

RUSA Board Member Candidates

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 Liaison, nominated by the RBAs, serves a one-year term. (Remember, only RBAs can vote for the RBA Liaison position.) Read the candidate statements to learn more about each nominee, then use the Election Form on this page to cast your votes. RUSA depends on our volunteers to provide its leadership and operations, and in turn these candidates depend on your vote. If you'd like to vote online, go to RUSA's Website at www.rusa.org.



Debra Banks, RUSA #4405

While out riding a 100K, an email arrived explaining that I'd been nominated to run for the RUSA board. Surprised, I re-read the email 3x, just to be sure.

I've been a member of RUSA since 2007, when I was challenged by a fellow randonneuse to ride PBP. I survived

that wet adventure and since then I've ridden lots and have realized that randonneuring is in my cycling DNA. As a direct result of randonneuring, I started a bicycle company, which has been a welcoming challenge and learning experience.

I have shared 10's of 1000's of K's with randos from all over the nation. Gracious, excellent cyclists, truly good-hearted people who stop with you in the pouring rain or sing to keep you awake in the middle of the night. It's the people that make our sport what it is.

There's strength and expertise within our ranks, and the RUSA Board can and should tap it to realize RUSA as an international leader for our sport, both for our community of riders and to push the sport forward. I'd like to add my energy and apply my skillset as a member of the RUSA board to both support our great community and move our organizing body forward.

Lately I've been volunteering, due to a car v bike crash last January. My recovery has been turbo-boostered by our rando-community and I would be honored to give back to this community; it has given me so much.

Roland Bevan, RUSA #5090

This past May I rode the Sunshine 1200k, hosted by the Central Florida Randonneurs and the South Florida Randonneurs. I had a great time during the ride, but what

struck me was the period before the ride began, as randonneurs from around the country (and around the world) converged, greeted old friends and made new ones while swapping tips, assembling bikes, and telling tall tales. For some it was their

first Grand Randonnée, while others had trouble remembering how many they had done, but all were welcome and encouraged.



This "friendly camaraderie" (as described on the RUSA website) is a huge part of what attracted me to randonneuring and what keeps me coming back year after year to ride new brevets, design new permanents, and volunteer to support and

encourage others who are tackling their first long ride or the latest mixed-terrain challenge.

It would be an honor to serve on the board and help steer our organization into the future, looking at ways we can improve including making use of new technology where appropriate without throwing out what has worked so well in the past.

I would appreciate your voting for me and promise to listen to any and all new ideas.

Dan Diehn, RUSA #3812

I am extremely honored to be nominated for the RUSA Board of Directors. Since completing my first brevet in 2007, I've been hooked. I am a member of the Minnesota Randonneurs and the Great Lakes Randonneurs. I've been a Super Randonneur the past eight years, have ridden brevets in many other RUSA regions, and have completed six 1200K events, including PBP. Additionally, I have organized numerous events and developed routes for the Minnesota Randonneurs.

I believe in preserving and promoting the “big tent” philosophy of randonneuring. As a Board member, I would strive to continue the strong growth of randonneuring and would support innovations which do not undermine the defining traditions of our sport. I would also like to continue the strong growth of randonneuring in areas outside of the traditional strongholds.

My favorite randonneuring memories are the late night stories and laughs shared on quiet country roads. The camaraderie and shared sense of accomplishment are truly rewarding. I enjoy travelling to different RUSA regions and sharing experiences with riders from across the country. Each region has its own identity, procedures and outlook on randonneuring. I believe RUSA can benefit from these diverse experiences.



In my professional life, I have owned and managed a general law practice since 1996. For several years, I have served on the Board of Directors of two local non-profit organizations. These experiences have given me insight into constructive ways of addressing issues and resolving disputes.

John Lee Ellis, RUSA #153

RUSA does not stand still. That is something I have most enjoyed about RUSA, as a rider and an organizer. There are always new awards and goals, new programs, and new routes to challenge us. My series in Colorado offers the full range of events from Populaires to 1200k's—the Last Chance and High Country—for the developing rider, the accomplished randonneur, and folks just looking for something new. There are winter routes on the Plains, summer routes in the Rockies, each with its own character. I also offer assorted Perms for a variety of tastes.



We are a widespread community. I know that I can find an interesting randonné, whether perm or brevet, in many corners of the country, and meet new riders, too. I also know that when I go to ride a 1200k or other major event, I will be meeting dear friends whom I may only see on those events.

