



By ECON, the Energy Conservation Company

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## **ECAR Travels Cross Country on Wood (No Gas)** *ECAR \$10,000 Challenge*

Alexander City, AL, May 4, 2012 - ECON has launched **ECAR-5**, the fifth in a line beginning with **ECAR-1**, in a south-to-north duplication of their **famous 1979 east-to-west run on wood fuel alone**. ECAR-5 is in the process of completing this Key West to the Canadian Maritime Provinces jaunt in a biomass-powered pickup truck.

More than 30 years ago, Ben Russell and his team drove a wood powered car across the country, from Jacksonville, FL, to Los Angeles, CA. ECAR-1 utilized the long-proven method of gasification, which converts solid wood to its gaseous form, enabling its use to power a standard automotive engine. Gasification is best known as the technology which was used extensively in Europe during WWII when gasoline was rationed, and some one million vehicles resorted to this process.

Near the end of the first cross-country trip in 1979, Russell gained credibility after being featured on *Good Morning America*. "We put the back tires into the Atlantic Ocean at Jacksonville, FL, went to the West Coast on less than a cord of wood and put the front tires into the Pacific Ocean in California. We drove 2,700 miles without a single drop of gasoline," according to Russell.

On April 17, 2012, Russell, with his team, departed Key West—again starting with his tires in the Atlantic Ocean—with a stop at home port, Alexander City, AL. On May 6, 2012, the Russell Team will continue their journey up the eastern seaboard and eventually end in Canada, with a stop at The Hendricks Head Light House, Maine—restored by Russell in the late 1980s.

The latest system will power a standard internal combustion engine – diesel or gasoline. The unit weighs about 300 pounds and will fit into the bed of most standard pickup trucks. A special metering device replaces the carburetor, ensuring no gasoline use— the gas tank has also been removed. No other modification to the engine is necessary.

ECAR's ultimate goal is simply to demonstrate the need to create a national contingency plan to use biomass as an emergency fuel source for cars, trucks, tractors, etc. in the unlikely event of gas rationing or a national emergency.

"Due, however, to the deluge of confusing gasification stories on the web," Russell states, "some order must be established within the science, and I am willing to post a **\$10,000 challenge to any serious entity to better the performance of ECAR-5.**"

For more information, and details about the challenge, visit [www.ECAR30.com](http://www.ECAR30.com) or email us at [ecar@Russellands.com](mailto:ecar@Russellands.com). You can also follow our trip on Twitter and Facebook.

## **About Russell Lands On Lake Martin**

*In 1834, Russell family settlers from England fell in love with a tract of land in central Alabama. The Russells' love for the land continued throughout the years. Nearly 100 years ago, news came of a huge new lake that would soon meander deep into their beloved forest. The Russells could envision the hundreds of miles of beautiful shoreline encompassing Lake Martin and today they continue to brag about the 44,000 acres of deep blue water that surrounds the old Russell Forest. That place is Russell Lands On Lake Martin ([www.RussellLandsOnLakeMartin.com](http://www.RussellLandsOnLakeMartin.com)). The company is one of uncommon vision, diversity and commitment to community - whose endeavors go beyond creating fine lake homes and communities. Willow Point Golf and Country Club ([www.willowpoint.com](http://www.willowpoint.com)), owned and operated by Russell Lands, is one of the most revered private clubs in Alabama and considered to have the "most beautiful lakeside golf course" in the country. Russell Crossroads ([www.russellcrossroads.com](http://www.russellcrossroads.com)), the new central town hub of Russell Lands On Lake Martin's 25,000 acres of land holdings, is designed to reflect the agrarian era with period architecture of the 1920s promoting "walkability" of the town. Today, the town consists of the Discovery Center, Catherine's Market ([www.catherinesatcrossroads.com](http://www.catherinesatcrossroads.com)), SpringHouse restaurant ([www.springhouseatcrossroads.com](http://www.springhouseatcrossroads.com)) and The Stables. Russell Marine ([www.russellmarine.net](http://www.russellmarine.net)) offers boating enthusiasts world-class sales and service through four Lake Martin locations and is ranked in the Top 15 Boat Dealers in North America for the sixth consecutive year. Russell Do-It and Home Décor Centers in nine locations make it easier for homeowners to build and personalize the homes in which they live. In 1998, Russell Lands constructed the Lake Martin Amphitheater ([www.lmat.org](http://www.lmat.org)) - a unique venue for celebrating culture and the creative arts. And the company continues to serve the community through Children's Harbor - the not-for-profit organization created by Russell Lands Chairman and CEO, Ben Russell - whose mission is to strengthen children and families through a variety of programs, services and good works. For more information, go to [www.RussellLandsOnLakeMartin.com](http://www.RussellLandsOnLakeMartin.com).*

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