



# THE MONITOR<sup>TM</sup>



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

## Found in a box...a true noise cancelling headset

Gerald E "Jerry" Hume, K1WTX

Like many, I prefer listening to headphones when working dx. They seem to bring out the hard to copy signals in many cases and if they happen to have a noise canceling feature, then that's all the better. I was unhappy with the electronic noise reduction on my present headset as well as others I had tried over the years. I like to isolate myself from room noise and distractions as much as possible and most of the headsets I have used, while comfortable and responsive, failed to meet the grade when working beside another operator during Field Day. Then it all came back to me.



The original headset showing head band damage, after cleanup

Back in the 70s, when the XYL and I were just starting off in married life, I remembered a David Clark aviator style headset I

used with my stereo (back when vinyl was king . . . remember those 33-1/3 LPs ??).

Really, they weren't all that comfortable and they weren't all that responsive either for music listening but wow, did they ever seal off the background noise! Almost like putting on a shooter's headset. Reflecting back, it only makes sense since they do supply the aviation industry. Maybe you have noticed the D.C. logo on pilot's headsets on TV or in the movies?

With the idea of putting them to good use, I went on a search. The problem was, I hadn't seen them in at least five years or more so I had to rely on the XYL who always knows where everything is! When I had last seen them, they were in a closet in a spare bedroom that we had formerly used for the home office and my ham shack. Since she had cleaned out the closet when we moved down to the new basement quarters, I was sure she must know where they were put but she denied having seen them.

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## Nomination Time

In accordance with ECARS BY LAWS, Luke, KA1SE, has appointed a nominating committee for the election of 2012. The committee consists of John, WA1STU, Chairman, Ernie, W1RXH, and Al, K3YUB.

All ECARS members are urged to give serious consideration to the matter of nominations and to submit their nominations to any member of the committee before November 25, when the nominations will close. Before nominating anyone for any position, you must obtain that person's permission. ([more on page 9](#))

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## Don't Stake Your Life on a Fluke by Mike Stone, N1VE

I read the following in [consumeraffairs.com](http://consumeraffairs.com)

*“March 3, 2010 -Fluke Corp. is recalling about 33,000 “ Volt Alert Voltage” detectors. The testers can fail to give an indication of live voltage, resulting in the operator falsely believing the electrical power is off, posing a risk of serious injury or death from electrical shock or thermal burns.*

*The Fluke voltage testers look like a pen with a yellow, white and gray body. The testers measure 90 to 1000 volts alternating current (VAC). Fluke and the model number are printed on the front of each unit. The recall involves Fluke 1AC-A1-I Volt Alert tester. The tests [testers] were sold by industrial distributors and electrical wholesalers nationwide from September 2009 through February 2010 for about \$25. They were made in China.*

**“...we are trusting our lives... to testing devices.”**

**Fluke 1AC-I VoltAlert™ Voltage Tester**  
First released for sale on September 29, 2009



*Consumers should stop using the recalled product immediately and contact Fluke for a free replacement.”*

When you think about it, every time we check a circuit with enough voltage and current to kill us, we are trusting our lives to our multimeters, neon test lights, or other testing

devices. Perhaps the simplest and least sophisticated voltage-indicating instrument is the best one to use.

Maybe the electrician who I observed forty-five years ago checking for 120 volts by wetting his thumb before jamming it onto a live terminal at a fuse box had the right idea. At least he knew the what to expect if there was voltage present on the terminal, since he had field tested his method countless times. He eventually died, but not from electrocution... his heart suddenly stopped beating.

My device of choice for testing AC voltage around the home is the simple neon test light that sells for a few dollars at most hardware stores. Of course these can fail if the bulb burns out or if one of the tiny wires connected to the bulb or resistor opens. So it's best to check any voltage measuring or testing device before subjecting ourselves to the consequences of becoming part of a circuit that has the potential of passing as little as .06 to .07 amperes through our body. Attach the device to a known live circuit once in a while to be sure that it is functioning properly



### Related ECARS Links

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

## From the President's Shack to Your Shack

### ECARS needs you

Participation in ECARS for the most part is excellent. If you listen to the net any day of the week you can't help noticing that our members check in faithfully and regularly. The net control stations who volunteer their time are there when you expect them except for occasional unforeseen situations. Some NCS put in extra hours filling in for most of those cases. The committees (by-laws review, nomination) are at work behind the scenes.

