

Fox Hunting

Radio direction finding (also T-Hunting, Fox Hunting, or Bunny Hunting) is used to find sources of interference to any form of wireless electronic communications, including broadcast and two-way radio, Locator Transmitters in downed aircraft are tracked with RDF techniques. Hams use RDF to track jamming stations and stolen equipment, but more often, they use it just for fun. Hidden transmitter hunting has been done by hams for about 50 years and it is a growing activity.

Using "hide-and-seek" procedures, a growing number of ham radio operators have taken up the task of finding hidden transmitters (known as the "Fox"). Since this involves only the reception of signals by the trackers (the Hounds), Fox Hunting does not require a ham radio license to participate. Therefore, it is becoming a popular family activity as well.

Sometimes the event will be held on foot, while other times the beginning distance between the Fox and the Hounds necessitate the use of a vehicle. Sometimes the "Fox" may be disguised to make the hunt more difficult, so watch out for "Wolves" when you are hunting too. Whatever the case, it is a fun activity! If you do not have the necessary equipment but would like to know more about this fun "radiosport", we will team you up with equipped members for the hunt.

PWARC Fox Hunt Rules

Purposes:

- Provide practice and enhance skill in radio direction finding for and by radio amateurs.
- Promote teamwork within the amateur community.
- To help or "Elmer" newcomers and old-timers alike in the skills of radio direction finding.
- Make available a competent pool of people with the skills for finding the source of intentional or unintentional radio interference.
- Have fun!

Date and time:

The next hunts will be held (Date to be determined) and will be start at approximately 2:00 p.m. Both transmitters will be on the air at the same time and will be readable from the library.

- Fox #1 - NA0PW (50 mw to 1/2-watt at most, depending on pre-event tests) - 146.565 Mhz.
- FOX #2 - KD0MBL (1 watt) - 146.430 Mhz.
- In an emergency, any station may ask for help on either transmit frequency and then change to 146.445 simplex for general conversation. The hunt will be discontinued until the emergency no longer exists

Starting place:

- The hunt will originate in the Pueblo West Library parking lot, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd., Pueblo West, CO.
- Talk in will be on the 146.445 simplex.
- The FOX shall tell the hounds when to begin the hunt.
- Individuals or teams may join in the hunt.
- Each hunt team must travel together in a single vehicle.
- The hunt boundaries will be the boundaries of Pueblo West, Colorado.
- The hidden transmitter will be within 100 yards of a public road and must be accessible to the public with no admission fee required.
- Unless otherwise noted, the hidden transmitter's signal must be able to be received at the starting point utilizing an antenna with no more than 6db gain.
- The hidden transmitter will use a constant power level during the hunt and the transmitter antenna configuration will not change during the hunt.
- The fox may be no more than 6' above ground level and not below ground level.
- The fox may not be hidden in a building.
- So that all teams can hunt with equally high enthusiasm, the hunters who find the fox will not announce they have found it.
- At the expiration of the time limit, the end of the hunt will be announced on the FOX frequency.
- All hunter teams are to observe all traffic laws and are to respect the property rights of all property owners. Violations are grounds for disqualification from the hunt.
- Rules may be modified for a particular hunt. If modified, the applicable rules for the hunt will be posted on this web page prior to the start of the hunt.

Suggested Basic Equipment:

- 2-meter handheld radio or scanner
- Directional Antenna
- Attenuator

Advanced Equipment:

- Local map and compass (or GPS)

Non-Scored Hunts

The object of these hunts is to find the Fox without competing against others. This gives newcomers a no pressure situation where they can take their time to learn more about their equipment and using new techniques.

Non-Scored Hunts

Scoring for the hunters:

For safety reasons, timed events will not be used. The individual or team with the lowest mileage (to the nearest 1/10th mile) will be declared the winner.

[Tape Measure Beam](#)

[Attenuators for Fox Hunting](#)