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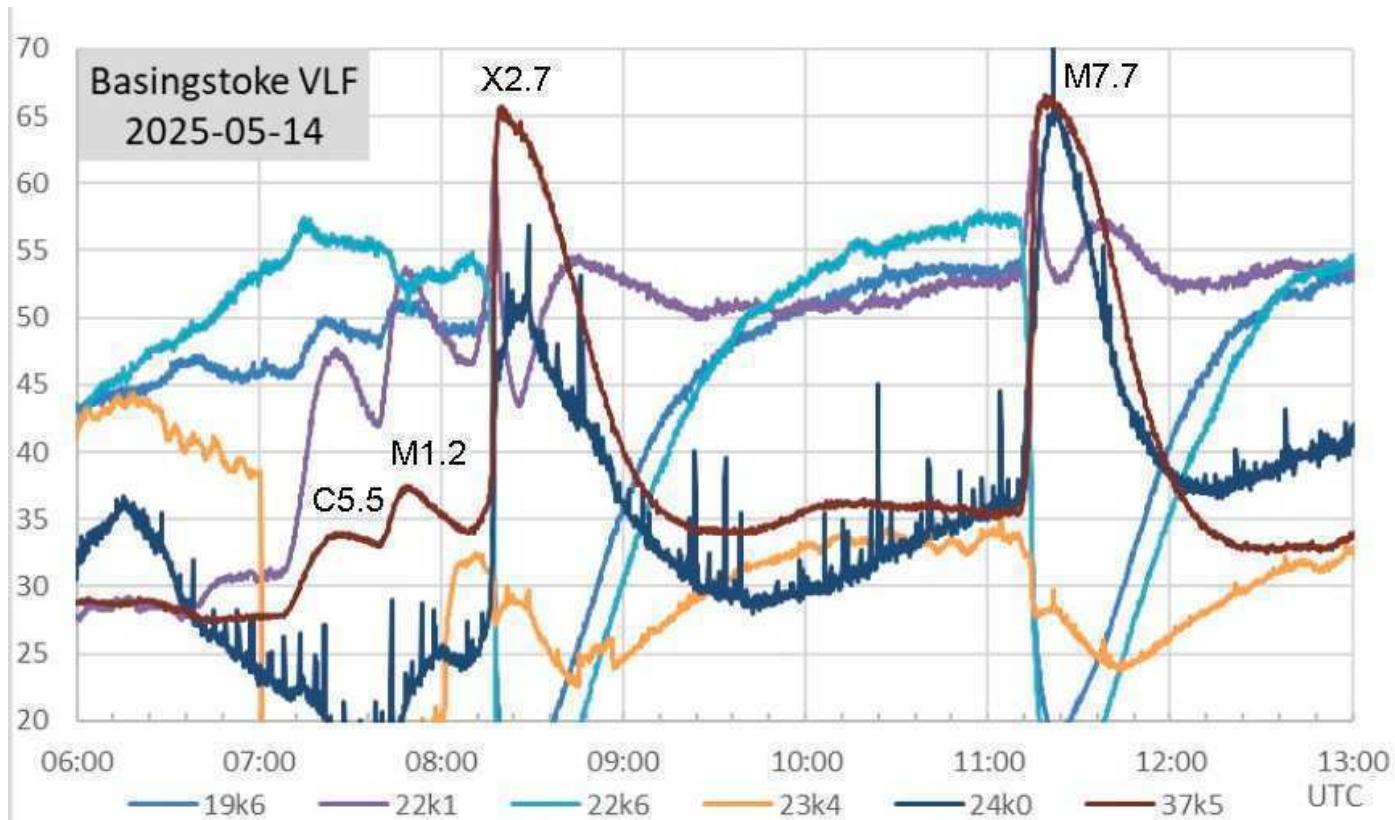
BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

Director Paul Hearn.

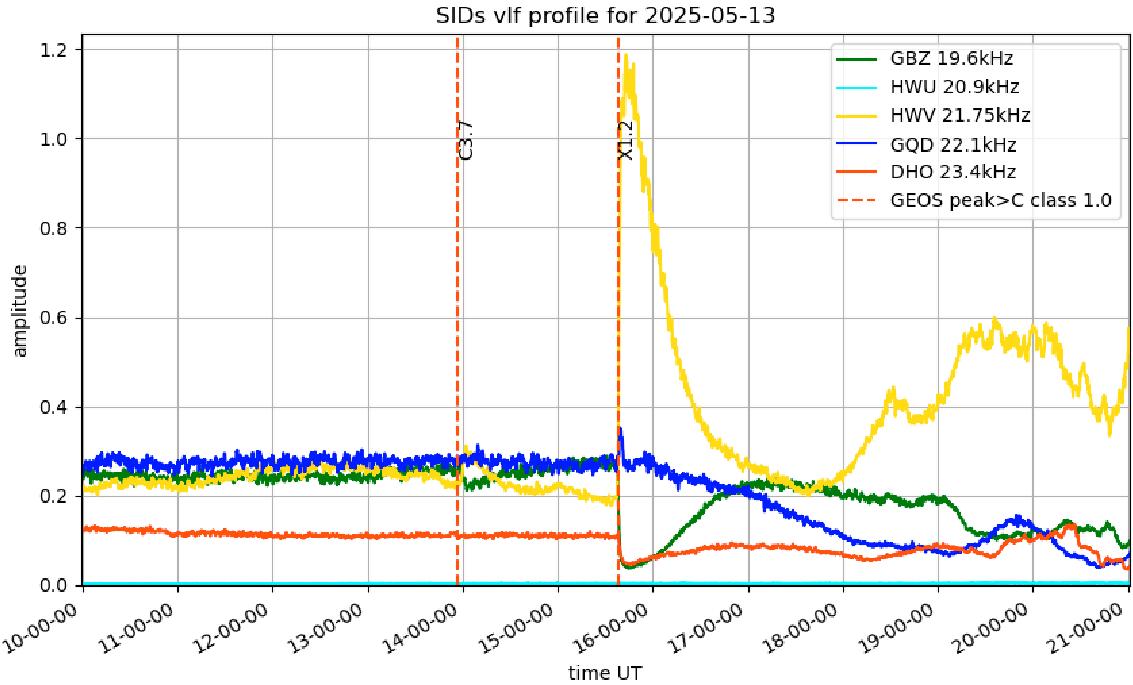
RADIO SKY NEWS 2025 MAY.

VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

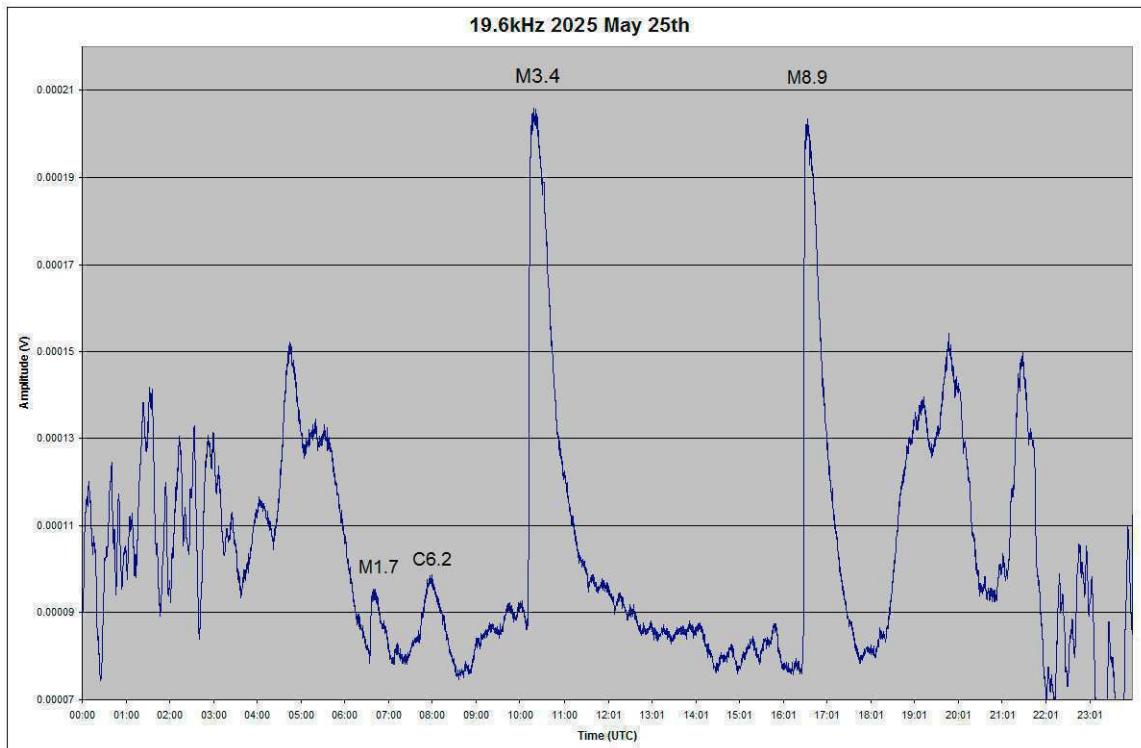
Solar flare activity in May was at a similar level to April, although we did catch two X-class flares. There were also plenty of smaller C2 flares recorded during quieter periods. The SWPC satellite lists include plenty of B-class flares, although we have not seen any as SIDs since 2022.



