

SOUTHERN ARIZONA MODELERS, INC.

Club By-Laws

Revised March 2009

1. GENERAL

These By-Laws are the definitive rules governing the Southern Arizona Modelers, Inc., a Non-Profit Arizona Corporation, hereinafter called "the Club". Except that the Articles of Incorporation of the Club shall have precedence, and no statement, rule or proposal contained in these By-Laws shall be interpreted to have precedence or conflicting effect over the Articles of Incorporation. All special or local enterprises of the Club shall conform to the policies of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) as stated in their respective AMA Charter Agreements.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Full-active membership and/or Junior membership is restricted to members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

2.1. Any person who is active in model building and/or flying, or is interested in learning to build and/or fly model aircraft, may apply for membership at any regular meeting. The application will be approved upon meeting the requirements of all of Section 2 of these By-Laws, and the payment of the fees required by these By-Laws.

2.1.1. Applicants may apply for Club membership by completing an application. Applicant will be accepted into the Club upon receiving a 75% "YES" vote from those members present at the meeting. Once accepted, the new member shall pay the dues to the Club Secretary. Payment of AMA membership dues is the responsibility of the new member.

2.2. Membership classification shall be as follows:

FULL membership: 19 years and older

JUNIOR membership: 18 years and under

2.2.1. A. Standard Membership Initiation Fee: \$50.00

B. Standard Membership Annual Dues: \$50.00/year

Initiation fee and dues for Standard Membership can be paid all at once or in 2 consecutive monthly payments of \$50.00 each.

C. Junior Membership [18 years of age or younger]
Initiation Fee: \$25.00, which includes the first year's dues

D. Junior Membership Annual Dues: \$1.00/year

E. Winter Membership Initiation fee: \$50.00

- F. Winter Membership Annual Dues \$25.00
(6 months or less)
- G. Family Membership (All members living in the same household): Only one member needs to pay the \$50.00 initiation fee. All household members pay dues according to above schedule.
- 2.2.2. Club dues for standard membership may be prorated at \$4.00 per month if a new member joins during the calendar year:
- 2.2.3. Responsibility for timely payment of Club dues to the Treasurer rests with the individual member. All renewing members must pay their dues not later than the February meeting or they will incur a \$5.00 late fee.
- 2.3. Club Privileges: All Club privileges shall be enjoyed by members EXCEPT:
- a.) If the member has not paid the dues by the cutoff period (see 2.2.3 above).
 - b.) If the member does not possess a current AMA, he/she will have their flying privileges revoked.
 - c.) If the member is guilty of repeated Safety or Field Rules violations.
- In these cases, the Board of Directors will remove the member's name from the rolls of membership.
- 2.4. Current Year AMA membership (or proof of application to AMA) will be shown to the Secretary or Treasurer during the regular January meeting. Failure to show current AMA membership will revoke the member's flying privileges.
- 2.5. Participation and/or attendance at Club activities such as regular meetings, Fun-Flys, Contests, etceteras, is NOT a condition of membership. However, participation in work-weekends, or other field-maintenance activities is EXPECTED from ALL members.
- 2.6. Club Activities, such as raffles, club contests, etcetera, wherein club-provided prizes or awards are to be given without charge, are restricted to Club members as described in Section 2.3.
- 2.7. Safety is the responsibility of EVERY CLUB MEMBER. Club members are expected to study the official AMA Safety Code and the Club's Safety-Field Rules (Section 7) and to consciously practice those rules while operating model aircraft.
- 2.7.1. Safety Duties. In the absence of the elected Safety Officer, safety duties as described in Section 7, shall be assumed by the first club member to arrive at the flying site, when not in conflict with section 5.5.2. The duties shall be turned over to another member if the first arriving member leaves the site, or to the elected Safety Officer, if he/she arrives at the field.

- 2.8. Removal from membership roll's proceedings, as in section 4.4., may be initiated against any member who compromises his/her fellow members or brings disgrace upon the Club or injury to its reputation, or violates its Articles of Incorporation or these established By-Laws.

3. ORGANIZATION

- 3.1. Officers of the Club shall be:
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| President | Secretary |
| Vice-President | Safety Officer |
| Treasurer | Newsletter Editor |
- 3.2. The Board of Directors shall consist of:
- a. 6 Club officers-Executive Directors
 - b. 3 Board Directors elected from the at large members

4. ELECTIONS

- 4.1. Election of Officers will be staggered in the following manner:
Odd years –Safety Officer and Treasurer.
Even years – Secretary, and Newsletter Editor.
A Vice-President will be elected each year for a one year term as Vice-President and then move up to the office of President for the second year.
The term of office for other officers will be two (2) years, commencing with the elections of December, 2002 (Vice-President will move to President for second year of term). The nominations and elections shall be held during the regular monthly meeting in December. The terms of office begin in January of the following year. For example, the Safety Officer and Treasurer are voted in for a two year term at the December 2002 General Meeting. Their two year terms begin January 2003. The next time these offices are up for re-election is December 2004 to commence in January 2005.
The three board directors are nominated by the Club members and elected by majority vote. Their term of service will be at the discretion of the Executive Directors.
- 4.2. Eligibility for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer is restricted to persons that have been FULL members for a minimum of 2 years. All other officers and board directors may be selected from the FULL or JUNIOR members that have been members for 2 years.
- 4.3. Voting shall be as in Section 6 (Club Business), except that for officer elections, absentee ballots, or on-line voting provided by the Secretary, shall be accepted by any Club officer and counted as part of the Quorum on the day of the election.

