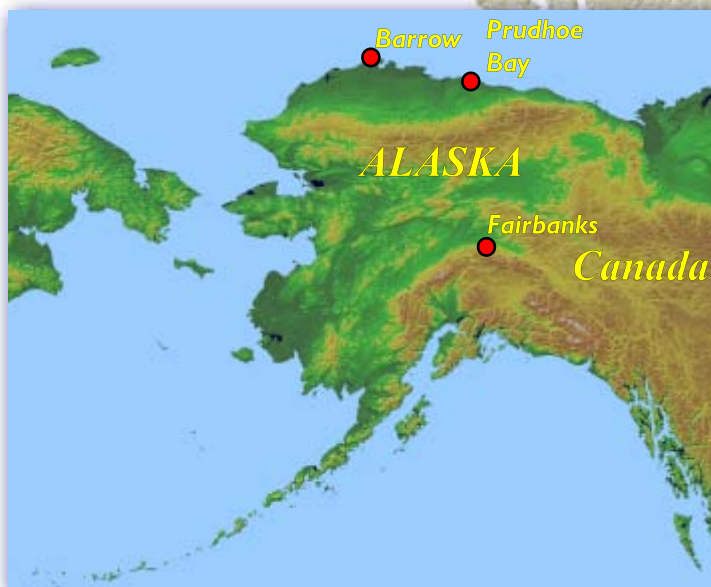


**BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**Jim Carrigan  
Observatory  
Prudhoe Bay  
Monthly  
Magnetic  
Bulletin**

**September 2020**

**20/09/JC**



**British  
Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

# JIM CARRIGAN OBSERVATORY MAGNETIC DATA

## 1. Introduction

Jim Carrigan observatory is the fourth overseas geomagnetic observatory established by the British Geological Survey (BGS). The installation was a joint venture between BGS and Sperry Drilling Services (SDS), Halliburton in support of directional drilling programmes. SDS operated a prototype station since 1997, which was upgraded by the BGS to a standard high-quality observatory in October 2003.

This bulletin is published to provide rapid access to the provisional geomagnetic observatory results. The information is freely available for personal, academic, educational and non-commercial research or use. Magnetic observatory data are presented as a series of plots of one-minute, hourly and daily values, followed by tabulations of monthly values. The operation of the observatory and presentation of data are described in the rest of this section.

Enquiries about the data should be addressed to:

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Edinburgh EH9 3LA  
Scotland, UK

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E-mail: [enquiries@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bgs.ac.uk)  
Internet: [www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk)

## 2. Position

Jim Carrigan Observatory is situated at T-Pad, a man-made gravel bed close to the drilling sites at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, USA. The observatory co-ordinates are:-

*Geographic:* 70° 21' 21.6" N 211° 12' 03.6" E  
*Geomagnetic:* 70° 26' 53" N 257° 13' 01" E  
*Height above mean sea level:* 20m (approx)

The geographical coordinates are measured by a handheld GPS device, which uses WGS84 as the reference coordinate system. The height above MSL is determined from the best available contour maps. The geomagnetic co-ordinates are approximations, calculated using the 13th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) at epoch 2020.5. On-line access to models (including IGRF), charts and navigational data are available at

[http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data\\_service/models\\_compass/home](http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/models_compass/home)

## 3. The Observatory Operation

### 3.1 GDAS

The observatory operates under the control of the Geomagnetic Data Acquisition System (GDAS), which was developed by BGS staff, installed and became fully operational from October 2003. The data acquisition software, running on QNX operated computers, controls the data logging and the communications.

There are two sets of sensors used for making magnetic measurements. A tri-axial linear-core fluxgate magnetometer, manufactured by the Danish Meteorological Institute, is used to measure the variations in the horizontal ( $H$ ) and vertical ( $Z$ ) components of the field. The third sensor is oriented perpendicular to these, and measures variations, which are proportional to the changes in declination ( $D$ ). Measurements are made at a rate of 1 Hz.

In addition to the fluxgate sensors there is a proton precession magnetometer (PPM) making measurements of the absolute total field intensity ( $F$ ) at a rate of 0.05Hz.

The raw unfiltered data are retrieved automatically via Internet connections to the BGS office in Edinburgh in near real-time. The fluxgate data are filtered to produce one-minute values using a 61-point cosine filter and the total field intensity samples are filtered using a 13-point cosine filter.

### 3.2 Absolute Observations

The GDAS fluxgate magnetometers accurately measure variations in the components of the geomagnetic field, but not the absolute magnitudes. Two sets of absolute measurements of the field are made manually once per month. A fluxgate sensor mounted on a theodolite is used to determine  $D$  and inclination ( $I$ ); the GDAS PPM measurements, with a site difference correction applied, are used for  $F$ . The absolute observations are used in conjunction with the GDAS variometer measurements to produce a continuous record of the absolute values of the geomagnetic field elements as if they had been measured at the observatory reference pillar.

## 4. Observatory Results

The data presented in the bulletin are in the form of plots and tabulations described in the following sections.

### 4.1 Absolute Observations

The absolute observation measurements made during the month are tabulated. Also included are the corresponding baseline values, which are the differences between the absolute measurements and the variometer measurements of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  (in the sense absolute–variometer). These are also plotted (markers) along with the derived preliminary daily baseline values (line) throughout the year. Daily mean differences between the measured absolute  $F$  and the  $F$  computed from the baseline corrected  $H$  and  $Z$  values are plotted in the fourth panel (in the sense measured–derived). The bottom panel shows the daily mean temperature in the fluxgate chamber.

### 4.2 Summary magnetograms

Small-scale magnetograms are plotted which allow the month's data to be viewed at a glance. They are plotted 16 days to a page and show the one-minute variations in  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$ . The scales are shown on the right-hand side of the page. On disturbed days the scales are multiplied by a factor, which is indicated above the panel for that day. The variations are centred on the monthly mean value, shown on the left side of the page.

### 4.3 Magnetograms

The daily magnetograms are plotted using one-minute values of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  from the fluxgate sensors, with any gaps filled using back-up data. The magnetograms are plotted to a variable scale; scale bars are shown to the right of each plot. The absolute level (the monthly mean value) is indicated on the left side of the plots.

### 4.4 Hourly Mean Value Plots

Hourly mean values of  $D$ ,  $H$  and  $Z$  for the past 12 months are plotted in 27-day segments corresponding to the Bartels solar rotation number. Magnetic disturbances associated with active regions and/or coronal holes on the Sun may recur after 27 days: the same is true for geomagnetically

quiet intervals. Plotting the data in this way highlights this recurrence. Diurnal variations are also clear in these plots and the amplitude changes throughout the year highlight the seasonal changes. Longer term secular variation is also illustrated.

### 4.5 Daily and Monthly Mean Values

Daily mean values of  $D$ ,  $H$ ,  $Z$  and  $F$  are plotted throughout the year. In addition, a table of monthly mean values of all the geomagnetic elements is provided. These values depend on accurate specification of the fluxgate sensor baselines. It is anticipated that these provisional values will not be altered by more than a few nT or tenths of arcminutes before being made definitive at the end of the year.

## 5. Conditions of Use

The data presented in this bulletin are provided for personal, academic, educational, non-commercial research or other non-commercial use and are not for sale or distribution to third parties without written permission from BGS.

Reproduction of any part of this bulletin should be accompanied by the statement: 'Reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved'. Publications making use of the data should include an acknowledgment statement of the form: 'The results presented in this paper rely on the data collected at Jim Carrigan magnetic observatory, operated by Sperry Drilling Services, Halliburton and the British Geological Survey with support from BP.'

Commercial users can contact the geomagnetism team for information on the range of applications and services offered. Full contact details are available at [www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/contactus/staff](http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/contactus/staff)

# Jim Carrigan Obs 2020

Declination : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)

16.89 5min

Horizontal Intensity : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)

9010 20nT

Vertical Intensity : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)

56601 6nT

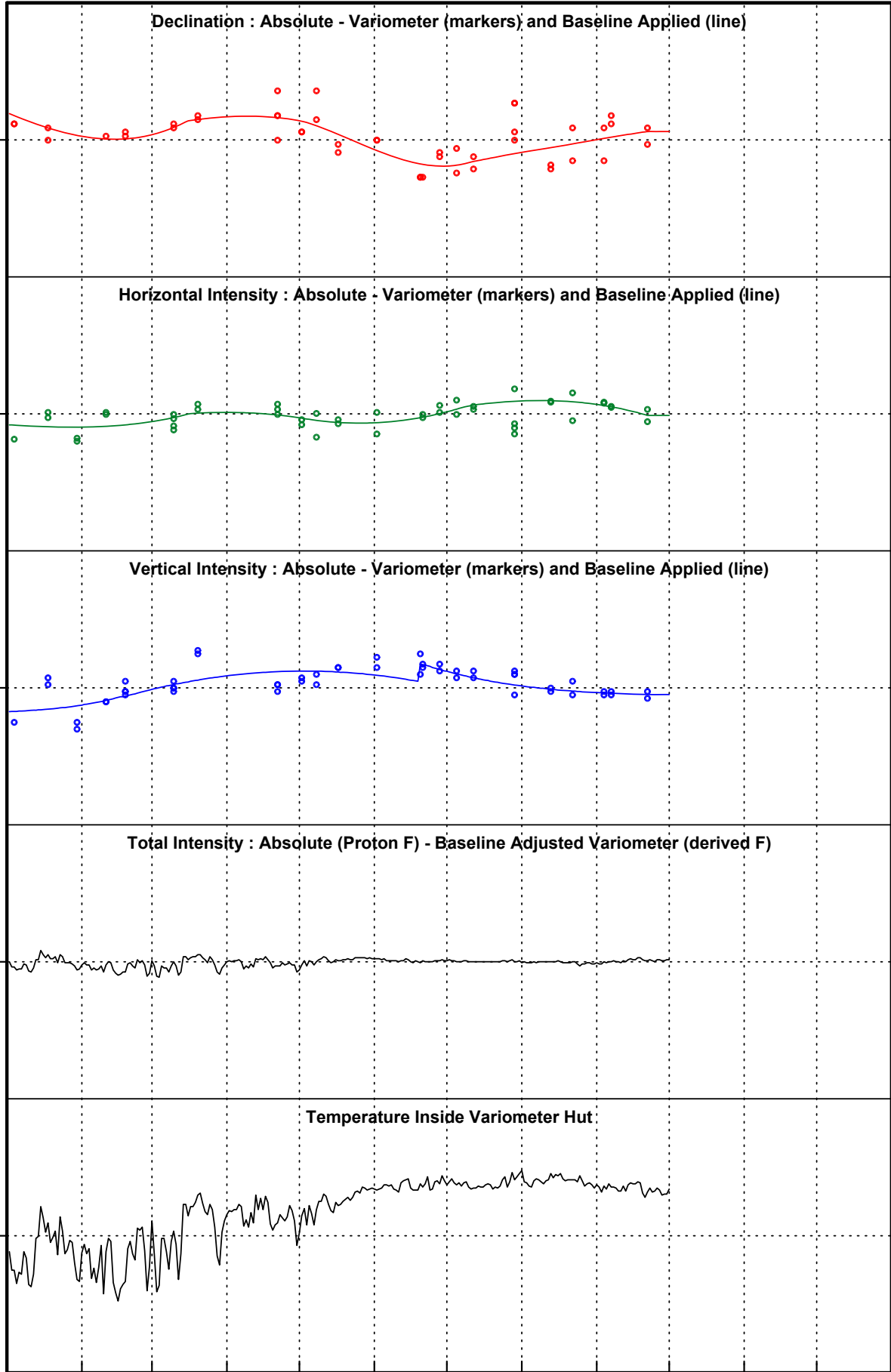
Total Intensity : Absolute (Proton F) - Baseline Adjusted Variometer (derived F)

