

SOLAR UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

To all people interested in solar astronomy:

2 large (naked-eye) sunspot groups are now in the center of the solar disk (see attached pic from Spaceweather.com). Group 2674, just north of equator, stretches almost 20% of sun's diameter. Group 2673, just south of equator, is a large, circular complex of many spots; potential for ejections and auroral activity. This group appeared from nothing to one of the largest groups of the year in less than 48 hours.

I just did 2 hours of observing and white-light photography. These sunspot groups are magnificent. They are visible naked-eye and look terrific in 8x56 binos. Telescopically I obtained 40 still photos of the full solar disk and over dozen 5-min. hires videos of the sunspot groups. This will take 2-3 days to process.

Given the groups are already mid-disk, you have about 4-5 days to observe or photograph them. These are worth the effort (and the heat). And they should show wonderful complexity in H-alpha.

David