



# *Mike Shy*

*Official Publication of  
Society Radio Operators*



Volume 74 Number 1 & 2

January - February 2014

## The Smartest Machine on Earth - Feb 12th

at the Edgebrook Field House - 8 PM

Nova: Smartest Machine on Earth. Nova covers Watson, IBM's computer that won Jeopardy in 2011. The Jeopardy triumph is only a tiny part of the story. Far more fascinating is how IBM achieved its Jeopardy win after years of effort. IBM even hired its own TV emcee and staged its own Jeopardy episodes. Watson's two rivals were Jeopardy aces, and they weren't pulling punches. Watson might be the smartest machine, but his competitors were wrecking machines.

### Upcoming Events

Sterling-Rock Falls 54th  
Hamfest - March 2nd  
1700 6th Av Sterling IL  
For info: 815-284-5650  
1302 W 2nd St  
Dixon IL 61021

Chicago FM Club  
Salvation Army  
8354 W Foster Ave  
Norridge  
Thurs Feb 20th - 8PM



I found that the Salvation Army will accommodate us - no charge - but the best night is Thursdays (Feb 13th).//

EVENTS. Our northwest (Lake Zurich or TOOFAR) site will be down until spring. An upcoming Mike Shy will report the progress of the maintenance.

ENTERTAINMENT for the upcoming February meeting will be Nova: Smartest Machine on Earth. Nova covers Watson, IBM's computer that won Jeopardy in 2011. The Jeopardy triumph is only a tiny part of the story. Far more fascinating is how IBM achieved its Jeopardy win after years of effort. IBM even hired its own TV emcee and staged its own Jeopardy episodes. Watson's two rivals were Jeopardy aces, and they weren't pulling punches. Watson might be the smartest machine, but his competitors were wrecking machines.

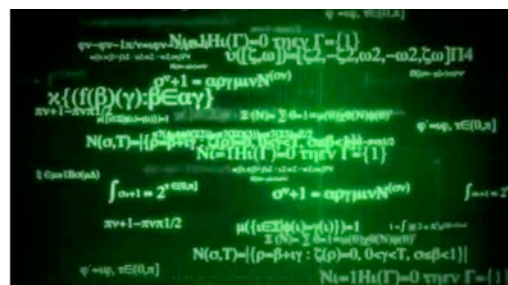
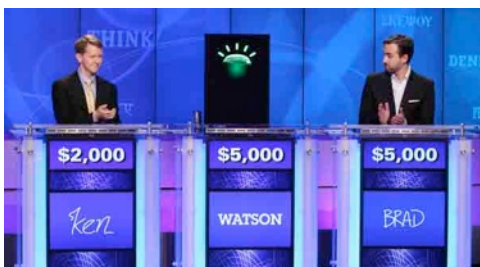
At first, the rehearsals didn't go well. Watson didn't even understand some of the questions. His stumbling answers were so pitiful that the host began poking fun at him on air. These jibes would have humiliated a human contestant, but Watson forged on. After each show, programmers revamped his program and reinforced his database. Eventually Watson's memory banks included entire encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines, and even the Bible. Plus, Watson's technical coaches made certain that Watson would learn and benefit from his mistakes. Still, training a computer to understand Alex Trebek's puns turned out to be mind-bogglingly difficult. See the show's preview here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-wdQncm1bA>

*SRO Notes for December 11, 2013 (or: Pass the Ammunition)*  
By Jim Hawes AA9DT

TONIGHT'S MEETING. Tonight is the Hanukkah and Christmas Extravaganza. At 7 p.m., President Mike Leibovitz WA9EVF convenes a brief business meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Mike Brost WA9FTS confirms the club's solvency. At the January 29, 2014 SRO board meeting, Mike updates his figures. (To protect the privacy of club records, these minutes won't disclose club accounting data. Members who wish to inspect the club's records should contact WA9FTS.) Our domain name registry for [www.wv9sro.org](http://www.wv9sro.org) recently came up for renewal. WA9FTS renewed it. Jon Tammen K9IQF filed our repeater data with the Illinois Repeater Association (IRA). Mike WA9FTS will deliver his latest treasurer's report at our next general meeting on Wednesday February 12.

