



THE MONITORTM



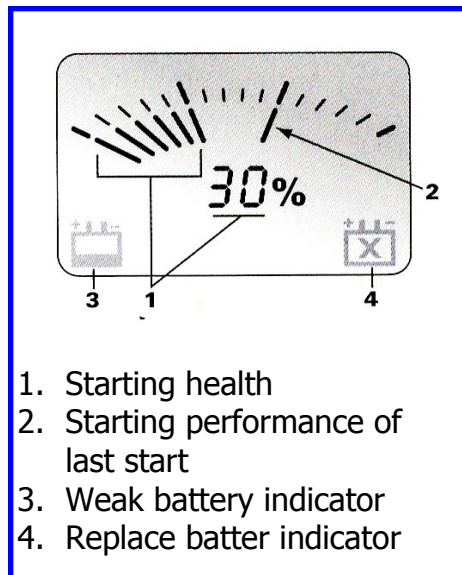
The official publication of the East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

Battery Bug: Battery Failure Warning System

by Mike Stone, N1VE

Many hams religiously follow the Boy Scout Motto, "Be Prepared". Their generators are kept in good working order and their Go Kits are inventoried and ready to be put into action. But what about the batteries in their vehicles; will the engine start the next time it's needed?

Now there is a way to tell the condition of your battery and also be warned if your battery is about to fail. The Battery Bug, made by Argus, is a relatively new device that attaches directly to the battery and will monitor both voltage and starting health of the vehicle's battery. The lowest measured starting performance over time determines the starting health that is indicated on the LCD display.



The numerical display will alternately indicate the battery voltage and the starting health of the battery. In addition, there is a "weak battery" icon that turns on when the starting health is less than 30 percent, and an audible alarm sounds when less than 10 percent.

A "replace battery" icon turns on when the battery is near the end of its useful life and starting failure is imminent. Also a low-voltage alarm will sound when the battery voltage drops below 11.9 volts. And there is an alarm for over-charging conditions.

Installing the Battery Bug is easy. Attach the provided Velcro strip on or near the battery and then stick the Battery Bug to the Velcro. Attach the leads to the battery and wait one minute for the Battery Bug to activate.



The Battery Bug mounted on my motorcycle

(See *Battery Bug*, page 4)

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Meet the NCS Operators— KA1SE and KJ4BYF

The Monitor is starting a series that will present the Net Control Station Operators of ECARS. The Net Control Operators are the ones who keep the service functioning and on-task with humor, information, personality, and above all professionalism. In this issue we meet KA1SE, Luke and KJ4BYF, Albert.



“Every contact is important and every service rendered an honor.”

KA1SE — Luke

Luke started his adventure in Ham Radio in York, PA, when in 1978 he became licensed as WB3FGY. He says that “his interest in ECARS started in those early days too.” Luke currently holds the office of Vice President for the ECARS organization.

Luke tells us that “he has been an NCS on and off” since his entering the hobby. A good look at the NCS schedule and you will find him managing the service on Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. He has also been know to cover open slots.

During these difficult band conditions he advises us to use phonetics because it helps greatly when trying to catch a call sign or name.

Luke lives in central Connecticut.



KJ4BYF — Albert

Albert received his technician license on February 14, 2008 at age 66. At that time he was more interested in HF than VHF/UHF so he continued working toward his General License, which he received on March 3, 2008.

Albert says “although my station was set up I continued to monitor various nets and QSOs until I got up the courage to key down.” His first contact was KJ4AYH, Greg in Huntsville, AL.

A few contacts later ECARS caught his attention. “I was especially attracted to ECARS and, in a short wile, made the acquaintance of Luke, KA1SE.”

Albert has been a NCS operator for about four months. “It is an experience that I have really enjoyed!” Through these trying band conditions Albert recommends “patience, persistence and understanding.” Like his mentor, Luke, he knows that every contact is important and every service rendered an honor.

Albert lives in north central North Carolina.

Related ECARS Links

[NCS Schedule — http://www.ecars7255.com/ncs.htm](http://www.ecars7255.com/ncs.htm)
[Operations Manual—http://www.ecars7255.com/ops.htm](http://www.ecars7255.com/ops.htm)

Show us your shack

There is one room in the house, garage or basement that every amateur radio operation cherishes. This room or area is generally referred to as "the shack."

If you are proud of your operating area and would like to show it to the ECARS community, we are willing to display appropriate pictures on the ECARS Web Site if you are an ECARS member. You should send your picture along with your name, call and ECARS number to k1ah@cox.net.

The first set of pictures should appear around November 15, 2009. Show us your shack!

