

Q:

I read an article in the November 2009 issue of QST regarding an advanced satellite workshop. On page 75, the equipment used for the workshop was listed as a "Yaesu G-5500 rotator, rotator controller interface, a Yaesu VR-5000 receiver, Arrow antenna and ancillary cables and coax to complete the station".

The next paragraph mentioned that "each participant successfully completed on-the-air contacts with fellow ham operators on AO-51 and AO-27".

My questions are:

1. How did they make contacts by using a VT-5000 receiver?
2. What was used as a transmitter to contact other hams?

The set-up as described would be for a "listening only" station. Any assistance you could provide to enlighten me would be greatly appreciated.

A:

Glad you asked the question. The primary focus was on using satellite telemetry in the classroom. The FM bird contacts were made by using the participant's personal HTs for uplink and the VR-5000 for down link. There were many lessons learned during the last and pilot TI-2 Space and adjustments in the focus and curriculum resulted for this year's effort. That really isn't clear in the advertisement articles.

This year the focus will be on giving the teachers the skills needed to accomplish an ARISS contact and then continue to use satellites before and after the ARISS contact. We still will go into using telemetry. The TI-2 Space will be 4 days this year vs. the 2 days we had last year. The equipment change is that instead of the VR-5000, we will use the FT-817.