

# **Riverside Aero Modelers Society**

## **CLUB BY-LAWS**

*August 2017*

### **ARTICLE I: Authority and Objectives**

Section 1: The club shall operate in accordance with its charter and within the constitution and by-laws of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

Section 2: The objectives of the club are:

- a. To promote and encourage the design, construction and operation of radio controlled aircraft.
- b. To promote fellowship among R/C modelers.
- c. To maintain a suitable flying site.

### **ARTICLE II: Name**

Section 1: The formal name of this club shall be Riverside Aero Modelers Society and shall also be known and designated by the short title of RAMS. The RAMS is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1996 as Riverside Aero Modelers, inc.

### **ARTICLE III: Meetings**

Section 1: The regular meetings of the club shall be held monthly on a pre-specified date determined by majority vote of the club.

Section 2: Special meetings: A special meeting may be called by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors or shall be called upon demand by six active members (an active member is one who is in good club standing and has paid his current dues in full). The purpose of such meetings shall be announced to all members not less than four (4) days or more than ten (10) days before the date thereof.

Section 3: Quorum: A quorum for transactions of business at a regular meeting shall be 15% of the active members of the club.

Section 4: Parliamentary Authority: The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern the club in all cases that they apply and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws or with the AMA.

Section 5: The meeting chairman may set a time limit on discussions concerning motions.

### **ARTICLE IV: Activities**

Section 1: Activities other than the monthly meeting shall include informal flying sessions all year, weather permitting, and organized contests and fun-fly's involving group participation, subject to the wishes of the majority of the members.

### **ARTICLE V: Organization**

Section 1: Officers: The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one Safety Officer and two Members at Large.

Section 2: Election: The President shall at the October meeting open the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer in turn for nominations from the floor. Each member who nominates must ask the nominee if he would accept the office. If there is more than one nominee for an office, there shall be an election for the contested office by written ballot at the regular November meeting. The officers shall be installed at the

December meeting. Should the office of Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer become vacant an election shall be held at the next regular meeting. Nominations from the floor shall prevail. Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President and a new Vice-President shall be elected at the next regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI: Duties of Officers**

Section 1: President: The club President, if present, shall preside at all meetings, preserve order, put all proper motions before the meeting if duly seconded, and decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the meetings. He shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie. He shall in honor of his office be a member of all committees. He shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for. In the absence of any officer, he may appoint a member to act in his place. He shall call all necessary meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall nominate all Safety Officers and Members-At-Large. These nominations must be voted on by the club at a regular meeting by a show of hands. All appointments by the President shall require acceptance by the appointee. At the second meeting of the year the President will present a tentative budget and program for the coming year.

Section 2: Vice-President: The Vice-President shall preside over the meetings at which the President is not present. In the event that the Presidential office becomes vacant, the Vice-President will be installed at the next meeting.

Section 3: Secretary: The Secretary shall keep accurate records at all meetings of the club. He shall receive, record and transmit for review to the club members the applications of prospective members. The Secretary shall coordinate the publishing of the club newsletter, contest advertising, etc.

Section 4: Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all dues or other funds of the club and deposit them as directed by the club. He shall pay normal and usual bills as needed up to and including \$200 without consulting the Board of Directors or the club members. He shall consult the Board of Directors for bills between \$200 and \$300. For any amount over \$300 the club members will be consulted at the next meeting. He shall keep books of accounts correctly posted and ready for audit. He shall at each meeting present a report of the finances of the club. The Treasurer or the Vice-President may sign for bills paid.

Section 5: Members-At-Large: The Members-At-Large shall have duties appointed by the President. They shall serve on the Board of Directors of the club. There will be a minimum of two (2) Members-At-Large, and/or one Member-At-Large for every ten (10) club members.

Section 6: Safety Officer: The Safety Officer(s) shall be cognizant of AMA Safety Code. RAMS Field Regulations, and propose RAMS Field Regulations to assure safe model aircraft operational practices. The Safety Officer(s) shall have the duties to educate, remind, and enforce compliance with AMA Safety Code and RAMS Field Regulations.

Section 7: Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall conduct the ordinary business of the club, referring appropriate items to the club. It shall supervise the property and expenditures of the club within the limits previously described. It shall consist of all current club officers and Members-At-Large. The Board of Directors shall be the budget committee.

## **ARTICLE VII: Membership**

Section 1: The requirements of membership in this club are:

a. **New and Delinquent Members**

All new prospective members (including former members who have been delinquent) must apply for membership by completing the membership application, paying the appropriate dues amount, and forwarding application and payment to the club Treasurer through the normal channels. At the next meeting after receipt of the application, the prospective member has the opportunity to describe himself and his flying styles and goals. The prospective member will NOT be issued a gate key or membership sticker at this time.

