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SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING FEBRUARY

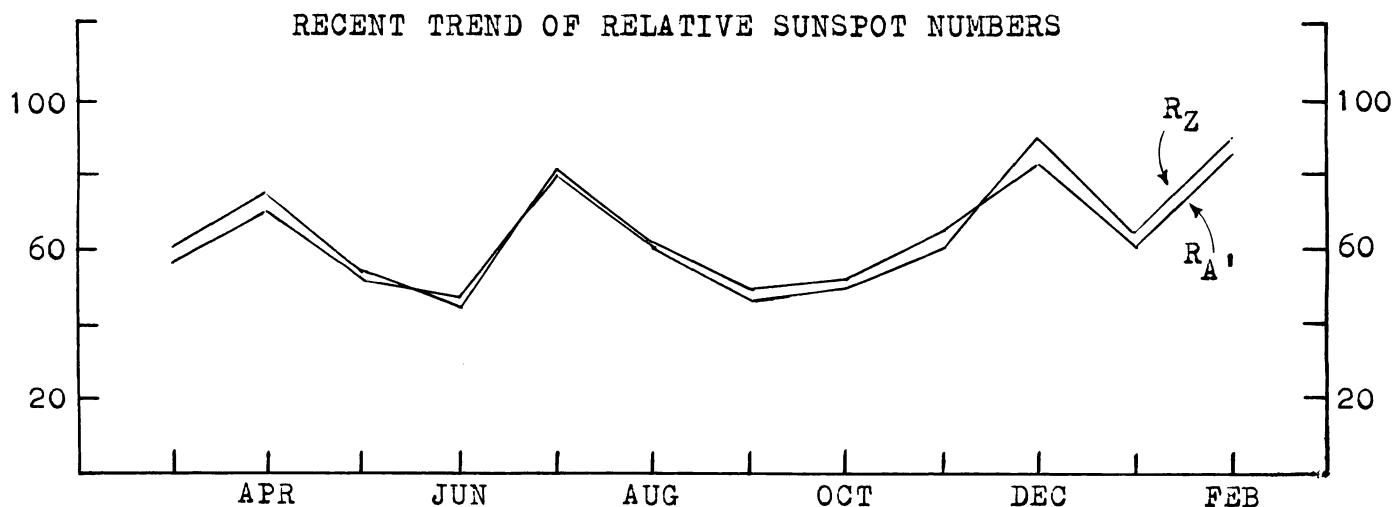
A record number of sixty separate ionospheric disturbances were recorded by the Solar Division's observers. This unusually high level of activity from about the 14th through the 26th was in sharp contrast to the general overall decline expected during the wane of the sun's eleven year cycle.

While the large number of events is quite indicative of the actual activity, the total events recorded is not directly comparable with the number of events recorded over the past years as many factors have contributed to making the present number higher, such as: More and widely dispersed observer stations; improved techniques; and improved equipment.

Due to lack of space, reproduction of some of the many interesting events must be deferred until later issues. Two new observers were added during this month. A32 was assigned to Mr. Bruce Wingate, Pompton Plains, New Jersey. A33 was assigned to Mr. Robert J. Woolsey, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

The mean of the American sunspot numbers rose to 87.0 with sunspot activity at a high level throughout most of February. The spottedness on the 19th and 20th was typical of that seen during the maximum of sunspot cycles. Two groups in the northern hemisphere were visible to the unaided eye from the 19th through the 24th as was a southern group from the 22nd through the 26th.

An interesting group was first seen as a single spot near the center of the disk and 1 degree north of the equator. This developed into a normal bipolar group mostly in the northern hemisphere but its magnetic polarity was that of a southern group.



