



# THE MONITOR



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

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

## Greeting from ECARS President

**David Jordan, WA3GIN**

Hi Folks! Well the New Year for ECARS started off with innovation. ECARCHAT brought a new communications vehicle to the membership. The first session lasted three hours and at least twenty stations, most members but some non-members shared their ideas and thoughts in an open welcoming radio on-the-air meeting. We're hoping to have more ECARSCHAT sessions throughout the year.

The past several months have brought some interesting last minute changes. During the nominations for the 2004 Executive Committee, several candidates switched from offices they were originally nominated for to other positions, then after the elections some of the newly elected officers of the 2004 EC decided to resign. Charles, N2CJ Secretary/Treasurer and me, your elected VP for 2004 have stayed on to keep the continuity of the organization going. As per the constitution (article IV, SECTION B), if the president resigns the VP automatically fills that position. Any other vacated positions (per article III, section C) are filled by the appointments made by the remaining EC, which in this case were Charles and myself. It's a pretty, straightforward process!

Several long time ECARS friends and contributors have accepted positions vacated by those who resigned or whose 2003 presidential appointments have expired. I think you'll agree that the new administration has some very talented folks on board. Let me present them to you:

Please welcome WA1STU (John); John is a long time member of ECARS and President of the K3VOA radio club at the Voice of America. He has agreed to filled the VP slot, which became available when I filled the president's position. W4RKR (Robert) and WB3GVD (Joe) have both agreed to fill the two director positions. Both Robert and Joe have been very active as NCS and regional coordinators. These men provide ECARS with mature, collaborative, and decisive leadership at a critical time in the history of the organization.

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## A Message to All ECARS Members and Participants

by Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Special Counsel, Enforcement Bureau--FCC

The Commission is aware of an internal dispute within ECARS. We do not normally become involved in internal disputes except to the extent certain agendas are carried out on the air in violation of Commission rules.

However, we are aware that the recent ECARS election of officers has generated various disputes detrimentally affecting the radio operation of ECARS. This is known to us because we receive all the e-mails from the aggrieved parties, and monitoring the net reveals the juvenile malicious interference that ECARS is receiving. It is very important for you to understand that we know the locations of the interference.

We don't care who is angry that someone didn't get elected. We don't care who plans to go to the Supreme Court to have the elected leadership declared "rogue" lead-

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ers in violation of any charter. We don't care about so-called unauthorized meetings, either in person or over the air, if no Commission rules regarding the Amateur Service are being violated. Most importantly, we don't care about allegations of insanity, dementia, obsessive compulsive behavior, schizophrenia, passive aggression, or mental affects of certain members who may have been sitting too close to an antenna for too many years.

What we do care about is the overall well being of Amateur Radio at this turning point in its history, keeping in mind the potential challenges of BPL rules and the proposed restructuring in view of the no-code movement. We also care about the long and admirable history of ECARS and the work it does on the Amateur Bands. ECARS has been one of the benchmarks of Amateur Radio for decades, and it has been tuned in countless times when we are looking for a way to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public. I know of only one or two other nets that have had the uninterrupted dedication and passion of so many competent radio operators over so long a period. You should all be very proud of your net.

I would urge you to put the best interests of Amateur Radio ahead of your own personal interests in this most critical time. At every other turning point in its history, whether the prohibition of Spark Gap, WW II prohibitions on operating, or the development of SSB, Amateur Radio has thrived. You can help this happen again.

If anyone has objections to who was elected, or election methodology, or unauthorized meetings or whatever, Amateur Radio would best be served by your pursuit of this off the air. The way this dispute is presently being handled by those who object to the leadership is frankly, an embarrassment to the net operation and to the ECARS members. With web sites and email, there are no strictly internal disputes anymore in such organizations as yours. There is no reason why anyone with a dispute or objection to the net operation or leadership cannot be totally supportive of the Net and pursue their grievance at the same time. Keep it up the way you are handling it now and you are, as they say, going to "lose the whole farm battling over the outhouse."

*(Greetings continued from page 1)*

Our long time "Monitor" editor, N1VE (Mike) has returned along with our previous web master W2BLC (Bill). These gentlemen have been key contributors for years and we're thrilled to have them back!

