

# Chicagoland Foxhunters Report

*Publication of the Saturday Night 2M Fox Hunts of the Chicagoland Foxhunters*

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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 SRO's 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, the output of ACL, CMFC and the simplex hunt on 34 with no club sponsorship.



CFAR Fox Hunt Report February 4, 2012  
by Tony AA9CC

The elevation of Point B on the following Google maps link is not reflected on the satellite view. Its a spot I found in 1991 and was considered for an ACL hide with a long beam antenna pointed at the top of the Oak Brook tower, but was forgotten, probably due to rain. I found it again while hiking along the Salt Creek in search if a spot yesterday. It's the bottom of a long trench like flood retention reservoir oriented north south, approximately 100 feet below grade. VHF signals travel by line of sight, so how could the signal get out of the hole? By edge refraction and scattering, like echoes off the tree tops and building tops that are illuminated. On the southern edge is a 3 element VHF link antenna on a 20 foot pole that looks just like a fox antenna, it made a good decoy. I think all the hunters spent some time there. I didn't bring the long beam, just a three element tape measure beam and a 1/4 wave mag mount. The mag mount was stuck to the steel cover of the concrete pump entrance as a decoy. A couple of hunters found it, Matt yelled a snide comment upon examination. I was hidden a hundred feet away, in the thick reeds. John, WD9EXW found me first, as expected, since he hid not far away a few years ago in what was one of the most challenging and frustrating hunts in memory, one of the few hunts where I took last place. He remembered the bicycle bridge across the creek. Don, W9RA was hunting along with Matt, KC9SEM, commenting like a coach. Don would have put more effort if he knew he was hunting for second place. Matt returned later with Marty, KB9SMR for 4th place. They crouched down near me as Mike, WA9FTS scooted by along the eastern ridge and Paul, N9LXF bush whacked to the west. They rounded up the hunt around 9:30, that would make it about 1.5 mile per hour as the crow flies from the Elmhurst start point.

Google Map: [http://maps.google.com/maps?  
daddr=41.867464,-87.954097&hl=en&ll=41.867506,-87.953762&spn=0.001662,0.003996&sll=41.867506,-87.95427  
1&sspn=0.001662,0.005018&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=19&t=h&z=19](http://maps.google.com/maps?daddr=41.867464,-87.954097&hl=en&ll=41.867506,-87.953762&spn=0.001662,0.003996&sll=41.867506,-87.954271&sspn=0.001662,0.005018&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=19&t=h&z=19)



Gathering at the munch spot



Tony in his lair



Marty with his new rack

Results, February 2012 CFAR Fox Hunt:

- 1) Tom N9CBA, John WD9EXW & Janet
- 2) Matt KC9SEM, Patty & Jacob
- 3) Don W9RA
- 4) Marty KB9SMR & Bill
- 5) Mike WA9FTS, Paul N9LXF & Troy K9TOW

February 11, 2012 ACL Foxhunt Report  
by Tony AA9CC

Due to the seasonal weather we did not hide outside but elected the public parking garage in uptown Des Plaines. It's just behind Leona's restaurant, where we later met. Signals were weak on the ground floor and we had to move to the outside rung to hear the CFAR repeater, due to the attenuation of the 18 inch thick structural concrete walls. Power was 70 watts to a 5/8 magmount antenna. The hunt started a few minutes late due to stragglers. WA9FTS was first to zoom by us on the way to the top floor, seven minutes later, KB9DIM did the same. We could here the boisterous jeep reverberating throughout the chasm as the driver weaved feverishly around the elevations. WA9FTS walked over from the alley for first place around 7:45, followed closely by N9CBA, N9LXF, KB9DIM, KC9SEM, and W9RA. K9TOW was tuned to the repeater input frequency. I did the same on my first ACL hunt in 1991. The repeater was off the air.

#### Results,

- 1 Mike WA9FTS, Paul N9LXF
- 2 Tom N9CBA, John WD9EXW
- 3 Matt KC9SEM, Patty & Jacob
- 4 Charlie KB9DIM
- 5 Don W9RA