-5.9 20nT

Temperature Inside Variometer Hut

9.2 20°C

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

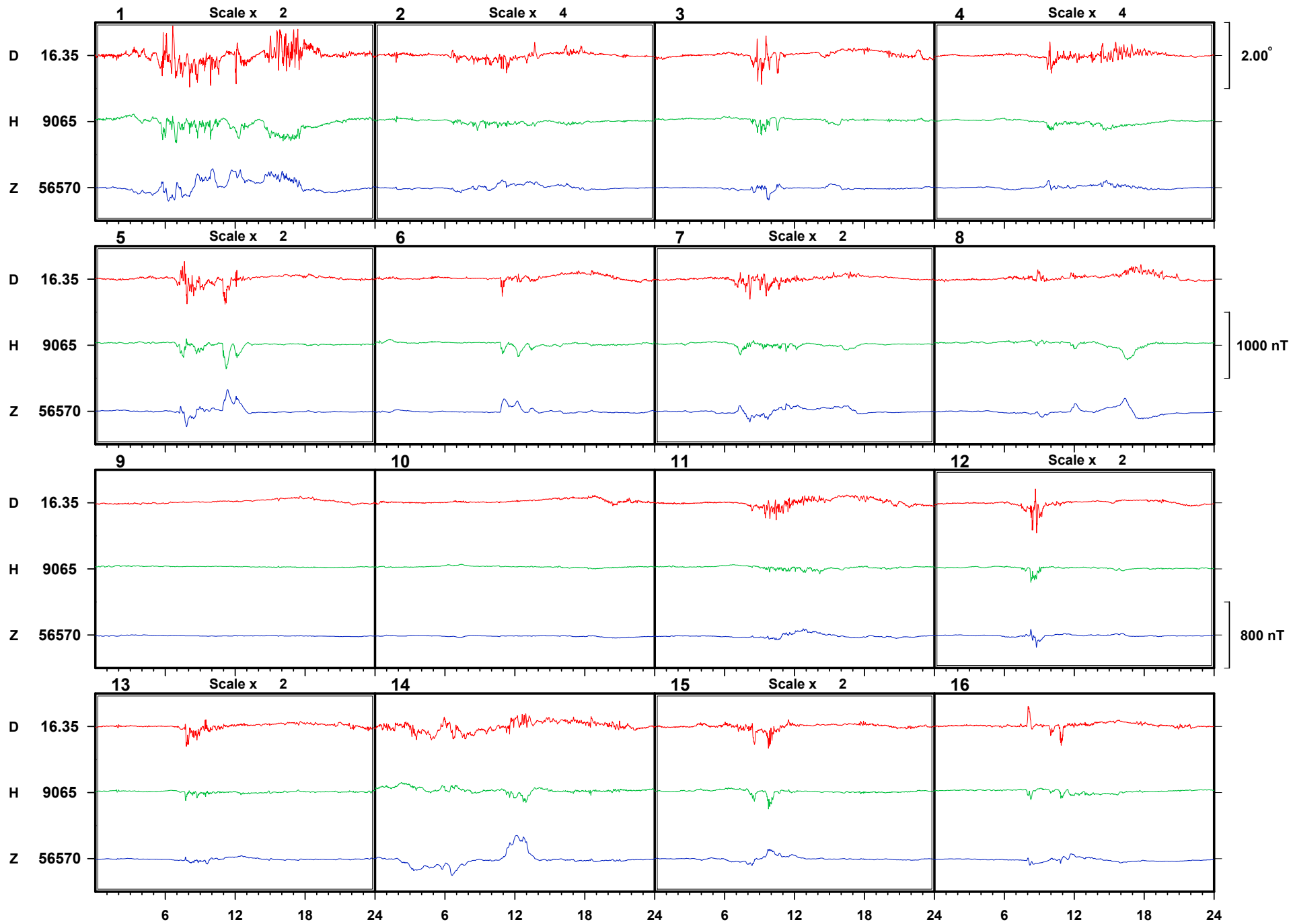


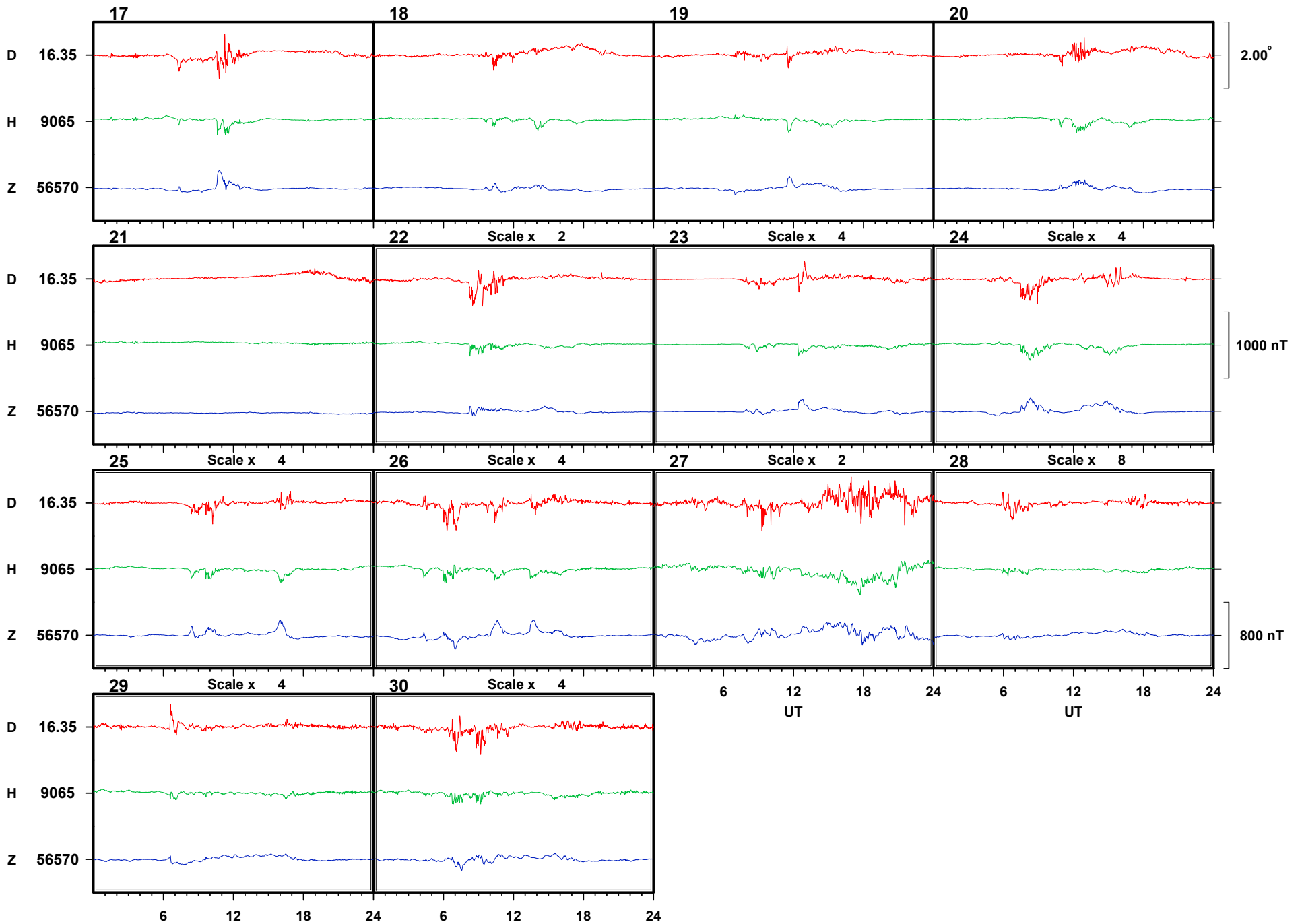


Jim Carrigan

September

2020





Jim Carrigan

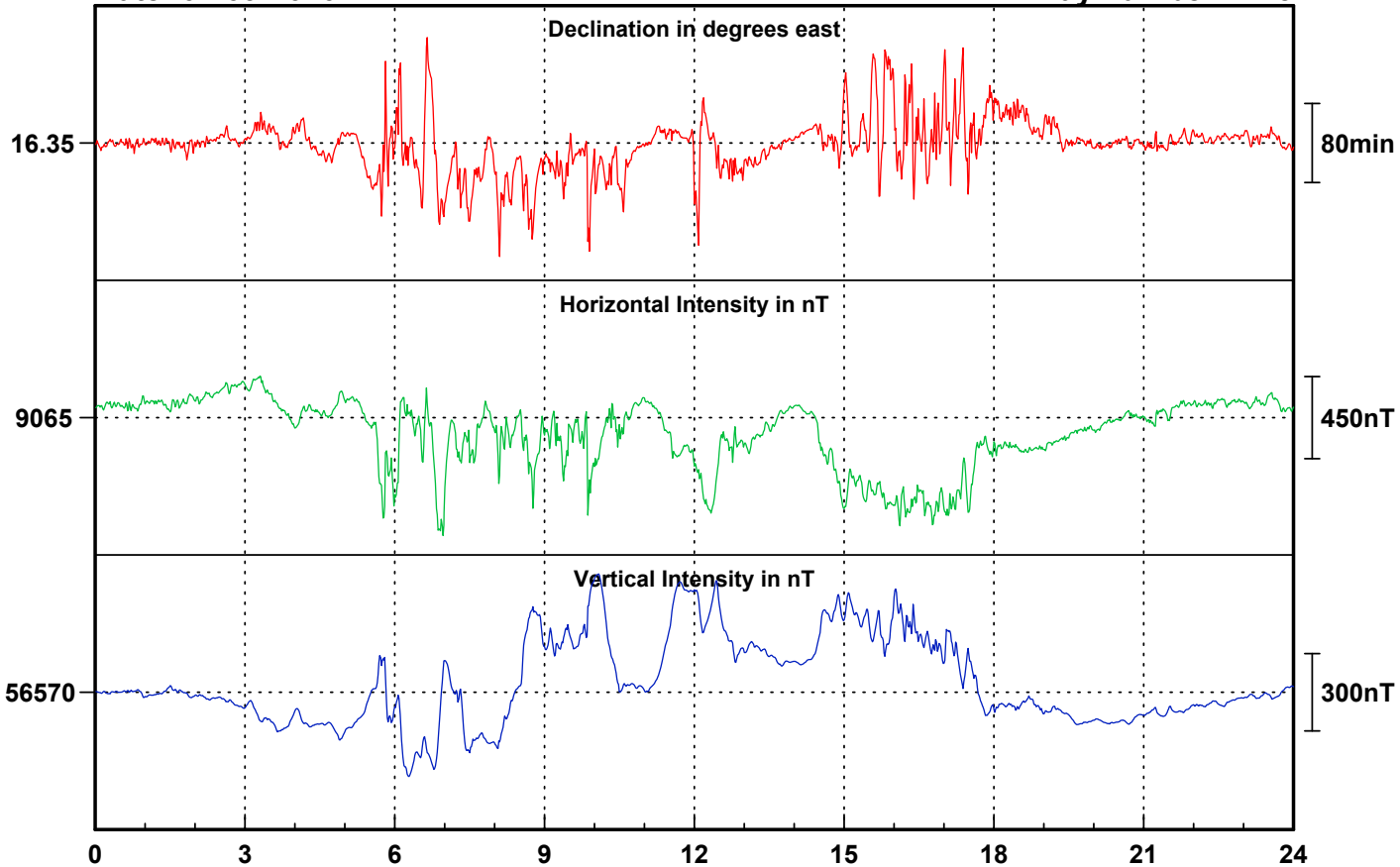
September

2020

Date: 01-09-2020

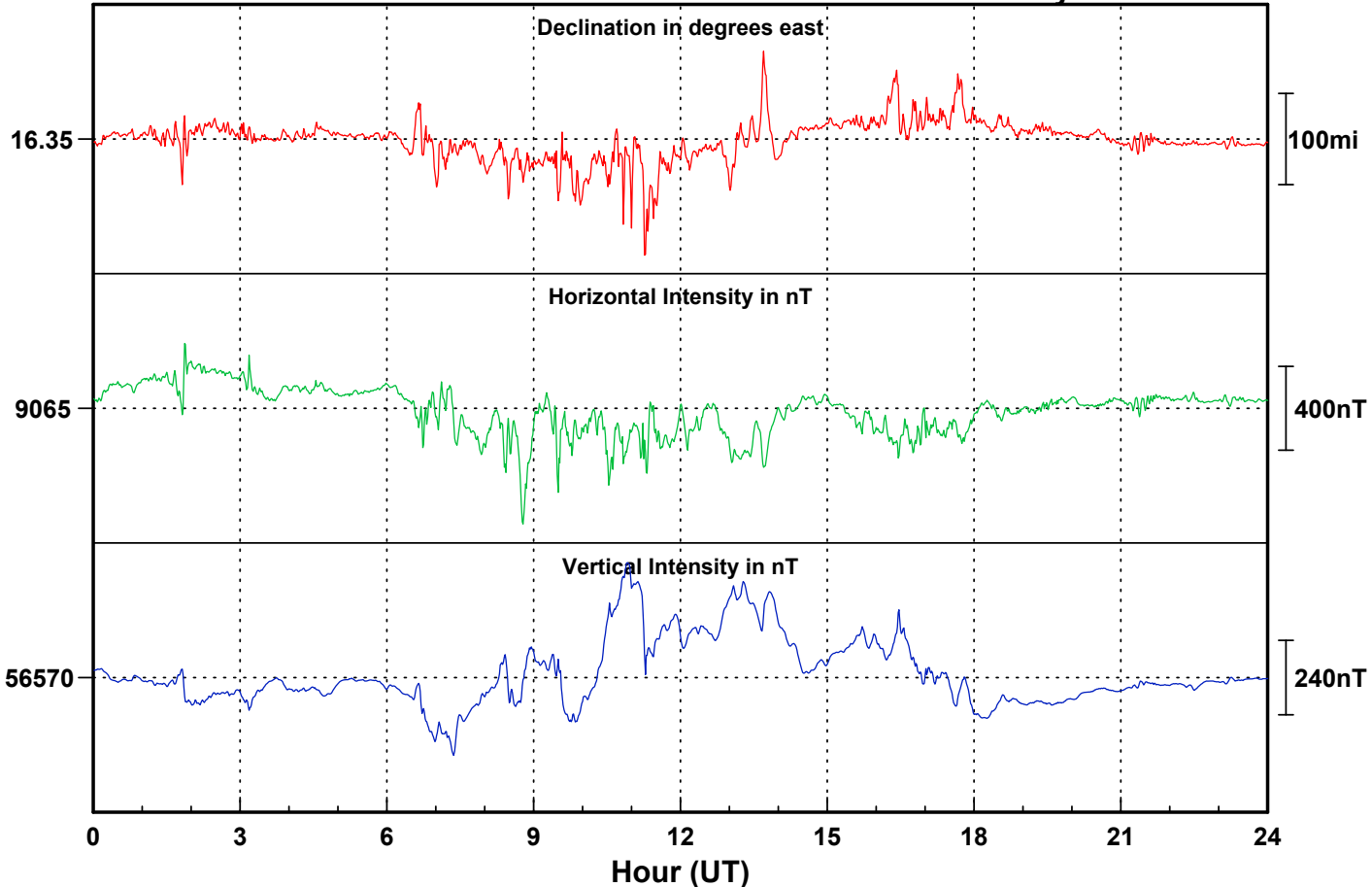
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 245



Date: 02-09-2020

Day number: 246

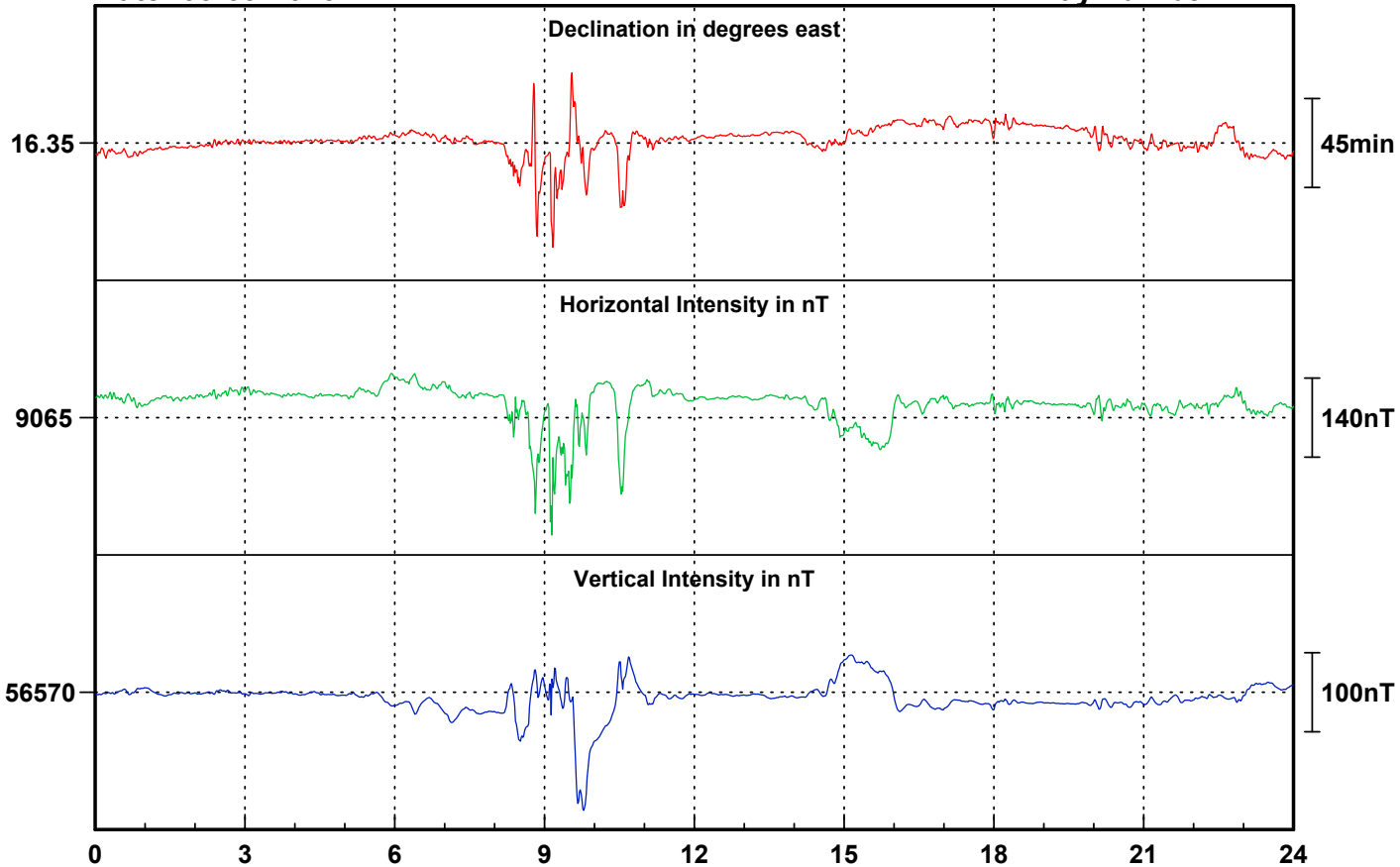




Date: 03-09-2020

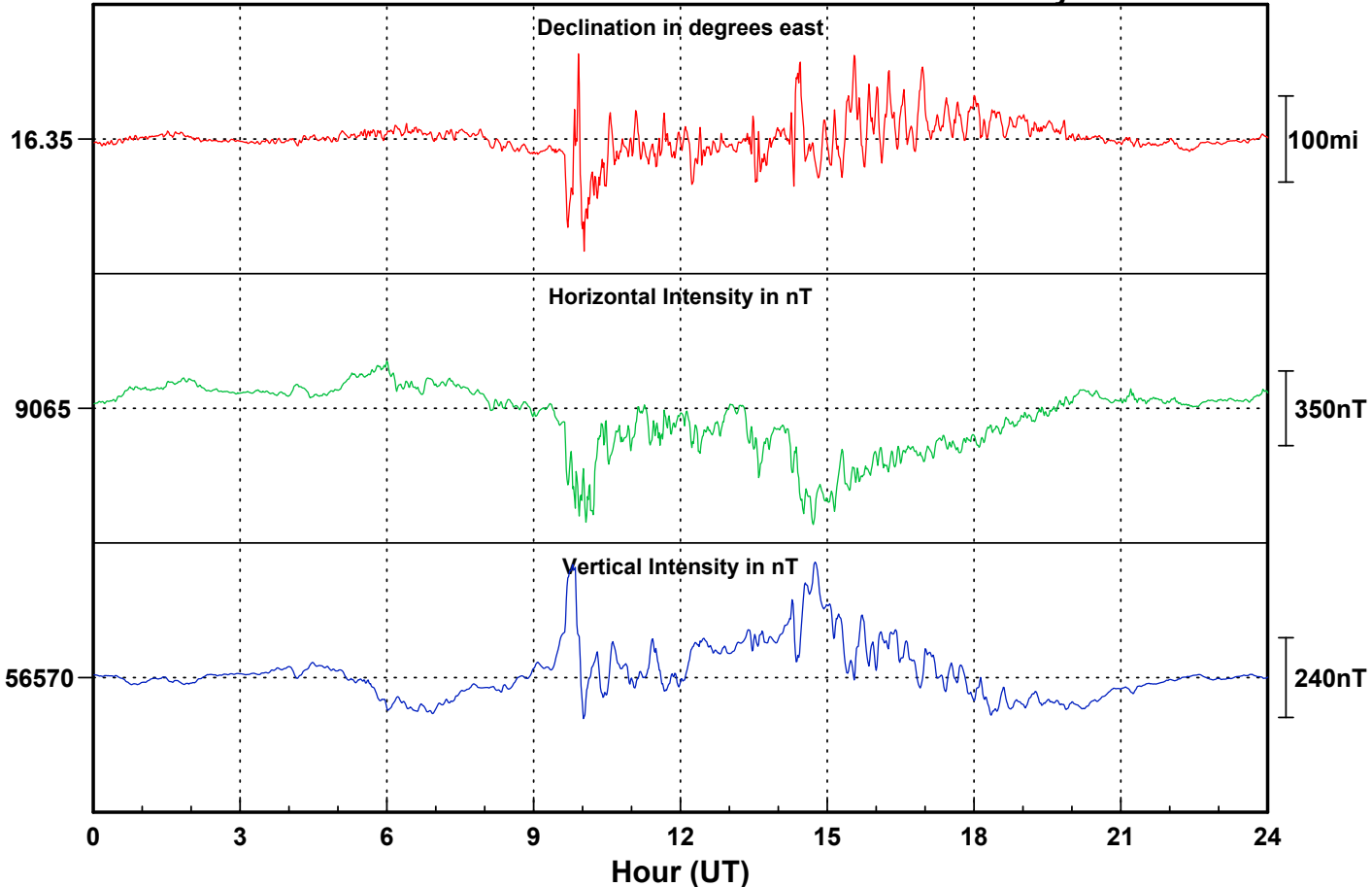
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 247