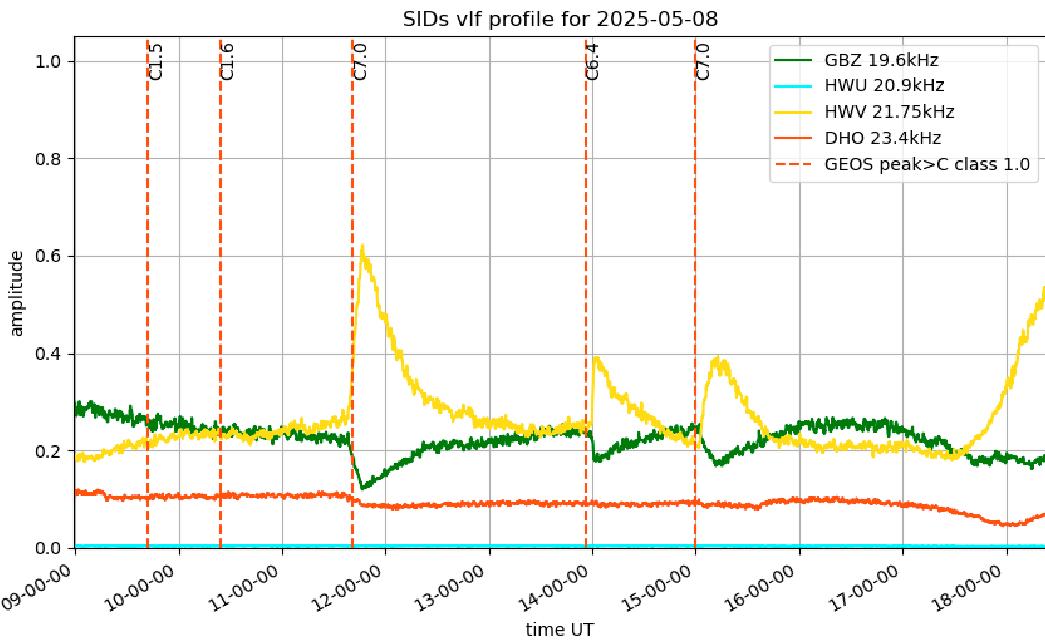
The X2.7 flare on the 14th was quite early in the morning, peaking about 08:30UT, and shows very strongly in Paul Hyde's recording. It is interesting to compare the SID strengths on the various signals. 37.5kHz shows similar SIDs for the X2.7 and M7.7 flares, while 23.4kHz makes the M7.7 look stronger than the X2.7. The longer day length in May has helped, with 24kHz also showing a strong SID for the X2.7 flare. AR14087 was responsible for these flares, along with much of the activity over the following few days. It was not a particularly complex active region, although the primary sunspot was quite large.



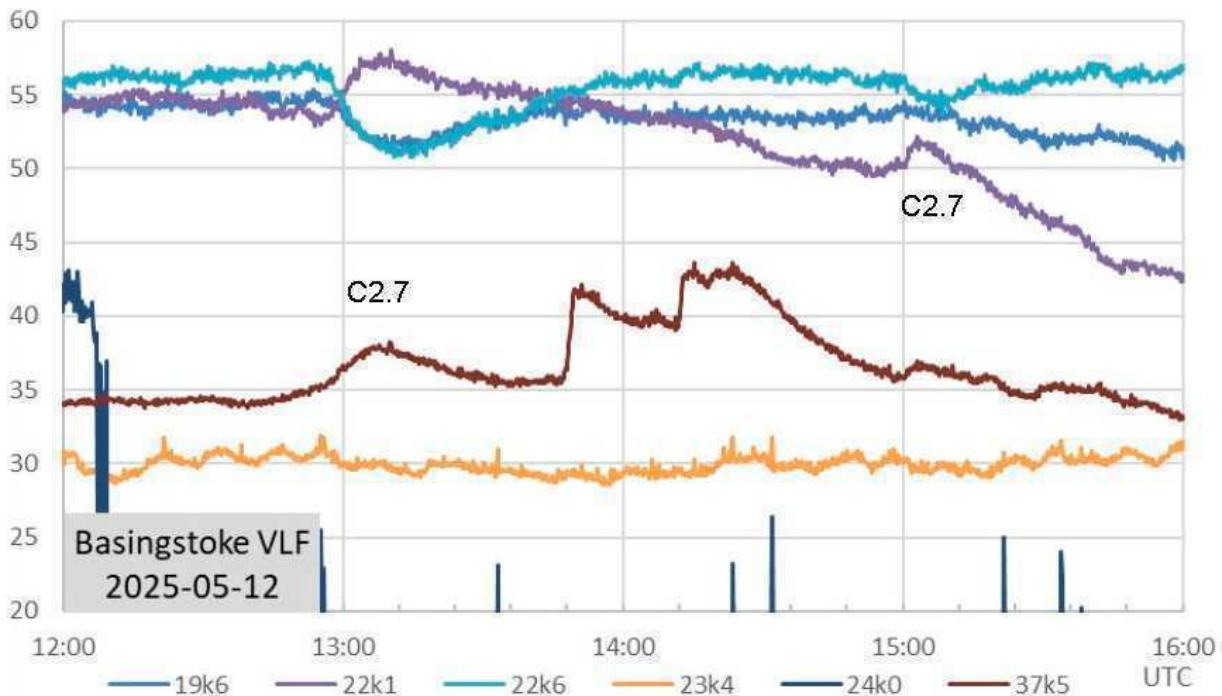
Mark Prescott's recording shows the X1.2 flare in the afternoon of the 13th. 21.75kHz shows a very strong SID, although with a simple 'shark fin' shape. 22.1kHz appears at first to show a very short spike lasting just a few minutes, but it is followed by a very subtle rise up to 16UT before gently falling away again. It is a rather unusual 'spike and wave' SID, where the wave portion is almost flat. The earlier C3.7 flare has produced small SIDs at 21.75kHz and 19.6kHz.



Activity increased again at the end of the month, Mark Edwards' recording showing some strong M-flares on the 25th. The M1.7 was very early at around 07UT, appearing just after the sunrise ends on the 19.6kHz signal. There was another X1.1 flare on the 25th, but occurring at 02UT it was far too early for us to record.



