



THE MONITORTM



ECARS Web Page: <http://www.ecars7255.com>

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

From ECARS President

ECARS 2008

Well here we are again at the beginning of a new year, it is amazing how fast 2007 has gone by. Congratulations to all the 2008 Officers, Directors and Appointees, we have the same GREAT group of folks directing the organization. Last year was a very successful and very peaceful year. In spite of the poor band conditions, 7.255 saw excellent participation with many new stations checking into the net.



Joe WY3T our Net Manager has navigated the net thru some very difficult band conditions but done a great job. Bob Benson K2IB has assumed the position of ECARS Editor when Mike Stone stepped down. Mike held that position for many years and did an outstanding job, Mike is in the process of moving from N.H. to down south and is busy packing boxes, Mike you can't put your Motorcycle in a cardboard box you will have to find another way, Hi Hi.

Bob Has taken over Mike's position and done a very admiral job in many areas. He is a very busy man with irons in many different fires, one of which is setting up a very extensive computer system for his wife who is the administrator of a sizable school system. The voting system that Bob set up on the Web Site was very successful and worked well. Bob is working to get more input for the Monitor magazine. Anyone who has something to contribute should get in touch with Bob. The articles don't have to be long or highly technical, something short and simple, humorous will do the trick.

Charlie Stamp N2CJ has kept the organizations finances in excellent condition, a summary report can be seen in this addition of the monitor. A more extensive and detailed report will be available at the Annual Meeting and included in the minutes of the Annual Meeting A copy will be posted in the Monitor Magazine following the Annual Meeting.

During the 2007 term, Director Harry Caring KC2KTJ stepped down due to family illness. We want to thank Harry for his faithful participation and a job well done, Hope that all is well on the home front Harry. John Eckert K2OX has filled the position vacated by Harry, Welcome aboard John, sure glad to have you on the board.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting April 26 2008 in Hamburg Pa. Reservation information can be seen on the Web Site

A big thanks to all the 2007/2008 Officers, Directors, Appointees and the entire Membership of the EAST COAST AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE. In your own way YOU ALL help to fulfill the Mission of the ECARS Organization.

WIRXH Ernie Parsons, President

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



January 15, 2008

As ECARS embarks on it's fortieth year we are fortunate to have a full compliment of Net Control Stations on frequency each day from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the week. Along with these dedicated individuals we also have a very capable group who are our officials and appointees.

The Executives will assume their duties today January 15, 2008 and I am sure the coming year will be as great as the last. The interaction of these individuals during the daily activities of ECARS on the air and off is very admirable. It is like a well tuned and oiled machine. Issues that need to be addressed are dealt with and resolved without incident.

From what I know we have passed the bottom of the current solar cycle and the band conditions should be improving as we proceed into this year.

I am looking forward to seeing some old faces along with some new ones at the upcoming ECARS Annual Meeting in April. I am proud of everyone who helps to make ECARS the number one forty-meter net from the station that can check in on an occasional basis to the stations that check in daily. In this day and age of high speed communication, I am often told Amateur Radio is antiquated and there is no need for the kind of service we offer to the Amateur Radio community and the general public. My response to this is when all of the state of the art high-speed communications are congested and overwhelmed in an emergency. ECARS and Amateur Radio will be there and we will be capable of getting the job done.

So each day, as you hear ECARS on the air during poor band conditions and interference communicating with stations all over the eastern seaboard of the United States, remember this is like a big training exercise for when there is an emergency. Anyone can make a contact under ideal conditions but during an emergency or when someone needs to get a message back home that is usually not the case.

Again thanks to all that make ECARS the great Net that it is. You can all be proud of your selves.

Keep Up The Tradition

Joseph S. Reppert WY3T

ECARS Net Manager

New Sunspot Cycle Begins

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new solar cycle is under way. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Friday that the first sunspot of a new 11-year cycle has appeared in the sun's northern hemisphere.

The frequency of sunspots rises and falls during these cycles, and the start of a new cycle indicates they are likely to begin increasing.

Sunspots, areas of intense magnetic activity on the sun, can affect Earth by disrupting electrical grids, airline and military communications, GPS signals and even cell phones, the agency said. During periods of intense sunspot activity, known as solar storms, highly charged radiation from the sun may head toward Earth.

"Our growing dependence on highly sophisticated, space-based technologies means we are far more vulnerable to space weather today than in the past," said NOAA Administrator Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.

Last April an international panel of solar experts forecast that Solar Cycle 24 would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months. The panel was split between those predicting a strong or weak cycle

Door Prizes to be given out at this year's Meeting

ECARS Annual Meeting for 2008

Information

1. ARRL Amateur Handbook
2. ARRL Antenna Handbook
3. ECARS logo Jacket
4. Three ECARS Coffee Mugs
with Call Letters
5. Buckmasters Off Center Fed
HF antenna 75/80, 40, 20, 17, 12,
10 and 6 Meters

The annual meeting is being held at the Microtel in Hamburg, PA. The Dates of the meeting are April 25-27 2008. Check in time is 2:00 p.m. You can check in on Thursday if you want to get an early start on the weekend.

