

Flight Information

February 21, 2025, nothing has been heard from the balloon since yesterday, so there is a strong possibility the balloon has gone down near the Southern Algerian town of Tamanrasset. There is other evidence that the balloon has been found, if this is the case, please let us know via email (بمعلومات عن البالون يرجى الاتصال بنا على kb7hta@kb7hta.com). TALARC ALP40-G can be tracked day or night (sometimes) [HERE](#) or on [WSPR Net](#) (enter 20 m, KB7HTA, 1 hour and click update). The [Reverse Beacon Network RBN](#) has received CW spots. For more information about TALARC Pico-Balloons, use the table with links below.

February 20, 2025, at 1038 UT the balloon was over Southern Algeria near the town of Tamanrasset at a float altitude of 40,617' (12380 m). It was moving East at 87 MPH (140 KPH). Nothing has been heard from the balloon since that time, so there is a strong possibility the balloon has gone down. There is other evidence that the balloon has been found, if this is the case, please let us know via email.

February 19, 2025, at 1328 UTC the balloon was crossing the coastline of Western Sahara, Africa at a float altitude of 42,454' (12,700 m). It is moving slowly East at a speed of 35 MPH (48 KPH). The battery voltage is 4.70 Volts and rising. The [SondeHub](#) tracking website forecasts the balloon will continue across Northern Africa, Saudi Arabia, Southern Pakistan, India, China and out over the Pacific Ocean.

February 16, 2025, at 1618 UTC the balloon was 475 miles Southwest of Acapulco, Mexico at a float altitude of 41,667' (12,940 m). It is moving East at a speed of 70 MPH (113 KPH). The battery voltage is 4.25 Volts and rising. The balloon passed its launch Longitude overnight and has now started its second lap around the world. The [SondeHub](#) tracking website forecasts the balloon will continue across Mexico, Florida and out over the Atlantic Ocean towards Africa.

February 14, 2025, at 1528 UTC the balloon was 1000 miles East Southeast of Hawaii at a float altitude of 40,814' (12,440 m). It is moving slowly South at a speed of 50 MPH (80 KPH). The battery voltage is 3.75 Volts and rising. The balloon was silent overnight, which is strong evidence the battery has failed. The failure is due to higher than specified charging voltage for 6 days in a row and/or very cold temperatures less than -55C. My hope is that the battery failure will not impact the balloon's daily performance. **UPDATE:** It would seem the announcement that the battery failed was a bit premature. I have no explanation for it sending spots last night.

February 13, 2025, at 0448 UTC the balloon passed South of Midway Atoll at a float altitude of 40,486' (12,340 m). It is moving quickly at a speed of 145 MPH (234 KPH). The battery voltage is 4.70 Volts and rising. I expect the battery will continue to be charged past its specified maximum voltage of 4.3 today. For the most part, tracking spots were received and logged on WSPR Net over the past 24 hours.

UPDATE: For the first time since launch, ALP40-G has quit transmitting at night. It was silent from 0958 to 1718 UTC. There is evidence that this was due to the temperature in the battery compartment dropping below -56 C for the first time since launch. Either the battery, which was at 3.80 Volts at the time, or U4B could not handle the extreme cold at altitude; and shut the system down. Once the sun came up and there was some solar heating, everything started to work again.

February 12, 2025, at 0108 UTC the balloon is passing through Western China at a float altitude of 39,567' (12,060 m). It is moving quickly at a speed of 153 MPH (247 KPH). The battery voltage is 4.05 Volts and rising. I expect the battery will continue to be charged past its specified maximum voltage of 4.3 today. Overnight, the balloon most likely transmitted its position and telemetry every 20 minutes, however due to its location and recent solar activity, spots were logged intermittently.

February 11, 2025, at 0438 UTC the balloon is traveling along the Southern border of Iran at a float altitude of 40,092' (12,220 m). It is moving quickly at a speed of 123 MPH (198 KPH). The battery voltage is 4.10 Volts and rising. I expect the battery will continue to be charged past its specified maximum voltage of 4.3 today. Overnight, the balloon most likely transmitted its position and telemetry every 20 minutes, however due to its location and recent solar activity there were not a lot of spots logged.

February 10, 2025, at 0548 UTC the balloon met the sun, while traveling along the Southern border of Libya, Africa at a float altitude of 39,764' (12,120 m). It is moving along quickly at a speed of 114 MPH (184 KPH). The battery voltage is 3.95 Volts and rising. I expect the battery will continue to be charged past its specified maximum voltage of 4.3 today. Overnight, the balloon transmitted its position and telemetry faithfully every 20 minutes. There has been a lot of solar activity today, which has caused the 20 m band to close at times during daylight hours, reducing the number of spots.

February 9, 2025, at 1258 UTC the balloon is over Mauritania, Western Africa and stable at a float altitude of 40,879' (12,460 m). The battery voltage is 4.30 V and rising. Due to the low latitudes, I expect the battery will charge to around 4.55 Volts today as it did yesterday. Doing so, will shorten the life of the battery by a very small percentage each charge cycle. Time will tell, as to how this will effect the mission. The longer the balloon stays aloft, the more data we get, which will help us to more accurately model the TLI-1550ES battery. Overnight, the balloon transmitted its position and telemetry faithfully every 20 minutes.

February 8, 2025, at 1258 UTC the balloon is over the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and stable at a float altitude of 40,420' (12,320 m). The battery voltage is 4.10 V and rising. Due to the low latitudes the battery will charge to a level a bit higher than normal today, but better than

too low. Overnight, the balloon transmitted its position and telemetry faithfully every 20 minutes.

February 7, 2025, at 1148 UTC the balloon survived the night and is warming up over the Atlantic Ocean. The balloon seems to be stable at a float altitude of 38,911' (11,860 m) and a good battery voltage of 3.75 V and rising. Overnight, the balloon transmitted its position and telemetry every 20 minutes. Once the battery voltage gets above 4.0 Volts the balloon should begin transmitting WSPR and CW every 10 minutes.

February 6, 2025: Launched today, February 6th from the Boulder City Dry Lakebed at 1600 UTC. As of 1900 UTC, the balloon seems to be stable at a float altitude of 38,600' (11,760 m) and a good battery voltage of 4.10 V.