



# The British Astronomical Association

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BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

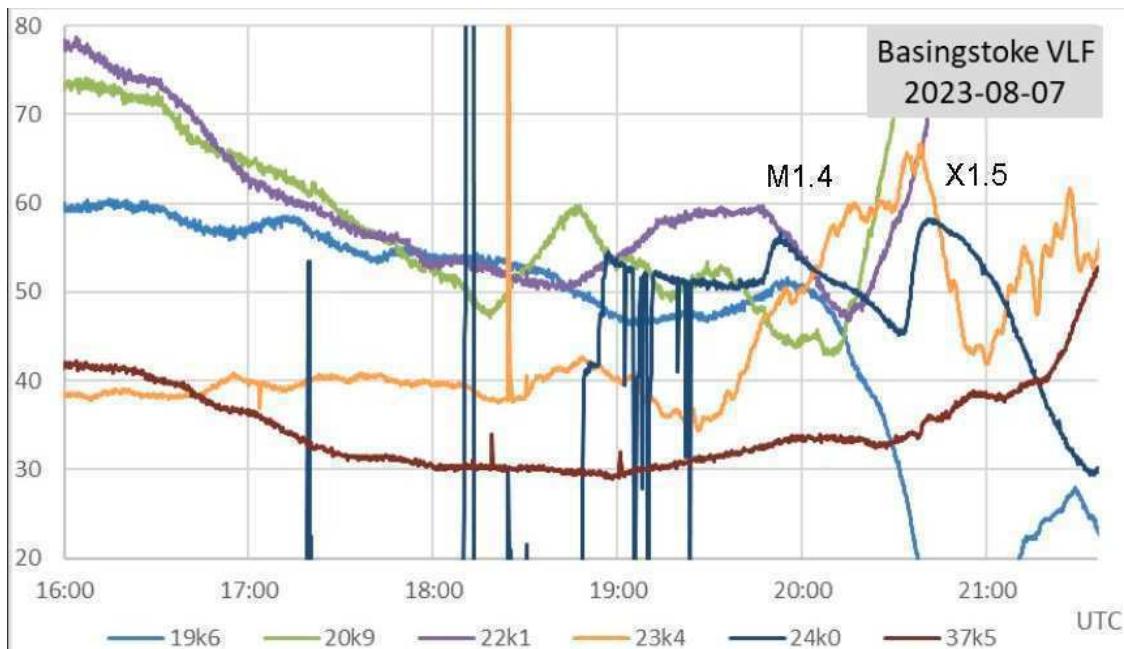
Director Paul Hearn.

## RADIO SKY NEWS

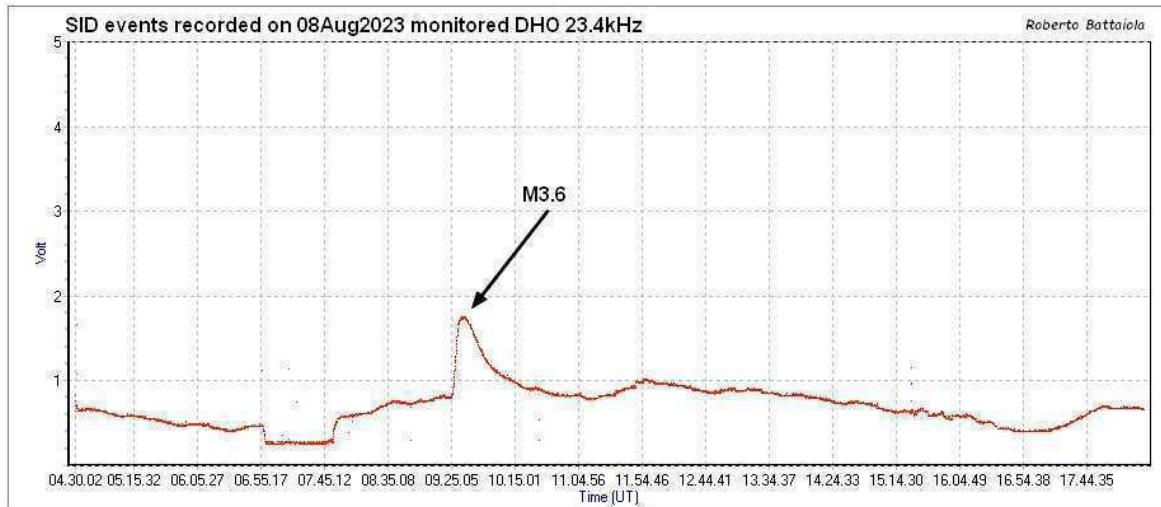
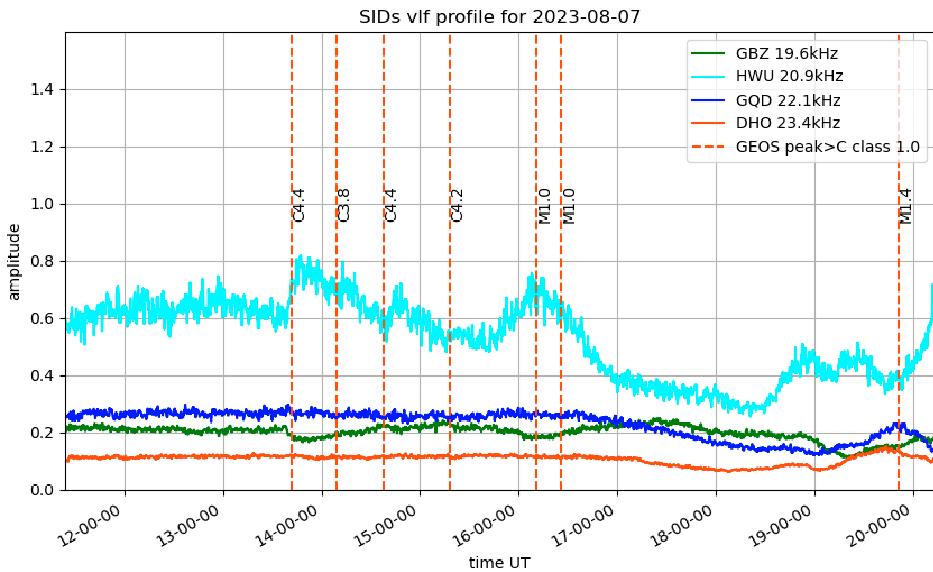
## 2023 AUGUST.

### VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

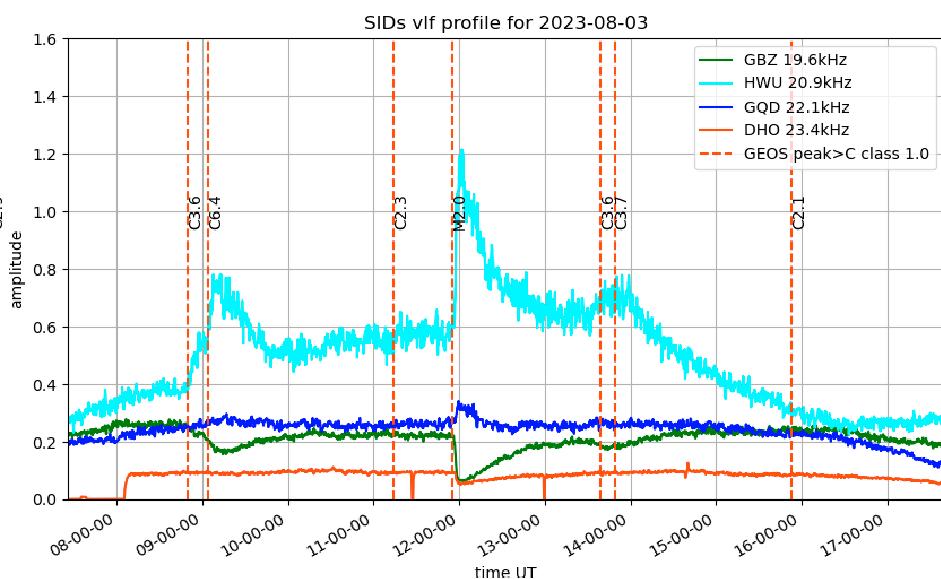
The strong solar activity in July continued into early August, but then faded away by mid-month. We recorded 68 classified flares in August, compared with 150 in July. There were however two X-class flares recorded, although they were rather late in the evening for the European signals. The background X-ray flux shown in the satellite data was also fairly high, so many of the smaller C-class flares were missed. Many of the stronger flares were also multiple-peaked again, giving plenty of unclassified SIDs.



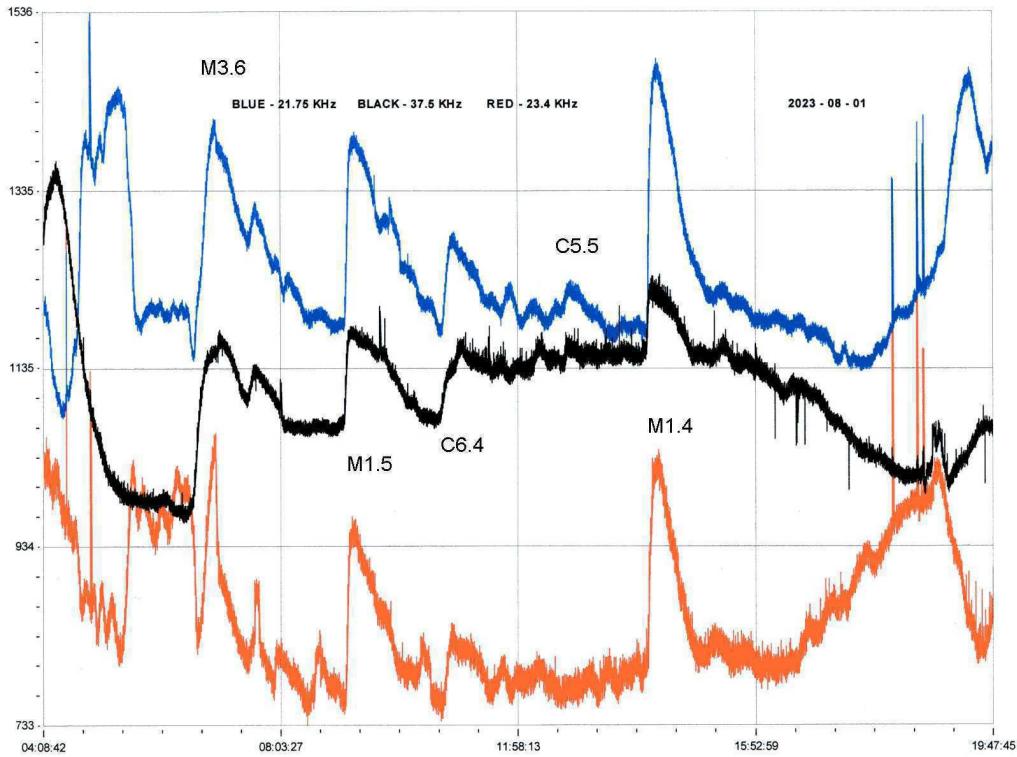
This recording by Paul Hyde shows the X1.5 flare peaking at 20:41UT on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Most of the signals shown are suffering from the sunset, but the 24kHz trans-Atlantic signal shows a clear SID together with the earlier M1.4 flare. The signal had been off for much of the day, but luckily had come back on in time to catch these flares. 37.5kHz from Iceland shows a very small response. The peak of the earlier M1.0 flare is right on the left edge of the chart. This was a double peaked flare, both peaks of a similar magnitude. It was also a very slow flare, starting around 15:30 with peaks at 16:10 and 16:30. This is shown in the recording by Mark Prescott, along with the rest of the day's activity:



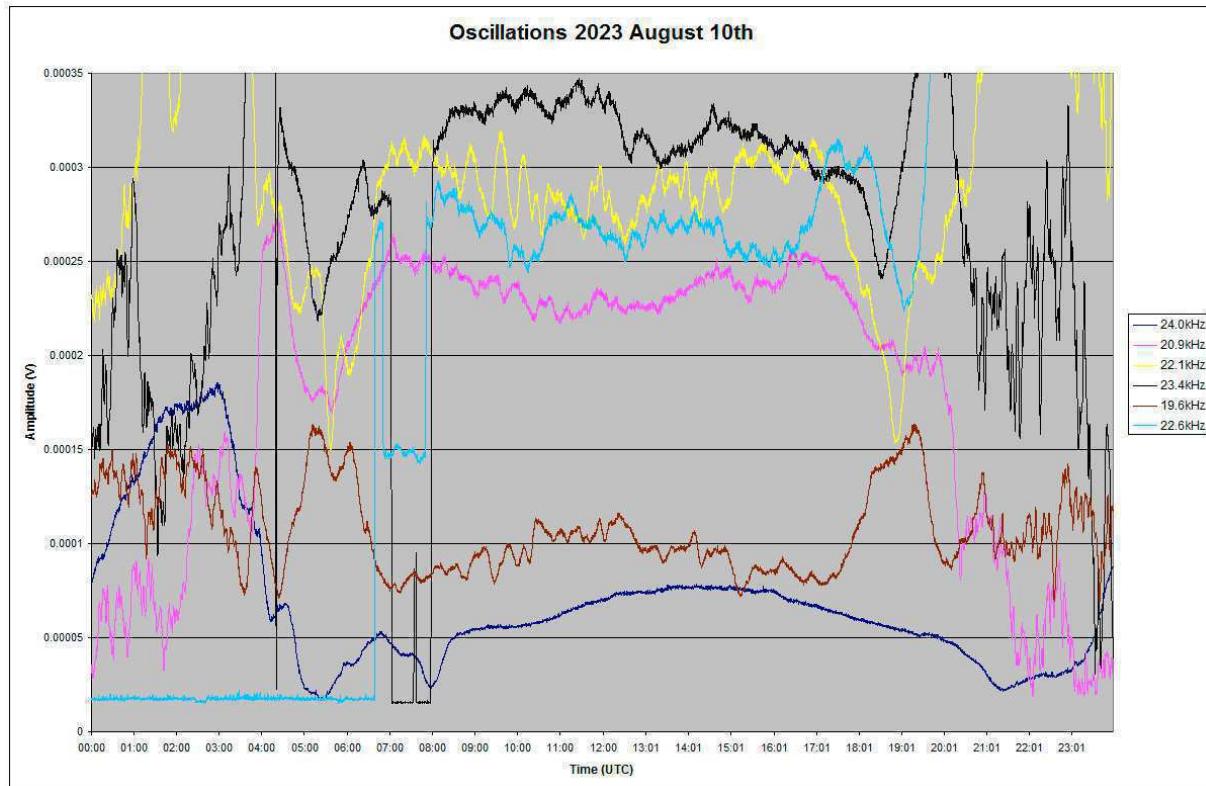
Activity started to decline after this, with just two flares recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The first of these is shown in this recording by Roberto Battaiola at 23.4kHz. The M3.6 flare at 09:31 produced a clear SID, although the C8.7 flare at 18:12 was too close to the sunset to show on this signal.



