

SOLID COPY™



October 2002

The Bulletin of the
Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society
P. O. Box 14828 - Richmond, Virginia 23221



Elections for Directors and Officers 2003

Elections for Directors and Officers for RATS will be conducted between the October and November meeting dates. This special edition of *Solid Copy* presents the announced candidates to the membership so they can make an informed choice for their leaders in the upcoming year.

There may be additional nominations made from the floor during October's meeting. The current slate plus any additional nominations will be included on the ballot which will be mailed out soon after October's meeting. Ballots must be returned before the November meeting to be counted. Results of the elections will be announced at the November meeting.

CHANGES IN CURRENT POSITIONS

There have been some changes in the current leadership necessitated by the resignations of President T. J. Johnston, N4UYQ, and Director Mike Billie, WD8CHP. Both have left for personal reasons. We thank them for their service and contributions to the club.

Guy Carlsen, K4CNF, moves up from Vice-President to assume the President's position, and Parke Slater, N4KFT, has moved into the Vice-President's slot. The Board has appointed Marie Long, K4KML, and Robert Orndorff, W4BNO, to fill the empty Director's positions left by Billie and Slater for the balance of the year.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The announced nominees for the 2003 Board of Directors and Officers are presented as follows in alphabetical order. Each biography will be headed with the candidate's name, call sign and position sought. If they are incumbent, this will be followed by [I].

Arlo Amstutz, WA4RLO, Treasurer [I]

Current club Treasurer since 1995. I have served R.A.T.S. as President 1990-95, Vice President 1989-90, Board of Directors 1986-88, *Frostfest* Committee Chairman since 1982, and a club member since 1980. I am employed as a teacher by Henrico County Schools. The past years have been rewarding and a lot of hard work.

As Treasurer I will continue to implement sound accounting procedures in handling the club's finances, including comprehensive financial reports.

Greg Curti, KG4KWW, Director

Hi. My name is Greg Curti, Sr. My call is KG4KWW and I'm a candidate for one of the Director's positions for RATS.

First let me tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Washington, D. C. I grew up in Springfield, Virginia. Later, I attended Edison College in Fort Myers, Florida. That was great! College in Florida, where do you go for Spring

Break? Well, in spite of that I graduated with a degree in Computer Science in 1973. This past June I got married. Pat and I live on two acres in Hanover County. We also, have a dog named Snooper and four cats--Flower, Thumper, Fearless and Monster.

(Continued on Page 2)

NEED UPDATES TO ONLINE MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

If you have internet access, please go to the RATS' Memberships Database at (must be entered exactly as shown, or it won't work)

<http://membership.rats.net>

and update your profile information. Several of you have requested *Solid Copy* by email. Many of the email addresses that are on this database are incorrect so this has not always been possible.

Please also update other information such as phone numbers, etc., if you choose. This is a password protected site. If you do not have a password, just enter your call sign, and one will be emailed to you.

If your email address of record is wrong, email Jim Stallings, KD4ZOT, at

membership@rats.net

with the correct information, and he will get that corrected.

(Candidates--Continued from Page 1)

I have a son (Greg, Jr.) who is in the Navy and was stationed in Japan. I was able to visit him while he was in Japan. That was fantastic! I love to see new places and faces. I was not crazy about the long airplane trip, but it was worth it to be able to go.

I had no idea that Japan had so much to offer. I went to snow covered mountains and a lake with black sand. The people there are very friendly and helpful to tourists. It was not at all what I expected. I could have spent months there. If I ever get the opportunity, I will go back again.

In the Spring and Fall of the year I enjoy going to the mountains to camp. There is nothing like a hike up and down the mountain trails to get close to nature. If you have never been to Shenandoah National Park, you really should go. It is a beautiful place. For the Summer, I prefer the beach. I love to swim in the ocean and simply sit on the beach and watch the waves.

In the Winter, I hibernate. Give me a hot cup of coffee and a warm fire, and wake me when it is over.

Pat and I both are licensed Amateur Radio Operators. We are members of the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society (RATS). I participated in Field Day this past summer and had a wonderful time.

I have been interested in radio communications since I was a child. In fact I have an antique 1932 RCA short wave radio that my uncle gave me that still works. I used to tune in the world when I would go to visit him and listen for hours. This past summer I spent a couple of days on Skyline Drive camping at the Big Meadows camp ground and made some great contacts. I talked to people in West Virginia, North Carolina, and Washington, D. C. But the highlight of the trip was being able to talk to my wife Pat in Hanover from the Big Meadows camp ground on two meters.

My son Greg is starting to show some interest in ham radio and has said that he's thinking about taking some classes in order to get his tech license.

To me ham Radio is more than just making contacts. It's also being able to help people or the community in the event of an emergency. Ham radio operators provide a way to continue communication without interfering with police or rescue frequencies. Otherwise, ham radio is a fun way to pass the time and make new friends.

I would like to see the club have more activities such as weekend DX-peditions to the mountains and club meetings that are open to the public—where we give them the opportunity to see, hear and talk on a ham radio, and not just once a year on Field Day.

I would also like to see our web site updated on a regular basis, with pictures of the activities that we participate in, too. I think RATS is a great organization, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Jerry E. Long, K4KJL, Director

Originally licensed as KF4UUJ in 1997, I have served as a Director for one and one half terms. I have participated in past Field Days, and *Frostfests*. I also enjoy contesting and have participated on teams for the Central Virginia Contest Club in the Virginia QSO Party, and other contests.

I also belong to Ten-Ten International, and the Richmond Amateur Radio Club. I would like to see opportunities for the members to operate on HF, and to explore other modes, such as RTTY, as a club meeting activity, as well as have emergency traffic handling training.

