

HAM SATELLITE PASS

This Sunday there is one good pass of S0-50 from Morgantown.
TO SEE SATELLITE PREDICTIONS:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/index.php>

You will need to know your Latitude & Longitude or Grid Square and your Elevation (meters) above sea level. (The Monongalia River at the Westover Bridge is at about 810 feet, or 245 meters.)

- Use GOOGLE MAPS (maps.google.com) to find your operating location.
- Right Click on the likely location (parking lot, etc) and read the Latitude and Longitude at the upper left corner of the page.
- Copy the Latitude and Longitude. Enter it into the location box on the AMSAT page. (You can remove the “-“ since you select “W”).
 - West Gate of the Stadium:
 - Coordinates are 39.649738 N, 79.956204 W
 - Estimated altitude ... a nice round number is 300 Meters.
- Select “50 Passes” to get the maximum number generated by the website. The web page generates a list of upcoming passes by date and time.
- Find the passes that cover the time you will be attempting to hear the satellite.
- Within your available period of time, determine the quality of the passes.
 - See if the AOS and LOS are well away from any buildings and large hills.
 - Note the MAXIMUM ELEVATION for the pass.
 - Elevation below about 30 degrees are very difficult - don't even try it.
 - Elevation above about 50 degrees are likely to do well.
- Familiarize yourself with your horizon so that you will know where to point the antenna for AOS, TCA (max elevation) and LOS. Use a compass.
 - Determine where on your horizon the AOS Azimuth will be. Look for landmarks.
 - Determine where on your horizon the LOS Azimuth will be. Look for Landmarks.
 - Determine where on your horizon the TCA Azimuth will be. Estimate the MAXIMUM ELEVATION angle.

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- Practice moving the antenna from the horizon at AOS Azimuth up to the maximum elevation at the TCA Azimuth and back down to the horizon at LOS.
 - Be sure you know where your channels are programmed and how to quickly change them, whether you are using one radio or two.
 - Turn the receive volume down. Set your SQUELCH to 0. You will hear a very strong white noise. Now you can raise the volume to a comfortable level.
 - When the time for AOS gets near, point the antenna toward the horizon at the AOS Azimuth. Listen for the white noise to go quiet. This means a signal from the satellite is being received.
 - Listen to the signals. You should hear call signs and Grid Squares. If you hear a break in the action, press PTT and sign your call sign and grid.
- “Whiskey Alpha Eight Yankee Charlie Delta, Fox Mike Zero Niner, QRP.”*
- RECORD THE SESSION or have someone else copying call signs and grids, it's too much to juggle the antenna, the radio, and keep track of QSOs at the same time.