Following the hunters Troy K9TOW

CFMC Foxhunt Report for February 18, 2012  
by Tony AA9CC

I found a spot on Google maps and Joanie suggested I ride my bike there to check it out. It was in Alsip, a 52 mile round trip. The spot was Metropolitan Water Reclamation property with a chained and locked gate. Back home, at 6:00 PM I still had no idea where to hide and thought of the spot in Lockport that I had cycled past years ago. It was the end of a mile long gravel and mud drive along the I&M canal with an unlikely entrance that looked like someones driveway. I parked in the small lot at the end, it was wooded. I needed to find a clear area to get the signal out. It was low elevation next to the canal, so I followed the trail around to a path that led to a small lake. Bordering the lake on one side was a sheer dolomite rock cliff around 80 feet high. I wondered how to get up there, as I walked back to the trail. Well, there was a trail up the other side, and at the top was a small fence across, placed to keep people from walking to far and plummeting to their death. It was straight down on three sides. I went back to the car and lugged the radio equipment up,

stopping several times to redistribute the weigh and catch my breath. It took about 20 minutes to pushed up the 6 sections of fiberglass mast with antenna on top, which is quite unwieldy at 35 feet, and lashed it to the fence with bungee cords. Nothing, I could barely hear the repeater. I checked the radio connection and then brought the antenna back down. Still nothing. I jogged back to the car and brought back the tape measure beam, that didn't work either, I went back and got the mag mount and stuck it to the fence, I could still hardly hear the repeater. I connected the tape measure beam directly to the mobile radio and KC9SEM was calling. I barley made the repeater to explain the coax problem and after some more fiddling, called Joanie, my wife, and asked her to call N9CBA. I needed 10 minutes to go to the car and get the 5 foot coax length from the foxhunting setup. I attached the beam to the coax and to my surprise was heard with 15 watts at the start point by all seven hunters! Nearly 30 miles distant, I was holding the antenna in one hand and the mike in the other. The hunt was on, I strapped the antenna and one mast segment to the fence.

I was cold, it was the mid 20's perfectly clear sky, no moon and a slight breeze. It was dark. I tried to keep warm huddled under a blanket and camo net. There a lot of sounds on top of that rock, dogs barking, voices half a mile away, grease honking, train horns, a motorcycle engine. An hour went by, still no sign. N9CBA called to throw in the towel for 5th place, but was reinvigorated with the news I hadn't been found yet. K9TOW was reportedly the first down Canal Road, but let the other hunters pass by as he lacked ground gear to sniff the fox out. There was a scurry of activity down by the car, 4 or 5 flashlights. I could hear the tape measures slanging. To my surprise, though, instead of following the trail they were bee lining toward the antenna, bush whacking though the stubby, thorny undergrowth, picking their way though the rocky finger of land on the far side of the lake. The signal was stronger there, in front of the beam. Another half hour went by as they picked their way back to the car. It was 10:03 PM as a flashlight beam illuminated the fence from behind. It was KC9SMR, Marty a new hunter. KC9SEM scored just after the first team left. Then N9CBA followed by W9RA to finish out the hunt. WA9FTS gave up earlier after finding the car. Don dropped his cell phone somewhere along the way. We could hear it ring, it was on the far side of the lake, near where Tom lost his glasses. After the phone was retrieved, Marty reported the Aullios restaurant closed at 10:30 and not the 1:00 AM as Joanie told me. Coordinating on 146.52 we drove up State Street and happened onto Georges Restaurant on the north side of Lockport, contiguous with the bowling ally and is open 24 hours. Contrary to our expectation, it was a nice restaurant not connected to the bowling ally and was packed with teenagers. It was prom night and most of the girls were wearing skimpy little dresses. We were seated at 11 PM. Patty took sleeping Jacob home and Marty gave Matt a ride home. They didn't serve waffles after breakfast, but pancakes could be had. John was the last to be served his dinner. We left around 12:30.

MAP:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?>

[saddr=41.568068,-88.070066&daddr=41.567916,-88.071475&hl=en&ll=41.567848,-88.070623&spn=0.00167,0.003996&sll=41.56806,-88.072506&sspn=0.003339,0.007993&mra=mift&mrsp=0&sz=18&t=h&z=19](http://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=41.568068,-88.070066&daddr=41.567916,-88.071475&hl=en&ll=41.567848,-88.070623&spn=0.00167,0.003996&sll=41.56806,-88.072506&sspn=0.003339,0.007993&mra=mift&mrsp=0&sz=18&t=h&z=19)

RESULTS:

- 1) 10:03 KC9SMR, Marty with Bill from New Lenox
  - 2) 10:07 KC9SEM, Matt and Patty and Jacob
  - 3) 10:16 N9CBA, Tom and John WD9EXW and Janet
  - 4) 10:27 W9RA, Don
- DNF WA9KPZ Andy  
 DNF K9TOW, Troy  
 DNF WA9FTS, Mike and Paul N9LX

