

Transmitter Hunting a trip report



Bob Lanahan

Oct 2018



Transmitter Hunting

- Who and where
- The antenna build
- Transmitter hunting
- Hunting
- More info

Who and Where

- Every spring, hams in Orange County organize an outdoor day in the park where they operate radios, find hidden transmitters and eat lots of good food
- The annual "Antennas In The Park" (AITP) event was organized by the Fullerton Radio Club
- This year, AITP took place at Hillcrest Park in Fullerton on Saturday, May 5



The Antenna build

- Saturday morning, Marvin Johnston KE6HTS conducted a clinic for building his kits for measuring-tape yagis with 90 dB offset-type attenuators
- Included an assembled/tested attenuator in a special housing that goes inside the boom of a 3 element yagi antenna
- If you want one or more kits, you registered by sending e-mail to marvin@west.net, he reserved the kit in your name brought them to the event
- It took about an hour to put the antenna and attenuator kits together with tools and soldering irons he provided. If you're not an electronic technician, not to worry, there were plenty of experts to help you
- Then with your HT and the kit-built equipment, you will be all set to hunt



How the antenna works

- Connect and tune your HT to the transmitter frequency. Squelch can be on or off. Turn on the offset device, dial clockwise for zero frequency off-set, sweep the yagi, listen for the transmitter signal, locate the center of the Yagi sweep. Tune the offset, so that the yagi sweep angle is reduced, walk towards the signal, continue to increase the offset and continue to walk towards the maximum signal.
- Some radios (Baofeng) front end saturates when you get too close, so you have trouble in the last 10 ft or so, depending on output power.
- Other directional antenna have attenuators, not Frequency offset devices
- For \$165 you can buy a fancy digital tuner – attenuates, shows signal strength and provides continuous audio



The Hunt

- 3 easy to find 2 meter transmitters for training and antenna testing
- 5 fox ARDF course – 1 transmitter went bersek, jammed the others, 40 acre course in the hills
- One 80 meter transmitter – 350 ft away
- VIP ribbon-cutting for the new fountain, so parking was hard to come by



Results

Hillcrest Park ARDF on 5/5/2018

Photos above and report below by Joe Moell KØOV.

There was no May-gray to keep things cool at Fullerton Radio Club's annual Antennas In The Park session. The temperature in Fullerton topped out at 94 degrees as members and friends gathered in Hillcrest Park for ARDF, food and radio fun. It was pleasant inside the Izaak Walton cabin, where several newcomers built tape-measure yagis. Just outside were three easy two-meter transmitters for training and antenna testing.

The five-fox ARDF course had an extra challenge because one of the transmitters went berserk and began randomly QRMing some of the others. Nevertheless, three of the teams solved the problem by taking careful yagi bearings to distinguish between two simultaneous transmitters. It was a quick sprint through the 40 acres for Bill Wright WB6CMD, who found all five in less than 43 minutes. Here are the complete ARDF course results:

TWO-METER COURSE RESULTS -- 5 FOXES

Name and call	Time	Foxes
Bill Wright WB6CMD	0:41:38	5
Michael Hart KC6MEH with Mary Ann Hart KM6NCA and Michael Wertemberger	1:17:00	5
Allison Lindauer KG6AAT with J. R. Lindauer and Dean Dods KD6I	1:39:27	5
Scot Barth KA6UDZ	1:26:00	4
Jordan Heichman WC6J	3:16:35	4
John Frerichs N6VCW with Don Frerichs KJ7GS	0:56:00	1

I was hoping that all newcomers would try to find my 80-meter transmitter, so I put it just 350 feet away. However, most folks were too tired after completing the two-meter course. (And they wanted to eat, too!) Here are the 80-meter results, which was another sprint for most:

EIGHTY-METER TRANSMITTER RESULTS

Name and call	Time
Bill Wright WB6CMD	3:03
Scot Barth KA6UDZ	5:00
Robert Canillas AD6XJ with Jenna Canillas KBØZDR	8:00

Parking was more difficult than usual this year because Fullerton city VIP's picked this day for ribbon-cutting of the refurbished fountain in the newly-landscaped Great Lawn portion of the park. They arranged for additional public parking a quarter-mile away across the street, but they had

More Info

- Joe Moell K00V
- www.homingin.com

Homing In

The Art and Science of Radio Direction Finding (RDF)



Provided by Joe Moell, ham radio callsign K00V. (That's K-zero-O-V)

[Mobile T-Hunting](#) | [ARDF/Radio-O](#) | [CQWWFW](#) | [Local Events](#) | [Wildlife Tracking](#) | [Projects](#)
[Site Map](#) | [About](#) | [News](#) | [Results](#) | [Foxboxes](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Book](#) | [Articles](#) | [Mail Lists](#) | [Links](#) | [Search](#) | [Contact](#)

This site is frames-free. If you are seeing this page displayed inside a frame of another Web site, [CLICK HERE TO BREAK FREE](#) and display this site full-screen on your computer. If you came by link from another site and the images on this page are not being displayed, [CLICK HERE](#).



[Click for Complete Site Directory](#)

Latest RDF News Headlines



Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL) hosted the **Nineteenth ARDF World Championships, September 2 through 7, 2018**. The site was Sokcho City in Gangwon Province. Twenty-nine countries participated, including USA. There were formal competitions on two meters and 80 meters, plus sprints and foxoring. Each country may have up to three persons per age/gender category on its team. Team USA participated with eight men and three women. **Six team members were medal-winners and they have brought home a total of ten medals.** [Find out more about the team here.](#) Additional photos are now in this [Homing In](#) site.



The **September 2018 issue of CO Amateur Radio Magazine** is now online and is being mailed to print subscribers. In it, my **Homing In** column is a **full report on the 18th USA ARDF Championships**, which were held in June in northern California. There are also **tips and techniques for introducing Scouts to hidden transmitter hunting** at Scouting's Jamboree-on-the-Air in October. Some ham radio stores may also have the May 2018 issue, in which my column previews the USA ARDF Championships and tells how you and your club can have RDF fun during CQ's Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend. My column on radio direction finding appears in *CQ Magazine* at least four times per year. *CQ Magazine* is available [by subscription](#) and printed issues are sold in Amateur Radio stores. *CQ* is also available by subscription in digital form, viewable on PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone and Android. I welcome your input for future articles and columns, so **please continue to send me your news of mobile and on-foot transmitter hunt activities.**



Kenneth Harker WM5R is the new ARDF Coordinator for IARU Region 2, replacing Dale Hunt WB6BYU, who has served in that position since October 2001. Ken will be responsible for promotion and development of ARDF programs in North and South America, as well as representing the Western Hemisphere at meetings where international events are planned and ARDF rules are refined. [Read more about the transition](#) in this site. Joe Moell K00V and Joe Young VE7BFK continue in their national ARDF Coordinator positions for USA and Canada, respectively.



Scouting's annual Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) will be October 20-21, 2018. It's an ideal time to introduce young people to all aspects of ham radio, especially hidden transmitter hunting. Only the transmitter hider has to have a ham license! Now is the time for your ham club to **contact your local Scout council** and arrange for this year's JOTA demonstrations and activities. Then plan a transmitter hunting session at a local park. For ideas, see the [Foxhunting for Scouts](#) page at this site and my [Homing In](#) column in the September 2018 issue of *CQ Amateur Radio Magazine*.



Transmitter Hunting

- Who and where
- The antenna build
- Transmitter hunting
- Hunting
- More info



Questions?



Backup slides

The Hunt

- Hilly 40 acres course