Room Rates are \$80.56 including tax. This is a special rate so be sure to mention you are with the ECARS group. More information is on the website <http://www.ecars7255.com>.

Toll free reservations can be made by calling

1-800-771-7171

So Make a reservations and join old friends and meet the voices you hear on 7255 everyday!

A good time will be had by all!

Anyone who would like to attend a group dinner on Friday and or Saturday Please call Joe WY#T at 601-756-6028 or Ernie W1RXH at 207-666-3336

ECARS Secretary / Treasurer's Report



Charlie Stampf, W4FI

Account Balances Report As of 1/1/2008 (Includes unrealized gains)

Account	Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	4,674.37
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	4,674.30
Investments	
CD	6,261.24
TOTAL Investments	6,261.24
TOTAL ASSETS	10,935.61
LIABILITIES	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	10,935.61

A Complete item by item expenditure report for 2007 will be available at the annual meeting in April

NOTE

**Charlie Stampf
Our Secretary/Treasurer
Has a New Call & Email
Call W4FI
Email W4FI#ecars7255.com**

**Congratulations
Charlie**

Swap and Shop

Join us on 7.255 every Wednesday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon for the Swap and Shop, hosted by Kelly

Strange Novice QSO

by
Tom Mitchell , WY3H

I was telling Joe WY3T about a rather unusual experience I had several decades ago, as a Novice operator the first time I tried the 10-Meter Band.

To give you a bit of a back ground on myself, I was licensed as KA3LPJ and kept that call through my Advanced Class license. When I moved from western to eastern Pa. I got the call KC3YD.

After a house fire in 1993 I got discouraged about a lot of things and allowed my license to expire and went more or less QRT for about 10 years. In 2004, I got the bug again and took the Technician Test in May, 2004 and got the call KB3LFC. In June of that year I upgraded to General. On June 3 of this year I passed the Extra Class exam.

Anyhow, when I was KA3LPJ I had just got out of the V.A. Hospital in Butler, Pa from having surgery and had a lot of time on my hands. I wanted to get on 10 Meters so I put up a 10-Meter dipole inside an upper room of our house. It seemed to work just fine. I started calling CQ (using CW) and a guy answered me from California -- my first 10-Meter QSO! I was really excited about a QSO from "6-Land." We had the usual QSO exchange then suddenly, he was gone.

I heard other stations on the band so thought that perhaps he had some sort of pressing business to attend to. About an hour later I was calling CQ again and the same guy answered me.

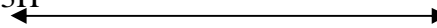
He apologized for leaving so abruptly, then explained that he had to leave because he was "...having a vision!" I said "Ah, OK" and thought I would continue the QSO, just to be polite. Suddenly, he broke in to my transmission and said he had to leave right away because he was having "...another vision." I never heard from this man again. For some time that experience made me really

wonder about 10- Meters, and forgive me, also about people from California. I heard some really strange things on CB radio but this topped them all. I never did find out what his "vision" entailed, and perhaps that might be a good thing.

That was several decades ago, but even today, when I get on 10-Meters, I can't help but thinking of my first 10- Meter QSO and meeting my rather strange fellow amateur operator.

If you can use this in The Monitor, please feel free to do so. Thank you and best 73 to all.

Tom Mitchell
WY3H



Editorial Comment

The Ham having visions in Tom's delightful story reminds me of a quote from the tv series Star Trek from Spock to Captain Kirk: "*Captain there is no intelligent life on this planet*".

Tips on Submitting articles for the Bulletin

1. Submit articles as attachments to your email.
2. Use Word or other compatible word processor.
3. Submit photograph as jpeg or tiff format as an attachment.
4. Do not submit an article as the body of the email as it is much more difficult to format for the publication.
5. Try to keep articles to one type written page as that will fill 2 columns in the bulletin.
6. Do not send any thing that is only fax quality as it will have to be completely re-written and scanned to improve the quality.
7. Send articles to robert849@embarqmail.com

Thank you for your cooperation!

Bob K2IB

A Simple, Inexpensive Ground Buss Bar and Cable Organization

by Ernie Parsons, W1RXH

I wonder how many of us look behind our desks or tables that house our radio equipment and are distressed with the maze of disorganized wires and cables. Some time ago I became frustrated trying to chase down a ground wire. I sat for some time trying to come up with an inexpensive way to organize all of the cables in the back of my desk along with all the inter-connecting grounds. I have a 3/8" piece of copper wire that runs from a ground rod that I had sunk twelve feet into the ground at the base of my tower. I have many ground wires attached to the 3/8 inch copper cable in my shack, but they were not very orderly.