Date: 04-09-2020

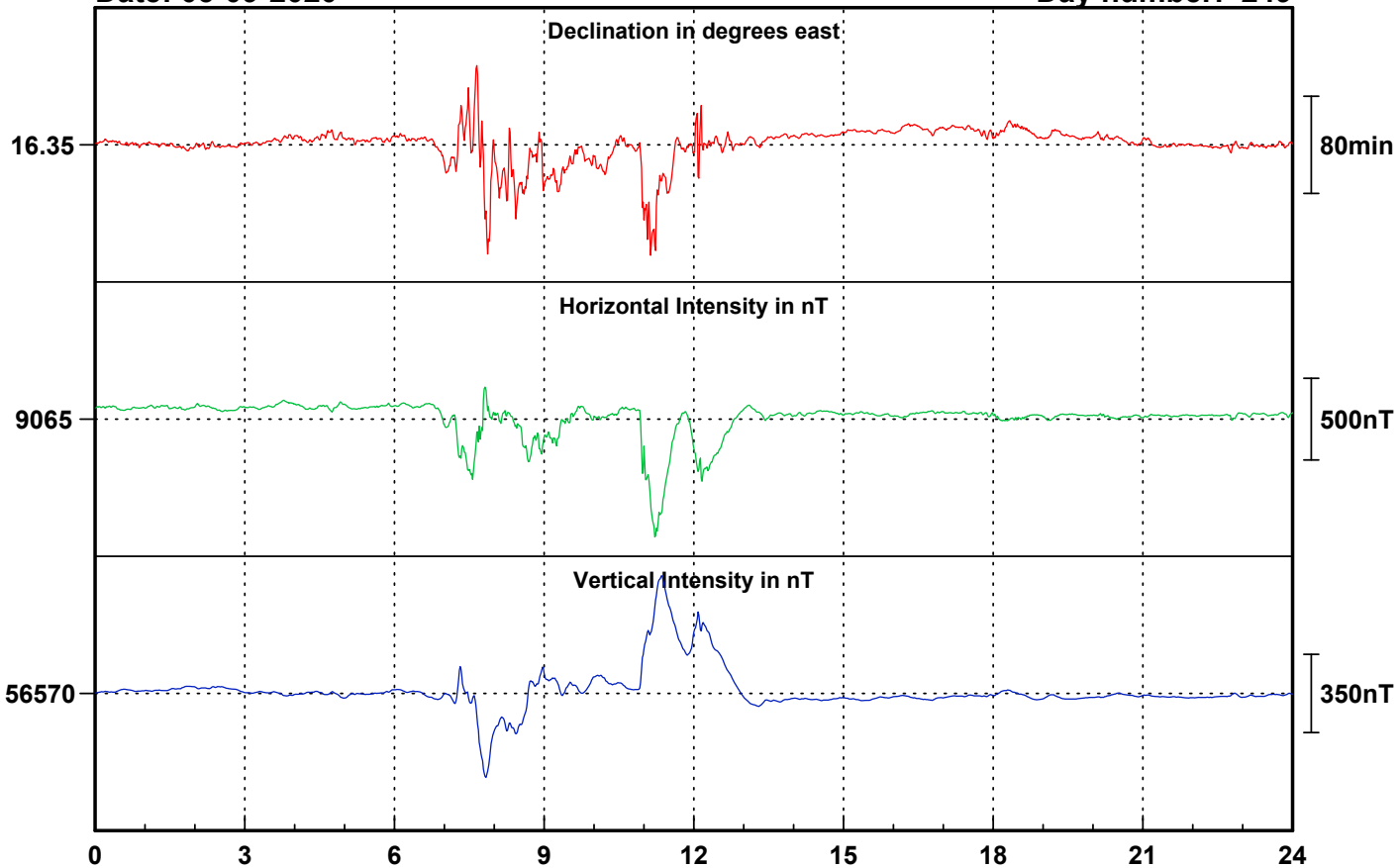
Day number: 248



Date: 05-09-2020

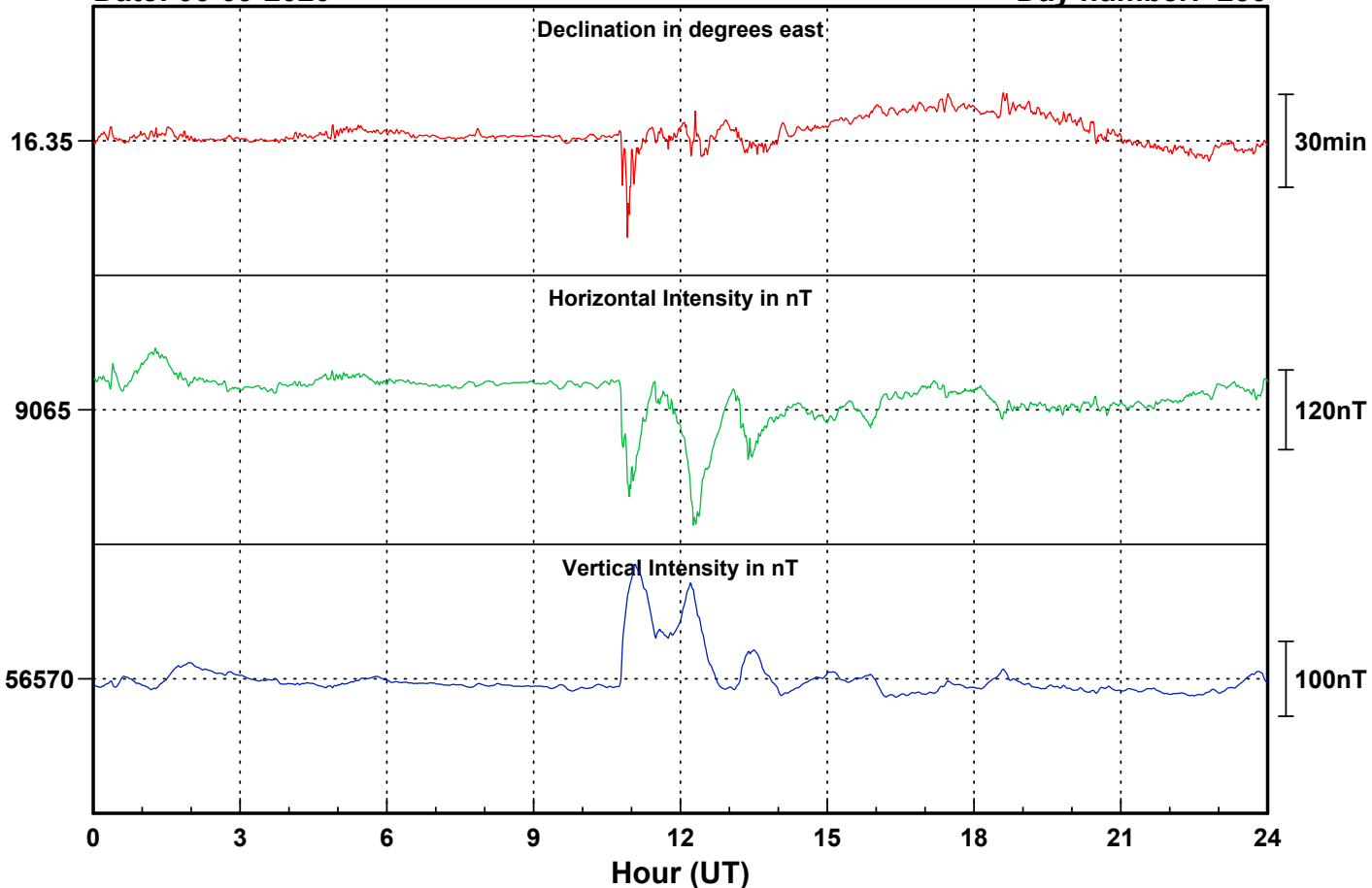
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 249



Date: 06-09-2020

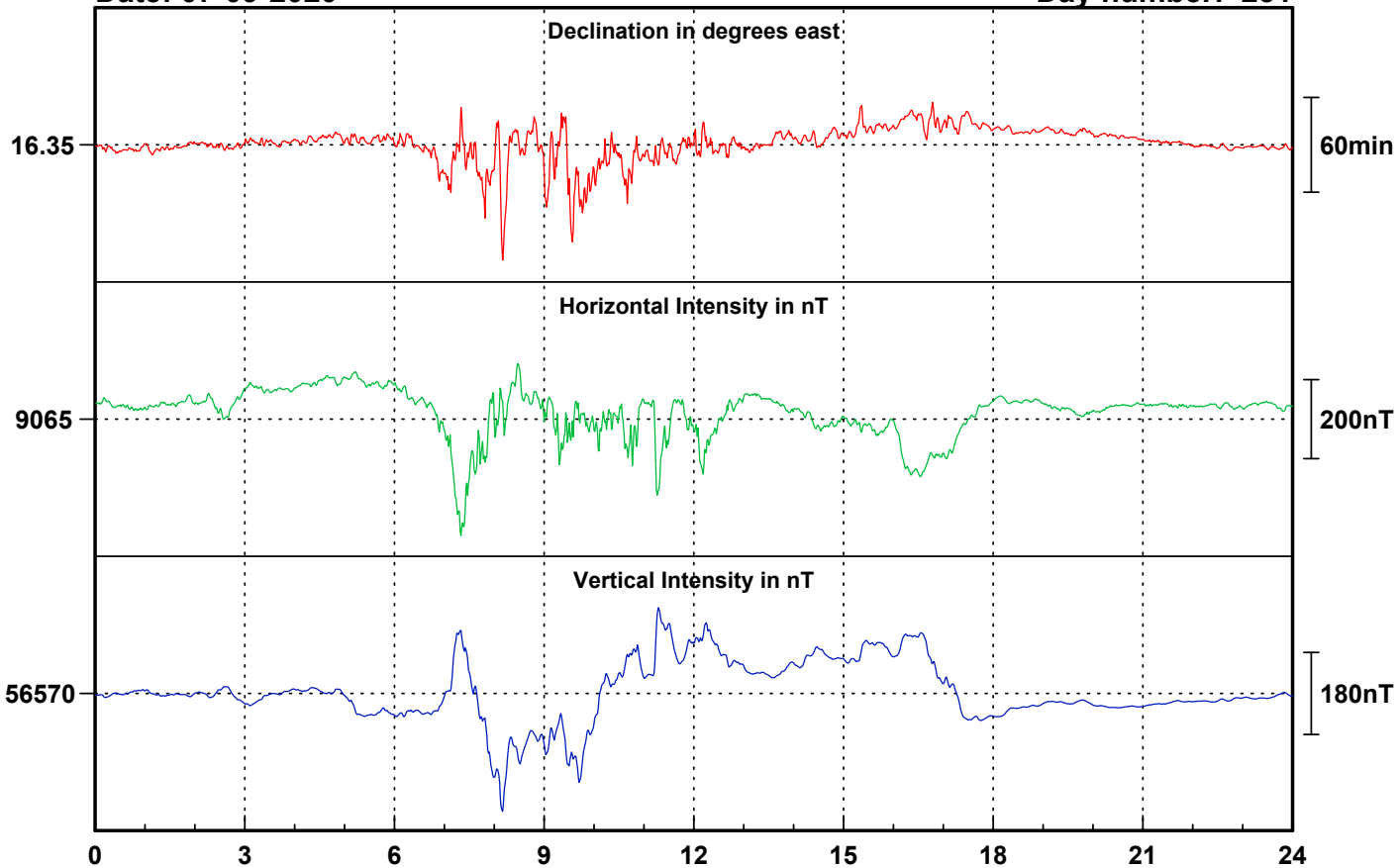
Day number: 250



Date: 07-09-2020

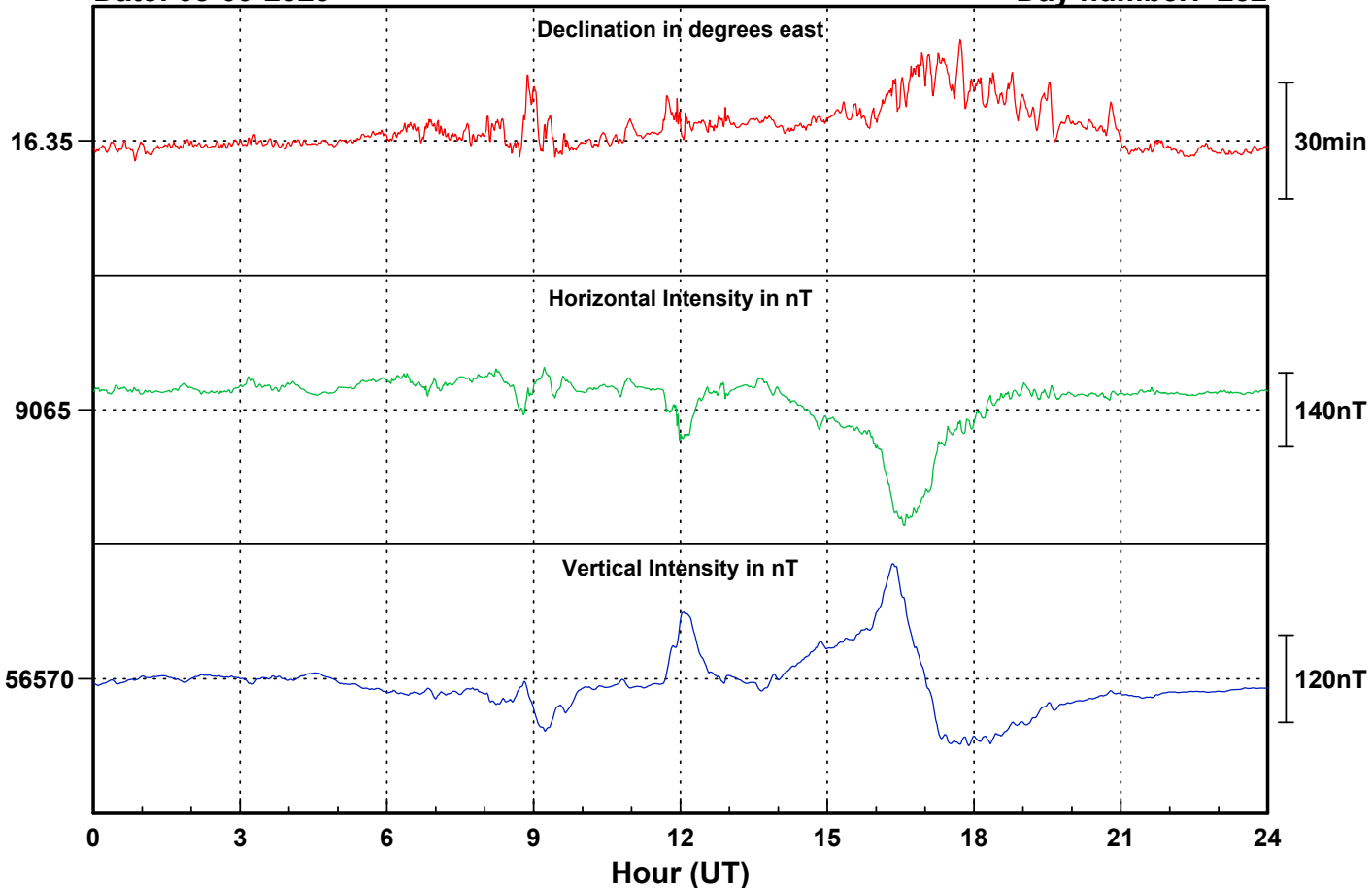
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 251



Date: 08-09-2020

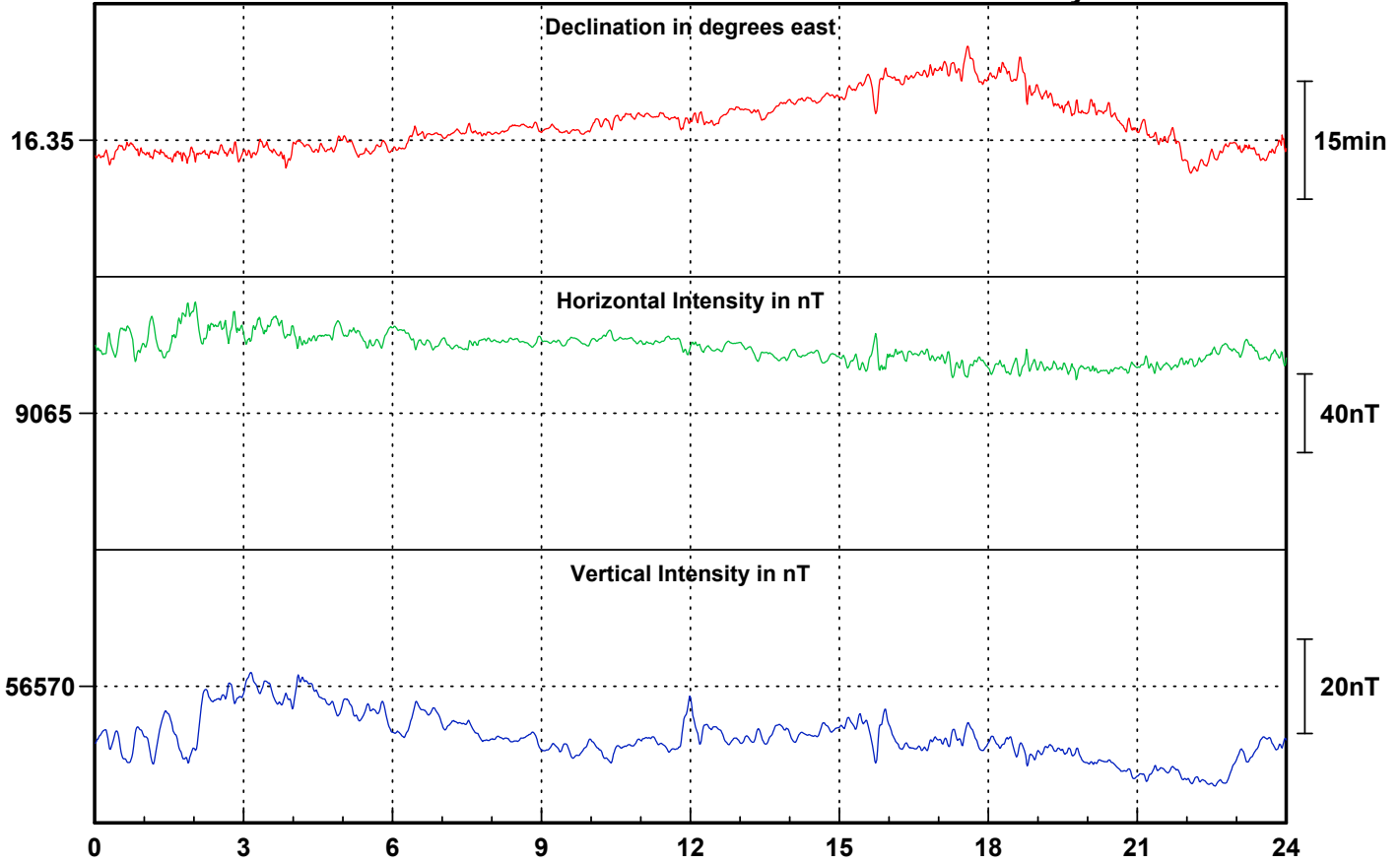
Day number: 252



Date: 09-09-2020

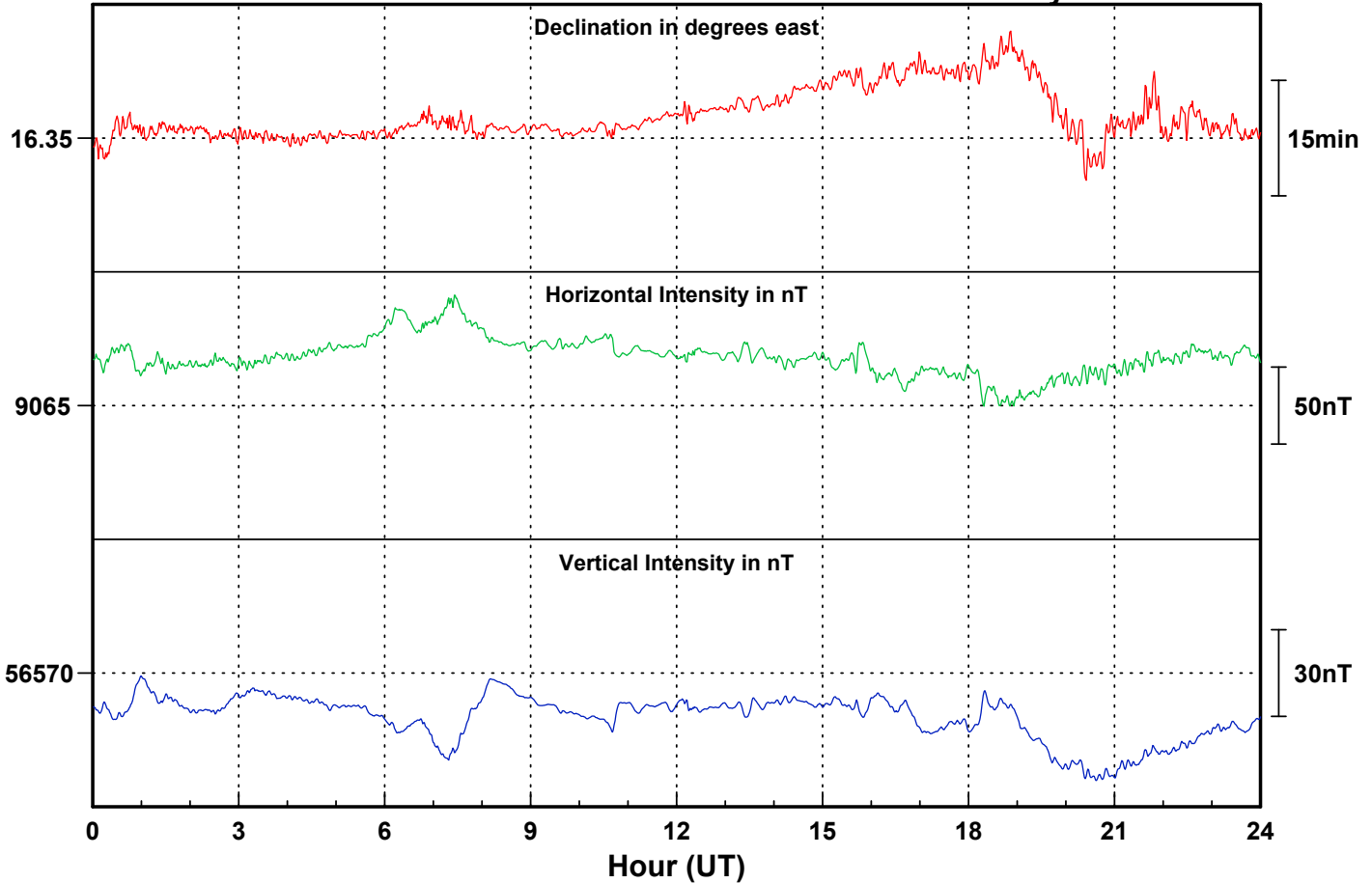
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 253



