

2012 RUSA Board Elections

It is time again for our annual elections. These RUSA members have been nominated for positions on the RUSA board. The general board members serve three-year terms, while the RBA Liason, nominated by the RBAs, serves a one-year term. **Remember, only RBAs can vote for the RBA Liason position.** Please read the candidate statements presented below to learn more about each nominee, then either use the Election Form at the end of this article to cast your votes, or go to RUSA's website at www.rusa.org.



Paul Rozelle

RUSA 2955

Although I've been cycling my whole life (including commuting for 20+ years), I didn't ride my first brevet until 2005, when I explored a whole new world on an Ohio Randonneurs 200k. I was inspired by the adventure and challenge, but especially by the interesting and inspiring people I met. Since then, I've done six 1200ks (including two PBPs) and a myriad of brevets around the country and the world. I also enjoy time trials and cyclocross and race for a fixed-gear cycling team. Although competing can be fun, randonneuring is different, and that's what makes it special to me. Randonneuring is about camaraderie, having a good time, and exploring oneself and environs, no matter the pace.

Off the bike, I'm a husband and a father of two preschoolers. (Of course, cycling is a favorite family activity.) Professionally, I am an attorney for the county Sheriff. Before entering public service, my practice included representing companies in the cycling industry in product liability suits. I am also an editor of *American Randonneur* and the RBA for Central Florida.

I would be honored to bring my enthusiasm for randonneuring and diversity of cycling experience to the RUSA Board. I hope you'll give me the opportunity to serve our club and membership. Thank you for your vote!



Tom Rosenbauer

RUSA 2250

When Mark Thomas unexpectedly informed me that I had been nominated as a candidate for the RUSA board, he also mentioned that there were a number of "great nominations" but that several had already been declined. That made it easy for me to put aside my initial reservations and accept. Although I wasn't quite sure if he considered my nomination one of the "great" ones, I knew I couldn't also decline this vital opportunity to help sustain our organization.

Those familiar with the events I organize as RBA for the Eastern PA region will know about my attention to details and commitment to our sport. My fellow RBA's will know about my active participation on our RBA discussion group. Endless Mountains 1240k volunteers and participants will know about my ability to coordinate a large project and handle unexpected eventualities. If elected, I will certainly apply the same level of attention and commitment to my duties as a board member. In addition to meetings, votes on proposals, and handling problem situations and appeals, board members may also come up with their own initiatives. While I can't say for sure which personal initiative I might take up, I can say after having had the experience of meeting a rider in the emergency room instead of the finish, that safety is one of my biggest concerns.



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Paul Johnson

RUSA 1168

Why take on this task? The better question might be: why would you choose me to fill this position?

I've always been a volunteer. Ask me about the time I once 'volunteered' a suggestion in Army basic training. I was the dad who coached the kids in soccer. The parent who helped run the all-volunteer preschool. I was a volunteer fireman and EMT for nearly 15 years. I live rural, where much of the doing gets done by volunteers. I work professionally with non-profits and community groups, helping them build their capacity to create and implement action plans.

Consequently, serving on the board of an all-volunteer organization isn't a stretch. Randonneuring is a fun and occasionally funny way to spend time with friends. It's this very aspect of the sport that has gotten me past the inevitable low spot along the route of a challenging 1200k. That this magic happens only because of the efforts of volunteers makes randonneuring all the more special.

However, I think we can be better. In my brief time in RUSA I have seen enormous change. Imagine if a volunteer hadn't cooked up our Permanent program a few years ago? Ten years ago, BMB was the only 1200k Grand Randoneé in the USA. There are more things we can do better while adhering to those traditions that set our sport apart from double centuries, charity rides, and races.

I have gotten a lot from this sport. It would be a pleasure to serve you on the RUSA board.



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Mike Dayton

RUSA 1609

I rode my first brevet in 2002. I was immediately drawn to the challenges of randonneuring and the camaraderie. And the fun. The best part of randonneuring remains the many friends I've made in North Carolina and across the country.

