



Please send all reports and observations to jacook@jacook.plus.com
Director Paul Hearn.

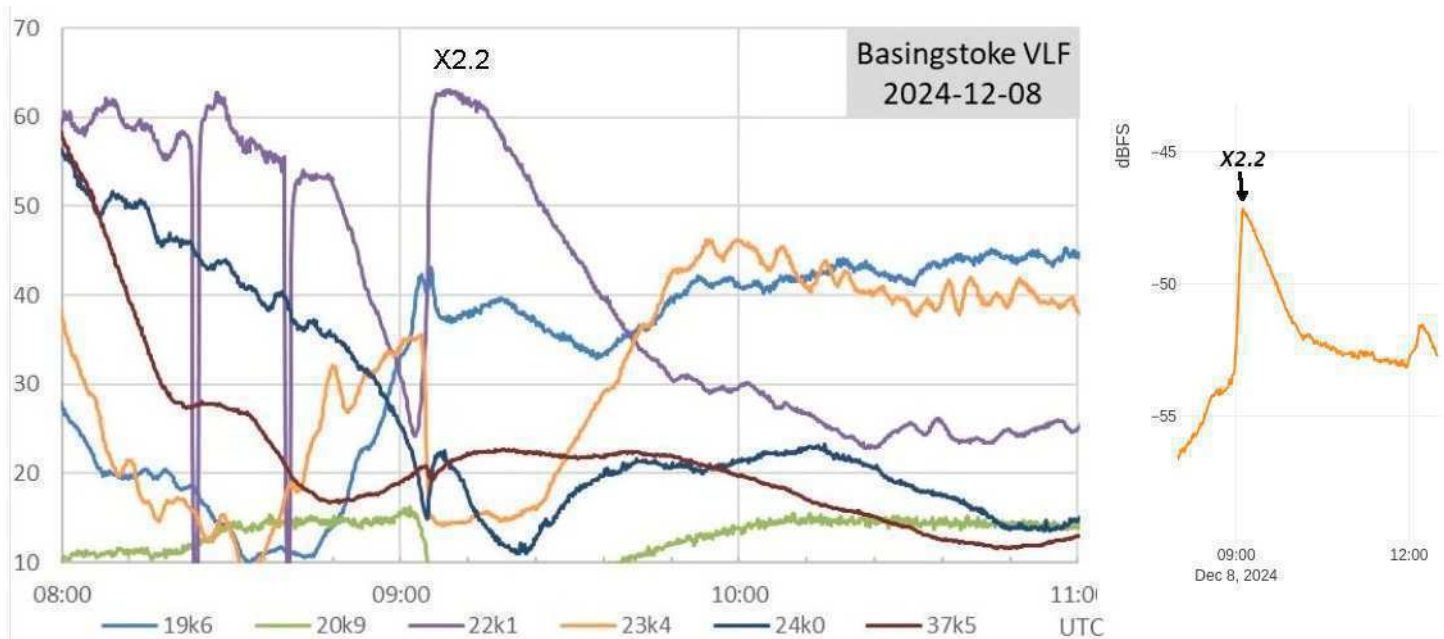
BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

RADIO SKY NEWS

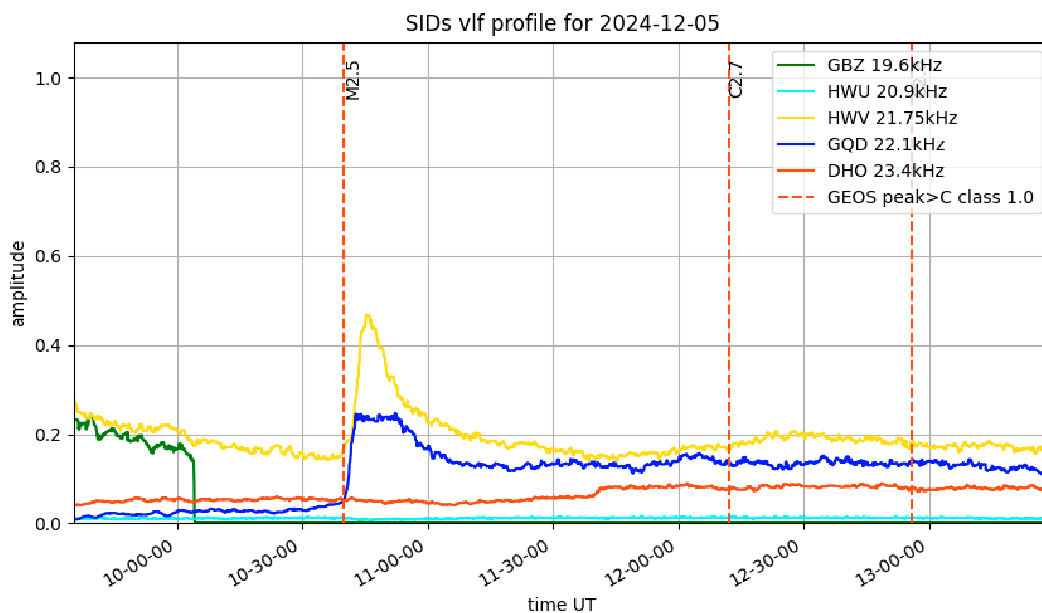
2024 DECEMBER.

VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

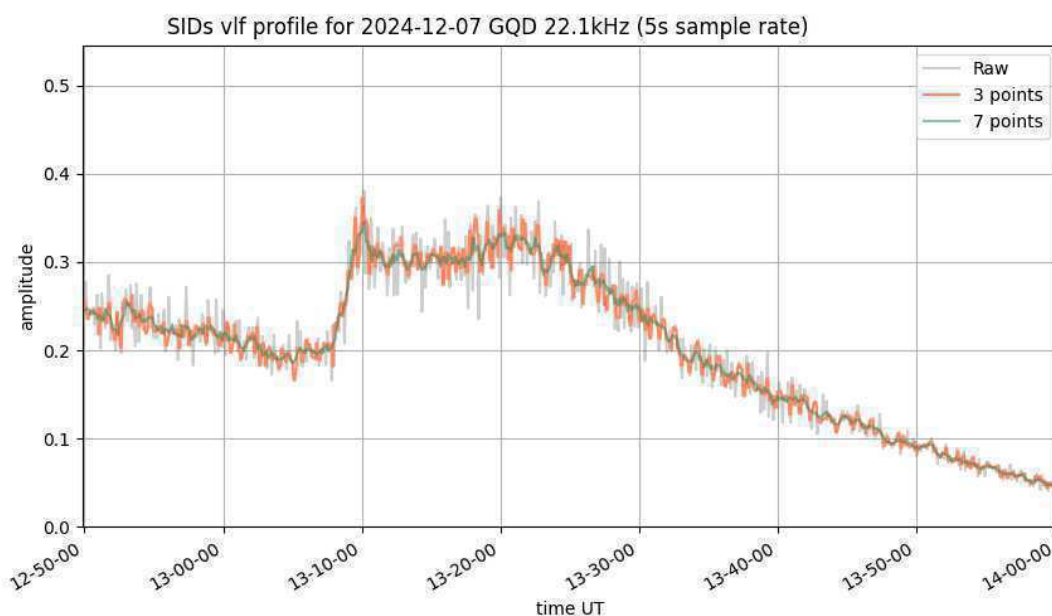
The number of SIDs recorded has been slowly decreasing since September, partly due to the shorter day lengths after the autumn equinox. The relative sunspot count, R, has also been slightly lower over this period. In December we recorded 33 M-class and 33 C-class flares, as well as a single X-flare. Signals have again been very noisy, hiding many C-class flares, and also making some SIDs from M-flares hard to see. 23.4kHz took its usual holiday break from December 23rd to the 31st.



