



THE MONITOR



ECARS Web Page www.qsl.net/ecars

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

Greetings from ECARS President

Well it's Spring in New Hampshire. Or it was a couple of days ago. Now it's 41 degrees and raining. Tomorrow the temperature is supposed to be 70 degrees. That's typical Spring weather here in New Hampshire; one day winter coats, and the next day tee shirts.

One of the first signs of Spring is the ECARS Get Together in Ocean City, MD. Richard WB3FWL, our net manger did a great job putting it all together. And from the reports I have received, a great time was had by all. Thanks Richard.

We've had a lot of mobiles on the net, as they were returning from their winter homes. It's nice to be able to help out travelers and keep them company on their long trips. Speaking of traveling. Lon N1MO, has taken up traveling as a profession. I got an email from him saying he was going to train as a truck driver, so he won't be on in the morning as he normally is. I guess I must have been a bad influence on him. I hope he does well and gets a rig in his truck soon.

The band has been going from good to bad and back lately, and I want to thank all the people who help out by relaying when the net controls are having difficulty hearing some of the signals. Thanks to all of you for being there. I thought the band was supposed to get really good at the top of the cycle? Maybe by now it's on the down swing.

Thanks to all of you for making this a great place to meet. Keep up the good work and have fun. 73 Ike

ECARS Holding Power

By Hal Curry, WA1YLN, South Kingstown, RI

On the way back from the ECARS gathering in Ocean City, MD, my XYL, WA1YLO (ECARS 1550), asked how long I've been a member. Luckily I had it jotted down on a pad that I keep in the vehicle; the year was 1983. That was the year my son (WA1YLP) started graduate school at Boston College. We needed a good place to meet because our signals weren't exceptional, and we have been members ever since. Shaun now lives in town, but we still use ECARS as a check-in spot when Char and I take off in the travel trailer.

Char commented that I have never stayed with any other organization for as long. I thought about it and decided she was right. Seventeen years is a long time. I wondered how many members in the one area have an ECARS number lower than 1309. The Monday following the Ocean City gathering was cloudy and chilly day, so I had time to check. I found that there were 135 members from the one area, 25 (19+%) had membership numbers below 1309, and six had numbers less than 1100. They are: Phil W1DKS #1005, Don K1IZS #1006, John W1JCC #1011, Jim KA1KJ #1051, Tom WA1PWZ #1052, and AL WB1GKO #1079.

I gathered the information from the ECARS web page on April 17th. I did the count quickly and may have made errors, so I apologize to anyone whom I may have overlooked. I based the length of membership on the fact that ECARS numbers are not reissued.

Monitor by Email

Several ECARS members have asked to have their Monitor sent to them via email. If you would like to receive the Monitor at least two weeks before the paper version, contact ECARS secretary, Charles Stampf, N2CJ, Bloomer Rd., LaGrangeville NY 12540, email: n2cj@arrl.net. You will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader to read the PDF file. The free program is available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

ECARS Swap and Shop Net

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

ECARS Service - 7.255 KHz - for Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

W2ZZJ Urges the use of the Phonetic Alphabet

George P. Sadlon, past vice president and currently one of the directors of ECARS, has been an advocate of the use of phonetics on our nets. George who has been one of our net controllers for over twenty years, indicates that phonetics promote efficiency and minimize confusion. This is particularly true when band conditions are poor or signals are weak. Virtually all other ECARS net controllers hold a similar view.

So come on gang, let's all become familiar with the International Telecommunication Union Phonetic Alphabet and make use of it on ECARS.

Standard ITU Phonetics

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

Roll Call

Don't forget to tune to 7.255 MHz at 11:00 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.

Special Event News Release for July, 2000

Stratford, New York The Fulton County Dr. Mahlon Loomis Committee will operate W2ZZJ on July 23rd to commemorate the 174th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Loomis, the American radio pioneer, who was born at Oppenheim, New York on July 21, 1826. Operation will be from 1300-2000 UTC on the General Class phone portion of 75, 40, and 20-meters, and on the Novice 10-meter phone band. Also, on area 2-meter FM repeaters. For a certificate and extensive literature, send a QSL, with your contact # and a #10 SASE for \$.55 to George P. Sadlon, W2ZZJ, 5738 STHWY 29A, Stratford, NY 13407.