- 4.4. Special Elections to recall Club officers, fill vacancies in Club offices, and to excise Club members from the membership rolls for due cause, may be called by the Executive Board of Directors. Such special elections shall be advertised in the Club Newsletter as priority agenda items and the provisions of 4.3 shall prevail.
- 4.5. Presidential vacancies shall automatically be filled by the Vice-President. A new Vice-President shall be nominated and elected each year as in Section 4.1.

5. OFFICERS

5.1. PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meeting of the Club and shall act for the Club in all matters pertaining to the Club. The President shall also be the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The President is authorized to spend a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for special/emergency expenditures for the Club without prior approval.

5.2. VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall assume the duties and exercise all the authority of the President in the event that the President is absent or otherwise unable to fulfill the duties of the President. Other duties as assigned by the President or the Board of Directors shall be performed by the Vice-President. The Vice-President shall move up to the office of President for the second year of his term.

5.3. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be the point of contact for all club business with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and he/she shall keep minutes of all meetings, including attendance rolls, and Club business conducted. The Secretary shall maintain an official Minutes Book for this purpose. The Secretary will collect dues and initiation fees, along with the membership application, and transfer such fees to the Treasurer or deposit these fees into the Club's general account.

5.3.1. New members accepted into the Club will be recorded in the minutes. The Secretary shall provide all new members with a copy of the Club's By-Laws, a copy of the Pilot Rating-Training Manual, if necessary (located on-line), and a recent copy of the Club's Newsletter. If the new member has access to the internet, all this information can be found at the Club's web site.

5.3.2. Courtesy Reminders, compiled by the Secretary, shall be prepared and advertised in the Club Newsletter, noting members who have not paid their dues. However, responsibility for the timely payment of dues rests on the individual member, whether their delinquency was advertised or not.

5.4. TREASURER

The Treasurer of the Club shall collect and disburse all monies of the Club and keep an accurate record of all the treasury transactions. The Club's treasury balance and transactions shall be reported to the membership during the regular Club meetings. The Treasurer will provide a verbal income and expense report for each calendar month to the Secretary, to be filed with the general meeting minutes. This will normally be accomplished at the monthly general membership meeting.

- 5.4.1. Membership cards shall be issued to each member in good standing by the Treasurer. Expiration dates, as determined by current dues payments of the member, shall be posted on the member's Membership Card.

5.5. SAFETY OFFICER

The Safety Officer shall supervise all field operations with particular attention being placed on safety. In accordance with AMA rules, the Safety Officer must have an e-mail address.

- 5.5.1. Safety-Field Rules, as defined by Section 7 of these By-Laws, shall be in the Safety Officer's possession when performing the duties of Safety Officer.
- 5.5.2. On Sundays, or other days when a large number of people are present for flying, and the elected Safety Officer is not present, the President or highest ranking officer in attendance should designate a Safety Officer Pro Tem to enforce the safe flying rules.
- 5.5.3. Eligibility of potential users of the Club flying sites is the responsibility of the Safety Officer (or Safety Officer pro Tem). The Safety Officer shall determine that the potential user of the field is a Club member or a Club guest. An eligible Club guest must show a current membership card from the AMA, and has been invited to use the site by a current Club member in good standing. The inviting member shall be responsible for the actions of the invited guest. The Safety Officer shall also determine that site users, and all aircraft operated in the site meet all the requirements of the Club in all aspects. The Safety Officer's decision is final, except when the decision is referred to the Board of Directors for review and determination.

5.6. NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Newsletter Editor shall prepare a Club Newsletter and shall mail (via regular mail or by e-mail) the Newsletter to each Club member at least one week prior to the next monthly regular meeting. The Newsletter shall contain, as a minimum, the date, time, location, and agenda items to be considered during the next meeting.

5.7 MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members of the Board of Directors shall attend Board of Director meetings and participate in such meetings, including voting.