Date: 10-09-2020

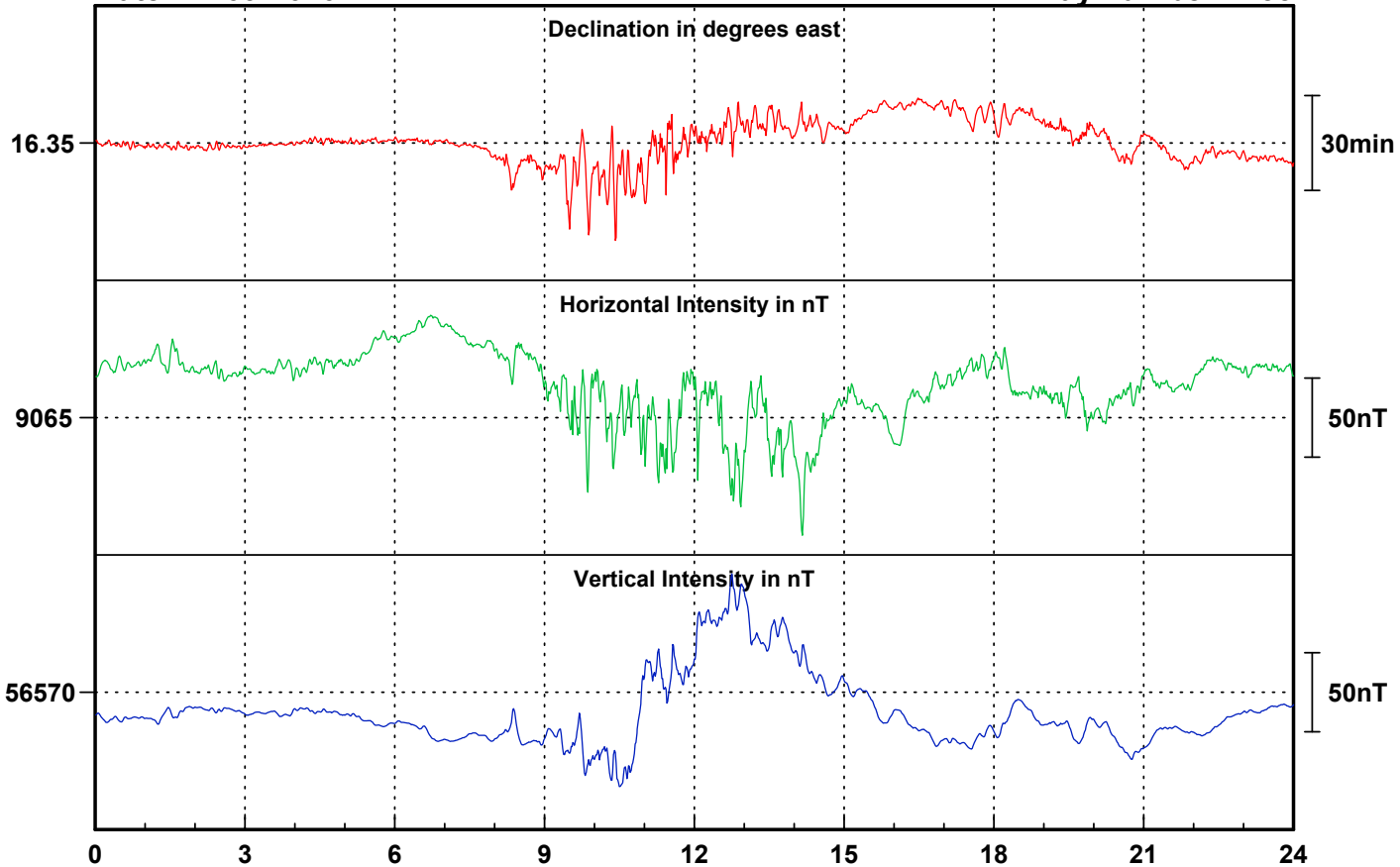
Day number: 254



Date: 11-09-2020

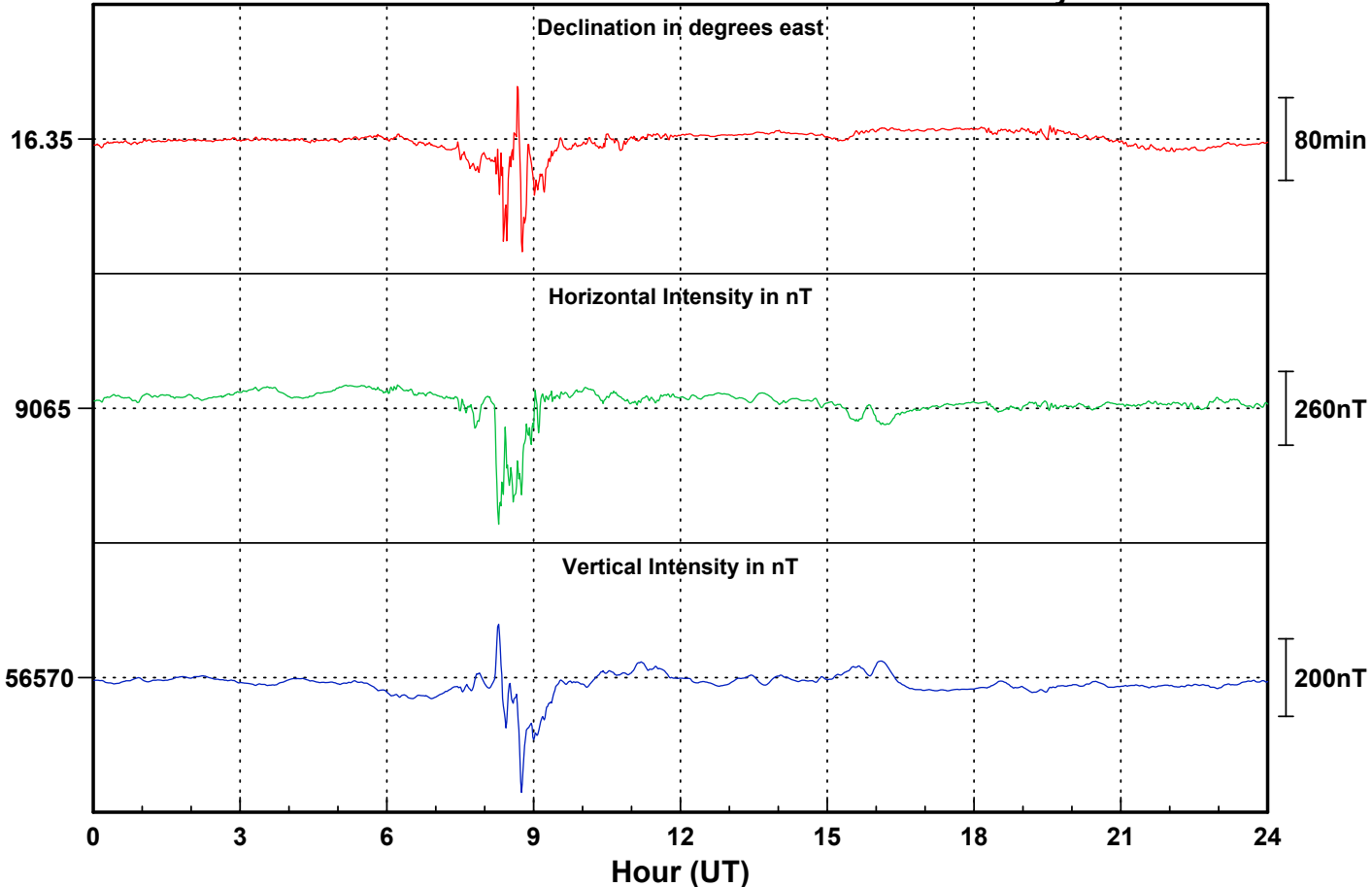
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 255



Date: 12-09-2020

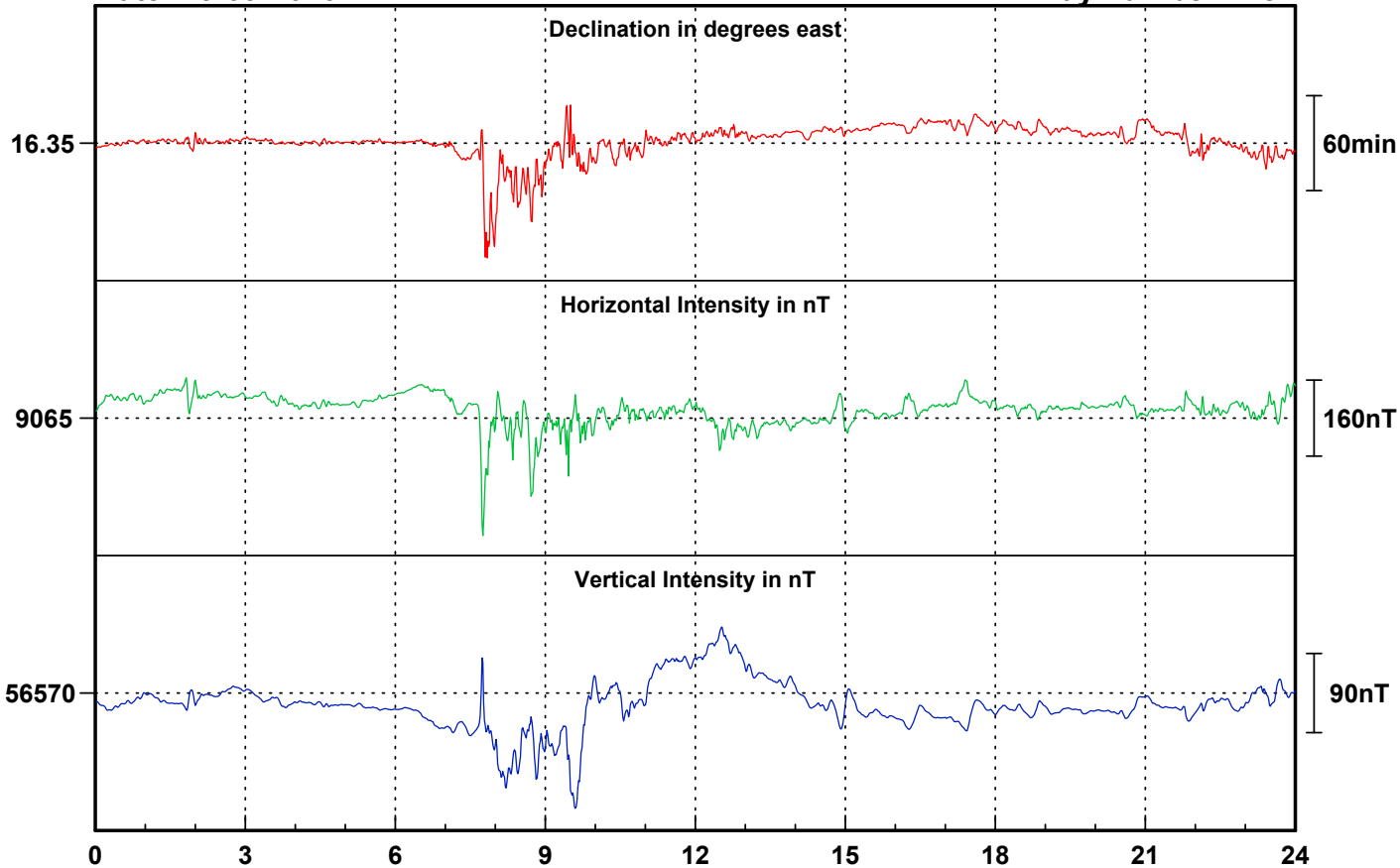
Day number: 256



Date: 13-09-2020

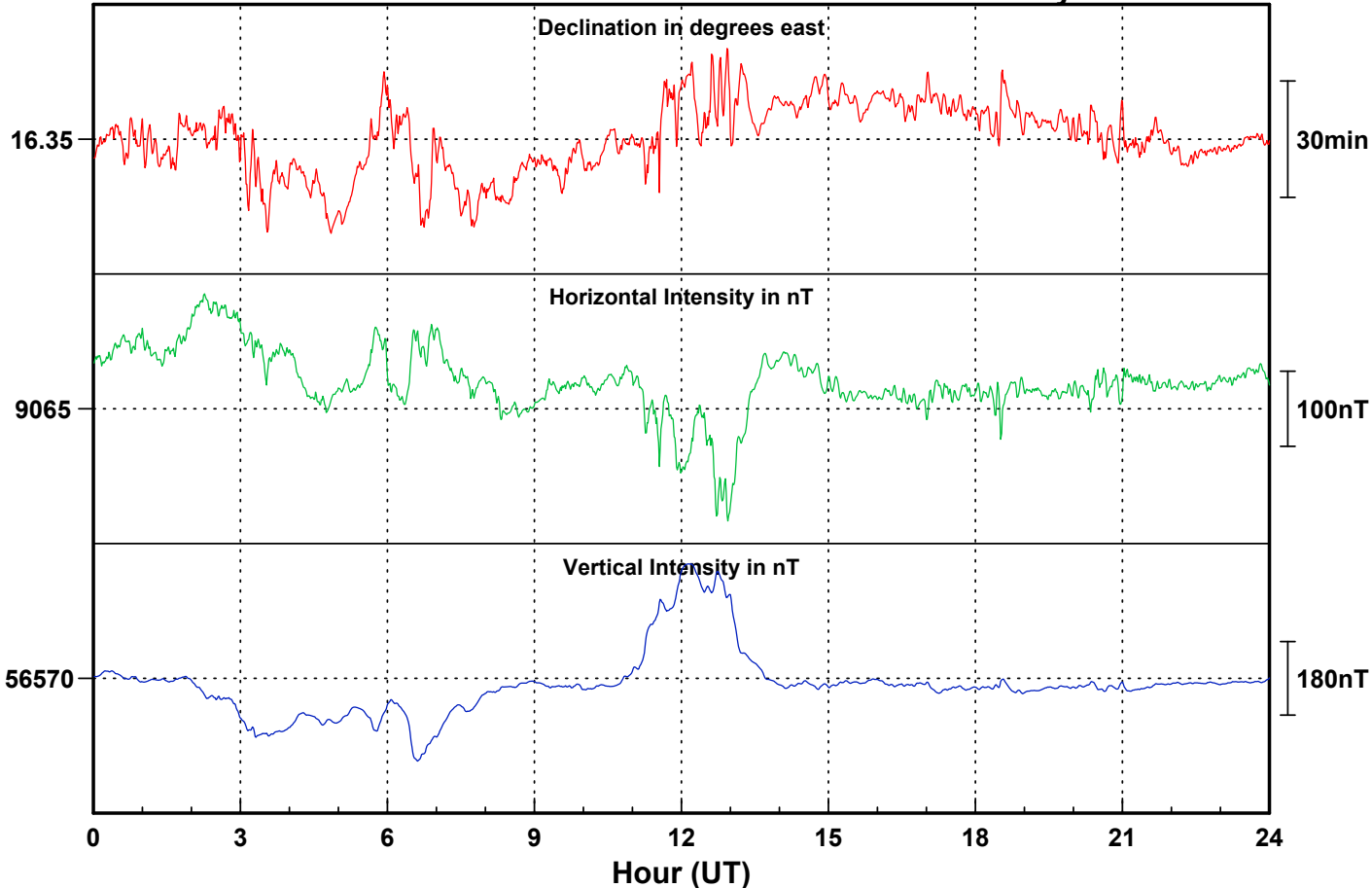
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 257



