

# Surfin': AM in the PM and the AM

By Stan Horzepa, W1LOU  
Contributing Editor  
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*This week, visit a Web site where Amplitude Modulation is still the mode of the day.*

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My editor, Dave Hassler, K7CCC, is known to be appreciative of the Amplitude Modulation (AM) mode, so I asked him for a good Web site devoted to AM and he suggested [The AM Window](#). I checked out Dave's suggestion and was so duly impressed with the Web site that I am featuring it here this week.



Steve Ickes, WB3HUZ, built The AM Window as a resource for AMers worldwide and the site is celebrating its sixth anniversary. Although AM was once the main voice mode in Amateur Radio, now it is regarded as a specialty within the hobby. The Web site claims that AM is attractive to some because it "offers a warm, rich audio quality not found in other voice modes that provides for more personal interaction." But also, a major attraction for many enthusiasts is that the simplicity of AM circuit design encourages hands-on restoration, modification and homebrew construction to an extent no longer found with contemporary radio equipment.

**[The AM Window](#) is a resource for hams worldwide who find Amplitude Modulation their cup of tea.**

messages and share information related to their favorite mode.

The Web site's Tech page provides a cornucopia of AM-related technical information including transmitter and receiver modifications for more efficient operation, circuits for low powered "PW" (peanut whistle) AM transmitters, and a valuable library of model numbers, specifications and connection information for modulation transformers. For the newcomer, there are also tutorials on how to set up both modern solid-state and older tube gear, and how to keep those amplitude phone modulations clean, pleasant and inside prescribed bandwidth.

The site's Features page focuses on the people behind the microphone rather than the equipment in front of the operators. Finally, the Stuff page has links to other AM sites, information about

AM events, a list of popular AM frequencies and information regarding Amplitude Modulation International (AMI); AMI is an organization of AMers dedicated to the enjoyment, promotion and preservation of AM.

Until next time, keep on surfin'.

***Editor's note:*** Stan Horzepa, W1LOU, resides in downtown Wolcott, Connecticut, and is a member of the QQCC (QST quarter century club), i.e., he has been a QST writer for 25 years. Since getting his ticket in 1969, Stan has sampled nearly every entrée in the Amateur Radio menu (including a stint as Connecticut Section Manager), but he keeps coming back to his favorite preoccupations: VHF and packet radio. As a result, he runs a 2-meter APRS digipeater and weather station (W1LOU-15) from his mountaintop location in central Connecticut. Stan has been a long time advocate of using computers with Amateur Radio and wrote programs to dupe contests and calculate antenna bearings way back in 1978. Today, he is on the board of directors of the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) and uses his Mac to surf the Internet searching for that perfect ham radio web page. To contact Stan, send e-mail to [w1lou@arrl.net](mailto:w1lou@arrl.net).