One of our newer members WA2GRB (Paul) who owns a web page development company in NYC is working along with Bill as co-web master. Already we're seeing the benefits of this new web team. For the first time ever the "Monitor" will be available via the ECARS web page, which by the way is now owned by ECARS, Inc. I've donated the contents of my personal web site that for years promoted ECARS and ham radio, so there will now be an

unbiased web page for ECARS. Our organization's face to those amateur operators who use the Internet will be one that reflects the highest standards of ethics and will be a place of technical information that creates good will for ham radio. The contents and the ownership of the domain/URL [www.ecars7255.com](http://www.ecars7255.com), was transferred to ECARS, Inc., this Feb. With all the happenings in Arlington County Government since 9/11, I've had less and less time to devote to the web page and updates to the membership section were taking a bit longer than I liked. We think this arrangement will provide the best service to the membership.

It's been too long since we had a soft voice in the ECARS administration and I'm pleased to announce that N3YL (Mary) has accepted an appointment as the ECARS Public Relations Manager. Be sure to keep Mary in the loop with any opportunities for ECARS to get in the news or to participate in amateur radio related events.

Another long time supporter to ECARS and past VP who spent most of his tenure as President of ECARS a few years back is K3VW (Willy). He'll be your new host for SWAP and SHOP. Be sure to tune into Willy's one-hour sessions beginning at 11:00 AM on Wednesdays. Wrapping up the appointments is a great crew of Radio Bull Dogs, the guys that are crafting the necessary constitutional and by-law changes that we hope to have ready for your votes later this year. They are:

N1SAX (George)

K2IB (Bob)


W3EOP (Bob)

WB3FIE (UJ)

We're going to publish the descriptions of the proposed changes on the web site so folks can get familiar with the logic behind the recommended changes and we're going to have the language certified by legal gurus who specialize in constitutional language for non-profit organizations such as ours. These lawyers come highly recommended by our friend at the FCC, Riley Hollingsworth!

Last but not least, our new Net Manager WY3T (Joe). You all have known Joe for a long time. He's one of the solid voices of ECARS. He's done a super job keeping the net running during these challenging transitions and through all the QRM, etc.

So this is your 2004 ECARS administration. Please give them and the NCS your fullest cooperation and support.

To those that have moved on and whose appointments have expired we wish you well! 

*Editor's note:*

*Double congratulations to WA3GIN for his recent election to the ECARS Executive Committee and for being selected by Computerworld for it's 2004 Premier 100 IT Leadership Award. David is Chief Information Security*

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(Editor's note continued from page 2)

Officer for the Arlington County Government in Virginia, and according to the article, "Managing Security Risk" in Computerworld, <www.computerworld.com>, by Dan Ver-ton, "David has had to deal with the ballooning security needs of federal intelligence agencies, the Pentagon, Reagan Washington National Airport and 3,500 county employees." We are fortunate to have Dave helping ECARS move ahead into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by providing us with the benefits of his high tech training and skills.



The year 2003 was a year of big expenditures for ECARS. We spent \$706 more than we took in from all sources. The purchase of a computer and printer plus printing costs for the Monitor were the major items of expense. The election issue of the Monitor alone cost about \$1500. We also had to replenish our supply of lapel pins and decals; these represented a cost of approximately \$1450. In addition, this year we had a new web page expense.

Year 2004 will not have such large expenses and I expect our financial condition to improve. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact me for a detailed explanation of any income/expense item.

Happy New Year to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Stampf, ECARS Secretary/Treasurer  
n2cj@arri.net

**Account Balances Report**

As of 12/31/2003

**ASSETS**

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	6,648.68
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	6,648.68
Investments	
CD	5,592.90
TOTAL Investments	5,592.90
TOTAL ASSETS	12,241.58
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
	0.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>12,241.58</b>

**Cash Flow**

1/1/2003 Through 12/31/2003

**INFLOWS**

Uncategorized	62.10
DECAL	10.10
DINNER - ANNUAL MEETING	1,760.00
DONATION	10.00
Dues - New	2,797.60
Dues - Renewal	3,216.50
Dues PayPal	592.61
ECARS Pin	135.90
Misc Income	9.42
Monitor Refund	338.36
TOTAL INFLOWS	8,932.59

**OUTFLOWS**

Annual Meeting	1,685.38
Bank Fee	2.00
Corporation Fees	370.00
Misc. Expense	222.66
Office	274.85
Office Eqpt	1,940.03
Office Supplies	906.37
Post Office Box Rental	24.00
Postage	204.55
Postage and Delivery	115.93
Printing	1,600.00
Printing and Reproduction	743.38
Reimbursement - Misc	285.59
Supplies, Bus	745.00
Web Page	519.00
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>9,638.74</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-706.15</b>