Mark Prescott's recording from the 3<sup>rd</sup> shows the strong M2.0 flare close to midday, its long decay time covering the later C-class flares at 20.9kHz. The earlier C2.3 flare is also well hidden.

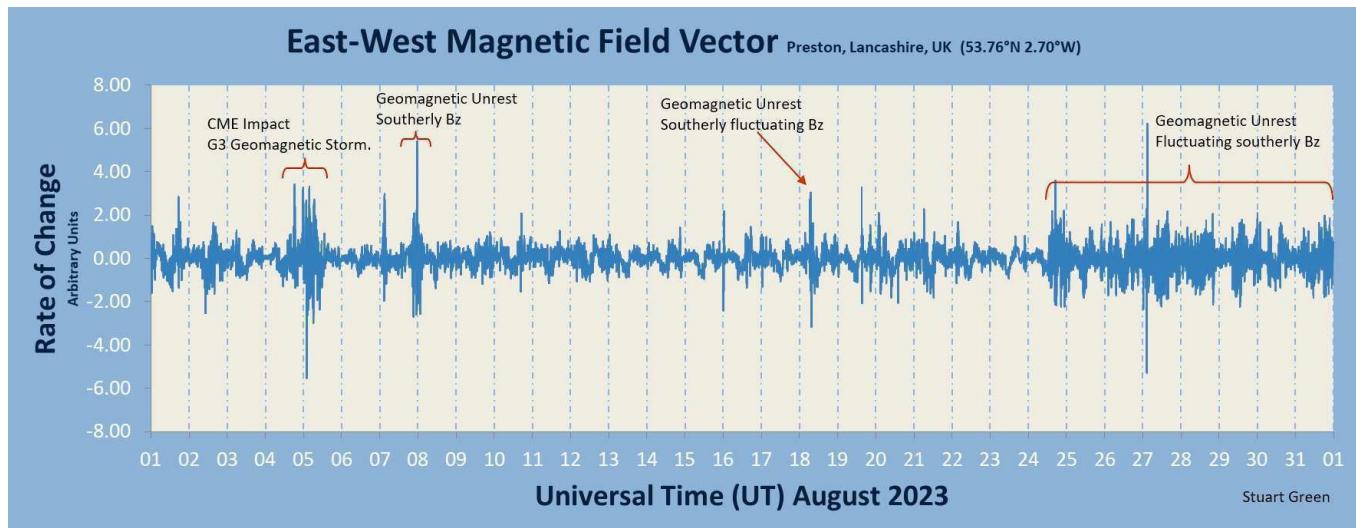


The 1<sup>st</sup> was one of the busiest days for flares, shown in the recording by Colin Clements. The stronger M-flares are easy to see with clear SIDs, but 21.75kHz (blue) in particular shows many smaller peaks between them. The satellite data shows that the majority of these flares were all from AR13380, an active region very close to the west limb of the sun at the time.

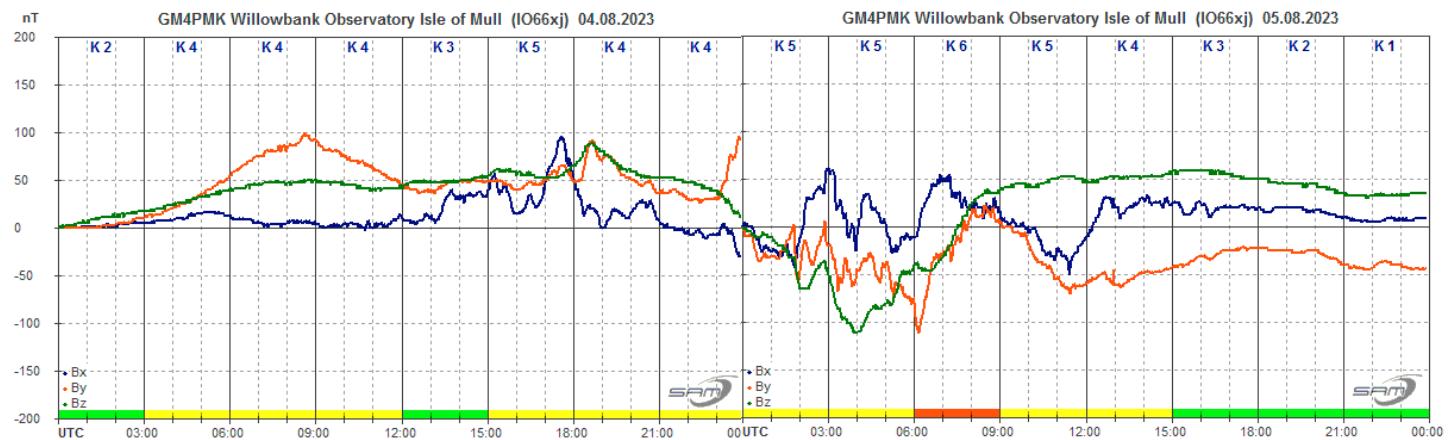


The recording from the 10<sup>th</sup> by Mark Edwards shows some significant oscillations on all of the European signals throughout the day, while 24kHz just shows a normal quiet diurnal curve. The two British signals, 19.6 and 22.1kHz show the most distinct pattern, followed by the French signal at 20.9kHz. This appears to be due to the more active weather pattern over Europe compared to the North Atlantic. Satellite data shows just a few small flares during the day. Mark also recorded oscillations on the 4<sup>th</sup>, again leaving 24kHz with a clean diurnal curve showing the two small SIDs.

## MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.

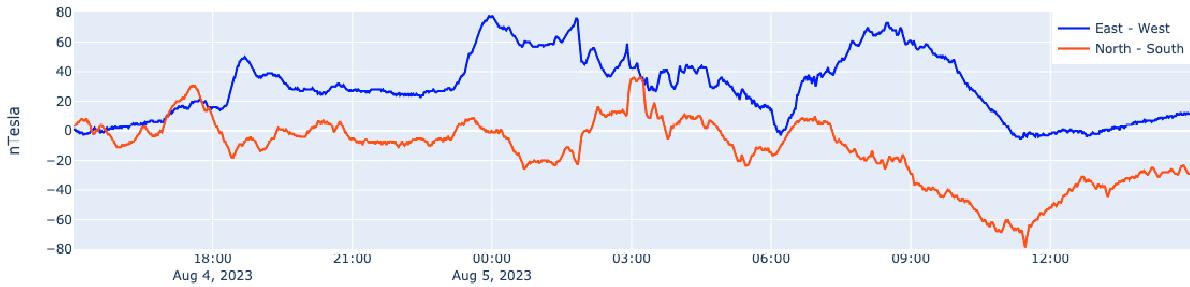


Stuart Green's summary of the magnetic activity in August shows a mostly quiet month, disturbances mostly due to the solar wind. The CME impact on the 5<sup>th</sup> appears to be from a filament eruption, as the satellite images show a full halo CME from near the centre of the visible disc. The strong flares were from active regions much nearer to the limb. Whatever the source, it gave rise to the most active magnetic disturbance of the month, shown in Roger Blackwell's recording:

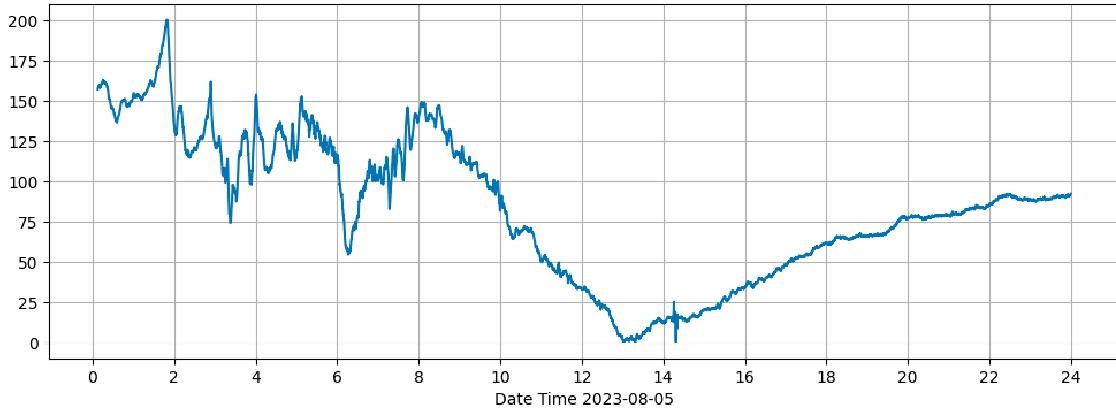


The sensor is reset at midnight, and so there is an offset between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> clearly seen in the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Nick Quinn (Steyning) and Callum Potter (Wasbister) also made recordings of the disturbance with respectively, two and single axis sensors:

Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)

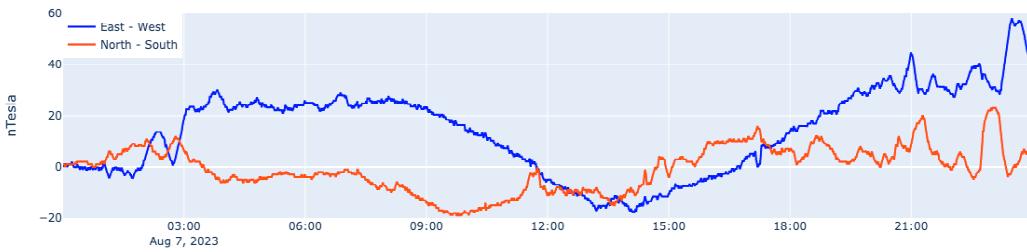


Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N, 3.06W)

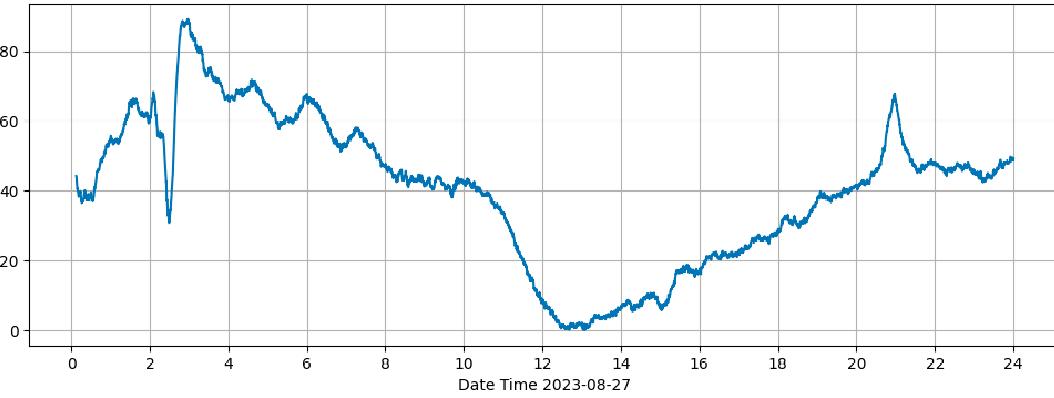


The rest of the month was much quieter, with disturbance mainly from a more active solar wind. Nick Quinn's recording shows a mild disturbance starting on the 7<sup>th</sup>:

Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



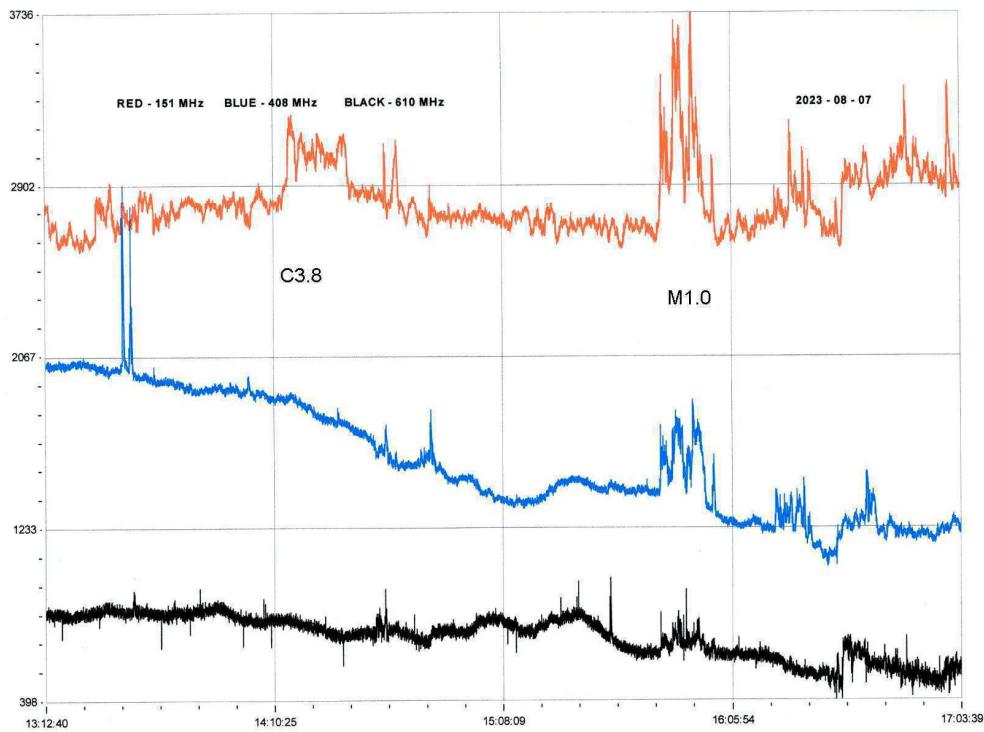
Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N, 3.06W)



