

ICARC FOX Hunts

Now More Devious Than Ever!

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Outline



Introduction

Night Before

Hunt Setup

Participant sign-in

Hunt Start

Organizer Entertainment Intermission

Esteemed Hunters

Hunt End

Hunt Teardown





ICARC Fox Hunts



I am your *Fox Transmitter*

I am here to make your life interesting (miserable).



Your Fox Hunt director spends all winter coming up with new ways to make your life as a *fox hunter* a living hell...

Just ask Emmet 😊





Prepare *volatile* materials.

Update **TOY** clock minimize time drift

Check battery condition (listen on 144.150MHz) and replace if required

Run *fox_label* utility generate new serial numbers for this hunt

Print serialized *fox_label_A_chk.pdf* sheet

list of transmitter serial numbers

Print serialized *fox_label_C_FOX*.pdf* labels

these are placed on individual transmitters

Print static material as needed this material is **not** serialized

Gather it all together (Antennas, Pens, blank cards, H.T.)

Usually KC0JFQ



Site Preparation

Tables & Chairs ???

Signs (are signs even necessary???)

Make sure serialized *fox_label_C_FOX*.pdf* cards are rubber-banded to the matching transmitters!

Make sure serialized *fox_label_A_top.pdf* labels are affixed to their matching transmitters

xxx

Hunt Organizers



Setting out the transmitter vector

Probably easiest to set them out in hunt groups.

Tune your handheld transceiver to 144.150MHz

Install orange rubber-ducky antenna

Turn on **FOX TRANSMITTER** on and verify battery condition ($\geq 7.2V$)

Mark location with GPS or on paper map (it sucks to hunt the last transmitter at the end)

Bring any transmitters showing a low battery back for replacement!

You can listen to the hunt group activity.

Operating frequency listed on the serialized *fox check* sheet

Transmitters should **not** overlap

Formal Hunt Note:

The hunt groups may be configured to suppress transmitting before the advertised hunt start time.

This prevents obtaining a line-of-position in the parking lot!

Hunt Organizers Probably a single person will do this





Gather Participant Information

Keep at sign-in desk: fox_label_B_hunter.pdf

Get name/callsign

Note the start time

If the transmitters are quiet before the advertised start time, record the advertised start time. The hunters will not be able to start DF activities before they can hear the transmitter.

Hunter keeps this card: fox_label_B_cards.pdf

If there are adequate fox_label_C_FOX*.pdf cards with the transmitter, the hunter can simply pick a card up at the transmitter as proof of discovery. Otherwise they may record the ID/Serial field from the transmitter label on to their fox_label_B_cards.pdf card.

Hunt Organizers



Let the hilarity begin!

Formal Hunt:

At the advertised start, the transmitters will begin transmitting. The hunters do not need to be corralled before the hunt starts, although they are free to stumble about aimlessly, keep them in the general area so they don't visually obtain a fix on the transmitters bright orange antenna!

Verbally announce that we are about to start a few minutes before the announced start time. Everyone should be able to catch the first message. Is your cellphone time accurate?

Informal Hunt:

The transmitters will begin transmitting when they are set out in the field. In this case, record the actual start time on the fox_label_B_hunter.pdf card.

Hunt Organizers



Have your hunters done their homework?

Since you know where they are, and you have the answer key (fox_label_A_chk.pdf) you don't get to be one of the hunters.

BUT

You do get to watch.

KC0JFQ is a devious bastard, and it's partially the fault of W0PPF (George suggested the fox transmitters should be able to talk). The fox transmitters have capabilities that should frustrate experienced hunters.

Hunt Organizers



Have you done your homework? discipline!

Equipment:

- Simple handheld
- Directional antenna
- TDOA antenna system
- Attenuator

Disciplined Hunting:

- Operational Plan
- Typically **one minute** to obtain a *line of position*
- Map & clipboard to record what you find (multi color pencils?)
- Transmitters verbalize their **nickname** at the start of message traffic
- Beware **Multipath** (i.e. look for reflectors in the environment)

Hunters



Everyone has returned, allotted time for the hunt has elapsed

Record information:

Time IN on the fox_label_B_hunter.pdf card.

Verify collected fox_label_C_FOX*.pdf cards

Verify hand recorded ID/Serial on the fox_label_B_cards.pdf cards

Calculate **Time Delta** on the fox_label_B_hunter.pdf card.

Calculate Standings:

Most *finds*.

finds/time ???

Overtime Penalty ???

Hunt Organizers



Performance Awards

Are we giving away toys:

A

B

Hunt Organizers and Hunters



Collect our junk and go home

At this point, you've lost track of at least 3 transmitters.

You may want to employ hunters to go out and help collect transmitters!

GPS waypoints as we deployed

Well, just go collect them.

Then you discover that tree cover sucks.

GPS track as we deployed

Makes a good backup for saving waypoints ('cause you'll forget a few at the end)

Can we just walk the track?

You forgot, didn't you!

Doh!, I hope you brought your TDOA antenna.

I hope you're not picking up after an interleaved hunt group.

Hunt Organizers





Beer & Brats

Local Establishments

Hickory Hill:

Joenseys

Hilltop

Hamburg Inn

Kent Park:

Back Berner

Casa Tequilla

Eyeball Country:

Reds Alehouse

Bluebird

Hunt Organizers and Hunters