

The logo for the RoxSat Community Forum is centered at the top of the page. It consists of the words "ROXSAT" and "COMMUNITY FORUM" stacked vertically in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is contained within a rounded rectangular border with a yellow-to-orange gradient.

# **ROXSAT COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Using Google Earth for dish alignment  
to find view direction and true south.**

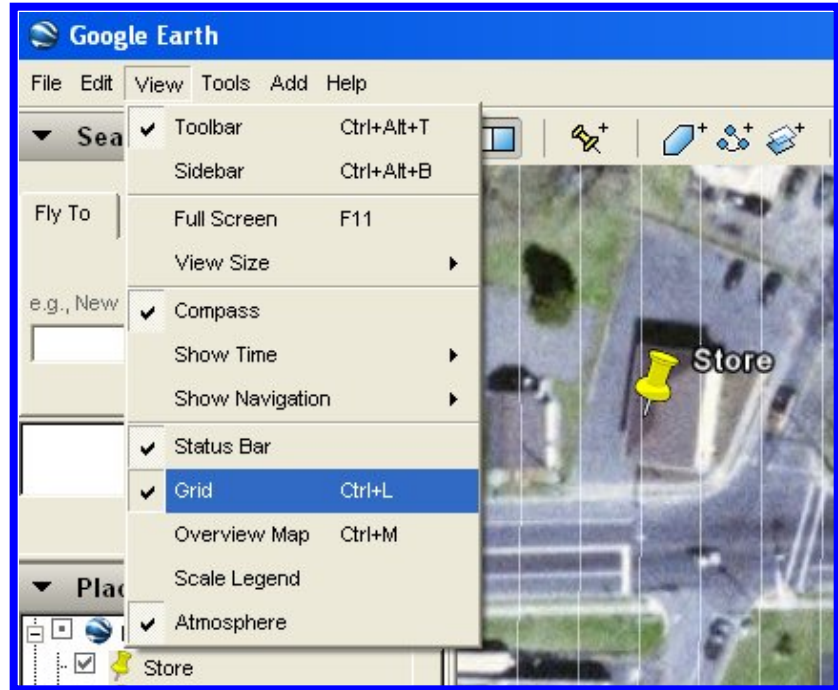
**A *RoxSat* How 2 Guide...**

## Using Google Earth to find true south for the install location of your dish

The term True North / South refers to the direction of the North / South Pole relative to your position. True North / South direction is needed to install a motorized dish. In most locations on earth it will differ from magnetic north / south.

You can use Google Earth to get a good idea of this direction from any location.

Search for your specific locations by using the “Fly To” tab in Google Earth. To do this, enter the location in the input box and click on the Search button. Once Google Earth flies to your location you can turn on the grid lines to produce latitude and longitude grid over the surface of the earth in the viewer. The longitude grid lines will be true north - south indicator.



# Using Google Earth to find the direction to point your satellite dish

Google Earth is a useful program for finding the visual azimuth of a satellite from any location. You can zoom in on virtually any location in the world. Unfortunately you're not able to get the look angle or determine if the bird you are trying to get is below the horizon. You will find however that it is useful information when doing a site survey to determine if you will be able to view the signal of your favorite birds.

You can download and install the Google Earth program by clicking here [earth.google.com](http://earth.google.com)

The first step is to locate the satellite(s) you are interested in on the equator. You do this by filling in the Latitude and Longitude in the search box. The longitude is whatever is appropriate for your target satellite (95 W Galaxy 3C, in the example). The latitude is always 0. If you are not sure of the location of your favorite satellite you can use [www.LyngSat.com](http://www.LyngSat.com) to find the longitude.



