

Chicagoland Foxhunters Report

Publication of the Chicagoland Foxhunters

January 2019

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Two meter foxhunting in Chicago started in the early 1960s. One of the first hunts started on 147.30 MHz. The starting point was in Des Plaines near the Centel Building. With the introduction of 2 meter repeaters, it moved to the CFAR repeater. There were hunts on the WAFAR, ACL and CFMC repeaters with a simplex hunt sponsored by the RAMS on 146.34 MHz. Now the lineup is on CFAR, CMFC and two simplex hunts.



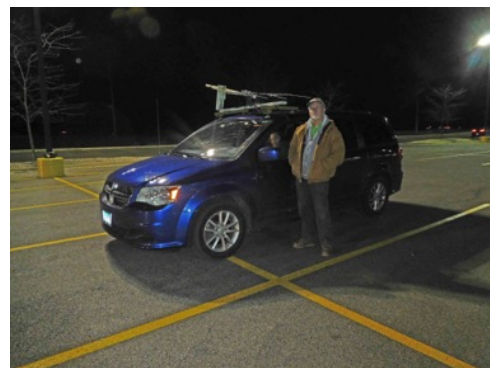
CFAR 2M Foxhunt - Jan 5th, 2019 by Pete K9PW

The fox had a good signal at the start from the north-northeast. Most hunters had a strong 1 or even a 2 on their sniffers. But nothing through the CFAR repeater! One hunter had forgot his equipment. He only had a couple of HT's with no directional antennas. Another hunter wasn't feeling well. The hounds were released at 8:06 by Pete, K9PW this hunt's fox.

All hunters started north on IL-83. On the second transmission with John, K9JK at the mic, nobody heard the fox! Nobody called asking if the transmission really occurred. Instead, U-turns were made back towards the starting point. Some checked out a possible park or two on the way back.

Only 12 minutes into the hunt, the WD9EXW and KC9SEM teams drove into Plunkett Park. Both spotted Pete's van parked under a light. John (WD9EXW) was heard saying "he's sitting in the car". Was it going to be that easy? John quickly ran up to Pete, ask if he was the fox. The reply: NO! Matt overheard the reply. Both looked confused. Pete pointed to the nearby playground for the kids. Was the remote transmitter there? Kids and most of the adults went to the playground.

On the next transmission, it was clear that the fox was not in the playground. Perhaps the baseball fields to the northwest? It was a sprint. Unfortunately, the 60 second transmission ended before any hunter got close enough to know exact where the fox was hidden among the three baseball diamonds. John went into a dugout while Matt went around the outside. The transmitter was located inside the dugout on the ground behind the bat rack. John was able to grab the tag for first place, Matt was only a few seconds behind just 16 minutes after the start. By then, W9RA had arrived in the parking lot. He found the fox shortly thereafter.



The fox's transmitter was a crossband repeater. Output power was just 5 milliwatts to a quarter wave vertical at ground level. N41.89712 W87.96218