**ECARS Annual Meeting Postponed**

In light of recent events within the ECARS organization, the Wildwood NJ ECARS meeting has been postponed. The current leadership has decided to postpone the meeting. We wish to offer our sincere apology to those who have already sent in money for the dinner or who have made reservations. With any luck we should be able to put together a business meeting for the organization sometime in the late summer or early Fall. The EC is looking to have the annual meeting further south, as was promised, a few years ago, by a previous EC. Sites like Washington DC, Williamsburg, VA are among those now under consideration. Guest speakers at the meeting will be K4ZDH - Riley Hollingsworth (everything you wanted to know about QRMers...), K2OX - John Eckert (transmission line theory with live demonstrations). Again we apologize for any inconvenience this change might have caused you.

Sincerely,

2004 ECARS Executive Committee

**The Only Official ECARS Website**




**www.ecars7255.com**

It is possible that some ECARS members are confused about the numerous web sites claiming to be the official ECARS web site. There is only one [www.ecars7255.com](http://www.ecars7255.com). Any other site claiming to be associated with ECARS, Inc. or appearing to be the ECARS site is bogus. Also, ECARS, Inc. does not currently send out mass emails to amateur radio operators or ECARS members. If you receive emails that use the ECARS logo, those emails are spam. Feel free to delete them and notify your Internet service provider that you do not want to receive spam from the source of those emails. The only path for official ECARS, Inc. information is the "Monitor" and "[www.ecars7255.com](http://www.ecars7255.com)." If you have any questions about ECARS information path or any other concerns involving the website, the Monitor, or announcements made on 7255 MHz during net time please feel free to contact any of the ECARS executive committee members or the Net Manager.

## The ECARS Website

by Paul WE2GRB, ECARS Assistant Web Master

There is only one official East Coast Amateur Radio Service website [www.ecars7255.com](http://www.ecars7255.com). If you haven't already done so, bookmark this address in your favorite browser now! Accept no substitutes. Our website is one of the two official communication paths that the ECARS Executive Committee uses to convey information to you; it is *the* pipeline to the heart of ECARS.

On the site you can obtain up-to-date information on ECARS events, membership news, the service by-laws and constitution. You also can review the operation manual and check out the NSC day by day schedules. If that isn't

enough the site also features an ECARS membership lookup search engine as well as a general call sign look up. You can also access weather and news info, Homeland Security, Google, and solar activity updates. Plus links to other ham sites including: the ARRL, eham.net, qrz.com, dealers and manufacturers; and a whole spectrum of other useful amateur radio sources.

Here's what's in the works: -electronic voting for ECARS annual elections, a reprise of weekly "Swap 'n' Shop" on the air action, an electronic pipeline to submit queries to the on the air tech info exchange, "Radio Talk" ... more info on this to come.

Last but not least, you can now obtain an electronic edition (in PDF format) of the current Monitor.

There's a lot of great stuff to discover and take advantage of on the ECARS website. Remember to bookmark the URL and check in for updates and new features this coming year.

## ECARS 2004 Executive Committee Election Results

Below are the results of the ECARS Executive Committee election. Shortly after the election Tom W2LKS, and Art K2TRK resigned. Congratulations to Dave WA3GIN and Charlie N2CJ.

**Valid ballots cast: = 394**

Invalid: =5

Email: = 1

Returned via US Mail: = 11

**President:**

W2LKS - 210

WY3T - 178

**Vice President:**

AA2T - 75

K3SEA - 144

WA3GIN - 173

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

N2CJ - 1 - Unopposed

**Director:**

K2TRK - 211

KA3UMB - 178

### 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 'Y'es please enter your ECARS number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Check if OK to publish ( )

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

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

## Meet ECARS Members

*We'd like to hear from all ECARS members. Tell us a bit about yourself and your station. When and why did you become interested in ham radio? What particular aspects of ham radio interests you? What are your other hobbies and interests? How about a photo of you and your shack or your mobile station? Please submit your articles to the editor of the Monitor.*