Callum Potter's chart shows more solar wind disturbance on the 27<sup>th</sup>, possibly aided by CME glancing blows. The sharp pulse around 02:30 looks like a CME impact, although it was not recorded by other observers, so may just be from the solar wind.

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

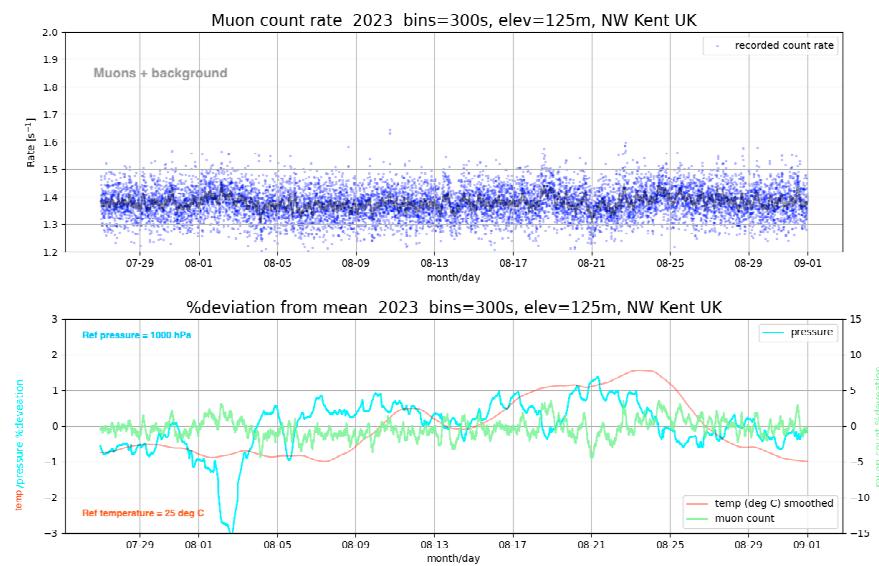
## SOLAR EMISSIONS.

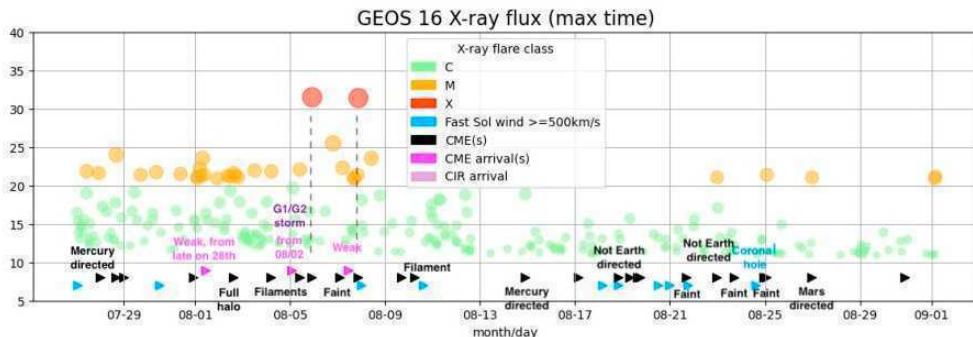
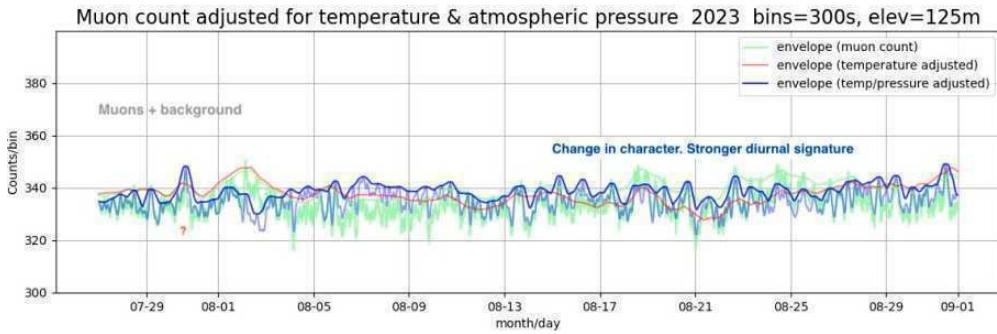


Colin Clements recorded some VHF/UHF emissions associated with flare activity on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The 151MHz burst just after 14:10UT matches the timing of a C3.8 flare that occurred between the pair of C4.4 flares that we recorded. The stronger 151MHz burst aligns with the M1.0 flare, and is accompanied by smaller signals at 408MHz and 610MHz. The SID recording by Mark Prescott already illustrated shows that this was a very slow flare, and so links to the complex noise peaks after 16UT in Colin's recording.

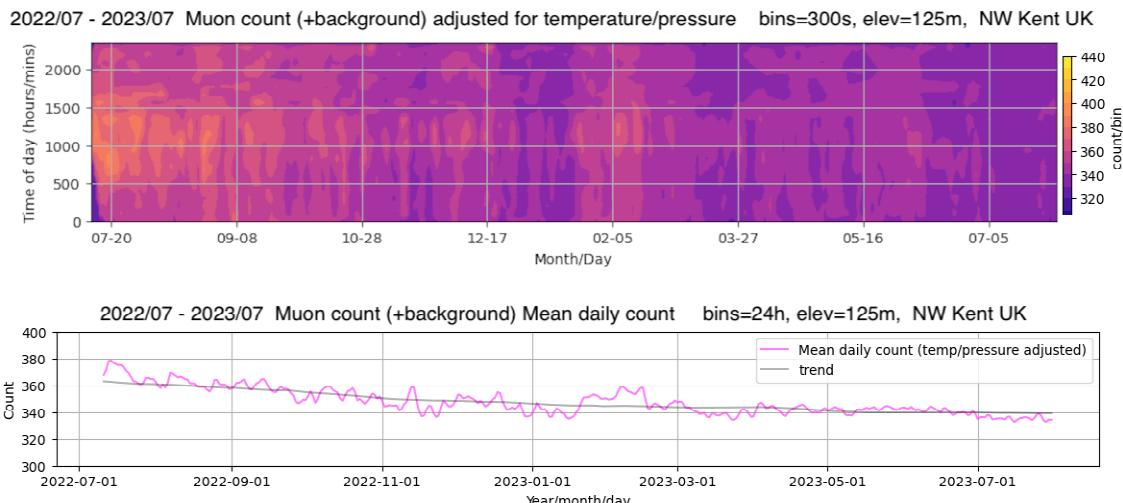
Colin recorded similar activity from the M1.7 flare on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a strong 151MHz signal and much less response at 408MHz and 610MHz.