Munch: Portillo's

Fox: Pete K9PW, John K9JK

First (8:22pm): John WD9EXW, Janet

Second (8:22pm): Matt KC9SEM, Jacob,

Mike WA9FTS (8:27pm), Patty N9PLS & Mac

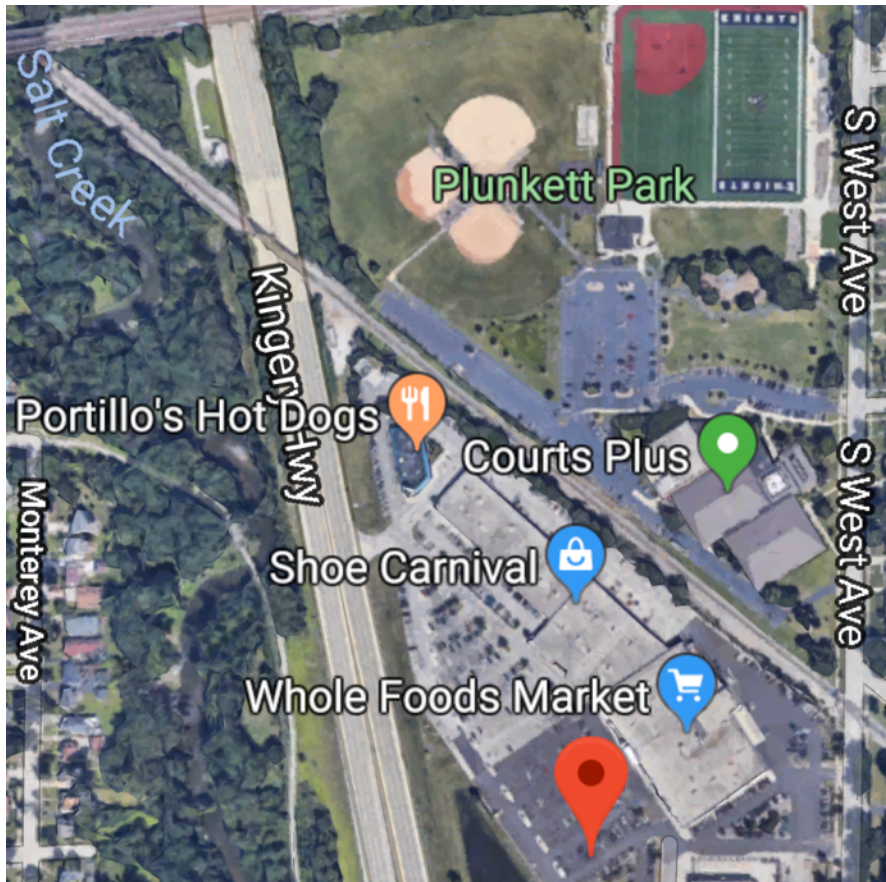
Third (8:28pm): Don W9RA

DNF: Tom N9CBA

Added perspective from Mike WA9FTS

The weather was like spring as the temp hit 50 earlier in the day. It was about 40 at the start of the hunt. Pete started the 4 hunt teams off with a strong signal. He must be close. Three of the hunters took 83 north but Tom turned west on North Av. John and Janet went up to 3rd and back to North and south on West Av Matt's team took North to York and north. In the second transmission, Pete could not be heard - back to the starting point. Pete must be running very low power. We looked at Salt Creek Park and then on West Av to find John driving just ahead of us. We both spotted Pete's van and with him in it. He said he was not the fox and he would say no more than that. John and Matt headed for the playground area. I took off for the baseball diamonds and checked out the dugouts. Nobody there. I checked out the west edge of the park as I noticed John and Matt at one of the third base dugouts I just was at. They walked away as I went back there to see Pete. I rechecked the dugout to find out the repeater was between bat rack tubes and the chain link fence. I did not lean over to see it clearly marked. Don was walking around closeby and then in to find the repeater. Tom was on the west side of the Salt Creek and was not feeling well so he went home.





Pete was close - almost straight north of the starting point. In between the starting point and the hiding spot was Portillo's.

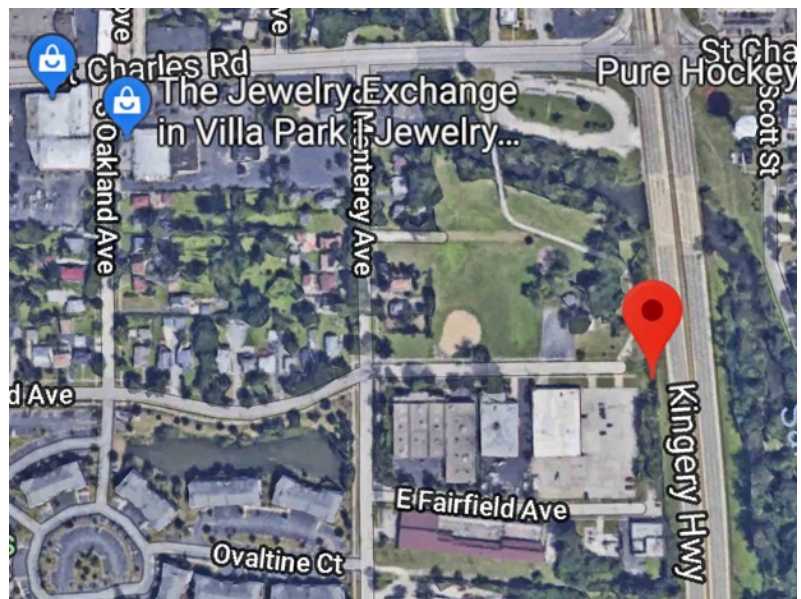
The repeater was at the north diamond - 3rd base dugout.



