

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

*The*  
**ANTENNA**

**The Brandon Amateur Radio  
Society Newsletter**

OVER 39 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE BRANDON AREA  
BRANDON, FLORIDA, USA  
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### Come to the Club Eating Meeting January 28<sup>th</sup>

Our meeting this month will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday (January 28<sup>th</sup>) at the Golden Corral starting at 6:30 p.m. It's an EATING MEETING – everybody likes that!! Come on out and enjoy the food and fellowship.

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### Changes Come to Medium Wave Broadcasting in Europe

Earlier this month on QRZ there was a short article about changes to Medium Wave (MW) broadcasting in France. Since midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, Radio France programs are no longer broadcast on the Medium Wave band. Services concerned are France Info, France bleu RCFM et France Bleu Elsass.



Broadcasting on Medium Wave, which started between 1937 and 1944, is considered obsolete, with the number of Medium Wave listeners being marginal. This step is part of an economy plan at Radio France. It will be followed by the cessation of Long Wave broadcasts on 31 December 2016. Radio France is offering an improvement in FM broadcasts to cover the shutdown of the Medium Wave services, because their listeners want to listen to their programs on connected devices, Radio France is also investing in the distribution of its stations

and programs on connected devices (smartphones, PCs, Tablets, TV etc.) and is offering new services such as internet radio and mobile applications. These changes are also showing up in other European countries.

In Germany Deutschland Radio also shut down its Medium Wave transmitters at the end of 2015 bringing an

end to the distribution of its programming on the AM broadcast band. Even maritime safety information broadcasts on 1269 KHz are going away because ships use modern satellite and mobile technology to access weather data.

The Netherlands has ended its main radio services on Medium Wave as well. England is in the process of phasing out Medium Wave services from the BBC. AM band transmitter sites at Bristol are expected to close in the near future. Luxembourg's AM service on 1440 KHz is closing as well.

What is Medium Wave anyway? **Figure One** shows a breakdown of some of the radio frequency bands. They are arranged by wavelength.

Name	Wavelength	Frequencies	Users
Long Wave/Low Frequency	10,000-1,000 Meters	30 KHz-300 KHz	Broadcasting, Maritime, WWV
Medium Wave/Frequency	1,000-100 Meters	300 KHz-3,000 KHz	500 kc, AM band, Maritime, 160 meter ham band
High Frequency/Short Wave	100 -10 Meters	3 MHz-30 MHz	Military, diplomatic, maritime, hams (80-10 meters), long haul aircraft communication, International broadcasting, CB
Very High Frequency	10-1 Meters	30 MHz -300 MHz	Hams, police and fire, military, aircraft, FM broadcasting

**Figure 1: Select Radio Frequency Listing**

Other articles dealing with this topic have mentioned protests from radio hobbyists and others who still listen to AM radio for their news and entertainment (both groups are small in number).

What about me; what about YOU?

When I first read the article about the demise of MW broadcasting I lamented the fact that something I had grown up with was going away, but then I realized that I spend very little time on the MW frequencies. During the work week I listen to WFLA for about 15-30 minutes while driving to the bus stop or driving to work in the morning. The rest of the time in the car I listen to satellite radio or play CD-s of podcasts I have downloaded from the Internet. I still listen to foreign broadcasters, but most of the time those broadcasts come off the computer not the ham rig.

A lot of us have memories of AM band DX: The clear channel stations late at night: hearing WBZ out of Boston, WLS from Chicago, WWL in New Orleans, WOWO out of Kokomo, or KSL out of Salt Lake City. Then there were also the European stations in between (they had stations set up with a 9 kc spacing where the U.S. stations used a 10 kc spacing). At the bottom end of the AM dial there was the bleed over from the coastal telegraph stations



running 10-thousand watts pounding out CW traffic lists and weather warnings to ships. The “All American Five” radios did not have the greatest front end and those Morse signals came right on through the speaker. It was great!! It is also over. There are those in the broadcast business who say the days of AM radio here in the U.S. are numbered. People started moving over to FM decades ago. The signals are better. Their radio listening is local. These listeners want good signal quality, good frequency response for the music, and local news and sports. Now people listen to radio (and watch TV) on their mobile devices. They don’t even listen to the broadcast frequencies; they pull it off WiFi and listen or watch at their convenience. Nobody worries about broadcast schedules (except for old people who can’t break old habits). Now entertainment consumers pull it when they want it (on demand). It’s all geared to the listener’s convenience. More and more programming and advertising is off the air: delivered via cable, internet, and other means. AM radio is fading away now broadcast FM and TV will be next.

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### ***More Radio Memories*** **Atwater Kent**



Anyone who has collected radios or been around broadcast receivers from the early days has heard of Atwater Kent radios. At one time the Atwater Kent factory in Pennsylvania was the largest radio manufacturing facility in the world. Atwater Kent was born in Vermont in 1873 and started making ignition systems for cars in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The factory he built and the money he made provided the means for him to get into radio building. He started manufacturing radio sets in 1921. When radio receivers shifted away from the regenerative circuit to the super heterodyne the factory started manufacturing those in 1930. The Model 70 was one of the “super het” models in the lineup. Atwater Kent radios were of very high quality and reliability with strong customer appeal to the middle class. Kent's customers often bought another Atwater Kent radio to upgrade from an earlier one that lacked the newer features. The factory in Pennsylvania turned out more than 150 models of Atwater Kent radios from 1921 until the time it closed in 1936. After he closed the radio factory Atwater Kent retired to California where he died in 1949.

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#### **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)**