



# THE MONITOR



ECARS Web Page [www.qsl.net/ecars](http://www.qsl.net/ecars)

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

## Hello from ECARS' New VP Ike Meredith, K1VBD

Hi to all on ECARS. I would like to start off by thanking everyone for electing me as your vice president for 1998. I have not been a ham very long, having only been licensed since 1994. When I upgraded my ticket, ECARS was one of the first places I frequented on the HF bands. A friend told me of a net for travelers, and as most of you know, I drive a truck around the country so I knew this was the place for me. I checked in with Ralph in Richmond and he made me feel welcome and at ease. I came back the next day and soon met Bill, our net manager and many other ECARS members.

One day bill asked me to run the net for an hour. I felt like I had "arrived". Now I look forward to starting my

Continued on page 7

## ECARS on the World Wide Web!

By Phil Morrissey, K2HQ

With everyone and his brother on the Internet, why not ECARS? That is a good question. The answer is, we are on the Internet. ECARS has been on the Web since the second of February. In the first month, more than seven hundred people have checked in on the Home Page. After discussion with Bill K1WS (Director & Net Manager), and Ike K1VBD (Vice President), I was given the go ahead to create the web page. I secured a web site on QSL.NET and began writing the program in HTML (HyperText Markup Language). I got the site up and running in about a week. Initially it was just a simple one-page site, with e-mail to the officers. Then the suggestions came rolling in, and the site grew to nine pages in length. All was going well, too well. Then it happened. The server crashed and wiped it all out. Thank the Lord for back-ups! I always tell people to back-up their work, and thank God I took my own advice. Armed with the back up CD, I attempted to reload the ECARS site, but to no avail. Something had to be done, and at this point, the ECARS Mirror Site was born. It was a

Continued on page 5

## Inside this Edition

- ECARS Financial Statement
- The Beverage Antenna
- Hammed it with Reagan?
- ECARS Receives Praise
- Power Pony
- My Wife Says it's Insanity
- Ham Radio Fraternity
- Solder or Not
- Check your Browser
- ECARS Silent Keys
- Mobile Duplexing

## Greetings from Your New Editor

Hello to all ECARS members. I have recently been appointed as editor for the ECARS Monitor, taking over the reins from Ralph Taylor, W3CBG. I will attempt to continue to provide club members with the same quality newsletter that you have become accustomed to.

I learned of ECARS from our vice president, Ike Meredith K1VBD, who lives on the other side of Lake Winnepesaukee (New Hampshire's largest lake) from me. Ike and I are members of the Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club and often communicate on the VHF band as well as on the HF bands. Ike encouraged me to set up an HF rig in one of my vehicles. During a few trips to the south over the past year or so, I used ECARS to help stay in touch with Ike and other friends back home. I quickly learned what a valuable service the ECARS organization performs, and decided to become a member.

Peggy Burns, K1VE and I enjoy traveling by motorcycle and motor home, and we spend as much time during the summer as possible looking for rocks, minerals, and fossils. We also enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing, and

Continued on page 3

# Secretary's Report

by  
**Ann Hoffman, KA2ACF**

## East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

### Financial Statement

January 1, 1997 – December 31, 1998

Beginning Balance 1/1/97	\$6542.44
<b>Income:</b>	
Decals.....	\$ 10.00
Dues.....	1855.00
Monitor Refund.....	56.00
Pins.....	16.75
Cash received Roch. Hamfest...	50.00
Total Income .....	<u>1932.31</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Cash, Roch Hamfest.....	\$1013.34
Misc. expenses Roch. Hamfest	30.00
Franchise Tax (Delaware).....	20.00
Incorporation Fee (3 years).....	405.00
Nominating Comm. phone exp..	30.00
President phone exp.....	43.35
Secretary phone exp.....	64.00
Secretary postage.....	192.00
P.O. Box rental.....	40.00
Monitor (four issues).....	1013.34
Total Expenses.....	<u>1887.69</u>
Ending balance 12/31/97	

## The Beverage Antenna

By Dan Levine, WA2CLP, ECARS #2329

The beverage antenna has always interested me because of its size and the fact that I don't have room to put one up. None the less, it's worth mentioning because I know someone who uses one every day, or night, as the case may be. And let me tell you, the darn thing works!

This antenna is a specialized nonresonant long wire affair that requires a poorly conductive earth beneath it to work well. (Huhh?) Yes, unlike the Windom antenna, that requires a highly conductive ground beneath it, this antenna requires just the opposite. It is thought of as a "receive-only" antenna. However, like it's cousin the snake, you can use it for transmitting, and so the topic is debatable.

