

SOLID COPY™



Elections 2004

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



Four Directorships to Be Decided in August

It's time once again for us to decide who the leadership of our club is to be. This issue of *Solid Copy* includes a short biography of each candidate written by the candidate himself. Please choose with care in selecting someone you believe will take the club in the direction you would like to see it go.

Attached to each issue is a post card ballot. Please check four of the names you would like to see as director of the club. The four people getting the most votes will be installed as directors. The directors—both the newly installed and those whose term is not yet up—will choose from among themselves two officer positions, secretary and treasurer.

From the Top . . .

by Jerry William, KJ4IT, President

It sure seems like time flies when you are having fun, and here we are at election time again. You may have noticed that you are receiving a printed copy of *Solid Copy* this month. Inside you will find a printed election ballot in this issue. Please note that the ballot is already addressed and has postage affixed. All you have to do is vote for no more than four candidates whose biographies appear elsewhere in this issue of *Solid Copy* and drop your ballot in the mail. Your ballot must be received in time to be counted by the Election Committee at the August 20th business meeting when the winners will be announced. The new directors will be installed at the September meeting.

I would like to thank the nominating committee that was headed by Dave Kiefer, N4DWK, and assisted by Jay Silvio, N9WMU, and Rob Smith, K4MAU, for their work this year. This year there are four vacancies on the board of directors to be filled. We have seven nominees running for office and I would like to thank these candidates for taking the time to run and having an interest in rebuilding the RATS.

I would like to welcome all of the new members who have recently joined RATS. These are Meade Daffron, K4CMD; Deryl White, W4CKP; Fred Berger, K4LJF; George Messer, WB4GWY; Terry Hebert, KG4GLS; Isaam Muhaimin, KG4OBB; and Joe Mahoney, KI4GAP. Please say hi to these operators when you hear them on the air.



Field Day Chairman Robert Orndorff, W4BNO, launches a line for one anchor point of the 160-meter loop antenna used at this year's Field Day. See next month's issue for full details.

We had a great turnout for the Field Day. One interesting event was the construction and side-by-side comparison of loop antennas for HF compared to Carolina Windom antennas. Please see Robert Orndorff's article in next month's *Solid Copy*. I would also like to thank Mike Baker, N4LSP, for the donation of the 160-meter loop and the 20-meter loop that were constructed at Field Day this year.

With all of the T-storms we have been getting recently we had a timely presentation by Mike Baker, N4LSP, on grounding. This is a very important safety issue for Amateur's as it serves to help protect not only your equipment but your residential property as well. Some of the experiences related by our own members at the meeting reinforced the importance of grounding practices.

The members program for the August 20th meeting will be Basic Tools and Test Equipment for the radio amateur. This topic will discuss basic items needed by the beginning amateur to help set up and maintain their station. Also, remember that ballots will be counted by the Nominating Committee at this meeting so get your ballot in the mail or bring it with you.

73, Jerry
KJ4IT

Time to Be Thinking About Membership Renewals

All memberships must be renewed by September 30th, the end of the club's fiscal year. The membership fee for those renewing is \$20. Students 17 or under and Seniors 65 and older renew for \$10. The price for new members is the same base fee plus a one-time application fee of \$5 (as long as membership is kept current). Anyone renewing on October 1st or after will be required to pay the \$5 application fee in addition to the base fee.

CQ, CQ, Seek You! At the Next RATS Meeting

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.

RATS Online

<http://www.rats.net/>
<http://www.rats.net/forums/>



<http://www.frostfest.net/>
<http://membership.rats.net/>

The Election & Candidate Bios

Bios for those seeking a directorship in the club appear below. They appear in alphabetical order for no other reason than that's what the editor decided. It reflects no particular preference. It could have been done by call sign or randomly. It means nothing. Attached to this issue of *Solid Copy* is a ballot. Put a check mark in the box beside the names of four (4) people who you feel would serve the club the best.

Mike Baker, N4LSP

I started off in radio as a SWL when I was 11 taking apart various junked radios and making one or two work in the broadcast bands...

Around 13 I got my first CB radio by trading a guy in the neighborhood a bunch of parts for a 3 channel, crystal controlled, 3 watt radio. My first antenna was a mobile antenna. I climbed up a four story balcony rail at night to put it on the roof with a home made mount and two 2x4s nailed together to hold it upright. I had a heck of a signal with three watts nearly 50 feet in the air...

During the CB craze of the seventies. I didn't care for much of what was going on and moved out of the regular "channels" and joined a group of folks just outside the edge of the band... I had become what some people now call a "free bander."

With four watts and a Star Duster antenna I thought I was king of the hill working many states and countries...

At some point I found myself in a Heath Kit dealership looking at kits to build and found a "kit" for the General class license. It cost 75 dollars and weighed a ton...

Two three ring binders and 4 code tapes later I was working on passing the test...

