

FT. WAYNE RADIO CLUB
NOTES FROM 20 FEBRUARY 2015
FOXHUNT PLANNING MEETING

A Foxhunt planning meeting consisting of the majority of currently active foxhunters was held in lieu of a normal FWRC meeting on 20 February, 2015 at Salem United Methodist Church.

Attendees consisted of:

Steve & Linda Nardin, WB9's SAN & LAN
Jim & Annie Pliett, K9OMA & KA9YYI
Carole & Al Burke, WB9's RUS & SSE
Kim & Jim Machamer, KB9's DOS & DOT
Jeff Brady, N9JTB
Charles Ward, KC9MUT
Robert Dean, KC9UHU

The purpose of the meeting was to decide upon a number of proposals that would change various aspects of how we conduct foxhunts. One principal goal was to develop ideas on how we might increase participation amongst local hams in the foxhunting art.

The first item on the agenda was to decide if last year's practice of starting hunts from different locations should be continued. That practice had been started to average out the travel distance for foxhunters from different parts of town. It was pointed out that the US 930 and Coliseum Blvd cloverleaf was about the center point of Allen County, so a starting point in that area would make (equal travel) sense. It was decided that from now on the foxhunt starting point would be the River Greenway Trailhead (Cobin Memorial Park) near the Lakeside Golfcourse.

Foxhunt signal frequency and intercom frequency were discussed, and it was decided that the current practice of varying the fox frequency would continued. It was also decided that the foxhunt frequencies for each months hunt would be determined at the beginning of the foxhunting season and published as a part of the foxhunt calendar. For 2015 the frequencies for the remaining hunts are:

March	146.430 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
April	146.160 MHz, intercom 146.910 MHz
May	146.340 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
June	146.855 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
July	146.580 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
August	146.430 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
September	146.160 MHz, intercom 146.910 MHz
October	146.340 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz
November	146.855 MHz, intercom 146.760 MHz

In addition to the fox frequency decision, it was decided that the foxhunt season would continue to start with a February hunt and conclude with the hunt in November. It was also decided that a foxhunt in any particular month could only be rescheduled once within that month (due to weather, civil riots, Godzilla attacks or other unforeseen events). If the rescheduled hunt subsequently could not be executed for whatever reason, then there would be no hunt that month.

Everyone thought it a good idea to develop a "This is a foxhunt" handout that could be given to curious bystanders that invariably collect when we are on foot, and ask all kinds of questions, such as "Are you NARCS?", "Are you looking for a bomb?", or, "What the hell are you doing?". Identification of who would develop the exact prose of such a handout was not discussed.

Everyone agreed that more participation in foxhunts is a desirable goal. But how to stimulate more involvement from the area ham population? It was proposed that three levels of foxhunt participation be offered, Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced.

Beginner's hunts would be used to introduce newbie's to the basics and would be typically conducted within the bounds of a public park with the fox being a person utilizing an HT, i.e., the hunt would start from the park, thus the fox would already be localized so the newbie would not need to have a vehicle with a roof mounted yagi to gain some practical experience. The hunt duration would be limited to sixty minutes. These hunts would be conducted every other month on the Saturday following a club meeting and would start at 09:00.

Intermediate hunts would be conducted within the bounds of the city and would utilize a high power fox at the fox locale plus a cross-band HT typically hidden in the bushes as the actual fox. The hunt duration would be limited to ninety minutes. The schedule for these hunts was not addressed.

Advanced hunts would be conducted within the bounds of Allen County and would be limited to duration of two and one half hours, in essence like the hunts we presently conduct.

In order to get more folks involved in foxhunting without necessarily participating in physical hunts with the foxhunter groups, it was proposed that we encourage interested hams to take DF readings of the fox from their QTH or current location, and report them to the hunters on the intercom frequency during a hunt. Either bearings or just general direction of the signal reports would be beneficial to the hunters, but more significantly, it could train up a corps of local hams who could be useful providing this type of information in a real-life lost, stolen, etc. situation.

The group decided that the proposals described above should be rolled out to club membership and the Ham community in general to see if there is any interest. This would be accomplished by writing an article expanding upon the descriptions of the Beginner's, Intermediate and Advanced hunt proposal, and the QTH based hams

proposal above, and posting it in the Ham News, as a feature article on the club's web page, and as an announcement at at least one upcoming club meeting. Who is to compose the article was not identified.

Overhaul of the foxhunt scoring system was discussed at length with the following scoring plan proposed to be implemented retroactively for the February hunt, and for the rest of the year. (It is assumed that this plan applies to the Advanced category of hunts only. There was no discussion of scoring plans for the Beginner or Intermediate categories).

In the new and improved plan mileage will no longer be a component in the scoring formula; just time-to-find will be the criteria. When a foxhunter finds the actual fox, i.e., the microfox or cross-band HT, he/she will notify the fox who will note the time. If there are N foxhunter teams, each member of the team that is the first to find the fox receives N points, and the first person in that team that found the fox receives N+1 points. All members of the second team to find the fox receive N-1 points. All members of the third team to find the fox receive N-2 points, and so forth.

The person or team that function as the fox each receive a score equal to the sum of the number of points earned by each of the hunters divided by the number of foxhunter teams. In other words their score = $(\sum (\text{points earned by each hunter})) / (\text{number of hunter teams})$.

For example, based upon the results of the February foxhunt this scoring plan would result in the following numbers:

<u>CALL</u>	<u>TEAM #</u>	<u>TEAM ORDER OF FINDING FOX</u>	<u>FIRST TO FIND FOX</u>	<u>FOXHUNT SCORE</u>
KC9MUT	1	1 st	x	4
KC9EZP	1	1 st		3
KC9UHU	1	1 st		3
W9SAN	2	2 nd		2
W9SAN	2	2 nd		2
KB9DOS	3	3 rd		1
KB9DOT	3	3 rd		1
K9OMA	FOX			5.33
KA9YYI	FOX			5.33
WB9RUS	FOX			5.33
WB9SSE	FOX			5.33

I did not hear a consensus on how to score things if a team or teams do not find the fox within the two and one half hour window from the start of the hunt. I believe this is an item that needs to be agreed too.

Overall, this was an excellent and productive meeting with numerous questions resolved. From the text above it is obvious that a few more questions and details need to be dealt with.

Respectively submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE