



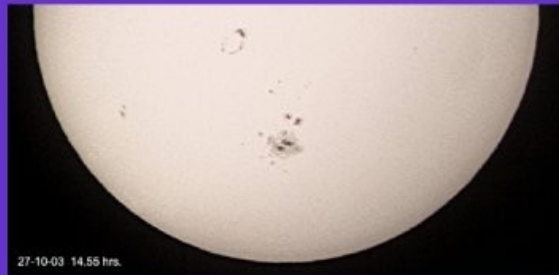
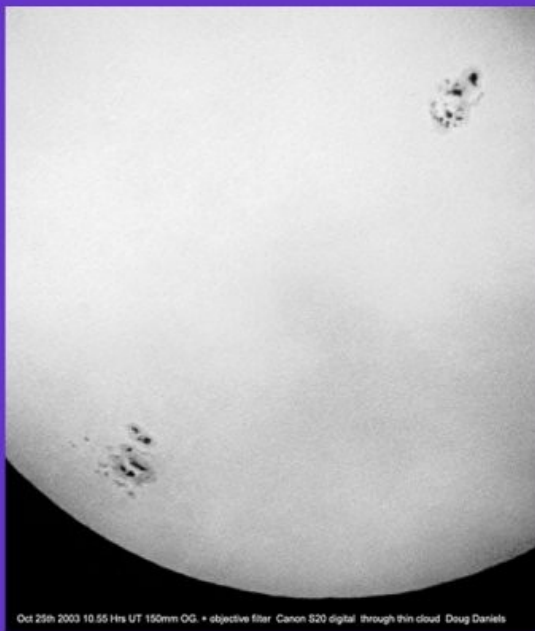
Special report 2003: Solar activity October

During the latter part of October 2003, the sun underwent a burst of activity which resulted in the formation of several large groups of sunspots, groups large enough to be seen with the naked eye (Through dense filters, of course). This sudden and unexpected activity - unexpected as it is three years past solar maximum, fortunately corresponded to a week of unseasonable good weather. This allowed continuous daily observation of the sun and a record of the developing activity.

My observations began on the 23rd of Oct. A large complex spot group was already well on the solar disk and another one following, was just visible on the limb. This group was reported to be associated with a huge prominence, observed by a colleague with a Solar Max telescope. As this second group moved further onto the disk, a small circlet of spots developed above it, first seen on 27th of Oct. Over the next three days, this group developed sufficiently to become yet another naked eye spot. All of these events were accompanied by intense flares and particle emissions. Terry Pearce and Paul Clements reported a strong aurora visible from Weston Coleville in Cambs on the night of 29th of October, unfortunately it was cloudy in London. Images of the sunspots are shown in the figure below.

Observations continued until all the spots had moved off of the solar disk by the 3rd of November.

Doug Daniels



SOLAR ACTIVITY OCTOBER 2003
Above top: Oct 23 2003 10.10 hrs UT
Bottom : Oct 25 2003 10.55 hrs UT
Right sequence top to bottom:
Oct 27 2003 10.55 hrs UT
Oct 28 2003 10.10 hrs UT
Oct 29 2003 15.20 hrs UT
Oct 30 2003 10.27 hrs UT
Afocal digital images with 150mm OG
stopped to 100mm with OG filter
Canon Powershot S 20 Camera D.G.D