Dr. Harold H. Beverage invented the antenna in the early 1920's. In 1923, Beverage along with two other

colleagues wrote a paper for the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. The paper discussed tests involving antennas that were as long as 7 miles. These tests were done around 665 KHz and you can imagine the results. It is said that reading this original article (Volume 42, 1923) is fascinating.

The minimum length of "the beverage" is 1 wavelength and at 160-meters that's about 547 feet or so. If you've got friendly neighbors, live on a farm, or next to the old Alexander's you can put one up. Shorter lengths can work, however. The advantage of this antenna is simple. It provides a unidirectional low-angle pattern for a very low physical height above ground. (About 10 or 20 feet high).

The end of this long wire is terminated in a resistor-to-ground equal to roughly the characteristic impedance of the antenna at that point, usually about 200-600 ohms. The antenna can be fed with coax or ladder line (open wire). If the antenna is to be used for transmitting you should use a non-inductive resistor that is rated at half the transmit output power.

During a recent QSO with Phil, K2HQ, he told me that he thought transmitting on the beverage would not work since fifty percent of the power is lost in the terminating resistor at the end of the antenna. I respectfully disagreed.

As mentioned, I am sometimes in contact with W4DHA, from Edmund, SC who uses a beverage antenna for both transmit and receive. Nicknamed, "Coke", Edmund is on 1910 KHz every night. (That was a good year and if I could remember it, I would have lots of time to play radio for sure!). Coke's antenna is about 1200 feet long and one night during this past summer, he could not hear me on his 1/2 wave dipole but could hear me clearly on the beverage. The distance between us is about 600 miles. His antenna is not exactly a beverage, though. He doesn't have the end terminated with a resistor as mentioned. He claims that the resistor does nothing for performance, because of -- a poor ground, (Huhh?) hence he operates what he claims is a "bi-directional "beverage".

After speaking with Coke recently, I could clearly see from reports he has received over time, that his beverage does indeed favor the northeast corridor. Stations on the other side of his antenna have reported a drop-off in his signal as compared to his other two antennas. This was according to John, NB4B who has also experimented on the receiving end of the beverage. Coke also mentioned to me that he had originally intended to use his beverage as "receive-only", but transmitted on it one time by accident and therefore continued to do so because it worked so well!

Another OM, Phil, who doesn't transmit on the beverage antenna, makes an interesting point. For optimum performance with DX on both 160/80 meters you could transmit on a vertical antenna and receive on the beverage, thus you would have the best of both worlds, so to speak, provided the beverage is facing the direction you want to favor.

Some of you probably remember the presentation about AM broadcast band Dxing that we had a year or so

Continued on the next page

ago by Bob, WA2SQQ. Bob logged an AM broadcast station from Spain on a beverage antenna at the Jersey shore. The end of his antenna must have been "salt resistive?" (hi hi) Bob tells how someone separated 500 feet of insulated zip cord to double the length and unrolled the antenna on the ground. He then logged AM broadcast stations from New Zealand, on 1206 KHz and Norway on 1314 KHz. He also heard Portugal off the back of the antenna, again on the AM broadcast band. Not bad for an antenna that's "on the ground"!

The bottom line is that the beverage antenna works as a unidirectional antenna on the lower bands. In Coke's case it works better than either his dipole or full wave loop on 160 meters and in one direction it works better on both transmit and receive. I've heard him on all three antennas, as have others here in the northeast, and the beverage works best. Further evidence to this fact was given when Coke sent slow scan television pictures on 160 meters, using both the beverage and his 1/2 wave 160-meter dipole. The pictures were markedly better to the north on the beverage. As evidenced at a club presentation, given by John, NB4B at the Central Virginia DX Association in the spring of 1997, which is about 300 miles to the north. (I wonder if John would be interested in coming to Stateline?)

And speaking of large wire antennas check out the recent newsletter on the ARRL web page from December 19 about the VOA antennas coming down in Bethany, Ohio, due to a budget ax. Just imagine operating your HF station through those series of rhombics and sterba curtain arrays that were used for transmitting. Now that my friends -- that -- was an antenna farm! You can also check out some great pictures of this VOA station as well.: **W W W . exit109.com/~jimh/voaohio.html.**

I can remember listening to the VOA from the Ohio location as a kid. I'm sort of sad to see that the place is closed down. It would have made for a nice field trip on the way to Dayton!

For more information on the beverage antenna, check out these articles in QST or contact me and I can supply you with information used for this article.

- The Classic Beverage Antenna, Revisited January, 1982, page 11
- Beverage Antennas for Amateur Communications. January 1983, page 22

You will note that Dr. Beverage has written for QST and died at age 99 in January of 1993. So much for the hazards of RF energy.

