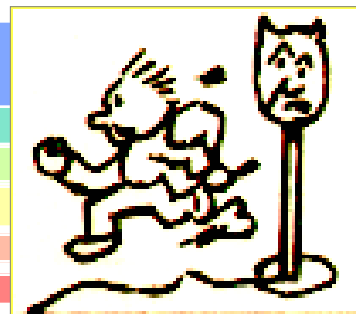




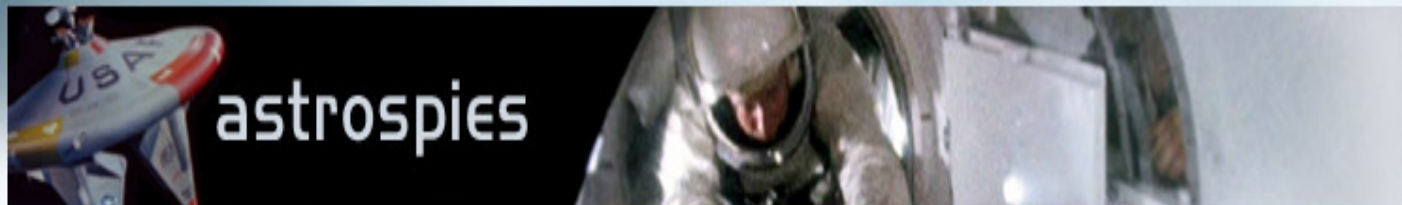
Mike Shy

Official Publication of
Society Radio Operators



Volume 68 Number 7-8

July-August 2008



Upcoming Events

CFMC Regular Meeting - Jul 16 & Aug 20 at the Edgebrook Field House. Meeting at 8PM.

Karsfest - July 20 at the Will Co Fairgrounds - I-57 to Exit 327 east - Talk-in 146.94- 107.2pl

BARS Hamfest - Aug 3 at the Bollingbrook HS - 365 Raider Way

Hamfesters Hamfest - Aug 10 at the Will Co Fairgrounds - I-57 to Exit 327 east - Talk-in 146.52 Simplex

Edgebrook Field House Update

The roof is done but two dormers need to be added. The drywall has been mudded and sanded and the kitchen area is ready for priming. Things are going slow but steady. The work may be done by Christmas time - maybe. Let's hope the next update will be more uplifting.

July 9th 8 PM Edgebrook Field House

Millions remember the countdowns, launchings, splashdowns, and parades as the U.S. raced the USSR to the moon in the 1960s. But few know that both countries also ran parallel space programs, whose covert goal was to launch military astronauts on spying missions. In this program, NOVA delves into the untold story of this top-secret space race, which might easily have turned into a shooting war in orbit.

SRO Has A Web Page

On July 1st, w9sro.org was launched. Take a look and see the latest info, meetings, local club events and hamfests.



Meeting Minutes

by Jim AA9DT

Mike Shy



SRO Notes for May 14, 2008, or Our DTV Transition
By Jim Hawes, AA9DT

MAY MEETING.

Mike Brost WA9FTS is the only one here. He has to stay long enough to drink an urn of coffee. He calls me, but he's talking so fast that I can't understand him.

DTV CONVERSION. Uncle Sam is forcing us to buy a new TV or a converter box. After February 17, full-power TV stations shut down. (Low-power stations such as Channel 23 are exempt.) If you have cable TV, you don't need a converter box now. But some of your channels might move to a digital tier. To keep watching, pay up. In 2012, most cable TV goes digital. When you buy a converter, expect a pitch for a high-margin TV. Or a \\digital antenna.// (There's no such thing.)

COUPONS. Each TV, VCR, TiVo or DVD recorder that we use over the air needs a converter. Out of generosity with our tax dollars, Uncle Sam provides two \$40-off coupons. You can use the coupons to buy converter boxes. (But only the EchoStar or Slingbox machine costs \$40. Other brands cost more.) Note: An American household has an average of 2.4 TVs, plus other devices with analog tuners. Two coupons per household will likely prove insufficient. The orphaned devices will probably go to the landfill. Is Uncle Sam leading a drive for responsible recycling of these working electronic devices? Not that I've heard. For example, we could export used analog TV equipment. Canada won't convert until 2011. Mexico won't convert until 2022.

