



Issue 07

Club Web Site www.rcarc.info

July 2006

Treasury Report September 2006

Beginning balance	\$1393.48
Repeater Power Bill	-\$41.15
Field day	-\$134.43
Fox Hunt/Dinner	-\$315.00
Repeater Power Bill	-\$29.86
Ending Balance	\$576.23

Club Meeting

Agenda: up coming emergency drill.
Club meeting is still on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the Iron County Visitor Center. Love to see all of you there.

Fox Hunt, From The Eyes Of The Fox

Several club meetings ago, in front of everyone Present, Dick Parker K7ZI cornered me in to doing a Fox Hunt. With no escape possible, I said yes. He knew I enjoyed the challenge of a Fox Hunt.

This time I decided to be the fox, and not the hunter. I selected a sight, and made arrangements for access to the selected property.

Now, the challenge was to talk it up, and keeping the location from slipping out of my big mouth as I spoke. The date for the foxhunt was set for September 23, on a Saturday at 4:00 P.M. with a club dinner to follow the hunt, the location of the dinner was provided by the fox when found.

The day before the foxhunt, I contacted Bob Allinsson, the chief of police to inform him of our plans. Bob appreciated the information, and in a joking note asked me not to take a sniper rifle. I agreed to take his advised and leave the rifle home HI HI.

The day of the foxhunt had arrived. It was sunny, slight breeze, and cool. I had packed a snowsuit, hat, gloves etc. but the day was so nice, I only needed to wear a good coat.

Since, I had contracted a cold, I invited my daughter Julie Le Baron, KC7VAY to speak on the radio for me.

I used my hand held radio, a Kenwood TH-27A. It is a 15-year-old radio and some of the buttons do not work. The rechargeable battery had gave up and died a long time ago. I had purchased an alkaline battery pack with the radio as a back up. At this time it is my only source of power. I put in 6 new AA alkaline batteries to get the old girl up and running, hooked up my mag mount 2 meter antenna set the radio on low power, selected a simplex frequency of 146.520.

Now that I was situated in the fox den, I made a contact with Dick Parker K7ZI to let him know that I was all set and ready to go. Dick was at the Iron County Visitor Center along with his spouse Susan. At 4:20 P.M. Loren Lamoreaux and Trevor Pollock showed up to join in the fun. At this time the announcement was made, "Let the Hunt Begin".

As we would transmit we would transmit for approximately for one minute and off resting for two minutes. At one time as embarrassing as it may be, we found that we had bumped the knob, and was off frequency for a couple of transmissions. As we had found our errors, we quickly moved back on to the right frequency. Since the hunters had their DF antennas hooked up their radios, all they could do is listen to the transmissions and could not transmit to let me know I was off frequency.

As the hunt proceeded on, it was at 5:10 P.M. when the fox was found by the first team. Using only their hand held radio, and the signal strength, Joel and Sylvia were the first ones to find the fox den. Joel and Sylvia joined me in the fox den, or should I say in the fox nest. HI HI.

Sylvia used some of her special talents that she developed over the years that the rest of us are not aware of or have not yet developed ourselves. For example, Silvia heard some of the background noises during transmissions that she could add to the puzzle of where that fox was laid up.

Twenty more minutes has passed. The time was 5:30 P.M. I had spotted a green pickup truck stopping on the road next to the den, on the north side of us. One of the hunters was in the back of the pick up rotating a very large antenna. When the transmission of the fox stopped, the green pickup had slowly drove away, as if they did not quite know which way to go.

As the green pickup drove off, I could see them driving up the hill to the Park Discovery, which I found out later it was their third time up there on the hill. Then I made an announcement that "The green pickup truck was getting colder". It was 5:45 P.M. when the hunters in the green pickup happened to spot the sly fox in his den.

Several times during the hunt, the fox had put out a challenge. "Where is Russ Chaffee"? Come and find the fox Russ if you can. The fox was finally informed that Russ was out of town.

Now, what has happened to Dick Parker? The fox asked himself. At this time, the fox thought he had better give out clues if he was going to lure all the hunters to the den. The second clue was; what was the capitol of Rhode Island? If you remember the first clue was given back when the fox made the statement, or should I call it a nest.

About 10 minutes later Dick spotted a green pickup truck, parked, and determined that with the aid of his Doppler direction finder, the fox must be near by. Dick did finally find the fox den, and upon chatting with Dick, He did not know the capital of Rhode Island, so that clue did not help him much.

Finally, it seemed like every one had learned something new about how to use their equipment.

Joel and Sylvia found that you cannot get a stronger signal when they are standing underneath the antenna. Trevor and Lorin learned why they got a stronger signal when their antenna was laid on its side, it was because the signal was horizontal instead of vertical.

Dick seemed to learn more about the characteristics of his Doppler D.F. set up. You can learn some thing about D.F. every time you go out and put your skills to the test.

The question is to you. Do you know what the capital of Rhode Island is? Do you even have a clue where the fox den was? The next clue is "A house that is not a house". Give up? If you have figured it out great! If not the location of the fox den will be disclosed at the next club meeting.

