



Carlson, an 18-year-old senior at Anacapa, and Hatfield, a 15-year-old sophomore, earned their amateur radio licenses, allowing the group to use specialized higher-power wireless equipment to transmit live video images and data from the capsule to the ground crew throughout the flight. With the support of members of the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club, the Anacapa crew watched the live television downlink as the balloon climbed through the freezing, harsh conditions of the upper atmosphere into the dark, eerily-silent skies of near space.

"I am confident in saying that AAHAB-2 was a success," said Carlson, the mission's flight director. "There are some things we would do differently next time around, but overall we accomplished more than I ever expected."

The craft's three-hour and 18-minute flight was about one hour longer than the team anticipated, causing some moments of anxiety as they watched position reports creep eastward toward the Sierra Nevada.



AAHAB-2 was recovered from a ranch near Bakersfield four and a half hours after launch.

"Our initial projections showed that it would touch down near Taft," said Eckert, a 16-year-old junior. "We never expected it to climb so high and stay there for so long!"

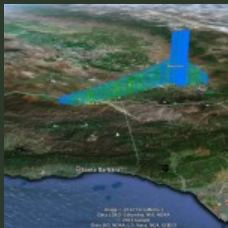
Fortunately for the crew, the descending capsules landed just short of the ridgeline, touching down in ranchland at the base of the foothills south of Bakersfield.

The students expect to thoroughly document the flight and analyze the collected data over the coming weeks.

**More information, including additional photos and a condensed version of the in-flight video can be found online at [www.anacapaschool.org/ansec](http://www.anacapaschool.org/ansec).**

*Anacapa School is an independent, co-educational, WASC-accredited, college preparatory day school for students in grades 7-12. Founded in 1981 by Headmaster Gordon Sichi, Anacapa enjoys the best student-teacher ratio of any school, public or private, in Santa Barbara at its historic campus located in the heart of the Santa Barbara civic center.*

Google Earth 3-D flight model (click for larger version):



## AAHAB-2 Video Mixdown - Near Space Balloon



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