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That Lucky Old Sun

“That Lucky Old Sun” was a hit song for Frankie Laine in 1949 and it includes a line about having nothing to do but “roll around heaven all day”. Indeed lately, it has been doing even less than what it usually does. As forecast by solar physicists Penn and Livingston in the 1990s, the Sun’s activity would end its long increase. And reverse to less activity – possibly to an important solar minimum. Solar Cycle 23 was the weakest since the early 1900s and SC 24 is even weaker. The latter has been expected to set its low on the 11-year cycle in late 2019 or into 2020.

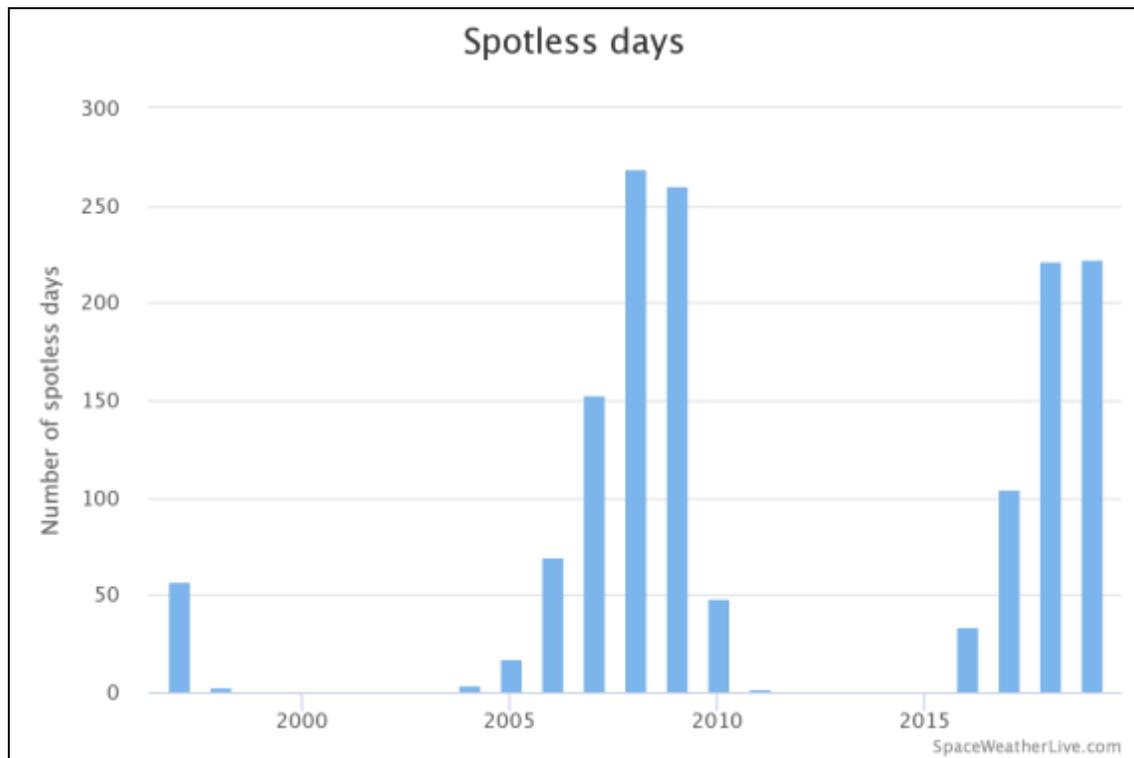
Our quiet Sun is behaving as it should, but now working on a cooling trend, that some researchers are calling the Modern Minimum. Heading in the direction of the Maunder Minimum that was associated with the Little Ice Age (LIA), the transition in climate history has been fascinating.

Political activist Michael Mann has had only two failures. One is that he really did not “disappear” the LIA. The other is that he did not “disappear” the Medieval Warm Period. Both were political operations enabling the transfer money from ordinary folk to experts at the United Nations so they can prevent “Tipping Points”. The dreaded Tipping Points have been a policy bludgeon for some 30 years and could soon lose credibility.

