2.8						
26	?						
26	C3.6						
26	?						
26	C3.3						
27	C3.3						
27	M1.2						
29	C3.9						
29	M2.4						
30	C5.5						
30	C9.6		11:07 11:15 11:32 1			11:10 11:17 11:37 1+	
30	C4.5						
30	M1.4						
31	C4.9						

2022 DECEMBER.

	Xray class		Chris Bailey	Andrew Lutley (23.4kHz)	Peter Meadows (23.4kHz)		
			Spectrum Lab.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.		
DAY			START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)
2	C8.1		09:16 09:22 09:36 1				
3	M1.2						
7	C5.8		13:00 13:04 13:40 2				
11	C2.9						
14	M2.4						
14	M1.3		09:22 09:27 09:48 1+				
14	C5.2						
14	?						
14	M1.1						
14	M4.1		12:28 12:33 13:10 2				
14	?						
14	?						
14	M6.3		14:36 14:43 14:55 1				
14	M3.2						
15	C9.2						
15	?						
15	M1.6		09:55 10:14 11:10 2+				
15	?						
15	C6.0						
15	?						
15	C8.2						
15	?						
15	C9.1						
15	C8.0						
15	M1.0						
16	M1.5						
16	M1.1						
16	M4.0		10:15 10:23 11:15 2+				
16	?						
16	C8.5						
16	C4.7						
16	C5.8						
16	M2.4						
16	?						
16	M1.2						
18	C5.8						
18	C4.7						
19	C4.5						
19	C7.3						
19	C8.0						
20	?						
20	M1.1						
21	C3.2						
22	C3.4						
23	C2.3		10:50 10:52 11:08 1-				
23	C6.6		14:36 14:46 14:55 1				
24	C1.9						
26	C2.8						
26	?						
26	C3.6						
26	?						
26	C3.3						
27	C3.3						
27	M1.2						
29	C3.9						
29	M2.4						
30	C5.5						
30	C9.6		11:08 11:15 11:25 1-				
30	C4.5						
30	M1.4						
31	C4.9		11:24 11:35 11:50 1+				

ROTATION	KEY:		DISTURBED.		ACTIVE		SFE	B, C, M, X = FLARE MAGNITUDE.								Synodic rotation start (carrington's).																
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	2020 February		2227				
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	2228			
2545	F	2020 March		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	2229		
2546	F	29	30	31	2020 April		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
2547	F	2230	25	26	27	28	29	30	2020 May		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
2548	F	2231	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2020 June		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
2549	F	2032	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	2020 July		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
2550	F	2033	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2020 August		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
2551	F	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2020 September				1	2	3	4	5	6
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	2020 October		1	2	3		
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				
2554	F	31	2237 2020 November				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
2555	F	27	28	29	30	2020 December		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
2556	F	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2021 January		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	2021 February				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2558	F	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	2021 March		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
2559	F	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2021 April		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	2021 May		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	M	
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	2021 June		1	2	3		
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				
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				
2564	F	28	29	30	31	2021 August		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
2565	F	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2021 September		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
2566	F	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2021 October		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
2567	F	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2021 November		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
2568	F	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	2021 December		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
2569	F	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2022 January		1	2	3	4	5		
2570	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	30	31	32				
2571	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	29			
2572	F	2022 March		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		
2573	F	28	29	30	31	2022 April		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
2574	F	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	2022 May		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
2575	F	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2022 June		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
2576	F	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	2022 July		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
2577	F	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2022 August		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
2578	F	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2022 September		1	2	3	4	5		
2579	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	30	31	32				
2580	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				
2581	F	30	31	2022 November		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		
2582	F	26	27	28	29	30	2022 December		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
2583	F	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	2023 January		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		