Date: 14-09-2020

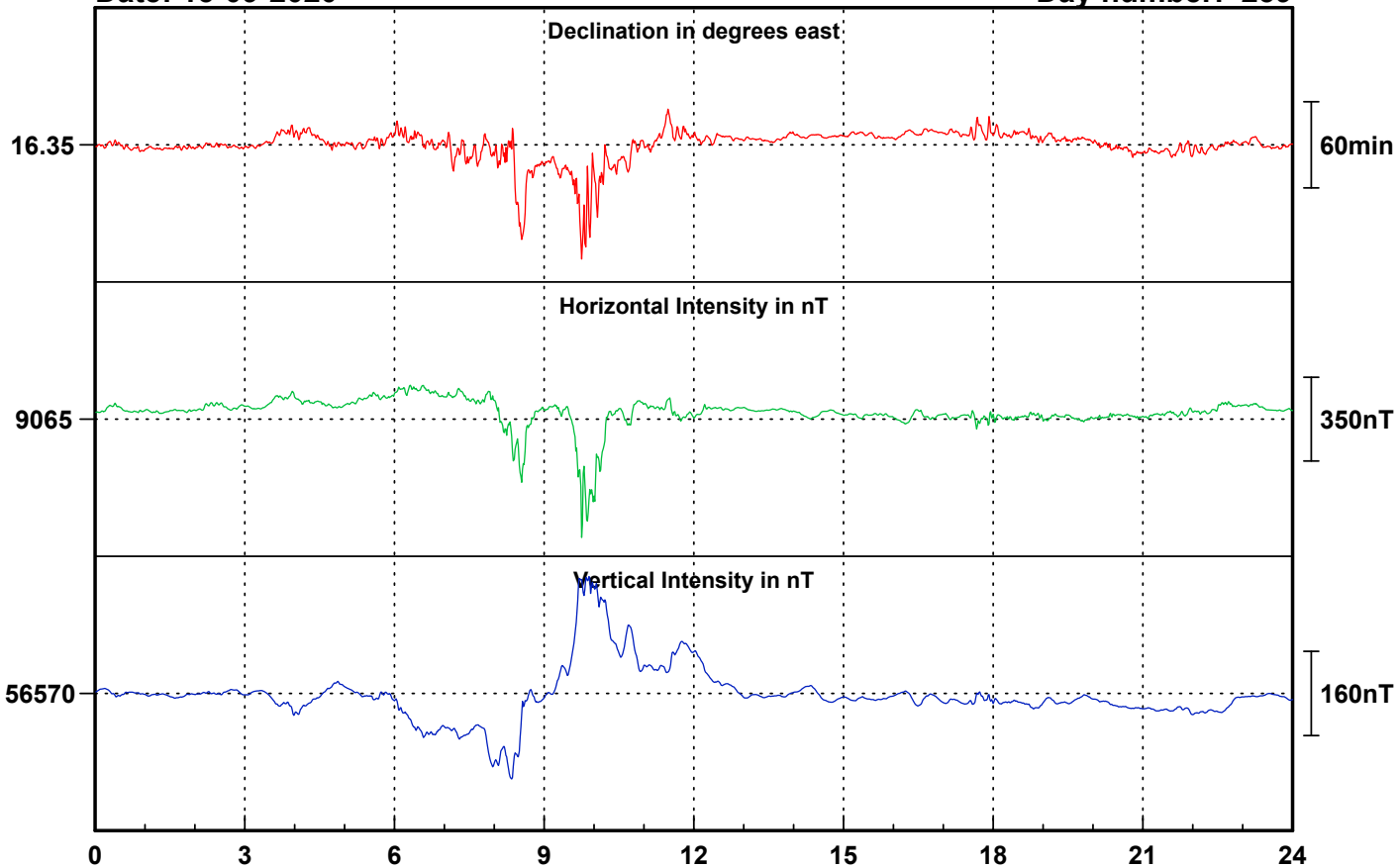
Day number: 258



Date: 15-09-2020

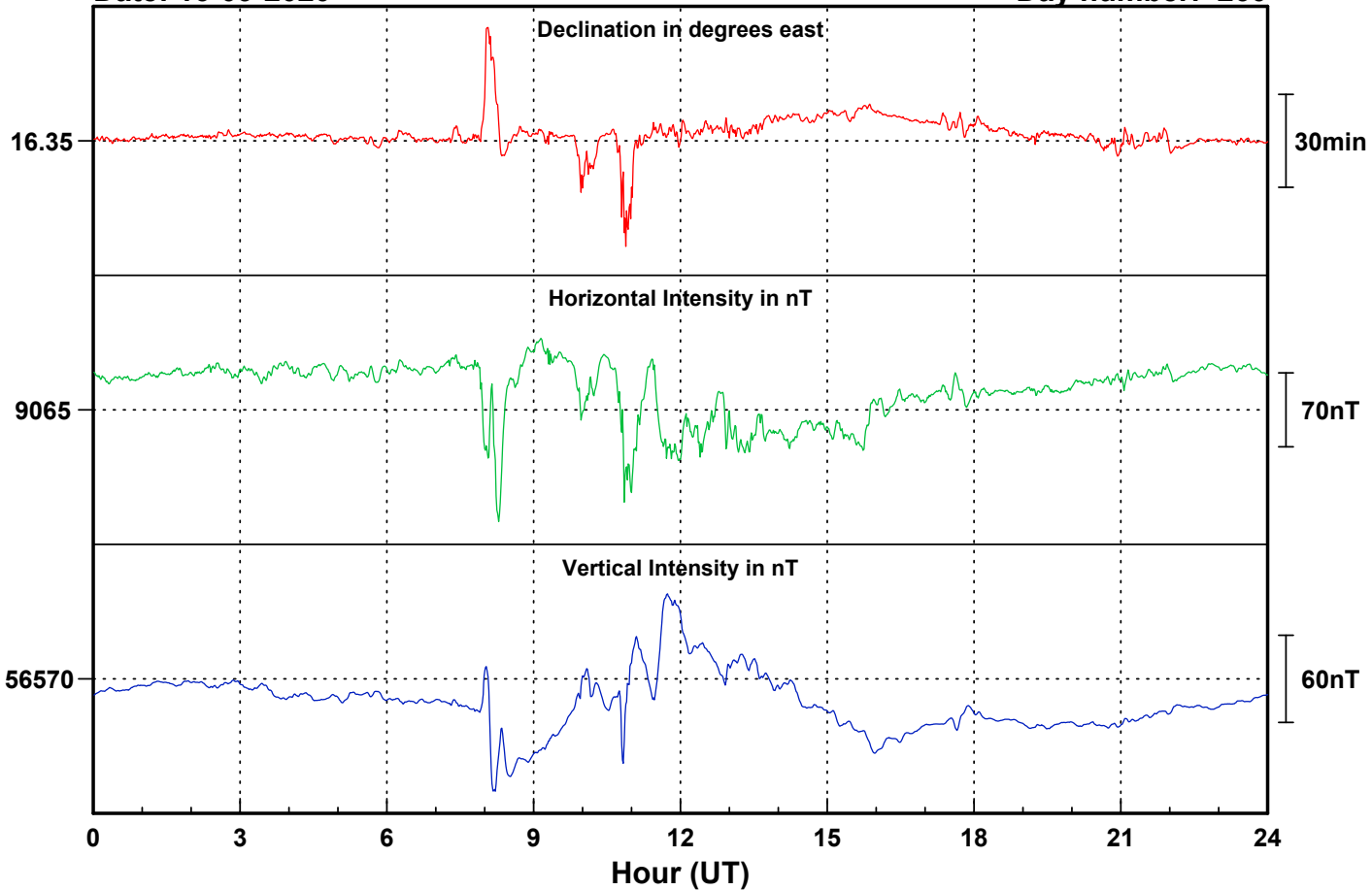
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 259



Date: 16-09-2020

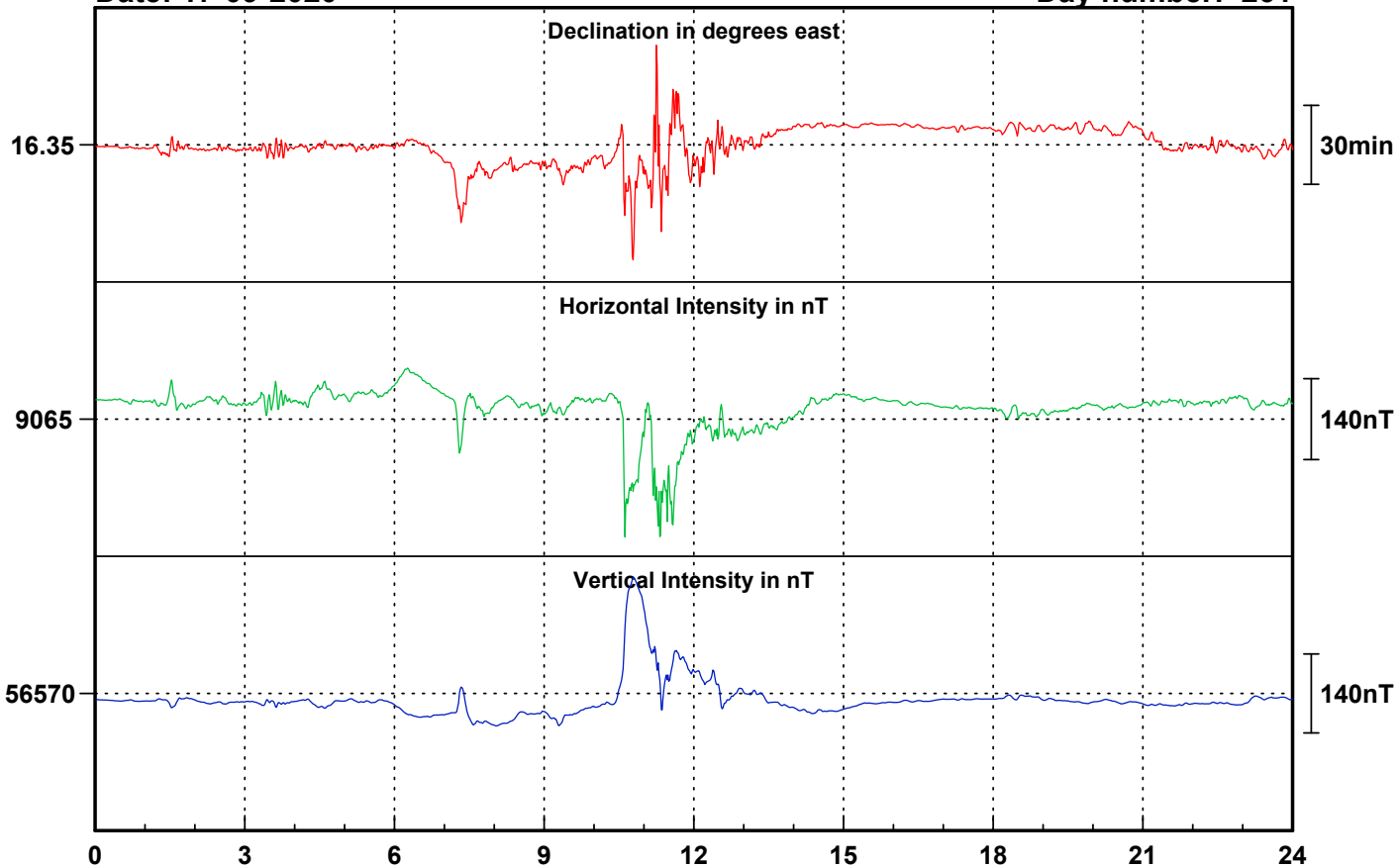
Day number: 260



Date: 17-09-2020

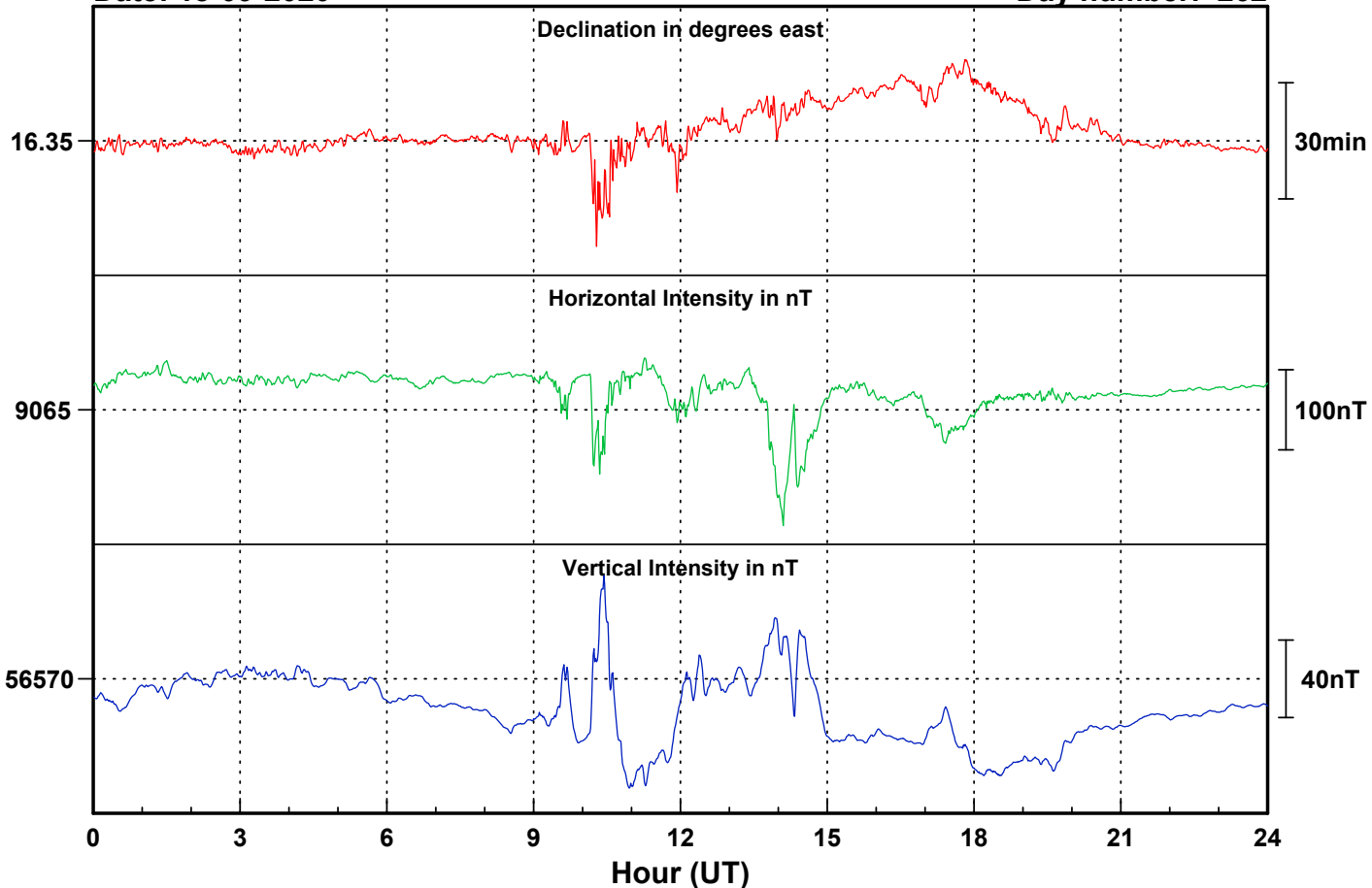
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 261



Date: 18-09-2020

Day number: 262



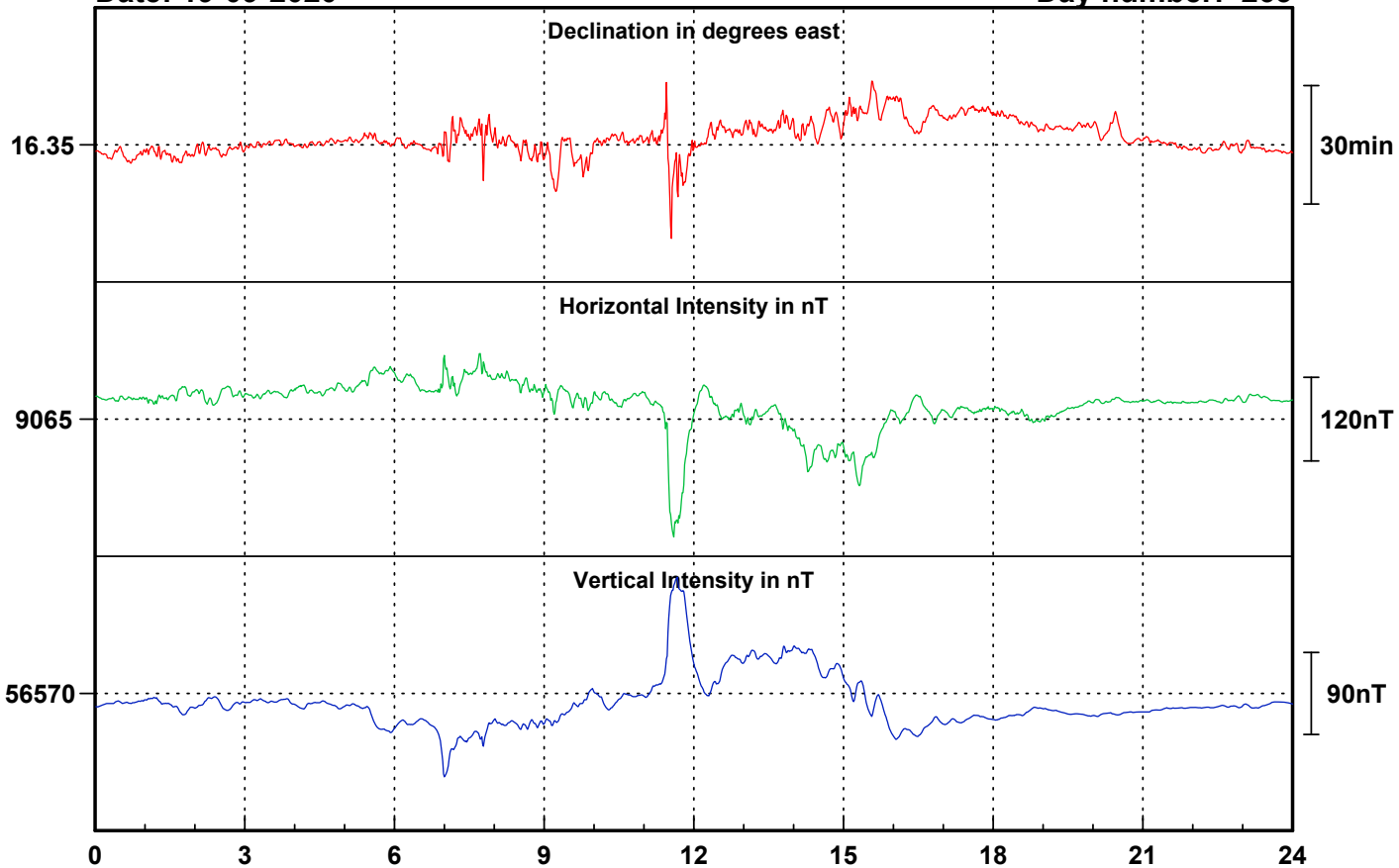
Hour (UT)



Date: 19-09-2020

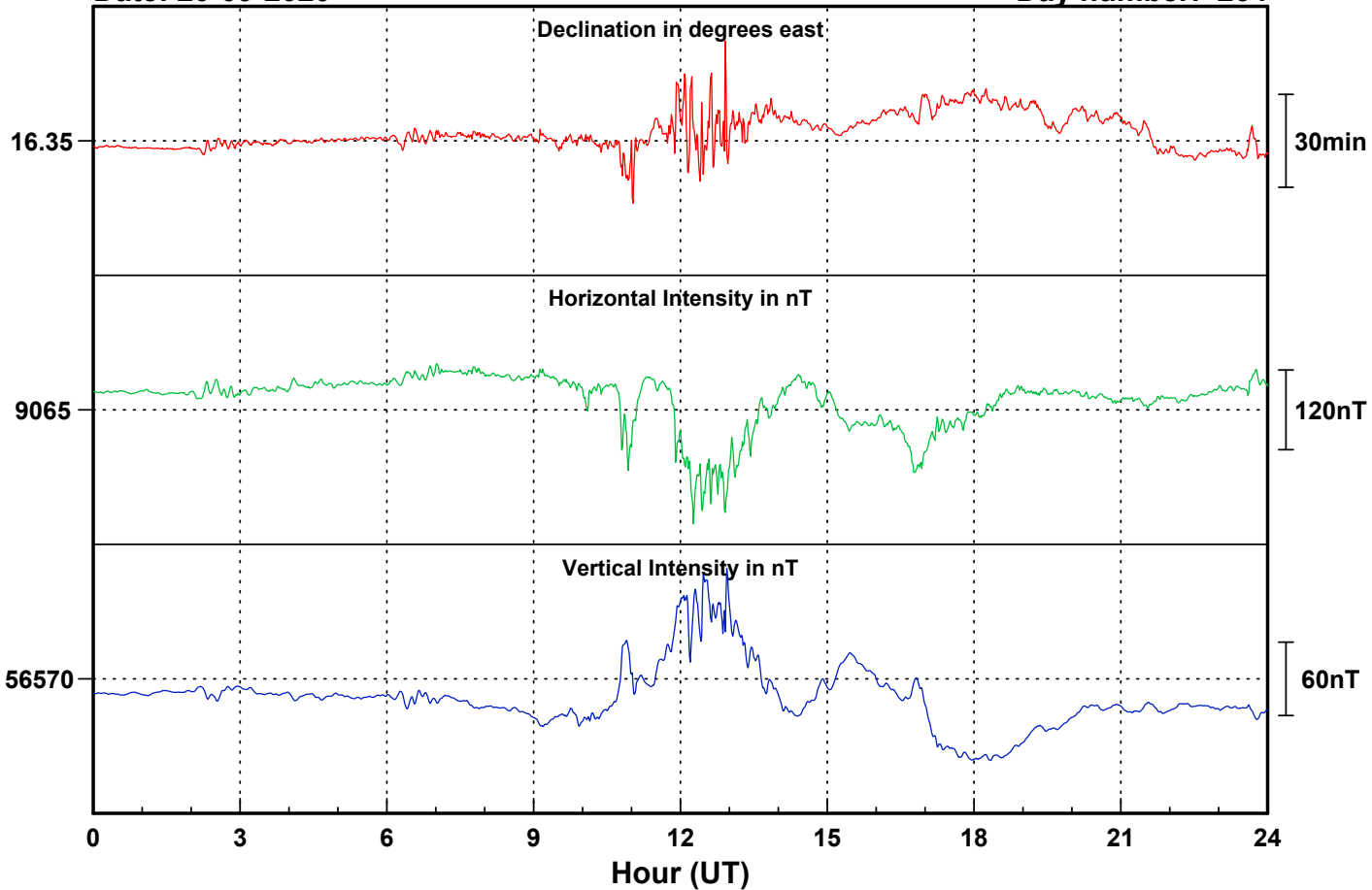
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 263



