

Solar Bulletin

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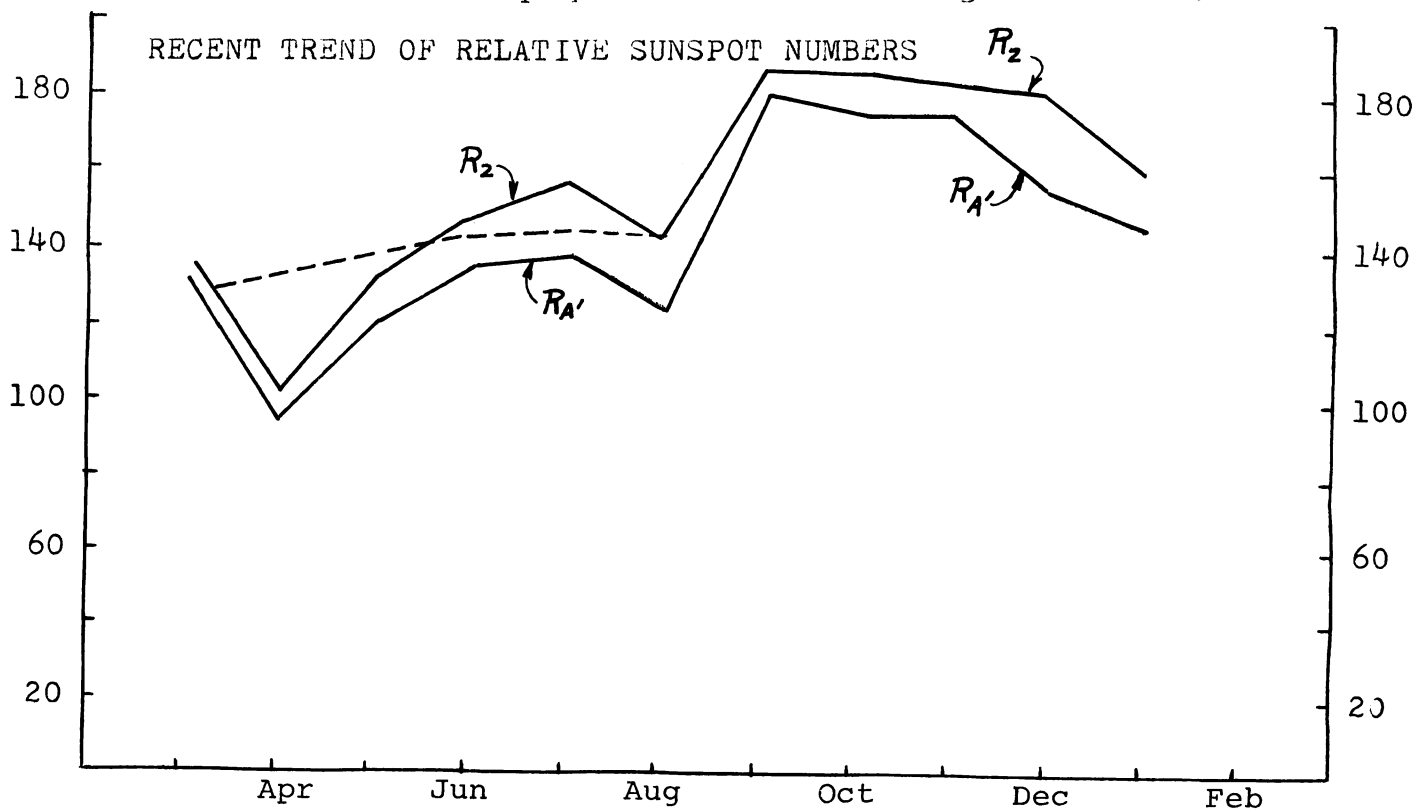
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SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING FEBRUARY

The American relative sunspot numbers continued their steady decline from the high point of 184.0 in September to 131.0 for the February monthly mean. This steady six-month decline reversed the 37-month steady upward climb of sunspot cycle 21. The curve of the 12-month smoothed means turned downward when the August smoothed mean declined to 144.1 from 145.1 the previous month. Unless sunspot activity increases considerably from the level of recent months, the American relative numbers will place the peak of cycle 21 at 145.1 in July 1980 after a steady rise from 11.2 in June 1976.

Despite the decline of relative numbers, ionospheric disturbances seem not to have followed the downward trend of the numbers. Some of this activity is shown on page two. Of particular interest are two recordings at the bottom of page two. These are of 22.3 kHz in western Australia and show very clearly the advantage of having sensitive equipment from which local interference has been eliminated so one can record ionospheric disturbances long after sunset. It is interesting that these excellent recordings were made with an old navy RAK receiver of early 1940's vintage. These old tube-type receivers continue to out perform our modern solid state equipment on the weak signal sources.



AMERICAN (R_A) AND ZURICH (R_Z) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS FOR FEBRUARY 1980

Day	R _A	R _Z
1	148	208
2	163	187
3	153	185
4	162	182
5	161	178
6	181	215
7	182	248
8	162	230
9	128	172
10	118	140
11	134	148
12	113	135
13	104	131
14	123	146
15	136	168
16	136	163
17	110	132
18	93	122
19	119	129
20	104	139
21	104	114
22	92	99
23	85	100
24	98	122
25	99	121
26	134	152
27	155	175
28	149	197
29	154	181
Mean	131.0	159.3