EDGE BROOK FIELD HOUSE NEWS. The forest preserve will begin charging SRO for our meeting room. Mike Brost spoke with a forest preserve representative. Mike says: "The field house wants \$60 for the classroom and \$120 for the main room each night."





## Foxhunt Report



CFAR Foxhunt - Dec 7th, 2013 - by Mike WA9FTS

### Results:

1. John WD9EXW, Tom N9CBA, Janet
2. Tony AA9CC, Joan KC9QQY
3. Mike WA9FTS, Tom N9IHZ
4. Marty N9LTE, Bill
5. Don W9RA

Don K9VGJ and Joe showed up before the hunt to wish us good luck. Matt KC9SEM provided a weak but hearable signal to start the hunt. The signal was coming from the SW, or maybe WSW. Three of the five hunt teams took 355 south. Tom and I took Roosevelt Rd west to Kirk and it became Farnsworth. We made it to a road just north of I-88 and west to find John and Tom heading back to their van. I got out on foot and ran across a field to find Matt's truck and flashlights to the north heading my way very quickly. I jumped over a snow fence (2ft high) to score a third. Bill and Marty arrive seconds later. Shortly, Don drove in from the road as he was the only one to do so. It was a drive-up! We went to Portillo's.



## What happens when we detect alien life?

Seth Shostak, the man who will know first, describes what will happen if E.T. phones Earth.

By [Sarah Scoles](#) | Published: Monday, December 30, 2013

RELATED TOPICS: [SETI](#)

In the May 2012 issue of *Astronomy*, SETI scientist Seth Shostak wrote an article about his dream scenario: one in which astronomers, after years of searching, actually find evidence of an intelligent extraterrestrial society. "What happens when we detect alien life?" details not just the official procedure scientists and the government will follow but also the way people like you might react to the news. After all, if we learn that we are not alone in the universe, the lives of those stuck on Earth — and their interactions with each other — surely will change.

## Message from the President - Mike WA9EVF

Hello All

The Holiday season is now over and I hope all of you are doing well. We had a great holiday party and no one went away hungry. Thank-you's to all who helped set up and take down, Mike WA9FTS and Carol, Pete WV9P, Len N9LEN, AND Cal WA9KLF. Its is the people who help that make an event successful. Some of you may have noticed that the North-West receive site is down. It will be down for some time as access is unavailable till spring. The other sites are still OK. There have been some changes in how the Field house operates and we will need to hold some discussions on that matter. See you at the February 12th SRO Meeting

## Upcoming SRO Events - 2014

**Regular Meeting - Apr 9th at the Edgebrook Field House -8PM**

**Board Meeting - Jul 30th at BQS Realty - 7:30PM**

**Regular Meeting - Jun 11th at the Edgebrook Field House -8PM**

**Board Meeting - Jul 30th at BQS Realty - 7:30PM**

**Regular Meeting - Aug 13th at the Edgebrook Field House -8PM**

**Regular Meeting - Oct 8th at the Edgebrook Field House -8PM**

## Meeting Attendance

Edgebrook Field House Dec 11th, 2013



Mike WA9FTS  
Len N9LEN  
Christine  
Noreen Lorentz  
Fay N9FA  
Cathy KA9ZWZ  
Cal WA9KLF  
Mike WA9EVF  
Ken KA9TRG  
Pete WV9P

Larry KB9OOR  
Jean KB9FXL  
Jim AA9DT  
Jim K9JQ  
Wanda KC9LRZ  
Wally W9BEA  
Rita K9BQS  
Don W9RA  
MaryLou Quinn  
Carol Sparacio

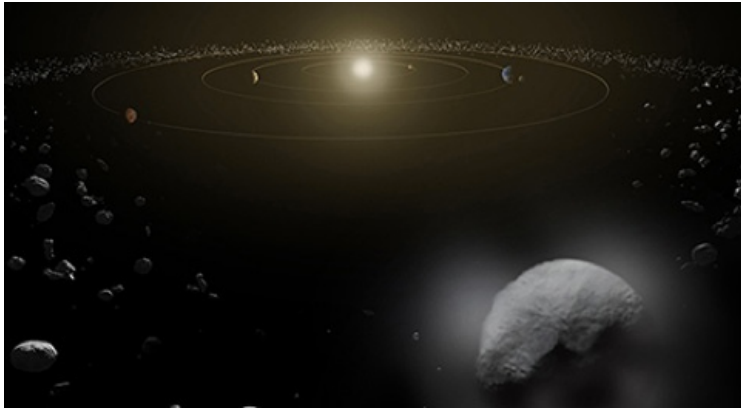


**If you move, let the Editor know your new mailing and email addresses. It is our way of getting Mike Shy to you each time.**



