Q.
We would like to build the School Fox Hunt project from the schematic published in the May 2011 QST (page 33).

Do you have more information on how this all goes together and how a fox hunt works, receiver, antenna, etc?

A.
Fox Hunting is a good activity for schools and youth groups. There are real world applications of radio direction finding that the kids read about and see on TV every day from the Discovery Channel and tracking wild life to search and rescue of lost skiers to finding ships and downed aircraft to finding pilots that have bailed out of aircraft. It brings together the science of radio and physical activity.

Apart from the transmitter in the article, there are lots of other circuits and designs that you can find with a web search. The receiving end uses a standard radio receiver for the appropriate frequency and a directional antenna. For the antenna, you might check on the web for a Tape Measure Beam. It is pretty easy to make and is flexible enough for running around. As you get closer, an antenna attenuator helps to get peaks and nulls of strong, close signals.

Also, check out the official rules for fox hunting, http://www.ardf-r1.org/ardf_rules It would make for a very competitive activity at a scout camp, along with practice of map reading, orienteering, and search and rescue.