

Fox Hunting

Radio direction finding (RDF) (also known as DF'ing or Fox Hunting) is locating the source of a radio transmission or other signal.

Everyday practical uses of RDF: 1) find stolen cars (lojack) 2) locate black boxes when an airplane crashes 3) track animals outfitted with radio collars 4) find interference whether it is intentional, an issue with a stuck transmitter or other items not working correctly and emitting spurious noise 5) **FOR FUN**



Types of Hunts: There are different ways to conduct a fox hunt. 1) Fixed, a person would hide in a given area and others would drive to find them. 2) On foot, a transmitter would be hidden and hunters would walk to find it like we are doing. 3) Mobile, the transmitter would move at a given interval making it harder to track down and find it.

Equipment used: You will need a radio, some sort of antenna. There are several different types of antennas that can be used for RDF, Yagi, loop, Doppler are a few. You can also use an attenuator. An attenuator is a special piece of equipment that is used to make a signal weaker, so the closer you are the stronger the signal.

How to: There are several techniques that can be used to help you find the "Fox". 1) Body shielding, use your body to block a signal and rotate around until you cannot hear it, the signal will be behind you. 2) You can remove your antenna, the closer you are to the transmitter the stronger the signal. 3) The same will apply for tuning off frequency (the closer you are to the transmitter the stronger the signal) by that it is meant that if the transmitter is on 147.580 you will listen on 147.570, 147.575, 147.585 or 147.590. 4) You can also use the 3rd harmonic frequency. A harmonic of a particular fundamental frequency, is a frequency that is an integer multiple of the first one. The 3rd harmonic frequency of 147.580 is 442.740. 5) Take at least 3 signal readings from different locations to help triangulate the signal and draw a line on a map from where you are in the direction of the signal. The point where the three or more lines intersect should be about the area where the "fox" is located.

Safety: Safety is very important. While hunting, watch for cars and other people.

If you find the FOX, please do not pick it up, as to let others to try to find it. Let the staff member know you found it.



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