CONVERTER FEATURES THAT WE LIKE =====

+ ZOOM. (Zenith & Digital Stream.) To fill a standard frame, you *need* the Zoom button.

+ INTERNAL POWER SUPPLY. (Zenith & Digital Stream.) Most brands have inferior wall warts.

+ ANTENNA. Pictures come in well over a minimal antenna (if you're near the transmitter).

+ INTELLIGENT TUNING finds the digital equivalent of an analog station.

+ SETUP. Quick and painless. Zenith includes AV and coax cables. Digital Stream: Only coax.

+ SIGNAL STRENGTH METER. Gimmick that helps you to aim the antenna. (Small potatoes.)

+ RS-232 PORT for software upgrades. Zenith & Digital Stream don't have it. Artec does.

CONVERTER FEATURES THAT WE DISLIKE

=====

+ ARTIFACTS. Terrible and frequent. You'll hate screen freezes, blurs, pixellation and lost sound.

+ WEAK STATIONS flip in and out. I prefer analog snow. (Promised better picture is malarkey.)

+ ZOOM CROPS the frame too tightly. (Especially Digital Stream.)

+ CONVERTER BREAKS analog recorders. A DVD recorder now can't tune stations for you.

+ AUTOMATIC SHUTDOWN (Zenith) stops you from recording shows. Turn off this \\feature//.

+ NO AV HOOKUP through switchbox (Zenith). Output signal is too flimsy.

+ S-VIDEO OUTPUT. Few models have it. Channelmaster seems to be the only one.

+ NO PASSTHROUGH. (Zenith, Digital Stream.) EchoStar allows viewing analog or digital TV.

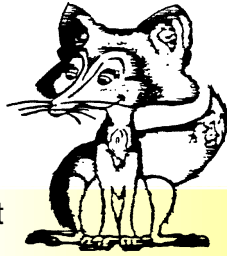
+ ELECTRONIC PROGRAM GUIDE (EPG). Incomplete. Inconvenient. A newspaper is better.

Are You Ready for February 17, 2009?

www.DTV2009.gov
1-888-DTV-2009



Foxhunt Report



Mike Shy

CFAR June 7th 2008 Foxhunt
by Charlie KB9DIM

The fox Alexis N9VRA with the guidance of Charlie KB9DIM, chose a hiding spot on the west side of Chicago, very near the border of Elmwood Park, 9 miles from the starting point. The spot was located just south of West Grand Avenue, behind a factory equipment supply company. To gain access to the rear parking area, hunters would need to locate an unnamed road, just to the east, that ran along a railroad spur. There was only one entrance to the area, without having to climb fences. The fox first chose a spot near some parked trucks, but discovered that a number of young feral cats had made a home under the vehicles, and not wanting to upset or hurt the locals, the fox chose a spot near a loading dock door to park the car. This location was very visible for anyone entering the area, so it was decided that it would be best to hide outside the car.

Using a 5/8 2m mag mount antenna, fed by 15 feet of RG59 coax, and a Yaesu FT-2800M, running at its full power setting. The hiding spot was alongside the building, which had corrugated steel siding, near an inside corner of the building (see attached Google Earth photo). The antenna was attached at a height of about 7 feet, to the western side of the building, and was horizontally polarized.

The fox N9VRA received the call from the hunt master at the appointed time. Having taken the calls of the hunters, a test transmission was made, and all hunters reported having a signal. At the end of her transmission, N9VRA announced that KB9DIM would be acting as her proxy, since she is not a big fan of the bugs. N9VRA then retired to the car, where she acted as the spotter for KB9DIM. The hunters were released shortly after 8:00pm.

The horizontally polarized signal adjacent to two sides of the building, provided the hunters with a number of reflections. The first hunter into the immediate area, got out of his car, and inspected the area near a water tower that was on the property, while waiting for a signal from the fox. When the fox began transmitting, the

hunter turned and walked straight to the fox, to win first place. It remained quiet in the area for about 20 minutes until the second hunter to enter the parking lot was sighted. The reflections caused this hunter to closely inspect the water tower as well. And after making a number of passes around the lot, decided to leave and inspect the alley to the west. During this lull, the third hunter into the area was spotted, walking down the alley, unfortunately, there was a high fence between the fox and him. The second hunter, returned to the lot, and began looking all over the area, inspecting the trucks that were home to the kittens. Shortly after their return to the parking lot, they were joined by the third hunter to be seen, having given up on the alley, both teams began searching in earnest.