Date: 20-09-2020

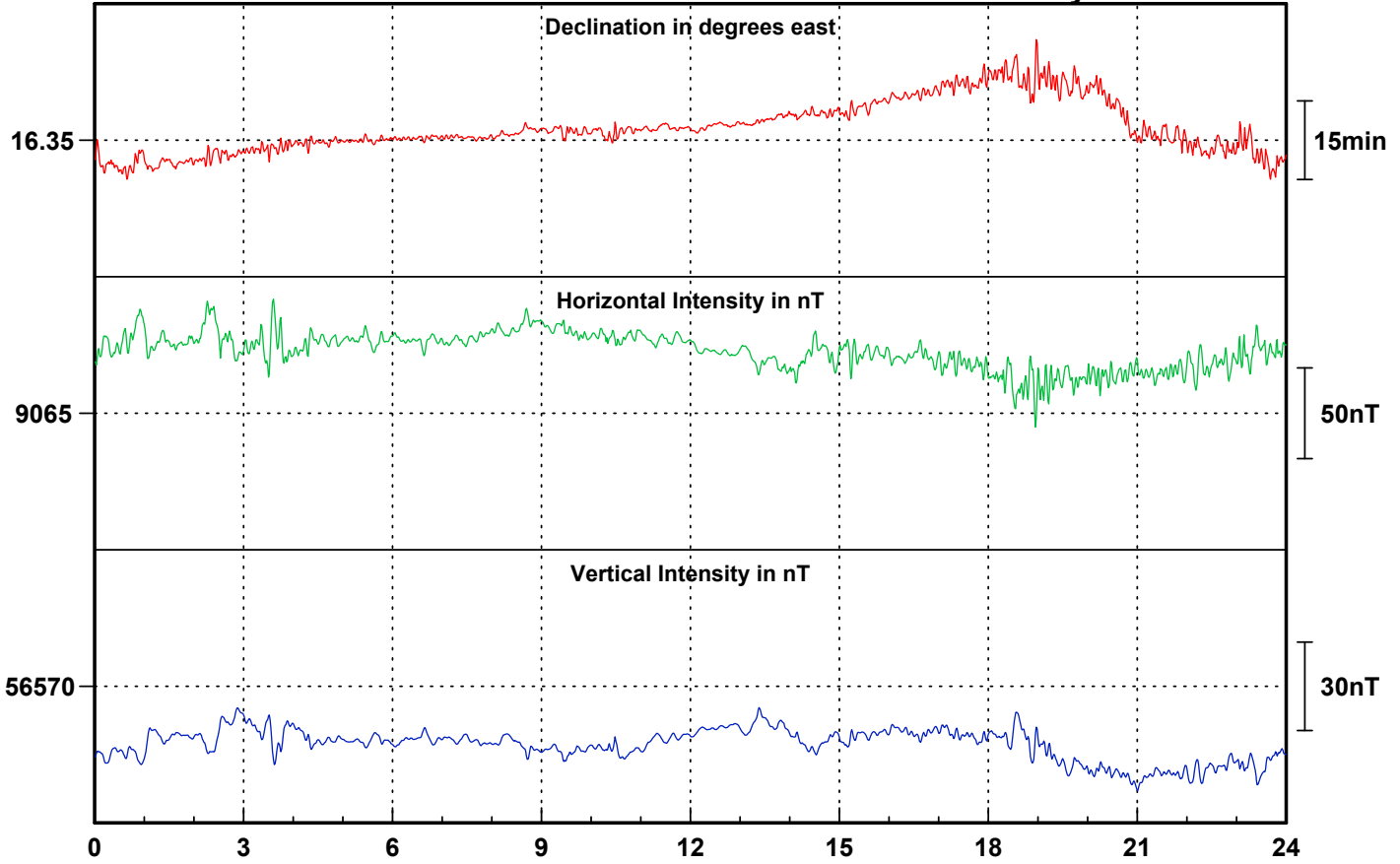
Day number: 264



Date: 21-09-2020

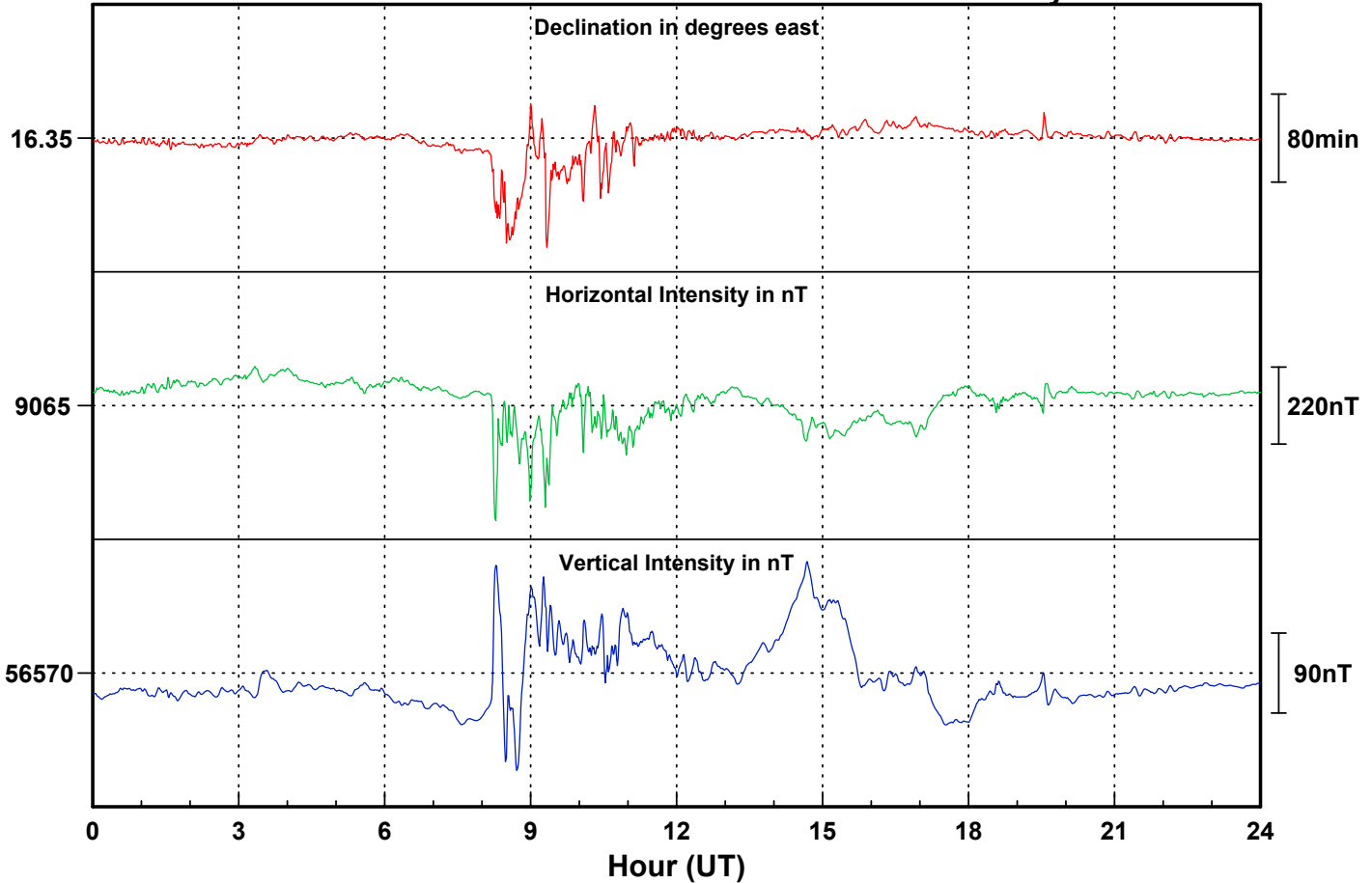
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 265



Date: 22-09-2020

Day number: 266

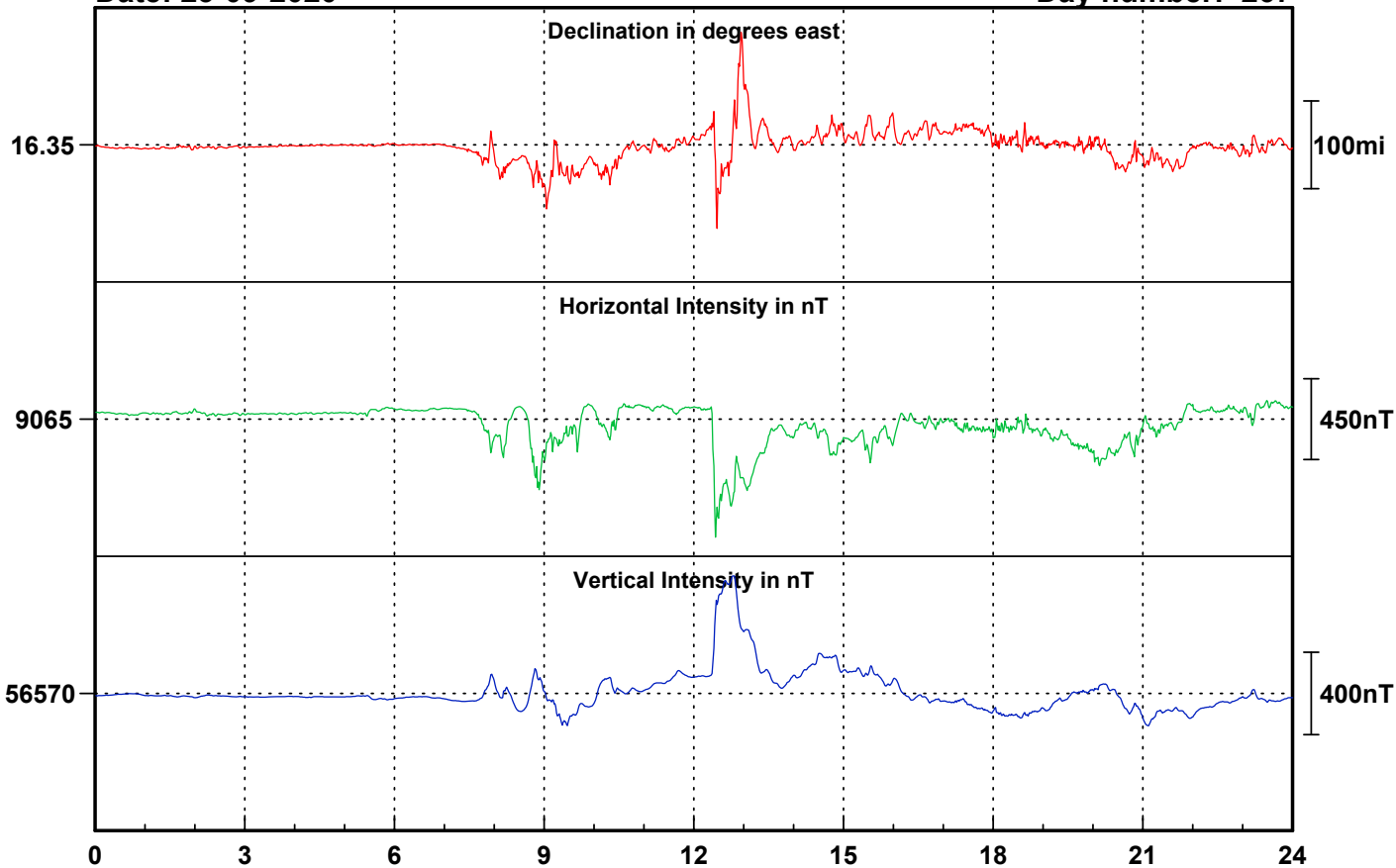


Hour (UT)

Date: 23-09-2020

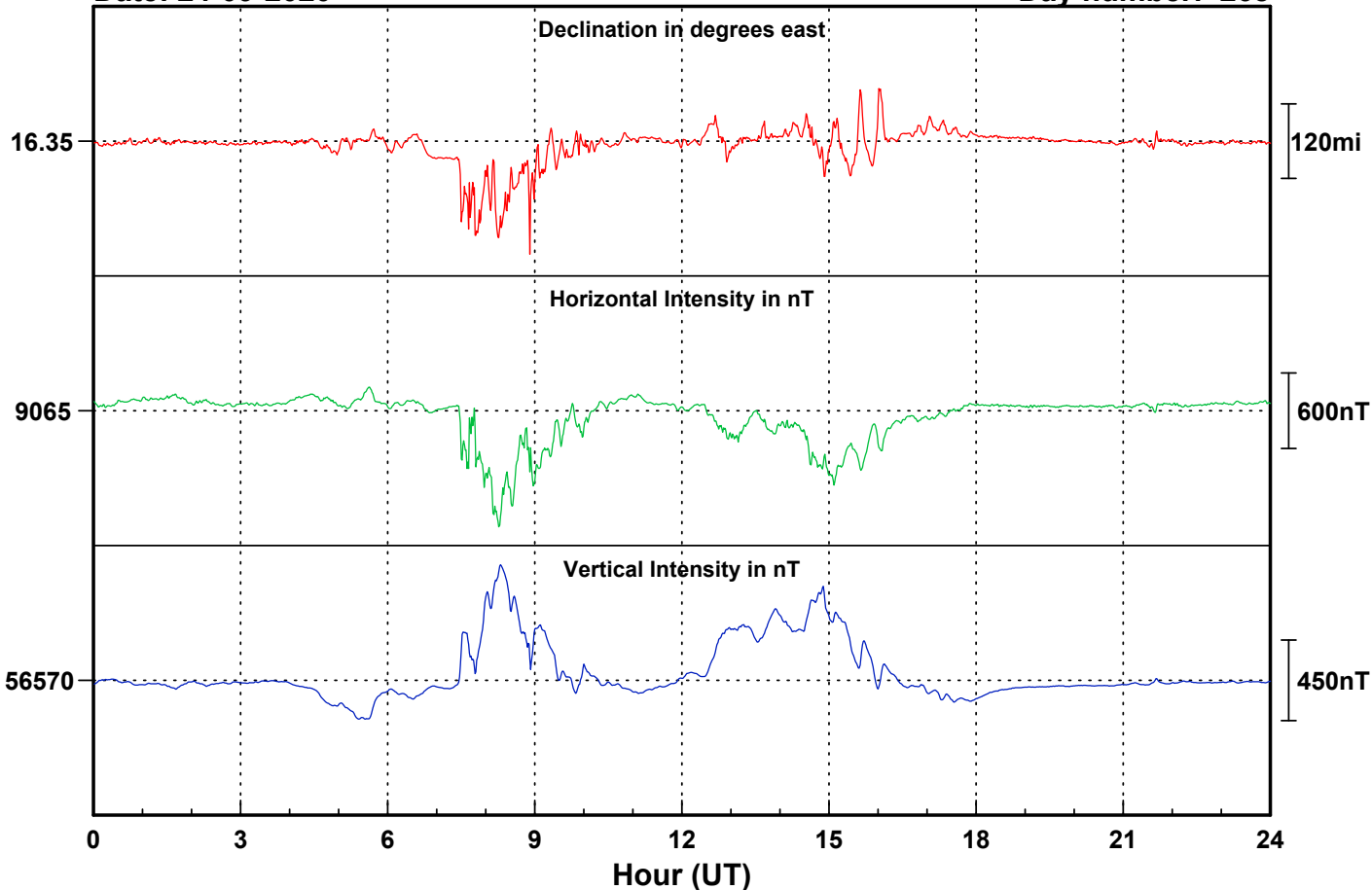
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 267



