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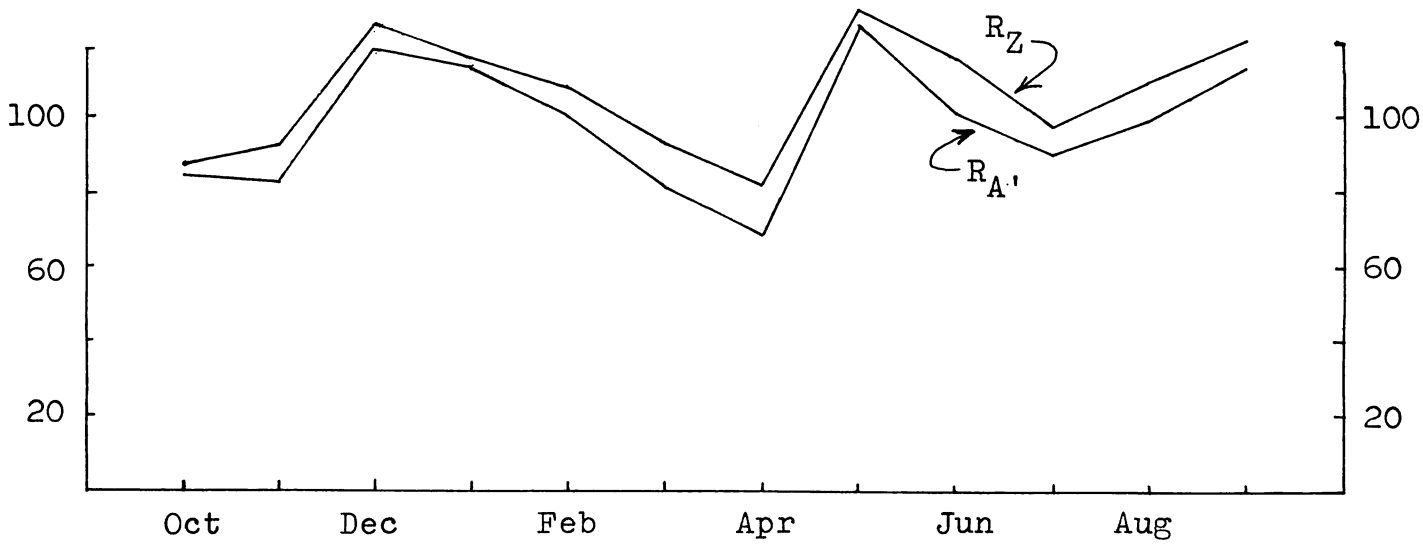
SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING SEPTEMBER

Despite the high level of relative sunspot numbers, Solar Division observers recorded few ionospheric disturbances during September. Those that were recorded were not outstanding although one starting at 1614 UT on the 29th was an exception. A reproduction of a strip-chart recording of this event is shown on page two. This event was also recorded as an SEA by other observers. A small event starting at 1306 UT can be seen preceeding the more intense disturbance.

Sunspot activity continued the upward trend of last month with the monthly mean of the American sunspot numbers reaching 113.0 for September. Relative sumspot numbers reached their highest point on the 25th and 26th when 13 sunspot groups were visible.

One of the larger groups of September was first seen in the southeast quadrant on the 1st and developed into what appeared to be a beta-gamma group. By the time it reached the central meridian on the 3rd, it was large enough to be seen with the unaided eye. Another interesting group appeared at the southeast limb at rather low latitude on the 8th and it also soon developed beta-gamma characteristics with its maximum development occurring on the 11th. During the period 24-28 September when sunspot numbers were at their highest, most of the groups contained a remarkably high number of very small spots thereby contributing to the high relative sunspot numbers during that period.

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



AMERICAN ($R_{A'}$) AND ZURICH (R_Z) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS, SEPTEMBER 1968

day	$R_{A'}$	R_Z	day	$R_{A'}$	R_Z
1	58	78	16	77	79
2	89	82	17	65	81
3	120	130	18	84	86
4	111	131	19	87	89
5	90	126	20	83	91
6	80	96	21	86	95
7	80	98	22	95	107
8	109	106	23	113	122
9	122	128	24	160	153
10	144	138	25	169	197
11	139	145	26	197	189
12	148	150	27	160	183
13	138	163	28	154	149
14	113	113	29	134	137
15	100	88	30	85	91

September mean $R_{A'}$ = 113.0

September mean R_Z = 120.7