

What is space weather? Why do I care?

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Acknowledgments

- Solar activity of September 06-08 2017: *Patricia Doherty, BU; Mihail Codrescu, George Millward SWPC*
- Solar Cycle Activity: Chris Balch SWPC/CIRES
- Historical Information: *Delores Knipp, CU Boulder*



Outline

- Overview of Space Weather Phenomena and Impacts
- Events of September 2017
- July 2012 CME: "We got lucky..."
- Tips for the Radio Amateur
- Wrap-up

plexes of Solar Cycle 20. Composed of three overlapped spot groups at time of first appearance, two of which were growing. 5/20 Birth of fourth spot group on southern border of com-plex. Westward relative motion of this group, with respect to large spots to the north, may have con-tributed to conditions for great flare of 21 May in center of complex. "Collision" between central and western members of the 5/21 complex, as growth and expansion of central member moved its leader spot into the follower plage of the western member. Large flare occurred over the neutral line between the groups. 5/23 "Collision" and merger of leader of easternmost member with follower of central member, creating large "delta" magnetic configuration. Closest separation between the opposite-polarity spots coincided with great white-light, proton flare at 1840 UT (see UAG Report 5). These spots moved in a rotary pattern with respect to one another during 21-26 May. Additional great flare over the "delta" configuration. 5/28

East limb passage of one of the greatest activity com-

232

N24

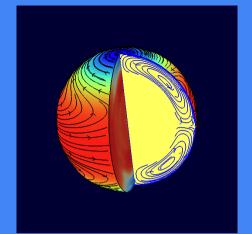
5/18

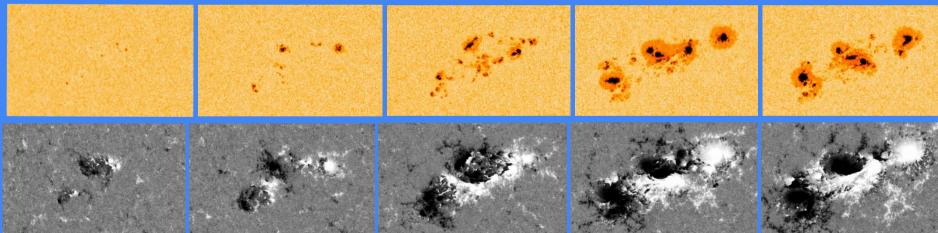


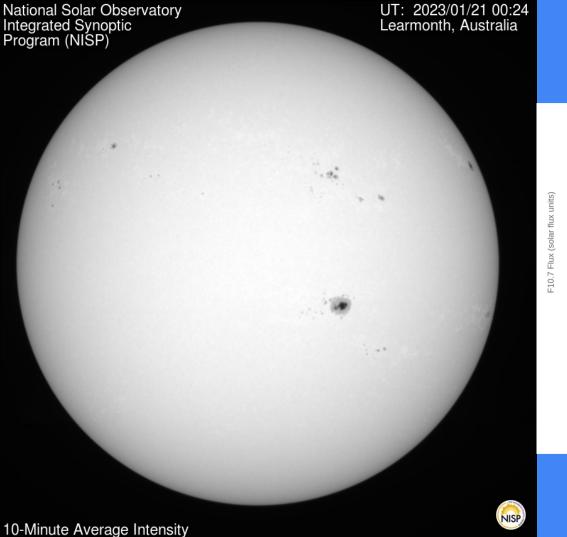




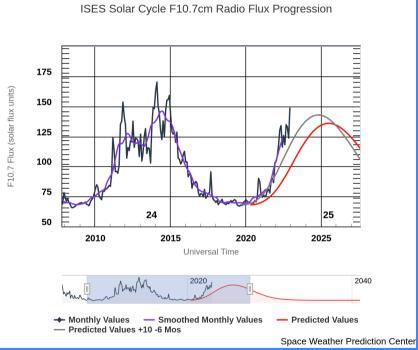
Magnetism Convection Differential Rotation (~ 27 Days)







