



# The GroundWire

ISSUE 2016-08

## My First Experience on a Fox Hunt

Murphy's Law isn't just some metaphysical clap trap. As scientifically minded as we hams are, there comes a time when you have to throw it all out the window, close your eyes and point. And whatever choice you go with, just know – it's gonna be wrong. Never mind that the odds \*should be\* 50/50. Trust me, kiddo, they ain't.



author Allison Hollier, KG5BHY, Floyd Rodgers KC5QBC, and Jerry Keltner KB6OJE

Such was the case one early June morning when I was standing around the Acapulco Diner parking lot with a group of hams from SWDCARC. We were trying to choose an initial direction to head for our fox hunt. Jerry Keltner, KB6OJE, pulled all kinds of wondrous looking techy-type ham gear out of his SUV and under his watchful eye, we constructed a gy-normous PVC framed, wire-loop antenna. At the predetermined time, the fox began transmitting “VVV VVV DE W5WB FOX HUNT” and the hunt was afoot. Slowly we twisted that behemoth antenna around, listening closely for the signal null.

On a completely unrelated note, at the time I was also studying

for the Extra exam. I remember some questions about that wonderful loop antenna of Jerry's. Their major advantage of loop antennas is: They are great for direction finding because they give really good signal nulls. The major disadvantage is: They have a bi-directional pattern. Meaning when you receive a

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good strong signal the origination point could be straight ahead of you or directly behind. Which brings us right back to “choice” and Murphy’s Law.

But let me back up a minute and tell you how I got to be in that parking lot to begin with.

In May I visited the Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio Club meeting to give a quick promotional talk about the YL North Texas Weekly Net. I stayed for the meeting, surrounded by “The Justins”, who I met at the Ellis County ARES meeting the month before. And that’s where I heard those enticing words — “fox hunt”.

Fate is a weird thing. Not a month prior I presented the fox hunt technical topic on the [YL net](#) and published a blog post based on the same subject. Based strictly on research and no real-world experience whatsoever. (Thank you Googlator.) Anyway, having never personally experienced one, as soon as I heard “fox hunt”, my ears perked up like my Chi-Weenie when she eyes her favorite ball.

Color me intrigued.

A day or two after the meeting, I was busily emailing people and making plans for the Saturday morning fox hunt. I drove over from Burleson and had a nice breakfast at Acapulco with some great guys from SWDCARC, most of whom I recognized from the meeting. At about 7:30, we disbanded and a few of us headed over to Jerry’s SUV for a meetup. There was Jerry; Floyd Rodgers, KC5QBC; Justin Long, K5JTL; Les Wong, K5ITO and myself — Allison Hollier, KG5BHY.

This was the group that constructed the aforementioned wire-loop antenna. Which worked beautifully. Other than the one teensy-tiny flaw wire-looped antennas have. Which, to recap, is the fact they give old Murphy an opening. Once we isolated the frequency, Jerry took out his handy dandy map and compass and the question was... East or west?

By then, the crew was down to Jerry at the wheel, Justin in the back with the attenuator and map, and me in the passenger seat with a much smaller version of the wire loop. We chose to head west. Which again, to recap, due to Murphy’s Law 50-50% rule, was wrong. But of course, we didn’t know that at the time. But hey, this is what fox hunting is all about. Chasing the fox and learning as you go.

Jerry is a well-seasoned fox hunting pro. But Justin and I were complete greenhorns. Well, maybe not \*complete\* greenhorns. There is such a thing as knowing just enough to be dangerous. I don’t know about Justin, but I definitely fall into this category. Couple that with the nickname my girlfriends assigned me years ago (Miss Direction) and it’s a deadly combination for a fox hunt. I just tried to keep my mouth shut when someone asked, “Which way do you think we should turn?” Between me and Murphy, even when there are only two choices there is no correct answer.

Well anyway.



Jerry Keltner KB6OJE with the map

We started at the restaurant in Desoto, then went west to Cedar Hill. On several occasions along the way, Jerry pulled over to the side of the road so I could perform a quick directional check with a wire looped antenna. For the most part though, the signal was loud and clear sitting right inside Jerry's van.

Onward we went, further west to Joe Pool Lake, then south to Midlothian, then east to Ovilla, all the while receiving a perfect signal. We never needed attenuation, we were just receiving. I think that was the final clue we \*might\* be wandering in the desert. So we asked for a hint. Actually I believe what Jerry said was, "If you guys have plans for dinner this evening, you might want to throw us a bone." Or something to that effect.

Since I did some research while writing the blog, I was familiar with stories of the fox taunting the hunter, but I'd never really seen it in action until Jerry got on the talkin' frequency to ask for that hint. Thanks to APRS, the foxes were well-aware that the hunters were chasing their own tail. And so the taunting began.

"Gee, y'all were closer when you started than you are now, Jerry....Or were you?"