Charlie Tribble, WA4ERC, Secretary [I]

Charles is a Charter Member of the Club having drafted our Articles of Incorporation and obtained our charter in the early 1970's.

Charles is a General Class licensee. He is an attorney and CPA and

is currently serving as he has done for the past several years. He lives in Richmond's West End and works downtown. He enjoys boating and reading and has two children and two grandchildren. He looks forward to continued service if re-elected, and encourages membership participation in activities which promote ham radio and fellowship.

Warren Winner, W4UIE, Director [I]

After earning my Technician "ticket" in 1985, the next move was to join the RATS organization. I now serve as a member of the Board of Directors. My two year term is expiring, and I wish to continue to serve the club in this capacity. For six years I was club treasurer and have served several terms as a Board member. Frankly, I cannot recall the exact dates of service. During my terms I've served as a committee member as we rewrote the club by-laws and have worked in various capacities over the years on the *Frostfest* committee. I'm currently known as W4UIE (General Class).

In addition to ham radio; camping, photography, boating and cruise ship travel are among my favorite activities. I am a life member of the West End Volunteer Rescue Squad and of the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads. I have served three recent terms as President of the squad and currently serve as Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of that organization.

As one of the founders of the *To the Rescue Museum* in Roanoke, Virginia, I continue to support the ideals and purposes of the volunteer rescue squads in Virginia. I was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Volunteer Firefighters and Rescue Squad Service Award's Board of Directors. This is a retirement plan for volunteers, and I have the honor of representing rescue squads as vice-chairman of that board. As an active EMT, I also serve with the Middlesex County Rescue Squad in Deltaville, Virginia.

As a RATS board member my objective is to continue the focus of the

club in promoting ham radio through public education, education of our members, and to be a part of the decision making process as the club conducts its business. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to your vote. Warren A. Winner, W4UIE

ALWAYS WELCOMING FEEDBACK

As you may have noticed, I've been experimenting with the use of maps and photos. Some things have worked out better than others. Bear with me, and you should see the overall presentation of *Solid Copy* improve.

I was able to begin using pictures when I got a scanner. I have recently also gotten Adobe's *Acrobat* software and a digital camera. Look forward to seeing more photographs of club activities and projects in the future.

One of the recommendations I received was to send a URL link to the online newsletter rather than a copy of the newsletter itself. I like the idea.

Since we have been sending PDF files of the newsletter, the files have been getting rather large—especially with pictures. This is no problem for those of you with DSL or cable connections, but those depending on a dial-up connection are having trouble.

The first few issues were 600KB to 800KB in size, but last month's issue was over 1MB. I was feeling guilty for going over 500KB, so let me apologize.

With the election issues—this month the bios and next month the ballots—I'll send hard copies to everyone.

Beginning the first of the year I'll send hard copies to those who want them, and, for those who are willing, I'll send you an email with a link to each new online issue. This way you can go to the RATS Homepage to view and/or download the newsletter, and I won't be jamming up your email connection.

With this said, let me encourage you to request the newsletter by email.

Mailing costs account for 50% of the production expense of *Solid Copy*. With well over 100 members at 37 cents per issue you get a good idea of the savings that can be had with each issue, the more we go to an electronic newsletter.

If you would like to receive an email notice (instead of a hard copy) when the newsletters are posted on the web site, you can indicate this in your profile in the Membership Database (see related story, page 1).

*Mike, KB5HSA, editor.
kb5hsa@arrl.net*

FROM AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

Saturday, August 24, 2002, found Bob Basenyei, NT8X, along the New River near the Virginia/West Virginia border. There, in this remote, mountainous area he discovered a camping party with a very ill 70-year old man.

There was no cell phone service to this area so Basenyei made a two meter mobile call via the 145.135 Dismal Peak repeater for any ham to handle "Emergency Traffic."

The call was answered by Randy Ward, NS4NS, of Linside, West Virginia, and David Arrington, KE4JYN, of Narrows, Virginia. Arrington was able to relay messages between the campsite and a Giles County, Virginia, rescue squad. Rescue squads from Giles County and Princeton, West Virginia, were dispatched.

The Princeton rescue squad was first to arrive and render aid, and the camper was then transported to the nearest hospital.

VE EXAMS

Exams for licensing or upgrading for the next three months are as follows. There are two locations, one in Chester and the other in Richmond. To take an exam you must bring \$10.00 cash (exact change) and two forms of identification, one of which must be a photo I.D. If you are upgrading you must

bring the original of your current license *and* a photocopy of same. If you have credit for previously passed element(s) bring your CSCE. Please arrive about 15 minutes prior to the indicated times below.

Preregistration is preferred, but not required (unless you are taking the CW element in Chester). Walk-ins are welcome as long as seating and materials are available.

The first exam will be on November 4th at 7:30 PM at Pietro's Restaurant at the corner of Jeff Davis Highway and Osborne Road in Chester.

For more information or to preregister call (804) 768-2255 or visit:

http://www.kr4uq.org/V_E_EXAMS/v_e_exams.html

(Note: There are double underscores between V, E and EXAM and v, e and exam).

The second exam is on December 14th at 9:00 AM at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, 1651 E. Parham Road, Richmond, in Building B.

For more information or to preregister contact Patrick Wilson, W4PW, (804) 932-9424 or go to:

<http://www.w4pw.org/hamtests.htm>

RATS MEETINGS

The Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society meets every third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the West End Volunteer Rescue Squad, 1802 Chantilly Street, Richmond, Virginia.

Coming from either direction on Broad Street, Chantilly is the first intersection east of Staples Mill Road. The WEVRS building is one block south of Broad on Chantilly.

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The board may also be contacted, as a whole, at board@rats.net.
Please feel free to contact any of us regarding RATS business, information, and ideas.

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