

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, CMFC and two simplex hunts.



CFAR FOX HUNT - JULY 7, 2012 by Tony AA9CC

Joan and I were at my sister's birthday party today. The weather has been hot all week and today was no exception - 103F. But around 4:00 a breeze came through and the temperature plummeted 20 degrees to the mid 80s; it felt surprisingly cool outside. There has been talk of moving the ACL start point south, and I thought that the confluence of I355 and I88 Tollways would be a good choice. It's near the geographic center of the hunter's QTHs, and accessible by limited access highways in the 4 cardinal directions. I found the Downers Grove Recreation Center parking lot on Google maps, and I also saw two parallel fences from the aerial view. Upon arriving I found the parking lot to be on a hill, and empty. The Rec Center closes at 7:00 PM on Saturday. The fences were 10 feet apart and not too overgrown. I carried the gear back to a stump of a hedge apple tree and set up. I could not get the 2x2 antenna through the trees, so height of the antenna was only 15 feet. It was pointed northeast to the start point in Elmhurst. We waited for Charlie and I made two transmissions before the start and was told to hush up by Mike. All had good bearing and the hunt started at 8:12. Matt was the first to walk up at 8:40 with Patty and Jim from Bloomington and family. They spotted the car from Belmont Rd after getting \$10 of fuel at the Shell station. Next was Don two transmissions later with Charlie right behind him. John & Tom arrived 15 minutes later. Mike somehow got on the wrong side of the fence as he drove into the car dealer. After showing him the hole in the fence, and, helped by Tom, he photo-documented the fox den. Marty and team had equipment difficulties and had driven south to 83 and 55, lost the signal and returned. While packing up in the parking lot were were approached by two people that we recognized from Mike's New Year's Eve party. It turns out that Randy works at the Rec Center and saw the big antenna on Marty's car, small world. They joined us at munchies at the local Culver's and we talked them into riding along on a foxhunt next weekend.

Next Saturday we start at the new location and hunt on 146.565 simplex,
8:00 PM.

[https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?](https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=205153916184262219092.000491b5dcf73b99861e4&msa=0&ll=41.804438,-88.040603&spn=0.006654,0.015986)

[msid=205153916184262219092.000491b5dcf73b99861e4&msa=0&ll=41.804438,-88.040603&spn=0.006654,0.015986](https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=205153916184262219092.000491b5dcf73b99861e4&msa=0&ll=41.804438,-88.040603&spn=0.006654,0.015986)

Results:

- 1) 8:40 Matt KC9SEM, Patty, Jim, Kaite, Lindsey & Callie
- 2) 8:50 Don W9RA
- 3) 8:50 Charlie KB9DIM
- 4) 9:05 John WD9EXW, Tom N9CBA
- 5) 9:15 Mike WA9FTS
- 6) 9:32 Marty KB9SMR & Bill
- Unoff 7) Randy & Lisa



Tony finds another great spot to hide.



The Mystery Guests of the evening.
Randy & Lisa



2nd Sat Foxhunt - July 14, 2012 - by Charlie KB9DIM

The 2nd Saturday hunt, has been sponsored by the Arlington Communications League, aka ACL, since the 1970's. I went on my first ACL hunt in 1976 as part of a team from the ham radio club at Buffalo Grove High School. Due to issues with insurance, the ACL club decided to end their sponsorship of the hunt.

The starting point for this hunt has been Harper College for well more than a decade, but due to parking lot construction, that needed to change as well.

After some consideration it was decided to make the hunt a simplex hunt using 146.565MHz, and move the starting point to a parking lot in Downers Grove.

This being the first hunt to use the new frequency and starting point, I went on Google Earth to find a good hiding spot. I chose a spot in Palos Hills, near 115th St. There was park there, with a boat ramp for launching boats into the CalSag canal. From the satellite view, I saw a dirt path that started near the boat ramp and ran along side the canal up to a railroad bridge.

When I got to the site, I found a nice spot to tuck the car into. The tracks are elevated at this location, on a high embankment, probably 25 to 30 feet high. I parked next to the embankment and a cluster of brush.

I mounted the 4el Yagi antenna up 15 feet, with it vertically polarized. It was fed using 50 feet of RG-8 from a Yaesu FT-2900 operating at full power, probably somewhere near 55 to 60 Watts.

- 1st Tony AA9CC Joan KC9QQY
- 2nd Tom N9CBA John WD9EXW
Janet
- 3rd Mike WA9FTS
- 4th Matt KC9SEM Patty & Jacob
- 5th Marty KB9SMR Bill



Temporary
Start Point



It was a drive-up
Charlie found a really
good spot. Nobody
drove up to him.



The local police wanted
to know what was
going on. John
explained it to them.

Tony & Joan did not
make it - Tony had a
bike race Sunday. These
are the hunters minus
Charlie and Mike who
took the picture.



CFMC Foxhunt Report July 21, 2012
by Tony AA9CC

Joan and I left the house at 7:30 and arrived at the spot behind Westfield school, set up the antenna, turned on the radio and KC9SEM was calling me. All had a good signal but WA9FTS needed a second test transmission. First on the scene was WD9EXW at 8:43, KC9SEM at 8:47, WA9FTS at 8:52 and W9RA DNF. All hunters except FTS spent a short time on the opposite side of the river. KC9SEM consider wading across and would have have first place, he had a 6 off the side of my beam, with 5 watts. Munchies was at Fudruckers where I had an elk burger, next time I'll try the wild boar burger and maybe some bush meat.



<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=205153916184262219092.000491b5dcf73b99861e4&msa=0&ll=41.841304,-88.037868&spn=0.0266,0.063944>

Results:

- 1) Tom N9CBA, John WD9EXW, Janet
 - 2) Matt KC9SEM, Patty, Jacob
 - 3) Mike WA9FTS
- DNF Don W9RA





34 Foxhunt Report - July 28th, 2012

by Mike WA9FTS

Troy K9TOW agreed to hide for Tony AA9CC who was away on a bike trip. Troy gave the hunters a good and strong signal to start the 5 hunt teams out. All of the hunters took off to the SSE. Troy made sure there were some interesting barriers in the way - like a RR tracks and a tricky way to get into where he was. He hid in the dirt lot of Windy City Towing where he works. Access was off Irving Pk Rd south on Willow Rd and west on Byron. His tow truck was outside for all to see but several hunters drove to the opening in the area where vehicles were kept - and drove off. Charlie was not fooled and drove in for the win. Second through fourth came in seconds apart and Marty and Bill ended the hunt shortly. We all met at The Phoenix at Lawrence and Cumberland in Norridge. I forgot to bring a camera so there are no pictures to be presented. Results:

- 1 Charlie KB9DIM
- 2 Tom N9CBA, John WD9EXW and Janet
- 3 Matt KC9SEM, Patty and Jacob
- 4 Mike WA9FTS
- 5 Marty KB9SRM, Bill

Here is Troy's hiding spot - Presented by Tom N9CBA

<http://binged.it/P3m0B5>

	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	8 PM	Downers Grove Golf Club 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 Next hunt - Sept 29, 2012	TBD by the fox

Hunter	1st	2nd
Tony AA9CC	12	2
Joan KC9QQY	9	2
Tom N9CBA	5	8
John WD9EXW	5	8
Matt KC9SEM	5	5
Marty KB9SRM	2	2
Mike WA9FTS	1	5
Paul N9LXF	1	5
Charlie KB9DIM	2	1
Don W9RA	0	4

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 from start to finish.