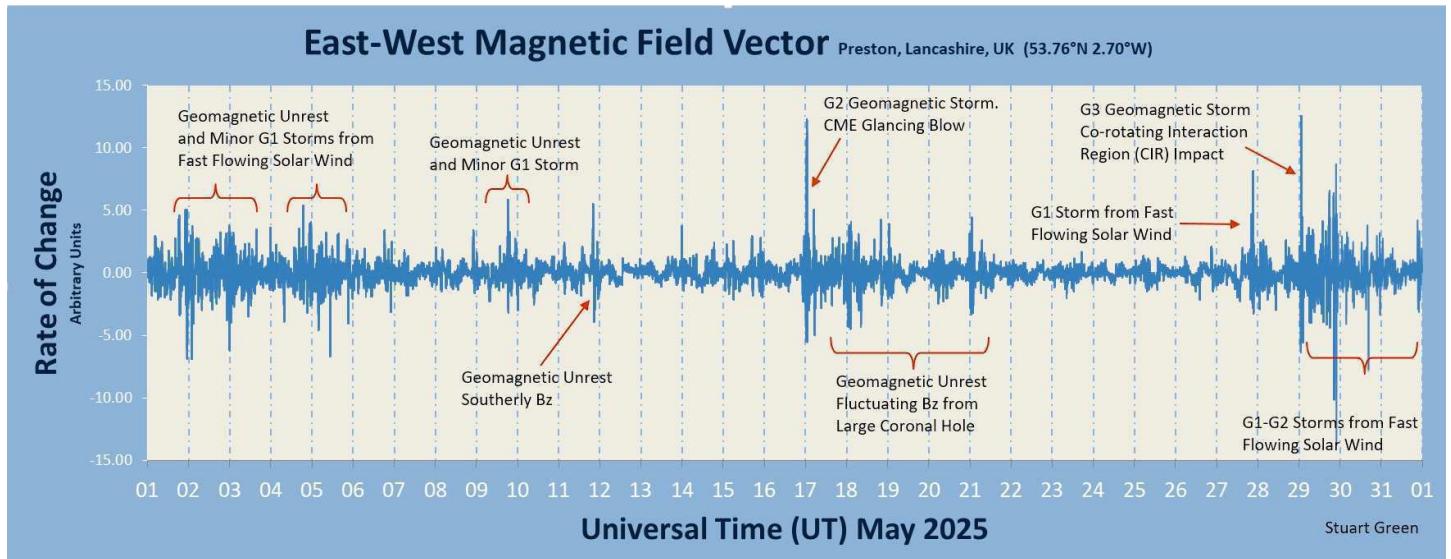
This clean recording by Mark Prescott from the 8th shows a trio of mirror-image SIDes at 21.75kHz and 19.6kHz. 23.4kHz seems to be very unresponsive to these stronger C-class flares.



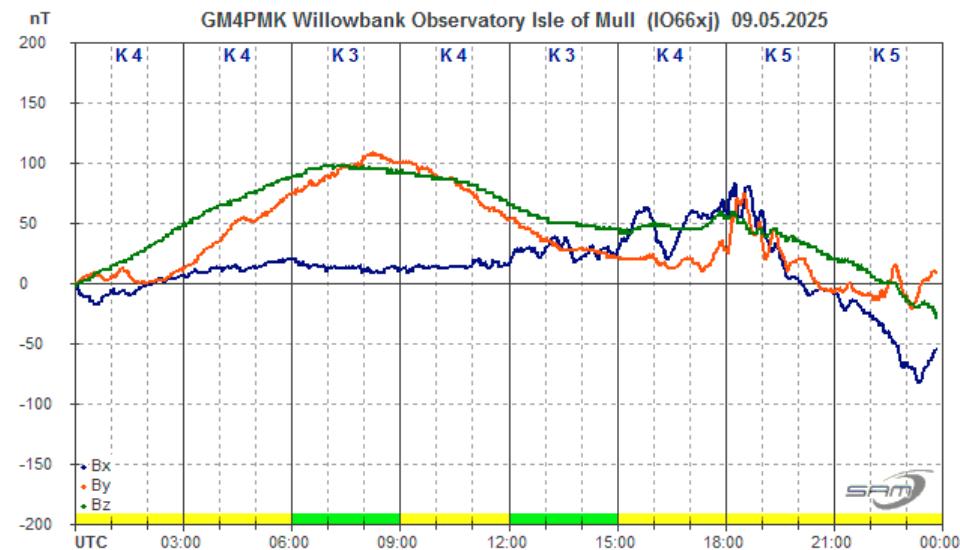
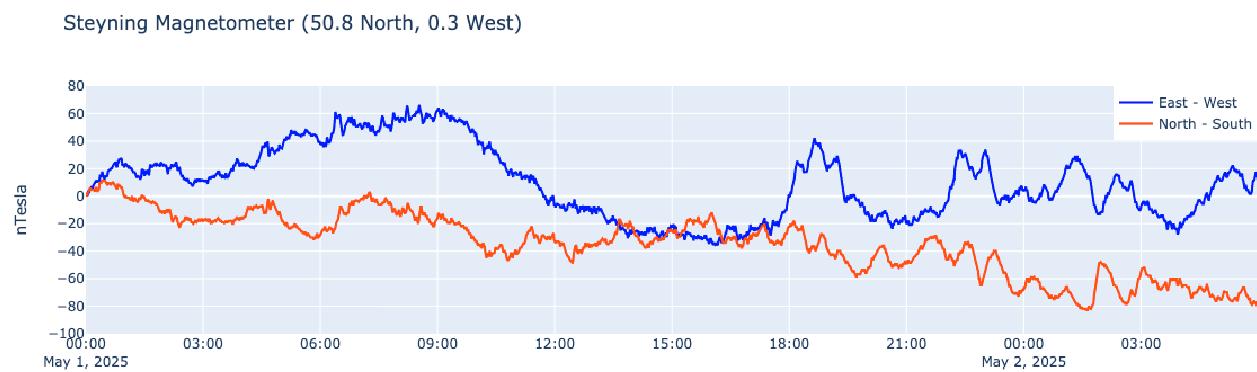
Paul Hyde's recording from the 12th shows a pair of smaller C2.7 flares. 22.1kHz shows both flares very clearly, while 23.4kHz again seems to be unresponsive. 37.5kHz has a very strong double event around 13:45–15:00, with no clear source. There is nothing listed in the satellite data at this time, and no magnetic activity recorded either.

We also recorded some much weaker C-class flares, the weakest being a C1.3 on the 11th. There were C1.4 flares recorded on the 3rd, 4th and 29th; C1.7 flares on the 4th, 6th and 7th; and a C1.8 on the 28th. These were mostly during periods when the background X-ray flux was at a low level.

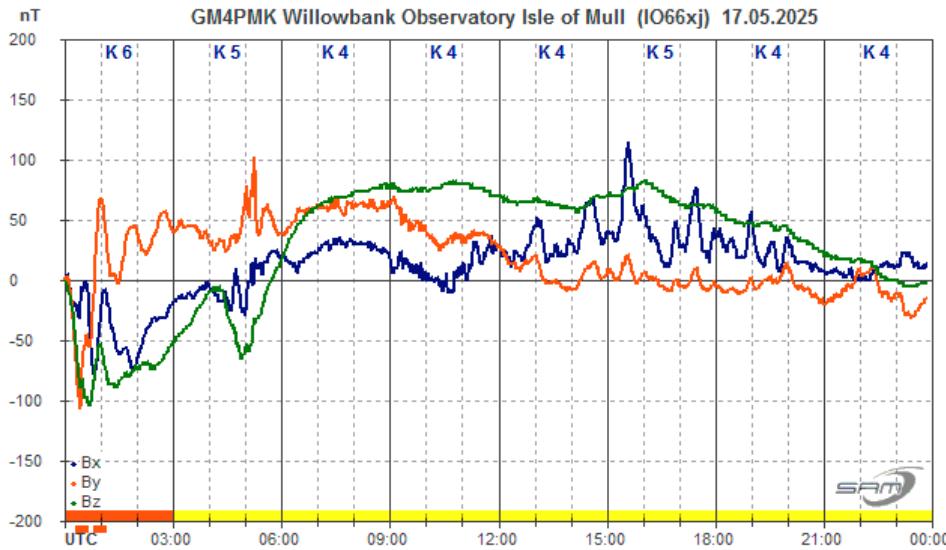
MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.