After some discussion in the car, we decided we made a bad choice in the very beginning. Of course this was perfectly logical, but if we'd second-guessed ourselves, that choice would have been wrong, as well.

But I digress.

Again.

Kind of like this fox hunt, actually.

We did catch the scent as we doubled-back north. Lo and behold, we lost the signal null. We were hot on her little furry fox tail. In order to find the null again, Justin added a little attenuation. And then a little more. Finally, we were up to 65db of attenuation! Red hot!

Jerry and Justin knew things I didn't. Like "So and So lives over here. And doesn't So and So have a summer home out that way? What about So and So? I think he works over this way. Start looking for anything that might be familiar!"

We hit a crossroads and eventually we headed east to Glenn Heights. Which is where we found them. In the parking lot of Bear Creek Baptist Church. There sat Bill Ellis, N5TXN, Vice President of the club; Barry Fulfer KF5JPE, current President of the club; Brandee Fulfer, KF5RTU, YL of Barry; and Harold Wheat, K5HDW Program Chair.

Out in the field beside the church was an 80-meter antenna and guy wires. On the table, an HF rig and power supply. A little team work made quick work of the tear-down and after a brief chat, soon we were headed back to Acapulco to pick up our individual vehicles.

It made for a merry morning chase. By the time it was over we had driven almost 33 miles and put in two hours. The kicker is, the church was only 2.5 miles due South of the restaurant where we started!

Seriously, just who was that Murphy guy, anyway? Apparently, he could have used a little couch time!

-Allision – KG5BHY

# Upcoming Activities



**August 2**  
**August 16**

Board Meeting  
Club Meeting

Club Breakfast *every* Saturday 7:00AM @ Acapulco's in DeSoto  
Monday Night Nets every Monday @ 8:00PM (147.060 MHz / + /110.9)

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**16 Aug Field Day 2016 in Review by Rick Ellis**

**20 Sept National Parks on the Air with Fred Harris**

# Elmer Directory



APRS	Jerry (KB6OJE)	
Antennas	Paul (KD5IVP)	
Contesting	Jerry (KB6OJE)	
CW	Russ (KX5G)	Paul (KD5IVP)
DF'ing	Rick (KJ5UY)	
DX		
JPole Construction	Barry (K5BSM)	James (KF5RBN)
Kit Building & Soldering		Paul (KD5IVP)
Net Operations	Russ (KX5G)	
Portable Operation	Gene (N5PKZ)	
PSK31	Jerry (KB6OJE)	
QSL'ing		
Radio Bargains	Barry (K5BSM)	
Satellites	Bob (KA4JSQ)	
Traffic Handling	Russ (KX5G)	
WSPR		

**The above club members have volunteered to help you get started or answer questions to help you enjoy these areas of our radio hobby. If you wish to volunteer your expertise, contact Bill (N5TXN) to get on the list.**

# Financial Report ... July, 2016



July-16	Income	Expense	Balance	Petty Cash
<b>General Fund</b>				
Beginning Balance			\$1,235.70	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income-2016	\$25.00			
ARRL Renewal Income-2016				
Donation-Set-up Fee for Logo	\$55.00			
Shirt & Caps	\$196.00			
Transfer From Matl. Property				
Transfer Petty Cash income				
TOTAL INCOME	\$276.00			
EXPENSES				
Blue Eagle Prod-shirts ck 2074		\$251.00		
Transfer to Special Events				
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$251.00		
Ending Balance			\$1,260.70	
<b>Special Events Fund</b>				
Beginning Balance			\$0.00	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Trans from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME				
EXPENSES				
TOTAL EXPENSES				
Ending Balance			\$0.00	
<b>Material Property Fund</b>				
Beginning Balance			\$1,847.90	
INCOME/EXPENSE				
Dues Income-2016	\$25.00			
Transfer from General Fund				
TOTAL INCOME	\$25.00			
EXPENSES				
Transfer to General Fund				
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$0.00		
Ending Balance			\$1,872.90	
<b>July Balance</b>			\$3,133.60	

## 2016 Board Members

### President

Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)

### Vice-President

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

### Treasurer

Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

### Secretary

Anthony Guthrie (KD5TKN)

### Directors

Steven Parks (KF5RYI)

Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)

Harold Wheat (K5HDW)

## Committee Positions

### Repeater Trustee

Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB)

### Repeater Committee Chair

Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)

### Newsletter Editor

Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

### Web Master

OPEN

# MN<sup>2</sup>

## Monday Night Net

Net Time 8:00PM

147.060(+) Primary

444.500(+) Alternate

## Minutes of Board Meeting ... July, 2016



The meeting was called to order by Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE) at 6:30 PM. at the Windsor Park Baptist Church in DeSoto, Texas.

Invocation was given by Bill Ellis (N5TXN).