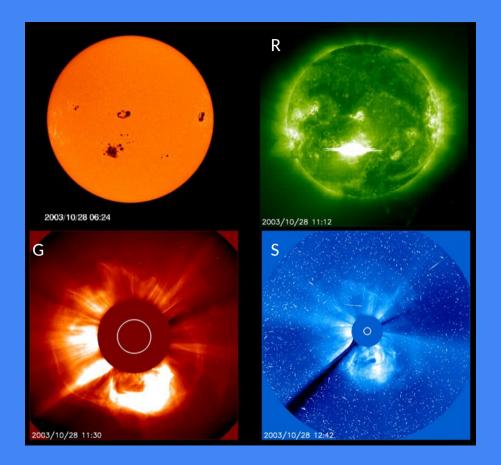




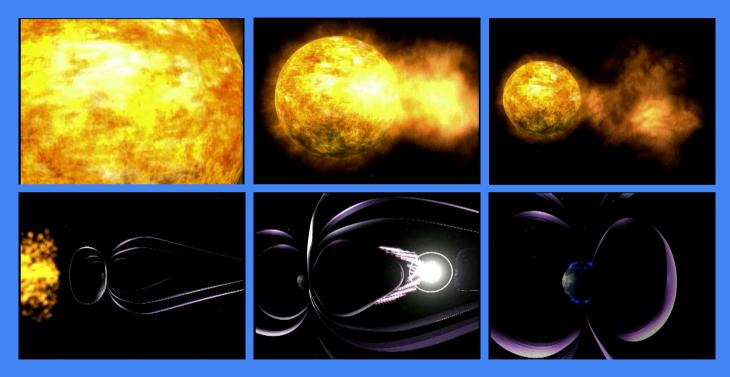


The Big 3 – R, S & G

- R = Radio Blackout
- S = Space Radiation Storm
 G = Geomagnetic Storm

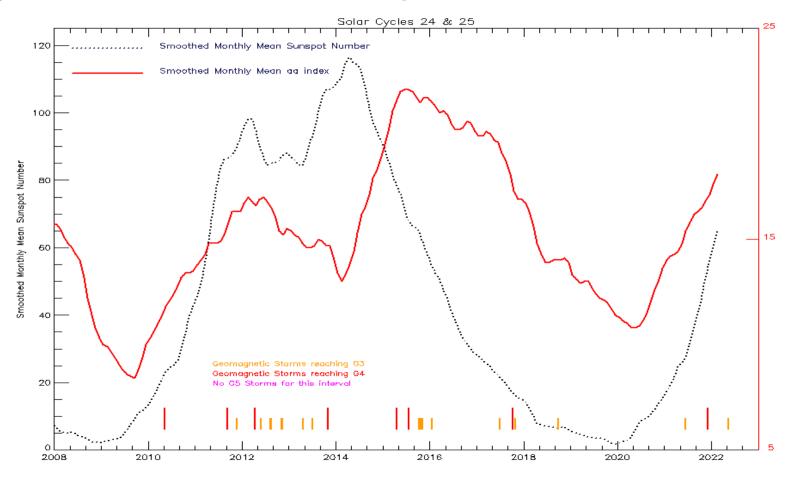


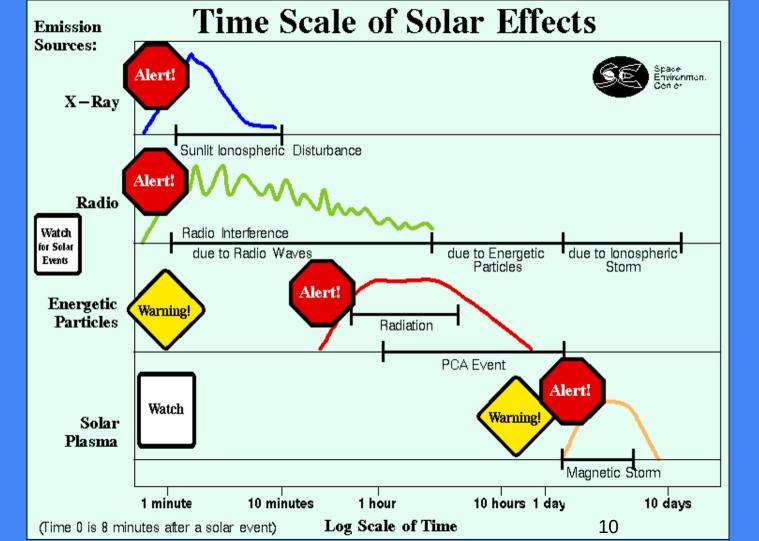




Artist's conception of solar storm, courtesy NASA

Geomagnetic Storm Occurrences for Cycles 24 & 25 (G3 and above)





NOAA Space Weather Scales



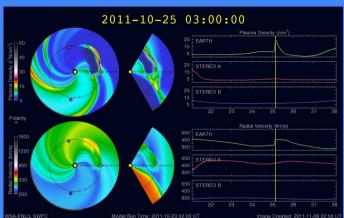
http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/NOAAscales/

