

# Feedline

October 2000

Next Meeting is October 26 at 7:30

## 2000 Fox Hunt Results by Jeff Keller, NX9T

The CARC held its annual Fox Hunt on Thursday, Sept. 28th. All member and friends were invited. The hunt served as our monthly meeting. Those in attendance were: K4IWW, N4AJF, KA4ATK and XYL, AB4S, WA4AKB, W3HL, KE4CDI, and NX9T.



Lee, N4AJF and Jeff, NX9T point out to Will, K4IWW that he lost his "Domino's" banner.

Charles(KE4CDI) and I coordinated this years hunt and appreciate KM4LB's "loan" of the hidden transmitter controller. The hunt rules were simple...find the transmitter while logging the fewest miles possible on your odometer. While "timed hunts" are the norm... this hunt was mileage based for two basic reasons: 1) SAFETY: We are in town-lots of traffic, schools, people, etc...We didn't want anyone taking unnecessary chances(pushing a "yellow" light, speeding, etc...) just to win a hunt. It's too dangerous. "Speed hunts" are best conducted on foot or in more rural settings. 2)Encourage efficient triangulation rather than fast paced checking out of various "hunches" or guesses.

The hunt started as approximately 7:00pm and found 3 teams actively pursuing the Fox. Congratulations are extended to this years winners, KA4ATK and XYL who traveled a mere 2.2 miles. AB4S/WA4AKB actually located the FOX first but logged 7 miles in doing so. Good work Ed and Susan!. The K4IWW/N4AQJF team also put in a respectable showing-as did W3HL who was "unofficially" hunting without any DF gear.

The next hunt will be coordinated by KA4ATK. General consensus was that we as a club, need to have more regular hunts and must involve more people. Why only a small handful showed up for this event is unknown. It's surely not that members are "burned out" from hunting since this only has occurred one time per year as of late. Fox hunting skills and equipment should be developed for a variety of reasons. Not only are the skills useful, but the activity is a lot of fun.

Take some initiative. Challenge yourself to get out to the next hunt and learn something new. If you haven't hunted a transmitter in years come out and polish up some of your old skills. If you have never participated why not stop making excuses for why you can't do it and as a famous footwear company says to us every day...JUST DO IT! And now, "the rest of the story..."

## **Sometimes You Just Get Lucky** by Dennis Herman, KA4ATK

For the September foxhunt my regular hunting partner Darrell, KF4URC was in Pennsylvania, so I enlisted my wife Jeanne to help me hunt the fox. I decided to use my newly built tape measure Yagi along with my trusty old Coast Guard Auxiliary Doppler antenna to get the bearings on the fox. For an attenuator I was using an external resistive attenuator that I built a number of years ago when the club was having hunts every month or two. I also wanted to try out using my global positioning system (GPS) receiver to help locate the fox.

When the fox was turned on I decided to leave from the church and take my first bearing on it from the parking lot at Kmart. The bearing I obtained from there using the tape measure Yagi gave me a bearing that was back in the direction of the high school. I entered this bearing line in the GPS. What I needed now was to get another bearing at a different angle to enter into the GPS to fix a position for the fox. Since Maynard Road would have taken me in a direction that was approximately parallel to my first bearing, I decided to drive in Kildaire Farm toward downtown and then turned onto Walnut Street. I was looking for another good spot like a parking lot to get my next bearing on the fox.

The first place I could think of with a good place to park was in the parking lot beside the Dairy Queen. I got out of the car and began trying to get a bearing. The signal was so strong I began switching in attenuation. Low and behold I had to switch in all the attenuation and still couldn't get a direction. I know I had to be right on top of the fox.

I switched to the Doppler antenna and started to search on foot. A few minutes later I spotted Jeff, NX9T, and shortly thereafter spotted Charles, KE4CDI. This was further proof that we had lucked up and were on top of the fox. With the short transmission times from the fox (about 10 seconds every couple minutes) it was difficult getting a good fix with the Doppler it took a while to actually find the fox in a town of Cary van parked behind the Video bar.

