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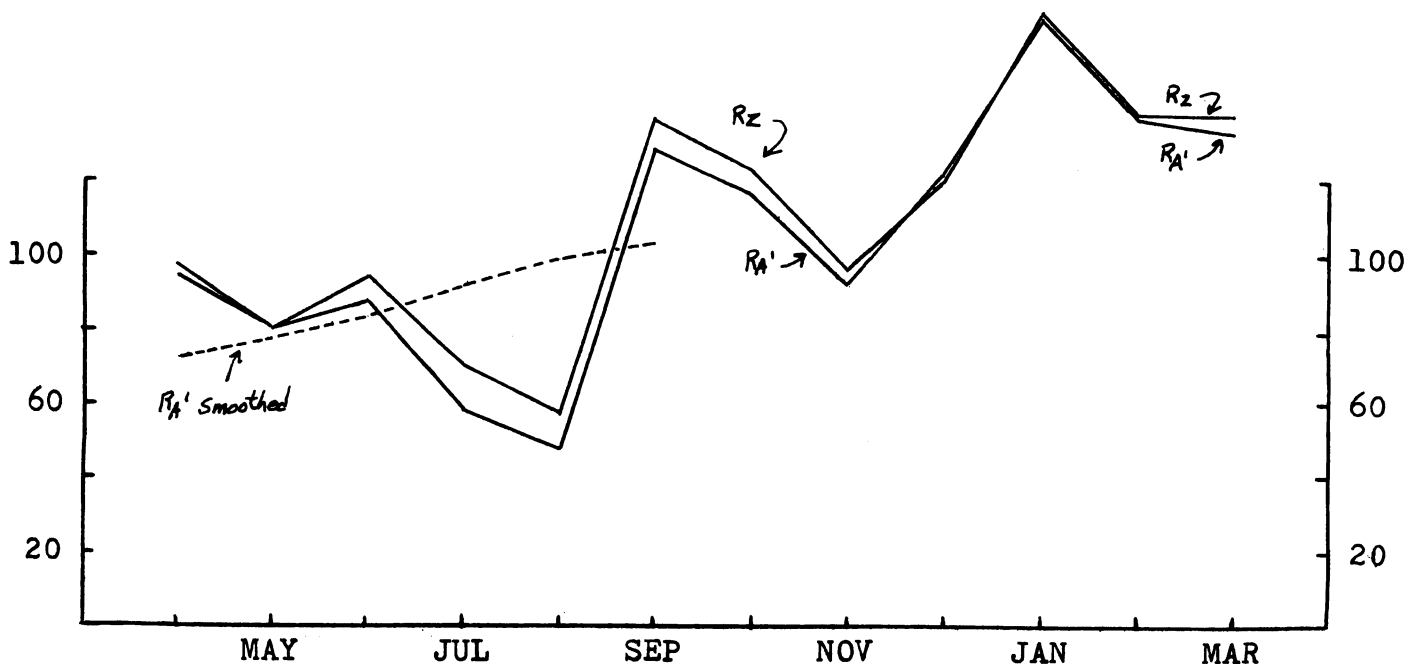
March 1979

SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING MARCH

March was a month of high sunspot activity continuing the trend of recent months. The monthly mean fell slightly to 132.5 but this comparatively high mean, along with others recently, pushed the 12-month smoothed mean past the 100 mark to 102.8 for September 1978

March was also a month during which numerous ionospheric disturbances were recorded by the AAVSO. Some of these are reproduced on page two. The 20th was the most active day and a recording by A-19 shows at least six disturbances with the possibility of several additional smaller ones. Two charts at the bottom of the page show how such small events are easy to see on an interference-free chart. Note how clearly small events of only 15 minutes duration stand out on the bottom chart made on the 26th

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



American (R_A) and Zurich (R_Z) relative sunspot numbers for March 1979

Day	R_A	R_Z
1	124	116
2	123	138
3	125	141
4	127	142
5	124	135
6	130	144
7	143	146
8	145	143
9	162	146
10	145	140
11	146	156
12	141	170
13	146	169
14	155	159
15	157	155
16	139	130
17	147	142
18	130	142
19	128	138
20	124	120
21	131	134
22	143	140
23	138	139
24	112	118
25	113	114
26	108	114
27	104	117
28	111	114
29	131	110
30	139	127
31	117	147
Mean	132.5	137.0