## MUONS.





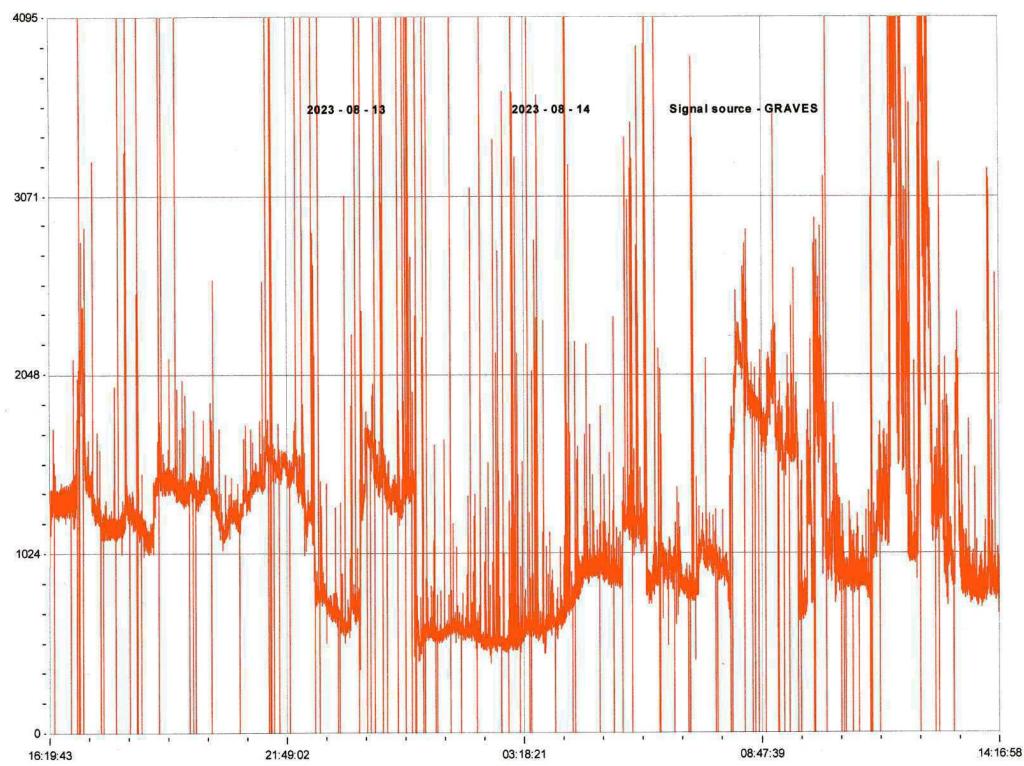
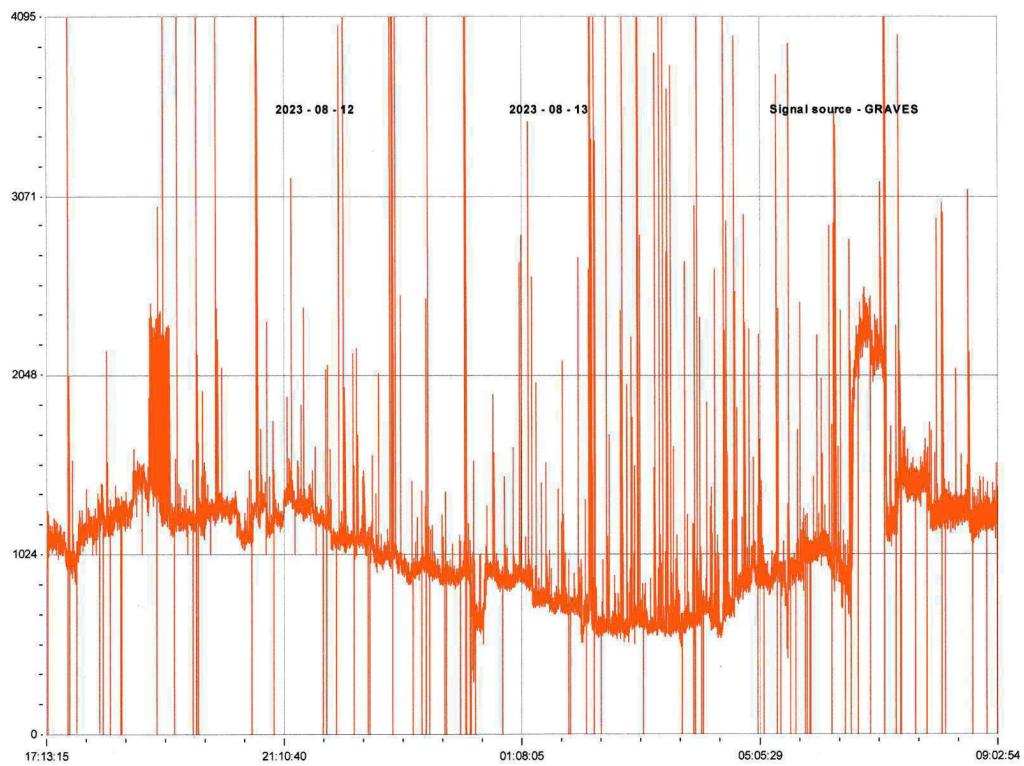
Mark Prescott recorded the Muon flux during August, noting the strong change in behaviour after the 13<sup>th</sup>. During the period of high flare activity the muon counts are highly variable. After the 13<sup>th</sup> when the flare activity declined, the diurnal curve is much clearer on most days.



Mark has also produced a chart showing the change in Muon count over the last 12 months. From 2022 July 1 to 2023 July 31 the temperature / pressure corrected mean daily count has fallen by about 6.8%.