Visit the Dr. Mahlon Loomis website at:

<http://members.xoom.com/mahlon>

<http://freeyellow.com/members8/w2zzj/index.html>

Telephone: 315-428-9976

From Your Editor

Advertise in the Monitor

After discussion, members of the Executive Committee decided to supplement ECARS operating costs, which are primarily the publication and distribution of the Monitor, by running advertisements in the Monitor. We can run a business card size advertisement for \$15 per issue or \$45 per year. The ad can be for any business, whether or not it pertains to amateur radio.

The Monitor has a wide area of distribution and the large number of readers (about 500 copies are sent out per issue). There should be several businesses within our distribution area that could benefit from advertising in the Monitor.

We are asking ECARS members to give us a hand by securing advertisements for the monitor. Send me business cards or the particulars about businesses that would like to place an ad in the Monitor and I'll do the rest. Charlie Stampf N2CJ, ECARS Secretary will take care of billing.

Photographs in the Monitor

Several ECARS members have asked me about including photographs in the Monitor. I checked with the printer and he says that it can be done. Grays and tones require the use a special process to create a halftone image before it can be printed. The best way for him to deal with photographs is if I give him a black and white photo, but color is okay. He doesn't like computer generated photos, because the image that he must create for the offset plate will not have good quality. However, if all you have is something from a digital camera, I'll see what we can do. If you would like your photographs returned, send me a SASE. Black and white line drawings and sketches are fine. I can scan them and put them directly into the master copy.

Much Appreciated

Thanks for all of those who contributed to help make a successful June issue of the Monitor. Your efforts are very much appreciated by me and especially by all of the ECARS members who will benefit from your help. The following people contributed in this issue.

Peggy Burns, K1VE

Alan Carney, W4CRA

Hal Curry, WA1YLN

Jules Deschenes, W1GDE

Dave Jordan, WA3GIN

Ike Meredith, K1VBD

James Prentice, WA2MZF

Jerry Roguish, AA2T

Joe Sherman, K2PSI

George P. Sadlon, W2ZZJ

James Sipprell, K2HYQ

Charlie Stampf, N2CJ

Mike Stone, N1VE - Monitor Editor

The Gift of Gab

by James Sipprell K2HYQ, White Pine, TN

If you've never had the chance to work from a DX location, I'd strongly recommend it. Uncle Sam gave me my first opportunity as KG6AAY (Guam NCS) in 1958. Trying to work 20-meter phone through a jumbled up mass of voices with different accents, pitches, and amplitudes, was way beyond the scope of normal operating procedures. Net Control of ECARS is a piece of cake by comparison. There are however some similarities:

- Both take patience and determination.
- Both need a keen sense of hearing.
- Both require an occasional "relay".
- Both force one to put rag chewing on the back burner!

This last bit was not easy for a fella who at the age of 15 was told by his school teacher(s) that he was vaccinated with a Victoria needle! However, thanks to the Navy, and with my mother's encouragement, my Dad (W4OBY, X-K2ILL) got his ticket and we "hooked up" on a regular basis. We're still meeting, along with my SWL brother, on a weekly sked, every Sunday on 20-meters. The skip from here in E. Tenn. to SE Florida is just right. At 92 years young, Dad is both on the air and on-line. He alone represents our family in QCWA. Call it "seniority".

When the Ball Dropped

Jerry Rogich AA2T, Leominster, MA

I was sitting in a cold converted NJ Transit bus that was the command center for our local EMA. The bus was parked at the hospital with local uhf/vhf radios for backup to the hospital's system. Also on board were Ham 2-meters and HF (Icom 706MkIIG with a Texas Bug Catcher antenna). The bug catcher was tuned to 80-meter Massachusetts EMA frequencies as well as ECARS. I was surprised to get good reports on the bug catcher, while setting up that day. I did get some pizza and hot coffee from inside occasionally. Basically the medical communication system of repeaters are all wire line connected, and there was some concern about the phone system staying up through the night.

Missing Monitors

If any ECARS members do not get the Monitor, please contact ECARS Secretary Charlie Stampf N2CJ for a copy. Also, new ECARS members must obtain their copies from the Charlie.