### John Eckert, K2OX, Bridgeport, NY

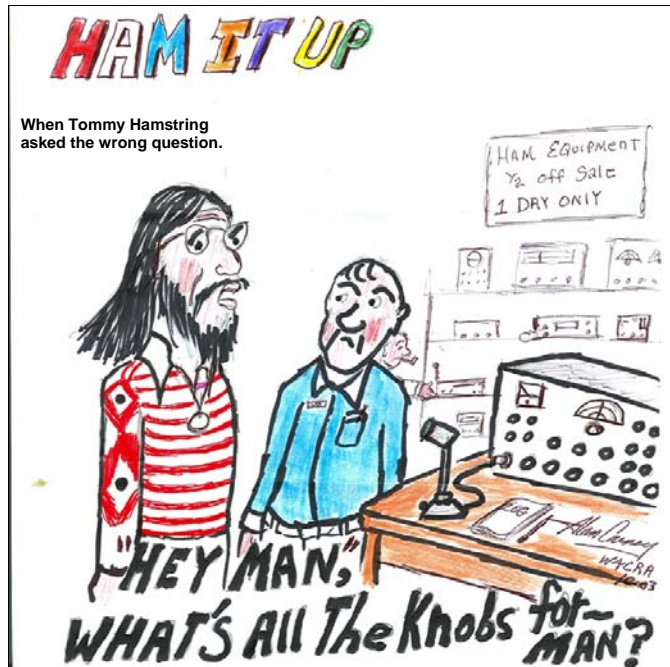
John was first licensed with the call, WN8HNR in 1970 as a Novice. He became interested in electronics when he was a cub scout and built a crystal broadcast receiver. The tuning inductor was hand wound on a toilet paper tube. His first ham station consisted of a homebrew sweep tube transmitter and a Hammerlund HQ-110 receiver. John had a great time as member of the Detroit Area Radio Ham Club, which gave him the opportunity to visit several club members' shacks. After completing his studies in electrical engineering he made the trip to the FCC Office and passed his Advanced Class License. In 1980 John relocated in the Syracuse area. John upgraded in 2002 to Extra Class and became K2OX. John is married to Terry and they have a 12-year-old son, Jeff. Oh yeah, two cats, Espi and Umbri. Professionally, John provides consulting services for the design and measurement of RF and Microwave technologies. He loves home brewing – antennas, amplifiers, and beer ([www.exothink.com](http://www.exothink.com)). His interests also include programming microcontrollers, PC's, and lately DSP chips.

### Tim Bowen, K3DPT, Annapolis, MD

Tim was licensed in 1958 as KN3DPT at the tender age of twelve. He upgraded to General Class Operator in 1959, Advanced in the 70's and then Extra in 1992. Tim retired after 23 years in law enforcement and has been married to Sally for 30 years. He is a licensed instrument certified pilot and also a certified scuba diver. Sally and Tim race sailboats on the Chesapeake Bay and have won multiple championships in different classes.

Tim helped form ECARS in 1968/69 and has enjoyed the net from the beginning. He is an avid Dxer, having 333 countries confirmed. His current station consists of an FT1000D, Collins 30-S1 linear, TS 690SAT, Heath SB200, Icom 706MK11G, and various accessories. His antennas are a Tri-ex 70 FT motorized crank-up tower with a three element 6, three element 17, and a Cushcraft X9 tribander. His forty-meter antenna is a dipole with a reflector beneath (NVIS) at around 30 feet.

Tim listens to the net almost every day and has watched it grow into one of the best regional nets in the country. Tim thanks all the officers and many operators who give so much to keep the net going.



## You Be the Judge

by Alan Carney, W4CRA, Knoxville, TN

All the fancy whistles and bells, knobs, and what-have-yous on the new lightweight, throwaway radios that are jammed with ICs can't hold a candle to the brightly lit tube sets of the past, with their heavy power transformers and hefty metal cabinets. Now we have plastic cabinets and integrated touch-me-not fragile, bound for the mound of "The Junk Box Blues". Just one touch of the finger on a fragile component and it may be the last of a blast from the speaker.

Sure, high tech radios have their advantages when compared to the tube sets, but they have their downside too. If you put solder on the small circuits of today, it had better be right on the first touch of the iron. Crossing and causing a short circuit is certain disaster and your money will be up in smoke.

I guess that we can all agree on at least one point. Our technology generally makes things more convenient for us and as things get smaller we will all need to start wearing magnifying glasses.