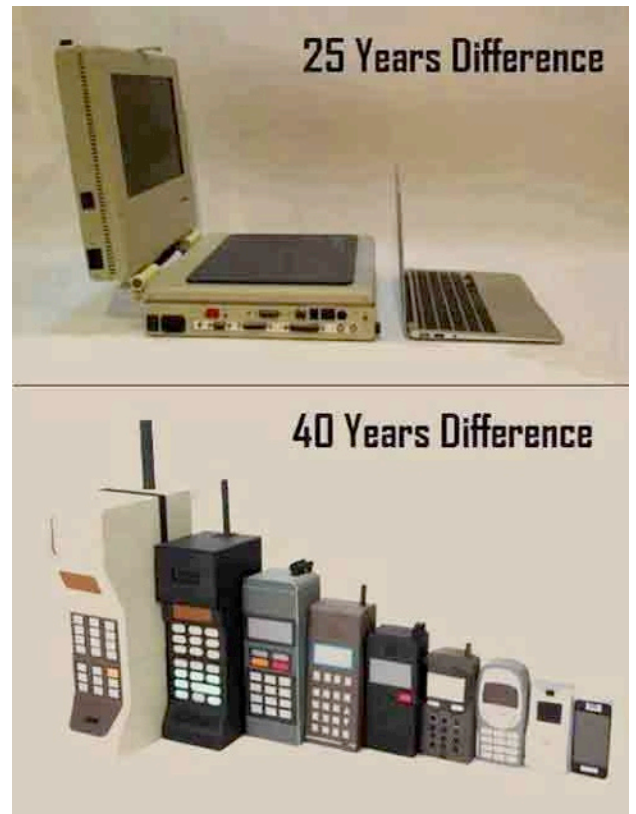
## Saturn's moon Titan

The February issue of *Astronomy* magazine asks if liquid methane flows on Saturn's moon Titan, describes where scientists are looking for signs of extraterrestrial life, explains how much mass Sun-like stars lose in their lifetimes, provides tips about searching the night sky for star clusters, reviews Levenhuk's new refractor, and more.



## Herschel telescope detects water on dwarf planet

Scientists using the Herschel Space Observatory have made the first definitive detection of water vapor on the largest and roundest object in the asteroid belt, Ceres. Plumes of water vapor are thought to shoot up periodically from Ceres when portions of its icy surface warm slightly. Ceres is classified as a dwarf planet, a solar system body bigger than a typical asteroid and smaller than a planet. "This is the first time water vapor has been unequivocally detected on Ceres or any other object in the asteroid belt and provides proof that Ceres has an icy surface and an atmosphere," said Michael Keppers of the European Space Agency in Spain.



## Foxhunt Report



CFAR Hunt - Jan 4th, 2014 by John WD9EXW

We has a birthday request for munchies at the Cheesecake factory. There are 3 in the area, so we choose Woodfield, and started looking in the area. After a couple ideas, we settled here: 42.06599,-88.093305

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=42.06599,-88.093305&hl=en&ll=42.065989,-88.093357&spn=0.000575,0.000791&sll=42.065989,-88.093357&sspn=0.000575,0.000791&t=h&z=20>

Turned out snow was a barrier to getting the car tucked back in farther. Then as we walked around, we found the 'smoking section' - actually a bus stop out in a parking lot, with bench and roof.

Maps report a 17 mi drive, perfect route was expressway nearly all the way. We were trying for 'nearly drive up' in lieu of poor driving conditions, and you could drive within 10 feet of us.