Ann Hoffman

by James Sipprell K2HYQ, White Pine, TN

The news of Ann Hoffman's passing was very sad indeed. She was such a delight to work with, both on and off the air. For those of us who worked with her at Hamfests, all came away with slice of her enthusiasm for ECARS. Ann shared her life with us including some good natured ribbing about her 'Dog Ranch' and how hard her OM worked to keep it clean. She had a way of making everyone feel important and a valued member of this organized group of un-organized characters. Surely our 88's go with her. 73 Ann

Phil Morrissey K2HQ – SK

This obituary appeared on the ECARS web page

Our friend, Phil Morrissey, was first licensed in 1959. In the following years he finished college and obtained his First Class Commercial License. His next stop was at Navy Mars (NAVMARS). He was a net control operator (NECOS), using the call NNN0PDU that was later changed to NNN0HXC. Just before Desert Shield he became a Radio Teletype Officer for Northern New York Region NAVMARS, using the call NNN0GBJ-10.

In 1980 Phil became interested in Packet Radio and computers for use in the HAM shack. Within five years, he and others built and installed a Back-Boned Packet Node (NEDA), complete with BBS and DOS-GATE System. Connections were via the call sign SCARA. In 1992 he achieved his Extra Class License.

That same year a fellow ham and he decided to build a 2-meter repeater system. After much heartache and work, the repeater was up and working on 146.745/146.145 using the call AA2KH.

Phil was also an accredited Volunteer Examiner, (VE) for ARRL and W5YI.

His son James followed in his father's footsteps. Jim, AA2OC, achieved his Extra Class license at the age of 16. As most on ECARS know, in addition to serving as ECARS NCS for many years, Phil has also served as the ECARS Webmaster from the site's start, right up until his death. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Phil's widow Adele, (W2DEL, formerly KB2STJ), his children, and to the entire family. We miss you Phil.

ECARS Swap and Shop

by Dave Jordan, WA3GIN Alexandria, VA

The ECARS SWAP and SHOP on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00, is the premier daytime trader net for the mid-Atlantic region. Like the regular ECARS activities on 7.255 MHz the swap and shop session is a directed net. We've taken some of what we liked, the best, from the many traders nets that are active around the country and incorporated those ideas, along with some of our own original thoughts to create a unique ECARS Swap and Shop net.

For example: The net control (NC) repeats all the listings, which can make a big difference when propagation is poor (as it has been this year).

The NC takes a short list, in groups of five stations, rather than using an alpha or numeric check-in process, which takes a long time to complete and even longer to go down through the list.

The NC regularly checks for and gives priority to mobile/QRP stations wishing to list for sale or wanted items.

Always check in with your complete call sign.

The Swap and Shop trader net is a radio trader net, no computer stuff please, but antennas, tuners, radio accessories, linears, boat anchors, radios of any vintage (solid state, vacuum state) any manufacturer are acceptable listings.

No third party for sale listings are accepted but 3rd party wants are allowed.

The NC will open the net with a short reminder to both the sellers and prospective purchasers as to the best methods of transacting trading activities.

Listing a piece of equipment (For Sale) requires that the person describe the condition of the equipment, whether it comes with accessories, manuals, boxes, etc. Announce the price and whether the offer price includes shipping. It is also advisable to provide information about whether you are the original owner or other relevant history. In particular we recommend that three areas be noted when listing a For Sale item:

Cosmetic condition
Electronic condition
Electrical condition

When using numbers to indicate value of a piece, the higher end numbers such as 9.5 out of 10 are reserved for old new stock or pristine ratings in all three rating categories, or minimal use one owner, etc. Any radio with a blemish, dent, ding, scratch, missing part, flaky operation or failed feature, etc. cannot be rated a 9.5

A 10 rating is as close as one can get to a new piece of gear. We've never had a 10 listed on the net to my knowledge. Most listings are in the 7-8.5 range but typically those are listed as 9s. We regularly advice

everyone that the Swap and Shop net is a "BUYER BEWARE NET". This means as the buyer, you better do your homework or you might not be happy with your purchase when it arrives.

The first important part of the seller's job is to list the equipment with accurate ratings. The second important aspect is to package the equipment for shipping, so it will arrive in one piece. The big equipment should always be double boxed; anything weighing over 15 pounds, including tubes, radios, and boat anchors. Equipment with separate power supply should be boxed and shipped separately.

When discussing a purchase it's very important to agree on who will insure the equipment. I recommend that the seller be the insured. In that way if damage is done the purchaser is not stuck with damaged goods (not knowing what the original condition of the equipment might have been) and having to deal with the shipper to boot.

Similarly, when a person is listing a wanted item they should be very clear about their expectation of the value they are expecting to see in the piece. Describe the condition of the item you intend to purchase and the amount of money you are willing to offer to obtain that value.

Sending cash in the mail is usually a very high-risk transaction. Postal money orders are inexpensive and safe. Bank checks are equally good but cost significantly more to purchase at some banks. Usually, personal checks are used when the parties in the transaction have had past dealings or know each other. Don't be offended if on your first transaction, they insist on a Postal Money Order, it's standard operating procedure for many traders.

If you ever find that you've been cheated or swindled please inform the NC off net or via email, etc. The NC regularly interacts with many other trader net NCs and may be able to offer some assistance to you or at the very least prevent future occurrences by the perpetrator! To the best of my knowledge there have never been any problems on the ECARS Swap and Shop network.

Having fun on a trader net in the 21st century is all about Common Sense With The Volume Turned UP! Don't forget to tell your ham buddies about our trader net. The net will grow more interesting if we get fresh listings every week!

As always, ignore Radio Rage! DO NOT respond to QRM, comments from the peanut gallery, etc. The NC will take whatever necessary action is required to attempt to maintain the usefulness of the frequency.

Email From on the Road

by James Prentice WA2MZF, Livingston, TX

(The following article was sent to Charlie Stampf N2CJ via a PACTOR/Internet email.)

High frequency radio is what I use most often, because I find it to be very reliable. It is so reliable that we can use it to check our email twice a day. The system that we use was developed to help traveling people stay contact with their friends via email.

This system is called "Winlink", and the program, "Airmail" can be downloaded free of charge from the web. To access this free "Ham Only" email system, you will need an HF transceiver, a terminal node controller, (I suggest getting either the KamPlus with version 8 or later firmware or the new Kam98), an antenna, and a computer. The computer that I use in our 5th wheel is a mini-tower with a fourteen-inch monitor. Since I'm somewhat of a radio nut, I have duplicated the system in the pickup truck. However, in the truck I use a laptop computer, a TS50-S transceiver, a mobile antenna, and a TNC. I can, for instance, send and receive email from a Wal-Mart parking lot. The entire operation takes place without commercial power. Therefore, those who are out in the boon docks can get "connected" with only a 12-volt power source. This is a world-wide system used by boaters, RVers, and those without phone lines

There are a number of stations set up around the world that search for our signals and link us to them. This is all done, for the most part, automatically. You compose your messages off line and then establish the link. The program takes over and transfers any incoming messages to you and uploads any messages that you have created. You may only send and receive plain text; no files or pictures can be sent. This is similar to Juno, which is a text based email program.

Check my homepage at <http://www.qsl.net/wa2mzf/> for links dealing with software and antennas.

I hope that you find this information to be helpful. Contact me with any questions about this fantastic way in which to stay in touch while away from commercial power and phone lines.

Below is a sample message that could be included with your amateur radio/Internet email message.

NOTICE: Mail to the sender of this message is via a (slow) radio link. When you reply, please be brief and send only "plain text" - no attachments and no graphics. Please do not copy the sender's message text back to them.

Processed by Amateur Radio Station WB5KSD,
jonbrown@unicomp.net. using NetLink (c) 1996-99,
W5EUT, KN6KB

For more help - <http://www.win-net.org>

Compost and Ground Radials

by Joe Sherman, K2PSI, Pitman, NJ

The trick here is What does ham radio and gardening have to do with seventy-foot trees? The answer is wire antennas and lots of leaves. My 160-meter antenna is an inverted "L", 150 feet in total length. One hundred feet in the horizontal position, fifty feet in the vertical position, and supported by two big trees. As to the leaves, they are free, coming from the trees every Fall, and they make excellent compost for the garden. By the way, this antenna requires a radial ground system, which happens to fall right in the middle of the vegetable garden to bury the radials deep enough to clear the rototiller. Soil preparation is required for both the garden and the radials, so the tiller is used to break up the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Three passes are required to get down to 18 inches, which is the depth of the radials in the garden. A garden hoe is then used to open a trench for each of the 36 ground radials, which are spaced 10 degrees apart and range from 25 to 120 feet in length. Loose soil makes quick work of this task with the use of my 20-year-old son. A 10-foot copper ground pipe is located at the center of the radials and the radials are silver soldered to a copper ring around the ground pipe. Four wires are soldered from the ring to the pipe. Eighty feet of coax and a control cable are also buried from the shack to the center of the radials. A remote controlled antenna-tuning unit is used to match the antenna from 160 to 40 meters.

