

University of Surrey (UoS) this is a research satellite and not a communication satellite, it does not carry a transponder. UOSAT is a research tool with a lot of interesting information available for the radio amateur. Full details of the satellite are available from AMSAT UK. A few details taken from their publication state that 2m addicts can tell by the interpretation of its radiation counter readings, if an aurora is likely; HF propagation can be determined by checking its 7/14/21/29 MHz beacons, pictures of the earth are available from the camera array on the satellite; UHF/microwave enthusiasts have the 2.4 and 10 GHz beacons to play with.

The telemetry transmitted in ASCII code can be fed straight into a computer.

During approximately the last six months UOSAT has not been under command by Surrey University and only the 145 and the 435 beacons have been active. After stupendous efforts by the team at Stamford University USA on September 20th 1982 they managed to bring UOSAT under control again when they shocked a command signal into the satellite using a high power UHF transmitter. It switched off the 2m telemetry beacon and enabled Surrey University to re-command the satellite. Extensive

tests during the night orbits of Tuesday 21st September showed all the space craft systems — bar a few exceptions — were working as expected after nearly six months non use. It is expected UOSAT will have all systems 'go' in the near future.

At the time of going to press UOSAT is under full control of Surrey University and is being switched off, except while over Surrey to conserve power. Telemetry is being transmitted at 300 bauds also at 45.5 bauds RTTY. Corrections are under way to attitude and spin in an attempt to reduce the Z axis spin to one revolution per minute. The radiation detector 20 keV counter is operational despite telemetry indications of low EHT voltage. This is thought to be a telemetry fault. All HF beacons will be restored soon...

It is expected that UOSAT-10 will be launched on an Ariane space vehicle sometime between the 17th and 21st April 1983. Further information available from AMSAT-UK.

AMSAT-UK

It's only right those who use amateur satellites should contribute towards the programmes. This is the only reason why AMSAT-UK was formed some 10 years ago. Membership is open to anyone. The minimum membership donation is £6.00 per

year, but extra donations are always welcome. OSCAR News is the publication which keeps members in touch with present and future activities.

NETS

AMSAT-UK run several nets where news is disseminated and questions can be asked. The most regular of these is on 3780 KHz every Sunday morning at 10.15 local time. There is also a half hour information net every weekday evening at 7.00 p.m. on the same frequency. Irregular nets take place on 144.28 MHz.

AMSAT-USA also run nets on Sunday evenings on 14.282 and 21.280 MHz usually at 18.00 and 19.00 GMT respectively. These USA nets are a world wide news service (net control W8GQW, WA2LQQ).

The author wishes to thank AMSAT-UK, AMSAT-USA, Ron Broadbent (G3AAJ) for their kind permission to publish extracts from their literature and OSCAR News.

Membership and all enquiries relating to satellite communications should be sent to Ron Broadbent (G3AAJ), Secretary, AMSAT-UK, 94 Herongate Rd., Wanstead Park, London E12 5EQ. All communications must be accompanied by an SAE to ensure a reply. ●

Don't call that rare DX station you have already worked if others are calling him, or you will be preventing them having a chance.

Don't call stations in your own area at horizon times, as they have but a few seconds daily in which to work at the distant ones, but most of any orbit to work you.

Don't call CQ incessantly. A short burst is quite enough, then listen, otherwise you are degrading AGC and using up battery power unnecessarily. Many of the rare ones are crystal controlled, and you will need to listen for them, and they won't get in anyway if everyone is transmitting.

Don't transmit off schedule, nor on any Wednesday unless you have specific permission to do so, otherwise you will be wrecking valuable experimental work.

Don't use the top 200kHz of 2 m for terrestrial contacts even when no satellite is 'up'.

Do discourage others from us-

ing the space band for local contacts, this is mostly due to ignorance of the complete band plan for 2 m. Ask them to move, politely.

Do pay maximum attention to your receiving system, as when it is good enough you will hear returns from even 100mW exp uplinks, and hence work a lot more dx, and run less power yourself. Attention to higher gain, narrower angle and less noise on your downlink is cheaper and far more productive than anything else you can do.

Do listen attentively on the frequency that you are considering using, until you are sure that another station is not already there.

Do use the outer limits of the passband, thus avoiding the already overcrowded centre, and encouraging others to spread out too to avoid unnecessary QRM.

Do listen to AMSAT bulletins, news items and the nets, and benefit by applying the updated operational information heard, and relay to others.

Do keep clear of specific frequencies where rare or weak stations are known to be and do not sit there and call CQ hopefully; listen instead.

Do move off frequency where you have answered a CQ or a call, as it is the original caller's frequency, and he may be crystal controlled.

Do let people know if you are crystal controlled, by adding 'cc' or 'xtal' with your call, so that they can comply with the above.

Do try to be patient enough to listen for and work the weak ones.

Finally do try to have meaningful QSO's via OSCAR, e.g. by spreading the word on new stations, schedule, and items of common interest, rather than merely exchanging a few numbers. Names and QTH's are a common courtesy on all amateur QSO's, so why not on OSCAR?