

KARC Fox Hunt – January 21, 2012

Rules and Schedule

Everyone is welcome!

Safety

Kauai ARC Fox Hunts are open to all amateur radio operators in the community who want to have fun and follow the rules. Attention to safety is the most important rule. Be sure you are in a safe location before taking bearings on the fox (ie., off the road and clear of traffic).

Teams

All hunt teams should consist of two to four members, although this is not a requirement. At least one member in each team must hold a valid amateur radio license.

All teams must stay together during the hunt...ie., no splitting up and taking multiple concurrent bearings.

Purpose/location of Fox

The purpose of the exercise is to find the hidden transmitter (the Fox) before any other team, with the least number of traveled miles and within the allocated time specified for the hunt.

The fox will be located within five miles of the starting point, within the boundaries of pages 20, 23, and/or 24 of "The Ready Mapbook of Kaua'i" (as in 6th edition).

The fox will also be located in plain sight in a publicly accessible area within 100 feet of a public parking spot. "Public parking spot" means an area available for parking that is not restricted, and which may or may not be paved. The fox may tease hunters by providing hints to his/her location. However, these hints should be given in a manner that all hunters will hear and understand equally. Poetry will be politely tolerated. The fox should attempt to make a written log of hints provided.

Primary frequency

Frequency: Primary is 146.46 MHZ. This may be changed by the starter if conditions require it. Power will decrease as the hunt progresses at the discretion of the fox.

Required/permitted equipment

You will need: an HT or portable 2-meter transceiver with a normal mobile antenna, direction finding antenna, county or local map, pen/pencils, compass (as in directional), ruler or protractor, and watch.

Advanced equipment such as a Doppler antenna or any computer-assisted equipment is not allowed. You may use a smart phone's GPS/compass capability, however.

Transmission sequence

At 10:00 am, the fox will begin transmitting for a period of 1 minute and 15 seconds. All hunters are expected to measure and plot their first bearing during this initial period. After that time, the fox will transmit in 75 second (1:15) segments every 4 minutes.

Both the hunters and fox will transmit on the same frequency. Hunters should use short and concise transmitting protocol to avoid being confused with the fox transmissions. After plotting three or four bearings to the fox, all hunters should have a fairly well defined search target.

The team to first locate the fox within the time limit, driving the shortest number of miles, will be the winner. Two teams locating the fox at the same time will be judged on which team logged fewer miles.

****** Fox Hunt Schedule ******

9:15AM: Meet in the 4444 Rice Street parking lot near the “round building” (county offices) for a discussion about fox hunting techniques, explanation of the basic fox hunt rules and to get answers to your fox hunting questions. Watch for notices pointing toward the designated meeting area.

9:45AM: Meet the official starter to get your car's odometer reading and team member names recorded. Odometer readings are a must. You should get your first bearing from the parking lot.

10:00AM: Hunt will start promptly at this time. The fox will make his first one min 15 sec transmission at this time. Further transmissions will be made for 1:15 at 4 minute intervals.

12:00 Noon: The hunt will end unless extended by the fox.

Click these links for simple equipment projects.

http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

http://www.barriearc.com/Fox_Hunt/RDFing.pdf

http://www.walwa.net/filespdf/IntrotoFoxhunting_Safe.pdf

Disclaimer

Fox hunting can be habit forming, frustrating, humiliating and darn-right ham bogging. It has also been known to grow loop antennas on ham shack mice. Participate at your own risk -- and have a good time!

Seriously...fox hunting is a valuable training exercise designed to train amateur radio operators to locate jamming radio transmitters during emergency situations. Willingly telling another ham's XYL/OM any different is a violation of the “ham code”.

---- Have a great time! ----