2nd Sat 2M Foxhunt - Jan 12th,
2019 by Mike WA9FTS

At first the hunters could not hear John WD9EXW and John could not hear any of the hunters. A cell phone did the trick. John got the four hunt teams off with a moderately weak but very hearable signal to the NE. Pete and John took a route north and then east to the St. Charles/ 83 area. Matt's team took 88 to 290 and west on North. We headed south on Addison and saw Don driving around a store. Later we spotted Pete and John near Rotary Pk. Was John east of west of 83? With a 6 we knew he was just in front of us in the weeds. John fooled us and was not in his car but inside a camp sleeping bag. A few minutes later Pete and John arrived to secure 2nd. Five minutes later Tom arrived and Don found John to end the hunt. John was running about 4w to mag mount horizontal on an I-Beam up about 6 ft. We went to a restaurant that was new to us - Michael Anthony's Pizza on S Villa Av. Results:

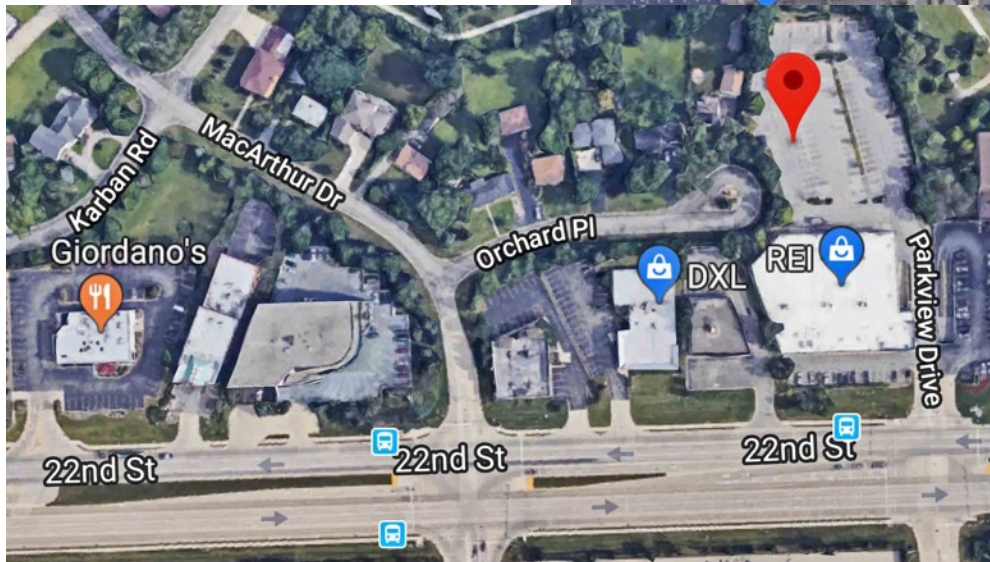
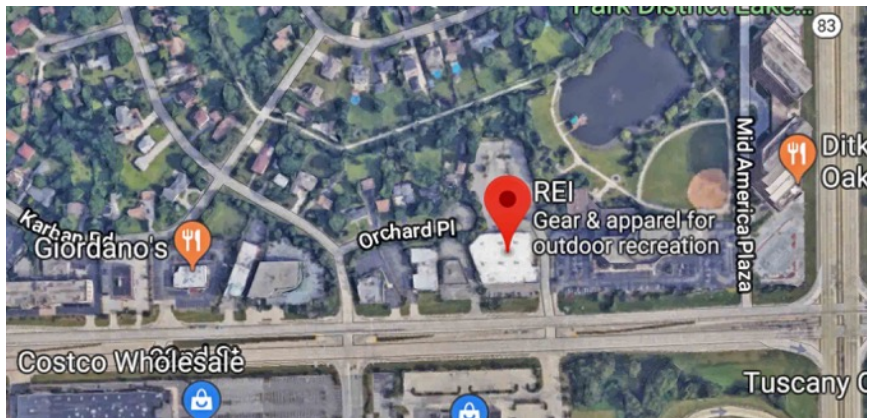
1. Matt KC9SEM, Patty N9PLS, Mike WA9FTS, Jacob, Mac - 8:53PM
2. Pete K9PW, John K9JK - 8:56PM
3. Tom N9BA - 9:01PM
4. Don W9RA



CFMC 2M Foxhunt - Jan 19th, 2019 by Mike WA9FTS

It was cold and in the single digits with a light amount of snow. John WD9EXW got three hunt teams off with a reasonably good signal to the SE. The hunters headed south with Matt's teams taking North east to Villa Rd south and eventually to 22nd St. We went east only to discover John was behind us. It was soon discovered that 22nd (Cermak) had lights that did not change very quickly. We spotted Tom exiting from REI NW of 22nd and 83. We tried the road west and found out it was a residential area. We got out and went to REI and in back found John and Janet in their Caravan for 2nd. Tom secured 1st when we saw him earlier. Don gave up and we all headed for Giordano's just west of REI. John was running 10W to a quarter wave on the roof. Results:

1. Tom N9CBA 2. Matt KC9SEM, Patty N9PLS, Mike WA9FTS, Jacob, Mac DNF Don W9RA



John sand Janet hid behind the REI building in the parking lot. REI was NW of the intersection of Rt 83 and 22nd St.

