

AARC Mobile Hidden Transmitter Hunt Rules and Procedures

Purpose

Transmitter hunting is fun, but it is also a useful skill for amateurs to have in their toolkit. We may be called on to help find a downed aircraft or lost hiker; to help find a rogue transmitter interfering with public safety communications; or to locate a bad transformer or other source of electromagnetic interference.

Rules

- **Safety is the number one priority!** All participants must follow FCC regulations and all traffic laws. Be aware that participating in the hunt is likely to distract attention from driving. Extra care and attention must be paid to driving safely. Teams should designate a driver who has no other responsibilities during the hunt.
- Participants may enter as individuals or as teams, although teams are encouraged for safety reasons. Teams must travel in a single vehicle and remain together throughout the hunt.
- Participants must rely only on their skills and on the equipment they carry with them. They may not receive assistance from anyone outside their team.
- Participants may use any technology they choose, including radios, antennas, attenuators, doppler DF systems, computers, and software.
- The requirements for winning the hunt will be included in the announcement of the hunt. Some hunts will be timed, some judged by mileage, some by a combination of these and other criteria.
- Participants who find the hidden transmitter must not move it, camouflage it, or make any other changes to make it either more or less challenging to find.

- The duration of the hunt will be included in the hunt announcement. The hunt will end after the last participant's time expires, or when all participants have found the hidden transmitter, whichever comes first.
- Rulings of the Hunt Coordinator are final. Violation of hunt rules may result in disqualification.

Procedures

- Participants should arrive at the starting point at least 15 minutes before the start of the hunt to allow for registration and last-minute announcements. The location of the starting point will be included in the announcement for each hunt.
- The Hunt Coordinator and all participants should monitor the designated hunt coordination frequency, which will be included in the announcement for the hunt. Any hunt-related information will be communicated on that frequency.
- Participants (individuals or teams) will be started 3 minutes apart beginning at the hunt start time. Start times will be recorded by the Hunt Coordinator from the mobile telephone network time.
- The hidden transmitter will be located somewhere in an area defined in the announcement for each hunt. It will be in a publicly accessible location with no access restrictions (such as admission fees, private or residents only signs, etc.). It will not be hidden inside a building; it will not be buried; and it will not be more than 6 feet above ground level. It will be receivable from the starting location using an antenna with at least 6 dB gain.
- The details of the hidden transmitter – frequency, mode, polarization, etc. – will be included in the announcement for the hunt, as it may vary from hunt to hunt.
- The hidden transmitter will not be moved, change transmit power or polarization, change its message, or be altered in any other way during the period of the hunt.

- When a participant finds the hidden transmitter, they should record the time and take a photograph of the hidden transmitter with their mobile phone, then send an email with the time and the photograph attached to thunt@albemarleradio.org. **The timestamp recorded in the photograph's metadata, recorded from the mobile telephone network time when the photograph is taken, will be the official finish time.** The participant should also feel free to announce their find – but **not** the location or other details that might help another participant – on the hunt coordination frequency.
- The Hunt Coordinator, at their discretion, may give hints on the hunt coordination frequency system if participants are having difficulty finding the hidden transmitter. The hints may be vague or obscure, but the Hunt Coordinator will not lie or misdirect.