



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida  
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341  
W4AC Repeater – 444.100 MHz & 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL  
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- OCTOBER 2011 --

## -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

The past month has been a rather busy one for me. For one thing, I spent 9 to 11 September out in Torrance, CA for HAMCON 2011, the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention.



As reported by the *CQ Newsroom*, FlexRadio had an impressive booth at HAMCON 2011, with multiple flat screens set up for convention visitors to see what the company's software-defined radio (SDR) products can do. Of course, that's where I spent my time.

I'm really happy with the association we are developing with Steve Case-WC4SE and Bob Lash-W4LRL, the two faculty sponsors of the Venice High School Ham Radio Club-W4VHS. Steve and Rob have both jumped into ham radio wholeheartedly and they are truly enthusiastic about being on the air and getting students interested in the Club. Steve and his wife, Gina-W4GGI both have joined the TARC, and our Kenwood TS-440S is now in service at W4VHS. We look forward to doing whatever we can to assist Steve, Rob and the W4VHS members—especially when they move to their new quarters on the VHS campus. There's no question but that we need young people in ham radio, for they are the future of this great avocation.

I also appreciate the effort that Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB puts in preparing the programs he's been offering us. TNX, Hans!

73 to All de Stew Haag-W4MO

## -- OCTOBER MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **12 October 2011** at the Coast Guard Auxiliary Training Center, 1200 South Harbor Drive, just west of the Venice Airport. Following the business meeting, Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB will present a program that we're confident you will find of interest. So, come on out!!

## -- SEPTEMBER MEETING TURNOUT --



We had 21 members and friends at our September meeting—a pretty good turnout for the summertime.



Speaking of Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB, here he is in action with his PP presentation of "Greatest Inventors" at our 14 September meeting. Vic Ouellete-K1CGI is manning the projector.

## TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

14 September 2011

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Bill Thoennissen-WB9BTL, Rob Lash-W4LRL, Steve Case-WC4SE and Mike Lechky of Venice were welcomed as visitors.

**MINUTES** – A motion to accept the minutes of the 10 August 2011 meeting as published in the September 2011 issue of *The Communicator* was made by Bob Sullenberger-K1RCS, seconded by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, and passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS reported that he had just received a signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Coast Guard Flotilla 86 and the TARC which contains an amendment which confirms that the second Wednesday night of each month is reserved for our meetings.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE read the Treasurer's Report for August. The starting balance was \$2923.38. Receipts were \$14.00 from the July 50/50. Expenses were \$14.91 for Internet service and \$178.20 for our web site for three years, totaling \$193.11. The ending balance is \$2744.27. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX moved for acceptance of the report, seconded by Charlie Covell-W4DB, and passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SUNSHINE** – Stew-W4MO reported that he had talked to Martin Zippe-AF4ID/DJ6OM and that Martin had just undergone his first chemotherapy treatment. Jack-W4JS reported receiving an e-mail from Bob Miller-KJ4NLP who is also undergoing cancer treatment.

**VE TESTING** – No candidates came in for our 10 September VE session.

**REPEATER/TECHNICAL** – The 146 and 444 MHz repeaters are operational in both analog and digital modes. The remote Flex 3000 is in service. Anyone wishing to access the Flex needs to utilize "Team Viewer" and Skype.

**CLUB PROPERTY** – The inventory of club property has not changed.

**PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP** – San Yoder-K3SY was not present, however, the updated roster indicates we have a total of 68 members.

**NET OPERATIONS** – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present but it was commented that turnout for our nets remains very poor.

**LIAISON TO QCWA** – Some 13 members and spouses of Suncoast Chapter 53 enjoyed lunch 07 September at the Panda Pavilion. We will resume our 2011-2012 season with our luncheon/business meeting 05 October at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Nothing carried over.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Jack-W4JS stated that he had been storing the TARC's TS-440S for several years, i.e., it has been of use to no one. It is known that Steve Case-WC4SE, one of the two faculty sponsors of the Venice High School Ham Radio Club-W4VHS intends to become a member of the TARC. Steve and co-sponsor Rob Lash-W4LRL have installed a new multiband vertical at the school and the students have been fascinated by hearing foreign DX stations. However, the borrowed radio they are using is not stable and often drifts off frequency. Jack then asked for a motion to approve loaning the TS-440S to the VHS club for use until it acquires a good radio for use. Fred Lathwood-KJ4TNI so moved, with a second by Charlie Covell-W4DB.

Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX asked if the equipment would be kept secure and inaccessible unless the sponsors were present, and he was assured that has been the case in the past and would remain so. The membership then passed the motion. Rob Lash-W4LRL thanked the membership for their support.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** – Vic Ouellette-K1CGE announced that the Sarasota Power Squadron plans to sponsor a Technician training class in October, at a cost of \$55 per person. The Bradenton ARC and the SERC also have plans for such training at some later time.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM was made by Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX, seconded by Peter Pesa-N4RD, and passed. There were 17 members and four visitors present.

**PROGRAM** – Hans Napfel-WB2ZZB showed a quite informative Power Point presentation he had prepared, entitled "Greatest Inventors."

Jack Sproat-W4JS  
Secretary

### -- A BIT OF HUMOR --

A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

## CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

### CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY

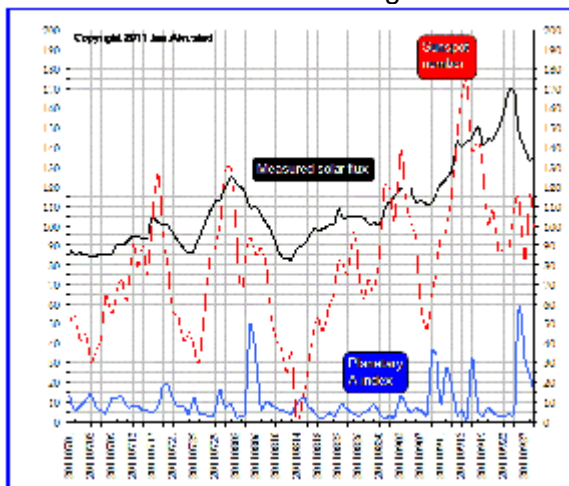
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (UTC)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Papua New Guinea – P29FR; ++ by I2KRR	Now Active	283	<b>08-12</b>	<b>07-13</b>	<b>07-13</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>20-01</b>	<b>20-00</b>	<b>20-23</b>	21-22
Mayotte – FH8NX; ++	Now Active	85	--	--	--	<b>17-00</b>	<b>15-22</b>	<b>13-20</b>	<b>13-19</b>	15-17
Afghanistan – T6RH, T6BP, T6RH, etc.	Now Active	26	<b>00-02</b>	<b>22-03</b>	<b>22-03</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>13-15</b>	13-15	1400	1400
Macquarie Is – VK0KEV, VK0TH	Now Active	220	<b>07-12</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>04-12</b>	<b>00-09</b>	22-02	00-01	03-06	NO
Somalia – T5/TA1AMC	Now to 30 Nov	66	<b>22-03</b>	<b>21-04</b>	<b>22-04</b>	<b>17-01</b>	<b>14-22</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19
Malawi – 7Q7HB	Now to 23 Nov	90	<b>23-04</b>	<b>22-04</b>	<b>22-05</b>	<b>18-00</b>	<b>16-22</b>	<b>13-21</b>	<b>14-19</b>	16-17
New Zealand - ZL4RUGBY; 2011 World Cup	Now to 31 Oct	236	<b>06-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>00-06</b>	<b>18-01</b>	<b>20-01</b>	<b>22-00</b>	00-01
East Kiribati – T32C; Team Operation	Now to 26 Oct	267	<b>04-12</b>	<b>02-14</b>	<b>01-14</b>	<b>16-02</b>	<b>17-01</b>	<b>17-00</b>	<b>17-23</b>	18-21
Botswana – A22EW	Now to 18 Oct	105	--	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>17-23</b>	<b>13-21</b>	<b>13-20</b>	<b>14-17</b>	15-16
Vanuatu – YJ0ABP, YJ0ANR	Now to 14 Oct	262	<b>06-12</b>	<b>05-14</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>13-15</b>	<b>19-01</b>	<b>19-01</b>	<b>20-23</b>	21-22
Vanuatu – YJ0VK; Team Operation	Now to 12 Oct	262	<b>06-12</b>	<b>05-14</b>	<b>05-13</b>	<b>01-03</b>	<b>19-01</b>	<b>19-01</b>	<b>20-23</b>	21-22
Market Reef – OJ0X; two stations, team op.	Now to 11 Oct	31	<b>23-08</b>	<b>20-11</b>	21-00	<b>12-19</b>	<b>13-17</b>	14-16	<b>14-18</b>	NO
Rotuma Is – 3D2R; International Team op.	Now to 07 Oct	263	<b>06-12</b>	<b>04-14</b>	<b>04-14</b>	<b>13-03</b>	<b>18-02</b>	<b>18-01</b>	<b>19-00</b>	<b>19-23</b>
Micronesia – V63DX, V63T	03 to 08 October	293	--	<b>06-13</b>	<b>06-13</b>	<b>13-16</b>	<b>20-00</b>	<b>20-23</b>	<b>20-22</b>	21-22
Reunion Is – FR/DJ7RJ	04 to 26 October	91	<b>23-02</b>	<b>22-03</b>	<b>22-03</b>	<b>18-22</b>	<b>17-20</b>	16-19	<b>15-18</b>	15-18
Malta – 9H3KX	08 to 14 October	55	<b>22-06</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>20-07</b>	<b>12-01</b>	<b>13-19</b>	<b>14-18</b>	<b>15-18</b>	15-18
Temotu - H40KJ; ** and RTTY	08 to 21 October	270	<b>06-12</b>	<b>06-13</b>	<b>05-14</b>	<b>13-15</b>	<b>19-01</b>	<b>19-00</b>	<b>20-23</b>	20-21
Tahiti Is – TX3T; by Ukrainian/Russian team	16 to 19 October	243	<b>03-12</b>	<b>01-14</b>	<b>02-13</b>	<b>15-03</b>	<b>16-01</b>	<b>16-00</b>	<b>17-00</b>	<b>18-22</b>
South Cook Is – E51NOU; **	17 Oct to 07 Nov	246	<b>04-12</b>	<b>02-14</b>	<b>02-14</b>	<b>15-06</b>	<b>16-01</b>	<b>17-00</b>	<b>17-00</b>	<b>18-22</b>
Guinea – 3XY1D; 5 stations, Int'l Team	18 Oct to 01 Nov	90	<b>22-07</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>12-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>15-19</b>	17-18
Marquesas Is – TX7M; Ukrainian/Russian op.	19 Oct to 01 Nov	245	<b>02-12</b>	<b>00-14</b>	<b>00-15</b>	<b>13-08</b>	<b>15-01</b>	<b>15-01</b>	<b>15-00</b>	<b>16-23</b>
Cocos-Keeling Is – VK9CX	19 Oct to 09 Nov	3	NO	<b>22-23</b>	NO	<b>13-20</b>	<b>13-18</b>	<b>14-16</b>	15-16	15-16
Sao Tome & Principe – S92DX, CW & SX	21 to 27 October	90	<b>22-06</b>	<b>21-07</b>	<b>20-07</b>	<b>12-00</b>	<b>12-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>15-19</b>
Niue – ZK2V	21 Oct to 31 Dec	252	<b>05-12</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>03-14</b>	<b>17-01</b>	<b>17-00</b>	<b>18-00</b>	<b>18-23</b>	20-21
Fiji – 3D2A, 3D2T; all modes	26 Oct to 09 Nov	258	<b>06-12</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>04-13</b>	<b>13-18</b>	<b>18-01</b>	<b>18-00</b>	<b>19-23</b>	<b>20-22</b>
Central African Republic – TL0CW **	26 Oct to 03 Nov	79	<b>22-05</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>21-06</b>	<b>16-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>14-20</b>	15-19
Cote d'Ivoire – TU2T; by Italian Team	27 Oct to 11 Nov	90	<b>22-07</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>20-09</b>	<b>12-00</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>14-20</b>	16-19
Maldives – 8Q7SO; all modes; holiday style	28 Oct to 04 Nov	41	<b>23-01</b>	<b>21-02</b>	<b>21-02</b>	<b>13-23</b>	<b>13-22</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>15-19</b>	16-18

Updated 30 August 2011, based on 29 August 2011 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

**Notes:** Time in bold = Bands with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; \*\* = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using W6ELProp V.2.60 propagation software, available to download at <http://www.gsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

### -- SEPTEMBER SOLAR ACTIVITY --

During September the Solar Flux ranged from 110 to 190, with a mean value of 134.5 (vs. 81.0 for September 2010 and 70.4 for September 2009). The A-index was  $\geq 7$  on 16 days. Through 29 September, the sunspot number ranged from 47 to 173, with a mean of 107.0. Sunspot Regions 1280 thru 1307 were active during September, with 161 C-class, 33 M-Class and four X-Class flares occurring.



(Thanks to Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

### -- OCTOBER FORECAST --

Solar activity is forecast to be at moderate to high levels to 03 October, with low levels 04 – 19 October. Moderate levels are expected 20 – 27 as Region 1302 crosses the Sun's disc.

No proton events at geosynchronous orbit may occur 01 – 03 and 20 – 27 October. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at normal to moderate levels 01-03 October with high flux levels 04-05 due to coronal hole high speed streams (CH HSS). Normal to moderate fluxes are expected 06-10, rising to high levels 11-15 due to CH HSS, returning to normal 16-31 October. The Solar Flux should average 125 during October.

The geomagnetic field should be quiet to unsettled 01-02 October due to CH HSS. Quiet levels are expected 03-07, increasing to active levels 08-11 due to CH HSS, returning to predominantly quiet levels the rest of October.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 27 September 2011, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 27 September 2011, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 27 September 2011)

## MAJOR CONTESTS DURING SEPTEMBER

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Oceania DX Phone Contest	0800Z 01 Oct 0800Z 02 Oct	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations in Oceania, as per WAC boundaries	R/S, Serial
Worked All Britain HF Contest	1200Z 01 Oct 1200Z 02 Oct	20 – 10 Meters SSB Only	UK Stations	R/S, Serial
EU Autumn Sprint	1600Z 01 Oct 1959Z 01 Oct	80 – 20 Meters SSB Only	Stations in European Union	Both Calls, Serial, Name
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z 02 Oct 1900Z 02 Oct	15 and 10 Meters SSB Only	Only Stations in the UK	Serial
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z 08 Oct 1600Z 09 Oct	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	4-character Grid Square
Oceania DX CW Contest	0800Z 08 Oct 0800Z 09 Oct	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Stations in Oceania, as per WAC boundaries	R/S/T, Serial
Scandinavian Activity Contest	1200Z 08 Oct 1200Z 09 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Stations in Scandinavian Countries	R/S, Serial
North American RTTY Sprint	0000Z 09 Oct 0400Z 09 Oct	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	Stations in North American Countries	Both Calls, Serial, QTH, Name
10 – 10 Sprint	0001Z 10 Oct 2359Z 10 Oct	10 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digital	10–10 Members	Call, Name, S/P/C
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z 15 Oct 2400Z 16 Oct	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Operator's Age
10 – 10 Fall CW QSO Party	0001Z 15 Oct 2359Z 16 Oct	10 Meters Only CW Only	10-10 Members	Call, Name, S/P/C
Worked All Germany	1500Z 15 Oct 1459Z 16 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB and CW	Stations in Germany	R/S/(T), Serial
School Club Roundup	1300Z 17 Oct 2359Z 21 Oct	160 – VHF/UHF All Modes	School Club Stations (see ARRL web site)	R/S/(T), class, S/P/C
Scandinavian YLRA Contest	1000Z 22 Oct 1000Z 23 Oct	80 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	YL Stations Anywhere	R/S/(T), "88" (YLS), "73" (OMs)
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z 22 Oct 2359Z 23 Oct	160 – 6 Meters SSB, CW, Digital	Stations on US and Canadian Islands	R/S/(T), S/P/C
CQ World Wide SSB Contest	0000Z 29 Oct 2359Z 30 Oct	160 – 10 Meters SSB Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S, CQ Zone (5, locally)
Fall VHF Sprints	2300Z 29 Oct 0300Z 30 Oct	6 Meters Only SSB, CW, Digital	Anyone, Anywhere	6-character Grid Square

*Legend:* Serial = Sequential number of contact; S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity  
 From ARRL "Contest Corral" and WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

**-- NEW AND IMPROVED! --**



Here's the professional paving job done at the W4AC Repeater site. Looks Great!!

**-- SHETLAND ISLANDS HAM TOWER --**



Roger Schmitt-KY4RS spotted this tower up at Howick, Shetland Is., Scotland this summer.

## -- RTTY BACKGROUND AND BASICS --

As more and more ham shacks are equipped with computers, many operators are utilizing those computers to operate the digital modes. Some modern transceivers are equipped to operate certain digital modes with only the addition of a keyboard. One of the most popular digital modes is radioteletype, commonly referred to as RTTY.

Radioteletype (RTTY) is a telecommunications system which originally consisted of two or more electromechanical teleprinters in different locations, connected via radio links. Teleprinters have been superseded by personal computers (PCs) running software to emulate teleprinters, connected by radio rather than a wired link.

Initially, a radioteletype station consisted of three distinct parts: The *Teletype* or teleprinter, the modem and the radio. The electromechanical *Teletype* or teleprinter has been replaced by the computer.

The modem is sometimes called the terminal unit and it is an electronic device which is connected between the computer and the radio transceiver. The transmitting part of the modem converts the digital signal transmitted by the computer to one or the other of a pair of audio frequency tones. One of the tones corresponds to the **mark** condition and the other to the **space** condition. These audio tones, then, modulate a SSB transmitter to produce the final audio-frequency shift keying (AFSK) radio frequency signal. On reception, the FSK signal is converted to the original tones by mixing the FSK signal with the transceiver's BFO. These tones are fed to the demodulator part of the modem, which processes them through a series of filters and detectors to recreate the original digital signal. The FSK signals are audible, and have a distinctive "beedle-eeeeedle-eedle-eee" sound, usually starting and ending on one of the two tones ("idle on mark"). Both functions can be performed with computers equipped with digital signal processors or sound cards. The sound card performs the functions of the modem and the CPU performs the processing of the digital bits. This approach is very common in amateur radio, using specialized computer programs.

The background regarding amateur radio use of RTTY is rather interesting. After World War II, amateur radio operators in the United States started to obtain obsolete but usable Teletype Model 26 equipment from commercial operators with the understanding that this equipment

would not be used for, or returned to, commercial service. "The Amateur Radioteletype and VHF Society" was founded in 1946 in Woodside, NY. This organization soon changed its name to "The VHF Teletype Society" and started US Amateur Radio operations on 2 meters using audio frequency shift keying (AFSK). In early 1949, the first transcontinental two-way RTTY QSO was accomplished between W1AW and W6PSW on 11 meters (*a band which amateurs had until the mid-1950s*) using AFSK.

Due to the efforts of Merrill Swan-W6AEE, of the "The RTTY Society of Southern California" publisher of *RTTY* and Wayne Green-W2NSD, of *CQ Magazine*, amateur radio operators successfully petitioned the FCC to amend Part 12 of the Regulations, with regard to RTTY operation. The amended Regulations, which were effective 20 February 1953, permitted FSK in the non-voice parts of the 80, 40 and 20-meter bands and also specified the use of single channel 60 words-per-minute five unit code corresponding to International Telegraphy Alphabet No. 2 (ITA2). A shift of 850 Hz plus or minus 50 Hz was specified. Amateur Radio operators also had to identify their station call sign at the beginning and the end of each transmission and at ten minute intervals using International Morse Code. Use of this wide shift proved to be a problem for amateur radio operations. After investigation and a petition to the FCC, Part 12 was again amended, in March 1956, to allow amateur radio operators to use any shift that was less than 900 Hz.

By the early 1970s, Amateur Radio RTTY had spread around the world and it was finally possible to work more than 100 countries via RTTY. ON4BX, in 1971, was the first Amateur Radio station to submit his cards to the DX Editor of *RTTY Journal* and to achieve this honor. The ARRL began issuing DXCC RTTY Awards on 01 November 1976. Prior to that date, an award for working more than 100 countries on RTTY was only available via *RTTY Journal*.

On 07 January 1972, the FCC amended Part 97 to allow faster RTTY speeds. Four standard RTTY speeds were authorized, namely, 60 (45 baud), 67 (50 baud), 75 (56.25 baud) and 100 (75 baud) words per minute. The FCC approved the use of ASCII by amateur radio stations on 17 March 1980 with speeds up to 300 baud from 3.5 to 21.25 MHz and 1200 baud between 28

See **RTTY** pg. 6

### RTTY from pg. 5

and 225 MHz. Speeds up to 19.2 kilobaud was authorized on Amateur frequencies above 420 MHz.

The requirement for Amateur Radio operators in the United States to identify their station call sign at the beginning and the end of each digital transmission and at ten minute intervals using International Morse Code was finally lifted by the FCC on 15 June 1983.

RTTY has a typical baud rate for Amateur operation of 45.45 baud (approximately 60 words per minute). It remains popular as a "keyboard to keyboard" mode in Amateur Radio. For its transmission speed, RTTY has low spectral efficiency. The typical RTTY signal with 170 Hz shift at 45.45 baud requires around 250 Hz receiver bandwidth, over double that required by PSK31. Because RTTY, using either AFSK or FSK modulation, produces a waveform with constant power, a transmitter does not need to use a linear amplifier. RTTY, using either AFSK or FSK modulation, is moderately resistant to vagaries of HF propagation and interference.

(From "Radioteletype," *Wikipedia*, the Internet encyclopedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RTTY> )

### -- SUNSPOT CYCLE 24 UPDATE --



Gil – September 1955

Some 33 months after it started, Cycle 24 is finally starting to act like a true sunspot cycle. The sunspot number hit 173 on 16 September

and long haul DX on 10 and 12 meters has been there for the taking when the geomagnetic field and the electron flux in the ionosphere are at quiet levels. Hopefully the Sun will continue to cooperate with those of us who have been waiting for what seems like eternity for the high bands to open up.

### -- THE CASPERSEN BEACH SUNDANCERS --

We got to worrying and headed over to Caspersen Beach to see what the Sundancers were doing to uplift the sunspots. It was strain and strife, tumult and hubbub when we got to the sand dunes. Here we had come looking for the gentle strains of "Giselle" and it seemed we were getting "Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar."

The Sundancers' leader was irate. "Look at those Solar Flux numbers," he raged. "It took the Sundancers years to get them up to 150 and then they start worrying about their costumes for 'Trick or Treating.' And the flux falls right down. This was not the haven of grace, the home of the dance and the interpreter of the moods of nature that we had expected. "And what are you going to do?" we asked most helpfully but we might have been more cautious.

The Sundancers' leader was hardly cool. "It's back to the tarantella and the six-eight beat for these ones," he roared. "And if they think they are going to be Sugar Plum Fairies for Christmas, they are going to have to jump and jiggle all the way through December. And I do mean jump and jiggle."

At this point we were ready to slide out of the picture but we moved not quite fast enough. "And it would help a bit if you would stop complaining about the flat flux numbers week after week," the Sundancers' leader hurled at us as a final lash, and we were jumping as high as some of those "Trick or Treaters." Son of a Gun! We were hardly in a "win" situation but what would be the Halloween season without sunspots? Sleep well tonight, the Caspersen beach Sundancers are back in the dunes doing their thump and jump routines. Sunspots will grow and DX will thrive. And you just may have a visit from those costumed Sundancers on Halloween night.

(From "DX IS!, The Best of the West Coast DX Bulletin," edited and published by C. T. Allen-W5DV and J. M. Allen-W6OGC, 1981)

*My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government. – Thomas Jefferson*

# October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	5 QCWA Lunch, 11:15 AM @ Panda Pavilion  TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	6 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	7 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	8 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library
9	10 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM Starts on NI4CE Repeater 145.43	11 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	12 <b>TARC Meeting 7:00 PM @ Coast Guard Auxiliary Facility</b>	13 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	14 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	15
16	17	18 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	19 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	20 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	21 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	22
23	24	25 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM  TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	26 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	27 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	28 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	29
30	31					

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeater will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. Thanks for your cooperation.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_ ARRL (Y/N)\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Control \_\_, RFI/TVI \_\_, VE Testing \_\_, Training \_\_, Packet \_\_, RTTY \_\_,  
Computers \_\_, DXing \_\_, Contests \_\_, Field Day \_\_, Publicity \_\_, Emergency Communications \_\_, Special Events \_\_,  
VHF/UHF \_\_, SSTV \_\_, ATV \_\_, Repeater \_\_, EchoLink \_\_, Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member @ \$25.00/year \_\_, Family Membership @ \$30.00/year \_\_, Non-Voting Student Membership @ \$5.00/year \_\_ . (New Regular Members joining after 30 June pay \$15.00 for remainder of calendar year. \$25.00 dues payment after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD  
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

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