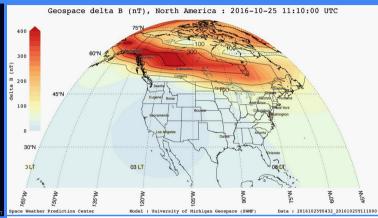
	Cate	egory	Effect	Physical measure		ge Freq. = 11 yrs)							
Scal	Scale Descriptor Duration of event will influence severity of effects												
Radio Blackouts		GOES X- ray peak brightness by class and by flux*		category		Effect		Physical measure					
R5 E		Extreme	HF Radio:Complete HF (high frequency**) radio blackout on the entire sught side of the Earth lasting for a number of hours. This results in no HF	X20 (2 x 10 ⁻³)		Scale	Descriptor	Duration of event will influence severity of effects		measure	(Teyele – 11 yr)		
			solution solve of the facture assume got a number of nours. I are results in no fir- clude contact with manners and en route a manners that section. Navigation: Low-frequency amongation signals used by manitime and arathous systems appearence outages on the suited sized of the Earth for many hours, crassing loss in positioning. Increased satellite navigation errors in positioning for several hours on the smalls side of Earth, which may spread into the night side.					Environ Vendor of Category Effect					
										Effect	Physical measure	Average Freq. (1 cycle = 11 yrs)	
R4	4	Severe	F Radio: : HF radio communication blackout on most of the sunlit side of	X10					Scale Descriptor Duration of event will influence severity of effects		Kp values*	Number of storm	
			Earth for one to two hours. HF radoo contact lost during this time. Navigatises: Outgoes of loss: Repency margaines signals cause increased error in positioning for one to two hours. Minor disruptions of satelline navigation possible on the smilit side of Earth.	(10)		S 5 Extreme		Biological: unavoidable high radiation hazard to astronauts on E vehicular activity). high radiation exposure to passengers and cre commercial jets a high latitudes (approximately 100 feast x-nys Satellite operations: satellites may be rendered useless, memory cause loss of control, may cause serious noise in image data, starbe unable to locate sources, permanent damage to solar panels po Other systems; complete blackoot of IEH (high frequency) commercial control of the control of		Geomagnetic Storms de			events when Kp level was met
R.S	3	Strong	HF Radio: Wide area blackout of HF radio communication, loss of radio contact for about an hour on smilt side of Earth. Navigation: Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for about an hour.	X1 (10 ⁴)					G 5	Extreme	Power systems: widespread voltage control problems and protective system problems can occur, some grid systems may experience complete collapse or blackouts. Transformers may experience damage.	Kp = 9	4 per cycle (4 days per cycle)
RI	2)		HF Radio: Limited blackout of HF radio communication on sunlit side, loss of radio contact for tens of minutes. Navigation: Degraduous of low-frequency navigation signals for tens of minutes.	M5 (5 x 10 ⁻⁵)			possible through the polar regions, and position errors make navi operations extremely difficult.				Spaceraft operations: may experience extensive surface charging, problems with orientation, uplink/downlink and tracking satellites. Other systems: pipeline currents can reach hundreds of amps. HF (high frequency) radio propagation may be impossible in many areas for one to two days, satellite navigation may be degraded for days, low-frequency		
RI	1		HF Radio: Weak or minor degradation of HF radio communication on sunlit side, occasional loss of radio contact. Navigation: Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for brief intervals.	M1 (10°)		S 4 Severe		Biological: unavoidable radiation hazard to astronauts on EVA; c radiation exposure to passengers and crew in commercial jets at I (approximately 10 chest x-rays) is possible. Satellite operations: may experience memory device problems a		Severe	radio navigation can be out for hours, and aurora has been seen as low as Florida and southern Texas (typically 40° geomagnetic lat.)**.	T. 0	100
* Flux, measured in the 0.1-0.8 nm range, in Wim ² . Based on this measure, but other physical measures are also considered. *** Other frequencies may also be affected by these conditions.				als			smeatine oper-annual mily capacities, meaning was produced in imaging systems, star-tracker problems may cause orientation pri- solar panel efficiency can be degrated and as a substantial of the Other systems; blackout of HF radio communications through the regions and increased navigation errors over several days are like		G 4 Severe Power systems: possible widespread voltage control problems and some protective systems will unsisteadly injust used a sost from the grid. Spacecraft operations: may experience surface charging and tracking problems, corrections may be needed for orientation problems.aurest. HF ratio propagation sporadic, satellite navigation degraded for bours, low-frequency radio an wigation discupped, and answer has been seen as low as		Kp = 8, including a 9-	100 per cycle (60 days per cycle)	
Radio Blackouts					S 3 S	Strong	Strong Biological: radiation hazard avoidance recommended for astrona passengers and crew in commercial iets at high latitudes may recommercial.			Alabama and northern California (typically 45° geomagnetic lat.)**.			
								persuages and even wollimeteral persuages a migraturous may be radiation exposure (approximately 1 chest x-ray). Satellite operations: single-event upsets, noise in imaging syster reduction of efficiency in solar panel are likely. Other systems: degraded HF radio propagation through the pola navigation position errors likely.	G3	Strong	Power systems: voltage corrections may be required, false alarms triggered on some protection devices. Spacerard poreations: surface charging may occur on satellite components, dang may increase on low-Earth-orbit satellites, and corrections may be needed for orientation problems. Other systems: intermittent satellite navigation and low-frequency ranvigation problems may occur. If IF radio may be intermittent, and an anxiegation problems may occur. If IF radio may be intermittent, and and problems may occur. If IF radio may be intermittent, and and problems may occur. If IF radio may be intermittent, and and problems may occur. If IF radio may be intermittent, and and problems may occur. If IF radio may be intermittent. and may be intermittent and may be intermittent and may be intermittent.	Kp = 7	200 per cycle (130 days per cycle)
					S 2	Moderate	Biological: none. Satellite operations: infrequent single-event upsets possible. Other systems: small effects on HF propagation through the pol- navigation at polar cap locations possibly affected.			has been seen as low as Illinois and Oregon (typically 50° geomagnetic lat.)**.			
			S1		Minor	G 2			Power systems: high-latitude power systems may experience voltage alarms, long-duration storms may cause transformer damage. Spacecraft operations: corrective actions to orientation may be required	Kp = 6	(360 per cycle (360 days per cycle)		
				51 Minor		Biological: none. Satellite operations: none. Other systems: minor impacts on HF radio in the polar regions.			by ground control; possible changes in drng affect orbit predictions. Other systems: HF radio propagation can fade at higher latitudes, and aurora has been seen as low as New York and Idaho (typically 55° geomagnetic lat.)**.				
							Ra	diation Storms	G1	Minor	Power systems: weak power grid fluctuations can occur. Spacecraft operations: minor impact on satellite operations possible. Other systems: migratory animals are affected at this and higher levels; auron is commonly visible at high latitudes (northern Michigan and Maine)**.	Kp = 5	1700 per cycle (900 days per cycle)

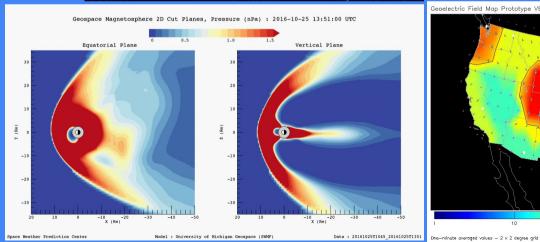
Geomagnetic Storms

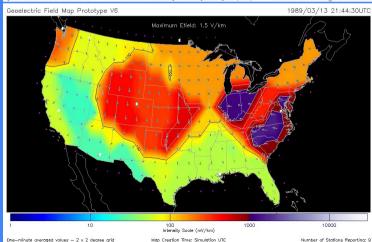


Modeling the Space Environment









Phenomena Reference/Impacts



Solar Flare Radio Blackout (R Scale):

- No advance warning
- Effects last for 10's of minutes to several hours
- High Frequency (HF) communication on the sunlit side of the Earth
- VHF/UHF communication if significant radio burst on frequency (e.g. GPS)
- First indication significant S and G scale activity may be possible

Solar Radiation Storm (§ Scale):

- Warnings possible on the minutes to hours time scale
- Effects can persist for several days
- Health and operation of satellites and International Space Station
- HF comm in the polar regions, affecting commercial airline ops

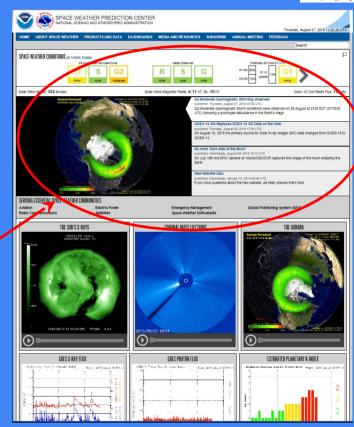
Geomagnetic Storm (G Scale):

- Advance notice possible from just under a day to several days
- Effects last for one or more days
- Power grid operations and stability
- Post-Storm Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) depression possible.
- Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) accuracy and availability
- Aurora

Information Dissemination



- Phone Contact for Critical Stakeholders: NASA, Commercial Airlines, Power Generation and Distribution, FEMA, etc.
- Product Subscription Service: Emailbased, no cost subscription service open to all
- Website: Data, products, and models all available there. Top News heading that will provide updates for elevated space weather
- Social Media (Twitter, Facebook)
- Traditional Media Support during significant events





September 2017 Events

Summer of 2017 was generally uneventful until...

