

# 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 2M Foxhunt Jan7th, 2012 by Mike WA9FTS

The January weather continued to be above normal. Don W9RA gave a weak but northerly signal and we all headed north.

Then a problem arose. The transmissions stopped. Don got on and tried something and one more transmission. Then it stopped again. Charlie KB9DIM who appeared for his first hunt in almost a year, got off I290 to Lake St going east. Paul and I got off at the 2nd exit to Lake St from I290. Finally Don got regular transmissions and the signal was due north. We took Mill Rd which was slow and over to Prospect/ Arlington Hts Rd north over I90 and east on Algonquin Rd. We saw Charlie driving around and he left. We discovered Don was on the south side of I90. We drove in to the North Point Center near ADP and parked. We ran over to a utility box with Don sitting down in front of it and a vertical antenna on the top of the metal box. As we scored, we saw Tom N9CBA and John WD9EXW drive by. I was surprised as they were the 2011 overall hunt team champs & were about to finish last.

We all met at Sweet Baby Rays nearby and found out what happened to Don's radio transmissions. Earlier in the day, Don made a CD with a 1 min transmission and 4 min of silence. Then the CD would replay - over and over - till the hunt was done. It worked in the house but the cooler temp outside caused the

CD player to shut down after one play. Don had to get out of his nice warm van to start it up. After two attempts, he did it the old fashion way - he used just his radio and things worked well after that to the end of the hunt. Tony, runner up by a slim 1 victory for foxhunt champion, got off to a good start. Tony and Joan took Rt 83 to I290 to I294N to Higgins and in to the North Point Center; a great path for the win. Matt KC9SEM was right behind with a similar path for 2nd. Results:

1. Tony AA9CC, Joan KC9QQY
2. Matt KC9SEM, Patty, Jacob and Marty
3. Charlie KB9DIM
4. Mike WA9FTS, Paul N9LXF
5. Tom N9CBA, John WD9EXW, Janet

2nd Sat 2M Foxhunt Jan 14th, 2012 by Matt KC9SEM

4 vehicles (in no particular order)  
 N9CBA + WD9EXW  
 AA9CC  
 WA9FTS  
 W9RA

This used to be the ACL hunt , however we don't really call it that anymore. We still use the frequency but on simplex at 146.985. Patty and I were ~~joined by our friends Jim And Katy~~ from Bloomington, Illinois. We had originally planned to hide outside but it turned out to be too cold. With no real spot in mind we headed for Six Flags to find a location far north of the starting location. After about a half hour of searching , we finally found a descent spot for hiding in the car, ( 42.363401, -87.895238). Using 50 watts and my M-Squared 4 element beam, I was not pointed directly at the starting point, almost straight south. With 3 test transmissions the hunters reported back that they could all hear me. The hunt started at 7:11 pm. First to score was Tony (AA9CC) at 8:05 pm. Mike (WA9FTS) was right on his heels at 8:06pm. Ironically Mike had traveled south on 355 for the first few transmissions and still almost won. Third place was John (WD9EXW) and Tom (N9CBA) at 8:12pm. Don (W9RA) called in a DNF at 8:44pm effectively ending the hunt. Interesting note was that this was a drive up hunt and the three hunters that scored had done so on foot. Munchies was at Red Robin in Gurnee, chosen by our guests Jim and Katy. Congrats to Tony (AA9CC) for winning two hunts in a row.

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CFMC 2M Foxhunt - January 21, 2012

6 Cars (No particular order)

K9TOW = Troy (Unofficial hunt)  
 AA9CC = Tony & KC9QQY = Joan  
 KB9DIM = Charlie & N9VRA = Alexis  
 W9RA = Don  
 WA9FTS + N9LXF = Mike + Paul  
 N9CBA + WD9EXW = Tom + John

After Months of begging, I finally got my twin brother to come out on a hunt. We are both UPS drivers and I had asked him if he knew a spot on his route in Bolingbrook where we could hide. We had originally planned to hide in a snow pile but the snow was not conducive to building a tunnel. So with time running out we decided to hide in my truck between two semi trailers (41.663383, -88.115719). With my radio set at 10 watts using a 1/4 wave omni, the hunters reported they all could hear me. The hunt began at 8:04pm. AA9CC was first on the scene at 8:40pm. W9RA finished second at 8:42pm. N9CBA & WD9EXW scored third at 8:47pm along with K9TOW who was hunting unofficially. KB9DIM was fourth at 8:52pm. WA9FTS & N9LXF finished Fifth at 9:12 pm. We had munchies at Chili's on the southeast corner of Weber and Boughton. Now that my Brother, Chad , has seen what it is like to be the fox he sounds a little anxious to be the hunter.

The Fox, KC9SEM

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146.34 2M Foxhunt - Jan 29th, 2012

by Mike WA9FTS

This hunt was rescheduled since it was in conflict with Christmas Eve. The weather in January continued to be great with the temp around freezing. We had 6 hunt teams which is more than we had in a long time. We found a 5 level parking lot in Downers Grove south of Butterfield and west of I-355.

We knew some of the hunters could not drive up since their antennas could not be swung down. At the start we had a problem. On the two higher power settings, the radio shut down. We were using a Yaesu 2900 using a portable 4 element horizontally polarized beam from Troy K9TOW who was on his first official hunt. The Yaesu was powered off a cigarette plug in the van. The antenna was about 20 feet high on top of a fiberglass pole. We also could not hear the hounds at the starting point and they could not hear us. We took the antenna down and configured it for vertical polarization. We also set the Yaesu to the lowest power. Now we both could hear one another and the hunt started at 8:18PM. In a little over 23 minutes Tony AA9CC arrived on foot traveling up the ramps for the win - his 4th in the month! About 5 minutes later, Matt KC9SEM arrived, also on foot, for 2nd. Both Tony and Matt took the stairs down to their cars. A minute later Patty, Matt's wife arrived - very out of breath. I told her that Matt had gone down the stairs through the door and to use that to get down. Two minutes later, John WD9EXW arrived - again on foot - for third. Tom N9CBA took the same path shortly after to find us. Fifteen minutes later, Charlie KB9DIM, who was close, gave up. Five minutes later another hunter arrived by driving up. It was Don W9RA who did not have a roof rack and saw us from an adjacent parking lot top level. A new ham and hunter, Marty KC9SMR, arrive 2 minutes later to end the hunt. We met at Fuddruckers off Finley Rd which was about a mile from where we hid. Results:

Tony AA9CC, Joan KC9QQY 8:41  
 Matt KC9SEM, Patty, Jacob 8:47  
 John WD9EXW, Tom N9CBA,, Janet 8:50  
 Don W9RA 9:09  
 Marty KB9SMR, Joey and Bill 9:11  
 DNF - Charlie KB9DIM, Alexis N9VRA



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	0
Matt KC9SEM	0	2	2
Don W9RA	0	1	1
Mike WA9FTS & Paul N9LXF	0	1	2
Tom N9CBA & John WD9EXW	0	0	0
Marty KC9SMR	0	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