## Symbol Added to Morse Code

According to the Associated Press, the International Telecommunications Association has added a new character called the "comat", which represents the symbol @ (the letters "A" and "C" together). This is the first time in decades that a character has been added to Morse Code.

## Proposed Changes in ECARS Constitution

### Background

For some time now there has been a need to update the ECARS constitution and by-laws. The organization is one of the older groups established on 40 meters and its constitution and by-laws were written several decades ago. Times have changed and the organization would benefit by updating them. The following are some of the planned changes:

### **PURPOSE OF REQUEST: ELECTRONIC VOTING**

To authorize electronic ballot distribution and voting via the Internet.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM BEING RESOLVED:**

Currently, changes to the ECARS constitution and amendments require a paper vote which typically can only occur once a year and therefore must be bundled with the Executive Committee election process documents in the last issue of the ECARS "Monitor." This paper bound process requires mailing the ballots, which is becoming increasingly expensive. In addition, each year ballots are lost in the mailing process due to failures in the USPS delivery system, members whose mailing addresses have changed, as well as the paper documents being misplaced by members. Even if members request a second mailing, delays have prevented members from voting in the required timeframe.

### **DESCRIPTION OF BENEFITS:**

The size of the club has increased significantly and the above problems grow in size as the club membership grows.

Today more than half of the ECARS members receive their ECARS "Monitor" electronically, via the Internet. This Internet distribution method is free, efficient, and delivery can be easily verified.

To ensure that every member has an opportunity to vote in a timely manner, take advantage of available technology (the Internet), significantly reduce operating costs, and enable better administration of the membership voting process thereby reducing the work load on the elected office of the treasurer of ECARS, it is proposed to amend the language in both Article IV, section G and Article V to authorize electronic voting as an optional alternative to paper ballots. This would provide benefits to the organization with no down side.

### **DESCRIPTION OF KNOWN DETRIMENTS:**

None

### **PURPOSE OF REQUEST: TERM LIMITS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT**

To authorize consecutive limits on the office of president and vice-president to encourage increased participation of the membership in the executive committee and to bolster new and fresh ideas in these important leadership positions.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM BEING RESOLVED:**

For an amateur radio club, ECARS is a relatively large organization. However, the leadership of the organization has been left to a relatively small percentage of the members

who are repeatedly for the same offices. Limits on the individuals running for the office of president and vice-president will stimulate a more active participation from the members of ECARS.

### **DESCRIPTION OF BENEFITS:**

It is hoped that this change will lead to fresh ideas at the highest levels of the organization. The change should increase the vitality and interest in the organization and limit the potential for "cliques" developing.

### **DESCRIPTION OF KNOWN DETRIMENTS:**

None

### **PURPOSE OF REQUEST: APPOINTED OFFICE OF ECARS WEB MASTER**

To authorize the ECARS president to appoint a web master(s) from the ranks of the ECARS membership or hire a person(s) to maintain the ECARS WEB page in the event that a member with the appropriate skill set is not available. This position, as all presidential appointments will expire annually on January 15th. However, the newly elected president may re-appoint the previously selected web master if he so chooses.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM BEING RESOLVED:**

Over the past several years, individual members of ECARS have contributed their time and skills to maintain personal web pages for the benefit of ECARS. These sites have, for the most part, been beneficial to the organization. Unfortunately, occasionally conflicts of interest and health issues have occurred which have caused these personal web pages to become unavailable to the membership. This year WA3GIN donated ownership of his personal web page content and the URL [www.ecars7255.com](http://www.ecars7255.com) to ECARS, Inc. ECARS now owns it's web pages and URL/domain name. This ownership enables ECARS president to address any issues as described above by empowering him to select webmasters as needed to maintain the site.

### **DESCRIPTION OF KNOWN DETRIMENTS:**

None

### **PURPOSE OF REQUEST: PREVENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUAL OFFICE HOLDERS**

To restrict an executive committee officer who currently holds a director position, whose duration of office has a second year remaining, from running for an office in the upcoming year.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM BEING RESOLVED:**

The example which best describes the benefit of this change is where a director of ECARS wishes to run for another office such as ECARS president, vice president, or treasurer while the director still has one year remaining on his elected term. If said director were to win the new position, the constitution does not provide fair and equitable direction as to how the vacancy to the director's position should be filled. The potential exists for this same officer, to vote for his replacement to the vacancy created by his newly elected position (see article III: OFFICERS) and in effect

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*(Proposed Changes continued from page 6)*

negate the election process, i.e. members would not have the opportunity to vote to fill the vacancy. The executive committee, including the newly elected individual, would nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy. By establishing a guideline within the constitution, which would require the director to first resign from his current office prior to accepting a nomination for a new office, the conflict of interest is removed and the membership would then be enabled to vote for the vacated directors position.

