• USEFUL PHONE APPS FOR CE-5 CONTACT WORK



ET CONTACT TOOL - Made by CSETI (and a Japanese version by JCETI), this app includes meditations, crop circle tones, a magnetometer, a compass, and instructions for how to use the app and do field work in general. (iOS/Android)

SATELLITE TRACKER: Find a satellite tracker app that displays the name of the satellite in real time when you point to it, making identification easy. Some satellite apps connect to a database, so you may need Internet access while in the field; some don't. Keep in mind that military or spy satellites probably won't show up.

Check out: SkySafari 5 (iOS/Android), Sky Guide AR (iOS), Stellarium Mobile (iOS/Android)

AIRPLANE TRACKER: these apps show what registered planes are flying near you, along with their flight path, origin, destination, aircraft type and altitude, etc. But for obvious security reasons, it won't track military craft, so you won't see spy planes, jet fighters or Air Force One! Check out: FlightRadar24 (iOS/Android), Plane Finder-Flight Tracker (iOS)

IRIDIUM FLARE TRACKER: A must have! Once you set your GPS, these apps will calculate when the next Iridium Flare will pass over your location. These 100 or so telecommunications satellites are not composed of iridium in any way - "Iridium" is just a good marketing name. They do have shiny, mirror like door-sized antennae, which reflect the sun and provide a spectacular flash of light in the night sky. The app will tell you where to look to find the satellite cruising along. It will then tell you when the flash will happen. It's great fun to count down with the app before the brilliant flash of light appears.

Check out: Heaven's Above (Android), Sky Safari 5 (iOS/Android)

CONSTELLATION APP: Get to know your constellations, planets and stars. Some apps additionally show where the Hubble telescope and the International Space Station (ISS) are. Did you know that the International Space Station is a research lab that has anywhere from 3 to 10 humans from various countries in it at any one time? Astronauts, cosmonauts and space tourists from 17 different nations have visited it. It's been occupied continuously since November 2000.

Check out: SkyView Free (iOS/Android), Sky Map (Android), Sky Walk 2 (iOS/Android), Night Sky (iOS), Night Sky Lite (Android), Stellarium Mobile (iOS/Android), Sky Guide AR (iOS), Sky Rover (iOS)

WEATHER FORECAST/SKY CONDITIONS: Reliable weather forecasts for astronomers with an emphasis on cloud cover.

Check out: Weather Underground (iOS/Android), Clear Outside (iOS/Android), Astro Panel (Android), Scope Nights (iOS)

LIGHT POLLUTION MAP: Great for helping you locate a field site that is relatively free of light pollution. We all want to see more stars, right?

Check out: Light Pollution Map (iOS/ Android), Dark Sky Finder (iOS), Dark Sky Map (Android), Scope Nights (iOS)

DIGITAL SOUND RECORDING APP: For recording your field work, meetings, or for just dictating notes

Check out: Smart Recorder (iOS, Android), iTalk Recorder (iOS)

[Source: A CE-5 Handbook: An easy-to-use guide to help you contact Extraterrestrial Life by Cielia Hatch, 2018]