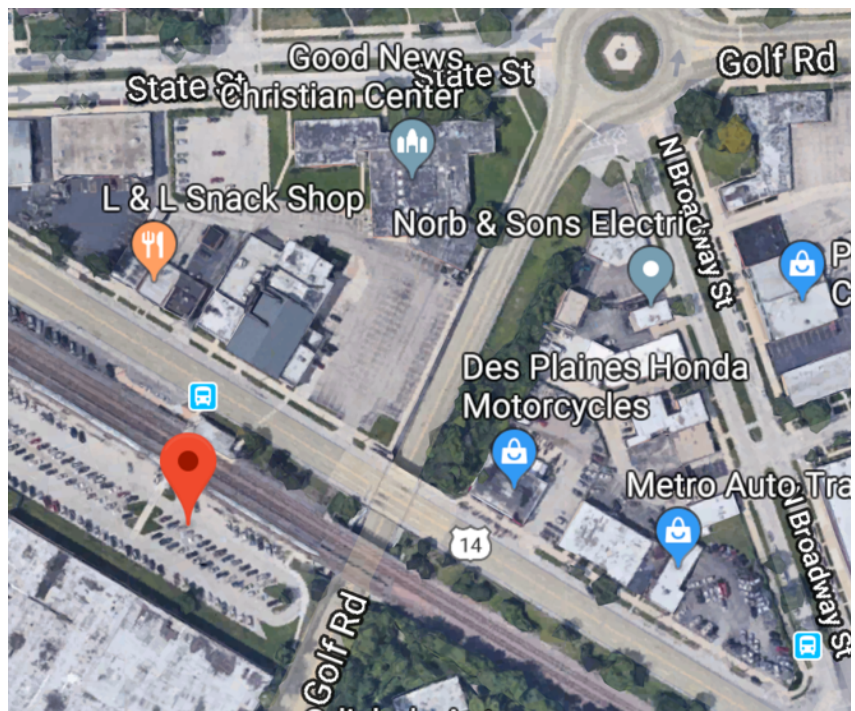
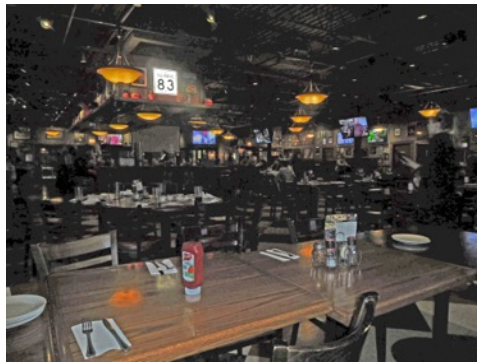
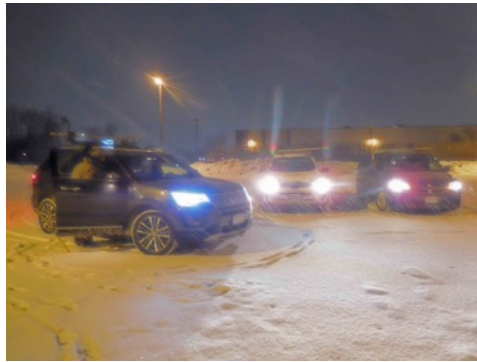
34 2M Foxhunt - Jan 26th, 2019
by Mike WA9FTS