There are, however, some areas in which your participation has been lacking. One of the most noticeable ones is the lack of contributions to our newsletter, the monitor. We can't have a newsletter without articles to print and we need you, our members, to provide them. All kinds of articles are acceptable whether technical or not. Personal experiences in or around ham radio, family situations, travel experiences, fun and/or frustration with antennas, etc. There is no question that our members possess a great number of potential articles. They don't have to be sophisticated in tone. Our editor can help you if you need help. Please think about it.

Another area where we are falling down is our participation in our annual elections. A democratic process doesn't work well when there aren't enough nominations to give voters a choice. Nominations are now open until November 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact any member of the nominating committee with your suggestions. Information is available on our home page.

As you can see, there is more than one way to participate in your organization. Think about it and then do something.

### Some Thoughts About NET Operations

Every member of ECARS should read the Operations Manual which is on our web site. This is especially true for Net Control Stations. It is a very good reminder about basic operation practices which we all learned at one time or another and sometimes proceeded to forget.

One thing of particular importance which is not addressed specifically but is implied in all the content of the Manual is the importance of **making sure that we do not interfere** with any adjacent station or stations because we are improperly tuned up or are using too much power. This is true for all Ham Radio Operators. It is particularly important for Net Control Stations because if they cause interference, it is for a **whole hour**. Of all people, NCS operators should be scrupulous about not using excess and unnecessary power or improperly tuned equipment. We claim to be a service net for the good of Ham Radio in general and particularly for those who check in to our net. We need to examine our consciences about how we represent our organization. This should go for all ECARS members.

If you haven't read the Operations Manual for a long time or have never read it, please take the time. It is for the good of the ECARS service.

Luke, KA1SE





## From the Editor

**"The Monitor accepts articles dealing with the whole amateur radio experience."**



[www.ecars7255.com](http://www.ecars7255.com)

Articles, Articles, Articles! I am very grateful to Luke, KA1SE, Jerry Hume, K1WTX, and Mike Stone, N1VE for their contributing information and articles for this issue. Your article can be published too!

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

I would love to hear from ECARS members who use wireless connections or *Bluetooth* to operate their HF radio. Many states and localities are enforcing "hands-free" devices. Your construction techniques and your experiences would certainly make for an interesting article.

Some of you are building, repairing, or installing new antennas especially

with 10-meters being open. Jerry's article on restoration of head-set can serve as an example. Share with us your stories. You can be a source of inspiration and encouragement for your fellow hams—the beginners and the experts alike.

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

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

73

## Show us your Shack

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

If you are proud of your operating area and would like to show it to the ECARS community, ECARS is willing to display appropriate pictures on the ECARS Web Site if you are an ECARS member. You should send your picture along with your name, call and ECARS number to Vince who can be reached at [k1ah@cox.net](mailto:k1ah@cox.net).

Take a look at W3FSA's shack shown in the photograph at the right. Check out the other shack pictures at [Show us your shack](#) on the web!



K4MLD - Cliff Hodgepeth (4880)

(continued from page 1)

Over the course of this summer, I looked in various places to no avail and eventually gave up. Recently, while looking in the garage for some paint brushes, I found the headset in an open box of painting supplies, of all places. Something had nibbled away at the original foam headband and the air-filled ear pads were collapsed. I did a half decent repair on the headband using a piece of closed-cell foam and stuffed the ear pads with foam for cushioning.



Rodent damage to the original headband pad.

After a good cleaning, they were back in use but not very attractive. The XYL was proud of me for not only finding them but caring enough to fix them; she was quick to point out that she had given them to me in 1973 as a Christmas present. (How do



The new replacement ear pads

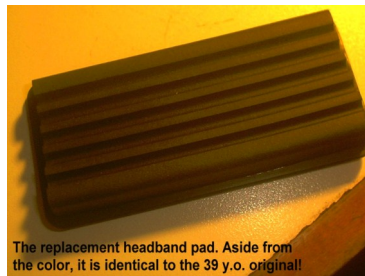
they REMEMBER stuff like that?)

