

Whitecourt Amateur Radio Fox Hunt (VA6WCT)

Objective; HAVE FUN

Fox will transmit every 60 seconds for 20 seconds.

Use a directional antenna. The **3 element tape measure Yagi** is an easy project and works quite well in searching for hidden signals. When taking a signal reading with the antenna use a compass to plot the heading on a map. Then move to a new location and attempt to triangulate the signal. Doing this will get you into the ballpark, and then switch to the close-up methods for finding the signal. **(I have maps of Whitecourt)**

How to use a compass

when you get close to the signal, it will overwhelm the S-Meter on your radio, making it difficult to ascertain the direction. An **attenuator** allows you to reduce that signal so you can view the amount of change on your meter as you sweep your antenna around. But you can also hunt for signals without the attenuator:

Body Fade (blocking) the signal. Using the duck antenna on your handheld, hold the radio close to your body and physically turn until the signal is strongest. If the signal is strong in all directions, partially unscrew your antenna for more attenuation. Fashioning a shield out of a piece of aluminum foil can also help cut the signal strength as you search.

Listen to a harmonic. As you get close, you'll be able to hear the transmitter's 2nd and 3rd harmonic. The **fox is transmitting** on **144.200**, tune your radio to 288.4 Mhz or 432.60 Mhz and listen for the signal. Other tricks I seen as well, were to tune up/down 1mhz at a time. (Baofeng UV5R, it is possible to do 288.4. need to changing setting in chirp.)



Look for clues. The person hiding the fox might be quite crafty; but sometimes there will be clues, evidence that someone was there before. These clues might lead you to the hidden transmitter.

Equipment Needed:

- Hand held Transmitter (HT)
- 3 Element Tape Measure Yagi (optional)
- Compass
- Clipboard/Pencil's
- Town map (see attached)

Additional Notes, by default the Baofeng uv5r squelch settings are not efficient, using chirp software you can edit these fields, see link [Adjusting squelch settings](#), this can help when closer to the fox.

Safety:

While driving, **DO NOT** try and hunt, park somewhere safe then get out of vehicle & search

Stay hydrated

Work in teams, two hams are always better than one (sometimes ☺)

There is **NO** need to rush, it's not about finding the fox first, it's about having fun & honing **our skills** as radio operators and hopefully some funny video of our friends tramping through the forest.