While we were not the first to find the fox (Ed, AB4S, and Susan, WA4AKB, were the first) this hunt was based on mileage and Jeanne and I had only driven 2.2 miles. I believe Ed and Susan drove about 5 miles and I did not hear how many miles Will, K4IWW, and Lee, N4AJF had driven.

Since we lucked up and fell on the fox for our second bearing, I didn't get to use the GPS to help find the fox, but I still think it may be a useful device for fox hunting. I plan to give it a try the next time I'm on the hunting end of things.

My wife Jeanne really enjoyed the hunt. I expect she may want to help out again.

During the get together after the hunt it seemed to be the general feeling among the hunters that they would like to have hunts more often. Dennis, KA4ATK

## **Reasons to Elmer a Teenager** by Susan Langley-Jones, WA4AKB

- 1) Studying for the exams helps learn study skills that can be transferred to school and college work.
- 2) Learning about electronics has sparked a career interest for many young people.
- 3) Learning CW is good for your brain.
- 4) The people are positive role models.
- 5) Time filled with amateur radio activities is time unavailable for the temptations that face young people.

I was 13 when I earned my Novice call, WN4AKB. Because of this, I strongly feel that becoming a radio amateur radio is a positive life experience for any young person. This is a great age to become interested in a lifelong hobby. The Junior High (now Middle School) years are when people begin making decisions about the course of their lives. I went beyond passing the Novice test. I was given the opportunity to become a "real ham." In my personal experience, I met many upstanding people. I benefited from learning the theory and code needed to pass the license exams. My personal time was filled with radio activities leaving no time for the negative temptations that face young people.

I took the exam when it was given by a single volunteer examiner. It was around Memorial Day. The license finally arrived in Friday's mail the third week in July. The next day was the Cary Swapfest. The Swapfest was at the Lions Club shelter near Cary High School. It ended with an auction and awards. The auctioneer was the one and only K4ITL. He gave his usual colorful descriptions of each sale item. Danny bought several of the auction items himself. Afterwards, awards were given for various

accomplishments. One was a computer circuit (pictured) awarded to the youngest licensed ham. They asked first if there were any hams around the age of 15 or 16. I was much younger - only 13! This trophy sits proudly in my shack as one of my treasures. (A CARC member donated it. I had always thought it was Herb, but he won't claim responsibility. K4SG - if you or anyone knows who the donor was, I'd love to know who!) As if that wasn't enough, I received another award. The next award was offered to the newest licensee. Nobody else had received a license the day before. I had a great first day as a ham.

Not only did I have a great first day as a ham, but it also contributed to my life in many positive ways. It started when I learned CW and started learning Novice theory. Getting a pre-teenager or teenager to study willingly for a test teaches habits needed in school, high school, and college. I was motivated to study for the thrill of the accomplishment of reaching the next level. Listening to CW seems to have a positive influence on the brain similar to that of listening to music (many of us will argue that it is the same thing as listening to music.) While learning the code as a child, math topics in school and playing the piano required less effort. I noticed a similar effect when brushing up on CW to pass the 20 wpm test last winter. I also enjoyed learning about electronics from my Dad, W4YDY. Studying with him and participating in ham activities with him gave us a closeness that we would not otherwise have. It must have been difficult for him to always have a kid tagging along when he went to his activities, but he has never said that it was. By his letting me tag along and giving me almost unlimited use of his equipment, I became a "real ham" instead just another ham's kid who passed a license exam.

The most important reason to get a young person interested in amateur radio or any positive activity is how it fills her time. In my case, I was never interested in drugs or other negative influences. I was interested in getting home to use the ham radios to talk to my friends, meet new friends, and to study for the next level of license.