I was happy to be using them again but how could I let my ham radio buddies see them in such sorry

shape being used at a Field Day event or a portable operation? Enter the internet.

A Google search provided a link to the David Clark company, still in Worcester, MA.

Other than color (now black, not beige) the replacement headband was identical to the original. The ear pads however,



The replacement headband pad. Aside from the color, it is identical to the 39 y.o. original!

were a little different. The original ear cups were oval shaped and slightly square cornered while

today's David Clark headsets are just an oval. Not a problem.

After receiving the parts . . . . in just four days I might add and very nice folks to deal with. . . . I

saw that the ear pads would still fit without a problem, with only a small gap around the corners.



So for \$20 in parts and shipping, I'm back in business . . . . enjoying a TRUE noise canceling headset that seems tailor made for listening to voice frequencies. In addition, I made a few points with my lovely wife. And you can't even begin to put a price on that now, can you?



Top view of the new headband pad . . . an exact fit for the 39 y.o. phones.

# East Coast Amateur Radio Service

## Membership Application & Renewal Form

New Application    Renewal   If renewal enter you ECARS No: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Year First Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip / Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member    Yes    No   Year you first joined ECARS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Publish?    Yes    No

ECARS Dues:    1 year \$7.50    2 years \$15.00    3 years \$ 22.50

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

I, the undersigned, hereby request new or continued membership in East Coast Amateur Radio Service, Inc. I agree to abide by [ECARS Bylaws](#), a copy of which is available for my review on the ECARS web site, [www.ECARS7255.com](http://www.ECARS7255.com) prior to my submitting this membership application.

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

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

### Instructions:

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

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

Revised 4/2011

**Print this page to apply or renew your membership.** 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 expire 1 year from the date of acceptance or renewal.

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

## ECARS Coffee Mug



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

You can order mugs:

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

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

## ECARS Lapel Pin

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

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



# The ECARS Store™

## ERCARS Windbreaker Jacket



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

**W4FI@ecars7255.com**

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

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

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

## ECARS Administration Contact Information



[www.ecars7255.com](http://www.ecars7255.com)

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Nominations are open for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two Board Members. The two Board positions up for election are those currently held by Bob, K2IB and Mick, W3FJ.

### Directors

[Joe Blithe](#), WB3GVD  
[Kenneth Mabie](#), W2PSU  
[Alex Tinker, Jr.](#), W3ICX  
[Bob Benson](#), K2IB  
[Mick McBride](#), W3FJ

### Officers

President: [Luke Lauretano](#), KA1SE  
 Vice Pres: [Harold Kimbel, Sr.](#), KD8QH  
 Secretary/Treasurer: [Charles Stampf](#), W4FI

### Appointments

Net Manager: [Bob Sears](#), W4WZR  
 Webmaster: [Vince Motto](#), K1AH  
*The Monitor* Editor: [Vince Motto](#), K1AH  
 Public Relations / Historian: [Mack McBride](#), W3FJ  
 Swap & Shop: [Kelly McGuire](#), N3FQG  
[Kenneth Mabie](#), W2PSU  
[Anthony Eck](#), K2BUR

## The Monitor<sup>TM</sup> Publication Information

The ECARS Monitor is published by the East Coast Amateur Radio Service Inc., for the benefit of its members. Full permission to quote from the Monitor is granted, provided a credit line is used.

Members' for sale advertisements are run free of charge. Credit card size commercial ads are accepted at a cost of \$15.00 per issue or \$45.00 per year. Send advertisement information to the editor. The Monitor and ECARS do not assume any responsibility for items offered for sale.

Items for the Monitor should be sent to the editor in Microsoft Word or text format, if possible. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication, subject to change by the Editor. Publication is in Feb., June, Oct., and Dec. The Editor reserves the right to reject, edit, or modify submitted material as necessary.

Membership renewals, address changes, call sign changes, and new applications should be sent to:

**ECARS,  
 PO Box 5923  
 Hudson, FL 34674-5923**

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

The editor is [Vince Motto](#) who can be reached at [k1ah@cox.net](mailto:k1ah@cox.net).