The text files sent to me on this topic were from Philip T. Morrissey, Sr., K2HQ-Roads End-RR1, Box 176-Jefferson, NY 12093.

More information on the beverage antenna is available in the ARRL Antenna Book. 1977 The ARRL-Newington, CT. 07666

### Editor from page one

skiing. Peg and I are both teachers at Gilford Middle-High School, so having identical vacations is a real blessing. We are both editors of our monthly club newsletter; therefore preparing the Monitor for print four times a year should not be too difficult a task.

The Monitor is your newsletter and can only be as good as the articles submitted by contributors, so please send articles as soon as possible for the next edition. How about telling us about your communications activities while on a recent trip? Perhaps you have just upgraded your shack? Send us a photo of you and your shack and tell us a bit about yourself. You do not have to be a gifted writer; the job of the editor is getting articles into a printable format. Articles can be hand written, typed, or saved to a floppy disk in IBM format, as a .txt document and mailed to **Mike Stone, 32 Carriage Road, Gilford, NH 03246.** Articles can also be sent to **n1ve@amsat.org**, or if you are real purest, by packet to **NIVE@WA1WOK.NH.**

I hope to be hearing from many ECARS members in the future.

73 Mike Stone, NIVE

## Jerry WA4SOF May Have Hammed it up with Reagan

*Back in October, Mark Lukasiak, staff writer for the newspaper, The Derrick, wrote the following article about ECARS member, Jerry Wohlgeomuth, WA4SOF.*

**E**very afternoon, Jerry Wohlgeomuth sits behind a desk in his house and talks with people from all over the world. Wohlgeomuth operates a ham radio station from his Rockland Township home.

On any given day he may talk with Walt from Ohio, Steve from Australia, Claud from France, or any other of a thousand faceless names. However, on August 21 and 22, Wohlgeomuth believes he talked with a name for which he had a face: Ronald Reagan. Just about noon Thursday, August 21, Jerry broadcast a "CQ", a call for anybody who may be listening. The standard procedure is for Wohlgeomuth to send out this "CQ" transmission. Then, whoever is listening and interested in a conversation will respond.

### A familiar voice

The local man found someone who wanted to chat. "Ron" from LaPorte, IN answered the CQ call. Wohlgeomuth and "Ron" had a rather ordinary 45-minute conversation. They talked about their retirements and their families. They spoke of their pets and childhood memories.

In the course of the conversation, "Ron" also mentioned he had once worked as an actor and a politician. He explained that he and his wife Nancy lived in California and had journeyed east to visit a friend, Art Simpson, in LaPort, IN.

Continued on page 7

## ECARS Receives Praise —

March 4, 1998  
The ECARS MONITOR  
P.O. Box 82  
Waverly, NY 14892

Dear Mr. Editor,

I recently received a back copy of the Monitor and was quite impressed by both format and content.

Not being active on 40 meters, I had not been made aware of your organization until the recent ice storm. On the afternoon of January 8th I was notified by my Amateur Red Cross liaison April Stack (K2ZCZ) to report to the Albany Red Cross Headquarters to activate the Emergency Amateur Radio Station.

As you may imagine, the situation upon my arrival was somewhat chaotic. As with all genuine emergency situations there is an immediate need for valid information concerning health and welfare conditions.

The Red Cross facility is a recent addition to the emergency services backbone being established in the Capitol District and lacked well-defined procedural directives.

As the need for information from the heavily afflicted counties grew, it became necessary to establish reliable communication links with our counterparts in the North Country.

Upon entering the communications room I was given a piece of paper with a frequency scrawled upon it: 7255. At this point, not even sure that the equipment was operating properly, I attempted to make contact on the State Races frequency (3993.5). Nothing. This caused anxiety over the condition of the antenna, which had previous problems and was very much unproven.

I dialed in (7255) on the VFO and was rewarded with a very rich dialect of stations reporting in on the varying conditions caused by the storm. I broke in to the conversation and explained my situation. I was immediately given the frequency and established reliable traffic links with at least 6 stations. We subsequently moved to the RACES frequency and passed traffic between the Red Cross and the State Emergency Management Office where I was officially relocated for the next two weeks.

I will never forget the professional courtesy and assistance offered to me by the EastCARS members and Net participants.

Right from the beginning, when the chips were down and the need was the greatest, ECARS was there and ready to help. Our efforts proved to be successful and a lot of the credit goes to your membership. Many people who were indirectly assisted by your efforts owe you a debt of gratitude. I personally owe you a heartfelt thanks and even though I don't personally know most of you, I feel as if we share the common bond of friendship in the spirit of public service through ham radio.

