

N5OAK Foxhunt – Saturday, March 9, 2019

0800 -1700 hours

FOX Beacon frequency: 146.565 FM (repeats tones & CW ID every 38 secs.)

Local simplex for searcher comms: 146.460

Mission: *FIND THE FOX!*

It is as simple as that. The FOX will begin transmissions promptly at 0800, and will continue transmissions until 1700 – or until it is determined, that no one is still searching.

Get mobile! Have a map of the search area available. A compass will come in handy also. Use your mobile radio to acquire the signal (squelch off). Remember, high ground is your friend. Once you are in a position where you are receiving the signal clearly, break out your directional antenna and grab a bearing to the target. Refer to your map for potential routes / streets that will get you closer. Stop periodically to refine your track, check for signal strength and ensure you do not overshoot. Remember factors such as terrain and possible signal reflection. You may lose the signal as you go down in elevation, just to pick it back up again as you climb.

As you close in to the target, use signal attenuation techniques. Within 100 meters of the transmitter, the signal may be too hot on a yagi in any orientation to provide useful information without applying appreciable attenuation.

For this hunt, the FOX *may* not be immediately visible from a roadway – but you will have the ability to see it clearly as you approach it.

The FOX has been placed at a location where you have legal access. DO NOT ENTER ANY AREAS OR GATES THAT ARE POSTED “NO TRESPASSING”. Do not enter any areas that are fenced off. No off-roading or backcountry hiking is necessary for this hunt (Sam). If the FOX is unattended when you find it, snap a picture of it with your phone and text message N5CFB at: 512-395-7289. Include your callsign in the message. This message will provide a time stamp for the find. Depart the area immediately.

Feel free to team up with others, or go solo. Use any resources available to aid in your hunt. Above all, SAFETY FIRST!

DO NOT TRANSMIT ON THE FOX FREQUENCY!

SCENARIO

1. We have received reports of interfering low-power radio transmissions occurring at regular intervals on a frequency of 146.565 MHz. The transmissions begin daily at 0800, and cease at 1700 hrs. The content of each transmission appears to be a series of tones, followed by a CW ID. This string repeats itself roughly every 38 seconds.
2. These transmissions were confirmed by OHARC club members, and believed to be originating somewhere in the deep South Austin area, likely near I-35.
3. Three OHARC members with fixed-station directional antennas have provided “rough” bearings to the source from their QTH. These bearings are indicated on the map provided as green lines. All 3 contributors are some distance away from the South Austin area.**

*** Keep in mind that rough bearings are just that, rough! Especially when they are being provided by stations some distance away from a low-power source. Any of them may be fairly accurate, or any one of them may be off to some extent. The accuracy of these bearings can also be impacted by terrain or signal reflection. They can get you in the ballpark though. This map is fairly representative of the type of information which is initially provided to begin a ground search...*