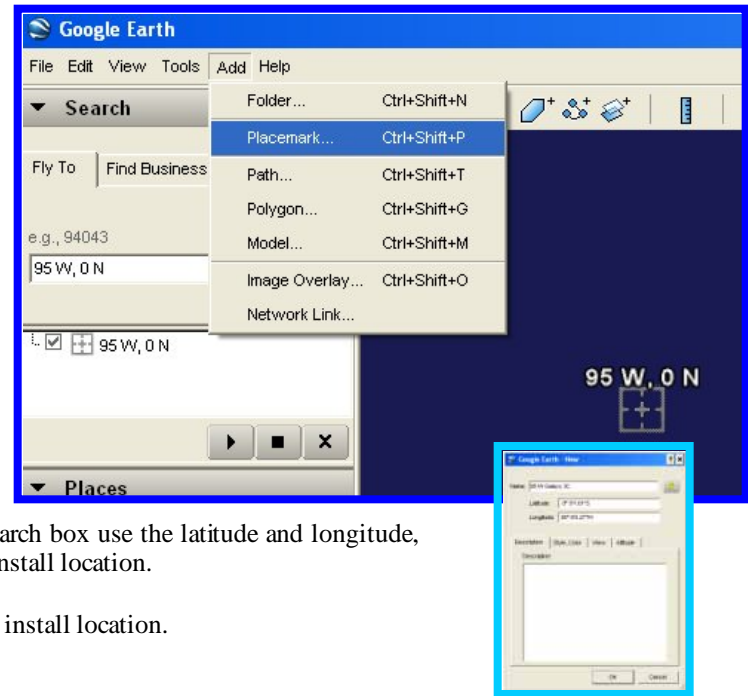
1) Next click on the find  button, Google Earth will zoom in to that location. As you can see, Galaxy 3C is located way out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

2) Next thing you need to do is add a placemark from the “ADD” menu as shown. You also want to detail the name in the naming dialog box to something you will understand.

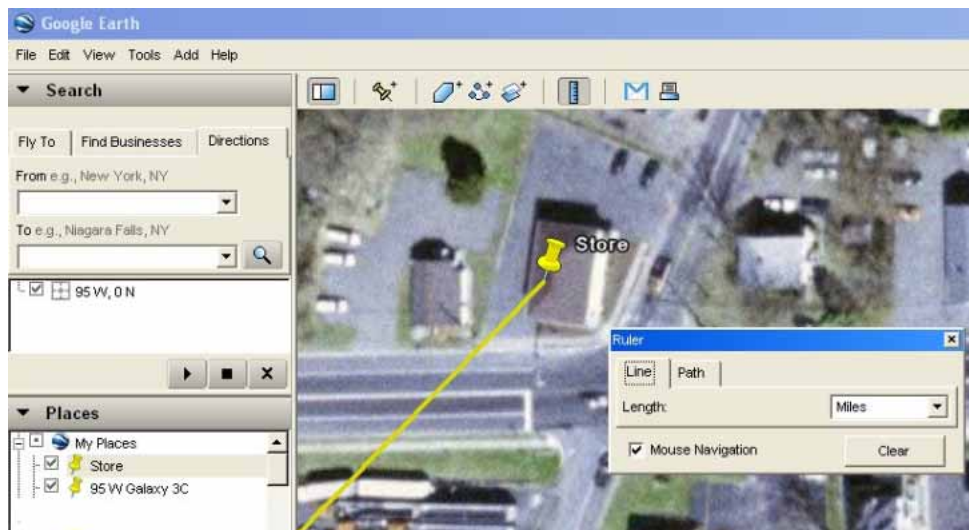
*TIP: You may want to enter all the satellites you are interested in viewing by repeating these first two steps*

3) Now you need to find the location of where you would like to place the dish to receive from these satellite(s). You can in the search box use the latitude and longitude, postal code, street address or simply zoom and navigate to your install location.

4) As you did in step two (2) you need to add a placemark to this install location.




After all your satellites and install location are placemark, open the ruler from the tool menu to begin drawing a line from the satellite to your install location.



If Google Earth is set properly, you can zoom out without disturbing the line. If your line does happen to disappear because you click rather than drag as you zoom out, just start over.

When you reach your target install location (*probably your home*), zoom in, making sure to drag the end point of the line, keeping it in view. When you have zoomed in as far as you need to, attach the line to the point where you want to mount the dish. That is our store in the above example (and yes, there is a dish there in case you were curious). When finished, close the "ruler" box so that you do not disturb your line as you turn and tilt the image.

Once you become proficient in navigating Google Earth you will be able to use the play button  to fly to your destinations

The line is where you will be pointing your dish.