



Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society

Rules for Fox Hunts



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Definition

An amateur radio fox hunt is a direction finding activity and social event. It does not involve any real foxes! The 'fox' is a concealed low power transmitter, which the participants ('hounds') have to find by using their radio direction finding and map reading skills.

General Rules

1. The fox must set up his/her station within a specified area, the boundaries of which are defined by Anderson Drive, the River Don, the River Dee and the beach.
2. No animals or wildlife may be harmed during the event
3. This is a fun, evening social event
4. The purpose is for the hounds to seek out and identify the fox by using a portable VHF radio and a simple directional antenna
5. The fox will normally transmit in the 2 metre amateur band, using FM

What The Fox Must Do

The fox leaves the club premises before the hunt starts and sets up a static-mobile station at a safe location within the area specified above. The antenna must be omnidirectional. The frequency used is either 145.525MHz or 145.550 MHz whichever is clearer. The power level used should remain the same throughout. The fox should remain at the same site for the whole event. Transmissions by the fox should commence at 8.00pm and these transmissions should be repeated every 10 minutes. Each transmission must contain the station callsign and the fact that the station is acting as a fox for the AARS fox hunt. The transmission periods should be long enough to allow the hounds to do some direction finding. If the fox is proving difficult to find, the later transmissions can contain clues such as a nearby landmark etc. The event concludes when the fox reports being found by the first team of hounds, or in the event of not being found when the fox reports this situation.

What The Hounds Must Do

The hounds leave the club premises after the fox has left and has had time to set up. There should be a minimum of two and a maximum of three persons per car so that one can concentrate on the driving, one can operate the RX and do the direction finding and the third can have a map and a compass to help with the triangulation. At least two club members should remain at the Club and monitor operations from there. The Club station will be responsible for overall control and declaring a winner at the end. The winner will be the first team of hounds to find the fox, or the fox will be declared the winner if not located within the duration of the event.