

Chicagoland Foxhunters Report

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

September 2012

Volume 1 Issue 9

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 Foxhunt - Sept 1st, 2012 by Mike WA9FTS

Don K9VGJ stopped by to say hi before the hunt. Tony AA9CC gave us a weak but good test transmission. The signal was to the S / SE. The release transmission was not so good as he dropped out of the repeater most of the time. John and Tom headed south on I-83 as I did. I got a reasonably strong signal around Roosevelt Rd. As I headed south the next several transmissions were missed and not heard in the repeater. Somehow I kept on going to I-55 and then turned around. I got back to Roosevelt and Cermak from I-83 and then drove past the Oak Brook Mall. Tony was there but I kept going indicating I was quitting and going home. Later I found out John and Tom also drove down to I-55 and back north. They did not find the fox when I gave up. Charlie earlier gave up due to a lack of a signal to home in on. What follows is info I got from Tom.



Tony used a handheld talkie with a 1/4 wave skinny flex antenna. I don't know power. We headed to the adjacent parking garage. From top level (5) signal appeared to be from the skybridge on level 4 and then went to 4. The signal seemed to be from skybridge. We followed the signal, though I had doubts about walking into what I thought was indoors. We walked into skybridge, and Tony and Joanie were on bench maybe about 30 feet from skybridge. It was an open air part of the mall.

Don reported he suspected Tony was in a different parking structure, so he walked across the skybridge intending to walk through en route to that parking structure. He spotted Tony and Joanie for 2nd. Tony had permission from the Security Guards to hide there.

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

[q=41.85156,-87.95195&hl=en&ll=41.851558,-87.951951&spn=0.0005,0.000877&sll=41.851558,-87.951897&sspn=0.0005,0.000877&t=h&z=20](http://maps.google.com/maps?q=41.85156,-87.95195&hl=en&ll=41.851558,-87.951951&spn=0.0005,0.000877&sll=41.851558,-87.951897&sspn=0.0005,0.000877&t=h&z=20)

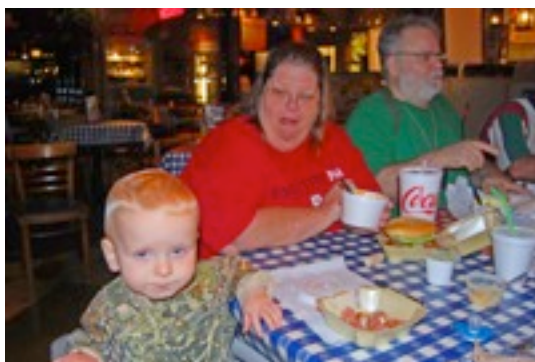
Munchies were at Giordono's on 22nd St west of I-83. Since I was not there, no more pictures were taken. Results:

1. John WD9EXW, Tom N9CBA, Janet 2. Don W9RA DNF Charlie KB9DIM DNF Mike WA9FTS

Second Saturday fox hunt - September 8, 2012 by Matt KC9SEM.

With the fairly new starting point, I wanted to find a spot that was not as direct. This would mean multiple paths to the fox with minimal expressway usage. I chose the East Side Sports Complex in Saint Charles just west of the DuPage County Airport (41.899154, -88.267652). There was a huge Sand pile on the southeast side of the park. It provided good elevation and protection from line of sight. I used 200 watts with my Yaesu 2900 and Mirage amp. This was more power than I have ever used in the past as the fox. I ran 2 AGM 12 volt batteries in parallel with a meter on them to provide enough power for the hunt. After testing 2 different antennas with an SWR meter, my 5/8 wave omni gave me virtually no SWR. The sand pile was soft enough for me to just push my mast into the sand. I knew that the hunters would not have trouble hearing me, I was more concerned about being able to hear them. WD9EXW was the master and called out to me at 8:02pm, a little scratchy for me but I could hear him. With my first test transmission John had reported that all four hunters could hear me loud and clear. At 8:06pm I released the hounds. Charlie was in the area first, but then left then left the complex. This gave Tom and John the ability to score first at 9:08pm. Charlie came back shortly after to score second at 9:10pm. Don was 3rd and Mike was 4th. The hunt ended at 9:16pm and we had munchies at Portillos in Saint Charles on North ave.

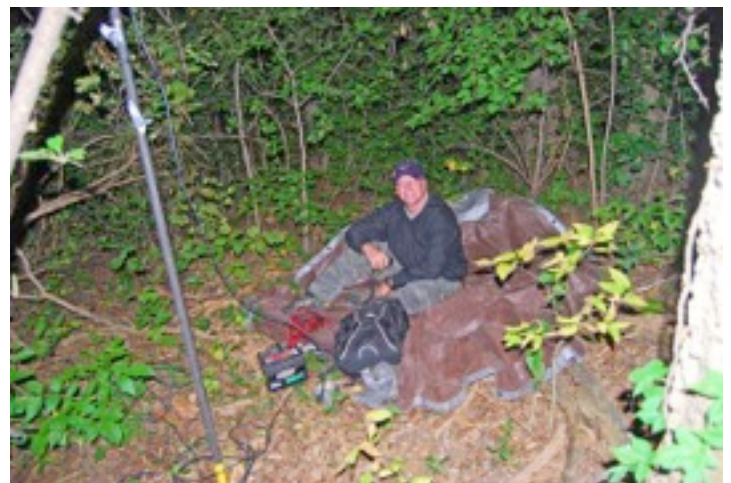
1. N9CBA = Tom & WD9EXW = John 9:08pm
2. KB9DIM = Charlie 9:10pm
3. W9RA = Don 9:14pm
4. WA9FTS = Mike 9:16pm