Due to a recent move I have just finished erecting a

dipole and setting up my HF rig at home. When I get everything in order I will try to check into the net when given the opportunity.

Nonetheless I would be pleased if you would accept my application for membership and a pin.

73' Pete (WZ2X)

**Peter J. Rea**

**906 Cleveland Ave**

**Schenectady, NY 12306**

**Email: elect@wizvax.net**

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## Power Pony

By Jim Cluett, W1PID

The Power Pony is a 13-lb. 350-watt generator that costs less than \$200. It may be the best bargain around for emergency power. I bought one after reading about it in CQ magazine, and I've been testing it out for the last couple of weeks.

Ed (K1VP) told me about the Power Pony. He saw it in a CQ article about emergency power (March, 1998), and he faxed me the story because he knows I'm a sucker for gadgets. The author described it as being the size of four coffee cups! The CQ article included the name of



the distributor, so Ed sent away for some literature. The company was selling it for \$269. When I saw the picture, I knew I'd seen it before. Harbor Freight sells the same generator for \$189. (Item #35286 - 1-800-423-2567 - www.harborfreight.com)

The thing is amazing. It's minuscule. Made in China. Delivers 120 VAC at 3.5 amps. It also puts out 12 VDC at 12 amps for charging batteries. It features a 2-cycle engine (needs an oil and gas mixture) and runs fairly quietly. It has a manual choke and a manual throttle that's easily adjustable with a knurled screw. The gas tank holds a quart, which is enough to power the generator for two hours. It comes with an extra spark plug, a plug wrench, screwdriver and 12 volt leads with battery clips.

The Power Pony started easily after a couple of pulls, and I connected my VOM for some testing. I was mostly interested in the 12 VDC output for battery charging. The voltage varies with the throttle setting... anywhere from 10 volts to about 26 volts. When I hooked it up to my car battery, I set the voltage at 17 and measured a charging current of two amps. As I opened the throttle, I increased the charging current. The Power Pony doesn't come with a


**Continued on next page**

### Power Pony from page 4

voltmeter. But it has a green light on the front panel that starts to blink when it reaches the correct voltage (117 VAC). This is handy for adjusting the engine speed without a meter.

Next I put a 40-watt light bulb on the 110 VAC output. I measured the voltage as I turned the throttle setting. I could produce anywhere from 105 volts to about 129 volts. The green light flickers at 117 volts. I have no way to test the frequency of the AC to be sure it's really 60 Hz. I plugged a 4 amp. battery charger into the 110 VAC outlet and it seemed to work fine.

This little rig is ideal for field day, remote power for public service events, and keeping around for a home power outage. It's light, starts easily, and runs well. For \$180 it would be hard to go wrong with the Power Pony.

*Jim is a member of the Central New Hampshire Amateur Radio Club. He often writes articles for their newsletter, "The Communicator". Editor* 

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### ECARS Web Site from page one

week before the original server would be back up and in operation. We however came through the incident with very few scratches, and we now have two Web Sites. I will maintain the original site and the Mirror Site as a back up.

#### ECARS Chat Room

We now have our own Chat Room at the web site. Those of you that are familiar with packet radio crowd nodes, will be at home on the Chat Room. For the rest of us, the Chat Room may be a new experience. How does it work? Easy! After you have checked aboard the home page, select ECARS Chat Room. This is a Java program that uses another server, so it takes a few minutes to get it setup and running. When it's running, enter your call sign in the area that says "Nick Name", and then enter you first name in the next slot. Now Click on the button that says "Ok Connect". You will see a 'black box' to the left-hand top of your page. In this box you will see the call sign of anyone using the Chat. As you check into the Chat, your call sign will be announced to everyone on board. To converse simply type your sentences into the slot that says "TYPE HERE" then hit the "Enter Key". When you are ready to sign off, say your seventy-three, then click "Log Off", then click "Home".

The Chat Room is a great place to make those QSO's that for one reason or the other can not be made on the air. This is a problem that I hear daily on 7.255. Remember, the Chat Room is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and conditions are always good.

#### Amateur Exams on ECARS

We now have our own place to study for up grading your amateur license. Again this is a Java program, so it will take a few minutes to get set up. When it is running, select the class of license you wish to be tested for, and press "Enter". Please be patient, the program must go

though the question pool and assemble a simulated VE FCC Test. This will take a few minutes. A window will appear on the left side of your screen. At the bottom you will see choices. To start the test session, click "Next Question". A question with detractors will appear, in front of each choice you will see an empty square. Place your cursor over the square of your choice and click your "left mouse button". Again, be patient, the check mark that will appear in a few seconds is a graphic image, and the program has to find it. After the first question, the check mark will appear instantly. Keep answering questions until the program says you have completed your exam. Then click the "Submit Button", and in a few minutes you will see a graded exam sheet. When you have finished taking exams, click the "Home Button. Good luck. Enjoy the program.