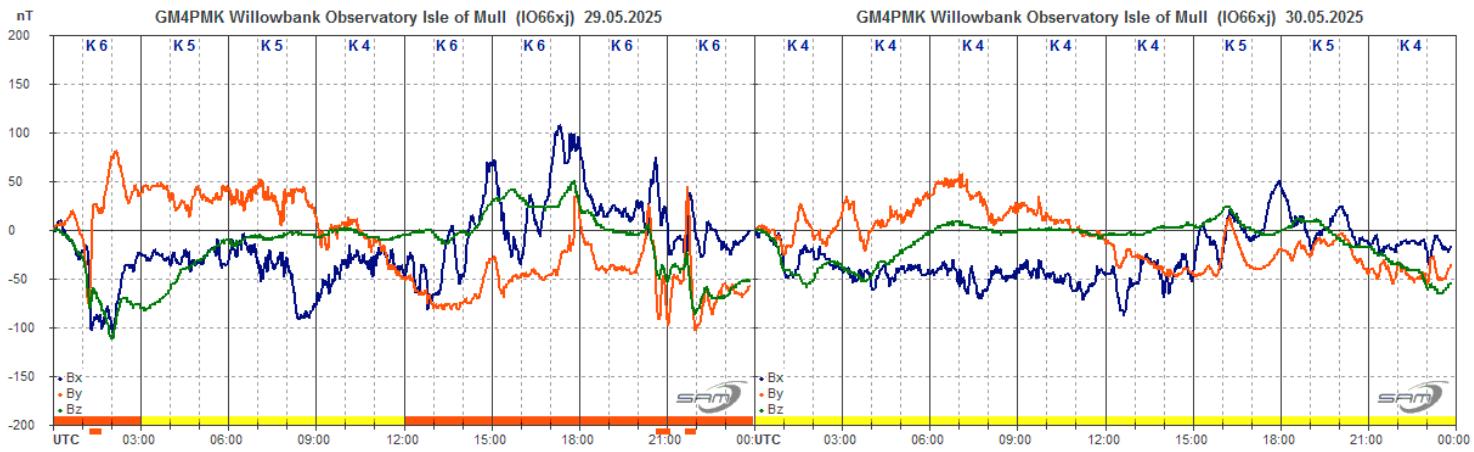
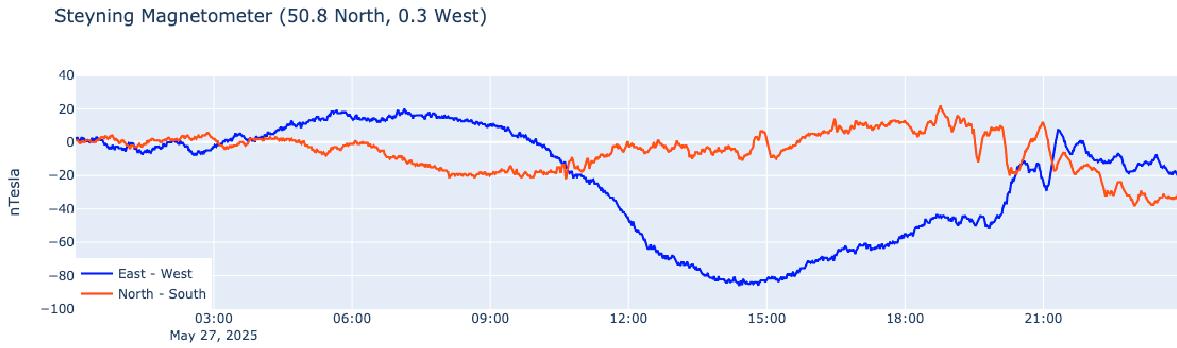
Stuart Green's summary of the month's magnetic activity shows several periods of activity, mostly from solar wind effects. Coronal holes are starting to be more common compared to earlier in the solar cycle, a strong wind from a coronal hole producing some mild disturbance to start the month. Nick Quinn's recording from the 1st showing activity increasing after 18:00UT:



Mild disturbance continued over the next few days, slowly fading, but increased again in the afternoon of the 9th, shown in Roger Blackwell's recording. The STCE bulletin gives the source as a CME, although it is not linked to a specific flare. Coronal hole high speed winds continued to create mild magnetic disturbances over the next few days.



The first really active period started on the 17th, shown in this recording by Roger Blackwell. The STCE bulletin gives a filament eruption on the 12th as the source. This was followed by more coronal hole solar winds producing mild disturbances. Nick Quinn's recording from the 27th is typical of this period:

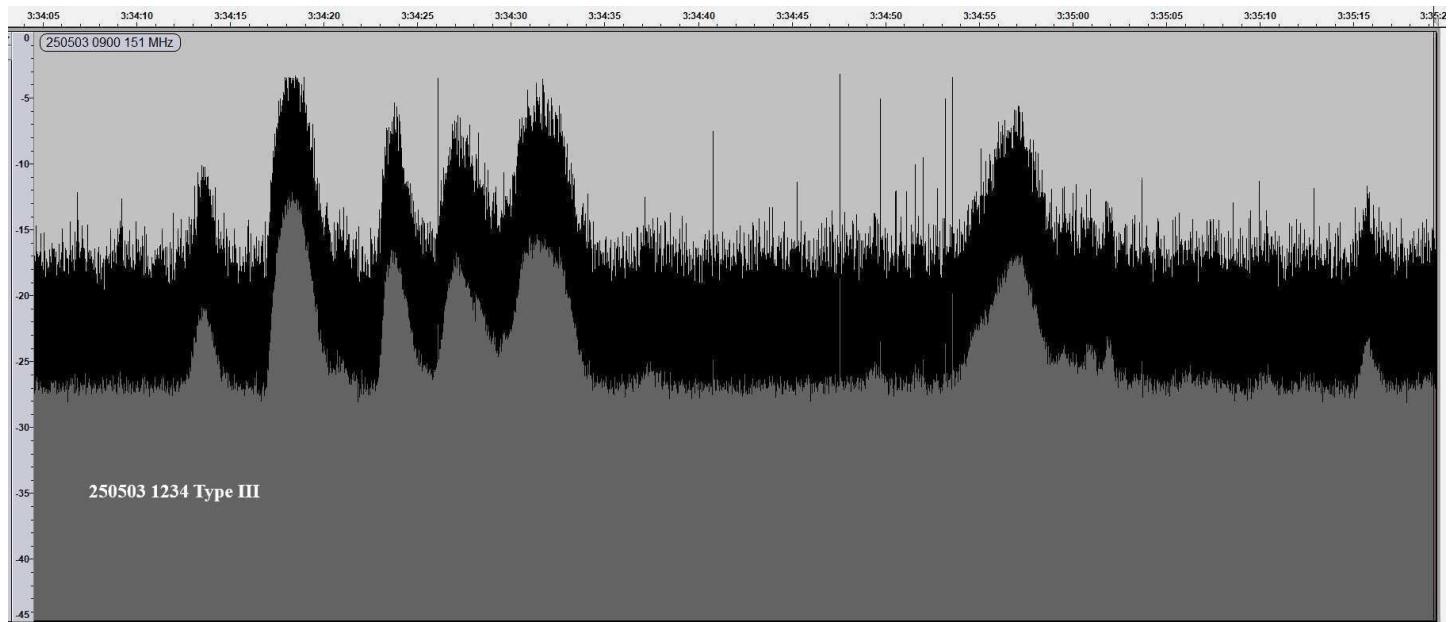


The most active period started early on the 29th, lasting right through to the end of the month. This also seems to be from interacting strong solar winds. Compared with the storms recorded in 2024 May, this was very mild.

