

Las Vegas Amateur Radio Balloon Group News Archive

ALP40-Alpha

- Some WSPR transmissions have been picked from the ALP40-Alpha balloon, which confirms it is down in Brazil at grid square GI67DM, with an altitude of about 400'. The area is very rural, so no attempt at recovery will be made.
- Sadly, American Legion Amateur Radio Club's first balloon ALP40-A (Alpha) went silent overnight, April 17/18, 2024 and has not been heard from in 24 hours. Alpha was over Brazil amongst numerous thunderstorms, super cells, with heights in excess of 55,000'. Most likely it went down somewhere in the area West of Sao Luis, Brazil. The balloon had been up for over 74 days, traveled over 150,000 miles and 6+ laps around the world. We at TALARC consider it a successful first effort at Pico ballooning.
- A American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) launched its first Floater Balloon on Saturday, February 3, 2024 from the Boulder City Dry Lake Bed at 9:35 am. The balloon can be tracked at the lu7aa.org website (nice GUI) or data can be displayed over a period of time and downloaded from [here](#). There is also a great website, [SondeHub](#), which if you select a balloon and then click on the "Float" button, it will display a predicted future track. Some launch photos follow: [TALARC Launch Team\(L to R\)-Shane KG7QWH-Linda KJ7OWF-Tom KB7HTA-Tristan](#), [Launch-Tom KB7HTA-Shane KG7QWH](#), [TALARC Balloon-Up Up and Away](#), [QRP-Labe U4B-Solar Panels-Super Cap-Balloon Payload](#), [Components for Balloon Payload](#) and [Balloon Payload-QRP Labe U4B-Solar Panels-Super Cap-Frame ABS CF](#). Many thanks to Tristan for all the great photos of the launch and Linda, KJ7OWF (CAPCOM), who monitored the HF WSPR packets to give us a GO for launch once the balloon was operating properly.
- TALARC First Balloon Construction [Details](#).
- The balloon group meets every 2nd Wednesday at the American Legion Post 40 Annex (Trailer) at 6 pm. The address is 425 E Van Wagenen St, Henderson, NV 89015. Everyone is welcome; please join in on the fun.

ALP40-Bravo

- An American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) launched its second Pico (Floater) Balloon on Wednesday April 10, 2024 from the Boulder City Dry Lake Bed at 8:30 am. It was a successful launch with over 10 people present. Sadly, the balloon was aloft for only 18 hours before coming down near Alpine, Texas. The great news is that after several hours and 9 miles on the pedometer Charlie, N5CET found the balloon in a mesquite tree.
- The ALP40-Bravo balloon's track can be seen [here](#). A photo of the [launch](#). Finally, Charlie's [after action report](#) on finding the balloon.

General Information

- Tom, KB7HTA gave a presentation about Pico (Floater) Balloons to the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club's monthly meeting on the evening of April 17, 2024 with about 45 Hams present. The presentation ran about 70 minutes with a lot of questions from the audience. A PDF