All that partook in the hunt agreed that the fox had chosen a very nice den to be laid up in, while the hunters where out tracking the old sly one down.

The fox hunt dinner. We then went to the west side of the Canyon Park, where a catered Dutch oven dinner awaited us. The menu was BBQ Pork Ribs, Chicken, Beans, and more.

All in all there was a great time to be had and a vote was taken, and the results showed that those who did not come and participated, missed.

Merlin Mackay N7TCE.

I am glad that the foxhunt went well. Great job Merlin for you fine efforts in putting on the foxhunt. You can count on me being here for the next one.

The Editor.

President's Page

Greetings to all!

I am very late getting this page to the editor so it is going to be very brief.

A special thanks goes to all who attended our Saturday Fox Hunt and club dinner. Those who availed themselves had a fun time finding the elusive Fox and a mouth watering Dutch oven dinner following the hunt. Those of you who were somewhere else really missed out.

The near future (November, sometime) RCARC will be included in a tabletop emergency drill with various emergency agencies. We may be called upon to deployment to key areas. The deployment will be to demonstrate to local agencies how Ham radio would work for them in the event of loss of regular communications.

I strongly suggest, if you have not done so already, to build your Grab and go radio kits, at least to the extent that RCARC may "put on a good show" for this exercise using VHF frequencies and modes.

If we are deployed, our call out tree could be a model for them to consider for their individual need to "call out and deploy". We have worked hard to be recognized as an adjunct organization to provide reliable communication when regular services fail. If we fail on this exercise our credibility will be worthless. We are rapidly approaching the end of the year. This president has made the decision not to run a Third term. Be thinking about good, potential RCARC leadership. Nominations will commence next month. I do not intend to disappear from activity, but plan to volunteer for a department chair position in RCARC. I invite each of you to consider a similar office or position. Many hands make for light work and a smooth running organization.

That's about it for now. 73's As always, be *radio active!*

Hey you DXer's, if you would like a challenge, Ken Munford holes up on forty meters. When Ken is home and at his station he is usually on from 0700 to 0800 ZULU. The frequency is 7.010 plus or minus. Ken tells me he is always looking for Utah station to work. I, as of yet, have not worked Ken. Ken's call sign is ZL3KSM. Ken and Jan, his wife will be off their mission some time in May of 2007. You have at least six to seven more months to catch Ken on the air. Good luck.

RED CROSS REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Red Cross said their national policy requires everyone that works in a Red Cross Shelter to have a background check on file. This includes persons that are signed up at the last minute. The Red Cross has a contract with an on-line company that performs background checks. There is a fee for each background check and the Red Cross is currently picking up the cost. The results are only sent to one local Red Cross office. The Web site is <http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/arcvts> and you must select the state map and then the local chapter.

After requests for clarification on this policy from ARRL HQ, Red Cross supplied this statement:

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES

In the aftermath of a huge visible disaster such as Hurricane Katrina there are several post-evaluations that occur looking at systems, procedures, protocols and overall response to determine what systems could be more efficient. Recently, the American Red Cross established a policy mandating that all volunteers undergo a criminal background check, just as their employees have done in the past. The intent of this policy is to safeguard the clients, volunteers and employees. The organization has contracted with a private company to perform these background checks and has provided a means for their volunteers to apply for the background checks without disclosing any confidential information to a Red Cross volunteer or employee. Prospective volunteers can go to a secure online website and only need to submit their full name and social security number to the contracted company. No additional information is needed.

The overall results of the background check are not shared with the Red Cross. The only information provided is that a person has successfully completed the background check with no adverse information or that a person has potentially adverse information and that additional research is required. When additional research is required the contracted company will notify the prospective volunteer and will address the issue with no Red Cross intervention.

Several people have indicated the desire to go to their local law enforcement agency rather than use the private contracted company. Because the American Red Cross is not a governmental agency, as required by their guidance of impartiality, it is unlawful for a law enforcement agency to share this information with the Red Cross.

This requires them to use the private, contracted firm. Also, many have expressed concern about the use of their security number, however this is required to be assured that the background check is being performed on the right person. The Red Cross has gone to great lengths to make sure the prospective volunteer is not giving out their social security number to anyone other than the contracted company and then only through a secure, encrypted website.

Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them. We hope volunteers, who have provided blood, sweat and tears in helping fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross will understand the importance of performing this due diligence.

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to backgroundchecks@usa.redcross.org or 1(800)507-3960.

This may significantly impact Amateur Radio operators in the future. ARES membership will not allow you access to a Red Cross shelter unless you have a background check. In Orlando, Orange County, Florida, the ARES/RACES group is sponsored by the county and background checks were done through the sheriff's department. Upon completion the members were issued county ID cards. The city and county EOCs and communication centers would not permit anyone inside the centers that did not have the county ID card. With the additional emphasis on security, this is going to be a bigger problem in the future. Homeland Security is pushing for a single national ID for government first responders. -- Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, South Texas SEC