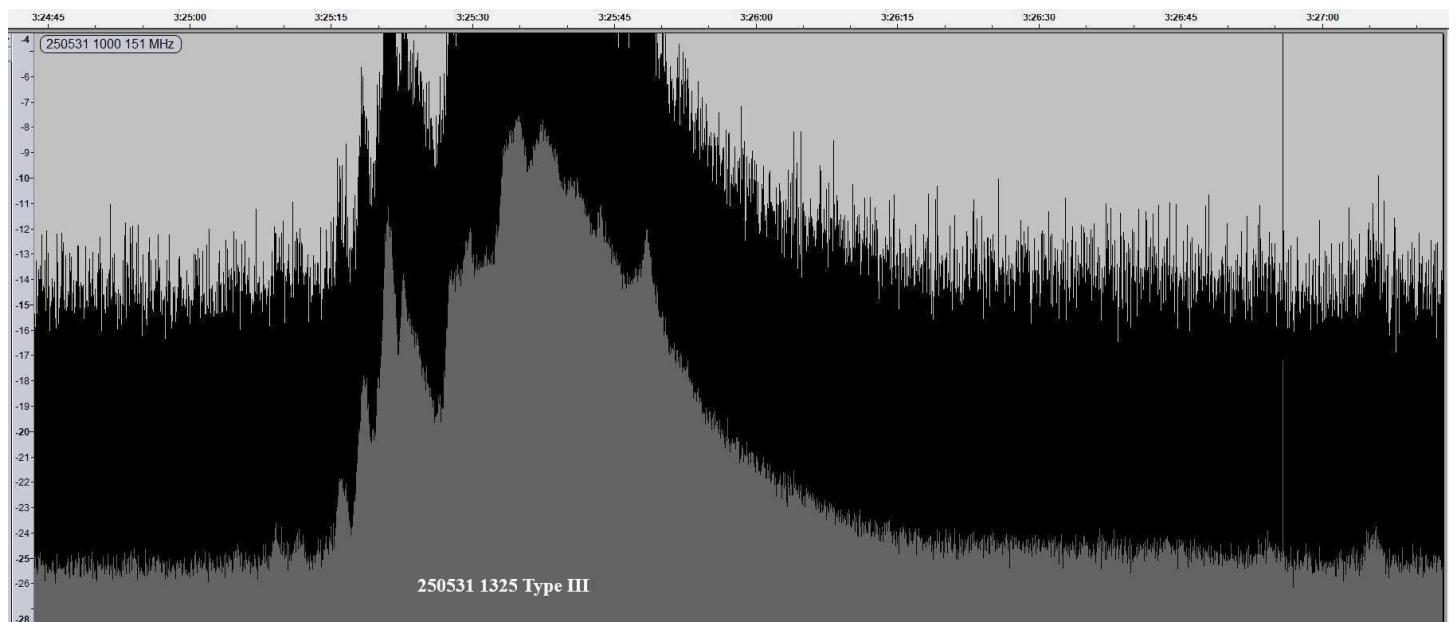
Thomas Mazzi noticed that this magnetic activity was causing disturbances to the GPS signals. This is another way of detecting ionospheric disturbance as the turbulent magnetic field moves its boundaries.

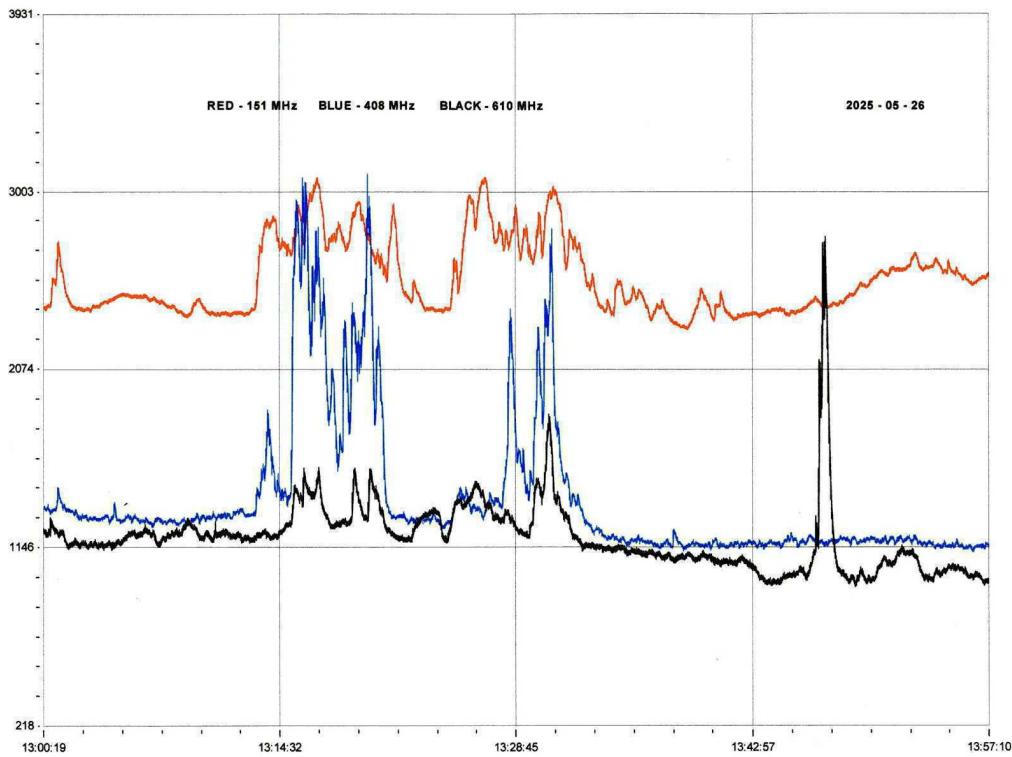
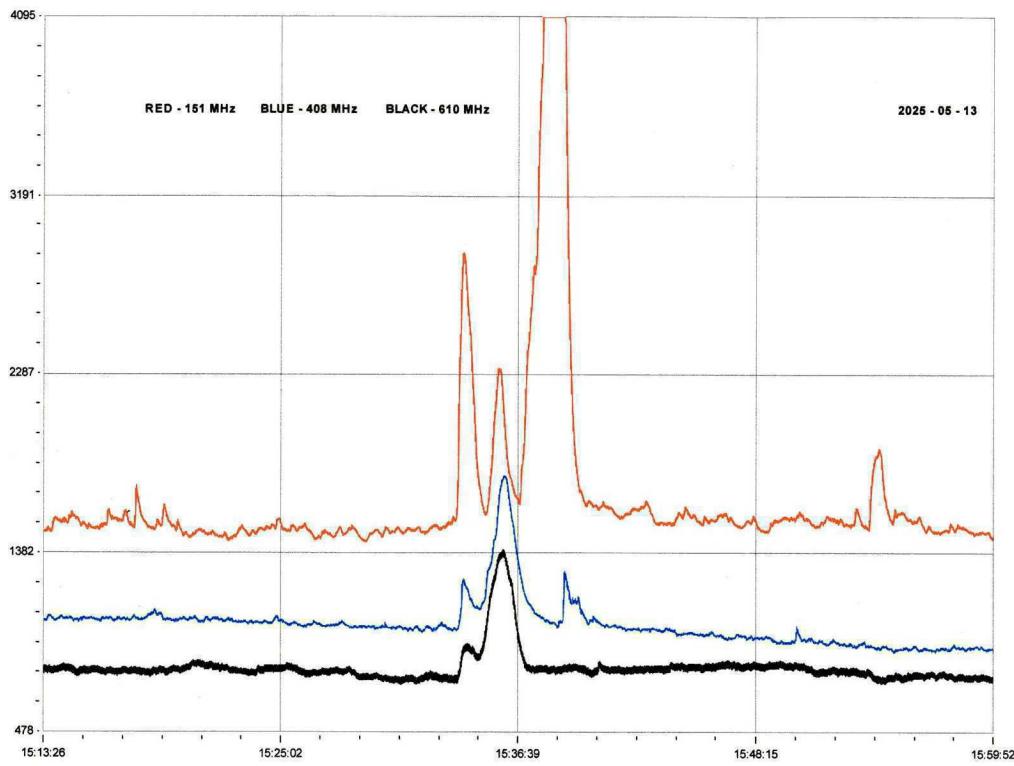
Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Stuart Green, Thomaa Mazzi, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

