

Duplicates

# Solar Bulletin

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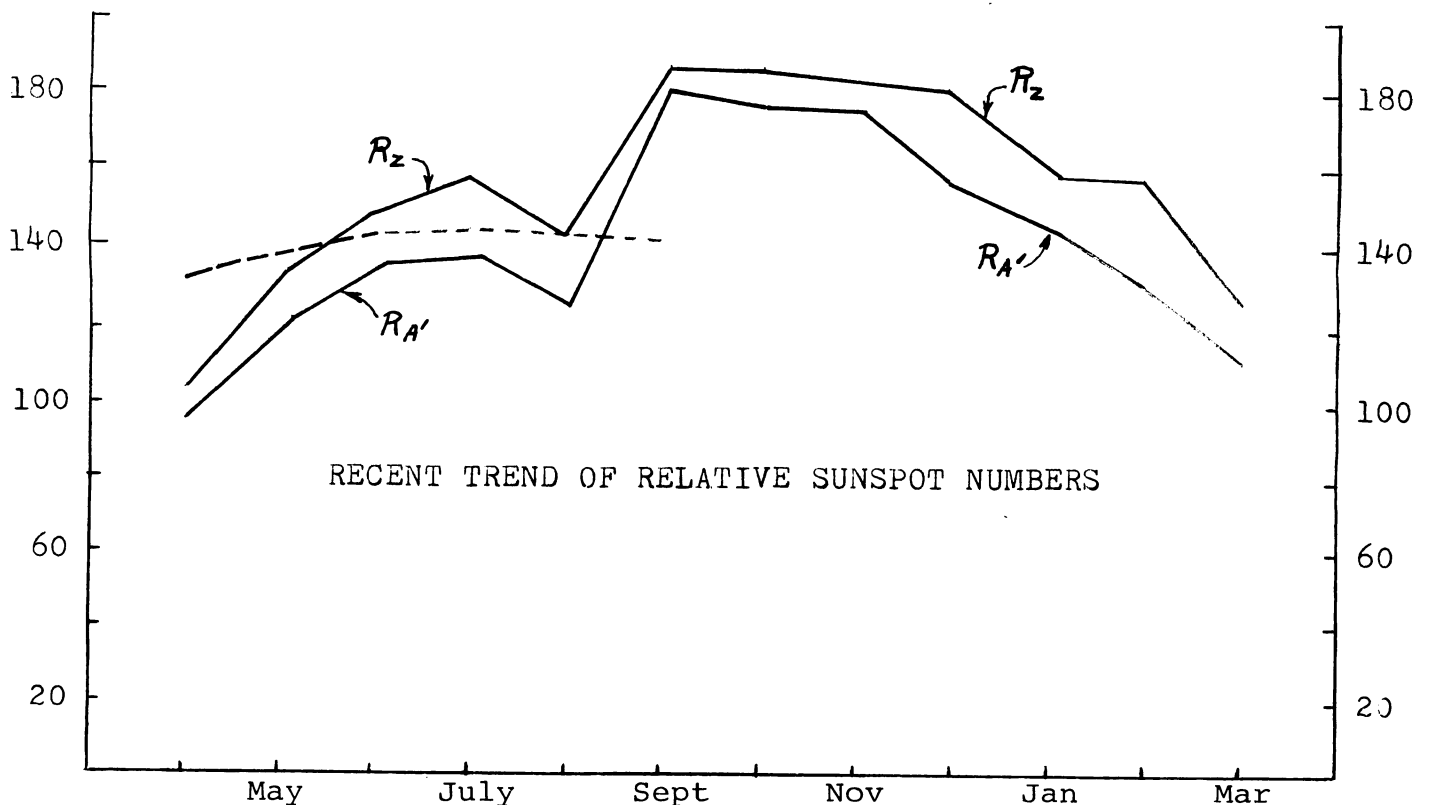
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## SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING MARCH

The sun reached a low level of activity in March. A period of nine days in the middle of the month produced the lowest relative sunspot numbers that have been seen in a long time. The March monthly mean of 111.0 continued the steady decline since November. The 12-month smoothed mean which reached a peak of 145.1 in July declined to 142.9 in September.

Ionospheric disturbances were also less frequent in March and none of them were of great intensity. Several of the more interesting ones are reproduced on page two. Interesting differences in the way disturbances are recorded are shown for the 28th of March. At the top of the page is a normal recording of two sudden enhancements of the signal (SES) of WWVB in Colorado. Beneath it is a recording of NAA in which the second SES shows the inverted response that often occurs over short distances. Beneath this is a recording of NWC in Australia showing the sinuosidal diurnal pattern produced when the propagation path gradually becomes sunlit over a period of many hours. Here the first SES merely enlarged one of the humps but the second one is superimposed on the curve in the usual way.



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

Day	$R_A$	$R_Z$
1	140	181
2	137	168
3	113	151
4	107	136
5	129	130
6	125	132
7	121	120
8	100	101
9	73	103
10	58	69
11	58	67
12	65	70
13	59	71
14	59	68
15	62	52
16	37	36
17	43	67
18	56	63
19	109	119
20	99	108
21	98	105
22	122	130
23	150	149
24	157	175
25	163	176
26	168	191
27	160	205
28	165	221
29	182	191
30	167	182
31	160	183
Mean	111.0	126.5