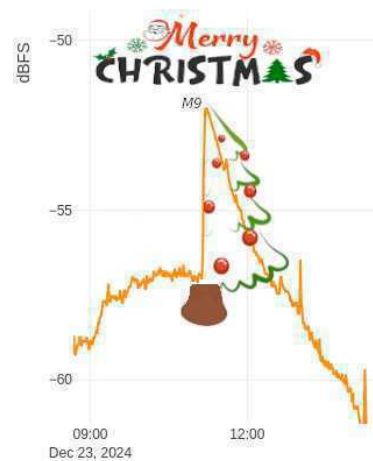
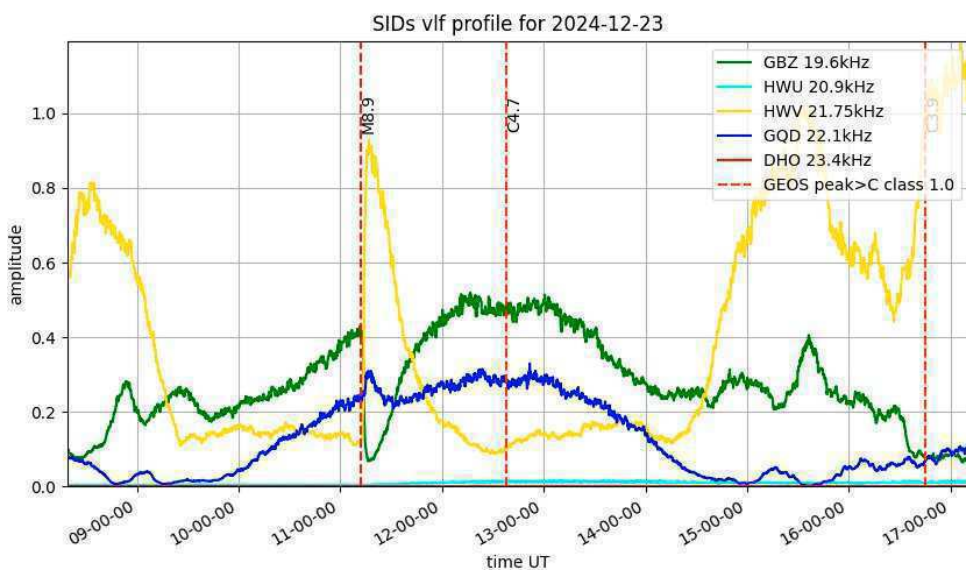
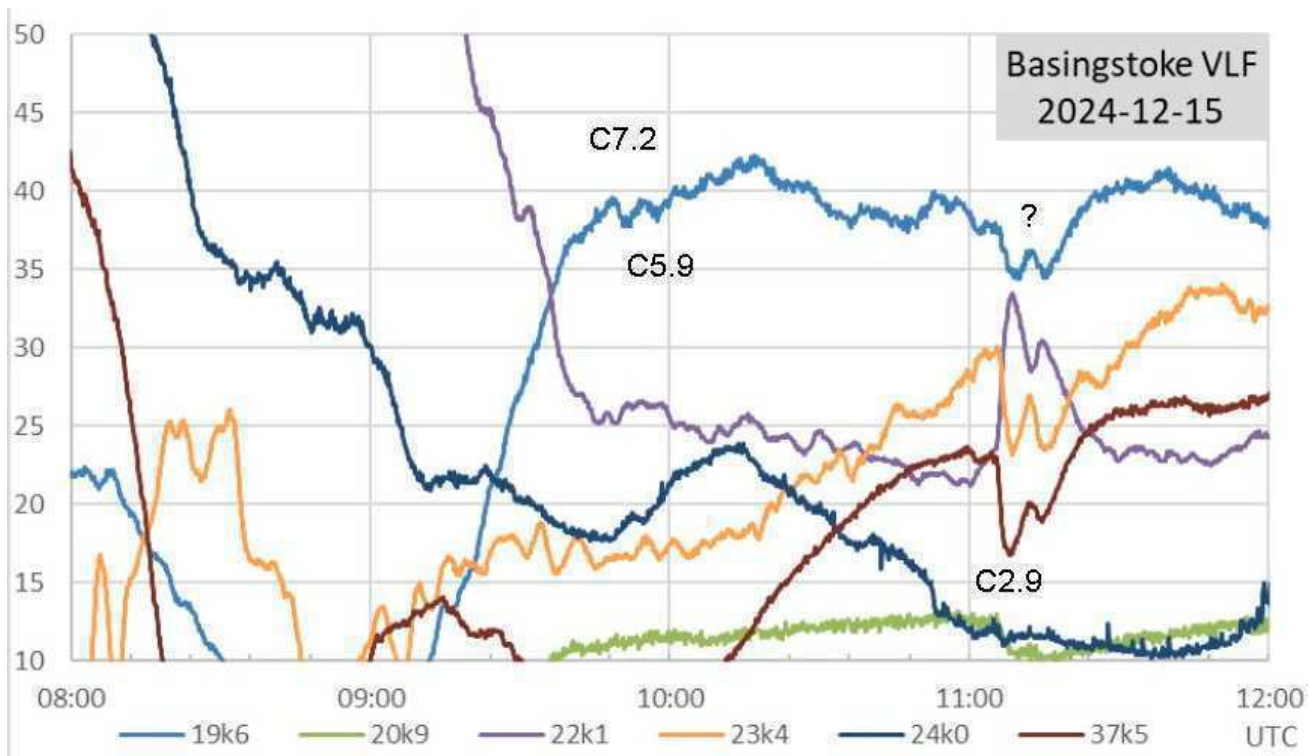
The X2.2 flare on the 8th was widely recorded, despite being very early in the morning. The left chart is by Paul Hyde, showing a very strong response on the 37.5kHz signal from Iceland. The American 24kHz also shows a clear spike-and-wave SID at the end of the sunrise dip. The right-hand chart is from Thomas Mazzi in Italy. The flare was produced by AR13912, which also produced much of the flaring in the previous week. It was very close to the solar limb at the time, rotating out of view over the next few days.



Mark Prescott noticed some very unusual looking SIDs at 22.1kHz, this one from the 5th apparently having a flat top. 21.75kHz shows a normal SID. This was from an M2.5 flare. 23.4kHz was active at the time, but shows no response. A similar effect was seen from the M2.3 flare on the 7th. Mark has produced a more detailed recording of this SID, showing that it has a very shallow spike-and-wave shape. The SID on the 5th is right on the borderline, where the sky wave / ground wave interference pattern has matched the change in X-ray flux very closely during the flare's peak.