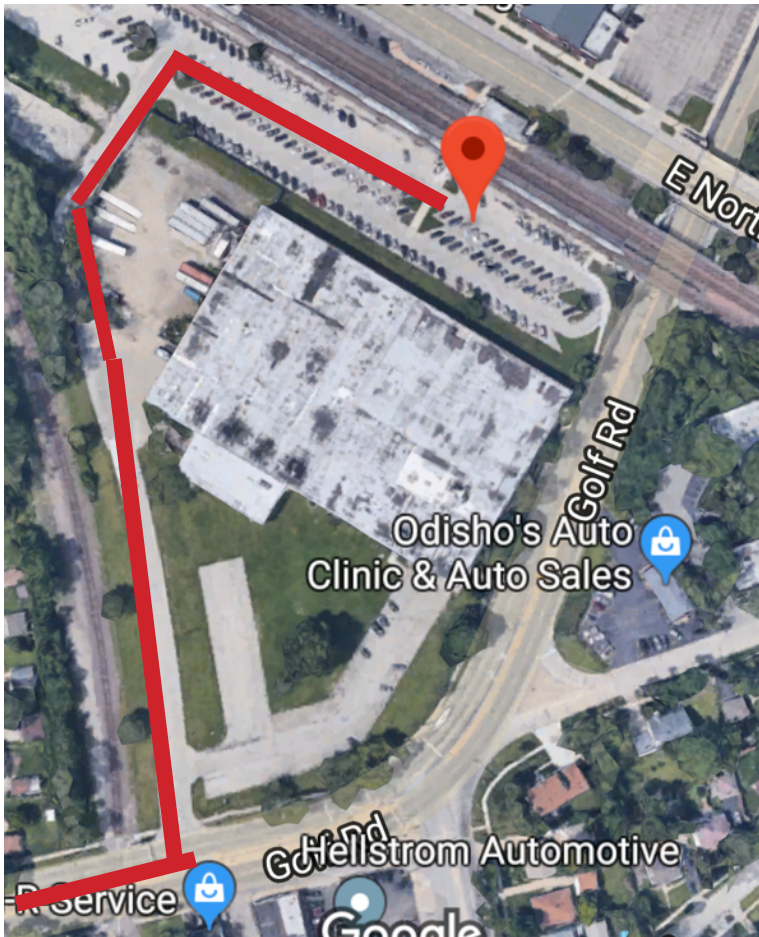
Pete K9PW and John K9JK started the 3 hunt teams off at 8:04Pm with a strong signal to the ??? Patty got a reading to the NE but the other two hunters started to head west. Matt followed them thinking they knew something we didn't. After one transmission it was apparent the NE reading was correct. We headed north on 290 to Golf Rd to the roundabout near NW Hwy. We circled but could not determine where Pete and John were hiding. We finally pulled into the Romanian Baptist Church parking lot to discover a snow-covered stairs leading down and under the RR tracks and back up. We spotted Pete's van and found out John covered the same ground 3 minutes earlier for the win. We also found out that Don W9RA did not go back down to TN due to the snow storms there. He was hunting unofficially and crossed the tracks to find Pete. A minute later Tom drove up to end the hunt. Pete ran 50w to a 5/8 on the roof. We met at Moretti's on Busse Hwy. Results:

1. John WD9EXW, Janet - 8:44PM
2. Matt KC9SEM, Patty N9PLS, Mike WA9FTS, Jacob, Mac - 8:47PM

Runoff - Don W9RA - 9:05PM

3. Tom N9CBA - 9:06PM





The red path would have been the easy path to victory. Only Tom did this - but only after everyone else did it the hard way.

42.05203, -87.91231

Chicagoland Foxhunters Report

January 2019

	Start Time	Starting Location	Foxhunt Frequency
1st	8 PM	Rt 83 north of St. Charles Rd, Elmhurst across from Whole Foods	147.750 MHz CFAR input
2nd	8 PM	Downers Grove Fitness & Rec Center parking lot off Belmont Rd south of Odgen Av	146.565 MHz
3rd	8 PM	Centennial Park, Addison 0.4 miles south of Lake St	146.160 MHz CFMC input
4th	8 PM	WoodDale Jr HS parking lot, south of Sievert Rd between Thorndale Rd and Irving Pk Rd,	146.340 MHz
5th	8 PM	TBD by the fox N9CBA Next hunt - Mar 30th	TBD by the fox

Hunter	1st	2nd
KC9SEM / N9PLS / WA9FTS	1/1/1	3/3/3
W9RA	0	0
WD9EXW, Janet	2	0
N9CBA	1	0
K9PW/K9JK	0/0	1/1
	0	0
5th Saturday hunts are not included in hunt results		

VK3YNG Sniffer

All of our hunter use the VK3YNG Sniffer when we have to get out on foot to find the fox. We all use one in the vehicle also and W9RA uses his from start to finish.

To order: bryan@foxhunt.com.au

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