**DESCRIPTION OF KNOWN DETRIMENTS:**

None

**PURPOSE OF REQUEST: CLARIFICATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

By-laws guidelines are necessary to eliminate confusion and ensure that consistent nominating committee directions are followed from year to year.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM BEING RESOLVED:**

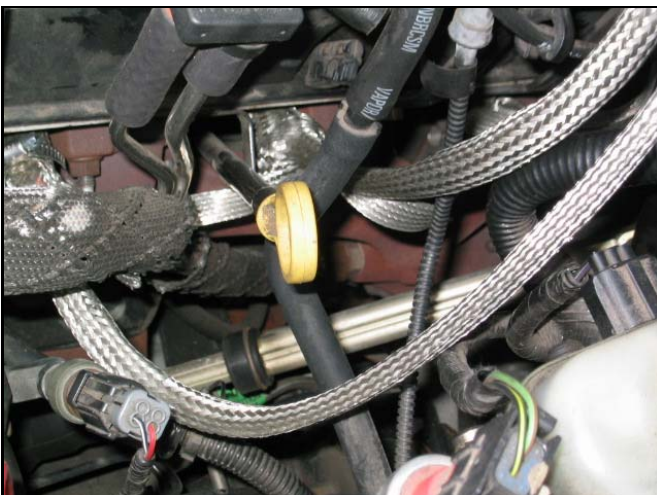
Over the years various directions have been given to the appointed nominating committee members. At times these directions have created confusion, conflicts of interest, and ill will. By having straightforward guidelines for the nomination committee to follow, issues such as those described should be eliminated and the process should become consistent from year to year, regardless of which members participate in the nomination committee for a given year.

**DESCRIPTION OF KNOWN DETRIMENTS:**

None

## Don't Replace Those Plug Wires

Dave WA3GIN slid his spark plug wires through one inch steel braid to remove ignition noise from his mobile HF transceiver. Notice the stainless steel hose clamp, securing the end of the braid to the spark plug. Bill says, "That is how airplane engines are handled. By the way, aviation radio is AM, speaking of noise".



## Hooked On "Phonetics"

by Allen Lee, WB7SWW, Dunkirk NY

Not long after voice operation on radio became a popular form of communications, it became obvious that something needed to be done to help clarify what was being said when sending alpha characters or spelling words. Several systems were developed and in 1950s the NATO system was developed and now is used worldwide. Recently even the police forces in the US have changed from their "Adam, Baker, Charlie..." system to the NATO system.

I think we should all come back to this system as a "standard" and stay away from the often-heard variants that crop up on the amateur bands. The system was developed so that all stations that needed clarification of a word, call sign or spelling of any sort knew what to expect, and could easily distinguish these words for the letters associated with them. As a standard phonetic set that everyone knew, even poor communication conditions still allowed for the receiving station to have confidence in what he/she was hearing.

What I have noticed recently is, whenever a station starts using "non standard" phonetics in a spelling or pronunciation of a word or call sign, confusion sets in. This delays delivery of a message, thought, idea or call sign. It then takes more time than it would/should if the stations were using the standard phonetics.

These are not difficult to learn or use and surely marks you as a skilled amateur radio operator.

The following are the currently accepted Phonetic Alphabet:

### 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

### ECARS Swap and Shop Net

Don't forget to tune to 7.255 MHz on Wednesday mornings from 11:00 to noon for the ECARS Swap and Shop Net.

## Instant Messaging and Ham Radio

### They Work Great Together

There is no doubt that the Internet has changed the way we communicate. For many of us, e-mail has virtually replaced traditional letters and even telephone calls as the choice for correspondence. Every day, billions of e-mail messages are sent out, even though 50% are probably SPAM, haha. E-mail has been the most rapidly adopted form of communication ever known. In less than two decades, it has gone from obscurity to mainstream dominance.

In the wacky world of ham radio, sometimes even the rapid response of e-mail is not fast enough. You have no way of knowing if the person you are sending e-mail to is online at that particular moment or not. Also, if you are sending multiple e-mails back and forth with the same person, you normally have to click through a few steps to read, reply and send the e-mail. This is why instant messaging (IM) has gained popularity. America Online's Instant Messenger (AIM) program is one of the most popular instant messaging utilities available

Instant messaging allows you to maintain a list of people that you wish to interact with. You can send messages to any of the people in your list, often called a buddy list or contact list, as long as that person is online. Sending a message opens up a small window where you and your friend can type in messages that both of you can see. It's a lot like RTTY on VOX, only faster and there is no noise or paper tapes.

Most of the popular instant-messaging programs provide a variety of features:

- \* Instant messages - Send notes back and forth with a friend who is online
- \* Chat - Create your own custom chat room with friends or co-workers
- \* Web links - Share links to your favorite web sites
- \* Images - Look at an image stored on your friend's computer
- \* Sounds - Play sounds for your friends
- \* Files - Share files by sending them directly to your friends
- \* Talk - Use the Internet instead of a phone to actually talk with friends
- \* Streaming content - Real-time or near-real-time stock quotes and news

Major online services, such as America Online (AOL), Netscape, and Yahoo, were the main way that ordinary people could connect and communicate with each other online. Think of an online service as a very sophisticated bulletin

board. Whereas most small bulletin boards use standard communications software, online services provide a complete application that includes the communications software necessary to connect to their service.

Probably one of the biggest attractions of the online service model is the community that it builds. AOL is considered the pioneer of the online community. AOL provides its users with the ability to talk in real-time with each other while they are online through the use of chat rooms and instant messages. It's really a blast when you get a group of ECARS members in an IM chat room...the kidding and joking starts and it's a laugh a minute.

A chat room is software that allows a group of people to type in messages that are seen by everyone in the "room," while instant messages are basically a chat room for just two people. Chat rooms are great for testing audio. Imagine that you have several of your ham radio buddies giving you comments about how your audio sounds, while in the chat room, listening to you talking on SSB and making adjustments to your transmit audio equalizer. IM also works for antenna comparisons or transmit power measurements. It's like having four or five remote "S" meters to check your signal strength, all giving you instant simultaneous feedback. As you make adjustments or switch antennas you get valuable feedback from those that are listening. It's great! Also, when you are running the net having IM up and running allows other members to send you messages regarding missed stations, weak mobiles, doubling or friendly reminders that the NCS is rag chewing too much, haha. I think it would be great if all NCS had Internet IM capable stations. So, give it try...you might really enjoy IM!

Here's a link for more information on IM and free software to get you started: "<http://wp.netscape.com/aim/index.html>".

## 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.



## ECARS New Appointments

### Vice President

#### John Zorger WA1STU, Gainesville, VA

I was originally licensed in 1964 and have been fairly active in ham radio for 40 years. I have been an ECARS member for about 15 years. I work full time as a satellite engineer at the U.S. International Broadcasting Bureau, (aka The Voice of America). I Am president of the K3VOA Amateur Radio Club, and I'm on the board of directors of the Ole Virginia Hams ARC, in Manassas, Virginia. I'm also a member of the ARRL. My favorite band is 40 meters and I enjoy passing traffic and being involved in nets.

### Director

#### Robert Reed, W4RKR, Gladstone, VA

I was first licensed in 1976, but had to put ham radio on the back burner because of work. My first call sign was WD4NES. I spent a lot of time with Air Force Mars and chasing paper. I worked in construction for 15 years and then in law enforcement for 20 years. My wife and I have been married for 46 years. We like to camp, hunt, and fish. I got back into ham radio in 1999 and have been having fun ever since. I've been a member of ECARS for three years and have lots of fun with it. There are many good guys and gals to chat with out there. I will work with all the members at anytime that I can. All of my best to those who make the net go. After all, it is your net.

### Director

#### Joe Blithe, WB3GVD, Claymont, DE

I hold an Advanced Class ticket and I have been a Ham for 27 years. I have been a member of ECARS for four years and my ECARS number is 3688. I retired as a machinist after 35 years from Scott Paper Company in Chester, Pennsylvania. I am married and we have four kids and three grand kids...and another one on the way. I am presently enjoying the good life and doing what I didn't have time to do while I was working. When I have time I fly r/c model aircraft and work on computers.