But then I discovered girls...

A few years later I took and passed my Novice in the back room at what was then called E.E.B or the Electronic Equipment Bank in Vienna Virginia. The Tech, General, and Advanced followed shortly... I've now been licensed nearly 23 years...

My main interests in Ham Radio are the design and construction of large HF antenna arrays and DX'ing as well as public service. I have participated in a large number of public service events around the country including simulated disaster exercises with various government agencies...

Of late I have become more and more interested in VHF/UHF weak signal work... I'm currently building a weak signal station for 144 and 432...

I have been employed in a technical capacity by the Homelite division of Textron, Hobart Corporation...

I've been licensed as a pilot for over twenty years...

I have flown for several public as well as private companies and done military contract work involving new weapons systems testing and development. During this time I held a Top Secret security clearance...

I am currently employed as a flight crew member of a Boeing 737 with Southwest Airlines. I currently have over 7500 plus hours in 36 different aircraft types...

I am the father of two and currently live in the west end of Richmond...

Mike Gabbert, K4AUR

I am a new old ham. Huh? I was first licensed in November of 1988 as KB5HSA in Austin, Texas. The roots of my interests in ham radio actually go back to the 1970s. Those were the days before local VE testing. I would have had to travel to Dallas from my then home in Clyde—some 180 miles away to take an exam. Not happening!

So I'm licensed in the late 80s. But from that time until I joined RATS in January of 2001 I have been on the local repeater perhaps all of two or three times. I'm not the kind of person who can come up with banter and chit-chat at the drop of a hat. In other words a conversation with me means you're doing all the talking. So I'm a ham in name only. The beginning of the new millennium finds me finally getting active and on the air.

I did do two upgrades in those first eleven or so years. I was first licensed as a Novice. In April of 1992 when I was taking some electronics classes at a trade school I upgraded to Technician Plus. One of my instructors was Ken Hollan, K5IQ (SK), who was kind enough to teach and test those of us interested. Then, in March of 2002, I upgraded to General in one of Pat Wilson's, W4PW,

VE testing sessions. I could move up to Extra like many have done, but I want to be a *real* Extra. To that end I am working on my code speed. When I get to 20WPM, I'll take the test.

My first real, honest-to-goodness HF contact was with the K4L team that went to put the New Point Comfort Light on the air. The Friday night the RATS club meeting's program was to contact that team was when I made my first HF QSO. So you might say that's when I really became a ham.

One of the first things I did was get rid of the 5-land call and that "HSA" (or, as Robert Orndorff, W4BNO, noted, "16 dits in a row!"). In February of 2003 I became K4AUR—much more efficient on the key. I have been DX'ing off and on. Unfortunately I took a long time to get some QSL cards printed so I am way behind on DXCC, but have a nice little start on it.

From then until now I have been contesting, DX'ing and even being DX for other hams on Tangier Island. Whodda thunk it?

In the spring of 2002 I became editor of *Solid Copy*. Most of you probably know me to some extent based on the things I've written in the newsletter.

On the personal side, I am 50 years old and work at Infineon Technologies—Richmond. I started out as an Associate transferring from Motorola's Semiconductor Products Sector in Austin, Texas, in a similar position. About three years ago I was promoted to Process Technician for Chemical Mechanical Planarization at Fab 2 in Sandston. The next few months are going to be interesting as Fab 3 is started up. By the way, there is no Fab 1. The two stands for 200mm and the 3 for 300mm.

Other interests and hobbies include reading, computers and watching movies for which I have put together a nice little VHS/DVD library.

One caveat in your decision about me: My work requires me to work every other Friday until 7:20PM. I am rarely able to get over to the West End before 8 o'clock on those days. Since board meetings are held before the regular meetings, I will miss any meeting falling on a work day. Sometimes this means I will be able to make a string of meetings, but it can also mean I might miss several in a row. I am willing to serve as much as I can, but this is an important consideration.

Darrell L. Gregg, W4DLG

I retired as a Civil Engineer from the City of Dallas, Texas, in October of 2001 where I was the city's Airport Engineer. I served in the Navy for eight and one-half 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.

TJ Johnston, N4UYQ

TJ has been a recent director and past president of the club. TJ led the efforts for Field Day at Huguenot Park in 2002. Note: No bio was received from TJ at press time.

Ed Land, K3KE

Ed Land, K3KE, an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator, became interested in electronics and radio as a teenager and became "hooked" after he built his first radio from a kit. Employment history in the cable television industry for 25+ years nurtured his interest as it evolved over the years. The world of computers has also furthered his commitment and he has built 3 of the 5

computers that he's owned. Ed is currently employed at VDOT where one of his assignments is the management of the shared resources cell tower program.