34 Foxhunt Report Feburary 25, 2012

by Tony AA9CC

I had a few places in mind, as we left home around 5:40, but nothing specific. I had looked on Google maps at Du Page Government center, but it was posted restricted access as we arrived near the jail. We drove on to a series of dead end streets across a bridge according to the GPS. A park there seem promising, but when the Sheriff drove by we flagged him down. He said it was his spot to hide and write reports because he got a good signal for his WiFi. Technically the park closes at dusk but he didn't have a problem with us parking there. What we really wanted was to drive down the

lane that was posted Do Not Enter, dead end, but there was a problem being near the water treatment plant, which was a private road. He said there was nothing on the other side and it was a long way around. Hummm... We checked out almost all of the dead end streets on the way around and then decided to drive down the path on which we hid, which was the other end of the lane, but was inaccessible from the east due to fences and water. It was 7:30. We used 5 sections of mast to lift the beam up 30 feet and strapped it to a concrete man hole. The beam slipped and was pointing at the ground, so we brought it down and pushed it back up, now it was pointing 45 degrees up and just east of north. I had fixed a bad coax center conductor connection that afternoon. N9CBA phoned saying that WA9FTS was calling us, he could not be heard. I boosted power to 70 watts and KB9DIM returned. All hunters had a satisfactory signal with 15 watts and the hunt was off.

The sky was clear, Orion visible in the south, Polaris behind the trees and a crescent moon setting in the west, around 20 degrees. Around us was 3 inches of crusty snow, but the lane was plowed. It was a drive up, two difficult hunts in a row was too much, we thought, besides Joanie preferred the car anyway, but we were prepared to hide outside. We could have driven further down the lane, it was flooded and just beginning to refreeze, small streams of steam were floating up, back lit from the treatment plant lights. We predicted that Janet would know the area and N9CBA team would win the hunt. KB9DIM phoned from Wheaton around 8:45 and was having problems DFing. We gave him the restaurant and I reduced the modulation index by switching to narrow band. Around 9:00 we thought we saw light around the curved lane slightly illuminating the snow bank in front and ten minutes later a flashlight surprised us. It was W9EXW, Janet wasn't sure if she could drive down the lane. Soon after we could hear the Jeep driving around, searching the dead end streets in the neighborhood and KB9DIM showed up a few minutes later but did not accept second place. WA9FTS with N9LXF driving took second, with card in hand, Mike walked back to the van with a satisfied gesture. KC9SEM arrived with W9RA tailing, we first thought it might be the tow truck. Matt tried to walk in from the east, but was repelled by unfavorable terrain and was forced to returned to the pickup. K9TOW gave up the hunt after circling back to the start point. I wonder if Troy has his Ramsey Doppler kit working yet, or if he is using a hand held beam. Munchies were at Caliendo's Restaurant on the corner of Windfield and High Lake roads. It will be nice not having to hide next week, but my game will probably be off, not having hunted in a while. N9CBA team will be the fox. If you are wondering, a tiny finger of forest land in the Florida panhandle is ever so slightly west of Navy Pier.

Map:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=205153916184262219092.000491b5dcf73b99861e4&msa=0&ll=41.869481,-88.174038&spn=0.013294,0.031972>

Results:

- 1) N9CBA, Both John and Tom DFing, Janet driving  
DNF) KB9DIM, Charlie, Driving and DFing
- 2) WA9FTS, Mike DFing and Paul driving
- 3) KC9SEM Matt driving, Patty DFing, Jacob riding, then Matt on foot.
- 4) W9RA, Don driving, then static DFing  
DNF) K9TOW, Troy, Driving and DFing with Andy WA9KZP

Fox: AA9CC, Tony and KC9QQY, Joanie

Saturday	Start Time	Starting Location	Foxhunt Frequency
1st	8 PM	Rt 83 north of St. Charles Rd, Elmhurst across from KMart	147.750 MHz CFAR input
2nd	7 PM CST / 8 PM CDT	Harper Jr. College, Roselle Rd & Euclid, Palatine, Lot 2	146.985 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 Next hunt - Mar 31, 2012	TBD by the fox

## Foxhunt Results for the year

Hunter	Wins	2nds	Fox
Tony AA9CC & Joan KC9QQY	4	0	4
Matt KC9SEM	0	3	1
Don W9RA	0	1	1
Mike WA9FTS & Paul N9LXF	1	2	1
Tom N9CBA & John WD9EXW	2	1	0
Marty KC9SMR	1	0	0

### VK3YNG Sniffer

All of our hunter use the VK3YNG Sniffer when we have to get out on foot to find the fox. WA9FTS uses one in the vehicle also and W9RA uses his