Now that the ground system is buried and the garden tilled, it is time for more leaves. Last fall a full truck load of leaf compost, along with the leaves that were raked from the yard were dumped in the garden, spread around, and tilled into the ground. They are gone. They disappeared after being eaten up by those microorganisms lurking in the soil, so this Spring the garden is ready for another truck load, which the Boro of Pitman delivers for free. This will be worked into the ground with the tiller along with some garden lime to sweeten things up a little. By uno de Mayo (May first) the soil will be black and the garden ready for planting.

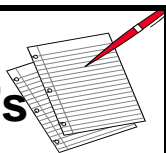
Along with the inverted "L", I have experimented with some verticals and inverted "V" antennas that were played against the radial ground system. Signal reports have been good. John, W2LKS says it must be the compost.

Missing

It has come to our attention that the ECARS banner is missing. Any one knowing the whereabouts of the banner, please contact ECARS Secretary/Treasurer Charles Stampf, N2CJ at 192 Bloomer Rd., LaGrangeville, NY 12540 or email: cestampf@worldnet.att.net.

ECARS Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Charlie Stampf, N2CJ



Greetings to fellow ECARS members. Unfortunately the first quarter of the year contained sad moments for ECARS and it's friends. Two of our most dedicated and devoted members became Silent Keys; our former Secretary/Treasurer, Ann Hoffman, KA2ACF, and our Web-Master, Phil Morrissey, K2HQ. We will miss them.

Our rolls increased to 454 paid members during the quarter. This reflects an increase of 37 new members to ECARS. Welcome to all. Now is the time for all new members to pitch in and help keep ECARS the best net on the air. How about becoming a Net Control Station? Why not write an interesting article for the Monitor? Tell us how you made that difficult mobile installation. Describe your new antenna and the fun you had installing it. Don't worry about your literary skills. Our Editor, Mike Stone NIVE, will adjust your submission and fit it into the Monitor format. It's easy, and you might actually enjoy the task.

In addition to the regular mailing, we plan to e-mail the Monitor to all members who have indicated a preference to receive it electronically and who have provided use with an e-mail address. Distribution by e-mail will save ECARS a substantial amount of money. That means we can avoid an increase in dues and accumulate funds for other ECARS activities. If you haven't provided me with your *current* address please send it to me at n2cj@arrl.net. I should note at this time, that those of you who currently use the free e-mail provided by JUNO will not be able to receive the Monitor, as JUNO does not allow attachments to e-mail. At some point in time, subsequent to the Monitor release date, it will be published on the web page. This will provide a convenient way for all to view and read our publication.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find the first of three important installments. They are our updated Constitution, By-Laws and Operating Manual. They were recently grammatically edited by Bill W3WJ, who took time from his busy schedule to clean up poorly constructed sentences and improper grammar. Bill is presently Director of News and Public Affairs at New Jersey Public Television. He was a reporter and editor at five newspapers, including the Washington Star. Bill was meticulously careful in his efforts to avoid changing the meaning and content of the original documents. Thanks Bill, for a great job.

Hope to hear you on 7.255 MHz.

East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

Account Balance
As of 3/31/00

ASSETS - Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking.....	8,428.22
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts.....	8,428.22
TOTAL ASSETS.....	8,428.22
LIABILITIES.....	0
OVERALL TOTAL.....	8,428.22

Cash Flow Report

1/1/00 Through 3/31/00

INFLOWS	
Dues - New.....	395.00
Dues - Renewal.....	493.00
ECARS Pins.....	12.35
TOTAL INFLOWS.....	900.35
OUTFLOWS	
Office Supplies.....	43.00
Postage.....	72.40
Printing.....	471.90
Reimbursement - Misc.....	232.57
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	819.87
OVERALL TOTAL.....	80.48

An evening with Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH

by Jerry Rogich, AA2T, Leominster, MA

At the ECARS dinner at the 2000 reunion in Ocean City, Maryland we had a very special and rewarding time with Riley Hollingsworth as guest speaker. I was especially pleased to be at the reunion for the first time, after joining ECARS in the early 70's, when K2PJG, K4BX, K3FEC and W1DKS were on the air daily, and when I was in high school. After getting back into the hobby, I was amazed to find ECARS still in operation and working just superbly! Meeting face to face with some of the members was extremely enjoyable, and showed me what a great hobby ham radio continues to be, due to the dedication of many people.

The first impression of Riley's talk was that he is a very dedicated ham, who also enjoys ECARS. I was expecting a mixture of both a governmental bureaucrat and bouncer, however we were all very pleasantly surprised. Riley is very soft-spoken and presents himself very professionally. His demeanor is very unlike his unofficial title of the "enforcer". Riley honestly does care very much about our hobby, as well as its public image.