AMERICAN (R_A') AND ZURICH (R_Z) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS, FEBRUARY 1972

DAY	R _A '	R _Z	DAY	R _A '	R _Z
1	49	53	16	130	137
2	48	52	17	154	137
3	40	39	18	152	146
4	49	46	19	160	162
5	51	49	20	160	159
6	41	40	21	145	156
7	41	49	22	146	167
8	47	59	23	129	141
9	42	58	24	106	120
10	51	57	25	98	93
11	58	57	26	81	88
12	61	62	27	67	79
13	67	73	28	68	88
14	86	89	29	87	91
15	111	108			

Monthly Means
R_A' = 87.0
R_Z = 91.6

SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES RECORDED DURING FEBRUARY 1972

DAY	MAX	SEA	SES	DEF	OBSERVERS	DAY	MAX	SEA	SES	DEF	OBSERVERS
8	1954		1-	5	A1,19,21,27,30,31	21	0251		1	2	A31
9	2105		1-	4	A1,21,27,31	21	1557		1-	5	A1,19,27
10	2034	1-	1-	4	A1,21,26,27,31	21	1626	1-	1	5	A1,19,21,22,26,27,31,33
10	2343		1+	5	A21,30,31						
12	1434	1+	1-	5	A1,17,18,19,22,27,31	21	1642	1	1+	5	A1,19,21,22,26,27,30,31,33
14	1300	1-	1-	4	A1,18,19,22,26,27						
14	1438	1-	1-	5	A1,19,26,27,31	21	1717	1-	1	5	A1,19,21,22,26,27,30,31,33
14	1627		1-	5	A1,19,21,27,31						
14	1957	1-	1-	5	A1,19,21,26,27,31	21	2126	1	1	5	A1,19,21,22,26,27,30,31
15	1040	1		2	A17						
15	1301	1	1	3	A1,17	22	0005		1	5	A1,30,31
16	1401	1	1	5	A19,22,26,27,32	22	0035		1+	5	A1,30,31
16	1843		1-	4	A21,31	22	0325		1	4	A31
16	1938	1	1+	5	A1,19,21,26,27,31,33	22	0625		1	1	A31
16	2248		1-	5	A1,19,27,31	22	1326	1	1+	5	A1,17,19,22,26,27
17	1638		1-	5	A1,19,21,27	22	1416	1	1	5	A1,17,19,21,26,27,31
17	1800	1-	1-	5	A1,19,21,26,27,30,31	22	1844	2	2+	5	A1,19,21,22,26,27,31,33
17	1835	1-	1-	5	A1,19,21,26,27,30,31						
17	1944	1-	1	5	A1,18,19,21,22,26,27,31	22	2049	1	1+	5	A1,19,21,22,26,27,31,33
17	2046	2	2	5	A1,18,19,21,22,26,27,31	22	2203	1-	1-	5	A1,19,21,26,27,31
18	1538		1-	5	A1,27	23	1441		1-	5	A1,21,27
18	2142		1-	5	A1,21,31	23	1934	1-	1	5	A1,19,21,26,27,31
19	0017		1-	5	A30,31	23	2138		1-	5	A1,31
19	0316	1		4	A17	24	1859	1	1	5	A1,19,21,26,27,31
19	1521	1	1+	5	A1,17,19,21,22,26,27,30,31	25	1429		1+	5	A1,27
19	1800		1	5	A1,19,27,30,31	25	1755		1	3	A1,31
19	1845		1	5	A1,19,21,27,30,31	26	1817	1	1	5	A1,18,21,22,27,31,33
19	1954	1-	1-	5	A1,19,21,26,27,30,31	26	1928	2	2	5	A1,18,21,22,27,31,32,33
19	2057	1-	1	5	A1,19,21,26,27,30,31	26	2208		1-	5	A1,21,31
20	1630		1-	5	A1,19,27,31	27	1608		1-	5	A1,19,27,31
20	1657		1-	5	A1,19,21,27,31	28	1923		1-	5	A1,19,21,31
20	1926	1	2+	5	A1,19,21,26,27,30,31,33	29	1524		1+	5	A1,19,21,26,27,31
						29	2246		1-	4	A1,21,31

Due to space limitations, reproduction of charts will not be made this month.