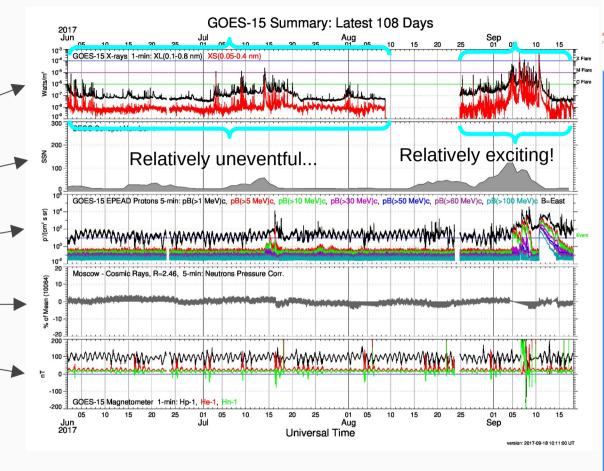
X-rays (@ Geo)

Sunspots

Particles (@ Geo)

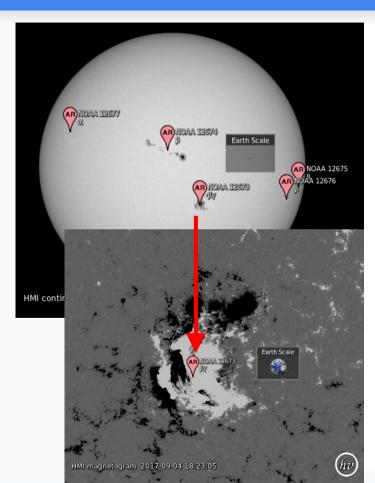
Cosmic Rays

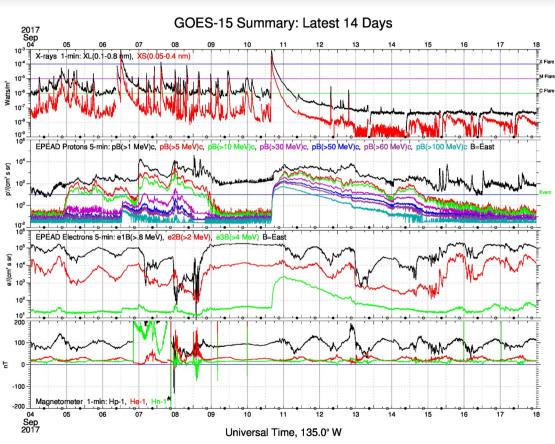
Magnetometer (@ Geo)



Region 12673

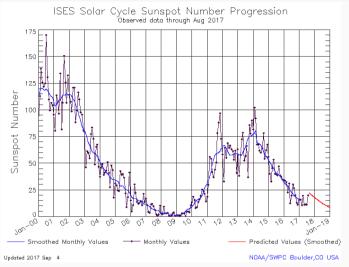




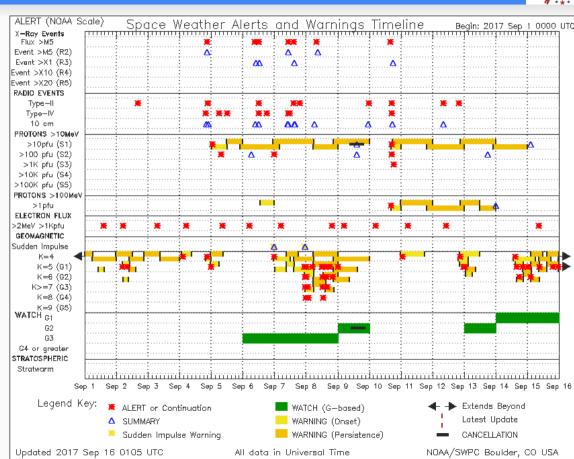


Cycle vs Watches, Warnings and Alerts Timeline 01 Sep - 16 Sep 2017





04 Sep 1200 UTC - 11 Sept 1200 UTC **123** Alert, Watch Warning and Summary Products issued. This was 5 more than issued the *entire month* before.



September 6, 2017 & other flares

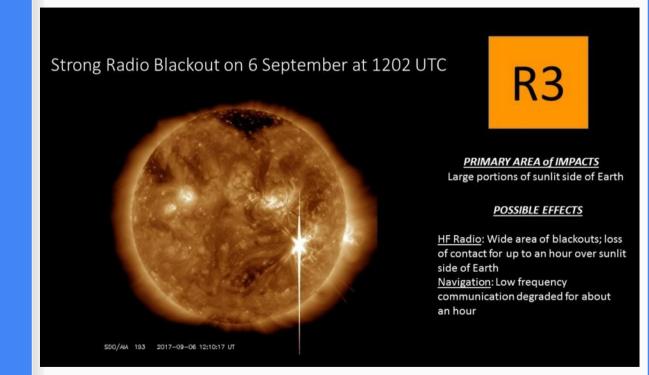
The X9.3 flare son Sep 6 at 1202 UTC was the largest of the solar cycle, and the largest since Sep 7, 2005 (an X17) + S3

An X2.2 preceded the X9.3 flare on Sep 06 at 0910 UTC

An X1.3 event followed on Sep 07 at 1436 UTC

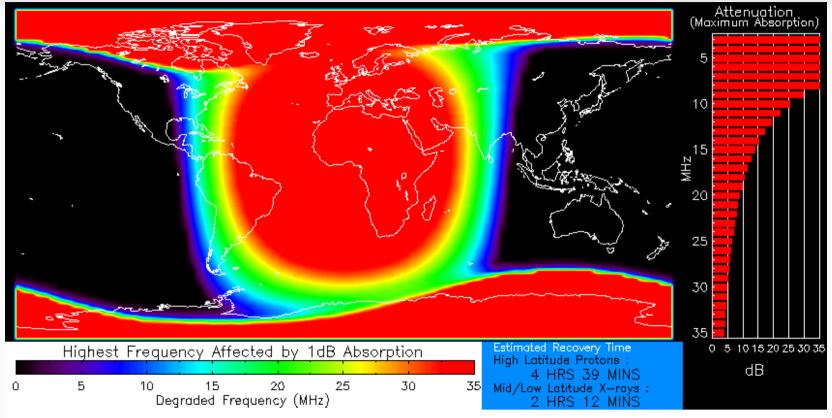
An X8.2 event followed on Sep 10 at 1606 UTC + S3