SOLAR EMISSIONS



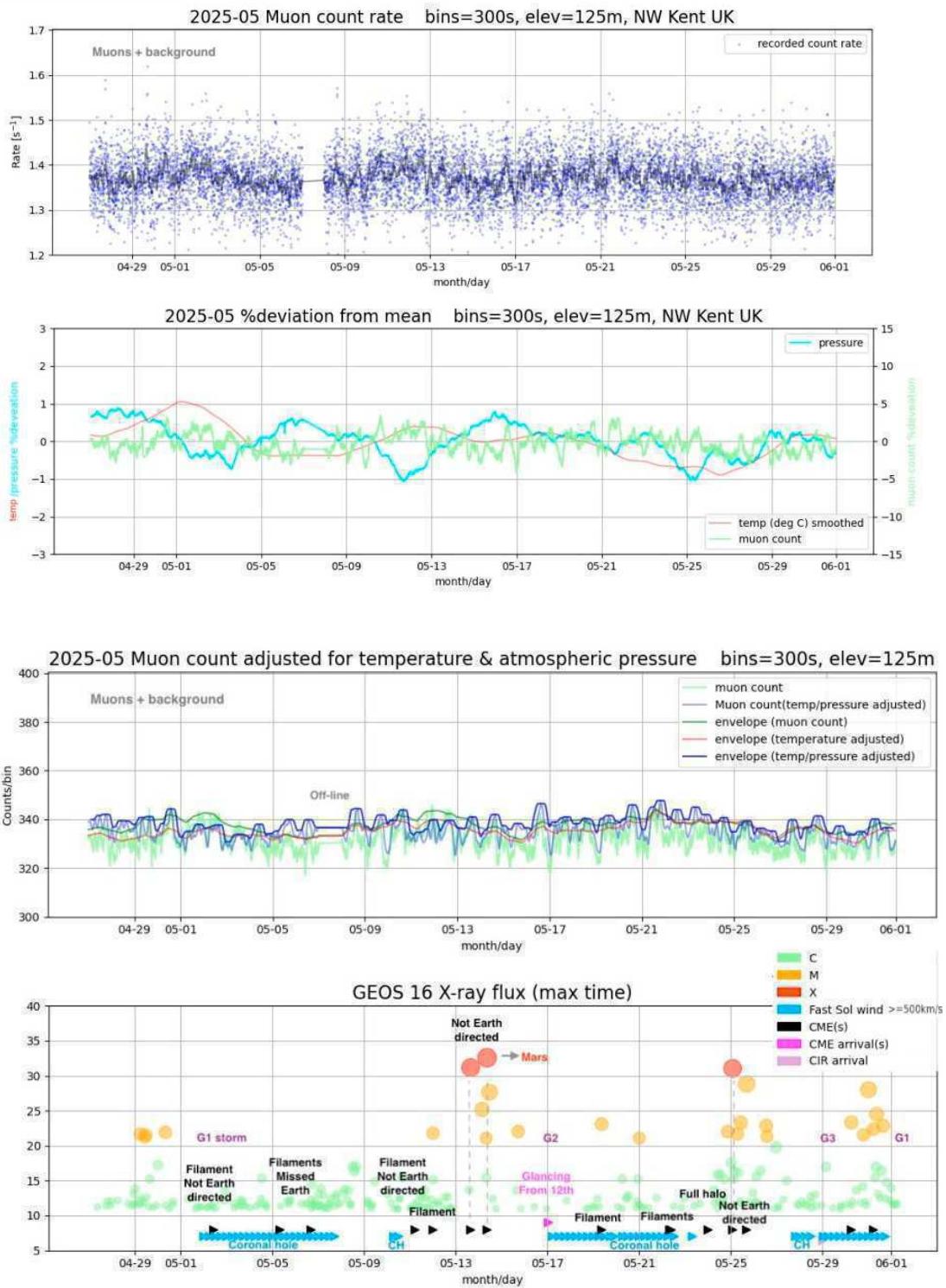
Colin Briden recorded two type III 151MHz solar emissions. The first started at 12:34UT on the 3rd, and matches the timing of a C1.5 flare in the SWPC satellite lists. It is not one that we recorded as a SID. It has an amplitude varying about 15 to 20dB with multiple peaks. The second starts at 13:25 on the 31st, matching the C6.5 flare. It has an amplitude of 18dB, and lasts for about two minutes. This has several peaks, but they are all merged into a single event.





Colin Clements recorded a strong emission from the X1.7 flare on the 13th. All three frequencies show the burst, 151Mhz going off-scale. The M-flares on the 26th also produced strong emissions shown in the lower chart. 610MHz has its strongest peak after the other signals have returned to normal, although it is still within the decay phase of the M1.4 flare. Colin also reported emissions on the 8th from the C6.4 flare around 14:00UT, 610MHz showing much lower noise levels this time.

MUONS

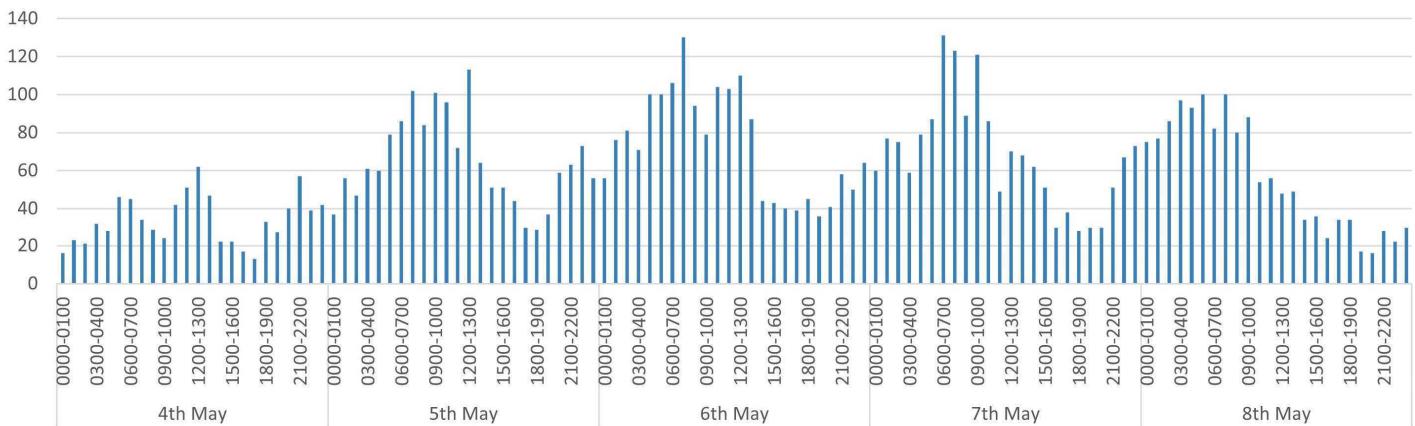


Mark Prescott's muon charts show a fairly stable flux through the month, with slightly lower counts in the first and last weeks with the faster solar winds. There is a short break when the sensor was off line on the 7th. The counts increased slightly around the 20th – 22nd despite the continuing faster solar wind. There is also a small peak on the 16th / 17th during the period with only very weak flaring. It also matches the active magnetic disturbances shown on page 5 of this report.

METEORS.

