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 measuringtape 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 by a fancy digital tuner attenuates, shows signal strength and provides continuous audio

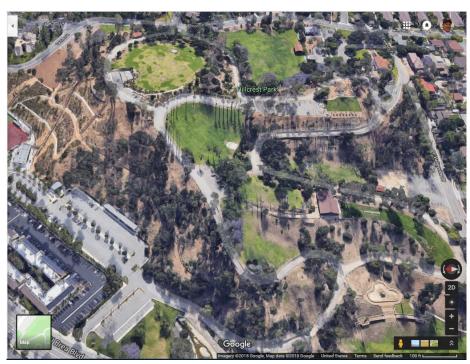






The Hunt

- 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 RESULT Name and call		xes
Bill Wright WB6CMD	0:41:38	5
Michael Hart KC6MEH with Mary Ann Hart K		5 hael Wertenberger
Allison Lindauer KG6AAT with J. R. Lindauer		5 KD6I
Scot Barth KA6UDZ	1:26:00	4
Jordan Heichman WC6J	3:16:35	4
John Frerichs N6VCW with Don Frerichs KJ		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 TRANSMITTE	R RESULTS Time
Bill Wright WB6CMD	3:03
Scot Barth KA6UDZ	5:00
Robert Canillas AD6XJ with Jenna Canillas	8:00 KBØZDR

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 KØOV. (That's K-zero-O-V)

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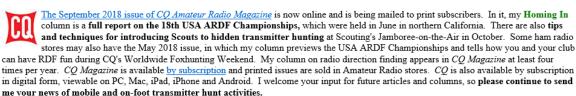
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Latest RDF News Headlines



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.





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 KØOV 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



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Questions?



Backup slides



The Hunt

Hilly 40 acres course