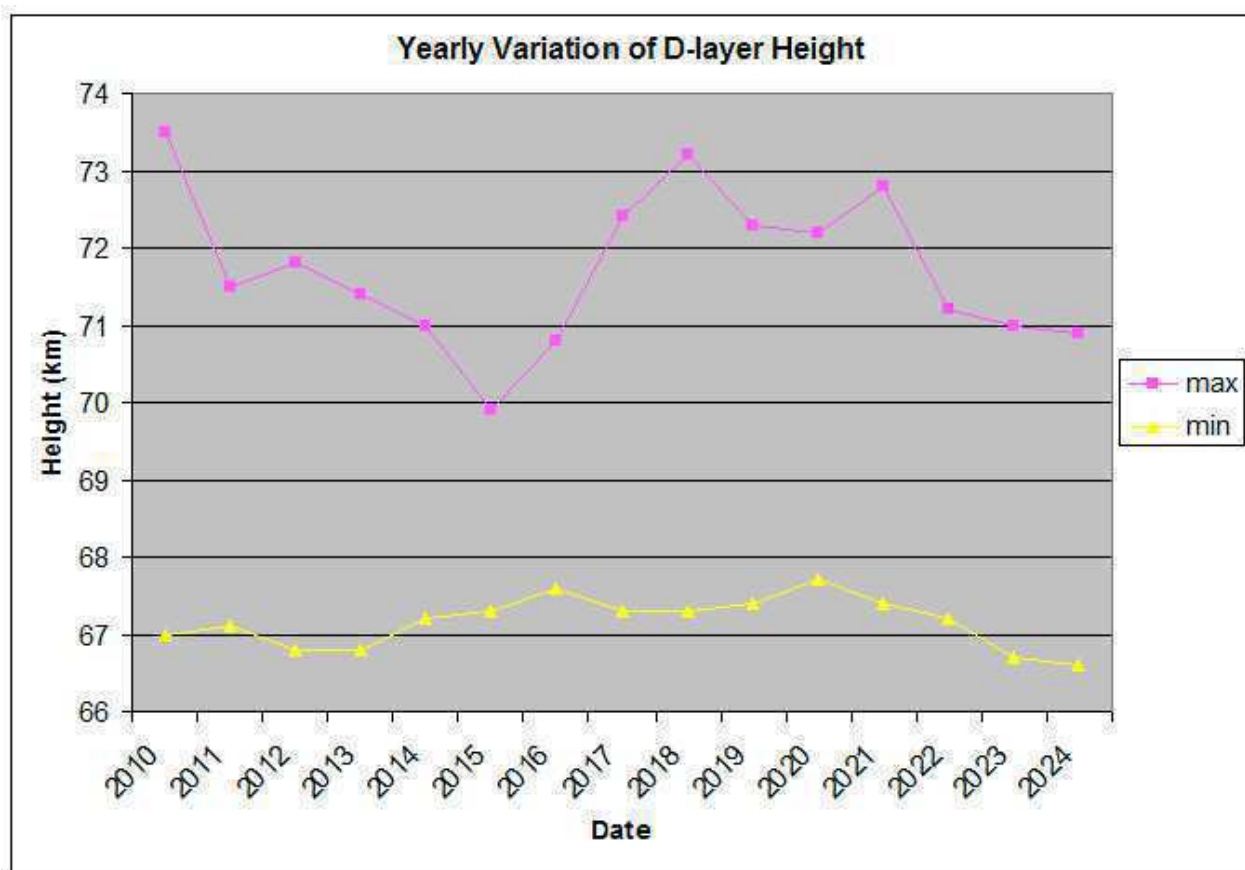
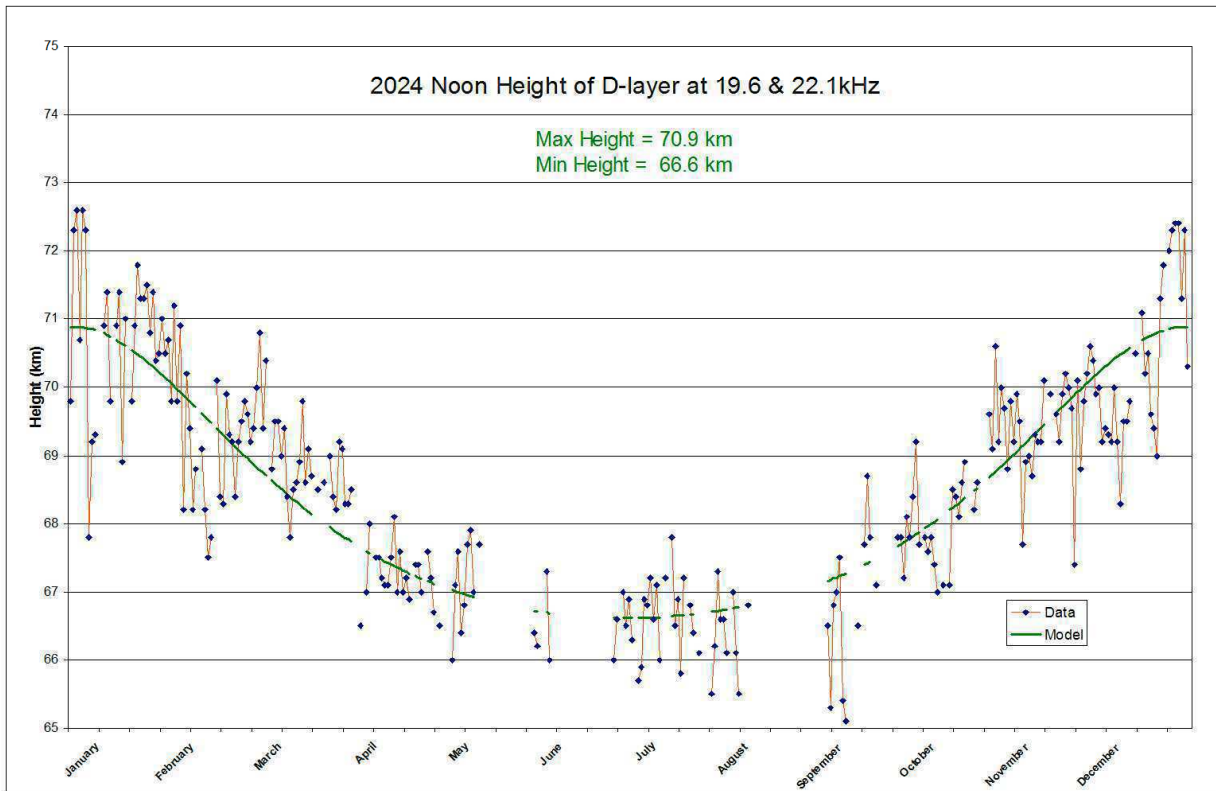
The strong M-flaring continued through to the 13th, followed by a short period of very low activity. On the 15th we recorded six small C-flares, some of which are shown in Paul Hyde's recording on the next page. The C7.2 and C5.9 flares have been lost in the early morning noise on most of the signals, with just a hint of SIDs at 19.6kHz. The later C2.9 flare has produced a very clear SID, despite being much weaker. It appears with two peaks on most of the signals, although 20.9kHz and 24kHz show little effect.



Flaring strength increased again after the 19th, with an M8.9 recorded on the 23rd. Mark Prescott's recording on the left shows clear SIDs on all of the active signals. The later C4.7 flare was not recorded. Thomas Mazzi has decorated his recording of the M8.9 SID to suit its seasonal appearance.