#### ECARS Rogues Gallery & Post Office

We have about forty pictures on the web site, and about twenty e-mail addresses setup at this time. Bill K1WS has been asking members to send pictures and e-mail addresses to him or me (Phil, K2HQ), the response has not been good to say the least. The e-mail Post Office Page is very helpful, as you do not have to look up addresses then copy them into you e-mail program. You simply click the call sign of the person you wish to e-mail. A form pops open on your screen. Fill out the subject, then write the message. When you are ready to send it, click "SEND" in the upper right hand corner of the form. That is a real time saver.

The pictures are just for fun, they let you see what the people in the group look like. So how about it? Send pictures and e-mail addresses to either Bill K1WS or Phil K2HQ.

#### Information Please

You have finally come to the end of this article, boy was I long winded. Ok, here is the plea. Please send in pictures of you in your operating position, and or e-mail addresses. I am trying to make the ECARS Home Page a success, but it takes help from all of you. My thanks to those of you who have already answered this plea. If there is something that you would like to see on the site, drop me a note with any comments or suggestions. After all, as members of ECARS, this is your page. Lets all pitch in and make it the best HAM Radio Page on the WEB.

I would also like to take the time to say thank you to all the members who have helped in the testing of the software on the site.

**ECARS address is: [www.qsl.net/ecars](http://www.qsl.net/ecars)**

**ECARS Mirror Site: [www.wpe.com/~pmam](http://www.wpe.com/~pmam)**


**Bill K1WS e-mail: [k1ws@aol.com](mailto:k1ws@aol.com)**

**Phil K2HQ e-mail: [pmam@wpe.com](mailto:pmam@wpe.com) or**

**[k2hq@qsl.net](mailto:k2hq@qsl.net)**

Thanks to Al Waller K3TKJ owner and operator of QSL.NET for the space.

The WebMaster

Phil K2HQ #20019 

## My Wife Says Its Insanity

H. V. Bardsley, KB3OM

OK I'll admit it. DX'ing is a disease. How benign a disease however, is open to some debate. Diane, my YLOP, says it is bordering on a major mental defect similar to schizophrenia. I admit to it being more like mild case of the hives, an itch that just has to be scratched. Therefore, how we see things varies at times. I see getting up at 3:00 AM to work an island halfway around the world as a necessity; she sees it as mental aberration.

During the winter of 1996, we decided to retire from teaching. We both had had reasonably long and rewarding careers, but for a variety of reasons we both felt that it was "time to go". We also decided to take an extended trip during the summer months as a kickoff to our retired life. We agreed that we ought to use our travel trailer, because it was certainly going to be part of our future. But where to go? Diane suggested Newfoundland and Labrador. It would be away from the summer heat and crowds. It offered Gros Morne National Park, L'anse aux Meadows Historical Site (where the Vikings had the first European settlement in North America), moose (she has a thing about moose) and the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Cabot's voyage to the New World.

That's what she was thinking. I was thinking - Labrador? Isn't that in CQ zone 2? Hey! Anytime I've heard Labrador; the VO2 station always had small pileup. Labrador is a place where I could be DX. Not anything like Heard or Clipperton to be sure, but DX none-the-less. Diane and I agreed on Newfoundland and Labrador. I certainly don't want to mislead anyone. I talked with Diane about my intentions for this trip; it is just that she viewed it as an RV'ing adventure with a little hamming. I viewed it as mini-Dxpedition to zone 2 with an opportunity to learn about world History thrown in.

As we traveled through New England and the Maritime Provinces of Canada, I eagerly explained my intentions to folks we met in campgrounds or on 2-meters. Occasionally, one of the women would ask Diane what she was going to do while I was on the radio. Her answer was, "I'm going to shop every craft and gift shop I can find." I figured on staying until I ran out of QSO's (unlikely) or Diane suffered an attack of mall withdrawal (very likely).

After an easy three-day drive up the West Coast of Newfoundland, we arrived at St. Barbe. We took the ferry across the Strait of Belle Isle to Blanc Sablon, Quebec. It is only a short drive from the ferry terminal to the Labrador border. A reception committee of black flies was there to greet us. We set up camp on Crow Head, a bluff overlooking Forteau Bay. Our site was nearly ideal. We were fairly high above sea level, well away from interference from other radio services and people's homes. We also had a gorgeous view of the bay, where from time to

time, whales would swim by.