Hollingsworth continued on next page

Hollingsworth from page 6

On the enforcement front, Riley told us that his focus has been on 75 and 20-meters, and there will be renewed enforcement in the 40-meter band. Next, the FCC will be going after unlicensed operators in the 10-meter band, as well as the use of illegal amplifiers. He gave a quick overview of several of the actions that are in progress, such as the Glenn Baxter case, mentioning that Baxter is off the air at the present time. Riley said that 75% of all the hams, whose licenses have been recalled, never show up for the retest. Support has been outpouring for continued enforcement. There were 5000 letters received at the FCC in support of his work and only three against what he has been doing. In the future there will be more on-the-air-activities, net check-ins and 3 to 5 years of further enforcement.

Technically, he said that Columbia Monitoring Station in Maryland can DF a signal in a second. However, they do not want to overload them with amateur issues, since they have to also handle the commercial side of the house as well. There are 14 monitor stations and they all report to Riley when they hear something improper going on in the amateur bands.

If there are repeated issues that you want to report, Riley recommends that a tape be sent to him with all supporting information, date, time, frequency, (if VHF/UHF include any local DF information). Also an indication of who the offender may be will be helpful. He asked to report this as well. Information can be sent to fccham@fcc.gov. Please do not send long .wav files, however short samples can be sent for reference, but tapes are requested.

His guidelines for what is proper on-the-air-language are simply stated as anything that hams with kids could listen to without embarrassment, at any time of the day or night. A random sample of the FCC database several years ago showed that 28% of the licenses were issued to youngsters. Riley is especially concerned over the activities on 3950 and 14313. This is a major public relations issue for ham radio. He stated that the FCC's wireless division wants to fight for more HF privileges, especially in light of the roles we play in disasters, and especially with the expected weather pattern changes in the future, we are ripe for more hurricanes. However, when they try to get Congressional support for increase in HF privileges, all the opposition has to do is play tapes recorded from the above frequencies. So for Riley, it's a major crusade to improve the public image of ham radio, in light of the competition from other radio services in which the members of the congress are more familiar with.

Riley stated that there are four reasons for an exam recall:

1. Complaints from others in a test session.
2. Code exemption from a podiatrist.
3. An Extra Class operator asking on the air what a dipole is.
4. Hearing someone say that they bought a license in New York City.

Riley said that overall, ham radio is fundamentally sound. He feels it's in good shape and that it has been tough

for him not to get cynical when dealing with the few bad folks out there. He said that a lot of peer pressure from other hams has helped quite a bit. The FCC will be asking the official observers (OOs) to be more active, but pledged that the FCC will give them more resources in which to work cases.

Riley believes that there will be more pressure for portions of the HF spectrum even though the experts do not believe it right now. Third World countries will be asking for additional broadcasting rights in the ham bands. He gave the example using 75 meters for local coverage which is the only request that he is aware of at this point. It was mentioned that there is some dislike for the US amateur operators overseas, due to the few bad apples we have stateside. He did say that at the next international conference, one of the items that the FCC will try to work on is to move the broadcasters out of the 40-meter band.

Overall, everyone at the meeting came away very impressed. We all feel that amateur radio is in good hands with Riley on the enforcement side. Now it's up to us to make the best use of our resources, get the word out, and sign up new hams!



No Speak Espanol

by Alan Carney W4CRA Corryton, TN

Once I had myself situated on HF with my Kenwood TS-520S and the R-7 vertical (mounted to a fifteen-foot mast, strapped to the bathroom vent pipe); I made my first contact with a station in Pittsburgh, PA. Not bad, a 5-9 signal report. Having cleared, my journey down the band led me to a Mexican, giving his call sign and calling CQ.

I responded with my call and he returned repeater my call and then his again. But what followed was all in the Spanish language. I returned with the word "Amigo". He

returned with "Amigo" also. Then not knowing what to say, I said, "Amigo". He then returned and spoke very quickly in an upset tone of voice in Spanish.

I know that what I said made him angry. If only I had said, "No speak Espanol", instead of Amigo.



Alan Carney W4CRA

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

Items for the Monitor should be sent to the editor in Microsoft Word or text format, if possible. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding 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 \$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 \$1.00 each, and pins for \$3.00 each plus \$.60 postage. Sent your payment to: ECARS, PO Box 49, Verbank, NY 12585.

The 2000 ECARS Executive Board

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