I got involved as a RUSA volunteer after Jennifer Wise did a big favor for my riding buddy Adrian Hands. I wanted to return the favor, and I volunteered to be RUSA newsletter's editor, a position I held for eight years. I'm still active on the Newsletter Committee. I've had many other volunteer opportunities as a RUSA Board member, RUSA Vice-President and RUSA Secretary.

I'm a three-time PBP ancien, and I've also completed London-Edinburgh-London, Cascade 1200, BMB 1000K, the Natchez 1000K and Santa Cruz 1000K. Along the way, I've earned the Ultra Randonneur Award, the R-5000 Award (3x), the R-12 Award (6x), and the K-Hound Award for 10,000Ks in one year. The highlight of my cycling career occurred in February when I received the American Randonneur Award — and then got to ride an epic 600K with good friends.

I believe in bicycling safety and advocacy. I am a League Certified Instructor (LCI) and an appointed member of Raleigh, N.C.'s Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission.

In my 11 years of randonneuring, I've seen the phenomenal growth in our sport and the challenge that poses for our volunteer organization. I'd like to help RUSA continue growing, and I hope you'll give me the opportunity to continue my service on your behalf.



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Bill Beck
RUSA 3446

I've been an active randonneur since my first 200K brevet with DC Randonneurs (DCR) in March of 2006. As a volunteer, I've served as DCR treasurer and a member of the RUSA Team Randonnées committee. For the past 4 years I've had the privilege of being the Regional Brevet Administrator (RBA) for DC Randonneurs, one of the most active clubs in the US.

As a rider, I've served as captain for a few fleche teams, earned the R-12 (6x), ACP Super Randonneur (7x), R-5000, American Explorer, and RUSA Cup. I've also completed three 1200Ks: PBP in 2007, Endless Mountains in 2009, and Colorado High Country in 2012. Through riding the 1200Ks and working on the American Explorer award I have met riders from other parts of the country and experienced some of the amazing range of scenic routes and weather challenges that we have within RUSA.

I think RUSA is already a well run organization and an excellent model for the way a volunteer organization should operate. If elected to the board, I would like to help continue that tradition with the adjustments and new awards that are necessary to keep randonneuring interesting for veteran riders while providing an appealing entry path for new randonneurs.



RUSA RBA Liason Candidate

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Bob Riggs
RUSA 2739

I have been RBA in Houston since 2006. We run a relatively large number of events, from populaires to 1000k. It's a demanding, but very rewarding position, especially helping other riders meet their goals. We typically have 90-100 members each year. We don't do much advertising, so the new ones are usually unclear about the concept. Sometimes they have to be steered away (like the 14-year-old who left me a voice mail that he wanted to ride our 400k – solo – two hours before the event), and sometimes they just need a little encouragement (like the century rider who wasn't sure he could do 200k).

I love doing this stuff, and I admire the commitment and attitude of the RUSA leaders I have worked with. If elected, I will do my best to keep up the great work John Lee has been doing for the past few years.



RUSA RBA Liaison Candidate

John Lee Ellis

RUSA 0153

It's been a big year for our RBA family. Seven new RBAs have joined us, adding two new regions, reviving another two, and providing graceful succession for three. RUSA's 53 RBAs have been responsible for 644 events this year, including the five US 1200km grand randonnées. Impressive by any measure. What a bunch of overachievers!

Why the stats? Because that's what makes my job as RBA Liaison such a pleasure — dealing with energetic and thoughtful RBAs . . . and getting to know more of you, from phone and e-mail, and from rides like Richard Stum's Moab Double Whammy 200k and Tony Goodnight's Taste of Carolina 1200k.

RBAs and RUSA as a whole need to be strategic — how many events, how difficult, what rider education, how to promote individual goals and awards — and detail oriented, too: thinking about each route, each rider, and the myriad of logistical details. I believe we must remember the basics — why riders get into randonneuring — while continuing to innovate each year, whether it's new routes, new programs, or other initiatives, so riders stick around and grow as randonneurs.

This continues to be an invigorating, expansive time for RUSA. The backbone of the organization, and RUSA's growth and energy, is its RBAs, providing events to ride, guiding rider development, and promoting randonneuring.

I hope you have enjoyed working with me, too. In that light, I would appreciate your support to continue as RBA Liaison this coming year. Thank you!