Intense Solar Activity Viewed From Space (NASA)



D-Region Absorption 06 Sep 2017

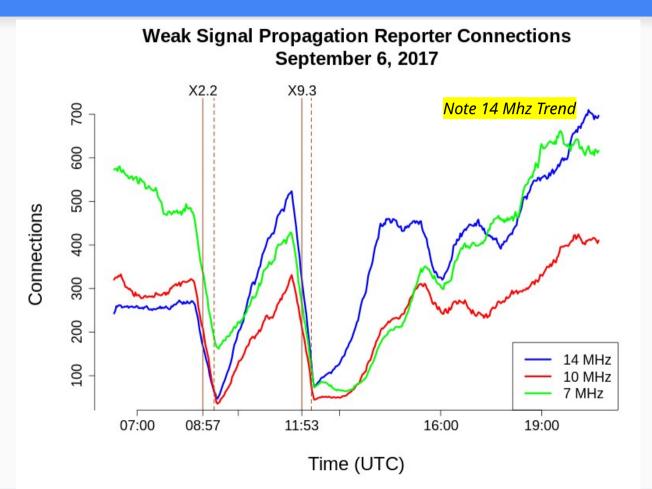




Strong X—ray flux Product Valid At: 2017—09—06 12:00 UTC Minor Proton Flux NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

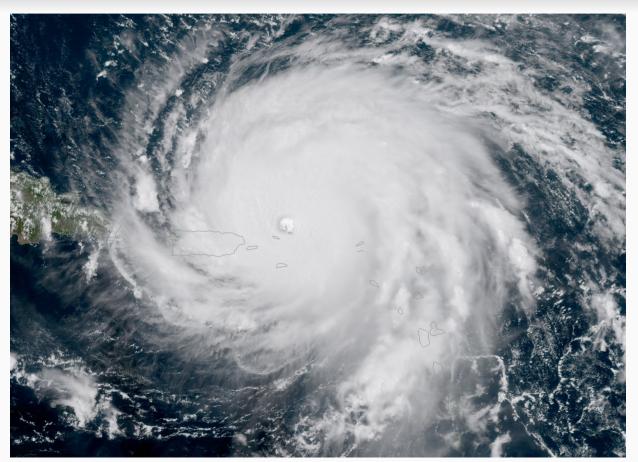
Impact on WSPR Network





Hurricane + Solar Flare = ?





"...I'm not sure how long this blackout will last, but, these flares could not happen at a worse time. We are looking at 3 hurricane threatening land and we cannot make contact with anyone on the 20 meter or 40 meter amateur bands..."

Mother Nature is not playing well.