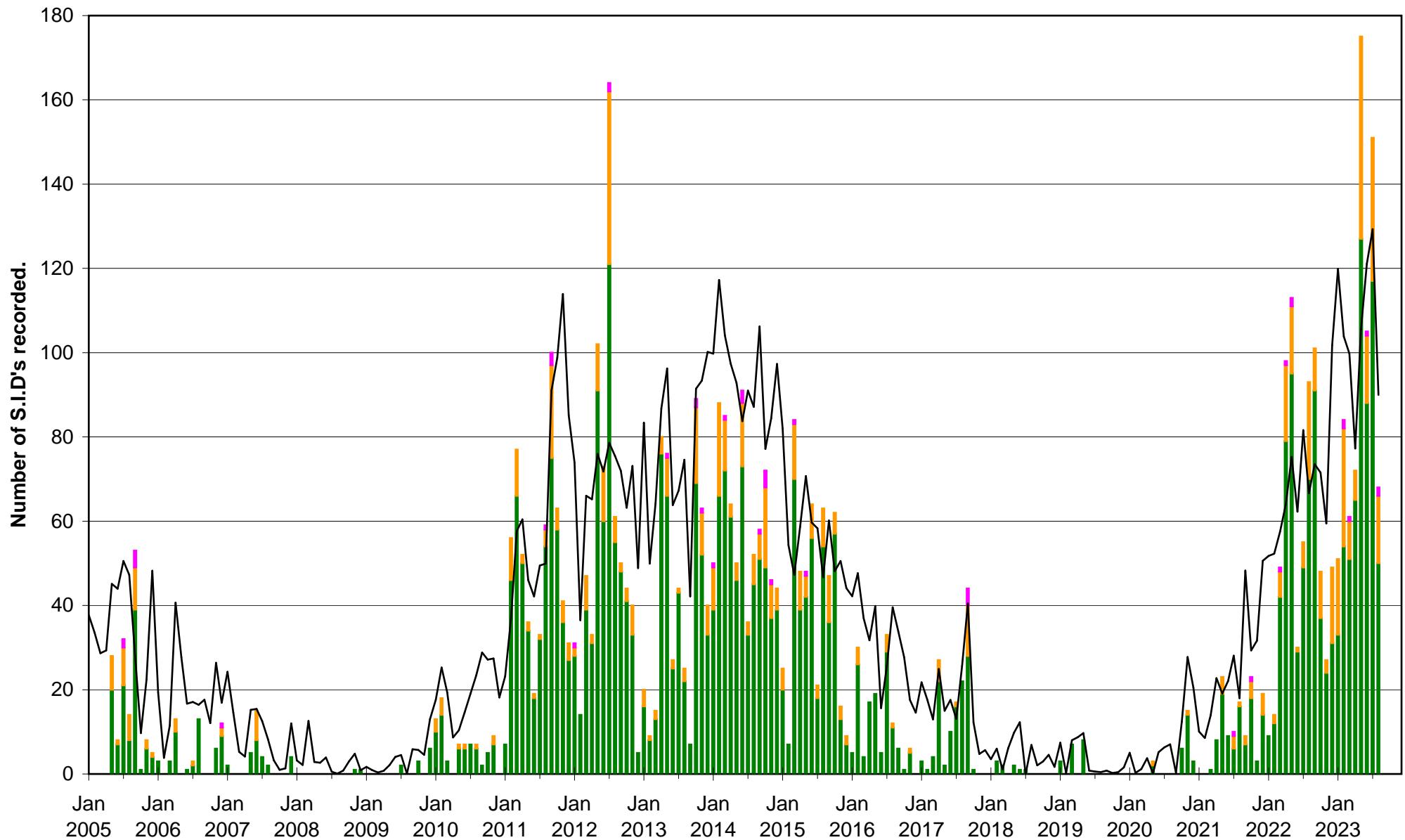
## PERSEID METEORS

Colin Clements made meteor recordings from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> using the GRAVES radar signal. A low level of activity was seen in the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup>, increasing very slightly overnight into the 11<sup>th</sup>. Similar activity was again seen overnight 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Much stronger activity was recorded in the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>, increasing again in the early hours of the 13<sup>th</sup>. The afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> was very quiet, but then the strongest activity was recorded from about 21UT on the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14UT on the 14<sup>th</sup> when recording ended.