Date: 24-09-2020

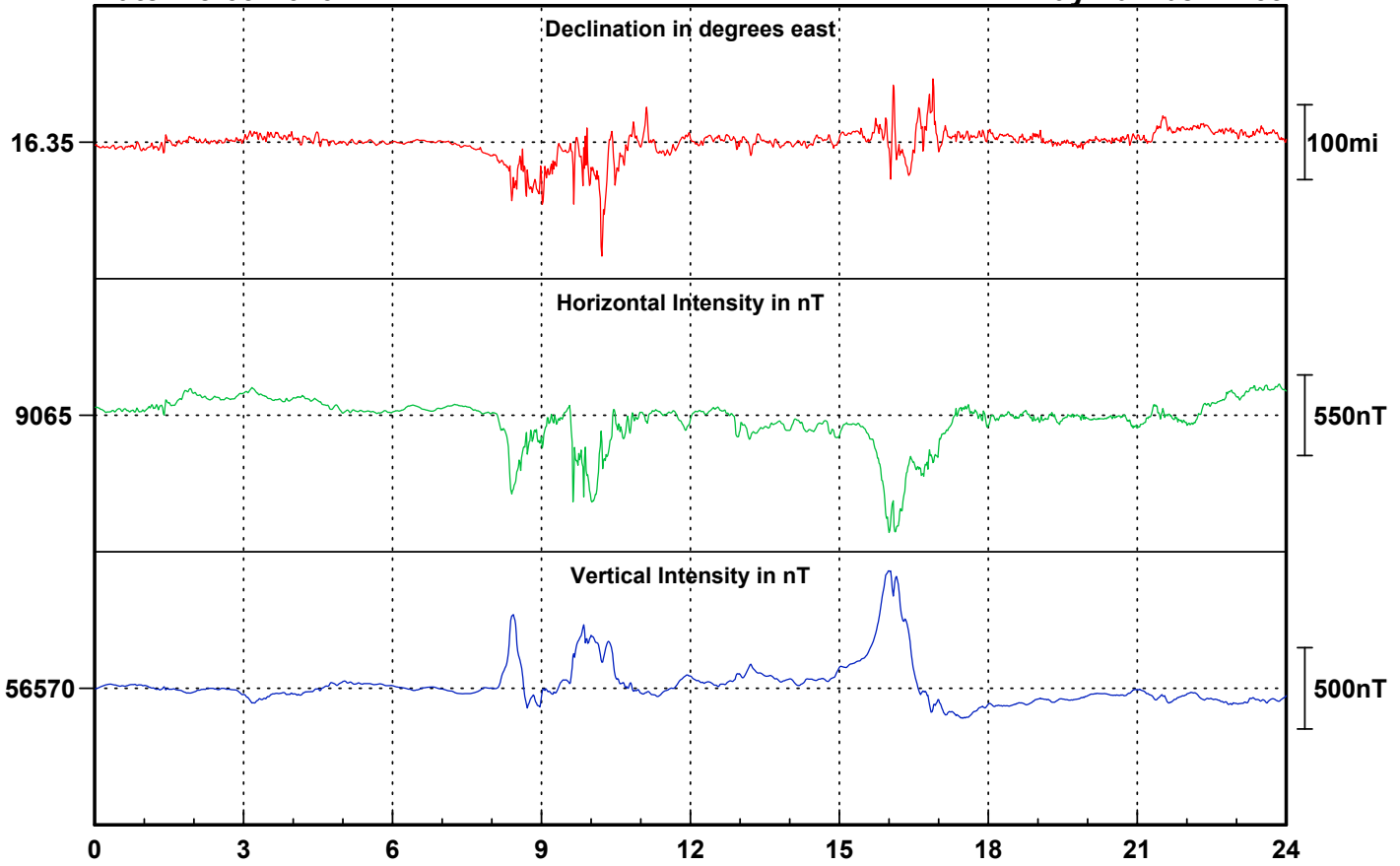
Day number: 268



Date: 25-09-2020

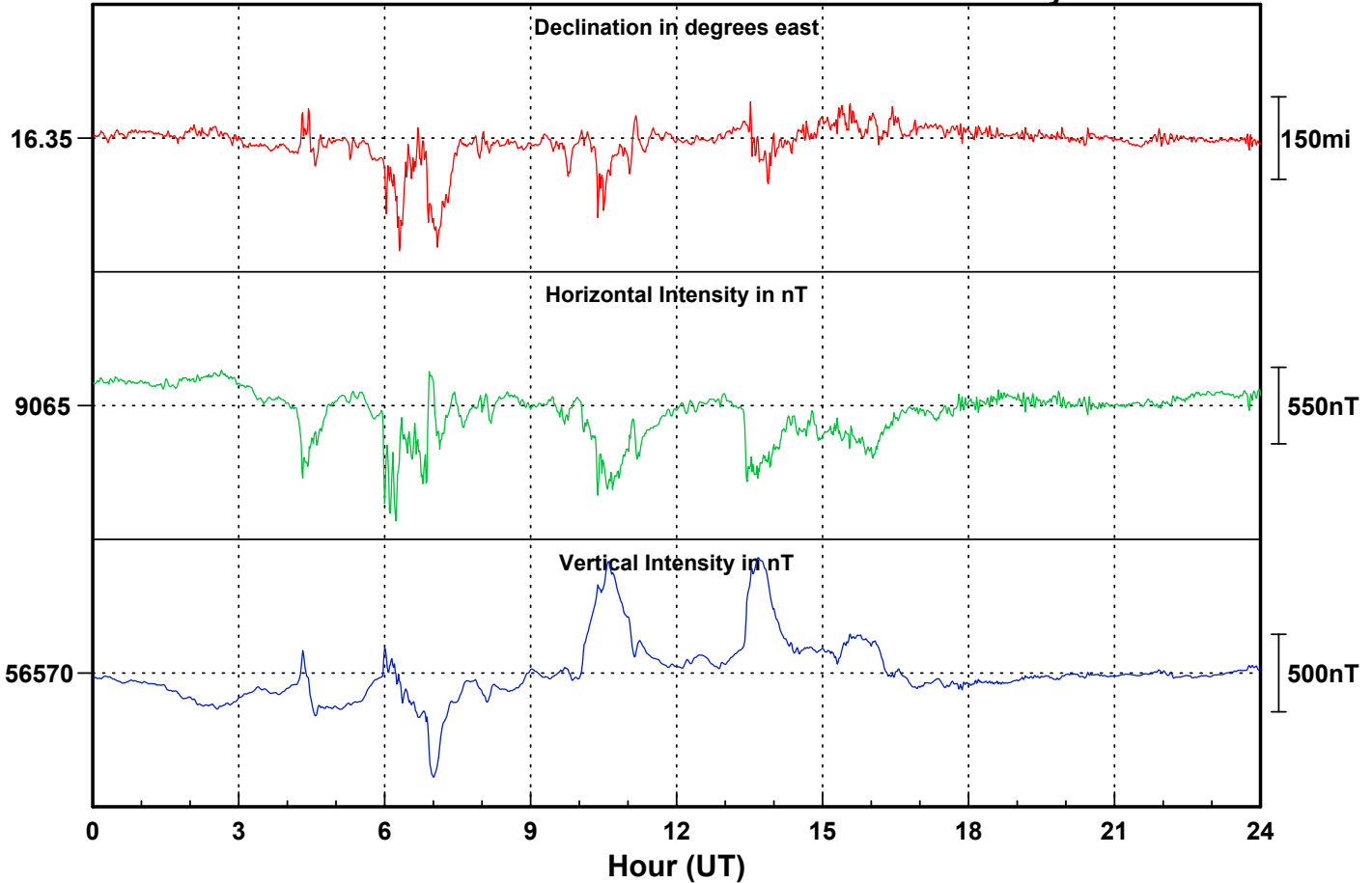
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 269



Date: 26-09-2020

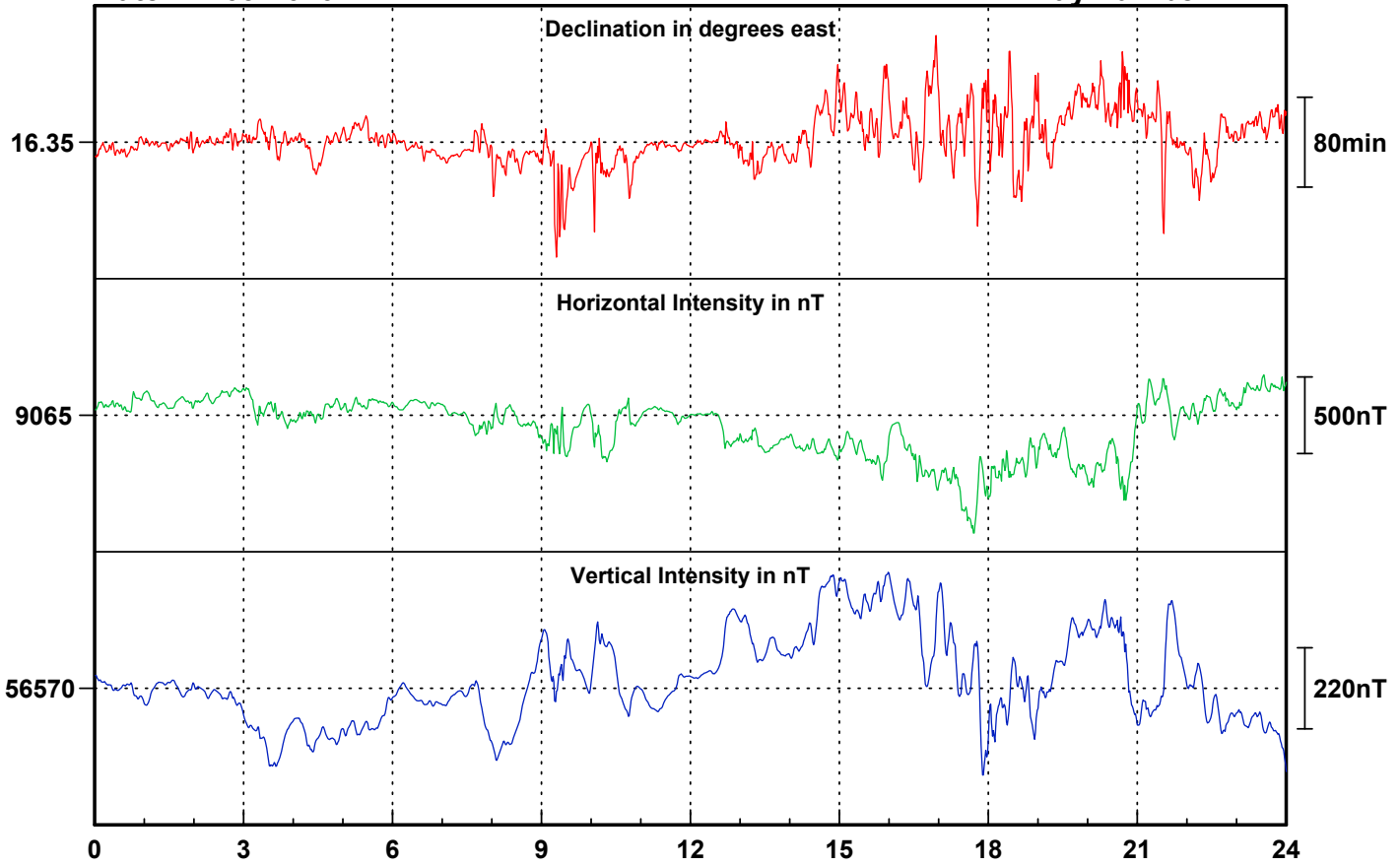
Day number: 270



Date: 27-09-2020

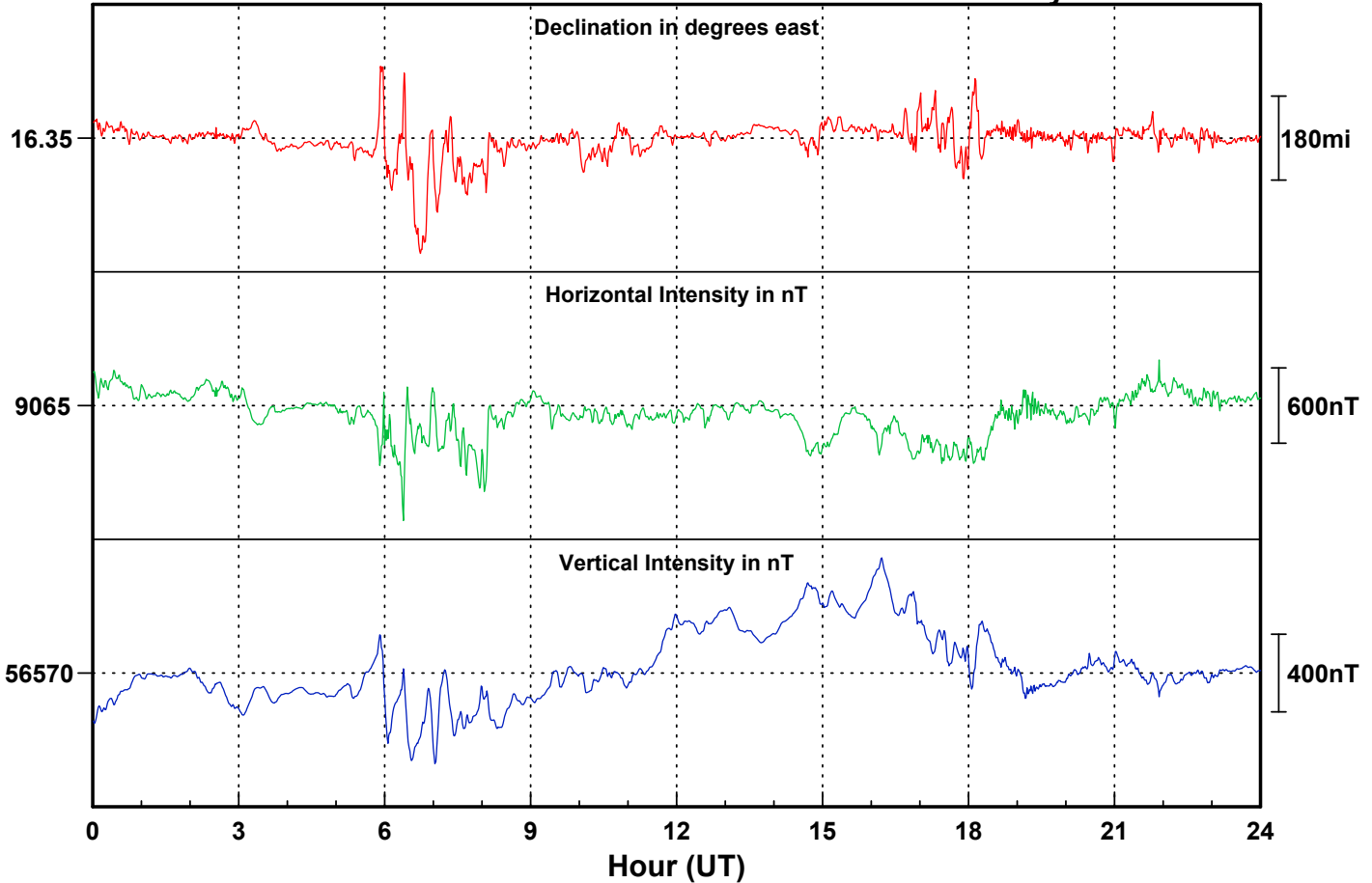
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 271