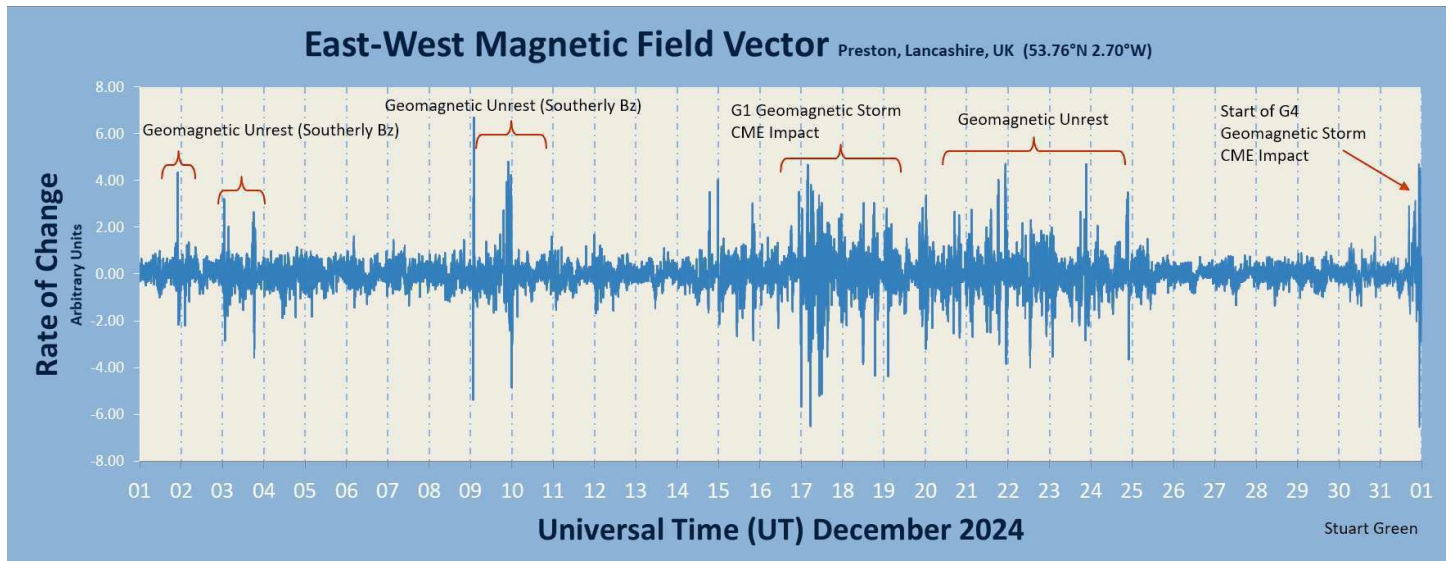
This strong activity continued to the end of the month, the satellite X-ray data including three more X-flares. These were during our night-time, so were not recorded. In 2024 we recorded a total of 2080 SIDs compared to 1294 in 2023.

Mark Edwards has provided a chart of the D-region height during the year, analysed from his VLF recordings at 19.6 and 22.1kHz. There are some breaks during the summer when data was not available. The raw data (red trace) is quite variable during the winter months, but is more stable than in 2023.



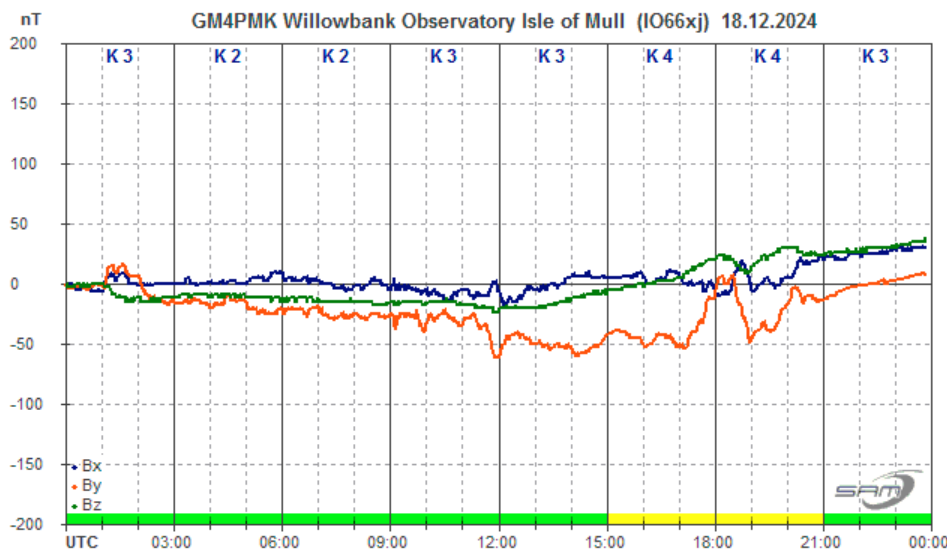
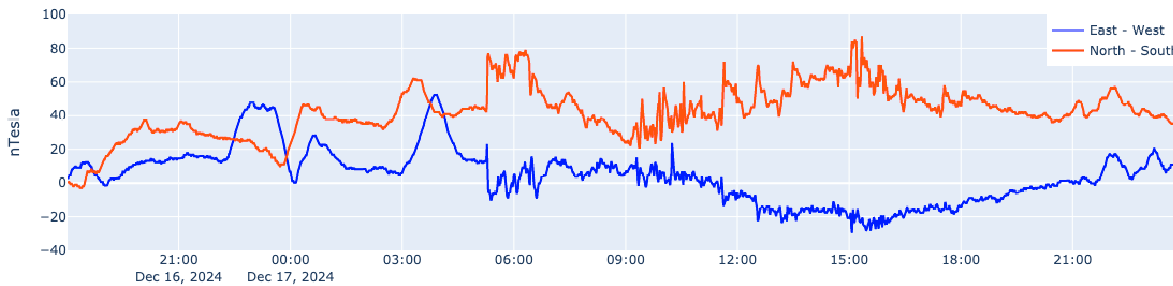
The lower chart shows how the heights have varied since 2010. 2012 to 2015 was the peak of cycle 24, and shows the lowest of the maximum heights. We are currently in the maximum period of cycle 25, again showing lower maximum heights due to the higher levels of X-ray flux. The minimum heights show much less variability.

MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.

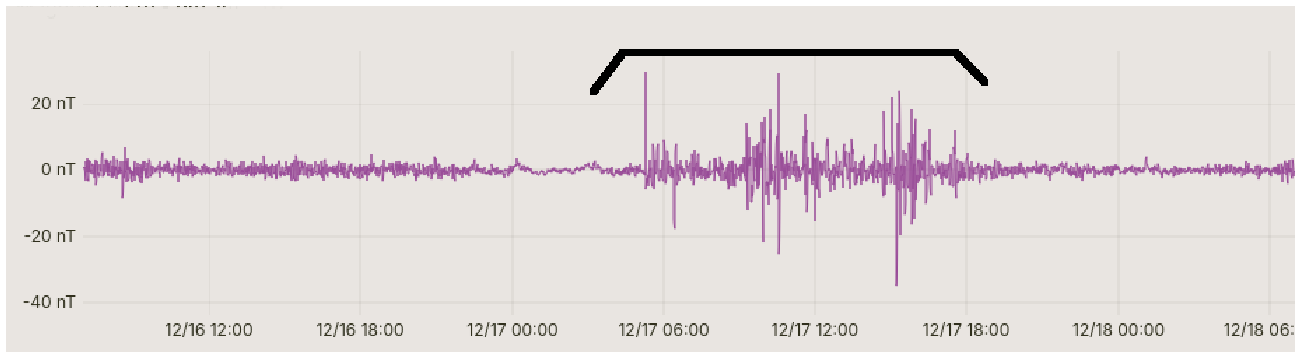


Stuart Green's summary of December's magnetic activity shows a long period of disturbance starting on the 15th, just as the solar flare activity was falling. On the 17th there was a very strong CME impact recorded at 05:15UT with a magnitude of about 40–50nT. It is very clear on Nick Quinn's recording:

Steining Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)

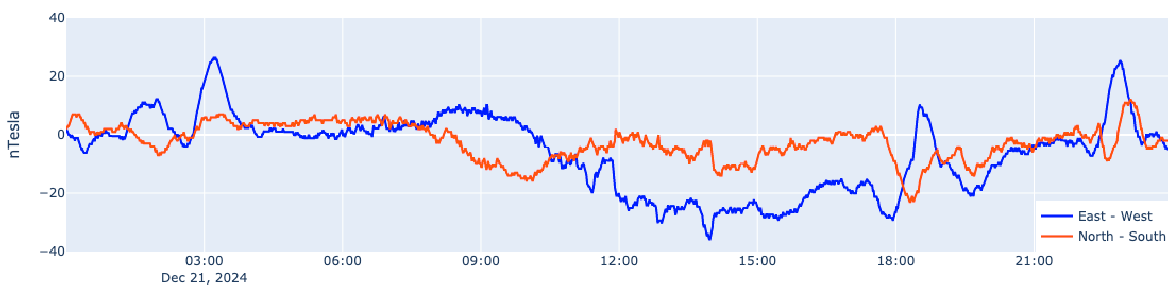


The disturbance faded out in the evening of the 17th, with just a mild disturbance on the 18th shown in Roger Blackwell's recording.

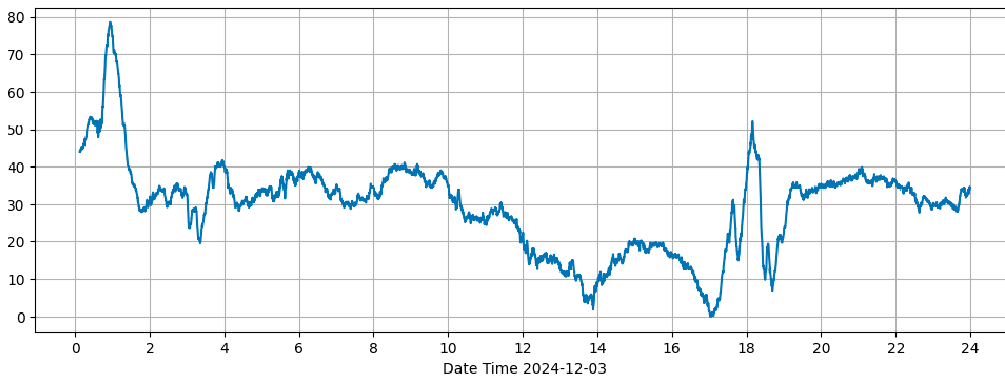


Thomas Mazzi also recorded the activity in Italy, again with a sharp impact around 05:30UT. Strong solar winds added to the disturbance, which then continued over several days. Nick Quinn’s recording shows activity on the 21st:

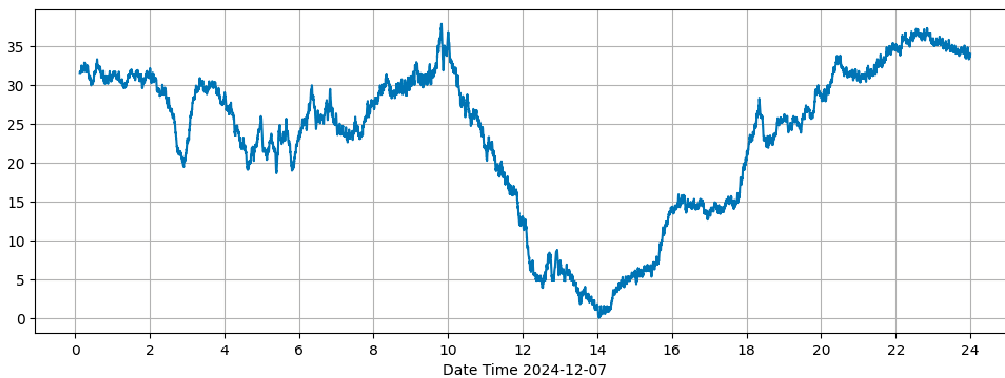
Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N,3.06W)



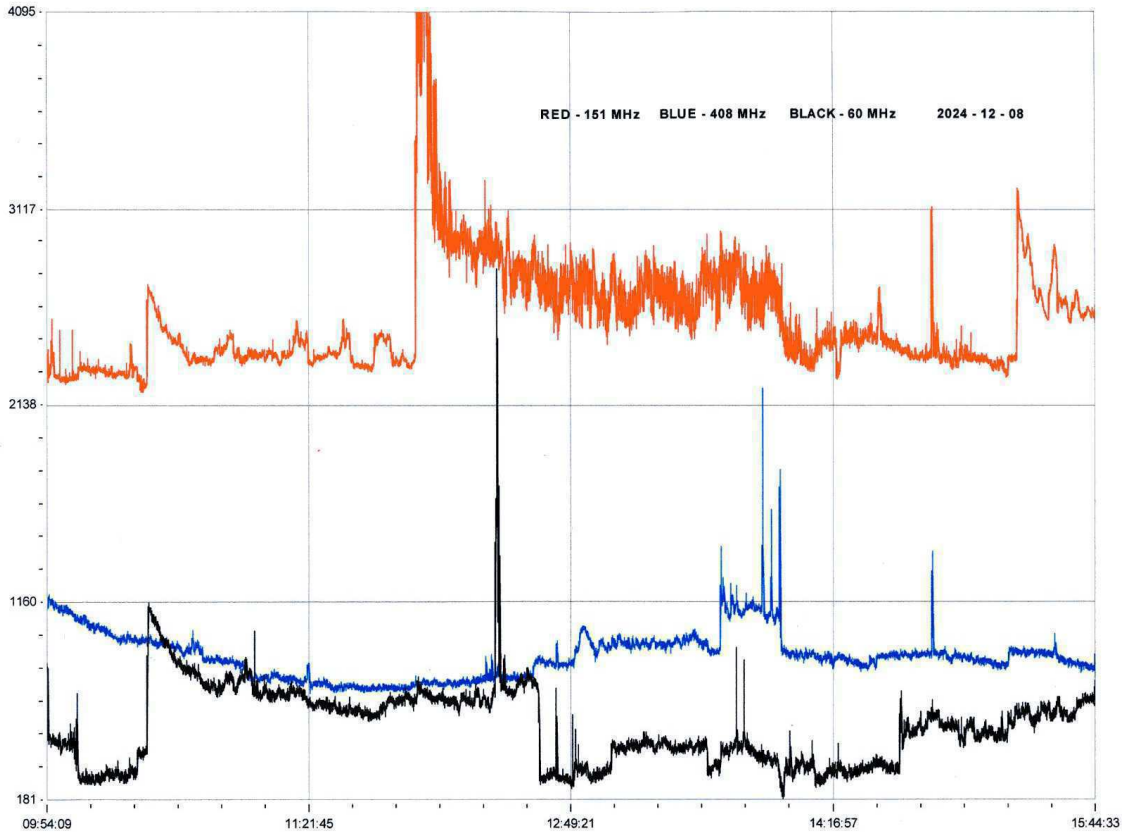
Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N,3.06W)



Callum Potter’s recordings show activity on the 3rd and 7th, again from solar wind effects.

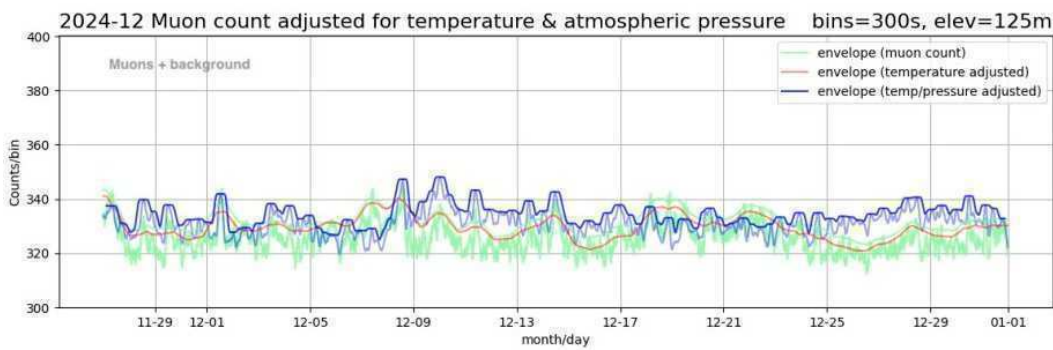
Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Stuart Green, Thomas Mazzi, Callum Potter, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

SOLAR EMISSIONS

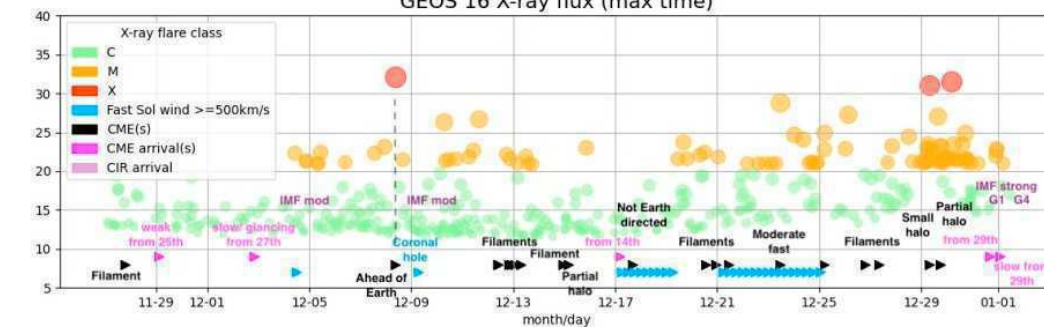


Colin Clements recorded this strong 151MHz noise burst starting at about 11:57UT. It sits between the X2.2 and C8.0 flares and so is rather a puzzle. It could be a delayed effect from the X flare, the lower frequency signal emitted as the flare's shock wave propagated through the varying density of the solar atmosphere.

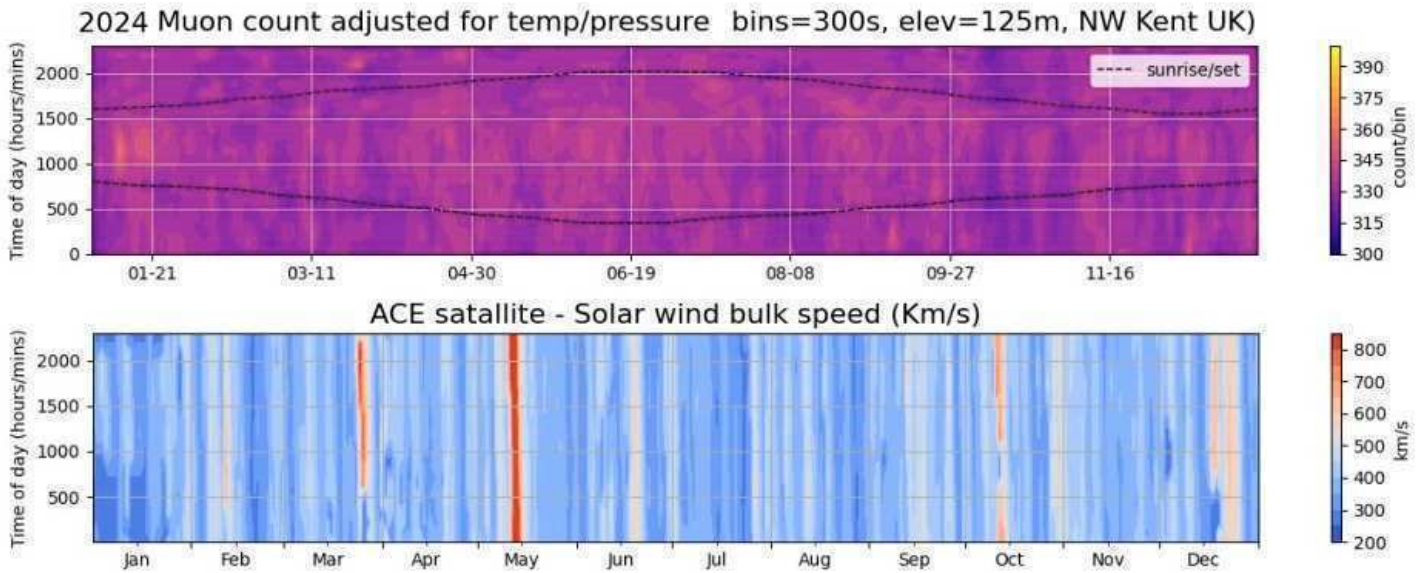
MUONS



GEOS 16 X-ray flux (max time)

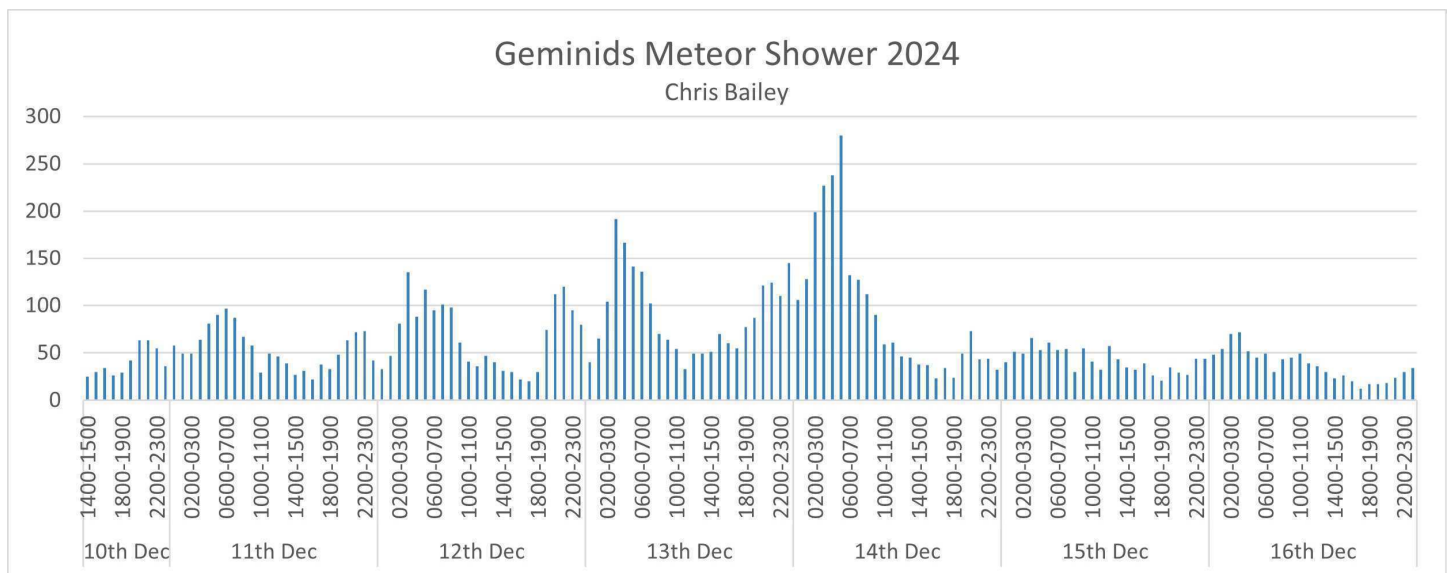


Mark Prescott's chart of Muon counts shows an increase from the 8th to the 15th, a period of lower solar wind speed. The strong CME impact that we recorded on the 17th is followed by a period of lower counts while the wind speed remained high. There was a small rise again in the last week, before a fall at the end of the month. Mark has also provided a chart of the activity through the year:



The very high wind speeds recorded in May are clear in the lower panel, and are followed by lower muon counts shown in the upper panel. The May copy of Radio Sky News shows this in more detail. May and August gave our highest flare counts of the year, lower muon counts also seen in the upper chart in August. Some of the highest counts were in January, a time when the sun had a very low altitude during the day and lower solar wind speeds were recorded.

GEMINIDS



Chris Bailey monitored the December Geminid meteor shower, his chart showing a general rise in meteor counts from the 10th, with a strong peak in the morning of the 14th. This matches well with the predictions in the BAA Handbook. The fall-off in counts was very fast after the peak.

BARTELS DIAGRAM

ROTATION	KEY:	DISTURBED	ACTIVE	SFE	B, C, M, X = FLARE MAGNITUDE.	Synodic rotation start (carrington's).																								
2570	6	7	8	9	10	11	2253	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1		
2571	2	3	4	5	6	7	2254	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	C	
2572	1	2	3	4	5	6	2255	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	C	
2573	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	C		
2574	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	20		
2575	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	C		
2576	17	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	C		
2577	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	C		
2578	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	4	5	C		
2579	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	1	2		
2580	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	C		
2581	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	C		
2582	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	22	C		
2583	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	C		
2584	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	C		
2585	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	11	12	13
2586	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	C		
2587	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	4	5	6	C	
2588	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	1	2	C		
2589	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	C		
2590	30	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	C		
2591	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	C		
2592	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	C		
2593	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	15	C	
2594	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	C	
2595	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	C	
2596	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	4	5	C		
2597	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	1	C		
2598	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	C	
2599	29	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	C	
2600	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	C		
2601	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	C	
2602	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	C		
2603	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	C	
2604	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	C	
2605	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	4	C		
2606	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	31	C		
2607	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	C	
2608	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	C	
2609	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	20	21	C	
2610	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	C		

DAY	X-ray class	Observers	John Cook (23.4kHz/22.1kHz)				Roberto Battaiola (20.3kHz)				Paul Hyde (Various)				Mark Edwards (24.0/23.4/22.1kHz)				Colin Clements (23.4kHz/21.75kHz)			
			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.			
			START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)	
1	C2.1	1													15:07	15:09	15:14	1-				
1	C3.2	1													16:20	16:23	16:26	1-				
2	C4.1	2	11:28	11:33	11:42	1-									11:29	11:32	11:43	1-				
4	M2.3	7	09:58	10:03	10:15	1-	09:55	10:01	10:26	1+	09:58	10:03	10:30	1+								
4	C4.4	1	14:50	14:55	15:06	1-																
5	M1.1	1					08:15	08:20	08:41	1+												
5	M2.5	8	10:36	10:42	11:07	1+	10:32	10:40	11:01	1+	10:35	10:42	11:20	2	10:37	10:41	10:49	1-	10:38	10:42	11:27	2+
5	C3.6	1													13:38	13:50	14:04	1+				
6	?	1													09:13	09:20	?	-				
6	M1.2	3	09:14	09:20	09:27	1-									09:24	09:27	09:43	1				
6	?	1													11:42	11:53	12:04	1				
6	C5.9	1													14:57	15:01	15:23	1+				
6	C5.1	1													16:00	16:07	16:14	1-				
7	C7.8	2	08:57	08:59	09:11	1-									08:56	08:59	09:17	1				
7	C7.0	3									10:29	10:33	10:40	1-	10:28	10:32	10:41	1-				
7	M2.3	8	13:04	13:07	13:32	1+					13:03	13:10	13:58	2+	13:03	13:11	14:06	2+	13:05	13:10	14:08	2+
8	X2.2	7	08:59	09:05	10:05	2+					09:01	09:09	09:54	2+	09:00	09:08	09:53	2+	09:03	09:07	09:26	1
8	C8.0	3	12:08	12:10	12:16	1-									12:08	12:14	12:33	1				
8	C4.5	2	15:32	15:37	15:43	1-									15:36	15:38	15:49	1-				
8	M1.5	1													16:08	16:13	16:22	1-				
9	C6.3	5	12:22	12:27	12:38	1-	12:10	12:26	12:26	1-					12:23	12:36	12:52	1+	12:29	13:47	14:09	3
10	M1.5	7	10:59	11:05	11:23	1					10:58	11:06	11:30	1+	11:02	11:06	11:13	1-				
10	C2.6	1													12:12	12:26	12:45	2				
10	M1.6	1													17:56	18:00	18:11	1-				
11	M2.7	9	10:05	10:09	10:25	1	10:03	10:07	10:38	2	10:06	10:09	10:27	1	10:05	10:14	10:34	1+	10:09	10:23	11:30	2+
11	C3.8	3					11:16	11:21	11:25	1-	11:19	11:22	11:28	1-	11:18	11:22	11:33	1-				
11	C5.7	6	11:40	11:43	11:54	1-	11:37	11:42	11:53	1-	11:40	11:43	11:54	1-	11:40	11:43	11:51	1-				
11	C3.1	1													14:18	14:24	14:35	1-				
11	M6.7	2									15:40	15:47	16:28	2+	15:41	15:48	16:20	2				
12	C3.3	2									12:43	12:48	12:52	1-	12:44	12:47	12:55	1-				
12	C4.5	1													15:35	15:40	15:49	1-				
12	M2.2	1													17:40	17:46	18:06	1+				
13	M2.0	9	11:20	11:25	11:50	1+	11:15	11:24	12:35	2+	11:22	11:25	12:01	2	11:22	11:24	11:37	1-				
13	C4.2	5					13:01	13:08	13:18	1-	13:04	13:09	13:22	1-	13:05	13:10	13:18	1-				
13	M1.0	5	14:23	14:26	14:34	1-					14:23	14:28	14:58	2	14:23	14:28	14:43	1				
15	C7.2	2	09:35	09:39	10:04	1+									09:38	09:41	09:47	1-				
15	C5.9	1													09:54	09:55	10:17	1				
15	C2.9	7									11:05	11:09	?	-	11:04	11:09	?	-	11:05	11:10	11:24	1
15	?	2									11:13	11:15	11:30	1-	11:13	11:15	11:31	1-				
15	C3.1	1													13:50	13:51	13:55	1-				
15	C3.3	1													14:13	14:15	14:18	1-				
19	M1.6	8	10:29	10:37	10:53	1	10:24	10:38	11:21	2+	10:27	10:40	11:11	2	10:28	10:34	10:55	1+				
19	C7.1	5	13:51	13:55	14:05	1-					13:50	13:55	14:10	1	13:51	13:56	14:13	1				
19	C7.6	3					14:26	14:32	14:40	1-	14:27	14:35	14:45	1-	14:30	14:33	14:46	1-				
19	C5.9	2									15:06	15:08	15:18	1-	15:06	15:08	15:18	1-				
19	M3.8	3	15:33	15:35	15:41	1-					15:33	15:37	16:19	2+	15:31	15:36	16:06	2				
20	C9.4	3	08:59	09:03	09:11	1-	08:57	09:03	09:18	1					09:00	09:04	09:14	1-				
20	C9.4	5	10:10	10:12	10:22	1-	10:05	10:13	10:36	1+	10:10	10:12	10:27	1-	10:10	10:13	10:27	1-				
20	M2.5	9	11:17	11:20	11:32	1-	11:14	11:20	12:11	2+	11:17	11:19	11:42	1	11:18	11:20	11:34	1-				
22	C9.6	3	10:28	10:32	10:38	1-					10:27	10:33	10:56	1+	10:29	10:33	?	-				
22	?	1													10:40	10:43	10:51	1-				
22	M1.0	2	14:09	14:15	14:28	1									14:11	14:19	14:41	1+				
23	M8.9	8	11:09	11:13	11:40	1+	11:06	11:17	11:40	2	11:08	11:12	11:59	2+	11:09	11:13	11:26	1-				
24	M4.1	2					08:29	08:42	09:26	2+					08:40	08:44	08:48	1-				
24	C8.9	3	09:38	09:41	09:53	1-	09:31	09:41	10:11	2												
24	M1.1	3					14:03	14:09	14:13	1-					14:07	14:11	14:30	1				
24	C8.5	1													15:13	15:18	15:46	2				
25	C4.5	1													15:09	15:11	15:14	1-				
27	M1.2	2					15:34	15:39	15:52	1-					15:35	15:38	15:51	1-				
28	M4.5	6	11:15	11:20	11:40	1					11:14	11:22	11:58	2								
28	M1.3	2	15:16	15:18	15:32	1-					15:16	15:20	15:47	1+								
29	M1.4	1													09:39	09:48	10:02	1				
29	M2.6	5	10:37	10:41	10:48	1-					10:30	10:40	10:58	1+	10:32	10:49	10:56	1				
29	*	1													11:21	11:24	11:41	1				
29	M1.6	6	12:23	12:25	12:42	1					12:19	12:26	12:43	1	12:22	12:26	12:31	1-				
29	*	1									12:47	12:50	?	-								
29	M1.3	5	12:53	12:57	13:08	1-					12:51	12:57	13:15	1	12:53	12:57	13:03	1-				
29	*	1																				

BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

2024 DECEMBER.

DAY	Xray class	Steve Parkinson (Various)				Andrew Thomas (21.7/19.6/22.1kHz)				Phil Rourke (23.4kHz)				Mark Prescott (20.9kHz/22.1kHz)				John Elliott (19.6kHz)			
		Tuned radio frequency receiver, frame aeriels.				Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.				Spectrum Lab, 0.6m frame aerial.				SpectrumLab/Starbase, Active mini-whip aerial.				Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.5m frame aerial.			
		START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)	
1	C2.1																				
1	C3.2																				
2	C4.1																				
4	M2.3	09:58	10:02	10:20	1	09:58	10:03	10:06	1-	10:00	10:02	10:22	1	10:02	10:07	10:21	1				
4	C4.4																				
5	M1.1																				
5	M2.5	10:36	10:41	11:17	2	10:36	10:42	11:01	1					10:41	10:46	11:20	2				
5	C3.6																				
6	?																				
6	M1.2					09:14	09:20	09:52	2												
6	?																				
6	C5.9																				
6	C5.1																				
7	C7.8																				
7	C7.0					10:29	10:32	10:40	1-												
7	M2.3	13:04	13:10	13:45	2	13:03	13:09	13:34	1+	13:02	13:09	13:27	1	13:07	13:13	13:50	2				
8	X2.2									08:59	09:23	09:54	2+	09:06	09:12	09:49	2	09:05	09:08	09:20	1-
8	C8.0	12:07	12:12	12:25	1-																
8	C4.5																				
8	M1.5																				
9	C6.3	12:21	12:26	12:40	1																
10	M1.5	10:58	11:06	11:30	1+	10:57	11:06	11:13	1-					11:05	11:10	11:27	1	11:00	11:07	11:45	2
10	C2.6																				
10	M1.6																				
11	M2.7	10:05	10:08	10:25	1	10:05	10:07	10:26	1					10:09	10:11	10:18	1-	10:06	10:07	10:30	1
11	C3.8																				
11	C5.7	11:40	11:42	11:55	1-	11:39	11:42	12:03	1												
11	C3.1																				
11	M6.7																				
12	C3.3																				
12	C4.5																				
12	M2.2																				
13	M2.0	11:21	11:25	11:50	1+	11:21	11:24	11:40	1	11:20	11:23	12:03	2	11:25	11:28	11:46	1	11:22	11:24	11:36	1-
13	C4.2	13:05	13:09	13:20	1-	13:03	13:09	13:20	1-												
13	M1.0	14:23	14:26	14:40	1-	14:23	14:26	14:38	1-												
15	C7.2																				
15	C5.9																				
15	C2.9	11:05	11:08	11:18	1-	11:02	11:08	11:31	1+	11:04	11:08	11:30	1+	11:10	11:18	?	-				
15	?																				
15	C3.1																				
15	C3.3																				
19	M1.6	10:29	10:36	11:00	1+	10:28	10:42	10:56	1+	10:28	10:36	11:05	2	10:34	10:43	10:56	1				
19	C7.1					13:50	13:55	14:08	1-	13:51	13:54	14:07	1-								
19	C7.6																				
19	C5.9																				
19	M3.8																				
20	C9.4																				
20	C9.4					10:10	10:14	10:28	1-												
20	M2.5	11:17	11:19	11:40	1	11:19	11:20	11:37	1-	11:17	11:19	11:48	1+	11:22	11:23	11:52	1+	11:18	11:19	11:30	1-
22	C9.6																				
22	?																				
22	M1.0																				
23	M8.9	11:08	11:12	12:20	2+	11:08	11:14	11:58	2+					11:12	11:17	12:00	2+	11:08	11:14	12:20	2+
24	M4.1																				
24	C8.9					09:34	09:42	10:01	1+												
24	M1.1					14:03	14:11	14:26	1												
24	C8.5																				
25	C4.5																				
27	M1.2																				
28	M4.5	11:17	11:23	11:55	2	11:12	11:23	11:51	2					11:22	11:26	11:49	1+	11:15	11:23	12:10	2+
28	M1.3																				
29	M1.4																				
29	M2.6	10:32	10:40	10:58	1+									10:38	10:45	11:03	1				
29	*																				
29	M1.6	12:22	12:25	12:37	1-	12:22	12:24	12:37	1-					12:27	12:29	12:41	1-				
29	*																				
29	M1.3	12:54	12:56	13:06	1-	12:53	12:56	13:08	1-												
29	*																				
29	M7.1	15:06	15:11	15:27	1	15:05	15:11	15:41	2												
29	M3.3																				
30	M1.4																				
30	M1.7																				
30	M1.7																				
30	M3.5	14:40	14:46	15:10	1+																