Between the current meeting and following meeting, the applicant must fly with at least one of the club members in good standing to demonstrate his ability to fly safely. If the applicant is not qualified to fly, he may buddy-box with an existing member who is comfortable performing this service. The applicant may fly as often as he wishes between these meetings as long as a club member is present.

A list of members willing to meet with the applicant at the field for the purpose demonstrating his ability will be provided to the applicant.

At the meeting subsequent to the applicant flying with a club member, the membership will vote on the applicant. Any person who has observed the applicant flying must be present at the meeting or submit their comments to the Treasurer prior to the meeting. At the beginning of each meeting, applicants will be asked to leave the room so the club may discuss and vote on the membership application. The applicant will be called back to inform him of the club decision. Any applicant approved will immediately become a provisional member as described below in this section. If an applicant is not approved, his dues will be refunded.

In the event that the applicant decides not to join the club between the two meetings described above, his dues will be refunded.

Guest exception: If an applicant has flown at with a member in good standing, that member may, at the following meeting, endorse the applicants flying skills and safety and the applicant may be voted into the club as a provisional member at that meeting

- b. Hold a valid, current Academy of Model Aeronautics membership or show proof of application.
- c. Payment of annual dues.
- d. Abide by and enforce the official RAMS By-laws, Field Regulations, and and AMA Safety Code.
- e. A new member must provide the club a current AMA card or AMA number within 60 days of joining if he joined by proof of application to the AMA.
- f. Any new member not complying with Article VII, section e, will be dropped from the club roster immediately. Dues paid will not be refunded.
- g. There will be no alcoholic beverages or recreational drug use of any kind at the field.
- h. Any member not complying with the official RAMS By-laws, Field Regulations and AMA Safety Code will be warned by letter from the Board of Directors. Upon further non-compliance the Board of Directors has the authority to expel the member from the club. All club privileges for this member will be revoked. Any unused dues will not be refunded. The expelled member may reapply for membership after no less than one year from the date the member was expelled and must rejoin as a Provisional Member.

The following categories of memberships are available.

Full Member - All club privileges. Full members have voting privileges.

Provisional Membership – All new members and all past members who are delinquent shall have a Provisional Membership. All Provisional Memberships have to be approved for Full Membership at the November Club Meeting unless membership is applied for in the months of September – November in such case Full Membership will be approved at the following year's November meeting. Membership approval will be conducted by secret ballot along with the election of club officers. Provisional members have voting privileges

Senior Member – Must be at least 60 years old. All club privileges. Senior members have voting privileges.

Student Member - Any full time student age 21 or less. No voting privileges

Family Member - One person in the household must pay full dues.

Definition of persons eligible for Family Memberships.

The following persons meet the criteria to be added as a family member to a full member's membership:

1. Married spouses of full members.
2. Children of full members who are full time student age 21 or less.
3. Grandchildren of full members who are full time student age 21 or less.

No other person is eligible for family membership.

Family members added to a full member's membership will have no voting privileges.

- j. The dues for each class of membership will be set annually by the board of directors. Rates will be proposed at the December meeting. Voting and approving of the Dues rates for the upcoming year will occur at the December club meeting.
- k. Once a candidate has been accepted as a RAMS member, the member is no longer eligible for new membership discounts, even if membership to the RAMS is not in continuous years. The previous member will be required to pay full membership cost for yearly membership.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Dues, Late Penalties**

Section 1: Dues shall be payable according to the following schedule:

- a. Members: Due and payable by the first club meeting in January of each year. Payments can be made in three consecutive installments (at the regular meetings) in January, February, and March providing the first payment is made by the February meeting.
- b. NEW Members: January 1 to August meeting, full year's dues. September to November meeting, ½ yearly dues. December meeting, full years dues, 100% applicable to the year following.

Section 2: Delinquent Dues: Members whose dues are not paid in full by January 31 or have not made installment payments (see Section 2) on or by the March 31 shall be declared delinquent. Delinquent members are:

- a. Dropped from the club roster
- b. Banned immediately from flying at the club field.

Section 3: Reinstatement:

- a. A dues delinquent member may be reinstated to a Provisional Member in the following manner:
  1. Pay dues at the full year prevailing rate.
  2. Provisional membership will be granted as specified in the definition of Provisional Membership as detailed in Article VII.