Standing in one corner of my shack I saw a 16 inch long piece of 1/2 inch copper tubing left over from an antenna project. As I looked at the piece of tubing, the thought came to me that this could be made into a very good buss bar, where I could terminate all my ground wires in a very neat and orderly manner. First I polished the piece of tubing with my grinding / buffing wheel. Then I made a mark every inch along the tubing from one end to the other. The marks on each end were drilled though for mounting purposes. At each of the other marks I drilled a hole through one side of the pipe and tapped them for 10-32 machine screws. I inserted a 10-32 screw with a flat washer and an inside star washer in each hole. These would be attachment point for my many ground wires. The copper tubing can be mounted on the back of a desk or table where your equipment is located. I chose to mount ground buss on the backside of a desk leg where it was out in the open and easy to get to. I ran a ground wire from each individual piece of equipment to a separate screw on the buss bar. Then, on a piece of paper I recorded where each piece of equipment was grounded, so I could locate a particular ground quickly.

To further organize the wiring and cables in the back of my desk as well as the ground

wires, I cut 1/2 inch long pieces of 1 1/4 inch diameter PVC pipe. I cut a 1/4 inch wide slot in the PVC rings and a 1/8 inch diameter hole opposite the slot for mounting purposes. The slot is so wires installed later can be inserted into the PVC rings easy. I have these located and mounted on the rear of my desk at locations where I have loose wires. I have run all the wiring from point to point through these PVC split rings, making for a very orderly installation. It also makes it easy to troubleshoot problems.

I have included pictures of both the copper buss bar mounted on a piece of wood much like what you would have in a typical installation. Also there is a picture of several of the PVC split rings mounted on a piece of wood, very much like what you would have on the rear of your operating station, so you can see how orderly the ground wires and local cabling look when run through the split rings. There is little or no expense for the material that I used. Most of us probably have the stuff in our collection of odd material. Have fun organizing your ground wires and cables, as you will be happy with the results. It certainly has made my shack look a lot better.



A Real Antenna Farm

John Eckert K2OX

Hi All,

I got my 120' tower and MonStir up. Lots of pictures at <http://www.exothink.com/HR/>.

Click on 'M46 Tower Project' and 'MonStir'. Tower is an Andrew M46, four foot on a side, 120 ft high

Antenna is a SteppIR MonStir, 42 ft boom with 70 ft elements. Three elements on 40M, four elements 30M through 10M and six elements on 6M

Upper guys at 115 ft are cut resonant on 160M, lower guys are cut resonant for 75M

Concrete base is 7' x 7' by 6' deep about 42,000 lbs. Concrete guy anchors are 3' x 3' x 5' down four feet.

73, John K2OX



Go to link for many more pictures

<http://www.exothink.com/HR/>.

ECARS Patch

This beautifully embroidered ECARS patch will look great on your hat, jacket, or sewn to your favorite article of clothing.

The cost for the patch is \$5.00.

Send your payment to: ECARS, PO Box 5923, Hudson. FL 34674.



ECARS Website

www.ecars7255.co



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

Official ECARS Jacket

If you would like to purchase an ECARS jacket / windbreaker, they are available from one of the nation's premier public safety supply companies, Galls, Inc. To purchase an official ECARS jacket, fill out the order form below and send it along with the required payment to ECARS, PO Box 5923, Hudson, FL 34674. Pricing varies depending on jacket size and logo options selected.

Official ECARS embroidered patch is on the front and back of the jacket.



ECARS custom ceramic 10 ounce coffee mug

ECARS Mug

ECARS members can order custom ceramic coffee mugs 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 logo 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 the mugs by:

- email; rick@thesignman.com
- using the secure shopping cart; <https://cahaba.net/~thesignman/secure/> (beside "Color Items" click on "Select", then click on "Color Coffee Mug", then type the specifics in the "Enter Details Below" text block)
- by phone; 225-757-1545
- by fax; 225-208-1545

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: \$

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

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 \$5.00 including postage. To order a pin, send your check made out to ECARS for \$5.00 per pin to ECARS, PO Box 5923, Hudson, FL 34674-5923



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

Membership Application / Renewal

New Application Renewal. If renewal enter your ECARS Number _____ Call Sign _____
Year First Licensed _____ Year you first joined ECARS _____, ARRL Member Yes, No
Name _____
Street _____
City / Town _____, State/Province _____
Zip/Postal Code _____ - _____
Home Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Work Phone (_____) _____ - _____
E-mail address. (do not use an alias, e.g. @arrl.net) _____
May ECARS publish your email address? 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 a new a continued membership in the East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

I agree to abide by ECARS Bylaws, a copy which is available on the ECARS website, www.ecars7255.com.

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: **E.C.A.R.S., PO Box 5923, Hudson, FL 34674-5923.**

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.** 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 terminate on December 31st.

ECARS decals are available for \$1.50 each, and pins for \$3.50 each plus \$.60 postage per pin. Send your payment to: ECARS, PO Box 5923, Hudson, FL 34674-5923.

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