One measure of the solar decline has been the number of days without a sunspot showing. And within this is the number of consecutive such days. Researchers at SILSO keep track and with the current run out to 39 days it is the eleventh best/worst on record. The yet to be updated table shows the ranking:

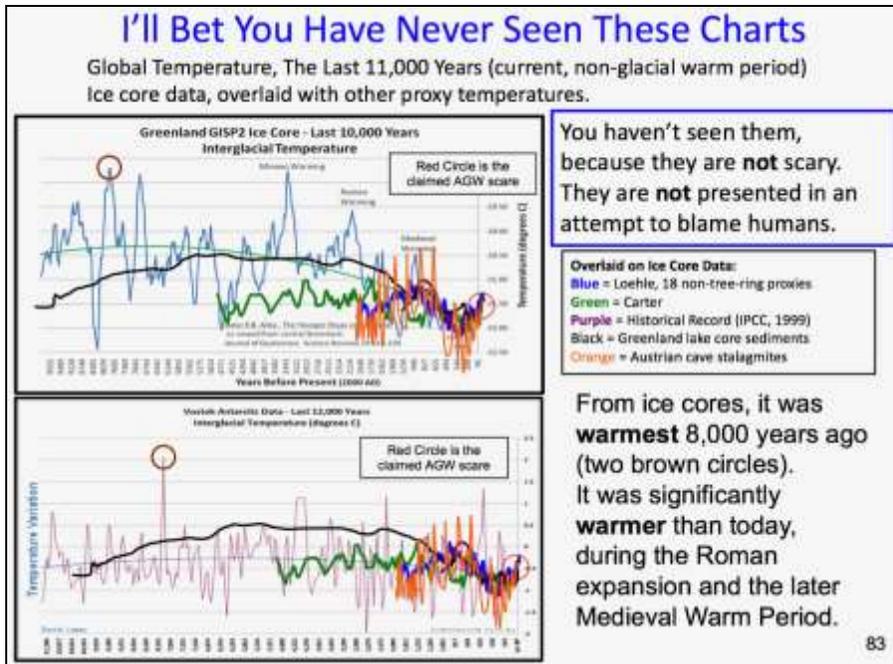
Rank	SC	Begin	End	Days	Rank	SC	Begin	End	Days	Rank	SC	Begin	End	Days
1	15	08 Apr 1913	08 Jul 1913	92	9	10	22 Apr 1856	01 Jun 1856	41	15	11	20 Apr 1867	24 May 1867	35
2	14	11 Mar 1901	18 May 1901	69	10	14	26 Nov 1901	04 Jan 1902	40	16	24	31 Jul 2009	31 Aug 2009	32
3	12	16 Feb 1879	10 Apr 1879	54	11	16	06 Jan 1924	13 Feb 1924	39	17	24	21 Jul 2008	20 Aug 2008	31
4	14	17 Mar 1902	04 May 1902	49	11	15	15 Jul 1913	22 Aug 1913	39	17	17	12 Dec 1933	11 Jan 1934	31
4	10	14 Aug 1855	01 Oct 1855	49	12	11	29 Dec 1866	04 Feb 1867	38	17	15	12 Jul 1912	11 Aug 1912	31
5	12	04 Apr 1878	20 May 1878	47	12	10	12 Dec 1855	18 Jan 1856	38	17	14	25 Nov 1900	25 Dec 1900	31
6	14	16 Jan 1902	01 Mar 1902	45	13	12	17 May 1876	22 Jun 1876	37	18	19	03 Jun 1954	02 Jul 1954	30
6	12	14 Sep 1878	28 Oct 1878	45	13	12	27 Jul 1878	01 Sep 1878	37	18	17	13 Jul 1933	11 Aug 1933	30
7	15	21 Jan 1912	03 Mar 1912	43	14	18	18 Apr 1944	23 May 1944	36	18	14	08 Jul 1902	06 Aug 1902	30
8	23	13 Sep 1996	24 Oct 1996	42	14	17	05 Nov 1933	10 Dec 1933	36					

For the year, the count is up to 280 days or 77% and the following chart needs updating. The max with SC 23 was 268 days or 73% in 2008.

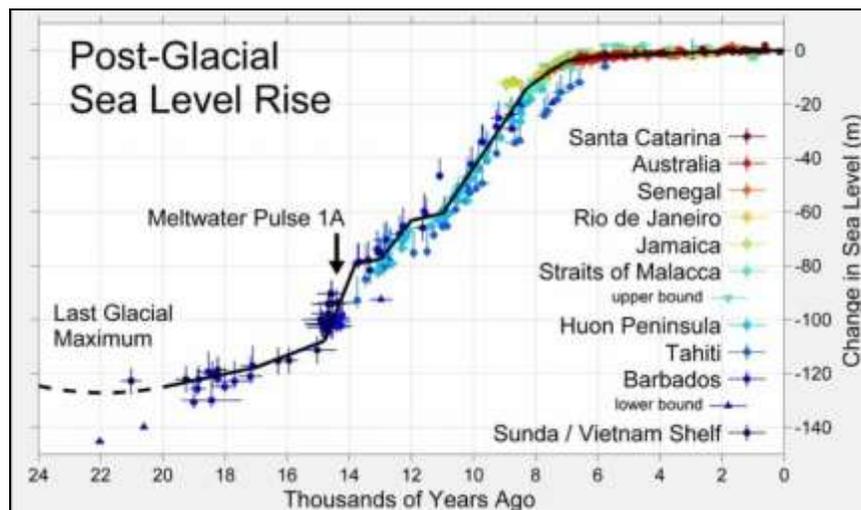


Of course, the importance has been that climate warming trends have been associated with increasing solar activity and the opposite with the regular phases of declining activity. The recently new trend is now a built-in cooling force. And since the advent of our solar system, this has been the main driver of temperature change. Not atmospheric concentrations of trace gasses such as CO₂ or CH₄. The problem with this theory is that it can't explain climate changes before modern industrial society arrived.

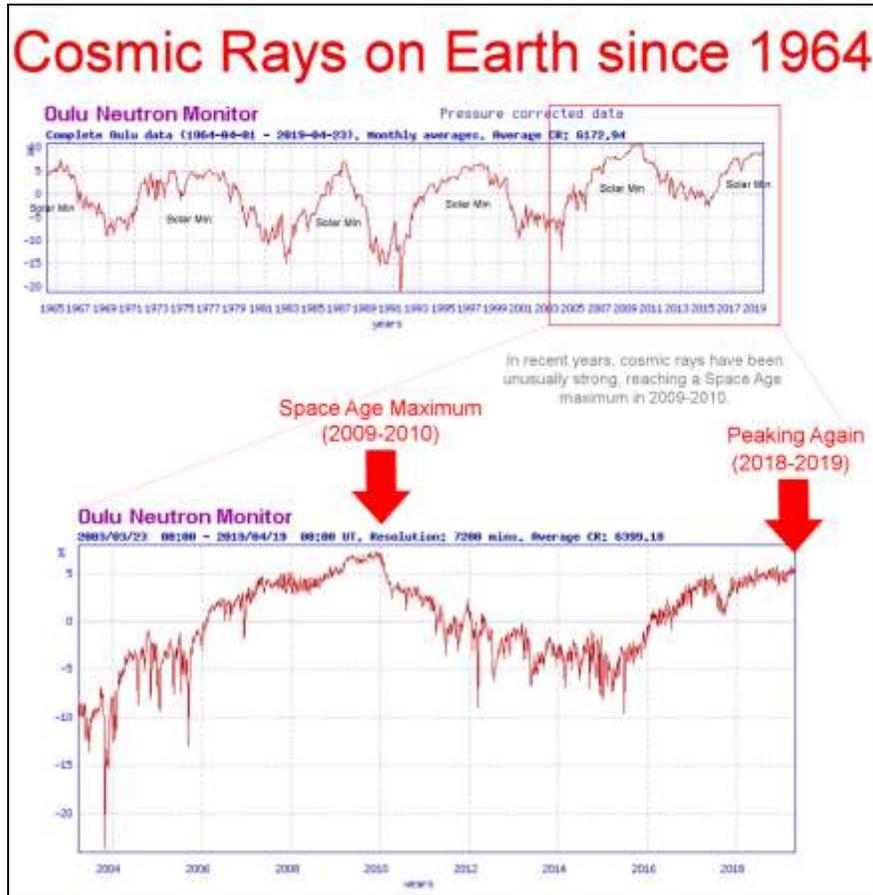
The next chart places the current hysteria about warming in perspective:



The following chart places rising sea levels in perspective. Having to deal with the latent heat required to turn ice to liquid it took a long time and a lot of heat to melt huge amounts of the ice sheet. Ice had to be warmed to the freezing point before it could start melting. Thus the slow rise in sea levels. And as the ice surface diminished so did the amount of heat being reflected and warming sped up to the balmy highs some 8,000 years ago. And sea levels soared beginning some 15,000 years ago. Today's promoters of cause and effect should note that when agriculture began some 8,000 years ago it stopped the rapid rise in sea levels. To be serious, cooling since the Holocene Optimum has seriously slowed the rise in sea levels. Also the formerly extensive ice sheets are much diminished. Chicago is no longer covered by thousands of feet of ice.

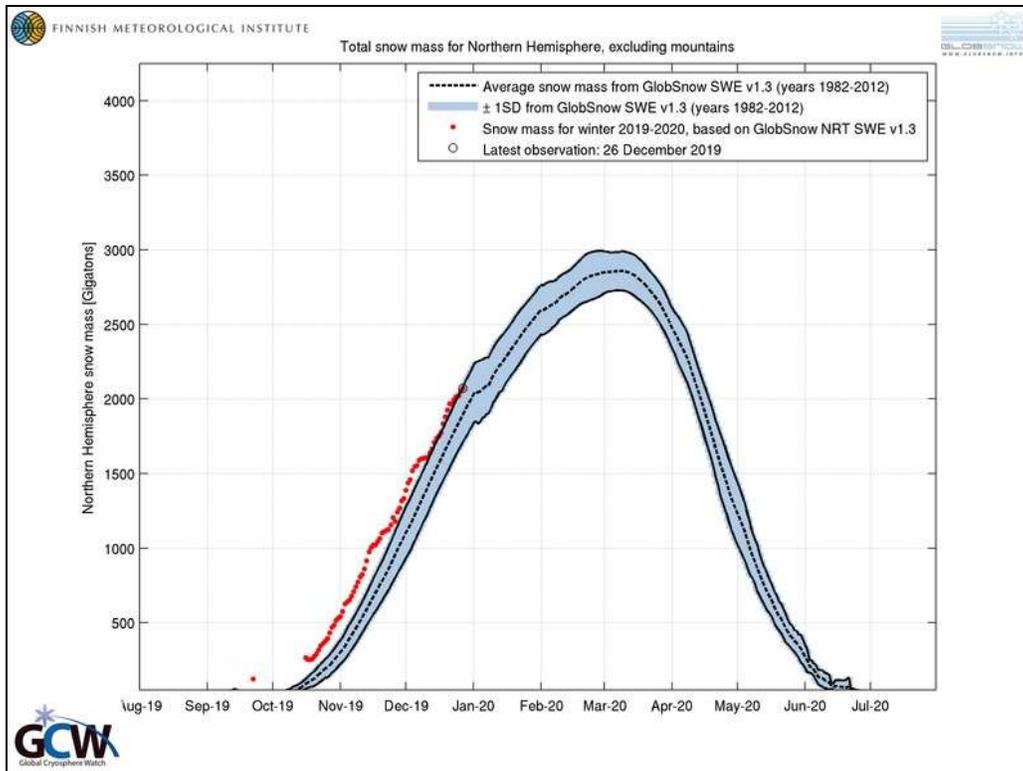


A decade ago Physicist Henrik Svensmark, who was later joined by Nir Shaviv, started the key work on Cosmic Rays and Climate Change. Lower solar activity lets more cosmic rays through which prompts more cloud cover. Which causes cooling and increases precipitation. This chart shows that the theory is working as cosmic ray intensity has been increasing.



Source: SpaceWeather.com

This has been resulting in more of the colder type of precipitation in the Northern Hemisphere. There are reports about unusual amounts of snow early in the ski season in Europe and America. As well as the same in the late ski-season in Australia.



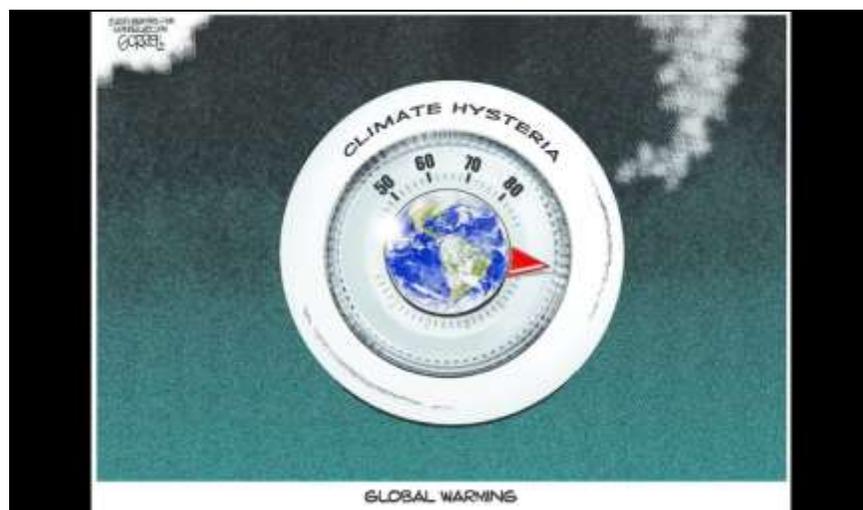
And then there are a couple of headlines about weather:

“New Zealand: Coldest October in Seven Years”

And:

“Norway: Coldest October in Ten Years”

As to today’s whipped-up hysteria about weather, the following cartoon is descriptive.



Finally, there is the list of climate hysteria headlines as presented by Anthony Watts at WUWT:

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/07/29/a-brief-history-of-climate-panic-and-crisis-both-warming-and-cooling/>

It has been widely accepted that SC 24 would reach its lowest in late 2019-early 2020. Recently, the change to SC 25 could have started. One of distinctions of the new one coming in is the change of magnetic polarity of the sunspots. Which was the case with a couple of spots that appeared on Christmas Eve.

The other indicator will be an increase in such spots when eventually the new cycle will be underway. As in all cycles, time will tell, and if it has changed it could peak in 2025. Or thereabouts.