

APRS Digipeaters in Space

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Did you know that the International Space Station (ISS) and some amateur satellites carry APRS digipeaters? You don't need fancy equipment to use the ISS digipeater. I saw a video where someone was successful with an HT and a quarter wave whip antenna. Of course a better antenna will increase your chances of success.

The ISS is orbiting the Earth at a speed of about 17,500 mph (28,000 km/h) and makes a full trip around about every 90 minutes. You want to know when it will be within range. Here is a website that displays the orbit, current location, radio footprint, and a time until next pass overhead.

<https://www.n2yo.com>

Before wasting your time, check the current status to see if it is currently operating.

<https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html>

Set your radio to 145.825 MHz and the digipeater via path to ARISS. This is an alias used by the ISS and other satellites. The APRSAT alias might be equivalent.

A shorter packet will increase your chances of being received and give others a chance to share a scarce resource.

Digipeated frames are collected by ground stations and displayed here:

<http://www.ariss.net/>

The received packets do not include ARISS because the digipeater replaced the alias with the actual station name RSOISS.