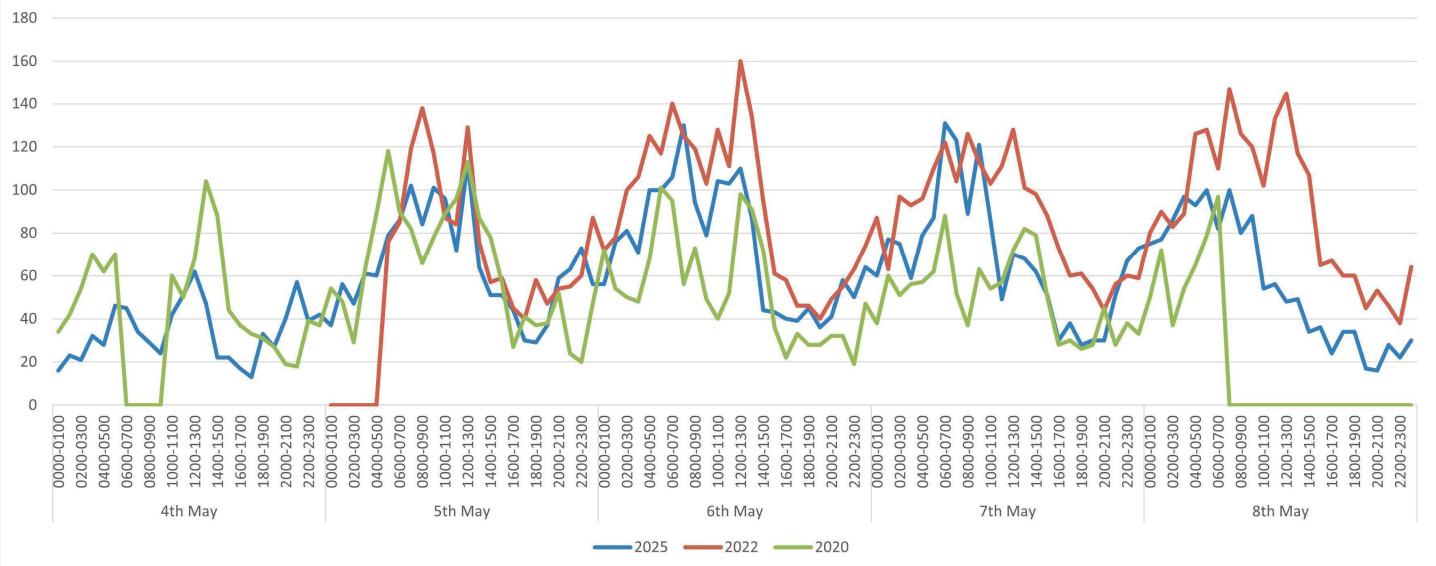
Eta Aquarids meteor shower 2025

Chris Bailey



Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower 2020 2022 2025

Chris Bailey

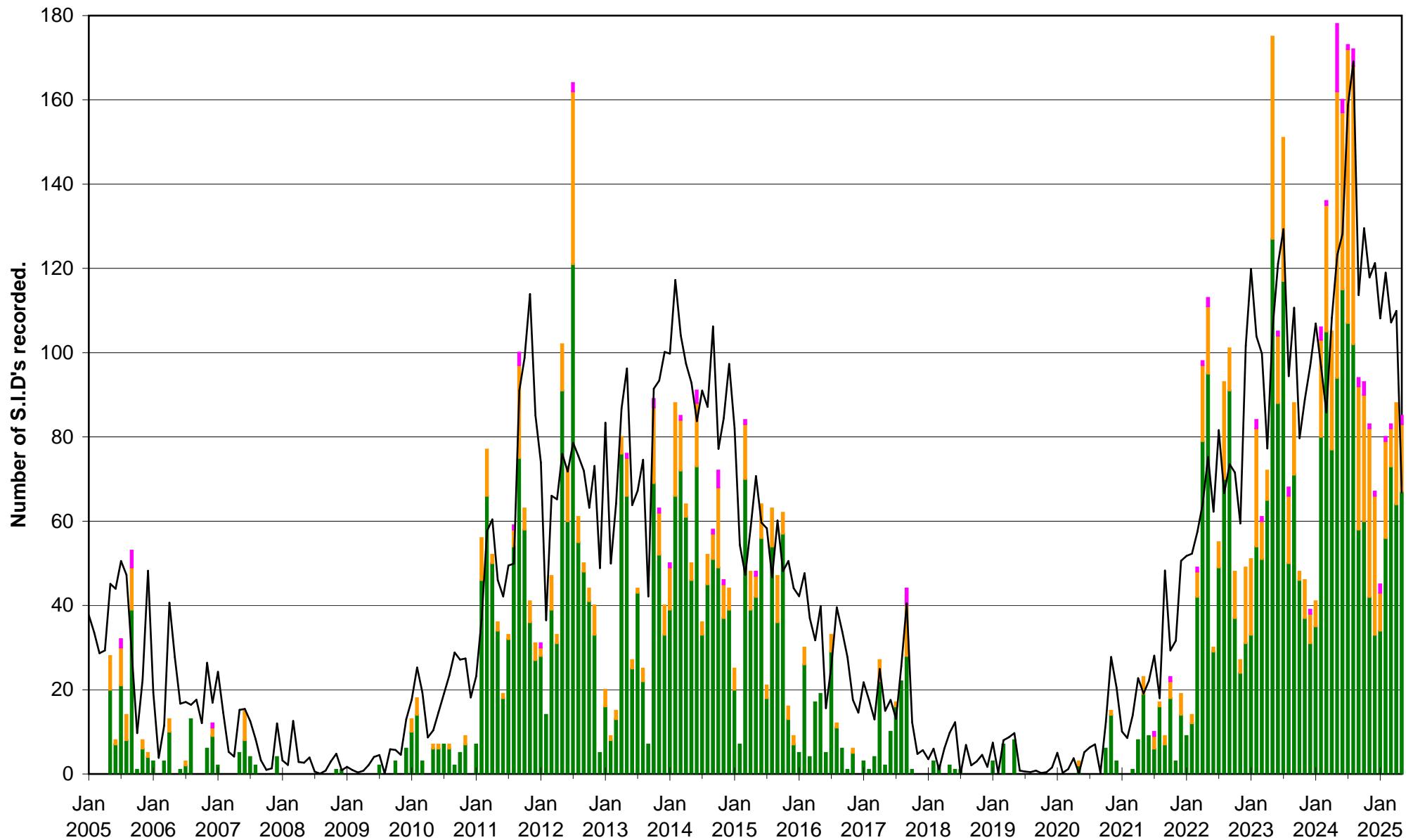


Chris Bailey recorded meteor counts during the Eta-Aquarid shower over May 4th to 8th. The top chart shows just the 2025 data, the highest counts being around 08 to 10UT in the morning. There is also a strong peak at 12–13UT on the 5th. The lower chart compares these figures with those from 2020 and 2022. The 2020 counts were generally lower, while the counts in 2022 were higher, showing much more activity on the 8th. Midday peaks are also evident in all three years.

Radio Sky News started as a summary of the monthly SID recordings in 2005 May. We had just four or five observers, and I produced a simple list of the timings reported along with a few lines of text and the occasional chart. The current activity chart shows the low level of activity at the end of solar cycle 23. Magnetic data was included in 2011, and the number of observers had increased considerably. Many more recordings could be included, marking the start of solar cycle 24. The 'summary' was renamed Radio Sky News in 2022. Thanks to all of our observers, and I hope that it continues to be of interest as cycle 25 fades.