### **Executive Board members present:**

#### **Officers**

President - Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)

Vice-Pres - Bill Ellis (N5TXN)

Treasurer - Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)

Secretary - Anthony Guthrie (KD5TKN)

#### **Directors**

Program - Harold Wheat (K5HDW)

Membership - Steve Parks (KF5RYI)

Property - Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)

**Minutes of previous month's Board Meeting:** Motion by Bill Ellis (N5TXN) second by Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE). Approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report for previous Board meeting:** Motion by Wayne Schier (KE4SGS) second by Harold Wheat (K5HDW) Approved unanimously.

### **COMMITTEES/ REPORTS**

**Repeaters:** No report

**VE Session:** 2 passed at last meeting's VE session.

**EOC:** No report

**Membership:** 3 new application for vote at this meeting.

**Net:** No net July 4<sup>th</sup>, prior net had 14 participants.

**Web:** Web administration team will work on redesign and present to the Board.

**Groundwire:** All submissions for the Groundwire need to be in **MS Word** format and sent to Bill (N5TXN) or Barry (KF5JPE) by the 25th of the month.

**Field Day Planning:** 2016 Field day complete!

**Material Property:** No report.

**Programs:** July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Critique of 2016 Field Day by Justin Long and Harold Wheat, August meeting will be a presentation of 2016 Field Day in Review by Rick Ellis, September meeting will be a presentation on National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) by Fred Harris, and it was suggested that the October meeting be the Chili Cook-off event.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Bylaws revision remains tabled until Field day reviews are complete. Anthony Guthrie will begin reviewing Bylaws to get an idea what changes may be in the best interest of The Club.
  - Final draft of new logo (both stitch design for shirts/hats/etc. and print format for website/banners/stationery/etc.) was presented to the Board. Motion by Steve Parks (KF5RYI) and second by Wayne Schier (KE4SGS). Approved with 5-2.
  - GroundWire format will remain as-is. Urgently need members to submit articles each month!
  - Social Media Policy (attachment A) has been re-drafted. Motion by Steve Parks (KF5RYI) and second by Bill Ellis (N5TXN). Approved unanimously.
- Fusion Repeater to be placed on the 2 meter band with a (PL of 100) at the Duncanville site. Motion by Bill Ellis (N5TXN) and second by Steve Parks (KF5RYI). Approved unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Membership Applications:
  - o Floyd Rogers (KC5QBC) – motion by Harold Wheat (K5HDW) and second by Wayne Schier (KE4SGS). Approved unanimously.
  - o Edward (Ed) Kostrna - KG5NLG - motion by Steve Parks (KF5RYI) and second by Harold Wheat (K5HDW). Approved unanimously.
  - o Clinton Fitch - K5ASU – motion by Wayne Schier (KE4SGS) and second by Steve Parks (KF5RYI). Approve unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Wayne Schier (KE4SGS) at 7:58 PM.

## Minutes of General Meeting ... July, 2016



The meeting was called to order by Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE) at 6:34 PM. at the Windsor Park Baptist Church in DeSoto, Texas.

Invocation was given by Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB).

### **Executive Board members present:**

#### **Officers**

President - Barry Fulfer (KF5JPE)  
Treasurer - Jerry Keltner (KB6OJE)  
Secretary - Anthony Guthrie (KD5TKN)

#### **Directors**

Program - Harold Wheat (K5HDW)  
Property - Wayne Schier (KE4SGS)  
Membership - Steve Parks (KF5RYI)

### **Name/Call Sign Introductions - someone pass around attendance sheet.**

**Program:** Justin Long (K5JTTL) and Harold Wheat (K5HDW) – Field Day Critique.

### **Business Meeting**

**Minutes of previous General Meeting:** Motion by Wayne Schier (KE4SGS) with second by Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB). Approved as printed in the Groundwire.

**Treasure Report of previous General Meeting:** Motion by Johnny Roberson (KJ5LB) with second by Vance Roper (KE5HGR). Approved as printed in the Groundwire.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Repeaters:** Functioning normally. Fusion backup repeater install pending.

**VE Session:** 2 passed (1 Extra and 1 General) at the last VE Session. No VE session this meeting.

**EOC:** No Report

**Membership:** Board approved Clinton Fitch (K5ASU), Edward Kostrna (KG5NLG) and Floyd Rogers (KC5QBC). No new applications.

**Net:** Last net had 15 participants.

**Web:** 16 visitors counted in the last week. Redesign pending.

**Groundwire:** All submissions for the Groundwire need to be in **MS Word** format and sent to Bill (N5TXN) or Barry (KF5JPE) by the 25th of the month.

**Field Day Planning:** No Report

**Material Property:** Working to get Fusion backup repeater installed. 40' tower with rotator and swivel base section to be offered for sale to membership first along with various other items.

**Programs:** August meeting will be a presentation of 2016 Field Day in Review by Rick Ellis, September meeting will be a presentation on National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) by Fred Harris, and October meeting be the Chili Cook-off event with Show & Tell.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN :** Motion by Ben Barber (K5NEB) at 7:59 PM.