

GET IN TUNE WITH THIS FAST GROWING RADIO SPORT Go Foxhunting!

This pastime is becoming an increasingly popular way of burning off the megajoules on a Sunday afternoon.

DF hunting has been around since amateur radio began, but in the early days was confined to 160 and 80m. These bands are still used for this purpose but increasingly activity is moving to VHF.

The art of DF hunting is to locate as quickly as possible, or by covering as few a miles as possible, one or several hidden transmitting stations. Rules vary from club to club and ideas are given in **Table 1**. Make up your own but do ensure everyone participating knows the rules in advance.

Suitable equipment

Most 2m hand portable equipment should prove suitable. Naturally an S-meter is desirable but not essential.

A simple yagi, three or five elements, is quite good enough and even a dipole can suffice. A yagi has a radiation pattern like **Fig.1** thus giving sense to the bearing, but is rather broad, while using a simple dipole, **Fig 2**, gives a much sharper 'null' but it could be in either direction.

Once you have selected a suitable antenna, try taking bearings on a known transmitter such as a local repeater. Standing in the clear you'll soon see how easy it is, but getting into a built-up area, reflections make themselves known.

Plotting bearings

Take a suitable Ordnance Survey map and pin it to a large board; some DFers tape the map to the bonnet or roof of their car with masking tape. It's usually better not to bother

By Graham Packer
G3UUS