None of this happens by itself: it's the volunteers who make it all work. I have been the RBA in Colorado since RUSA's founding. We have wonderful, enthusiastic riders, and it's especially nice to welcome friends from other regions to ride with us. I was RUSA RBA Liaison for several years—a great job to have given our RBAs—and currently contribute to several RUSA committees.

My involvement and history with RUSA has been a great satisfaction. I would be honored to work at the Board level to help our opportunities expand and improve.

Nigel Greene, RUSA #6245

On a rainy day in April 2010 I rode my first randonneuring event, a 200K brevet. It turned out to be a fine example of what this sport offers. On that day, other riders encouraged me, ride volunteers checked me in and kept me on course and I enjoyed the rewarding experience of taking on a largely solo challenge that took me further than I'd gone before. In that first event, I experienced two important sides of this multi-faceted sport: self-sufficiency and camaraderie.



Over the five-plus years and close to 30,000 RUSA kilometers that followed that rainy day in April, I learned that this sport thrives at the intersection of those apparently dissimilar characteristics. The remarkable drive and accomplishments of the athletes I've met while riding events in 18 states and Canada provide an inspirational demonstration of exceptional self-sufficiency, yet the camaraderie that randonneurs display on and off the bike, especially by volunteering, provides the fabric, framework and community that makes the individual accomplishments possible.

To contribute to our sport and community, I have written articles for *American Randonneur*, served as administrator for Facebook Groups relevant to the sport (Advice from Ancien(nes) and NJ Rando); own a permanent and volunteered at events. I am humbly honored and thankful for the nomination to serve on the RUSA Board of Directors and if elected I will use the opportunity to enhance and strengthen the tradition of camaraderie that is the hallmark of randonneuring while promoting increased opportunities for rewarding individual challenges.

Luke Heller, RUSA #7069

In July 2011, I found myself hosted by the glowing Donald Boothby of Seattle Randonneurs on my second self-supported cross country tour. He convinced me to stay through the week and ride a 300k to Portland with him;



I welcomed the company but was unsure of my ability to ride so far. He registered me with RUSA and off we went. Donald carried a laptop in his pannier in an attempt to balance the scales to my fully-loaded touring bike. That's the camaraderie that brought me to this sport and the same that I hope to pass on. Since joining you, I have completed 2 domestic 1200ks and an R-12. I recognized my community as one where the cycling community is active and diverse but with little rando culture, and I'm trying to change that. I own more than 20 permanents, I administer the Southern Appalachian Super Randonnee 600k in collaboration with the ACP, and I have recently been approved as a new RBA for the new Asheville Int'l Randonneurs. It has been my pleasure to support the growth of RUSA in Asheville, NC and I would be honored to have your vote to serve on the RUSA board for the next three years to help support the behind the scenes work to keep randonneuring vibrant in the US.

RUSA Election Ballot

Three positions on the RUSA Board of Directors are on the ballot. Candidate bios are included in this issue.

All RUSA members may vote for TWO candidates from the first list of nominees below. The third position is for RBAs only. Check the box to cast your vote. **You may also vote online at www.RUSA.org.**

- Candidate #1: **Debra Banks**, RUSA #4405
- Candidate #2: **Roland Bevan**, RUSA #5090
- Candidate #3: **Dan Diehn**, RUSA #3812
- Candidate #4: **John Lee Ellis**, RUSA #153
- Candidate #5: **Nigel Greene**, RUSA #6245
- Candidate #6: **Luke Heller**, RUSA #7069

YOUR NAME: _____

RUSA #: _____

This section is to be filled out by RBAs only.

- Candidate #1: **Spencer Klaassen**, RUSA #1989

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO:

Rob Hawks
5630 Santa Cruz Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804

**All ballots are due
by November 15.**



Spencer Klaassen, RUSA #1989 RBA-Liaison Candidate

It's an honor to be nominated for the chance to continue to serve as the RBA Liaison. I have learned a great deal from the energetic RBAs and board members.

I continue to see the growth of randonneuring in riders doing event, permanents, and 1200 km rides. The number and variety of events the RBAs provide has also mushroomed. These are exciting times!

The variety and number of questions that I get continue to amaze me. I know some have felt their question was not important. In reality, they are all essential to the growth of RUSA. It is important for us to know our past so we don't repeat our mistakes. Other questions may cause us to rethink a problem or even offer a solution that nobody has thought of in the past.

In conclusion, I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve the RBAs for another year.