CFMC Foxhunt - September 15 , 2012 by Matt KC9SEM

This was Patty's birthday. We had been eye balling this site for almost a year 41.969869,-88.297143. Close to the border of Wayne and South Elgin. Its a good spot, the only flaw is that it is almost too low in elevation to throw a proper signal out. It was Patty's birthday and she wanted me to use it. I didn't want to use a lot of power like I did in the previous hunt, (200 watts). After a few transmissions to test the repeater, I was forced to use high power on my Yaesu 2900, (75 watts). Even with that, I was still noisy into the repeater. I was using a tape measure beam on a 10 foot mast. AA9CC was the master and after the first test transmission he reported that 3 of the 4 hunters could hear me. I released the hounds at 8:05pm. John was first on the scene, he shined his light in my my general direction but continued down the path. Tony was next on the scene and had the benefit of me keying up as soon as he got there. Tony scored right away at 9:13 pm. John was right on his heels at 9:13 as well. Mike scored unofficially at 9:16pm and took some pictures of the foxhole. Don announced his DNF and Marty finished the hunt at 9:20pm. We had munchies at Chili's close to the Portillo's we were at on the previous hunt last week. Results:

1. AA9CC = Tony / KC9QQY = Joan 9:13pm
2. WD9EXW = John & N9CBA = Tom= John 9:13pm
3. KB9SMR = Marty / Bill 9:20pm
4. W9RA = Don DNF
5. WA9FTS = Mike Unofficial





34 Foxhunt - September 22nd, 2012 by Tony AA9CC w/ Joan KC9QQY

We hid in the car next to a construction site, along the east fence of I355, with a corn field to the east, just south of 143rd street. Power was 70 watts to the 2x2 array at 35 feet. Munchies were at George's restaurant in Lockport at 990 Archer.

Hiding Spot:

[https://maps.google.com/maps?](https://maps.google.com/maps?daddr=41.619844,-88.011862&hl=en&sll=41.62011,-88.009951&sspn=0.004719,0.007993&t=h&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=18&z=17)

[daddr=41.619844,-88.011862&hl=en&sll=41.62011,-88.009951&sspn=0.004719,0.007993&t=h&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=18&z=17](https://maps.google.com/maps?daddr=41.619844,-88.011862&hl=en&sll=41.62011,-88.009951&sspn=0.004719,0.007993&t=h&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=18&z=17)

Results:

1 Tom N9CBA, John WD9EXW, Janet

2 Matt KC9SEM, Patty and Jacob

3 Marty KB9SMR and Bill

4 DNF Don W9RA

5 DNF Mike WA9FTS



5th Saturday Hunt - September 30, 2012 by Tony AA9CC with Joan KC9QQY

Upon arriving at the hiding spot, Joanie said it was too good a spot for a 5th Saturday hunt, so we hid elsewhere, saving this spot, good spots are beoming harder to find nowadays. We hid the transmitter along a bike trail, on the edge of a soccer field, just east of Rt 83 and south of I88. The transmitter was in plain sight with 35 foot mast leaning against a lone ash tree topped with the 2x2 array. Power of the cw beacon was 5 watts. Signals varied from a level of 4 for W9RA at his 100 foot elevation secret starting point to a 1 for WA9FTS at the 2nd Saturday start point and KB9SMR at I355 and 75th street. WD9EXW and N9CBA unfortunately had missed the e-mail and were uninformed of the start anywhere clause. They had an acceptable signal at the 4th Saturday start point. KB9DIM was at a birthday party and KC9SEMs were camping.

First on the scene was WA9FTS, who immediately ran the wrong way through the bicycle tunnel to the west side of 83 where he met W9RA who was on the inside (traffic side) of the fence. Upon returning Mike managed to ignore the bike path and trudged through the overgrowth with W9RA paralleling. Flashlights seen from the far end of the soccer field were KB9SMR. KB9SMR's partner stumbled on the transmitter and WA9FTS was 10 feet behind for 2nd. W9RA disappeared after being 20 feet away with a 9 level. WD9EXW showed up a while later a bit P.O.ed after running across 83 and did not want to find the transmitter and didn't join us at munchies. W9RA called in at munchies after walking back 5 miles to his van. Munch was at Jason's Delly at 22nd street and York rd.

Automated Transmitter Hiding Spot

[https://maps.google.com/maps?](https://maps.google.com/maps?daddr=41.840365,-87.957118&hl=en&ll=41.840477,-87.956902&spn=0.000831,0.001998&sll=41.840944,-87.956768&sspn=0.003325,0.007993&t=h&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=18&z=20)

[daddr=41.840365,-87.957118&hl=en&ll=41.840477,-87.956902&spn=0.000831,0.001998&sll=41.840944,-87.956768&sspn=0.003325,0.007993&t=h&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=18&z=20](https://maps.google.com/maps?daddr=41.840365,-87.957118&hl=en&ll=41.840477,-87.956902&spn=0.000831,0.001998&sll=41.840944,-87.956768&sspn=0.003325,0.007993&t=h&mra=mift&mrsp=1&sz=18&z=20)

Results: 1. Marty KB9SMR, Bill 2. Mike WA9FTS DNF Don W9RA DNF John WD9EXW, Tom N9CBA



Marty and Bill find the automated fox



Mike arrives seconds too late



First and second place with the foxes - Tony and Joan



After a long walk back to the van, Don arrives

	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	15	3
Joan KC9QQY	11	3
Tom N9CBA	8	11
John WD9EXW	8	11
Matt KC9SEM	7	6
Marty KB9SRM	2	2
Mike WA9FTS	1	6
Paul N9LXF	1	5
Charlie KB9DIM	2	2
Don W9RA	0	5

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. WA9FTS uses one in the vehicle also and W9RA uses his from start to finish.

