



Figure 1. Finder chart for DHK3.  
 1 = DHK3; 2 = SAO 077191; 3 = SAO  
 077189; 4 = SAO077187. North is  
 up; east is to the left.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Received 10 December 1987

#### "White Light Flare Observing"

I would like to inform AAVSO Solar Division observers that Sacramento Peak Observatory in New Mexico is planning a program of monitoring white light solar flares. This opportunity is an excellent one for AAVSO observers to contribute to solar study. They are keeping records of all known occurrences of white light flares and would appreciate information on sightings. As solar observers know, these flares are very rare, and it requires long periods at the telescope in the hope of seeing one. [Ed. Note: Be absolutely certain never to directly observe the sun without the appropriate filter in place. Serious eye damage or blindness could result.] White light flares begin approximately two years before sunspot maximum and decline slowly for about four years afterward. Also, there are approximately ten to fifteen outbursts per year near solar maximum. Chances of detection may be increased considerably by using a short-wavelength blue filter. A Wratten No. 47 blue-colored filter is an excellent choice. It peaks at 4400Å and a UV-blocking filter should not be necessary.

Any interested observers should feel free to contact me.

#### REFERENCE

Neidig, D. F. and Beckers, J. M. 1983, *Sky & Telescope* 65, 3, 226.

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