Date: 28-09-2020

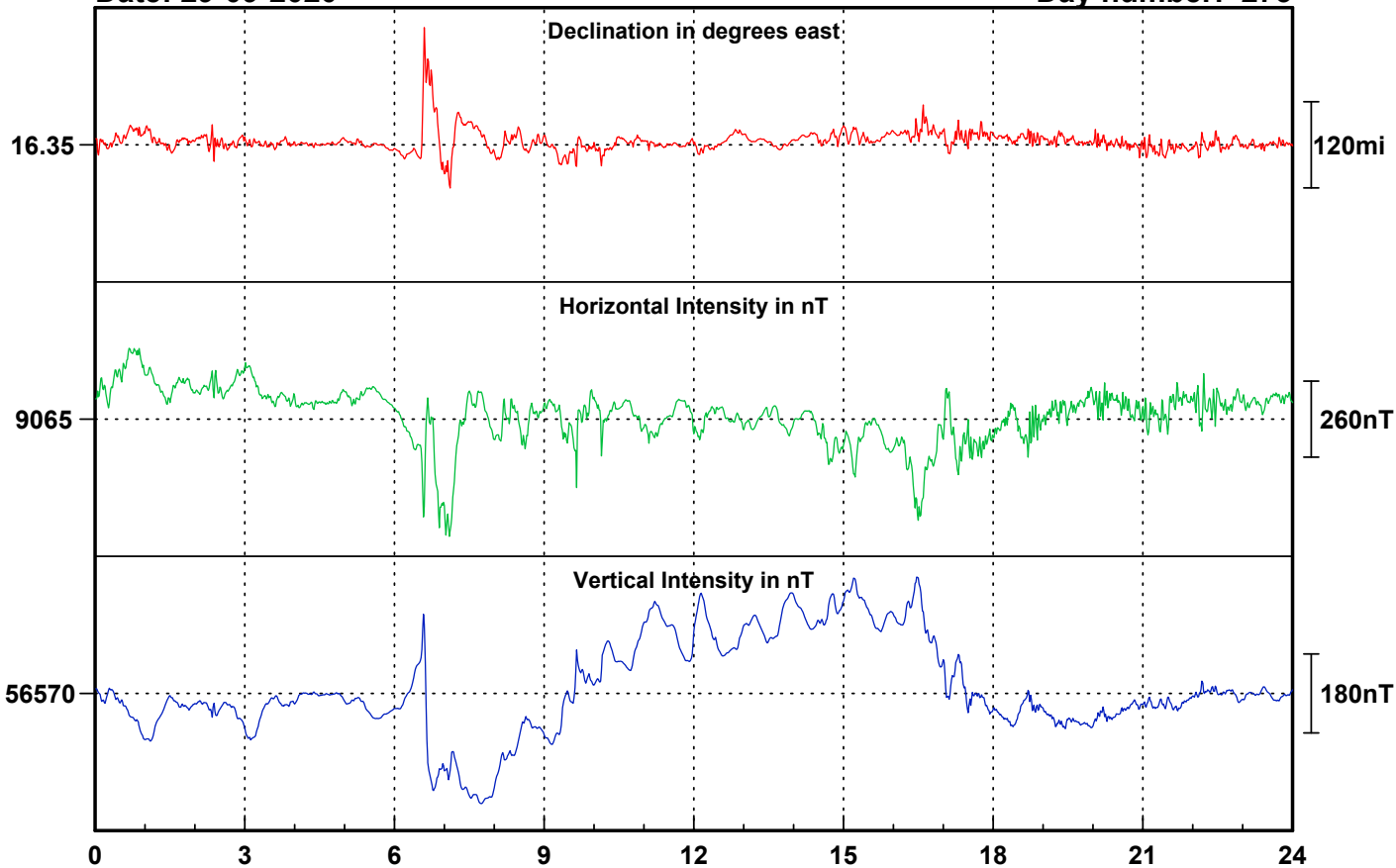
Day number: 272



Date: 29-09-2020

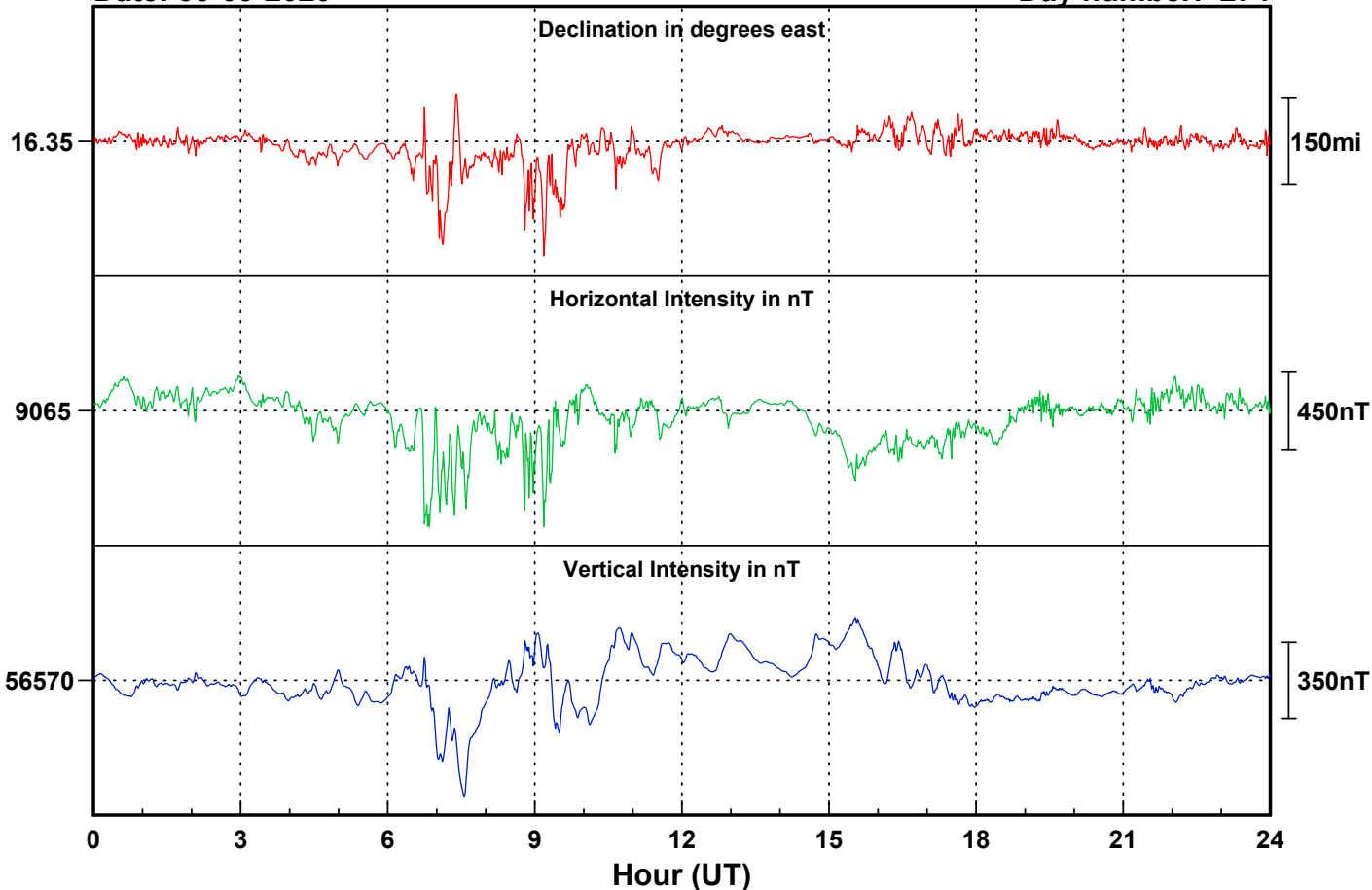
Jim Carrigan

Day number: 273

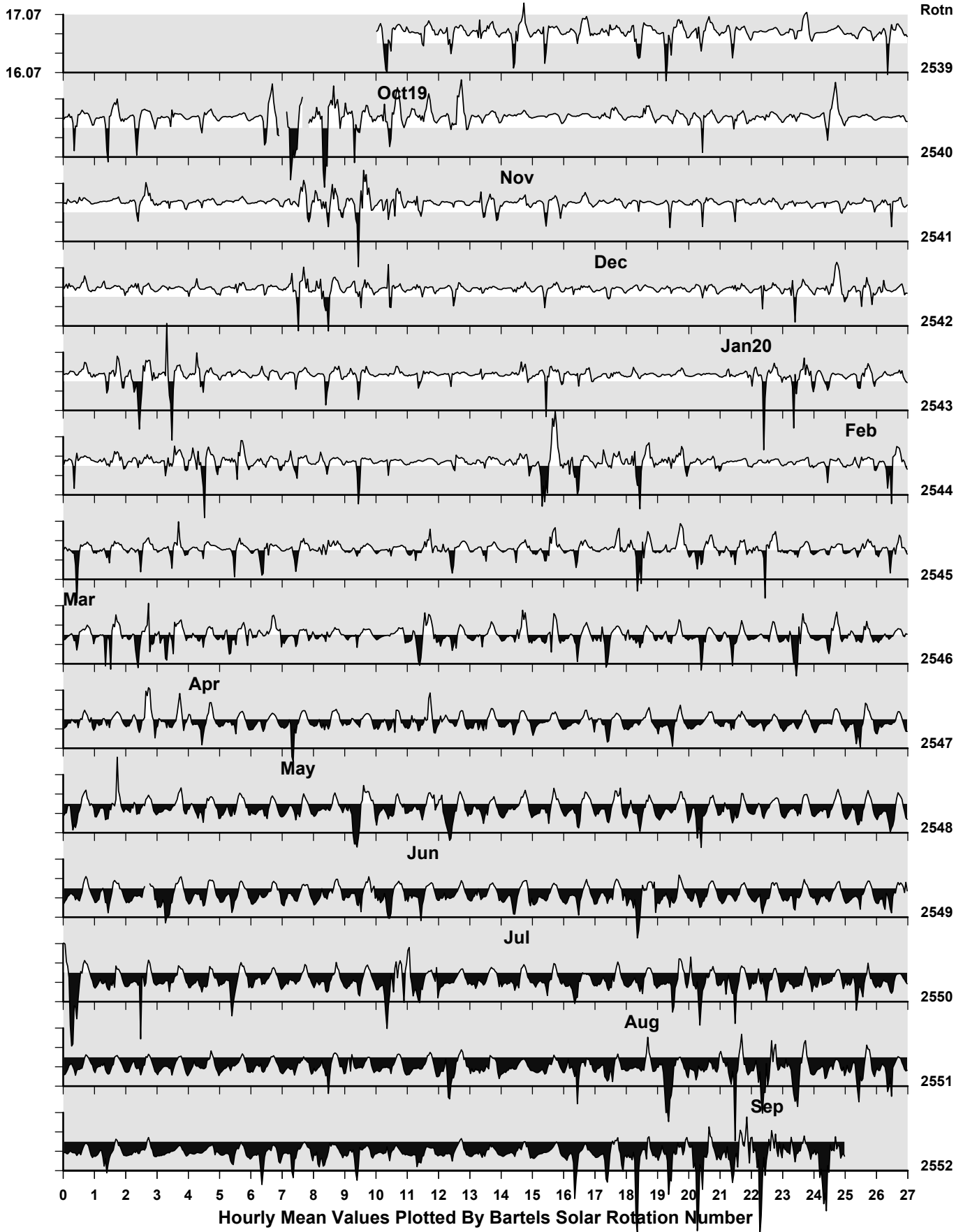


Date: 30-09-2020

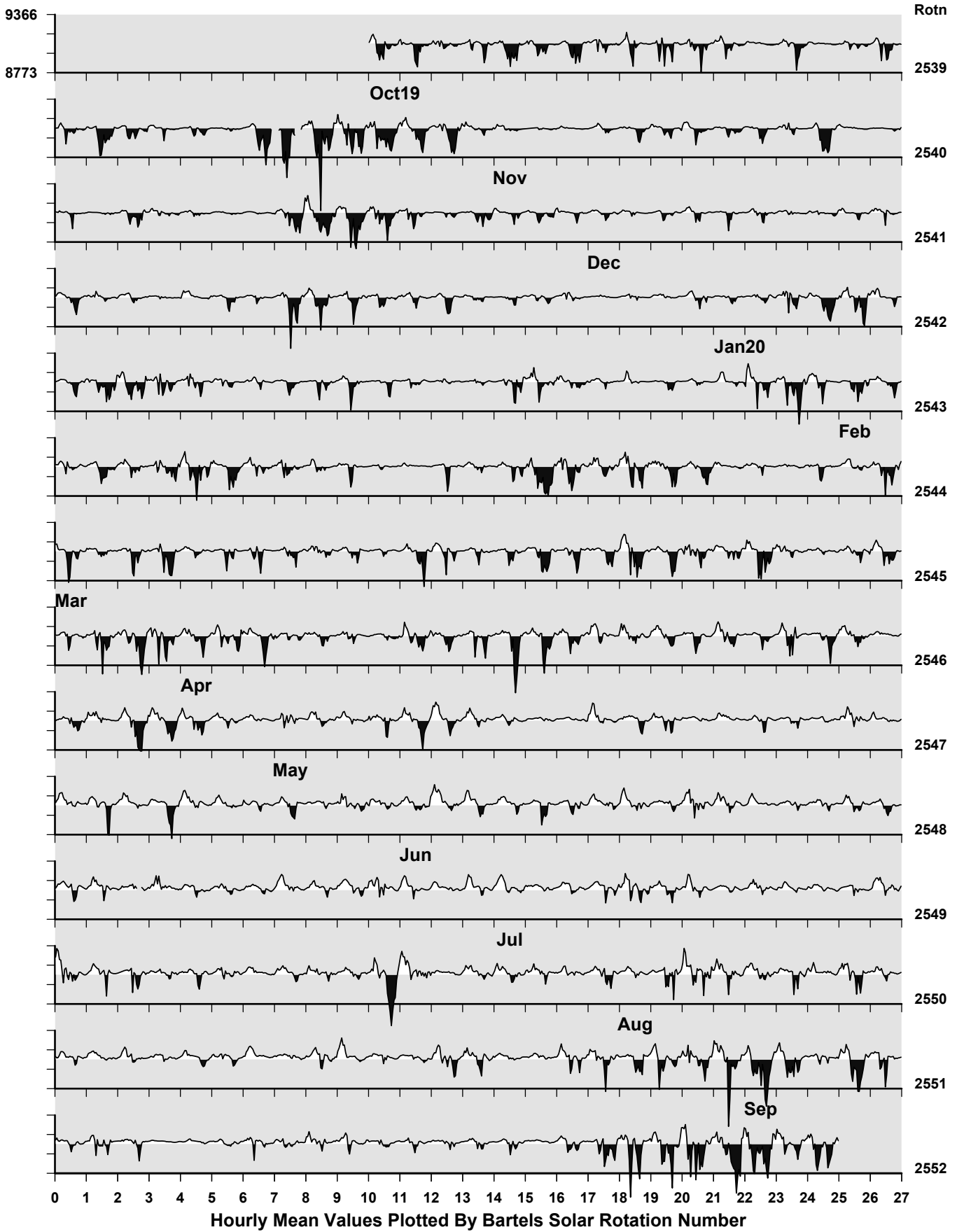
Day number: 274



# Jim Carrigan Observatory: Declination (degrees)



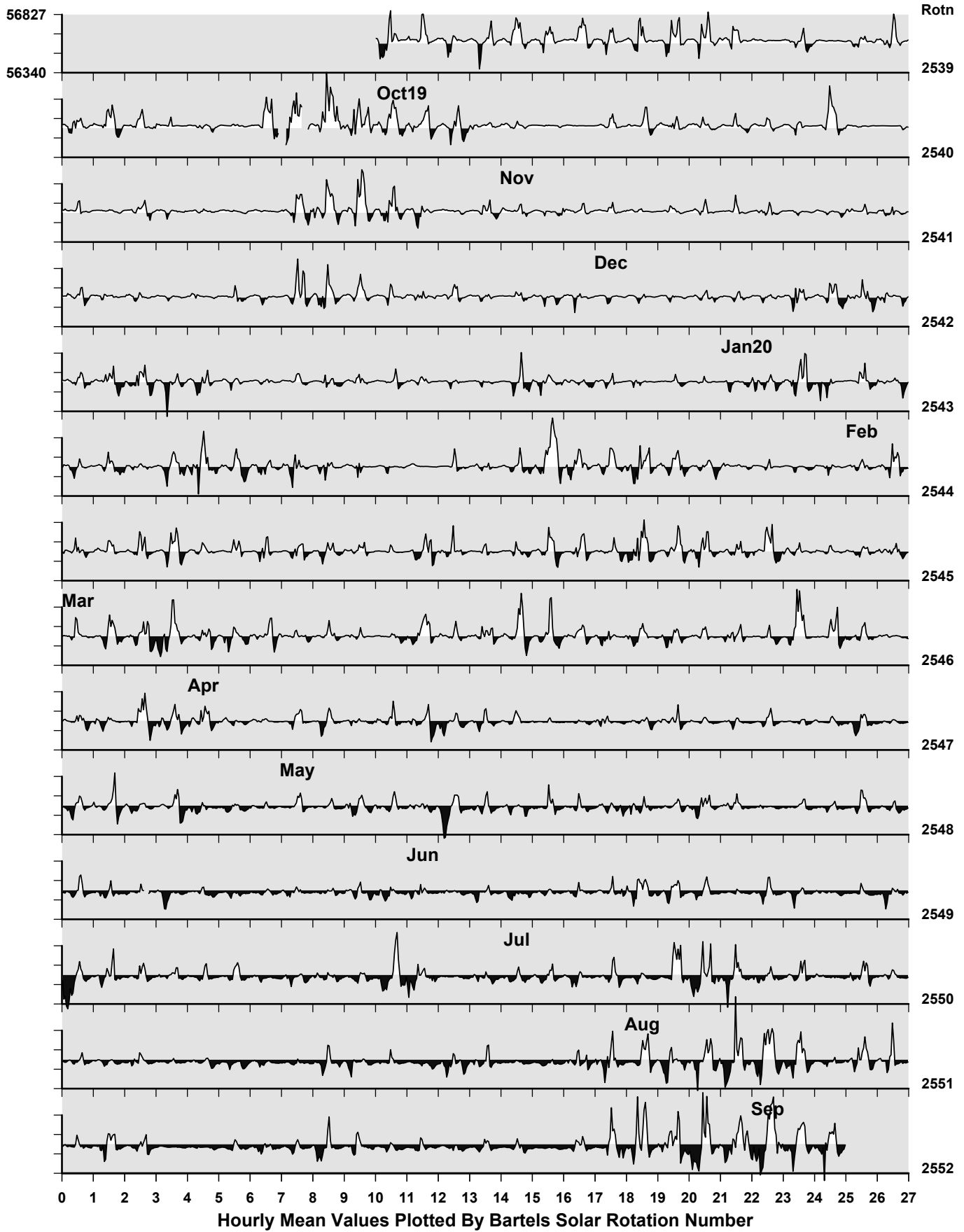
# Jim Carrigan Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT)



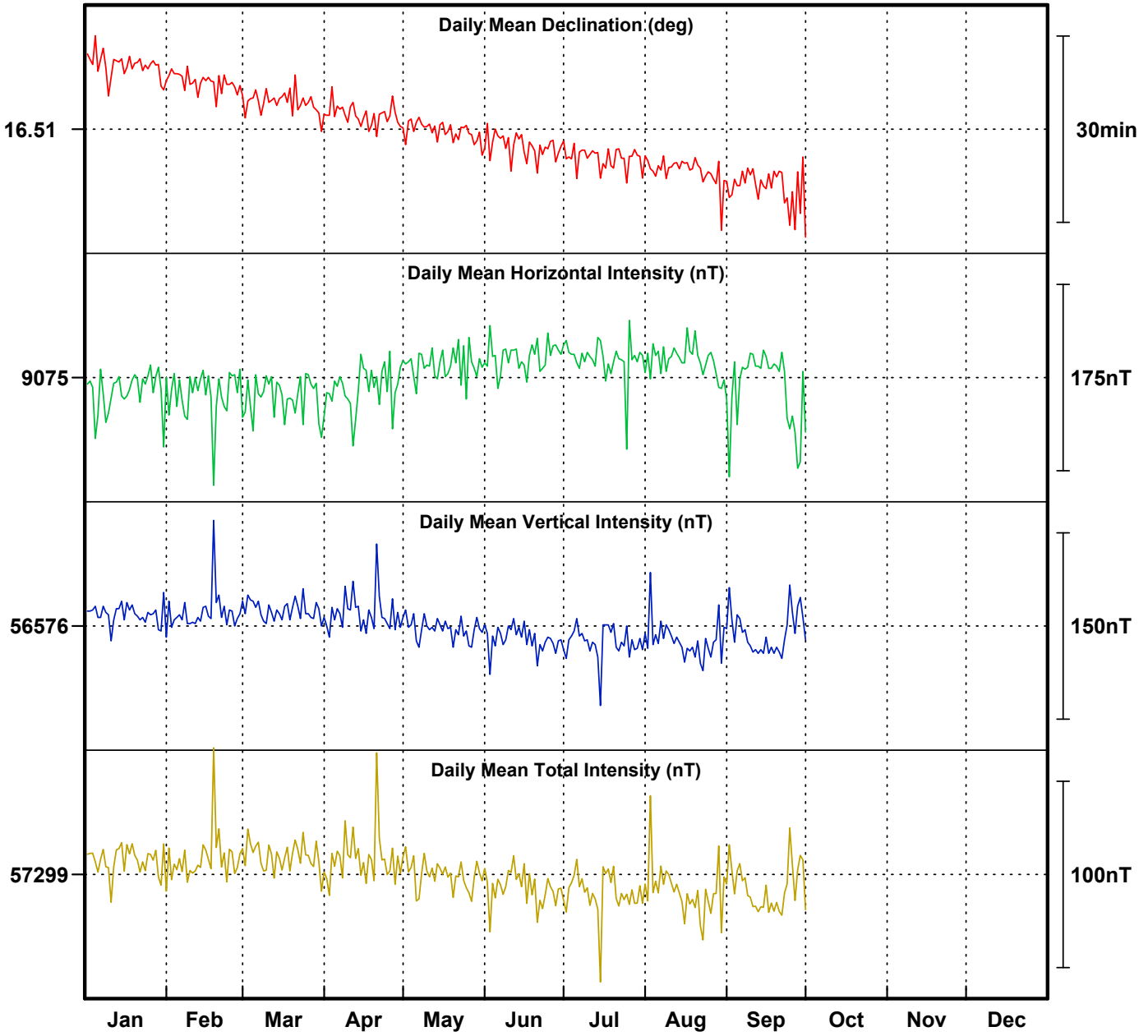
Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number



# Jim Carrigan Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)



# Jim Carrigan Observatory 2020



### Monthly Mean Values for Jim Carrigan Observatory 2020

Month	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>F</i>
January	16° 40.9′	9063 nT	80° 54.0′	8681 nT	2601 nT	56585 nT	57306 nT
February	16° 38.2′	9059 nT	80° 54.3′	8680 nT	2594 nT	56588 nT	57308 nT
March	16° 34.9′	9057 nT	80° 54.4′	8680 nT	2585 nT	56589 nT	57309 nT
April	16° 32.9′	9067 nT	80° 53.8′	8691 nT	2582 nT	56586 nT	57308 nT
May	16° 30.3′	9087 nT	80° 52.5′	8713 nT	2582 nT	56574 nT	57299 nT
June	16° 28.0′	9095 nT	80° 51.9′	8722 nT	2578 nT	56565 nT	57292 nT
July	16° 25.9′	9092 nT	80° 52.1′	8721 nT	2572 nT	56563 nT	57289 nT
August	16° 23.9′	9091 nT	80° 52.2′	8721 nT	2566 nT	56564 nT	57290 nT
September	16° 21.3′	9065 nT	80° 53.8′	8698 nT	2553 nT	56570 nT	57292 nT

#### Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.