From the Editor

Articles, Articles, Articles! I am very grateful to Mike Stone, N1VE, for sending an article for this issue. Your article can be published too!

The Monitor accepts articles dealing with the whole range of the amateur radio experience. I just love stories about how amateur radio has assisted people, don't you?

I spend a great deal of time on 17, 40 and 75 meters these days. I have had a few QSOs with a number of amateurs who are using Bluetooth technology with their HF radios. They often speak about the freedom to walk around their shack while they communicate.

I would love to hear from ECARS members who use wireless connections or *Bluetooth* to operate their HF radio. Your construction techniques and your experiences would certainly make for an interesting article.

Many thanks Bill

The ECARS community wishes to thank Bill Clarke, W2BLC, for his contributions to keeping them informed through the Web Site. For about six years in total, Bill has managed the Web Site. On September 1, 2009 Bill stepped down as Web Master.

We are truly grateful for his management and web skills which he shared so generously with the ECARS community. Bill has been involved in ham radio since the late 50s becoming involved in MARS in 1962. His association with ECARS began back in the late 70s when he had the call K4BX.

Thanks, Bill for a job well done!



Bill Clarke, W2BLC

Nominations

This year (2009) the **Nomination Committee** is:

- Bob W4WZR (919) 499-1530
w4wrz425@gmail.com
- Ken, W2PSU (2010) 843-1627
k.mabie@verizonmail.com
- Rich, AA2XK (631) 368-0121
aa2xk@optonline.net.

The *nomination period* starts October 15th and closes at midnight November 25th. Send you nominations to one of the committee members listed above. When nominating someone for office, *please get their permission first.*

The nominations are for (3) Directors, President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer.

All members in good standing are eligible to vote and you must be a member prior to the date of September 30, 2009.

Some of you are building, repairing, or installing new antennas before winter arrives. We, all, are hoping to use them when the sunspots finally come and the bands open. Share with us your design and implementation stories. You can be a source of inspiration and encouragement for your fellow hams.

The ideas mentioned here are to get you thinking. What interests do you have—digital communication, computer generated radio? I am happy to discuss these ideas with you and help you prepare an article for ***the Monitor***.

This is your newsletter and it should reflect the interests of ECARS and its members. I am always available to help you. Please send me your ideas or articles at k1ah@cox.net.

73

Vince, K1AH.

Net Managers Report Joe Reppert, WY3T

Another year is coming to a close and ECARS is another year older. As the years go by ECARS continues to provide the service to the Amateur Radio Community and the general public that it always has.

Our Officers and Net Control Stations continually strive to keep good Amateur Radio practice and a wholesome atmosphere at the forefront during each day of operation.

With the poor band conditions we have to deal with the format for the Net is in a relaxed state and there is a bit of rag chewing that goes on, but be

sure that at a moments notice the Net Control Station in charge can shift gears and deal with any situation that comes our way.

They are a great group of operators who are interested in providing this service without looking for recognition for their efforts.

That is why when ever I can I like to acknowledge them, Officials and Net Control Stations alike.

We have some new NCS like KJ4BYF Albert who are picking

up a lot of fill in time for the Net and also a lot of the old timers who have been at it for several years. Again THANK YOU.

The last thing I would like to mention is that we can always add you to our list of standby NCS. If you care to participate Please get in contact with me at jsreppert@verizon.net or call me at 610-756-6028.

Keep Up The Tradition

Joseph S. Reppert
WY3T ECARS Net Manager

Battery Bug (continued from page 1)

I cut the coiled leads from the Batter Bug and soldered longer uncoiled wires of the same gauge to allow me to locate the Battery bug on the motor cycle where I can view it when riding. The same could be done on any vehicle.

I bought the least expensive version of the Battery Bug, model # BB-SBM12 which has relatively short coiled leads and costs about \$30.00 (on sale) at O’Riely’s Autoparts. It is available at NAPA and on Amazon.com for a few dollars more.

There is a Battery Bug model for deep cycle applications and one specifically for motorcycles with longer leads. Both are more costly than the BB-SBM12.

The display is not back lit so vision at night is difficult.

“...a great group of operators who are interested in providing this service...”



www.ecars7255.com

East Coast Amateur Radio Service Membership Application & Renewal Form

New Application Renewal If renewal enter your ECARS No: _____

Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Year First Licensed _____

Name _____

Street _____

City / Town _____ State / Province _____

Zip / Postal Code _____ - _____ Home Phone (____) _____ - _____

ARRL Member: Yes No Year you first joined ECARS _____

E-mail address _____ Publish? Yes No

ECARS Dues: 1 year \$10.00 2 years \$20.00 3 years \$30.00

Voluntary donation for a better ECARS: \$1 \$5 \$10 Other: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby request new or continued membership in East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc. I agree to abide by ECARS Bylaws, a copy of which is available for my review on the ECARS web site www.ecars7255.com prior to my submitting this application.

