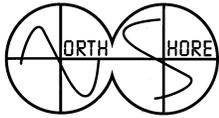


NORTH SHORE ARC



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The Spring Foxhunt

March 28 saw a hardy few braving the cool mist to hunt for the fox. Members of both SPARC and NSARC were there to find Doug, VA3BGF who had promised to be really sneaky. Doug, the "Fox" was helped by Dennis (VE3XDA) and his son.

In attendance were

**Mike VE3MBA,
Stewart VE3SWF,
Stewart's dad, Smokey,
Pat VA3URS,
Will VA3WEW,
Ray VE3OUB,
Howard VE3TYQ,
Pete VA3PWH,
Bill VE3CRU
Fred VA3ANR.**

Things began poorly for 4 of us in the van as our initial bearings showed Doug to be in Whitby. He was really in Oshawa so we wasted lots of time. Stewart and his dad found the fox first and were followed by Bill and Fred. I confess that we gave up after leaving Smokey and Pat at home. We had passed the fox at least once but had no clue in the end.

Ray used his handheld and rubber duck finding the null of the end of the antenna with just as much accuracy as our handi-finder. If only we had listened to him as we cruised around. Just goes to show that simple equipment can be used to great effect.

Expect another hunt soon and show up. It really is a blast and anyone can be part of it with just a little thought and simple equipment.

Peter Henry <va3pwh@sympatico.ca>
President, North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Emergency Coordinator, Durham Region ARES

From our Club Members:

Speaking on Foxhunts.

From Howard VE3TYQ:

----- Original Message -----
From: Bill Burgess

To: Stuart Williams ; Doug Boyd ; Peter Henry ; VE3ANR@rac.ca ; Howard ; VE3VCY@rac.ca
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2004 7:12 PM
Subject: Good foxhunts

Greetings,

I was at the VHARA meeting last night in Lindsay where they had a speaker from Kawartha ARC, Jim VE3PCP on foxhunting. Not only does the Kawartha group host their own foxhunts, which are indeed interesting, they also participate with Quinte ARC in Belleville and the Prince Edward Radio Club in a big foxhunt.

Called Tour of the County, it runs in Prince Edward County, across the bay south of Trenton/Belleville and features not one, but 3 foxes transmitting one after the other from 3 different locations. 3 hours is the maximum time allowed as transmissions cease at that point.

The next foxhunt is May 8th and lots of detail is contained in a website for each of the hunts. For details of the next hunt, go to the following:

<http://www.qarc.on.ca/countyfox.html>

It would be good if a team or two from this area joined in the fun. Starts at noon btw. As my in-laws live north of there, I will go if nothing interferes. You are surrounded by water on all sides so you cannot go too far in any direction.

Hang a beam on the new Rovermobile?
Wait and see.

73,

Bill

Email: ve3cru@rac.ca

+++++

I freely admit to being intrigued by the concept of Foxhunts. What's even more intriguing is how some of our Club Members can zero in on the fox with readily available gear. It must be a special gift. I tip my hat to them.

Maybe we can get a lesson on the finer points of Radio Direction Finding, so we're all up to speed for the next hunt. Any volunteers?

For those who are interested, This web site (<http://www.qsl.net/wb3gck>) was recommended to me by a colleague VE3GYY. There were a couple of things that caught my eye. The best one was the "stealthy" antenna. It seems that having antennas planted in your yard can cause neighbours to have "concerns". The author was looking for an antenna that would not "attract" a lot of attention in his neighbourhood. He ended up using his eavestrough. After reading this I tested my eavestrough (on my house). It's electrically isolated from ground and the horizontal section is about 18 feet long and 2 storeys up in the air. I've got a radiating element that will be close to 33 feet long. Even better is that the eaves on the 2nd storey are about 37 or 38 feet apart. I'm hoping to test to see if they are electrically isolated from each other. If they are, I could have phased antennas just waiting to be used. If it turns out that they're not and the aluminum on the fascia is tying them together, I'll have one heckuva loop. I'm certain that at QRP power levels it should be fine. I have no idea how many RF watts it takes to melt aluminum. I have no intention of intentionally finding out. If anyone knows please let me know and I'll publish the number. The promise of this approach is that you can have an antenna without "having" an antenna.

I still am planning to put up a dipole soon. But this means that I'm up and running that much sooner. I'm putting the finishing touches on the centre insulator I've been tinkering with and had Bob VE3LLE take a

look at. It sure is nice to have technical savvy readily available.

The author also has plans for a couple of tuners that I plan to build as well. One of the torroids required is a T200-6, which I ordered from our local "HAM" store. It should be here Wednesday.

The HAMfest will soon be here. I'm looking forward to it. As I get more and more things together for my own shack, having an opportunity to go a "shopping mall" for Amateur Radio without having to drive a great distance is a real bonus. Less money for gas and more money to spend. Let's all make sure we're ready to pitch in and make this the best one yet.

Your humble scribe.

Ken
VE3RMK