Solar Radio Burst Activity 06 Sep 2017

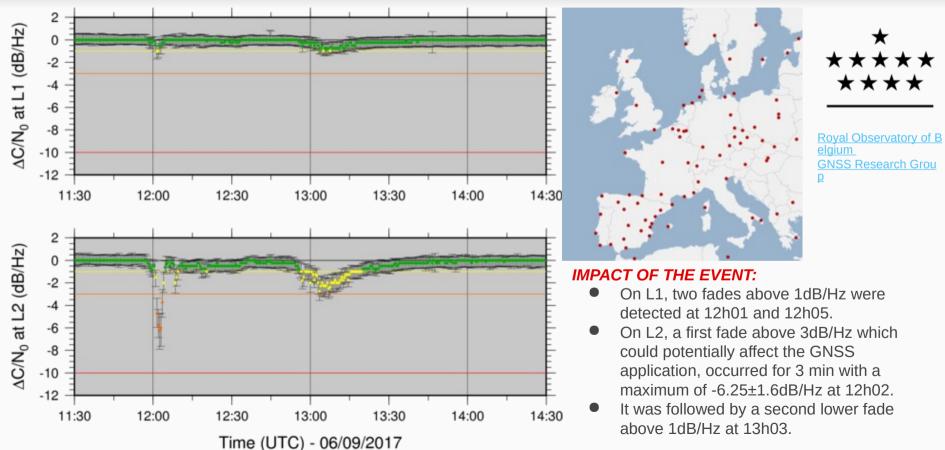
Solar Radio Burst reported by USAF optical/radio observatory at San Vito, Italy.



```
:Product: 20170906events.txt
:Created: 2017 Sep 09 0357 UT
:Date: 2017 09 06
# Prepared by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Space Weather Prediction Center
# Please send comments and suggestions to SWPC.Webmaster@noaa.gov
# Missing data: ////
# Updated every 5 minutes.
                               Edited Events for 2017 Sep 06
                                                              Particulars
#Event
          Begin
                                         Q Type Loc/Frq
           9999
7160
7340 +
                  1202
                                                           X9.3
           1153
                                                                    5.7F-01
7340 +
                  1156
                                                           14000
           1154
                                  SVI
                                                 2695
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                  1156
7340 +
           1154
                                  SVI
                                                 15400
                                                           8100
                                                                   CastelliU 2673
7340 +
                  1202
                            1232
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                                            RBR
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                                                                   CastelliU 2673
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           1156
                  1157
                            1405
                                  SVT
                                            RBR
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7340 +
           1201
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                            1515
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                                                 025-180
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           1202
                  1203
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                                                 245
                                                           3200
                                                                   CastelliU 2673
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           1202
                  ////
                            1208
                                  SAG
                                                 025-061
                                                           VI/1
                                                                              2673
                  ////
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                                                                   1765
7340
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                            1221
                                                 025-081
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                  ////
                                            CME )XUV, EUV, UV227-226/FS1429
          B1224
                                                                                2673
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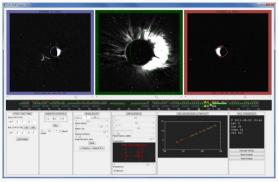
Summary of Radio Burst Impact to GPS - 06 September from ROB

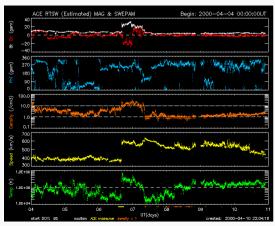


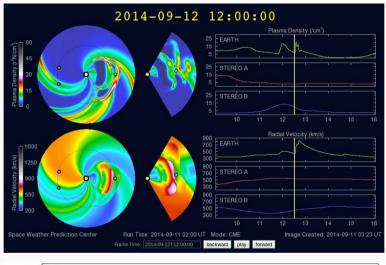


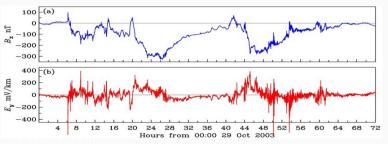
Geomagnetic Storm Forecasting





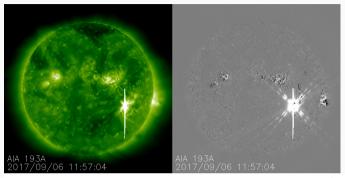






06 September CME





A. NOAA Geomagnetic Activity Observation and Forecast

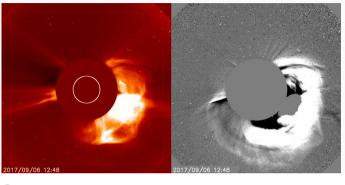
The greatest observed 3 hr Kp over the past 24 hours was 4 (below NOAA Scale levels).

The greatest expected 3 hr Kp for Sep 07-Sep 09 2017 is 7 (NOAA Scale G3).

NOAA Kp index breakdown Sep 07-Sep 09 2017

00-03UT 03-06UT 06-09UT	Sep 07 4 6 (G2) 7 (G3)	Sep 08 5 (G1) 6 (G2) 5 (G1)	Sep 09 7 (G3) 6 (G2) 5 (G1)
09-12UT	5 (G1)	4 ` ′	4 `
12-15UT 15-18UT	5 (G1) 4	4 6 (G2)	4 4
18-21UT 21-00UT	4 4	6 (G2) 7 (G3)	4
21-0001	-	7 (05)	-

Rationale: G3 (Strong) geomagnetic storm levels are likely for the next three days (07-09 Sep) as a result of an inbound CME from 04 Sep, followed by the arrival of the CME associated with the X9 flare, mid-to-late on day two (08 Sep).



Geospace

Sept 7, 2017 0030 UTC Forecast

.24 hr Summary...

The geomagnetic field was quiet to unsettled, with an isolated active period the last synoptic period of the day.

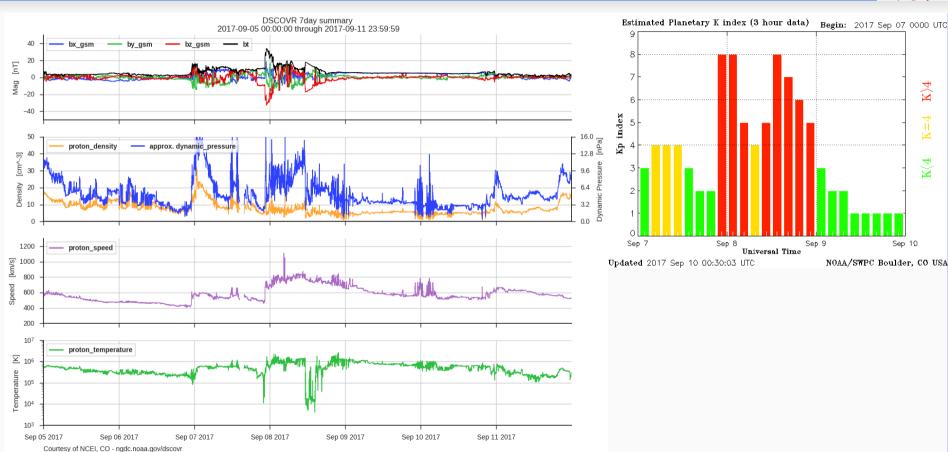
.Forecast...

G3 (Strong) geomagnetic storm levels are likely for the next three days (07-09 Sep) as a result of an inbound CME from 04 Sep, followed by the arrival of the CME associated with the X9 flare, mid-to-late on day two (08 Sep).

SOHO LASCO Halo CME Recor

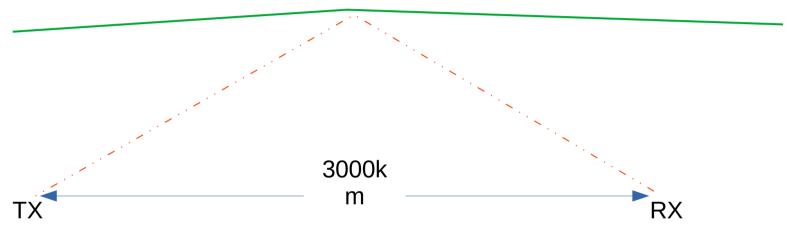
Solar Wind Environment 05-11 September, 2017





What? - MUF Defined





"The Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) is then the product of critical frequency and an appropriate transmission factor M for a given distance d, MUF (d) = M (d) \times fp.

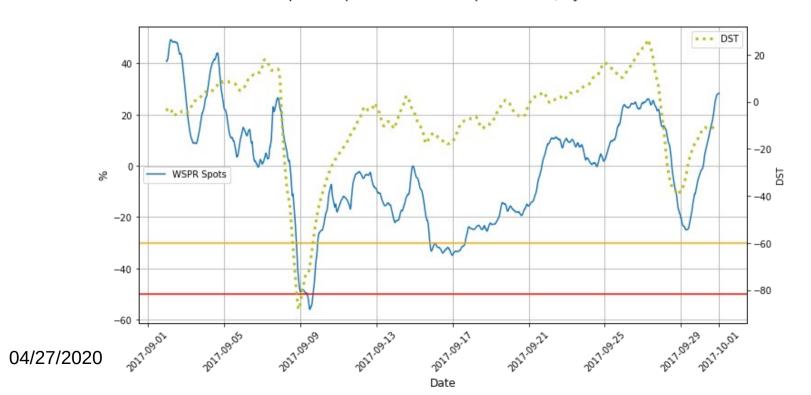
For example, the instantaneous MUF for a 3000 km circuit is simply given by $MUF(3000)F2 = M(3000)F2 \times foF2$ " lonospheric Space Weather, Cander, 2019

04/27/2020

Case Study: September 2017 Storm



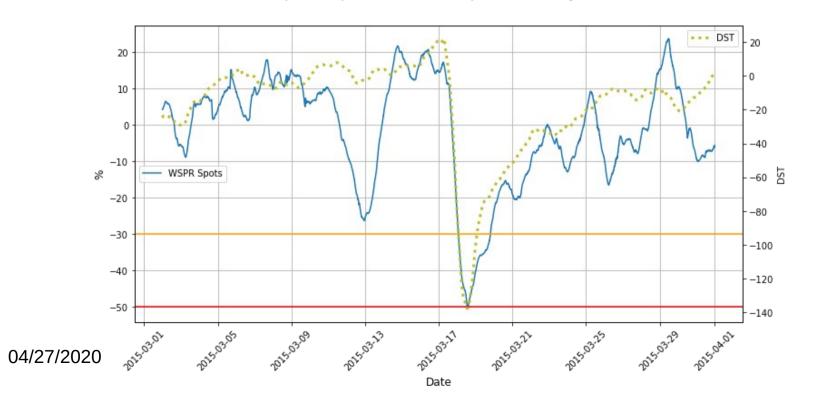
WSPR Spots Departure from Sample Median; Kyoto Dst



March 2015 St Patrick's Day Storm

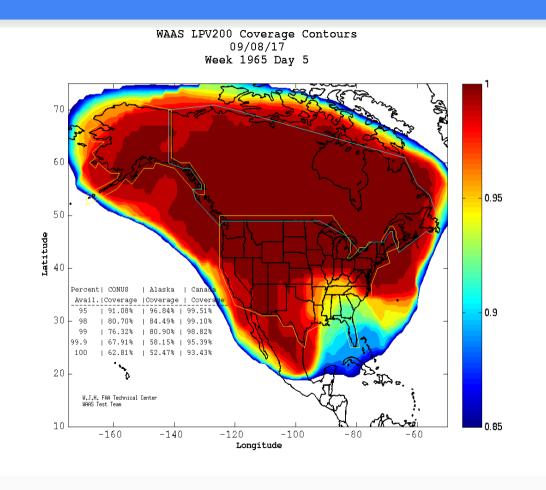


WSPR Spots Departure from Sample Median; Kyoto Dst



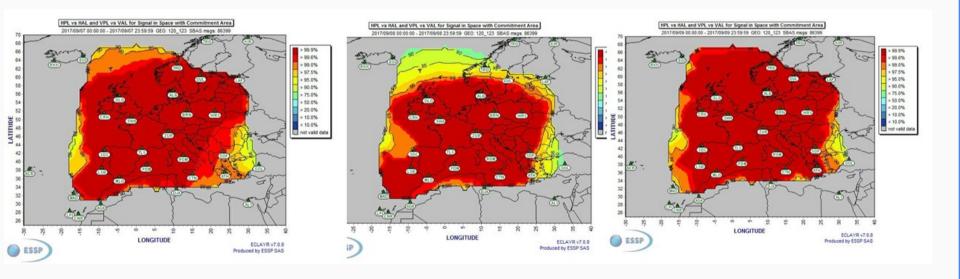
Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance coverage 08 September 2017





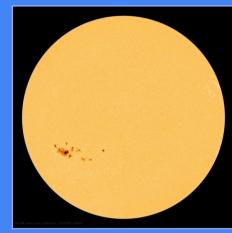
European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) performance



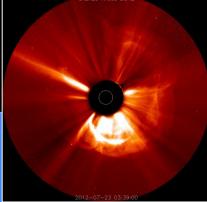


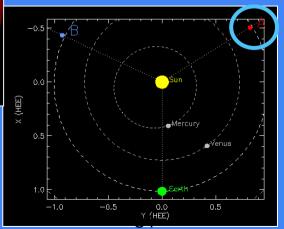
July 23, 2012 Close Call





Region 1520





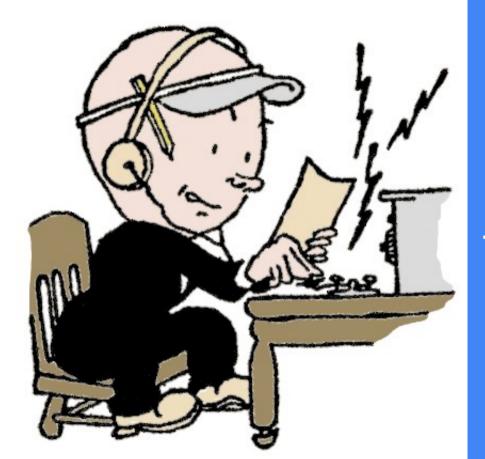
July 23, 2012 STEREO vs July 2000 Earth





pieces,"

35





Tips for Radio Amateurs

So What? Hints from NA5N and QRPARCI

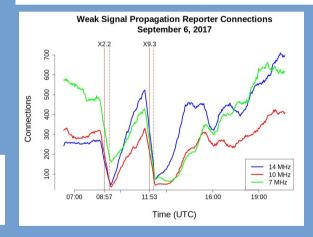
QRP Propagation Hint: If you're in a QSO when a major flare causes an HF blackout, it seldom lasts more than an hour. If you're working a contest, this hint could be useful. Take a break, but don't QRT!

These x-rays do provide extra ionization to the E/F layers for improved reflectivity and a higher MUF. Exploit the benefits of a solar flare.

QRP Propagation Hint: Good DX contacts are possible immediately following a solar flare until sundown due to the improved reflectivity (better signal-to-noise ratio for QRP signals) and the higher MUF opening the higher bands—especially during the solar minimum years.

ORP Propagation Hint: The most important thing to remember about a solar flare is this: the HF effects are generally *only for the duration of the flare event* (20-60 minutes) and seldom effect frequencies <10 MHz.

QRP Propagation Hint: Often our magnetic field gets very quiet following a strong geomagnetic storm for 12–24 hours. This is an excellent time to work 40–160M due to very low noise levels.

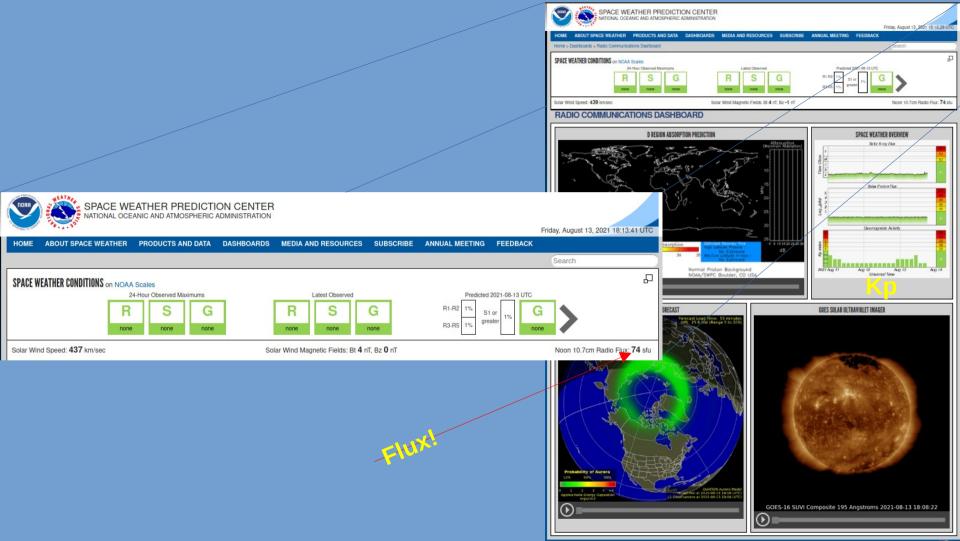


QRP Propagation Hint: Use the current *K-Index* from WWV or the internet to determine the current geomagnetic conditions. The *A-Index* is actually *yesterday's* geomagnetic condition, and does not represent present conditions.

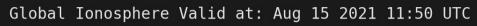
So What? Tips for the Radio Amateur from NA5N, Paul Harden

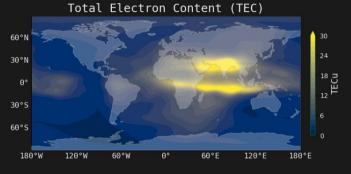
A Few Final Thoughts

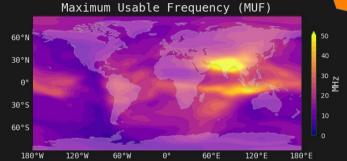
- 1. The *solar flux*, indicating the level of ionization, affects HF propagation *above* about 10 MHz. The solar flux does not affect 40M and below, since the MUF seldom drops below 10 MHz. This is why the lower bands are *always* open.
- 2. The *K-index*, indicating the geomagnetic condition, indicates HF noise primarily *below* about 10 MHz, except in severe cases. During a storm, high noise levels on 40M doesn't mean high noise on 20M.
- 3. 30M is the ham band caught between the 2 worlds. It can be affected by both solar flux and the K-index. On the other hand, it is more often *not* bothered by either. It is a good band throughout the solar cycle.
- 4. Every solar flare and the resultant storm is different. No two are alike, nor accurately predictable.
- 5. Never let reports of flares or geomagnetic storms scare you from getting on the air and checking it out.

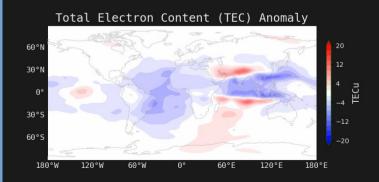


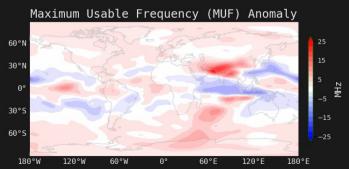
WAM-IPE Model











