



# THE MONITOR



ECARS Web Page: <http://www.the-ecars.net/>

The official publication of the East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

by Russ Newton, K1LRB

ECARS Net Manager

What do you call several dozen hams scattered on the side of a Pennsylvania mountain on a beautiful Spring weekend?

- A. Anti-matter from the Dayton Hamvention
- B. A Convergence of Coax
- C. The ECARS Annual Meeting and Get-Together
- D. A Gathering of Geeks, Gorgeous Gals and Golfers
- E. All of the Above

(The answer is at the end of this article)

But seriously, folks.

This is a friendly reminder to get your reservations in EARLY for this year's annual ECARS Meeting and Get-Together.

By popular demand ECARS will be returning to the world-famous Chateau Resort and Conference Center, conveniently located just off Exit 299 of Interstate 80 in North-eastern Pennsylvania.

Last year's get-together was immensely enjoyed by all who attended.

All the amenities of a fantastic getaway weekend in a classy but comfortable resort setting are combined with the camaraderie of fine folks with a common interest Amateur radio and Public Service -- it's a hard combination to beat!

The wonderful thing about the Chateau Resort is that while everything is First Class, it still exudes a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. It's fancy without feeling pretentious -- and the fact that the owner of the gift shop is a ham makes it even that more inviting.

And then there's the food. What goes better with good friends and conversation, than tasty treats? Whether it's the buffet breakfast, lunch in the grill, or the Saturday night banquet -- the dining is fit for kings and queens.

The banquet, served last year in the center's picturesque dining emporium, was a buffet of gourmet delights. Several of those attending last year were heard to say that the quality and variety of desert choices alone were worth the price of the meal.

This is no roadside steam table spread; it's truly a feast

*(Continued on page 2)*

## New ECARS Executive Committee

Congratulations to the newly elected ECARS Executive Committee

**President:** Tom Small, KB1EFA, Ashford, CT

**Vice President:** John Calise, W2LKS, Toms River NJ

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Charlie Stampf, N2CJ, Lagrangeville, NY

**Director:** Jerry Rogich, AA2T, Leominster, MA

**Incumbent Director:** Art Storm, K2TRK, Madison, NJ

## From the VP corner

by John Calise, W2LKS

Hello to one and all! Another year has gone by, and I would like to personally thank each and every one of the members for making it another great year. Without you, there would be no ECARS. My thanks go to Al KA3UNB for his personal touch as a first class net manager. He has spent his time keeping us on our toes with those NCS reports. My hat's off to you, Al! I would also like to thank Dave WA3GIN, who has done a great job in keeping us up to date on all activity on ECARS, the rules and regulations, and for taking care of the ECARS website that we all enjoy. Oh, and let's not forget our secretary and treasurer Charlie N2CT, what a great job, well done! Even with all the work Charlie puts in, it is not an easy task keeping up with the membership. Thank you, Charlie! I would also like to thank Tom KB1EFA for a great job, well done this year as our president. We all had a great time at Tannerville, PA last year, good luck on your re-election, Tom. Thank you Jerry AA2T, who is coming in as our director. I am looking forward to working with you this year, Jerry. I would also like to thank our coordinators, Art K2TRK, Russ K1LRB, Jerry AA2T, and Tim K3DPT, who help keep ECARS running and on-track. Thank you to all those NCS who keep ECARS going all day, there are far too many to mention. Thank you all for the greatest net ever on the East Coast, without all of you, there would be nothing. Let's make 2003 the best year yet!

P.S. Congratulations to our incoming net manager, Russ K1LRB, who I'll be looking forward to working with. Good Luck, Russ!

ECARS Service - 7255 KHz - for Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

(Go Tell it on the Mountain continued from page 1)

for the discriminating individual.

Here's a quick rundown of how the weekend goes.

Many -- but not all attendees -- check in on Friday afternoon and stay until Sunday or Monday.

Several members have already made arrangements to play golf Friday morning -- and more are invited to join in. If you are interested in playing Friday morning, be sure to contact Al Prindle, KA3UNB to join the group.

The more the merrier, as we'll need more reliable witnesses to verify the scores that will be claimed around the bar that evening.

I refer of course to the informal gathering over cash bar drinks and munchies in the piano lounge Friday evening. I don't think Billy Joel will be able to make it again this year.

Saturday morning at 9 o'clock is the annual organizational membership meeting, where the formalities of ECARS are blended with an interesting agenda of discussions -- and a special guest speaker or two.

Saturday afternoons are left to fun options -- such as more golf, walking around the beautiful Chateau grounds, touring the Poconos resort region, or shopping in one of the nearby gift and outlet centers.

More than a few of us drove to the top of Camelback Mountain last year, where you can take in the scenery, as well as test the reach of that HT or mobile VHF rig. There's something magical about calling CQ from the top of a mountain. The possibilities are endless.

Of course the absolute highlight is the Saturday Night banquet, when everyone comes together for a memorable evening of food, friendship and frolic.

Did I mention the food?

So here are the nitty-gritty details:

**WHAT:** The ECARS Annual Meeting and Get-Together

**WHERE:** Chateau Resort and Conference Center at Camelback Mountain, Tannersville, PA.

**WHEN:** May 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Make reservations by calling the Chateau at 800-245-9500. Check-in time is 4 p.m. Friday afternoon. The resort is located just off Exit 299 of Interstate 80 in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

**ROOM RATES:** Approximately \$95 per night, double occupancy.

**SATURDAY EVENING DINNER:** It's \$32 per person. Please send reservation checks payable to ECARS to: Russ Newton, 363 S. Mountain Rd., Northfield, MA 01360.

There is no charge for the Friday Night reception, which begins at 5:00 PM. There will be a cash bar and light snacks.

So be sure to join us at this year's annual ECARS Get-Together. Don't be left out when it's talked about on the Net in the year to come. Be part of the ECARS In-Crowd!

It's a special time for meeting friends, and confirming the service we all perform and enjoy in the East Coast Amateur Radio Service.

Now I know most of you cheated, and jumped ahead to the end because you couldn't wait to see the answer to the opening quiz.

The answer for those of you who couldn't wait is:

(ANSWER: E)

And for those patient folks among us, who take things as they come, know how to follow the rules, never tune up on the air, always call other stations through the Net Control Station, and never, ever fudge on their taxes ...

**the CORRECT answer is: A!**

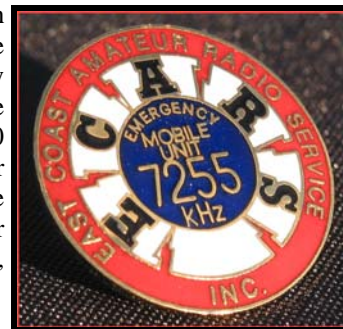
Think of all the money you'll save by not going to Dayton!

See you in Tannersville!



## ECARS Pins

ECARS pins are available from club secretary/treasurer Charlie Stampf, N2CJ. These are beautiful one-inch diameter gold pins with the red, white, and blue ECARS insignia in a very durable glossy finish. The price for one pin is \$3.50 plus \$.60 postage. To order a pin, send your check made out to ECARS for \$4.10 per pin to ECARS, PO Box 49, Verbank, NY 12585.



## The Phonetic Alphabet

A	Alfa	N	November
B	Bravo	O	Oscar
C	Charlie	P	Papa
D	Delta	Q	Quebec
E	Echo	R	Romeo
F	Foxtrot	S	Sierra
G	Golf	T	Tango
H	Hotel	U	Uniform
I	India	V	Victor
J	Juliet	W	Whiskey
K	Kilo	X	X-ray
L	Lima	Y	Yankee
M	Mike	Z	Zulu

## Keeping the Tradition Alive, on 7 -DOT- 2-5-5

by Russ Newton, K1LRB

ECARS Net Manager

I want to thank Al, KA3UNB, for his outstanding service to ECARS as Net Manager for the past two years. As I accept the Executive Board's appointment as your new Net Manager, I recognize that Al's shoes will be difficult to fill. He did so much to improve the tone and quality of the ECARS daily service, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude and a tip of the hat.

And while I look forward with enthusiasm to continuing his tradition of service in the coming year, I ask as we go forward for the assistance and support of each and every individual member of ECARS. For it is as a gathering of dedicated ham operators that we will strive in unison to maintain ECARS' tradition of operating excellence borne over nearly four decades of public service.

Thus I am looking forward to this year as your Net Manager, and continuing with your help to keep ECARS the finest Ham Radio Net in existence today.

My start in Ham Radio began in 1959 as KN1LRB. Those were the days when every new ham's call had an 'N' in the prefix, so the FCC and the rest of the listening world would know who was a 'Novice'. For many of us, as proud as we were with our newly minted Amateur Radio licenses, the Novice call sign was a constant reminder to upgrade. The clock was ticking and if we didn't upgrade in time, the license would expire and we'd have to start all over again. So in 1960, I traveled to the Boston FCC Office, passed the test for my General Class License, and enjoyed the hobby as we all have, in many ways, over the years. Today I am retired and reside in Northfield, Massachusetts.

One day in the summer of 2001, I came across ECARS while spinning the VFO across the 40-meter band. Like many hams before me, I liked what I heard, and soon discovered that I was checking in on a regular basis. One day Bob, K01C, was running the net. Something came up that caused him to leave immediately and he tossed the NCS duties right into my lap.

From that point on I have been a substitute NCS. I would have liked to accept a permanent slot, but since I do some High School substitute teaching from time to time, that hasn't been possible. I found that I do enjoy helping out as a net control station when I can, and as Net Manager, I will encourage more members to be Service Controllers.

Look at the Operations Manual on the Web Site ([www.the-ecars.net](http://www.the-ecars.net)) to get additional information and let me know of your interest.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. I can be reached at 413-498 0072 or via e-mail

K1LRB@ARRL.NET And if you ever hear me on the net at a time when I'm not filling in as a service control station, don't hesitate to ask me to go off-frequency for a QSO. We can chat about your interest in volunteering as a backup NCS station, or any other matter of mutual interest or relative to the smooth operations of the net. Another alternative of course, would be to let an Area Coordinator know of your interest.

Ham Radio is one of the finest hobbies imaginable. It is not only fun and educational, but it is a privilege. So as we continue to enjoy Amateur radio through ECARS, let's continue to make the ECARS net a fun place to meet.

Even though we're in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there's a lot to be said for keeping our on-air style in the spirit and tradition of old-fashioned radio. The other day I was looking at "The Amateurs Code Of 1947." It has six main sections that guided operating practice and described the amateur ideals of those days. Here are the key words for each section that I'd like to share with you:

- Gentlemanly
- Loyal
- Progressive
- Friendly
- Balanced
- Patriotic

Those words mean as much today as they did 56 years ago. Let's all keep them in mind! If any one wants a copy, please let me know.

I sincerely appreciate the confidence the Board has shown in me. I look forward to working together with all of you, in our service to the ECARS membership, as well as the Amateur Radio Community at-large. See you on the radio!

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## Introducing Bob Schneebeil, W3EOP

Bob has belonged to ECARS (#3793) for a year and a half. He also is a member of the Fist club (#8162) and a life member of the ARRL. Bob has been licensed for the past thirty-two years with the call WA3NVZ, but recently obtained his vanity call W3EOP, which belonged to his Elmer.

Bob works CW and phone with the following equipment. Kenwood 570D, Kenwood TS 140s, AL 811H amplifier, an MFJ 989C antenna tuner, an MD 50 mic, a 265' Windom antenna, an all band vertical and a three-element beam for 10, 15, and 20 meters.

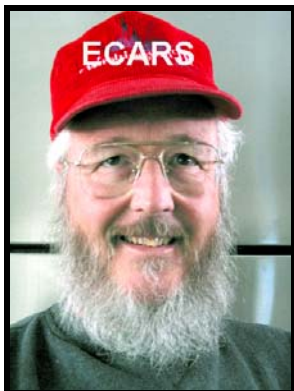
Bob is 68 years old and still operates his own automobile repair shop in Saylorsburg, PA.

*Let's all say hi to Bob when we hear him on 7.255.  
(Editor)*

## From the Editor

### Your Assistance is Needed

ECARS is an organization of over 700 members. Unlike local ham radio clubs, ECARS members are scattered all over the eastern section of the country and into Canada (CT, DC, DE, FL, MD, MA, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, TN, VA, VT, WV, and Ontario Canada). Opportunities for eyeball contacts between members are rare. The ECARS Get Together in the Spring, as well as Dayton and other large hamfests are excellent opportunities to meet some ECARS members. The daily nets on 7.255 MHz and email are two mediums where we can contact one another. Another way to get to know our members is through our newsletter, the Monitor. Considerable time and expense are required to produce and distribute the ECARS Monitor. To help make this publication interesting and valuable to our membership, we need to include information about our organization and our members. As the editor of the Monitor, I am asking for our members to contact me with information about themselves, or tell us about ham related or technical activities that you think might be interesting to our members. Perhaps you have put up a tower or an antenna, built a project, or participated in an emergency or in a public service event. These are subjects that many ECARS members will be interesting in reading about.



You may send articles and photos to me via the postal service or preferably by email. Please give me the highest possible resolution on the digital images. Check the masthead on the last page of this publication for due dates for submission to the Monitor.

Send information for the ECARS Monitor to

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### ECARS Web Page

Use the ECARS website (<http://www.the-ecars.net/>) for checking ECARS official up-to-date information, registering and checking ECARS email, ECARS By-Laws and Constitution, membership application and renewal forms, NCS schedule, officers, and operating manual. In addition, there are links to dealers, ham equipment, amateur radio organizations, software, nets, Internet radio, a repeater guide and many more helpful, ham-related links.

## Tom Kehr, W3KGL—SK

It is with deep sadness that I must announce the passing of Tom, W3KGL. Tom was a regular on ECARS and ran the Net at 10:00 AM on Thursday for ECARS. Tom was also very active with the Rooster Net on 3990 KHz. He was a great guy and I had the pleasure of meeting him in person, several times. For those who don't know, Tom was sight impaired and when I visited his house and watched him operate his shack, it truly amazed me how well he was able to do the things he did. He will be missed.

Al Prindle, KA3UMB

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### The East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (E.C.A.R.S.)

Call \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date First Licensed \_\_\_\_\_ (mo./yr.)

Renewal? Y/N \_\_\_\_ If 'Yes' please enter your ECARS number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

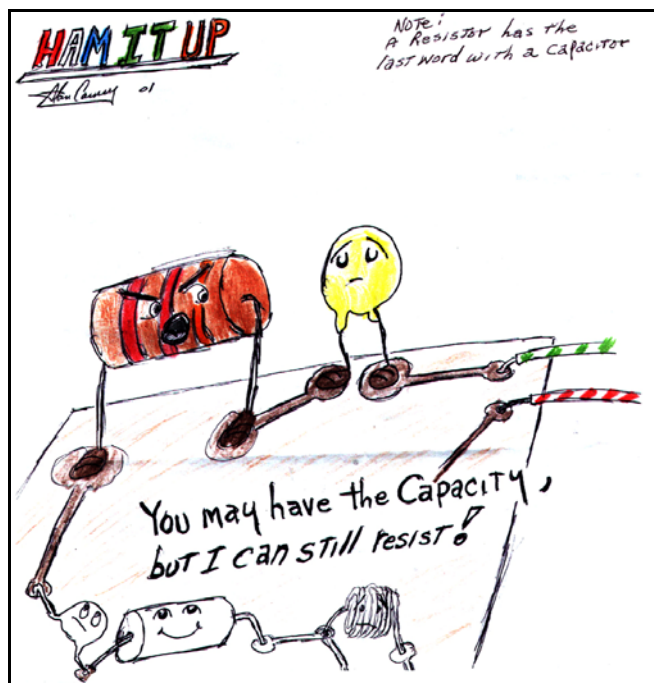
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with \$7.50 check or money order to: **E.C.A.R.S., P.O. Box 49, Verbank, NY 12585.**

**ECARS Service - 7255 KHz - for Public Health, Safety, and Welfare**





## You be the Judge

by Alan Carney, W4CRA

There were a few times when I wished that I had been a ham in the 60s and 70s. Once back in the 60s when I was sitting at a red light on Clinton Highway at Merchants Road, a car came flying across and slammed into my 1953 Mercury. Another time was when my 1963 Impala was knocked fifteen feet through the air and landed on the other side of a fire hydrant in a churchyard. I was CB'er at the time, but the only radio I had was at home. So there was no radio to use for an emergency.