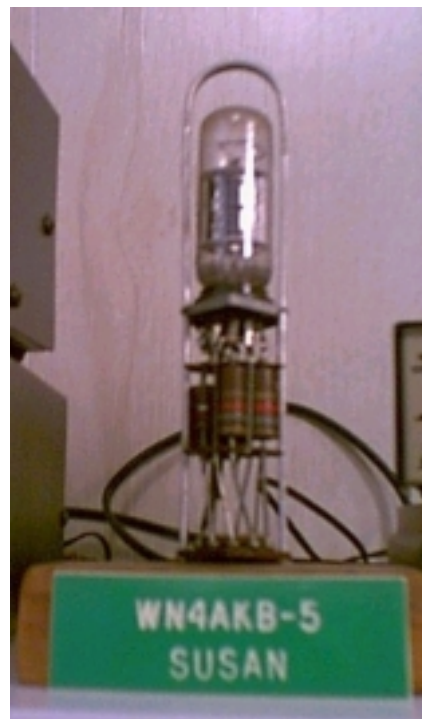
I many good friends. Many of them are still friends now. I mentioned Herb, W3HL and Danny, K4ITL and Bill, K4SG, already. When I returned to this area to go to college, I joined the Cary Amateur Radio Club and got to know many of the rest of you then. Because of the nature of ham radio, the people you meet are upstanding citizens. People who have earned an amateur license are for the most part intelligent, decent, and hard-working citizens. Public service is key for many amateurs. Not many young people are lucky enough to have so many of these types of adult role models without being part of a program that puts you in an artificial setting.

I did also have some friends who were other hams my own age. Many are still good friends now. Like me, they had little interest in the non-productive teen activities. When we got together we did ham radio. This continued into college. The friends who I had at W4ATC were more interested in doing radio activities together than partying or drinking together. The adults that we knew were all supportive and accepting of us and treated us like hams.

There are many opportunities to encourage youngsters in ham radio. Several of our members have already introduced young people to amateur radio. We have several licensed members and several potential future members in our own club. The ARRL is sponsoring "The Big Project" to bring radio into the school curriculums. SAREX allows school groups to speak to ham operators on the shuttle. When we hear young people on the bands, talk to them. They are enthusiastic field day participants. If their parents will let them, they love to operate the late night shifts. Other opportunities include kid's day in January and the October JOTA - Jamboree on the Air for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. How wonderful!

## Deep Thoughts by Jack Handy

If I lived back in the wild west days, instead of carrying a six-gun in my holster, I'd carry a soldering iron. That way, if some smart-aleck cowboy said something like "Hey, look. He's carrying a soldering iron!" and started laughing, and everybody else started laughing, I could just say, "That's right, it's a soldering iron. The soldering iron of justice." Then everybody would get real quiet and ashamed, because they had made fun of the soldering iron of justice, and I could probably hit them up for a free drink.



## **Graham Repeater Association** by Frank Lynch, W4FAL

As the Control Op and Fundraising Chairperson for Wake and Durham Counties for the Graham Repeater Association, it's that time of year to help Dave and Pete out with distributing some of the financial burden of running a large repeater system like GRA.

As some of you already know, one of GRA's big ongoing expenses is liability insurance for the five tower sites (soon to be more, but more about that later). This is nothing special, and practically anyone including amateur radio operators that have equipment on a commercial tower are now required to have liability insurance (save the comments about lawyers until later..). For us this a recurring yearly expense. It's also an expense that can be easily paid of all the users of the system will contribute \$20.00 per year.

If you want to contribute more, that's fine too! If you know a amateur operator that isn't familiar with GRA, tell them about it and encourage them to support the organization financially.

For an interesting technical overview visit the GRA website <http://www.evfd.org/gra/>

The webpage is still under construction, but there's photo's of the Efland Site. It rivals a lot of commercial sites I've seen. There is also some interesting technical stuff about Pete's experiences building custom controllers for the system from scratch and an overview of how the system works.