#### Joseph S. Reppert WY3T Net Manager

Hello ECARS. I live in Eastern Pennsylvania near the town of Lenhartsville. I will be serving ECARS as Net Manager for the remainder of this year. I have previously served as an area coordinator under several administrations. I also served as an NCS during the 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM hour. I have been an amateur radio operator since 1989. ECARS is where I spend most of my time these days. Though I have been involved in different aspects of the hobby, which have been a lot of fun. I have always taken the hobby seriously. There are those who say amateur radio is only a hobby and not to be taken seriously, but I am a

firm believer in doing things well and to the best of my ability. To accomplish this you need the following characteristics, sincerity, honesty, and perseverance. These are the qualities that I will exhibit throughout the year.

### Public Relations Manager

#### Mary Popella N3YL, Tidioute, PA

My interest in amateur radio began in the late 60's or early 70's when my husband Bob, N3OO (ex-WA3CXW) showed me what a magical experience it is. I was first licensed in October 1976 as WB3DUE and it wasn't long before our two sons became active in the hobby also. They very quickly upgrading to Extra Class. I decided I was past "DUE" and upgraded as well to Extra Class in 1982 and received my new call, which was KR3L. I had that call until 1998 when I applied for N3YL.

For over twenty years, we operated strictly CW and in both years that I entered the YL-OM CW contest (1984 and 2001), I took first place worldwide and had a ball doing it. It's a three-day challenge with a lot of hard work but worth every minute of it. For us, ham radio truly is a family affair. We've seen a lot of changes take place over the years, some good and some not so good.

My interests now have taken a change of pace when about three years ago Bob challenged me to try to break a DX pile-up on sideband. I was successful and quickly bitten by the 'DX bug'. My time nowadays is spent between ECARS, the Nighthawks, and that ever-elusive DX opportunity along with HF mobile operation (both SSB and CW). I've also helped Bob construct, install, and debug many an antennas over the years. Now if I could just get that 10-element log periodic I've always wanted...

Bob and I live in Tidioute, PA (easy for me to say !!) located in the Allegheny National Forest. I've been employed as a buyer for Chicago Bridge and Iron Company in Warren, PA for over 14 years and previously worked for Ingersoll-Rand Company for over 16 years.

I feel strongly that many more YL's are needed and would be welcomed in this fine hobby, and any chance I have to encourage that; I certainly will try to do so. Going forward as the newly appointed public relations director for ECARS, I'm delighted to be working with all of you, and who knows, we might just be able to pick up a few more YL's.

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## From the Editor

As you might have noticed this issue of the Monitor is way overdue. The reason is because of the turmoil within the past executive committee. The resignations and new appointments necessitated the removal of articles that were no longer apropos and the inclusion of articles and information relating to the changes in the administration, the previously scheduled annual meeting, and the general operation of the net. *Mike Stone, N1VE, Monitor Editor*

First Class Mail

ECARS Monitor  
PO Box 49  
Verbank, NY 12585

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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 per pin. Send your payment to: ECARS, PO Box 49, Verbank, NY 12585.

#### The 2000 ECARS Executive Committee

**President**

David Jordan, WA3GIN  
5262 Bessley Place  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
email: wa3gin@erols.com

**Vice President**

John Zorger, WA1STU  
5711 Artemus Rd.  
Gainesville, VA 20155-1542  
email: zycom@starband.net

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Charles Stampf, N2CJ  
11646 Wayside Willow Court  
Hudson, FL 34667  
email: n2cj@arrl.net

**Director:** Robert Reed, W4RKR,  
email: rreed@centralva.net  
**Director:** Joseph Blithe, WB3GVD  
email: jblithe@comcast.net

**Net Manager**

Joseph S. Reppert WY3T,  
email: jsbrat@early.com

---

**Webmaster:** Bill Clark, W2BLC  
Email: webmaster@w2blc.com

**Public Relations Manager:** Mary Popella, N3YL  
Email: n3yln3oo@verizon.net

**Editors:** Mike Stone, N1VE, Peggy Burns, K1VE  
32 Carriage Road,  
Gilford, NH 03246  
email: n1ve@amsat.org

**Publisher:** Jules Deschenes, W1GDE  
406 Darby Drive, Briarcrest Estates  
Laconia, NH 03246  
email: w1gde@cnharc.org