

# SOLID COPY™



## Elections 2003

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



## Meet the Candidates: Decision 2003

### THE CANDIDATES BY THEMSELVES

The following are a few brief words by each of the candidates about themselves. The candidates will be presented in alphabetical order by last name, call sign and the position sought, then the introduction.

#### Guy K. Carlsen, K4CNF

Nominee for Office of Director

I have been interested in Ham Radio since I was young and around it since the early 70s. Due to other priorities in life I wasn't able to pursue my license until the 90s. I was first licensed as a Tech Plus in 1994 and quickly passed both the general and advanced class test while I worked on my thirteen word a minute code and was actively involved in the local Ham Club. Life changed in 1995 and I came to Virginia and had to put code practice on hold for a while. I became a member of RATS in 1996. I enjoy the learning more about Ham radio and doing new things. I have accomplished many things in radio the last few years. I have become an extra class licensee; I have been a participant and QSL Manager for the K4L lighthouse event, which was sponsored by RATS. I have been a member of the board for at least four years, serving as Director, Vice

### RATS Forum Now Online

Visit the RATS website where you can register to participate in the RATS forums. There is a Directors Forum for their exclusive use, a General Discussion Forum and a Buy & Sell Forum. This is a great opportunity to post a question to the membership, get an opinion or just rant and rave. Let's hope there's more raving than ranting.

Thanks to the work of Jim Stallings, KD4ZOT, we have our own web trading post and fence post where we can do some online rag chewing.

If you haven't visited the web site or the Membership Database, please check out and take advantage of these online benefits of being a member of RATS.

RATS Homepage: <http://www.rats.net/>

Membership Database: <http://membership.rats.net/>

President, and President. I am interested in the future of RATS and more so of Amateur Radio in general. I believe that we should help others to become the best amateur operators they can be. I am actively involved in planning for the future of the repeater and am working with the board to make sure that the repeater is ready for the future. I am committed to do what I say I will do and try not to make commitments I can't keep. I am running for a directorship to continue to support the future of the club. I hope that I will have the opportunity to see the club move to the new millennium.

#### Darrell L. Gregg, W4DLG

Nominee for Office of Director

I retired as a Civil Engineer from the City of Dallas, Texas in Oct. 2001 where I was the City's Airport Engineer. I served in the Navy for 8 ½ years as an Aviation Electronics Technician, reaching the rank of E-6 prior to getting out of the active Navy. I later joined the Naval Reserve as a P-3 aircraft radio operator and served an additional 13 years before retiring.

As my wife was raised in Colonial Heights, we decided to retire here so she could be close to her relatives. My relatives are scattered

from Pennsylvania to Florida, so this area was a good middle ground for me.

I became a ham in August 2000 as KG4OVL, which was changed to W4DLG as a vanity call. I have always been willing to support any activity in which I participated, so I looked around to join the ham radio clubs that had the repeaters that I used. Currently, I will be helping to teach the fall Technician Class that the Richmond Amateur Radio Club has.

I have participated as one of the team for *FrostFest* and in Field Day. I also would like to get my feet wet in the management of a ham club. Being a director for RATS seems to be a good place to serve and learn some of the ropes.

### **Marie Long, K4KML**

Nominee for Office of Vice President

I received my Tech Plus license in November 1997 and became a member of RATS the following spring. It was my privilege to serve as president from September 1999 until September 2001. Currently I am serving as a director, having been appointed to fill a vacancy.

My interests are in working DX (over 200 countries), contesting, and promoting amateur radio both within our ranks and recruiting new hams. Elmering is an area of I would like to explore, helping others advance in the same way others have helped me.

I have had many opportunities in my brief amateur career. Serving as your president was a time of growth for me. I have put on radio demonstrations for the *Frequency* movie and a school group, participated in several Field Day events, JOTA, answered phones for Call 12, and represented RATS at WCVE by answering phones during a pledge drive. I have operated in several contests including the IARU where we worked as NU1AW/4. I have also worked from several

European countries. I am an active member of 3 other radio clubs.

If elected as vice president, I would support the officers and Board in every way I can, and encourage member participation and growth.

### **Bob Orndorff, W4BNO**

Nominee for Office of Director

I've always had an interest in electronics, and in particular, radio related electronics. I built my first transmitter when I was 12. It was a small FM transmitter built from a schematic in an electronics magazine. I took electronics in high school and also in college. It was my intention to be an engineer at a radio station, but I got an offer to work at VEPCO while I was still in school and took it. However, I've managed to actually work on a few 1kw and 5kw broadcast transmitters. I also do volunteer work, both reading and technical, for the Virginia Voice (a radio reading service).

Ham radio was always something I had an interest in, but I really did not know what it was about. A ham at my office noticed my copy of the ARRL handbook I keep at my desk and asked if I would help him teach the Boy Scout radio merit badge. I told him I wasn't a ham, but that I was going to the *FrostFest*, which was about two or three weeks away. He suggested I take the tech test while I was there. So I studied and went to the *FrostFest* only to discover they no longer had test sessions. I did buy an HT and studied and took the test the following month. That was February 2001.

Repeaters were OK, but didn't hold a lot of interest for me. When Field Day rolled around I went to the one nearest to my house at Virginia Center Commons. I was a little apprehensive at first, but really had fun once I got the hang of it. So now I had motivation for upgrading and I took the fall code class at the RARC school. In November I upgraded to General and was

ready for a contest. The ten meter contest was my first and I had a blast. I made 65 contacts in about three hours and talked to 28 countries.