He was awarded his Novice license on 5/3/1985 and assigned the call KB4OBX while residing in the mountains of North Carolina. After a move to northwest Pennsylvania he tested for Technician Class on 12/20/1988 and became N3GSC. Ed passed the General Class on 9/5/1989, Advanced on 11/7/1989 and Extra Class on 3/20/1997. In May 1997 he opted to change his call sign to K3KE.

Over the years in Pennsylvania he was a member of the Fort Venango Mike and Key Club where he held several club offices including, Vice President, Field Day Chairman, and Board Member. One of the most rewarding experiences he had was being a part of the RACES and ARES in Venango County, Pennsylvania where the club and local officials outfitted and maintained an active amateur station for the betterment of the community.

DX-ing is one of his favorite activities and while being an avid contester in the past; he now only participates in contesting from time to time.

In Virginia since 1997, currently his "shack" includes Kenwood gear covering HF, 6m and 2m FM and SSB, and a set-up for packet radio. A 70-foot tower holds a TH-11 for 20m thru 10m, along with beams for 6m and 2m SSB and packet cluster antenna. Numerous dipoles hanging from the tower and trees take care of 40m, 80m and 160m with the chimney holding up an R7 vertical. What does his wife Mary Kay think of all the wires and cabling? It's all right – she's an amateur too, a Technician with the call, N3YPE.

Other activities that occupy his time are, playing the drums, motorcycles and being a Rider Coach for the Motorcycle Safety Foundations Basic Rider Course.

Jerry Long, K4KJL

First licensed in 1997, I joined RATS in 1998 and have served on the board since 1999. I enjoy many aspects of amateur radio, especially HF contests.

I am married to Marie, K4KML, and we have had some very good radio experiences since earning our licenses.

I believe the term amateur radio service, should emphasis the word service. I have enjoyed Field Day in the past, when I could stay for a while, and found the experience of being part of the Special Olympics to be very rewarding

One of the better disciplines of amateur operations is sequential conversation, the need to listen is as important as the right to speak. One of my instructors in the radio license classes I took said "the PTT, Push To Talk, switch should be relabeled RTL, Release To Listen. "RATS is an important asset of the Richmond area, the repeater is both a convenience and an obligation. We study these skills of amateur radio, for our personal enjoyment, and to be prepared to help our neighbor in time of need. I would serve on the board with service as the first and foremost goal.

Warren Winner, W4UIE

A HAM since 1985, I joined RATS in early 1986. The club and its social fraternity have always been of importance to me and I've enjoyed serving as Treasurer for a number of years and as a member of the Board of Directors for several terms. I've always attempted to represent the interests of the general membership in making my opinions known as a member of the Board. I have a strong belief in the mission of RATS and have an eternal optimistic attitude as we go into the new year of HAM RADIO.

I'm not able to attend many summer meetings as my wife Nancy and I spend most of the summer down in Deltaville where I'm a member of the rescue squad in that community. I am also President of the West End Rescue Squad here in Richmond. I would appreciate your support as we go into another election. I believe that I can "play well with others" and though I do not have a highly technical radio background (employed as an insurance agent, forgive me) I do have good business knowledge and have been a faithful supporter of the club from the beginning of my radio interests. Thank You for your Support. Warren Winner W4UIE, formally N4NCL.

Solid Copy™ is published by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society, Inc., PO Box 14828, Richmond, VA 23221.
Copyright 2004. All Rights Reserved. Circulation 200

Voice Mail System: (804) 790-0077, mailbox 7287
Internet E-mail Address: rats@rats.net
RATS Web Site: <http://www.rats.net>
Frostfest Chairman: volunteers@frostfest.com
Editor, *Solid Copy*, Mike Gabbert, K4AUR, k4aur@comcast.net
Robert Orndorff, W4BNO, Field Day Chairman, w4bno@arrl.net

The purpose of **Solid Copy™** is to provide club information and amateur radio news to members of the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society. Information or articles for inclusion must be received no later than the first of the publication month. Submit via the Internet at editor@rats.net. Opinions expressed in **Solid Copy™** do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, directors, or members of RATS, Inc. Material in this data file may not be reproduced or distributed **IN ANY FORM** without express written permission from RATS, Inc.

Board of Directors

Jerry Williams, KJ4IT, President	kj4it@rats.net
Marie Long, K4KML, Vice President	k4kml@rats.net
Charlie Tribble, WA4ERC, Secretary	wa4erc@rats.net
Arlo Amstutz, WA4RLO, Treasurer	wa4rlo@rats.net
Warren Winner, W4UIE, Director	w4uie@rats.net
Jerry Long, K4KJL, Director	k4kjl@rats.net
Parke Slater, N4KFT, Director	n4kft@rats.net
Robert Orndorff, W4BNO, Director	w4bno@rats.net
Guy Carlsen, K4CNF, Director	k4cnf@rats.net

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.

R.A.T.S., Inc.
P. O. Box 14828
Richmond, VA 23221

Stamp
Here

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested