

## Using SSTV Cams for Propagation and Relay Purposes

A few ham stations around the world routinely receive SSTV transmissions, most typically on 14.230 MHz, and then immediately port that information to their web site servers. Often these hams make use of a handy piece of software created by John KE5RS, called the KE5RS FTP Widget. We all thank him for this excellent piece of enabling software!

Hams then take those pictures and within a few seconds will display them on their web site. Those pictures are referred to as 'SSTV cams.' Here is an example of a recent image received by KE5RS.

### KE5RS Live SSTV Cam Live SSTV Images from Leander, Texas



Autoslant correction is now ON



Hear Live Audio! Allow about a 10 second delay to buffer

SSTV or Slow Scan Television is a method or mode where ham radio operators from all over the world send and receive still images through the airways. The images seen here have been sent by ham radio operators all over the world. The images are immediately posted to this web page after they are received.

A very, very limited number of hams go a huge step further. They collect SSTV cam information from reporting stations and place those images onto one web page for viewing.

You can use this information to your advantage in two particular ways:

1. **Propagation:** You can view how well your station is received across North America by a variety of SSTV cams. You will know immediately how good 20 meter band conditions are. You will know which areas are receiving your transmission and where you have no reception at that given hour.
2. **Station Relay:** When you are in the midst of an SSTV QSO, all sorts of things happen, such as QSB, QRM and sometimes QRN. All interfere with your ability to receive the latest transmission. You may have a very difficult time reading the ham's call sign or other pertinent information delivered in the template. Pictures can be difficult to make out, too. By using these SSTV cams as 'relay stations' to supplement your station's reception, you will be able to have a richer QSO.

I have found a few web sites around the world which collect a wide variety of SSTV cams and display them on their web page. Following is a survey of what I have discovered so far. All information provided here pertains only to North American SSTV cams. There are other web sites which display transmissions received by ham stations in Europe, Australia and elsewhere.

One caveat: Most of the following web sites have 'dead' SSTV cams. That is, some of the images are a year or more old, and the station is no longer routinely posting new SSTV images.

That particular clutter is removed from my WB9KMW SSTV cam collection. I have stations in North America geographically organized. West coast stations are on the left: moving across the US until you find a lone station on the eastern seaboard in Florida. Unfortunately, I cannot find any active SSTV cams along the eastern coast! Also, northern-most stations are near the top of my page.

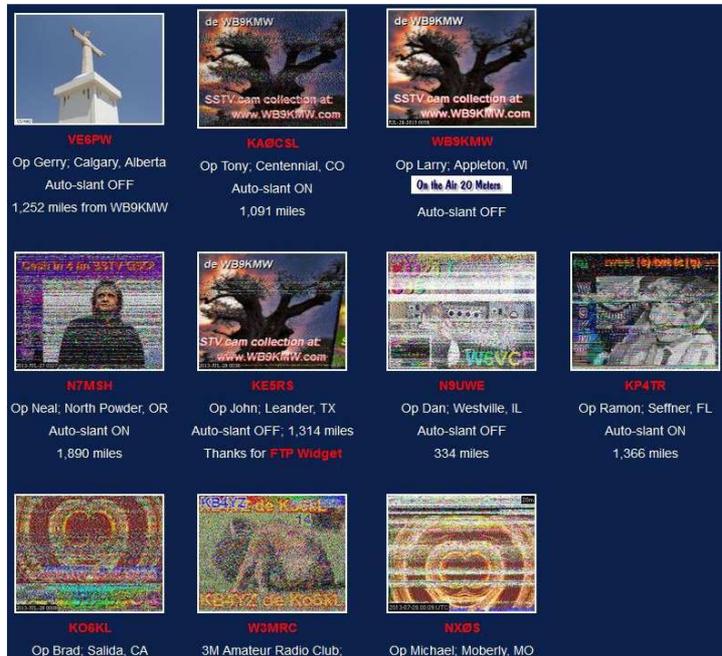
A very unique feature of the WB9KMW cam collection is the ability to hover one's mouse cursor above any image. It will immediately expand to for a much larger, often clearer view of the transmission. And you do that without the inconvenience of leaving my SSTV 20M web page.



So let me share several good web sites which feature a collection of North American SSTV cams. I have referenced many of these web sites near the bottom of my SSTV 20M web page, so you can just click on a hyperlink to launch their web page.

## WB9KMW collection

These SSTV cams are found within the SSTV 20M tab at [www.WB9KMW.com](http://www.WB9KMW.com) Here is a sample of them.



## K6HR collection

Click on Paul's K6HR link under his SSTV cam image on my web site. That takes you to the main SSTV page for K6HR. Then click on his link to view a collection of worldwide SSTV cams.



## World SSTV collection

This is probably the leading reference source of SSTV cams for hams. It is a broad collection of live & dead cams from North American and around the globe. Scroll towards the bottom half of my SSTV 20M web site and you will find a link to [www.worldsstv.com](http://www.worldsstv.com)



VE6SLP  
Edmonton, Ab, Ca



VE6PW  
Calgary, Alberta, Ca



VE2HAR  
Laval, Qc, Canada



K6HR  
Norwalk, Ca



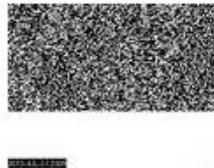
K7LLOL  
Phoenix, Az



KO6KL  
San Joaquin, Ca



KK0M  
Livermore, Ca



KD7E  
Kirkland, Wa



KJ7YL  
Snohomish, WA.