5 watt mobile rig, small beam @ 8' roughly vertical pointe south east. Plenty of moisture in the air, low clouds, power lines and a couple buildings caused some reflections

After a delayed start (late hunters) we released @ 8:16 There would have been more pictures but I had technical problems - I could not hear the fox and could not follow the other hunters. I found an adaptor with a short between the center conductor and shield between the antenna and the sniffer. - WA9FTS



### Results:

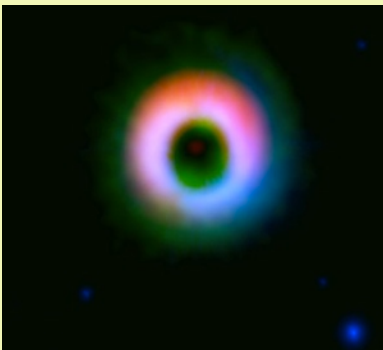
#1 Matt KC9SEM, Patty N9PLS, Jacob, Mackenzie. Matt saw the car and managed to follow the tracks. @ 9:01

#2 Marty N9LTE & Bill who drove right up

#3 Tony AA9CC Drove right up  
Don W9RA elected to munch instead.  
Mike WA9FTS had no signal.

When Matt scored, he reported Tony was alone, so we decided to do pizza instead - and munched at Uno's Chicago Grill

### ALMA discovers a formation site of a giant planetary system



Astronomers found that it is highly possible that Jupiter-like or Earth-like planets are forming in an asymmetric ring around the star HD 142527.

A team of Japanese astronomers has obtained firm evidence of formation of a giant planetary system around a young star by the observations with the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). This result has a transformative impact on the theories of planet formation and gives us a clue to the origin of a wide variety of planetary systems.



## Foxhunt Report

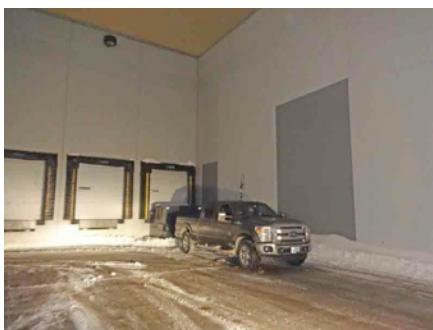
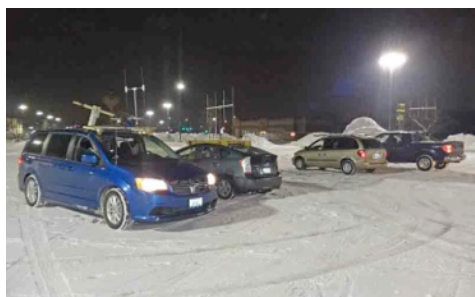


CFAR Hunt - Feb 1st, 2014 by Matt KC9SEM

Patty and I had lots of errands to do today and it didn't leave us with much time to find a spot. After hiding in a snow cave last weekend I wanted to hide in the vehicle this time around. We chose one of the business on my UPS route (41.777192, -88.224104). The building, where we were hiding, is in a U shape. I was using my tape measure

beam on a 7 foot mast at 5 watts. I knew the signal would be weak at the start point but it sounded like we were making the repeater full quieting. I later found out that we were making the repeater most of the time and that a few transmissions didn't make it. Hind sight, I should have used a little more power. This was a drive up hunt but the first 2 on the scene came from the north on foot. Tony was the first one we saw but he ran right by us and went around the building. A few minutes later was John, and he came in a full sprint as soon as he saw Patty and I sitting in the truck to score first. Tony finally made it around the building to take second. We had munchies at Portillo's on route 59 in Naperville. Results:

1. John WD9EXW, Tom N9CBA, Janet, Matt
  2. Tony AA9CC, Joan KC9QQY
  3. Marty N9LTE, Bill
  4. Mike WA9FTs
- DNF Kevin N9JPH, Colin KD9AHH (new call)  
DNF Don W9RA



## SRO 2014 Roster

The roster will be out with the March - April issue.

## Repeater Etiquette

- If you have questions about the use of the repeaters, please ask. FCC Part 97 rules apply AT ALL TIMES.
- Listen for at least 10 seconds before transmitting to be sure the repeater is not already in use or ask "Is the repeater in use?".
- The repeater does not have a timer. However, long transmissions are not recommended. Keep them short - one to two minutes at the longest. Give someone a chance to check in or respond to what you said. WAIT for the repeater to drop before transmitting.
- If you wish to join a conversation in progress, wait until the end of a transmission and give your call sign promptly. There is a short delay between the end of a transmission and the repeater drop. Stations already in conversation wait for the repeater to drop before transmitting.
- If you need access to the repeater for an emergency transmission, say "EMERGENCY" and give your call sign when you break into an ongoing conversation.
- Do not use "break" or "break break" since they have special meaning for most operators and usage varies around the U.S. Use "EMERGENCY" or your call sign.
- **Always allow a breaking station to transmit immediately.** Allow a station an opportunity to report emergencies or ask for directions or other assistance. This is particularly important during commuting periods and periods of bad weather when the need for emergency assistance calls are most likely.
- Avoid business talk (FCC Part 97 rules). When in doubt, DON'T.
- Remember Amateur frequencies are not private lines - what you say on the repeater can and will be heard by many people (including the FCC). Always assume you have an audience.
- Do not say things that may offend others who may be listening. Be circumspect in discussing private personal family affairs on the repeater. Do not "advertise" your house will be unoccupied during vacations, etc.
- The repeater gives its own ID. You must also identify your station by giving your call sign every 10 minutes during a conversation and at the end of your participation. You do not have to identify the other stations nor do you have to identify yourself with every transmission.
- Monitor the repeater. Members or visitors may call for assistance. Visitors may just want a friendly conversation on the way through the Chicago area.
- If you hear what you believe to be deliberate interference, do not attempt to communicate with the interfering station. Switch to the repeater input frequency and, if you can hear the signal, record the following information for use in locating the source:
  1. signal strength
  2. your location
  3. date and time
  4. your antenna and receiver
  5. and characteristics of the RF, audio or voice that might help in identification
  6. direction if it can be determined

### **Report the information to a member of the Board of Directors or the Club Officers.**

- Do not discuss interference incidents on the air.
- While the repeater pairs are exclusive in this area, there may be times when other repeaters may be heard. Propagation conditions are occasionally such that we will hear output signals from other repeaters. The input signals from stations in other repeater service areas will sometimes bring up our repeater. Our use of the minimum power necessary to access our repeater will help minimize interference with our neighbors. Be tolerant of the annoyances resulting from these unusual conditions.



### SRO Officers

President  
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](mailto:mikeb2006@comcast.net)  
708.457.0966 Voice

Mike Shy is published 6 times a year by the Society Radio Operators. Deadline is 2 weeks before the meeting. Contributions are welcome & should be sent to the Editor.

### Regular Meeting Place

Edgebrook Field House second  
Wednesday of even months at 8 PM  
unless other-wise indicated  
in Mike Shy.

### Standing Committees

Membership - K9JQ  
Program - AA9DT  
Meeting Refresh. - AA9DT  
Foxhunting - WA9FTS  
Repeater - K9IQF  
Field Day - WA9EVF  
Education - WA9EVF  
Mike Shy - WA9FTS  
Picnic - WA9FTS  
Dinner/Play - Open for 2013  
Christmas / Hanukkah Party -  
WA9EVF  
Webmaster - WA9FTS

### SRO Web Site

[www.w9sro.org](http://www.w9sro.org)  
Mike Brost - WA9FTS

### SRO Repeaters

	In	Out
CFAR (107.2) PL	147.750	147.150
TOOFAR (110.2) PL	223.260	224.860

### Repeater Personnel

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

**Regular meetings** - Edgebrook  
Field House - 6100 N Central Av  
Chicago IL

**Board Meetings** - Every 5th Wed -  
7:30 PM - BQS Realty - 6023 N  
Cicero Av Chicago IL

## Mike Shy

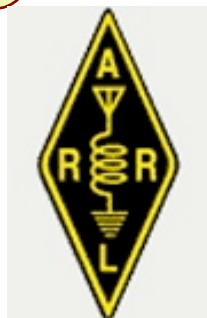
**Mike Brost - WA9FTS - Editor**

**5127 N. Monterey Dr.**

**Norridge IL 60706-3245**



First Class Mail



The Smartest Machine on Earth -  
Feb 12th  
at the Edgebrook Field House - 8 PM