Southern Labrador is a place of stark beauty; the climate is sub-arctic. Along the coast, the only trees are stunted black spruce and willows. Because there is no forest, the landforms are obvious. The cool to cold temperature makes decay a very slow process so peat bogs cover most of the ground, which in late July, are full of wildflowers.

The equipment consisted of my trusty Kenwood TS 850SAT, a Cushcraft R7 vertical and a Heathkit HL-2200 linear amplifier. A Coleman 3.5 KW generator powered the radios (and trailer). The R7 was set on top of a mast which was supported by a rock cairn I built in the meadow back a few meters from the edge of the bluff. I operated from Monday through Saturday for 4 or 5 hours each day. When I wasn't operating, we went sight seeing along the 90 or so kilometers of road from Vieux Fort, Quebec to Red Bay, Labrador. At Red Bay there is a National Historical Site detailing a 15th Century Basque whaling station.

Conditions on Monday and Tuesday were fair to good. There were modest openings on 20 meters to Europe in the morning. Propagation favored North and South America in the afternoon and evening also on 20. On Wednesday 20 was hot! I had several nice strings of QSO's in the morning and early afternoon. Then in the evening from 2345 to 0100 UTC there was a continuous string where it was 'QRZ?' and there was always an answer. What a gas! At times the pileup was S9+40! After I finally shut down and went outside to turn off the generator, there was a beautiful display of the Aurora Borealis. The northern sky was alight with shimmering curtains of green-gold. I remember thinking, "whales, aurora and DX'ing -- like the beer ad says 'it doesn't get any better than this'."

As great as Wednesday was, the rest of the week was poor. The propagation went when the aurora arrived. I made a few contacts on short skip into New England and Eastern Canada but I also spent a lot of time calling CQ. On Thursday the wind was so strong that the R7 was bent to a rather extreme angle but it and the cairn stayed together. By Saturday it was time to leave; I'm sure there are many folks who still need Zone 2 but there are also VO2's in Goose Bay and elsewhere in Labrador. It was with mixed feelings that we took down the antenna and rehitched the trailer to drive back to Blanc Sablon to board the ferry and continue what turned out to be a most delightful trip through Newfoundland.

The trip hasn't changed my life very much. Diane still regards DX'ing as insanity and I still enjoy it. Have I come to any profound conclusions? No, this was a vacation after all. But I may have arrived at a few small insights. 1. Work 'em while ye may -- There were some

**Continued on next page**

### Hamming with Reagan from page

Simpson held a ham radio-operating license and "Ron" was using his station.

According to Wohlgemuth, "Ron" sounded uncannily like someone who had made numerous State of the Union addresses during his eight-year presidency.

#### Clues

There were other clues for Wohlgemuth that he may be speaking with the former commander-in-chief. "Ron" mentioned that he often talked with "Barry" over the radio. And, according to Wohlgemuth, anyone worth his salt knows ex-presidential Barry Goldwater is an avid ham radio operator.

"Ron" and Wohlgemuth made plans to talk again on Friday, August 22. This time Wohlgemuth would have his 10-year-old granddaughter, Stephanie Svolos, there to talk with the man he suspected was the former president of the United States.

#### Another conversation

That Friday, Wohlgemuth taped a 20-minute portion. On the tape, "Ron" admits that he is neither Republican nor Democrat. "I guess you have to get up on one side of the bed. I just happened to get up on the Republican side....."

"Ron" talked at length with Svolos and told her several jokes. He also indicated, "I have had a hard time remembering things and many times I have to write them down." Wohlgemuth thought this might be a reference to the fact that Reagan is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

#### A friend of 'Ron' joins in

At the end of the conversation, the local radio operator


spoke with Art Simpson, the ham radio operator, who "Ron" was visiting. According to Wohlgemuth, Simpson claimed to be a former secret agent and good friend of "Ron's".

"I asked him if 'Ron' was who I thought he was and he said, yes but we can't announce that over the air because so many people would tune in that it would jam the frequency," Wohlgemuth said.

#### Confirmation

He did, however receive some gratification. Simpson sent Wohlgemuth a QSL card and a document with a picture of the president and a few words for the conservative sage. In the blank provided for the guest ham radio operator was Reagan's signature. And here are Reagan's words to Wohlgemuth: "Jerry, my old friend Art from the Secret Service days says that he will get this to your address. Your six acres sound like a wonderful retreat. Nancy and I are

enjoying life each day...I hope I get to hear your granddaughter on the radio. She seems like a wonderful youngster, as I am sure you were at one time. Best of luck in your retirement. I am 20 years your senior, but you will catch up to me someday. Your friend, Ron".

Attempts by The Derrick to verify that "Ron" was indeed Ronald Reagan were cryptically avoided by Simpson. He returned an email message that vaguely noted that "Ron" wished to remain anonymous. 



**Jerry WA4SOF, operating from his shack.**

### Insanity from page 6

folks I didn't QSO with late on Wednesday. In retrospect, I should have, while there was propagation. **2.** When chasing DX, please understand that the DX station may be there but the lack of propagation won't let HIM work YOU. **3.** If you choose to make a similar trip, prepare for the weather and the black flies. You will surely have to deal with both and they can be extreme.

I would like to thank Marty Maurer, K3LPX, for the use of his antenna, Bud Thomas, KC3Q, for the use of his linear and my wife, Diane, KA3VZX, for her indulgence.




### ECARS VP from page one

days by checking in, or in the winter running the net with Ken and Richard. It makes my mornings!

So that's my ECARS history. I hope that together we can keep the net a wonderful and friendly place, where old timers and new comers can all feel welcome and have a great time.

Just to make this an official Bio, I live in Moultonboro, NH with my wife Sarah and our two sons Paul and Ian. I enjoy radio, fishing, skiing, and being home.

If there is anything I can do to help any of you in ECARS, or if any of you have suggestions, please write, call, or email me. Thanks to you all. I'll see on 55

73 Ike, K1VBD 

## No Strangers in Ham Radio Fraternity

By Bill Husted  
Cox, News Service

Atlanta – I can – and sometime do send live video to friends around the world using my computer and the Internet. On any given night, I may correspond by email with Internet acquaintances in Denmark, Germany, and South Africa.

Heck, even kids too young to go to school do that nowadays. It's easy; you just press a button. And, these days, it's becoming as reliable as using the telephone.

That makes it difficult to explain why I get so excited that my heart literally pounds when I use my amateur radio to talk to someone in those same countries. To make my sense of accomplishment even more difficult to understand, I can't reliably dial up a buddy in Japan. Unlike email, ham radio is a hit or miss affair. Sometimes the conditions just aren't right for making the contact. So ham radio is a little like another hobby I enjoy, fishing: In both cases, you cast out and never quite know what you'll find.

Each time I write about ham radio, I tend to be almost apologetic. I worry that the folks who read this column – expecting to get computer information – will be disappointed. After all, ham operators have been around since the earliest days of radio.

Each time it turns out that I worried needlessly. One of the big satisfactions of introducing people to ham radio comes several weeks after writing the column. Invariably I'll get excited letters or email from those who took the next step and began preparing for an amateur radio license.

The truth is that it's a small hobby – about 668,000 licensed hams in the county. Even people who have heard of ham radio often get it confused with the unlicensed CB radio – you have to go to a bit of trouble to become a ham. For starters, the Federal Communications Commission requires that you have a license. Although you need to learn to send and receive Morse code for the more advanced license classes, there is an entry-level license – called Technician –, which does not require knowledge of code.

By the way, code – or CW as it's called by those who use it – is fascinating for a lot of reasons. For one, listening to the rhythmic sounds is a lot like listening to music. After a while, instead of thinking..."ah that's a short tone followed by a long one, that's the letter 'A'"....you begin to understand it in the same way you do a foreign language. The translation takes place in your brain and becomes instant.

But, once you have one of the more advanced licenses, you're not limited to any one mode of communications. You can send television pictures, or talk, or even connect to regular telephone lines, or the Internet using amateur radio.

And, unlike when you use the Internet – which has become a broad collection of people with nothing much in common – ham radio makes you part of a fraternity. That means – and I know this is corny, but ham radio is a corny hobby – that you never talk to a stranger.

Instead, you talk to another low-tech holdout who finds pleasure in finding another human voice in the static.

If you'd like to find out more about ham radio, including how you can get a license, go to the American Radio Relay league Web site at <<http://www.arrrl.org>>.

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## Solder or Not?

From Kriss web page: <http://www.kriss.com>

*Why do I need to solder the connection rather than twist the wires?*

Making connections by simply twisting a couple of wires together and wrapping with tape is a way to assure problems in the future. When you solder a connection the wires are essentially melted together and protected from internal corrosion. A twisted connection has oxygen in and around the connection, which will eventually cause oxidation and prevent electrical contact. Even the little tap connectors, installed with a pair of pliers that cut through the insulation to contact the copper wire tend to corrode after a period of time. It is best install a piece of heat shrink tubing on the wire and after soldering. The tubing is slid over the connection point and with applied heat, a match works well, (*but a heat gun works better. Editor*) the tubing will shrink around the wire. Heat shrink tubing does a real good job

