

04/25/09

You have heard it before “a good time was had by all who attended”. Well this was no exception. The six of us who came out for the Spring Fox Hunt KC9JZF (TOM), KC9OEU (JIM), AB9MZ (GREG), KC9OOL (STEVE), KC9OOM (ERIC), W9HLQ (BRIAN), W9GUN (GARY) I believe all had a great time, not only for the comradery with our fellow hams but in the knowledge we gained in the experience.

As we were in route to the fox hunt starting point, I know I drove thru some heavy rain and it was looking like we might have to call the hunt off due to inclement weather. As I approached the meeting point the rain had quit and fortunately did not rain for the rest of our event.

The original plans were to meet at the Tinley Park Library but after some legal jargon we were forced to Convene at Gregg Rosenberg’s house which was right around the corner from the library. Thanks to KC9JZF (TOM) for the coffee and donuts that jump started the morning.

We began the fox hunt with a little background on fox hunting and some of the rules that have been traditionally set by some groups to see who wins and what makes it fair game for every one to find. Thanks to W9HLQ (BRIAN) for the use of his home made transmitter (fox), who then showed the group what it was we would be looking for and discussed how it works. Well between coffee and donuts, a look at the fox and a short discussion we all headed to where we were going to hide the fox and begin our adventure. We had decided to get acclimated with the use of the equipment we brought and just do a short distance fox hunt. So we decided to go to the forest preserve located at 167th and La Grange Road. We had barely exited our cars with some of our hand made antennas, and a group of people from Earth Day Clean-up party converged on us and asked us what all the gear was for. We explained to them that we were all ham operators and we were there to try and find a hidden transmitter. With great surprise they were wondering why what was going on and then we told them that the transmitter wasn’t there already we were going to hide one then look for it. With a great sigh of relief they listened to an explanation of why we would do such an exercise. They understood then went about their business but there curiosity level was sure raised.

After we broke out all of our equipment and got it ready W9HLQ (BRIAN) went off for a walk with the fox and shortly came back via a different route and we started to find the fox. Even though the fox was only hidden approximately 500 feet from where we started it took approximately 45 min to an hour for every one to find the fox. Using our pole mounted antennas, handy talkies using body fading this exercise was pretty challenging and not a walk in the park as you might think. W9GUN Gary was the first to find the fox followed by KC9OOM (ERIC). We left the fox alone so that the others could discover it on their own for the full experience.

When we all had found the fox, our next convergence was Jimmy Johns for lunch. We all had a great time and talked about the event. I know I'm looking forward to the next Fox Hunt. Thanks Greg and Brian for putting this one together. I hope more of you will come out for the next one!

73'S W9GUN