I was into short wave monitoring from the fifties through the 80s and still do some now. A vocational school afforded me some background in electronics, which included of a year of radio and a year of TV training. Upon graduation I worked for Gateway Hardware fixing TVs and radios. Then I got my call to go into the Army, so I volunteered for the three years. After the Army, I returned home and had plenty of radios and TVs to fix. I still wasn't a ham although my interest was always there. Working for different companies such as Coca-Cola, Twin-Aire Drive-in as assistance manager, and finally a job with Texaco Oil Company for about twenty years, drew me away from setting sights on my goal until 1995 when I got my first no-code license. From there the study time was on a schedule up until June 12, 1995 when I became an Extra Class operator. Recently I passed the G.R.O.L.

I can truly say that I made a dream come true.

## Save Some Bucks

Renew Your License Online with the FCC for FREE  
by Mark Literal, N3NOO, Clinton, PA

My FCC license was up for 10-year term renewal recently. I received a couple of offers from various groups to renew my ticket for a "nominal fee". The offers came in an alarmingly toned envelope entitled "important information about your FCC AMATEUR LICENSE ENCLOSED". While this may have served as a good reminder to renew my license, and I appreciated that fact, but I don't recall any mention of how simple it is to renew the license online with the FCC (and not to mention it is free).



So, armed with this information I began the task of my first online experience with the FCC. I went to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and searched For "FCC LICENSE RENEWAL". The search returned the link of <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. I followed the link to the FCC ULS page. Once loaded, I clicked on the "Online Filing" link on the FCC ULS Page. I was then prompted with the following message "USE OF FRN FCC Registration Number is Mandatory". Well, hummm, I seem to remember some letters a few years back from CORES, FCC, and the like. Off to the files and a few minutes later I produced a letter with my FRN and password. The requested FRN information was entered, and my ID and password were accepted.

At this point I simply followed the instructions to renew my license. It should be noted that this only works in the final 60 days or so before your license is due to expire. The entire online experience took less than 15 minutes. It should also be noted that half of the time was spent looking for the FCC correspondence with the FRN and password!

So remember, any ECARS members who have Internet access can save a few bucks and renew that license online with the FCC ULS, and it's absolutely free.

## ECARS Swap and Shop Net

Don't forget to tune to 7.255 MHz on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 for the ECARS Swap and Shop Net.

The ECARS Monitor is published by the East Coast Amateur Radio Service Inc., for the benefit of its members. Full permission to quote from the Monitor is granted, provided a credit line is used. Members' for sale advertisements are run free of charge. Credit card size commercial ads are accepted at a cost of \$15.00 per issue or \$45.00 per year. Send advertisement information to the editor. The Monitor and ECARS do not assume any responsibility for items offered for sale. Your Monitor mailing label will show your ECARS number and the year of membership expiration.

Items for the Monitor should be sent to the editor in Microsoft Word or text format, if possible. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication, subject to change by the Editor. Publication is in Feb., June, Oct., and Dec. The Editor reserves the right to reject, edit, or modify submitted material as necessary.

Membership renewals, address changes, call sign changes, and new applications should be sent to: **ECARS, PO Box 49, Verbank, NY 12585.** Membership dues are \$7.50 per year. Make checks payable to ECARS, and put your call sign and member number on the check memo. Multi-year renewals are appreciated. Renewals of three years or more will receive a laminated card at no charge. All membership subscriptions begin upon receipt of dues and terminate on December 31st.

ECARS decals are available for \$1.50 each, and pins for \$3.50 each plus \$.60 postage. Sent your payment to: ECARS, PO Box 49, Verbank, NY 12585.

#### The 2000 ECARS Executive Committee

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