```
: POC Email:adapt@nso.edu
: Data Input : GONG (NSO/NISP)
: Resolution [dea / pixel] : 1.00
: Fit-function : m0 + m1*M P + m2*M A
: M P (plage mag-field) Lower Limit [G] : 20.0
: M A (active region mag-field) Lower Limit [G] : 150.0
: Record Count : 15
  Table Notes
    JD - Julian Date
     M - Missing = 0 - forecast available
                 = 1 - forecast missing or pending
     0 - Quality = 0 - good: input data nominal
                 = 1 - pending or missing (M=1)
                 = 2 - poor: large diff, but applied to forecast
                 = 3 - bad: possible flare, diff not applied to forecast
                = 4 - poor: model values lower than expected
                 = 5 - poor: >1 day w/o mag; >0.25 day w/o obs
                 = 6 - bad: >2 day w/o mag or >1.5 day w/o obs
     H - Helioseismic data within forecast window:
                 = 0-none, 1-farside, 2-nearside, 3-both far & near
    UT - forecast time, Coordinated Universal Time, HHMM format
    LastMag - fractional days since last mag data assimilation
   LastObs - fractional days since last Index obs differenced w/ 0d value
   Diff - obs model offset = (Index obs value) - (0-day model prediction)
    Index Forecast - Oday, 1day, 3day, 7day model estimates plus diff offset
#|
  Observed Index Data Source
    NRC of Canada w/ Canadian Space Agency:
    ftp://ftp.seismo.nrcan.gc.ca/spaceweather/solar flux/daily flux values/fluxtable.txt
   ADAPT/SIFT - F10.7 Forecast [s.f.u. @ earth distance]
                               LastMag LastObs Diff
                                        0.053
  2459439.3333 0
                                0.122
                                        0.011
                                0.038
                                        0.095
  2459439.4167 0
  2459439.5000 0 0 0 0000
                                0.122
                                        0.053
                                                               74.9
  2459439.5833 0 0 0 0200
                                0.040
                                        0.136
                                                        73.6
                                                               74.9
```

: Product : adapt f10 forecast.txt : Created : 2021 08 13 1805 UT

: Model: ADAPT/SIFT-Adjusted F10.7

: Date : 2021 08 13 : DOY : 225

######

#

: SIFT Version : 1.10 : ADAPT Version : 2.01 : POC : Carl Henney (USAF/AFRL)

ADAPT F10.7 cm Flux Forecast

https://gong.nso.edu/adapt/sift/adapt f10 forecast.txt

Questions?





IT'S BECAUSE HOT AIR RISES. THE SUN'S HOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, SO IT RISES HIGH IN THE SKY.

















Radio Evolution - KA8JBY to AD0IU















Radio Evolution - AD0IU