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## Check Your Browser

Every time I check into the ECARS web page, I see something new. The last time I checked in I saw a message scrolling across the bottom left corner of my monitor. Phil's been at it again. Here's his message: "*Hello and welcome the ECARS on 7.255 MHz....The East Coast Amateur Radio Service. We are on the air from 7:30 AM all day, as long as we have net control operators....Swap and shop every Wednesday at 9:00 AM with Bill K1WS as your host. You do not have to be a member to use ECARS, please join us*". Editor

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## ECARS Silent Keys

We have recently learned of the deaths of three of our members:

**Kenneth Frost, WA4SIV, #4175, 12/97 or 1/98**  
**Jack Randle, KB2MMP, #2997, about 4/6/98**  
**Victor Long, N3CSE, #3479, 2/22/98**

They will all be sorely missed, and we send our sincere sympathy to their families.

## Check ECARS Membership Expiration Date

I note that many of our long-term members have not paid their dues for '98. We do not send 'dues reminders', so I urge you all to occasionally check your mailing label on the *Monitor*. It shows your membership expiration date. If you have any questions regarding your membership, don't hesitate to e-mail me. My address is: ka2acf1@juno.com -- (just be sure to add the numeral one [1] to my call sign).

**Ann Hoffman, KA2ACF, ECARS Secretary**

## Mobile Duplexing

by Mike Stone, N1VE

**R**ecently on a trip back from Florida, Peg, K1VE and I were driving separate vehicles. I was in our van and Peg was driving her parent's car. To stay in touch we used dual band (2-meter/70 cm) transceivers. We chose a simplex frequency on the 440 MHz band because there would be less interference from other users and a bit less bother from intermod. During the first day of our journey we used the radios to chat back and forth. More importantly, however, I was able to tell Peg of upcoming pot holes, traffic problems, or exits. A couple of times, we realized that we were both talking at the same time and at one point vital information was delayed.

The next morning in North Carolina, I decided to set up the dual band radios so we could talk in a full duplex mode. I set my radio to transmit on 446.500 MHz and receive on 146.500 MHz. I then tuned Peg's radio to transmit on 146.500 MHz and receive on 446.500 MHz. This resulted in a full duplex conversation, exactly like a phone conversation. If I had to give important vital information to Peg, even though she was transmitting on the 146.500 MHz frequency, she could hear me on the 446.500 MHz frequency.

To further eliminate bothersome interference both transceivers were set with CTCSS encode and decode tones. During the second day of our trip, we had no problems communicating, even though we passed through several major cities. Using active listening techniques as when talking on the telephone (i.e. interjecting uh ha, yup, OK, I see) takes quite a bit of practice and is not really necessary, but being able to contact Peg, regardless of whether she was talking to me or not, was a very satisfying feeling.

When setting up your transceiver for duplex operation, be sure that if a remote speaker is used it is not in close proximity to your microphone, otherwise feedback will result.

## What if?

**A**t a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 mi./gal."

Recently General Motors addressed this comment by releasing the statement, "Yes, but would you want your car to crash twice a day?" IF MICROSOFT BUILT CARS.....

- 1 Every time they repainted the lines on the road you would have to buy a new car.
- 2 Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept this, restart and drive on.
- 3 Occasionally, executing a maneuver would cause your car to stop and fail, and you would have to re-install the engine. For some strange reason, you would accept this too.
- 4 You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But, then you would have to buy more seats.
- 5 Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast, twice as easy to drive - but would only run on 5 percent of the roads.
- 6 The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower.
- 7 The oil, gas, and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car fault" warning light.
- 8 New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.
- 9 The airbag system would say "are you sure?" before going off.
- 10 If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened.

## Many Thanks

I wish to thank all of you who helped with this edition of the *Monitor*. Without your help, I would have had much difficulty getting the summer edition of the *Monitor* together.

Thanks to the following: Ann Hoffman, KA2ACF; Ike Meredith, K1VBD; Phil Morrissey, K2HQ; Dan Levine, WA2CLP; Jim Cluett, W1PID; Peter Rea, WZ2X; and H.V. Bardsley, KB3OM, Peggy Burns, K1VE.

*Mike Stone, N1VE - Editor*

## Roll Call

**Don't forget to tune to 7.255 MHz at 10:00 AM on the second Saturday of the month for ECARS roll call. All members are encouraged to check in and show your support for ECARS.**

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, but no commercial ads are accepted. 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.

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Membership renewals, address changes, call sign changes, and new applications should be sent to: **ECARS, PO Box 82, Waverly, NY 14892.** Membership dues are \$5.00 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 2/\$1.00, and pins for \$2.55 each from the secretary, at ECARS, PO Box 82, Waverly, NY 14892.

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