I understand that my application for ECARS membership is subject to approval by the ECARS Board of Directors, in its sole discretion.

Signature _____ Date _____

Instructions: Complete this form and mail it with a check or money order in United States funds to:

ECARS, Inc.
P.O. Box 5923
Hudson, Florida 34674-5923

Print this page to apply or renew your membership. Membership dues are \$10.00 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 expire 1 year from the date of acceptance or renewal.

All applications and renewals for ECARS membership are subject to the [ECARS Bylaws](#), including, but not limited to, Bylaws 7C and 7D.

ECARS Coffee Mug



ECARS members can order custom ceramic coffee mugs from *The SignMan of Baton Rouge* for \$19.50 including the cost of priority mail. In addition to the ECARS logo you can include your call sign and ECARS number below the logon on both sides of the mug, or below the ECARS logo on one side you can specify your call sign and on the other side below the ECARS logo you can specify your ECARS number. Choose the orientation of the mug (left- or right-hand) depending on which logo combination you would like facing you.

You can order mugs:

- Email: rick@thesignman.com
- Telephone: (225) 757-1545
- Fax: (225) 208-1545
- Online at the ECARS Store
- U.S. Mail from

The SignMan of Baton Rouge
879 Castle Kirk Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-6020

ECARS Lapel Pin

ECARS lapel pins are available from the club secretary/treasure Charlie Stampf, N3CJ. These beautiful one-inch diameter gold pins with red, white, and blue ECARS insignia in a very durable glossy finish. The price for one pin is \$5.00 including postage. To order a pin, send your check made out to ECARS for \$5.00 per pin to

ECARS
P.O. Box 5923
Hudson, FL 34674-5923



Please Visit
The ECARS Store™

www.ecars7255.com/store/ecarsstore.htm

ERCARS Windbreaker Jacket



ECARS Windbreaker: Price varies depending on order. ECARS windbreakers are quality garments made by one of the nation's premier public safety apparel companies. Galls, Inc. ECARS submits orders directly to Galls, and the finished jackets are shipped by Galls directly to the purchaser. Submit questions about the windbreaker or orders to:

W4FI@ecars7255.com

Orders for ECARS windbreakers will be taken twice a year, in January and July. Submit orders no later than January 31 or July 31. Print out and complete the [Jacket Order](#) Form and send it with a check in the appropriate amount to:

**ECARS
P.O. Box 5923
Hudson, FL 34674**

ECARS Jacket Order Form				
Name:			Call:	
Name and mailing address:				
Men's sizes, circle one				
M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
38—40	42—44	46—48	50—52	54—56
(\$19.99)	(\$19.99)	(\$19.99)	(\$23.99)	(\$27.99)
Women's sizes, circle one				
M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
8—10	12—14	16—18	20—22	24—26
(\$19.99)	(\$19.99)	(\$19.99)	(\$23.99)	(\$27.99)
Color, circle one				
Navy	Red	Black	Royal	
Circle all desired				
Large ECARS Logo-Back (\$24.99)		ECARS Logo Front Left (\$9.99)		
Front right Name/Call (\$5.99), 15 characters., 2 lines				
Name or Call only: (\$3.99)				
Shipping: \$10.00			Set up fee: \$5.00	
Total order: \$ _____				
<p>Jackets will be dropped shipped by the manufacturer directly to you. Any overpayments in shipping will be applied to the set-up fee. Order issues should be addressed directly with the Galls, Inc. Make checks payable to: ECARS PO Box 5923 Hudson, FL 34674</p>				

ECARS Administration Contact Information



www.ecars7255.com

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[Kenneth Mabie](#), W2PSU
[Alex Tinker Jr.](#), W3ICX
[Harold Kimbel, Sr.](#), KD8QH
[Bob Benson](#), K2IB

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 Vice Pres: [Luke Lauretano](#), KA1SE
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 Webmaster: [Vince Motto](#), K1AH
The Monitor Editor: [Vince Motto](#), K1AH
 Public Relations / Historian: Mack McBride, W3FJ
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[Kenneth Mabie](#), W2PSU

The MonitorTM Publication Information

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.

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 5923
 Hudson, FL 34674-5923**

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ECARS decals are available for \$1.50 each, and pins for \$3.50 each plus \$.60 postage per pin. Send your payment to the address given above.

The editor is [Vince Motto](#) who can be reached at vmotto@cox.net.