WD7F  
Tucson, Arizona



KE5RS  
Leander, Tx



K5TED  
San Antonio, Tx



W3MRC  
Austin, Tx



KA0CSL  
Centennial, Colorado



K6AFW  
Oak Grove, Minnesota



WA0EBZ  
Osakis, Mn



NP4AI  
Lone Tree, Co



NP4AI-DIG  
Lone Tree Co Dm79nn



W5KI  
Eureka Springs, Ar



KA0UNB  
Omaha Ne. 20 Meters



KA6NEI  
Wisconsin, Usa



N0WYO  
Kearney, Ne



KY4US  
Lexington, Ky



KE5YA  
Corsicana, Texas USA



WB9KMW  
Appleton, Wi



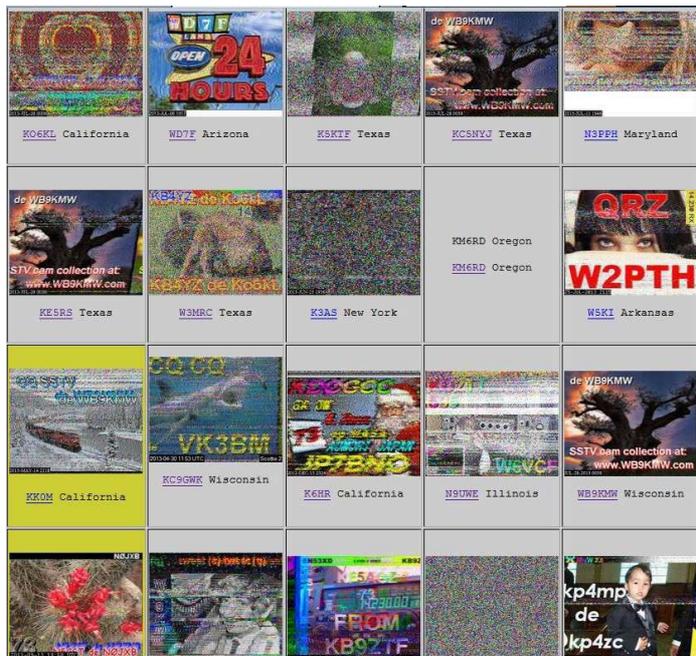
## GØHWC collection

A nice roundup of North American SSTV cams is displayed on Paul's GØHWC web site. You can find a link to his web page toward the bottom half of my SSTV 20M page.



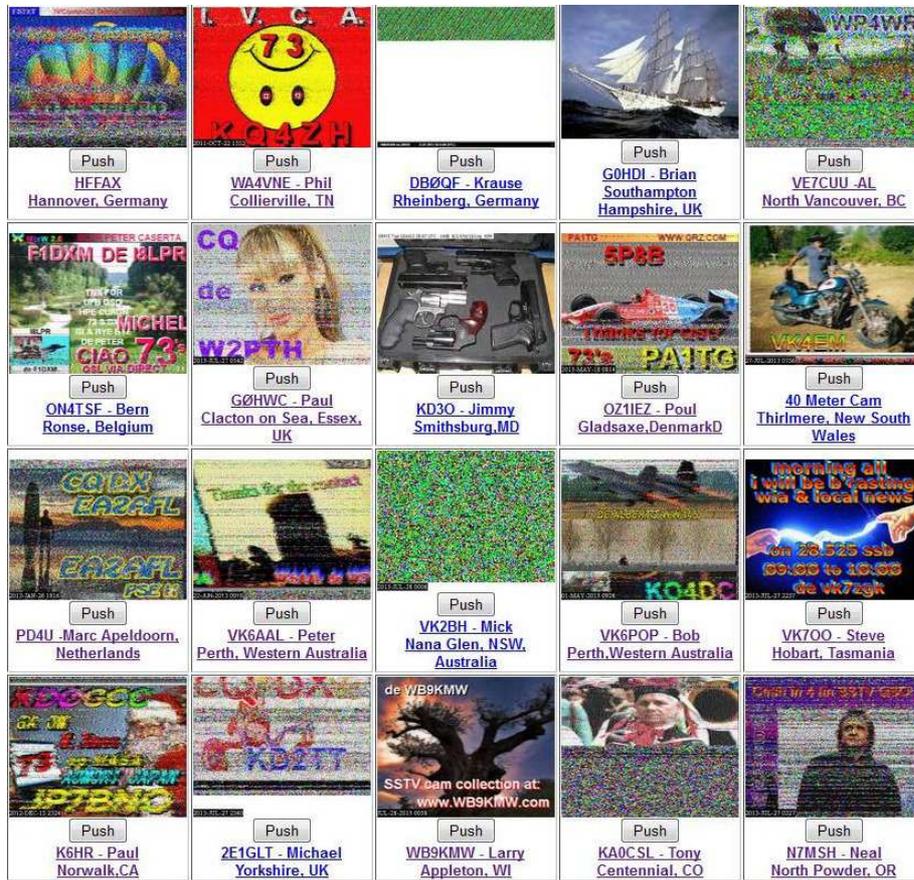
## CX2ABP collection

Rod CX2ABP has a collection of SSTV cams, too. Again, scroll to the second half of my web site and click on the hyperlink to escort you to his page.



## WD7F collection

Visit John WD7F's web site at [www.wd7f.com/sstv](http://www.wd7f.com/sstv) and you will find a collection of SSTV cams at the bottom of this web page.



## Looking ahead

I have but one remaining goal for the SSTV cam collection at [www.WB9KMW.com](http://www.WB9KMW.com)

I would love to find 2 or 3 more stations along the eastern seaboard to add on right hand side of my collection. Hams from Maine to Georgia just don't deliver SSTV cams. The few I have found are long dead.

Coverage for the balance of North America is pretty good.

73,

Larry WB9KMW