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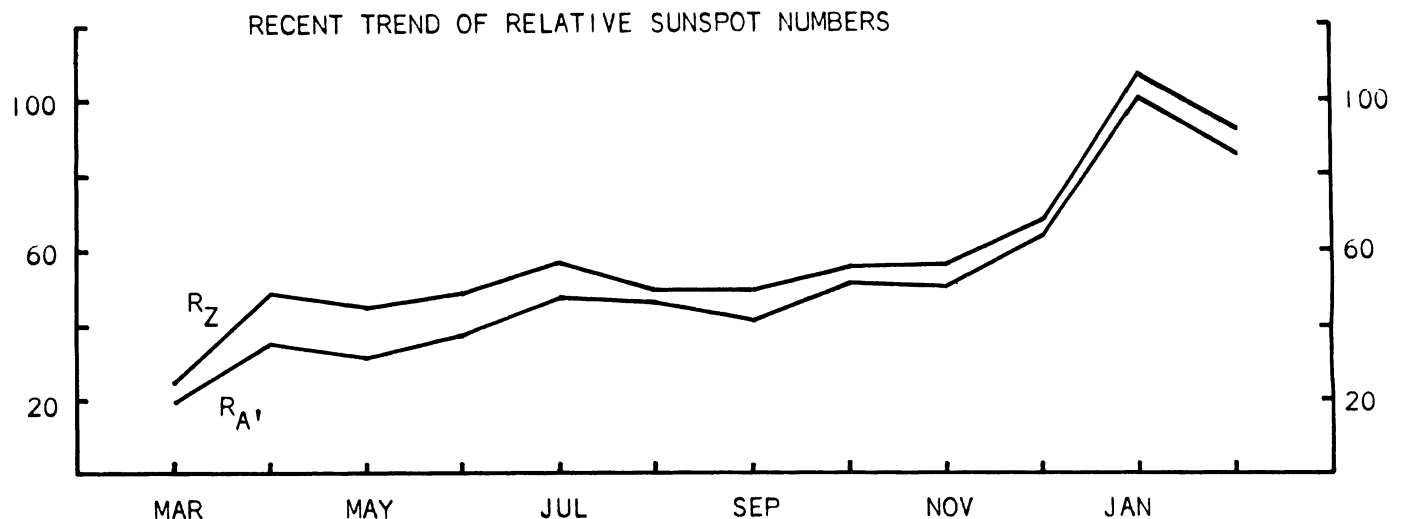
SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING FEBRUARY

Periods of above average solar activity occurred at the beginning and end of February. Early reports from Solar Division observers show sudden ionospheric disturbances on 7, 23 and 27 February. A reproduction of one of these recordings appears on page 2.

Sunspot activity was off somewhat from the previous month. The mean of the American sunspot number fell to 85.6 compared to 101.4 in January. By the end of this month, sunspot counts were running high again after a comparatively low period at the middle of the month. The high point was reached on the 28th when the American relative sunspot number reached its highest point of the present cycle. A good share of the high counts toward the end of the month were accounted for by a very large sunspot group first seen at the northeast limb on the 21st. At its maximum, this group stretched over 20 degrees of solar longitude. Magnetically this outstanding group was classified as beta-gamma. It produced many flares, especially at the time its polarities were badly mixed on the 26th and 27th.

Activity continued at a high level in the southern hemisphere with no spotless days during February. The total disk showed 18 groups having lifetimes greater than two days compared to 19 such groups in January.

A group first seen at the southeast limb on the 26th caused group-count problems for many observers. A single spot lying rather far out toward the northeast was actually a separate group as determined by magnetic observations.



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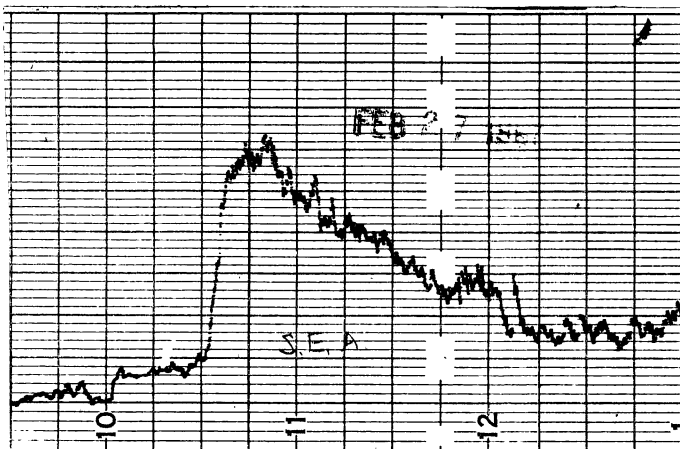
mean = 85.6

1	103
2	89
3	69
4	70
5	74
6	107
7	118
8	114
9	106
10	104
11	92
12	62
13	60
14	53
15	56
16	58
17	63
18	55
19	60
20	62
21	93
22	91
23	85
24	78
25	67
26	110
27	138
28	159

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mean = 92.4

1	93
2	88
3	92
4	100
5	72
6	89
7	138
8	109
9	112
10	97
11	96
12	79
13	77
14	58
15	58
16	60
17	60
18	70
19	57
20	60
21	71
22	86
23	84
24	100
25	106
26	123
27	186
28	166



A sudden enhancement of atmospheric noise (SEA) recorded by Ralph Buckstaff (A-6) at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The SEA starts at 10:32 CST = 1632 UT and reaches maximum 6 minutes later.