

147.165 + (136.5 Hz) 443.500 + (127.3 Hz)

**The Brandon Amateur Radio  
Society Newsletter**

OVER 38 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA  
BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA

VOL XLII, NUMBER 3 MARCH 2015

### Come out to the BARS Meeting on March 19th

Come on out to the monthly BARS meeting at the Brandon Assembly of God at 710 South Kings (next to the golf driving range). The meeting will be in the annex next to the sanctuary building. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Doris WB9VDT bangs the gavel.

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### Smith Charts

Bernie W4BGH will present a program this will be a short video presentation on Smith Charts. It will cover the background behind Smith Charts followed by several examples of how to use them for designing impedance matching circuits.

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### Maritime Radio Day Tuesday 14 April

Maritime Radio Day is coming up on Tuesday 14 April. It is slated to run from 12:00-11:00 GMT



This is an Amateur Radio event primarily for former Radio Officers in the Maritime services. Most of the activity is European, but there is some U.S and Canadian activity as well. This CW event which is held annually to commemorate to the era of nearly 90 years of manual Morse maritime radio telegraphy. All hams are invited to take part and work especially with former radio officers of the merchant marine and navy. Check out this website for more information:

<http://www.doese-apprt.de/mrd/>

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Several years ago Jim K4PPK wrote this excellent introduction to Slow Scan Television (SSTV) for Amateur Radio. We are re-printing it with the addition of some SSTV pictures from WB9UJS files.

## An Introduction to Slow Scan TV (SSTV)

By Jim Smith K4PPK

Have you ever had a QSO with an interesting ham and wondered what he looked like or what his shack looked like after he had described it to you. Do you ever hear those funny tones as you tune around the twenty meter band near 14.230 MHz or 21.340 MHz on the fifteen meter band or 28.680 MHz on ten meters. Well they are Slow Scan Television (SSTV) pictures being sent across the country or around the world. SSTV can be sent and received on any band where image transmission is permitted and that includes two meters.

The equipment required to operate Slow Scan TV is probably already present at your shack. You need a radio (HF or VHF) a computer and a way to connect the two. Sounds simple enough and it really is. The computer must have a sound card and most do. It will also require some software (the SSTV program) to make it able to read all those tones that the radio sends and when you are ready to transmit, convert the picture into tones to send to the radio.



If you just want to copy pictures before you jump in with both feet to this new mode, all you need to do is download the SSTV software, install it on your computer and connect the radio to the computer.

The simplest and quickest way to interface the computer and the radio for receiving SSTV pictures is to connect the audio output of the radio (speaker or phone jack) to the line input jack of the sound card in the computer with a shielded audio cable that has 1/8 inch plugs on each end (assuming your radio has a 1/8 inch audio jack). You probably already have the cable but if not rest assured that Radio Shack does (RS42-

2420).

There are a multitude of different SSTV software programs available for you to choose from. The good news is most of them are free. Far and away the most popular program used today for analog SSTV is called MMSSTV. It is available free for downloading at <http://mmhamsoft.ham-radio.ch/mmsstv/index.htm>. The current version of MMSSTV is 111 and it is a zip file. I believe you can install the program from the zipped file or you can unzip it first. Once it is installed, enter the requested information and you are ready to start receiving pictures. You may need to adjust your sound card a bit but it probably will work right from the start.

Once these steps have been completed just tune your receiver to a frequency that is sending SSTV audio and enjoy the pictures.



In order to transmit slow scan TV pictures, the simplest and quickest homebrewed computer to radio interface is to connect the Line Output from the Sound Card to the transceiver audio input with a 100:1 voltage divider to reduce the voltage output. If your radio permits, you can use VOX to switch from Receive to Transmit.

There are many different digital modes available to hams today with just the equipment described for slow scan. RTTY, Packet, PSK31, Hellschreiber, AMTOR and even CW can be sent and received via the computer sound card and your radio. SSTV and the other digital modes have become so popular several companies are manufacturing commercial interfaces for almost all amateur radios. These interfaces work very well and of course make getting on digital modes very easy.



I have had great fun with slow scan television. I've exchanged picture QSLs with different people in many different countries throughout the world. The quality of the pictures varies depending upon the band conditions and signal strengths. Recent development have moved toward digital SSTV. With digital pictures you get perfect pictures without the interference seen in some analog SSTV. But that is a story for another time.

A word of warning though: Once you've tried it you may become hooked. Imagine being able to swap mug shots with other hams. See who you're talking to. Send diagrams and schematics over the air. It's a lot of fun. Go for it and I'll see you on the air.

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### **Mass Casualty Exercise Slated for 26 March**

This year's Mass Casualty Exercise is scheduled for the last Thursday in March. More details will be presented as we know them.

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### **Area Special Event Station in June**

The *S. S. American Victory*, berthed in Tampa Bay, will be operating a special event station in June to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launching of the ship in June of 1945. Operations are set to occur on Saturday 20 June from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The station will be running both SSB and CW.

The club station callsign is W4AMV, but they may get a special callsign for the event.

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How did YOU get started in Ham Radio? Do you have pix and stories from YOUR Novice or early ham radio days? Write it up and send it in!

That's it for this month. Have FUN with radio!

**Keep in Mind Our Weekly Nets and Bulletins**

**Monday 8 p.m. The Two Meter Net 147.765 - 147.165 MHz Hosted by Doris Haskell WB9VDT**

**Tuesday 7 p.m. 6-meter Roundtable 50.200 MHz USB followed at 8 p.m. with the 10 Meter Roundtable 28.365 MHz USB**

**Send us your articles AND PICTURES! We do much more in the digital format! I would like to have pictures of BARS members and their ham shacks!**

**Remember to check out the BARS website:  
[brandonhamradio.org](http://brandonhamradio.org)**