## **ARTICLE IX: RAMS Field Regulations**

- a. All flying will be done in accordance with the AMA Safety Code and the RAMS Field Regulations.
- b. Changes to Field Regulations, not do to an emergency, will be presented at a normal club meeting and published in the minutes. Following discussion, clarification and refinement as necessary, Field regulations can be changed at the next club meeting by a majority vote.
- c. The Board of Directors has the power and responsibility to impose Emergency Field Regulations necessary to preserve the RAMS flying site. Emergency Field Regulations may only be imposed by 100% yes vote of the Board of Directors. Emergency Field Regulations become effective immediately. At the next scheduled club meeting the Emergency Field Regulations must be explained to the membership and supported by a majority vote of members present. If the Field Regulations are not supported; the regulations will be removed. The Board of Directors should review Field Regulations to insure they are current and needed by the second club meeting of each year.

SAFETY IS NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS. SAFETY IS SOMETHING THAT IS PRACTICED.

## **ARTICLE X: Visitors**

Section 1: Qualified AMA Member visitors will be allowed visiting and flying rights provided they show proof of AMA membership, abide by the AMA Safety Code and RAMS Field Regulations, and are sponsored by a club member. The number of repeat visits in a year before requiring a visitor to join the club is three (3).

## **ARTICLE XI: Club Property**

Section 1: All content (Graphics, Pictures, Text, Videos, Intellectual Property, etc.) provided by the RAMS membership that is posted or displayed on the RAMS Website will become the property of the RAMS Club.

Section 2: Property proclaimed by a member as donated to the RAMS Club will become permanent property of the RAMS Club.

Section 3: Any personal property left at the RAMS flying site is at the owner's risk. The RAMS Club is not responsible for missing or damaged personal property.

## **ARTICLE XII: By-Laws**

Section 1: Any changes to the by-laws shall be proposed and discussed at a regular club meeting. All voting members in good standing shall be notified, in writing or by e-mail, of the proposed changes at least ten (10) days prior to the regular meeting during which the proposed changes will be voted on. Proxy ballots will be e-mailed to all voting members as part of the notification. Votes of qualified members not present at the meeting or not responding by proxy shall be cast by the Board of Directors.

Votes on By-Laws changes need the vote of two thirds of the voting members voting yes to pass and therefore be adopted.

## **ARTICLE XIII: Dissolution of the Club**

Section 1: In the event that this club should dissolve and cease to exist, and there is in existence assets belonging to the club, the said assets shall be sold and the proceeds shall be donated to AMA or to a local AMA Club in the area.

## **ARTICLE XIV: Expulsion of a club Member**

Section 1: This article deals with removal of a member from the club on a permanent basis for reasons other than safety violations. The intent is to protect the club from any member that is exhibiting behavior that is contrary to the advancement of the hobby or inhibiting the majority of the members from enjoying the hobby and the club. The following is the procedure to be followed

The board is made aware of the issue either through direct observation or from another club member.

1. The board, at one of its regular meetings, discusses the issue and decides (by majority vote) that the issue is serious enough to invoke this section of the bylaws. If the vote is no, the matter will be dropped at this time. If the vote is yes, the rest of this process will be followed.
2. The club president shall contact the member in question by both e-mail and phone to discuss the issue. If a resolution is arrived at, the president shall report back to the board. The board shall vote on whether the resolution is acceptable. If the board accepts the resolution (by majority vote), the matter will be deemed solved at this time, subject to continued compliance by the member. If the resolution is not approved, the remainder of this process will be followed.
3. The matter will be brought up to the members present at the next regular club meeting as a motion. The members present will discuss the issue and vote as to whether the continued membership of the member in

question should be voted on by the entire club membership. A majority vote of the members at the meeting is sufficient for passing the motion with any amendments made by the club.

4. If the above motion is passed, the club's Secretary shall present a summary of the facts discussed at the club meeting and poll all the club members via e-mail as to whether the member in question should be expelled from the club. Members will have 7 days to respond. All votes not cast in 7 days shall be automatically considered given to the board by proxy. A vote of 2/3rds of the general membership will be required to expel the member. Once expelled, the individual is not eligible to rejoin the club. The dues paid for the current year will be refunded.

## **ARTICLE XI Force Majeure Clause**

Section 1: In the event of an "Act of GOD" as described in the definition section below, the Riverside Aero Modeler's Club Officers may spend up to \$1000 emergency moneys to cure any unforeseen "Act of GOD" at its discretion without membership approval. Furthermore, the expense must have the unanimous consent of all officers listed below. If circumstances do not allow all officers to be contacted, at least 3 officers must give their expressed approval. Officers listed as; President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Safety Officer."

Section 2: Definition Section:

Such causes may include, by way of example and not limitation, acts of God, severe weather including flood, draught, abnormal straight-line winds, tornado, hurricane or acts of war, riot, fire, explosion, sabotage, vandalism or judicial administrative or governmental change in laws or regulations, suspension or revocation or modification of any license, permit or any other authorization necessary for the safe continuation of the Riverside Aero Modeler's Club activities and AMA/Federal compliance.