

Greeting fellow LWRA and GMRS friends,

Welcome to the LWRA "QRP and Tailgate Tech for July 2024" This month's theme is FOX HUNTING.

You can join another HAM or GMRS hunter, hunt by yourself or stay at the QRP site and enjoy the camaraderie, HF, treats and more.

DON'T FORGET ITS GOING TO BE HOT BRING SOMETHING TO DRINK!

Another reminder are the frequencies we will be using.

The FOXES are 146.565 CS, 146.535 CS, 147.525 CS, 462.7125 CS

The found FOX frequency will be 146.520MHz National Call simplex and/or 462.600MHz GMRS simplex. We will use the PEM if you need a repeater to contact the QRP sight or Polk GMRS repeater 462.725. Please use the appropriate frequencies pursuant to your FCC License.

Now the story and the embedded hints.

Standing here on the east side of the PEAS River, as it was known before the PEACE River, you were in Indian Territory. On the west side in or around 1849 only four years after Florida became a state would be the Indian check point known as Ft Meade. General George Meade was assigned here to man the Indian check point. This was the check point between Ft Brooke (Tampa now) and Ft Pierce), Col. Meade later was the same that battled Robert E. Lee at the infamous Battle of Gettysburg with the Army of the Potomac. Also, famously in command was the Confederate General Stonewall Jackson at a later time. The fort was moved away from the river later, reassembled and eventually abandoned. The Fort was subsequently torn down.

The Final Indian War or better known as the 3rd Seminole War started in Fort Meade with an attack on the farm of the Tillis' and resulting in the death of Mr. Willobee. Several points of interest during the Civil War, the entire town was burned excluding a small number of structures.

Some structures in the city are from the late 1800's on the riverside but most migrated to the current town locations to facilitate the new railroad, significantly away from the river.

The railroad brought a new paradigm to the area. Cattle was king and the emerging farming of crops like pineapple and then citrus started. In the late 1800's Fort Meade saw the rich mineral phosphate discovered. Though often debated, the location of the discovery very likely is less the one mile from where this park is in the Peace River. The very dark phosphate ore was spotted on the sandy river bottom. Originally mining would take place on the river, but the difficulty of this process made it short lived. The second type of mining would be mule and wagon mining. A slopping pit would be dug with reenforced sides to app fifty feet deep on the far end. The dirt would be extracted, always battling water, this also was short lived with some remnants in the general area. This made way to steam shovels similar to coal and other ore mining. This too was not affective, so it made way to the behemoth machines known as Draglines. These are still visible in the area with booms above

ground near 175'. One of the largest ever built a Page was in the FM area for years at Swift and Co. Most other draglines were Bucyrus Erie. These large walking electric machines have buckets that a 2-ton truck can drive into. The over 125-year-old phosphate industry is still operating, though greatly scaled down.

Fort Meade also was the home of the first public transportation. A horse or mule drawn streetcar operated here until the motor car made it impractical.

One of the first public schools in the area was here. It is now a private residence, before its completion the school would meet under the unusually shaped oak tree. Unfortunately, this tree succumbed to damage from hurricane damage.

This is a brief overview of my hometown 'Historic Fort Meade'. Now the fox guidelines.

We know the frequencies we will be using. To protect the integrity of the locations they will not be activated until the time the hunt starts at the park.

What to do if I find a FOX.

On 146.520 or 462.6 on GRMS simplex say " TALLYHO Fox Number ___ (there will be a number on the FOX.

DO NOT TOUCH, TURN OFF, OPEN OR RELOCATE THE FOX. DO NOT GIVE THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE FOX. LET OTHERS ENJOY THE THRILL OF THE HUNT!

The four FOX are ONLY on public property. **DO NOT PARK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY** TO HON IN ON THE FOX'S PLEASE USE PUBLIC WRIGHT OF WAY TO PARK. THE SHERIFF IS AWARE OF THIS HUNT AND SUPPORTS OUR ACTIVITY WITHING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAW.

Return back to Fort Meade Park for lunch at the 'Big Dogs on the Park Café' 'at 1130-1200.

BRING YOUR OWN DRINK! IT WILL BE SUMMERTIME IN THE PARK.

Question call KB4FHP or W4JFS my phone number is 863-412-2467 or SIGNAL us on LWRA Chat