Meanwhile, my wife was due with our first child in February, so I figured that I might not have as much time to play on the radio once she showed up. I studied some more and upgraded to Extra in January 2002. One week later, my daughter was born.

That's about where I am today, I've participated in a few contests and Field Days and have always had fun. I enjoy the technical aspects as well as the on air portions. I've found that Amateur radio offers many opportunities to learn. There are many aspects of amateur radio I would like to explore; finding time is the issue for me. But, I am happy to do a little at a time, whenever I get the chance.

Other hobbies I have are: photography, astronomy, computer programming, and I \*try\* to play the piano.

What I hope to bring to RATS is to promote technical knowledge and encourage hands on experience and also try to get more people involved with club activities.

### **Parke Slater, N4KFT**

Nominee for Office of Director

My name is Parke Slater and I am running for the position of Director. I was first licensed in 2000 - a mistake I made when I took my son, Andrew, to test. As a result, I have spent a fortune since then.

Now an Amateur Extra class licensee, I have served as Director and as Vice-President. In addition, I serve as the board liaison to the Technical Committee and am very interested in ensuring our repeater remains state-of-the-art and viable for the next generation.

My interests include VHF/UHF sideband, HF/VHF contesting, and QRP.

## DIRECTIONS

*Mike Gabbert, K4AUR*

Can you point to your house from the RATS meeting site? From where your work? If while pointing we cut away all the trees, knock down all the houses, buildings and other intervening structures and flatten the hills so we would have a clean shot at your home; would you actually be pointing to it? Or would it be a little more north of due west as you were indicating? Or a lot more north?

I'm terrible with directions. I grew up in a small town where the streets were laid out running north-and-south and east-and-west. It was easy. It was out in the rolling plains of west Texas. Then I moved to Austin where the city ran more northwest to the southeast. The streets sort of paralleled the river which ran through the middle of the city. I've never been good at directions since. Not only did the streets not run horizontally or vertically on the map like I'd always known, but they curved off odd directions to go around hills and the meanderings of the river and various creeks that ran through town.

Now, can you point the direction to Europe? To Australia? If you don't know, how do you know how to orient your antennas—even dipoles? Somewhere in your amateur radio studies you've come across a map called an Azimuthal Great Circle Map. If there is a beam in your antenna arsenal you probably have one and can answer these questions pretty easily. If you don't, then don't be so hasty.

Europe—due east, right? What about Australia? It's in the southern hemisphere, but way out on the other side of the Pacific. That would make it southwest, right? Wrong! And Wrong! Europe is

actually Northeast. Eastward lies sub-Saharan Africa. Just point your beam up the Atlantic coast toward New York City, and beyond lies Europe. Australia? Due west, naturally. Huh?

But look at the map, you say. The maps we've been looking at are the problem. When we take the surface of a sphere and try to make it planar so it will fit onto a sheet of paper, it gets very distorted. If you have a world map on the wall—the typical Mercator or Van der Grinten Projections—you will note that the meridians of longitude converge at the top and bottoms of the map to the center, which indicate the north and south poles. This map likely has its center on the western Atlantic Ocean near where the Prime Meridian and the Equator cross. This would put the U. S. somewhere in the upper left quadrant of the map. If you note, again, how the meridians converge to the center of the map, you will see how north is not above the U.S. toward the ceiling, but at the center of the top edge of the map. For the U.S. to be running north and south as we are accustomed to seeing it, you would have to tip it up on its ear, so to speak. Now you can see Europe very plainly northeast of us, and Africa due east.

The wall map I have shows Alaska on both the upper left side of the map and on the upper right side. The distortion is such that on the left side, Alaska is elongated east-and-west while on the right side it is elongated north-and-south. Figure that one out.

Since the earth is spherical, a globe would be the best, if not most convenient, way to visualize the earth. Imagine slicing through the earth to yield two equal hemispheres with both your location and your target location along this slice—the short distance between you and your target would describe the direction of the latter to the former. The opposite direction would be the long path—the only two directions from you that would find your target along them.

## VE EXAMS

Exams for licensing or upgrading are as follows. There are two locations, the W5YI VEC sessions in Chester and the ARRL VEC testing in Richmond. Bring \$12.00 cash (exact change) and two forms of ID, one of which must be a photo ID. If you are upgrading, you must bring the original of your current license *and* a photocopy of it.

If you have credit for previously passed element(s) bring your original CSCE *and* a photocopy of it. Arrive 15 minutes early. Preregistration is preferred, but not required (unless you are taking the CW element in Chester, then required). Walk-ins are welcome if seating and materials are available.

The 1<sup>st</sup> test is on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, 1651 E. Parham Road, Richmond, Building B. For more info contact Patrick Wilson, W4PW, (804) 932-9424 or go to:

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> test will be September 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM at Pietro's Restaurant at the corner of Jeff Davis Highway and Osborne Road in Chester. For more info call (804) 768-2255 or visit:

[http://www.kr4uq.org/V\\_E\\_EXAM\\_S/v\\_e\\_exams.html](http://www.kr4uq.org/V_E_EXAM_S/v_e_exams.html)

## RATS MEETINGS

The Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30 PM at the West End Volunteer Rescue Squad building at 1802 Chantilly Street, Richmond.

From Broad Street, Chantilly is the first block east of Staples Mill Road. The WEVRS building is ½ block south of Broad on Chantilly.

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Editor, *Solid Copy*, Mike Gabbert, K4AUR

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

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