VLF flare activity 2005/25

C M X — Relative sunspot number



BARTEL'S DIAGRAM

BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

2025 MAY.

	Xray class	Observers	John Cook (23.4kHz/22.1kHz)				Roberto Battaiola 20.3kHz			Paul Hyde (22.1kHz/24kHz)			Mark Edwards (24.0/19.6/21.75kHz)			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.					
DAY			START	PEAK	END (UT)		START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)	START	PEAK	END (UT)			
3	C2.3	3	14:08	14:10	14:15	1-				14:07	14:11	14:19	1-	14:07	14:10	14:18	1-				
3	C1.4	1								14:39	14:43	14:47	1-								
3	C2.0	1								15:00	15:05	15:07	1-								
3	C2.1	3								15:54	16:02	16:29	2	15:57	16:02	16:19	1	15:50	16:05	16:13	
4	C1.7	1												10:05	10:16	10:55	2+				
4	C2.4	4	11:29	11:38	11:41	1-				12:24	12:33	13:08	2	12:28	12:34	13:42	2+	11:29	11:36	11:45	
4	C5.4	9	12:28	12:35	12:50	1								14:56	14:59	15:06	1-	12:28	12:35	13:06	
4	C1.4	1												16:05	16:06	16:19	1-				
5	C2.1	1																			
6	C1.8	4	10:47	10:52	11:07	1								10:46	10:53	11:17	1+	10:49	10:54	11:02	
6	C1.7	4	11:50	11:53	12:05	1-								11:49	11:53	12:20	1+	11:49	11:56	12:03	
6	C2.3	4	16:20	16:23	16:33	1-								16:20	16:24	16:36	1-	16:21	16:22	16:31	
6	C4.5	4												17:04	17:08	17:41	2	17:05	17:09	17:40	
6	C1.6	1																			
7	C1.7	1																			
7	C1.7	1																			
7	C2.4	1																			
7	?	1																			
7	C2.7	1																			
7	C3.2	1																			
8	C2.2	1																			
8	C7.0	11	11:35	11:43	12:36	2+	06:37	06:52	06:45	1-	11:34	11:41	12:14	2	11:35	11:43	12:22	2+	11:35	11:45	12:20
8	?	1					11:30	11:43	12:03	2				12:38	12:41	12:54	1-				
8	C6.4	10	13:56	13:58	14:50	2+	13:53	13:57	14:14	1	13:55	13:58	14:29	2	13:55	13:59	14:22	1+	13:56	13:58	14:28
8	C7.0	9	14:58	15:05	?	-	14:56	15:06	15:25	1+	14:58	15:08	15:43	2	14:59	15:08	15:41	2	14:56	15:12	16:06
9	C4.9	9	11:19	11:23	11:48	1+	11:16	11:21	11:41	1	11:20	11:22	11:47	1+	11:19	11:24	11:44	1	11:19	11:26	11:55
10	C2.4	2																12:06	12:32	13:42	
10	C5.5	7	16:19	16:22	16:35	1-	16:17	16:21	16:35	1-	16:18	16:23	17:00	2	16:18	16:22	16:41	1	16:03	16:22	16:32
11	C1.3	1																			
11	C3.2	8	11:09	11:16	?	-	11:07	11:14	11:23	1-	11:10	11:17	?	-	11:09	11:17	?	-	11:09	11:17	11:27
11	C2.6	6	11:26	11:35	11:56	1+	11:22	11:28	12:03	2	11:27	11:32	11:58	1+	11:27	11:32	12:24	2+	11:27	11:33	12:12
11	C3.8	5	14:56	15:06	15:27	1+					14:55	15:06	15:44	2+	14:58	15:08	15:31	2	14:55	15:10	15:57
11	C2.6	4					16:05	16:17	16:59	2+	16:16	16:18	16:36	1	16:14	16:21	16:53	2			
12	C2.7	9	12:57	13:07	13:41	2	12:55	13:05	13:42	2+	12:56	13:07	13:54	2+	12:57	13:09	14:29	3	12:47	13:12	14:31
12	C2.7	5	15:00	15:03	?	-					15:00	15:03	15:39	2	15:01	15:05	15:10	1-	15:00	15:05	15:24
13	C3.7	5	13:56	13:58	14:10	1-	13:51	13:57	14:18	1+	13:54	13:58	14:12	1-	13:56	13:57	14:23	1+			
13	X1.2	9	15:34	15:41	17:04	3	15:28	15:54	16:23	2+	15:34	15:38	17:27	3	15:33	15:40	16:20	2+	15:35	15:40	16:24
14	C5.5	4	07:09	07:21	?	-					07:09	07:26	?	-	07:13	07:30	?	-			
14	M1.2	5	07:40	07:45	?	-					07:39	07:49	?	-	07:39	07:49	?	-			
14	?	1												08:10	08:19	?	-				
14	X2.7	9	08:13	08:24	10:03	3	08:05	08:22	08:43	2	08:10	08:25	10:20	3+	08:28	08:30	09:28	2+	08:17	08:26	09:34
14	M7.7	9	11:11	11:22	12:57	3	11:05	11:17	12:02	2+	11:12	11:24	12:59	3	11:10	11:23	12:11	2+	11:11	11:22	12:38
14	C2.4	1												14:19	14:28	14:36	1-				
14	C1.8	1												17:50	17:56	18:04	1-				
14	M4.7	8	18:05	18:10	18:55	2+	18:02	18:08	18:33	1+	18:06	18:14	19:14	2+	18:05	18:08	18:55	2+	18:08	18:16	18:34
15	C3.6	4												15:23	15:28	15:44	1-	15:23	15:29	15:54	
15	M2.1	8	17:14	17:21	18:12	2+	17:07	17:23	17:49	2	17:14	17:23	18:09	2+	17:14	17:19	18:10	2+	17:18	17:25	17:37
16	?	1					09:37	09:48	10:36	2+				17:14	17:19	18:10	2+				
19	M3.2	9	08:20	08:25	09:38	2+	08:18	08:23	09:48	1+	08:21	08:25	09:27	2+	08:20	08:25	09:23	2+	08:20	08:27	09:17
20	C5.3	1												05:47	05:56	06:12	1				
20	C2.7	2	10:15	10:22	10:42	1+								10:15	10:28	10:35	1				
20	C2.5	2	10:57	11:04	11:09	1-								10:57	11:07	11:37	2				
20	C2.9	7	13:07	13:12	13:18	1-								13:08	13:13	13:34	1+	13:08	13:18	13:42	
21	C2.6	1												13:06	13:12	13:41	2				
24	C5.9	9	10:31	10:35	?	-	10:27	10:31	10:57	1+	10:29	10:39	11:15	2+	10:30	10:37	?	-	10:32	10:40	11:30
24	C2.1	2	10:50	10:52	11:22	1+								10:52	10:54	11:12	1				
24	C6.0	9	12:41	12:45	13:12	1+	12:35	12:42	13:22	2+	12:42	12:47	13:36	2+	12:38	12:46	13:10	1+	12:31	12:51	12:58
24	C2.3	1												15:33	15:34	15:54	1				
24	C2.6	2												16:08	16:14	16:19	1-				
24	C5.3	6	16:45	16:52	17:30	2								16:47	16:57	17:30	2	16:46	16:55	17:18	
24	M2.1	2												20:21	20:29	21:04	2	20:20	20:25	21:07	
25	M1.7	8	06:35	06:37	07:23	2+	06:28	06:36	07:17	2+	06:35	06:40	07:34	2+	06:34	06:38	06:55	1			
25	C6.2	9	07:44	07:51	08:18	2	07:38	07:48	08:04	1+	07:43	07:53	08:33	2+	07:44	07:57	08:34	2+	07:34	07:59	08:39
25	M3.4	11	10:12	10:20	11:49	3	10:10	10:19	10:54	2	10:11	10:19	11:06	2+	10:11	10:17	11:13	2+	10:14	10:22	11:14
25	M8.9	11	16:28	16:34	17:51	2+	16:27	16:33	16:58	1+	16:26	16:33	17:51	2+	16:26	16:33	17:19	2+	16:29	16:35	17:00
25	C2.0	1												19:39	19:41	19:48	1-				
26	C6.5	8	07:09																		

BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

2025 MAY.

Xray class	Chris Bailey	Colin Briden			1.2m Frame aerial.			
		Spectrum Lab.						
DAY	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)				
3	C2.3							
3	C1.4							
3	C2.0							
3	C2.1							
4	C1.7							
4	C2.4							
4	C5.4			12:30 12:36 12:48	1-			
4	C1.4							
5	C2.1							
6	C1.8			10:47 10:53 11:06	1			
6	C1.7							
6	C2.3			16:21 16:24 16:28	1-			
6	C4.5			17:06 17:10 17:15	1-			
6	C1.6			17:45 17:49 17:53	1-			
7	C1.7							
7	C1.7							
7	C2.4							
7	?							
7	C2.7							
7	C3.2							
8	C2.2			11:35 11:44 11:57	1			
8	C7.0							
8	?							
8	C6.4			13:57 13:59 14:04	1-			
8	C7.0							
9	C4.9							
10	C2.4							
10	C5.5			16:19 16:21 16:27	1-			
11	C1.3							
11	C3.2							
11	C2.6							
11	C3.8							
11	C2.6							
12	C2.7							
12	C2.7							
13	C3.7							
13	X1.2							
14	C5.5							
14	M1.2							
14	?							
14	X2.7							
14	M7.7							
14	C2.4							
14	C1.8							
14	M4.7							
15	C3.6							
15	M2.1							
16	?							
19	M3.2			08:20 08:27 09:10	2+			
20	C5.3							
20	C2.7							
20	C2.5							
20	C2.9							
21	C2.6							
24	C5.9			10:32 10:38 10:53	1			
24	C2.1							
24	C6.0			12:41 12:47 12:58	1-			
24	C2.3							
24	C2.6							
24	C5.3			16:45 16:53 17:03	1-			
24	M2.1							
25	M1.7							
25	C6.2			06:35 06:40 06:55	1			
25	M3.4			07:44 07:52 08:08	1			
25	M8.9			10:13 10:22 10:42	1+			
25	C2.0			16:26 16:35 16:49	1			
26	C6.5							
26	M2.9			07:05 07:18 07:30	1			
26	M1.4			13:02 13:08 ?	-			
27	C5.0			?	13:38 13:55	-		
27	?							
28	C1.8							
28	C2.8							
28	C2.0							
28	C3.0							
29	C1.4			16:28 16:33 16:42	1-			
30	M3.4							
30	C2.1							
30	C3.6							
30	C4.2							
30	M1.6							
30	?							
31	M2.4			05:17 05:21 05:29	1-			
31	C5.5			06:59 07:07 07:14	1-			
31	C7.0			07:25 07:31 07:43	1-			
31	M4.5			08:17 08:24 09:08	2+			
31	C3.2			10:14 10:18 10:24	1-			
31	C2.6							
31	C6.5			13:28 13:31 ?	-			
31	*							
31	M2.9			15:43 15:51 16:08	1			
31	C4.8							