For those that have PayPal accounts, GRA contributions may be made directly to GRA via your Paypal account to [GrahamRepeater@aol.com](mailto:GrahamRepeater@aol.com).

You may also mail your contributions to:

Graham Repeater Association, Inc. (GRA)  
Post Office Box 1103  
Graham, NC 27253-1103

## **For Sale** by Ed Stephenson, AB4S

I have a two Pyramid 30A metered power supplies to sell at \$50 each.  
467-6832 [ab4s@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ab4s@worldnet.att.net)

## **An invitation to hunt some T's** Charles Scharlau, NZ0I

Regular Transmitter Hunts in the NC Piedmont

I would like to invite all members of the Cary Amateur Radio Club to participate in monthly on-foot transmitter hunts. These hunts are sponsored by the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) of Raleigh, and are held in small forests and large woods in the Raleigh/Cary area. William B. Umstead State Park is a frequent venue for these hunts.

The on-foot hunts loosely follow the rules of international amateur radio direction finding. Five synchronized transmitters, operating on the same frequency on the 2-meter band, are used. The transmitters are placed along trails so that those who prefer not to plow through the brush can take a more civilized route. The brush plowers are also welcome to follow the shortest path!

These hunts are excellent for beginning hunters, and for those with more experience. If you've never tried transmitter hunting come give it a try. Some loaner hunting equipment is available, and generally goes unused! Experienced "drive-to" hunters will find these on-foot hunts to be a fun and challenging experience.

Hunts are currently scheduled for October 29, November 19, and December 10. You can find out more about these hunts, and other transmitter hunts in the North Carolina Piedmont, at the Piedmont Transmitter Tracking web site: [www.qsl.net/nz0i/](http://www.qsl.net/nz0i/) or by sending e-mail to [cscharlau@intrex.net](mailto:cscharlau@intrex.net). Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

73 & Happy Hunting, Charles Scharlau, NZ0I

Phone: 919-932-5464

## Starting Point for Detective Work by Don Kalinowski, NJ2E

Don't hesitate to pick up a pc circuit board or other electronic doo-dad at a hamfest just because there are no drivers or manuals. Just look for an FCC registration number on the card or device. With that info you can go to <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/fccid/help.html> for tips on how to find the manufacturer information. This page has tips how to search for the manufacturer so you can track down manuals, schematics, or drivers you need.

## Band Day 2000 by Herb Lacey, W3HL

Band Day is: Nov. 11, Sat., this year. Please plan to participate. This is a family event because mom(dad) and the kids can have a good time too.

For those new members on our distribution list, CARC has been supporting Band Day ever since the shofar was invented. Well almost that long. Twenty or so marching bands will come to parade and compete in a competition sponsored by the Cary High Band.

We have two shifts, one from about 7 am to 9 am to help meet the arriving buses and make sure the bands get to the staging areas on time. The second shift involves, well, standing around. The Band Day Committee has parade marshals about every two blocks on the parade route but without communications capability. That's where you and your handie-talkie come in. We assign hams to various corners to assist the parade marshals. This shift runs roughly 9 am to 11 am. Parade starts at 10 am.

If you have participated in past band days and want to put a lock on your favorite corner, sign up early. Check the club website for details and make sure you are on the remailer for last minute updates.

## Holiday Dinner

CARC combines the November and December Meetings into a Holiday Dinner event on the Thursday after Thanksgiving, which this year calculates to December 7 - "a day that will live in ...indigestion." The dinner will be at the K+S Cafeteria between South Hills Mall and Crossroads Ford. Make sure you are on the club remailer for last minute reminders.

## September Mystery Shack



Susan, WA4AKB is the "owner-operator" of September's Mystery shack. You can't tell from this picture but the station only lacks a decent transmitting antenna. Sounds like a project.

## Post-Hunt Jocularly



Herb, W3HL , Dennis, WA4ATK and Jeff, NX9T, give Lee, N4AJF some pointers on the finer points of dowsing.