1st Don W9RA 8:48pm
2nd Tony AA9CC 9:21pm
3rd Tom N9CBA 9:26pm
DNF Mike WA9FTS

The foxes and the hunters retired to an Applebee's that was located a very short distance away, on Grand Avenue.

CFAR Foxhunt Information

1st Saturday of each month - start at 8PM
Sears Parking lot in Elmhurst on Rt 83 north of
St. Charles Rd
Fox transmits during the hunt on 147.75 MHz

Meeting Attendance



**May 14th
at the Edgebrook Field House**

Several members showed up but not enough to have an official meeting. There was, therefore, no meeting and no program.



Treasurer's Report

by Mike WA9FTS



Start 1/1/08 \$975.21

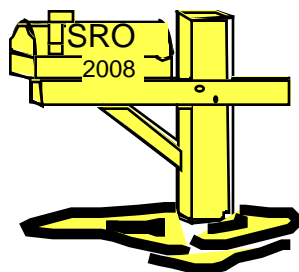
Receipts	\$488.20
Membership Dues	\$470.00
Hamfest Inc	\$7.00
Auction Inc	\$11.20

Disbursements	\$330.02
Annual Report	\$5.00
Insurance	\$320.00
Mike Shy - Postage	\$5.02

End 7/9/08 \$1133.39

For the months of July - Sept

N9CBE	Lynne Bosnyak	Jul 12th
KC9ENZ	Dennis Krawczak	Sep 10
N9FA	C Fay Jacobson	Sep 3
N9FO	James Creek	Aug 18
W9MOL	Lee Knirko	Aug 14
WA9QPD	Joe Romanofski	Aug 11



IF YOU MOVE LET THE EDITOR KNOW YOUR NEW MAILING & EMAIL ADDRESS - IT IS YOUR WAY OF KEEPING MIKE SHY IN YOUR MAILBOX EACH MONTH

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Mike Leibovitz - WA9EVF
Vice President
Jean Pressel - KB9FXL
Secretary
Jim Hawes - AA9DT
Treasurer
Mike Brost - WA9FTS

SRO Directors

Jim Quinn - K9JQ
Don Moriarty - W9RA
Jon Tammen - K9IQF

Mike Shy Staff

Editor/Circ. Mgr.
Mike Brost - WA9FTS
E-Mail:
mikeb2006@comcast.net
708.457.0966 Voice

Regular Meeting Place

For the rest of the year SRO will meet at the Salvation Army Norridge Citadel, 8354 W Foster, Norridge IL 60706 in July, September and November second THURSDAY at 8 PM unless other-wise indicated in Mike Shy.

Standing Committees

Membership - K9JQ
Program - Open
Meeting Refresh. - AA9DT
Foxhunting - WA9FTS
Repeater - K9IQF
Field Day - Open
Education - WA9EVF
Mike Shy - WA9FTS
Picnic - WA9FTS
Dinner/Play - Open for 2008
Christmas / Hanukkah Party - WA9EVF

SRO Repeaters

	In	Out
CFAR (107.2) PL	147.75	147.15
TOOFAR	223.26	224.86

Repeater Personnel

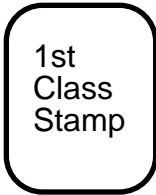
Trustee - K9JQ
CFAR Chairman - K9IQF
CFAR Treasurer - WA9FTS
Site Maintenance
K9IQF, W9RA & W9BEA
Control Operators
K9IQF, TBD
NW Maintenance
WA9FPT
Northeast Maintenance
K9IQF & TBD
Lisle Maintenance
WA9AEK

W9EJ Exp Date May 2008

**Mike Shy is published monthly by the Society Radio Operators.
Deadline is 2 weeks before the meeting.
Contributions are welcome & should be sent to the Editor.**

Mike Shy

Mike Brost - WA9FTS, Editor
5127 N. Monterey Dr.
Norridge IL 60706-3245



First Class Mail



July 9th
Edgebrook Field House