## VLF flare activity 2005/23

C M X — Relative sunspot number



BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

## BARTEL'S DIAGRAM

	X-ray class	Observers	John Cook (23.4kHz/22.1kHz)	Roberto Battaiola 23.4kHz	Paul Hyde (Various)	Mark Edwards (24.0/19.6/37.5kHz)	Colin Clements (21.75/23.4/37.5kHz)
DAY			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.
1	M2.2	1	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)
1	M3.6	7	06:35 06:41 07:02 1+	06:32 06:56 07:26 2+	06:34 06:53 ? -	04:43 04:45 14:58 3+	06:37 07:00 09:06 3+
1	?	4	07:30 07:39 07:53 1	07:25 07:35 ? -	06:39 06:59 ? -	07:28 07:37 ? -	07:29 07:37 08:08 2
1	?	2		08:05 08:10 08:28 1	08:06 08:10 08:26 1	09:05 09:18 ? -	
1	M1.5	8	09:05 09:13 ? -	09:03 09:14 09:38 2	09:03 09:12 ? -	09:05 09:18 ? -	09:06 09:17 10:41 3
1	C6.4	5	10:41 10:50 11:10 1+	10:37 10:51 11:51 2+	10:38 09:46 09:59 1	10:41 11:00 ? -	10:41 10:52 11:40 2+
1	?	1		11:52 12:06 12:37 2	11:25 12:47 13:08 1+	12:42 12:47 13:08 1+	
1	C5.5	2		12:39 12:47 13:11 1+	13:35 13:40 13:48 1-	13:35 13:40 13:48 1-	
1	?	1			14:03 14:07 14:56 2+	14:03 14:07 14:56 2+	
1	M1.4	8	14:05 14:14 15:06 2+	14:02 14:12 14:36 2	14:01 14:11 14:53 2+	15:10 15:16 15:21 1-	14:03 14:15 15:06 2+
1	?	1			15:35 15:41 15:49 1-	15:51 15:56 16:07 1-	
1	?	2			16:27 16:38 16:42 1-		
2	?	1					
2	M1.3	8	08:05 08:12 08:42 2	08:03 08:13 08:34 1+	08:02 08:11 08:41 2	07:56 07:58 ? -	07:59 08:16 08:44 2
2	?	1				08:05 08:14 08:33 1+	
2	?	1				09:23 09:27 09:40 1-	
2	M1.2	8	10:48 10:51 ? -	10:46 10:50 11:06 1	10:45 10:50 ? -	10:35 10:39 ? -	10:48 10:53 11:16 1+
2	C9.4	8	11:16 11:19 12:12 2+	11:14 11:20 11:28 1-	11:14 11:18 11:54 2	10:47 10:51 ? -	11:16 11:20 12:03 2+
2	?	1				11:14 11:20 11:49 2	
2	?	1				12:13 12:18 12:29 1-	
2	M1.7	8	14:51 14:53 ? -	14:48 14:52 15:12 1	14:49 14:54 ? -	13:33 13:38 13:45 1-	
2	?	2			15:14 15:20 15:30 1-	15:17 15:20 15:34 1-	
2	M1.3	6	16:20 16:24 16:53 2	16:18 16:23 ? -	16:20 16:28 16:53 2	16:20 16:28 16:53 2	16:21 16:25 17:50 3
2	?	1				16:32 16:34 ? -	
2	?	3				16:55 17:05 17:41 2+	16:56 17:06 17:32 2
2	??	1				17:30 17:38 18:00 1+	
2	?	1				18:17 18:25 ? -	
2	?	1				18:58 19:05 ? -	
2	M1.1	2				19:11 19:19 19:32 1	
3	?	1	07:12 07:15 07:58 2+				
3	C3.6	2	08:46 08:51 ? -				
3	C6.4	6	08:59 09:07 09:30 1+	08:56 09:04 09:23 1+	08:44 08:51 ? -		
3	M2.0	7	11:52 11:56 12:53 2+	11:45 12:03 12:22 2	08:58 09:04 09:55 2+	08:46 09:12 09:32 2+	
3	C3.6	2			11:49 11:56 12:59 2+	11:52 11:56 12:35 2	
3	C3.7	1			13:27 13:37 14:18 2+	13:32 13:39 14:34 2+	
3	C2.1	1				13:48 13:53 14:10 1	
3	C3.3	2				15:56 15:56 16:05 1-	
3	C5.0	1				18:02 18:03 18:16 1-	
4	C2.7	1				20:18 20:21 20:30 1-	
4	?	1					
4	?	1					
4	C5.2	1					
5	M1.6	2	06:50 07:11 07:41 2+				06:48 07:37 08:05 2+
5	M2.1	8	09:28 09:33 10:08 2	09:20 09:34 10:15 2+	09:25 09:37 10:42 2+	09:27 09:41 10:23 2+	09:25 09:37 11:09 3
5	C3.1	4			14:45 14:53 15:01 1-	14:51 14:53 15:02 1-	
5	?	1				15:11 15:17 15:30 1	
5	C2.4	2				16:24 16:31 16:39 1-	
5	C2.8	2				16:55 17:01 17:13 1-	
5	C6.7	2				16:57 17:02 17:09 1-	
5	X1.6	1				19:04 19:10 19:36 1+	
5						21:57 22:20 23:16 2+	
6	C6.7	8	10:52 11:03 12:02 2+	10:40 11:03 11:29 2+	10:49 11:02 12:04 2+	10:52 11:07 12:09 2+	10:51 11:06 12:02 2+
6	?	1				12:30 12:35 12:44 1-	
6	?	1				16:13 16:34 16:59 2+	
6	M5.5	5	18:31 18:35 19:00 1+		17:59 18:04 18:16 1-	18:27 18:43 20:27 3	18:32 18:41 19:04 1+
7	?	1					
7	?	1					
7	?	1					
7	?	1					
7	?	1					
7	C4.4	5		12:38 13:41 14:08 3	13:34 13:44 14:33 2+		13:34 13:47 14:36 2+
7	C4.4	4		14:33 14:40 14:52 1	14:37 14:45 15:04 1+		14:36 14:45 15:15 2
7	?	1			15:15 15:21 ? -		
7	?	3		15:33 16:02 17:08 3	15:41 16:10 17:01 2+		15:37 16:07 17:38 3
7	M1.0	2			16:27 16:29 16:56 1+		
7	M1.4	2			19:49 19:54 20:15 1+		
7	X1.5	2			20:35 20:43 21:38 2+		
8	M3.6	7	09:27 09:30 10:15 2+	09:19 09:31 10:33 2+	09:22 09:32 10:48 3	09:26 09:35 10:45 2+	09:26 09:36 11:22 3
8	C8.7	2			17:55 18:08 18:59 2+	17:59 18:12 19:02 2+	
9	C5.1	1			06:56 07:03 07:32 2		
11	C8.2	1	06:42 06:59 07:20 2				
11	?	1					
11	C4.7	4	11:13 11:19 12:15 2+		11:11 11:19 11:52 2	11:12 11:25 ? -	11:03 11:22 12:18 2+
11	C3.7	1				11:35 11:41 12:00 1	
11	C3.4	3			12:39 12:49 13:10 1+	12:44 12:50 13:15 1+	12:43 12:54 14:05 2+
11	C3.7	2			19:04 19:09 19:28 1	19:07 19:11 19:32 1	
12	C8.8	7	09:11 09:17 09:50 2	09:06 09:13 09:38 1+	09:08 09:20 09:51 2	09:12 09:21 10:15 2+	09:13 09:21 10:43 3
12	C6.6	8	10:41 10:49 11:11 1+	10:39 10:49 11:06 1+	10:39 10:48 11:20 2	10:43 10:50 11:18 2	10:43 10:51 11:31 2+
12	C3.1	4		14:19 14:24 14:32 1-	14:16 14:24 14:35 1	14:21 14:24 14:46 1	14:19 14:26 14:37 1-
12	C1.4	1				15:34 16:07 16:18 2	
12	C4.9	2				16:24 16:27 16:29 1-	
13	C2.4	6	09:48 09:53 10:27 2		18:53 18:59 19:27 2	18:56 19:02 19:28 1+	
15	C2.9	3	11:30 11:34 11:40 1-				
16	C1.8	2					
16	?	1					
16	C3.5	5		13:37 13:58 14:26 2+	13:42 13:59 14:34 2+	13:48 13:58 14:37 2+	13:38 14:02 14:42 2+
17	C5.1	4	12:22 12:33 12:55 2				
17	?	2					
17	C3.5	5		14:12 14:20 14:35 1	13:25 13:31 13:37 1-	13:28 13:33 13:51 1	14:01 14:29 16:02 3
17	C2.2	1			14:15 14:22 14:42 1+	14:18 14:23 15:14 2+	
19	C5.8	3	06:48 06:53 07:07 1	12:25 12:32 12:43 1-	06:46 06:52 06:59 1-	06:47 06:51 06:58 1-	
20	C3.3	3			12:25 12:31 12:45 1	12:30 12:37 ? -	
20	?	1				12:47 12:52 13:18 1+	
20	C2.0	2			18:22 18:32 18:55 2	18:27 18:36 19:14 2+	
21	C4.3	3	07:48 07:55 08:22 2		07:46 07:54 08:26 2	07:49 08:00 ? -	
21	?	1				08:29 08:36 09:11 2	
21	C3.1	3	12:25 12:30 13:07 2		12:22 12:30 13:01 2	12:24 12:37 13:06 2	
22	?	1				11:54 12:08 12:22 1+	
23	C3.2	5	10:05 10:14 10:40 2	10:05 10:13 10:35 1+	10:06 10:16 10:34 1+	10:08 10:20 10:38 1+	10:08 10:17 10:41 2
23	C3.9	7	14:04 14:08 14:20 1-	13:57 14:07 14:26 1+	13:53 14:09 14:50 2+	14:04 14:08 14:46 2	14:04 14:10 14:59 2+
23	?	1				14:59 15:00 15:09 1-	
23	?	1				15:35 15:40 15:48 1-	
23	C2.4	1				16:04 16:26 16:31 1+	
24	C1.4	1					
24	?	1					
25	C5.0	6		15:45 15:49 16:03 1-	15:42 15:49 16:36 2+	18:01 18:08 18:15 1-	
26	C2.2	2	10:00 10:08 10:38 2	09:59 10:10 10:48 2+	10:06 10:16 10:34 2+	19:28 19:34 19:41 1-	
26	C2.8	2		16:31 16:41 16:58 1+	16:35 16:41 17:11 2	15:37 15:52 16:34 2+	

BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

2023 AUGUST.