6. CLUB BUSINESS

- 6.1. Decisions of the Club shall be decided by a majority quorum vote of 51% of the voting membership present at regular advertised monthly meetings. (Except for voting in new members. Those rules are found in 2.1.1)
- 6.1.2. Regular meetings shall be held monthly at the time and place advertised in the Club's Newsletter. Normally these meeting are held on the first Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the summer and 10:00 a.m. in the winter.
- 6.1.3. Failure to compile a quorum by member attendance at a regular meeting may be circumvented by deciding issues with 51% of the attending Directors. In these cases, the Board of Directors shall NOT vote with the general membership, but shall vote separately and AFTER the voting membership has been polled.
- 6.1.4. Voting Membership shall be all FULL and JUNIOR members including the elected Club officers EXCEPT THE PRESIDENT. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
- 6.1.5. Any opposed office shall be voted on by ballot, not by "show of hands". Ballots are to be counted by a minimum of two Club officers.
- 6.2. All Agenda items to be considered by the Club for decision must be advertised in the monthly Newsletter or in a supplemental e-mail prior to being presented to the Club. The President shall inform the Newsletter Editor at least ten (10) days before the next meeting of the agenda items to be considered.
- 6.3. The Board of Directors shall provide management and leadership to the Club. They are responsible for presenting plans, projects, and direction to, and for, Club activities and business.
 - 6.3.1. Regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly, ten (10) days before the regular Club meeting. Such meetings may, if the Chairman directs, be simple communications by telephone or other contact with the Chairman.
 - 6.3.2. Urgent Actions, particularly changes in safety rules, review of Safety Officer decisions requested by Club members, or any Club business deemed too urgent to wait for the next Club meeting, may be decided and acted upon for the Club by a 75% vote of the Board. The Chairman shall call a special meeting of the Board for Urgent Actions as deemed necessary by the Chairman. The Chairman may also opt for contact with the other Board Member via telephone or other contact for these Board Meetings. Such Urgent Actions shall be presented to the Club membership as priority agenda items for confirmation or rejection as in 6.1 and 6.2.

7. SAFETY/FIELD RULES

- 7.1. The Safety Officer supervises all operations of the field with particular attention to safety. The Safety Officer can, at his/her discretion, ground any pilot or aircraft for violation of Section 7 rules.
 - 7.1.1. Absence of the elected Safety Officer during flying sessions shall be filled by the first Club member to arrive at the flying site and shall continue until the elected Safety Officer arrives at the site, or until the temporary Safety Officer is relieved by another member or a Club officer. Such temporary Safety Officers shall act with all the authority designated to the Safety Officer in the section 7 rules.
 - 7.1.2. Eligibility of potential users of Club controlled and/or operated flying sites is the responsibility of the Safety Officer. The Safety Officer shall determine to his/her satisfaction that the flying site users are Club members, bonafide guests of Club members (AMA membership), and that their aircraft meet all the Safety/Field Rules.
 - 7.1.3. Pilot qualifications for solo powered flight operations shall consist of successful demonstration of the pilot's skill in performing the maneuvers as described in the Pilot-Rating & Training section of the By-Laws (Section 8).
 - 7.1.4. Unqualified Pilots must be accompanied by a qualified pilot or a Club instructor in a "coach and pupil" arrangement before attempting flight operations. The unqualified pilot must be on a buddy box (as outlined in the AMA Charter) and be prepared to relinquish control of the aircraft, and the qualified pilot to assume control of the aircraft, if such aircraft appears to be in trouble.
 - 7.1.5. Aircraft qualification for operation at the Club flying site shall consist of a thorough airworthiness inspection by a qualified instructor. Such inspection must include airframe structural strength, alignment, balance, and proper operation of radio controls. A radio range-check must also be performed. **All new or extensively rebuilt aircraft must be subjected to this airworthiness inspection by the Safety Officer prior to flight operation. Aircraft belonging to the Safety Officer shall be inspected by a qualified Club instructor.**
 - 7.1.6. Work parties may be called at any time at the discretion of the President or Safety Officer to perform such tasks of field maintenance as the Safety Officer directs. During such periods the field shall be closed to flight operations and all pilots using the field shall help accomplish the tasks directed by the President or Safety Officer.
 - 7.1.7. The Pima County Fairgrounds Flying Site is a closed field restricted to Club members and their bonafide guests in accordance with the Club's contractual agreement with Southwestern Fair Commission. Utilization of the site may be suspended at any time by the Fair Commission when the Fairgrounds are to be utilized for conflicting activities.

- 7.1.8. Site map; see Section 9.
- 7.1.9. The entrance gate to the field must be securely locked by the last member upon their leaving the field. Ensure that the gate combination lock is “scrambled”.
- 7.1.10. Violations of the Safety Rules shall immediately be brought to the attention of the member committing the violation. Repeated safety violations are due cause for dismissal from the Club. A record of these violations will be kept by the Safety Officer.

7.2. **GENERAL FIELD RULES**

These Rules are in addition to the official AMA Safety Rules.

- a. Common courtesy and common sense are expected from all members and users of the flying field.
- b. Do not distract pilots when they are engaged in flight operations.
- c. Be aware of your prop-wash. Do not blow dust into other pilots, their aircraft, or spectators.
- d. **CHILDREN SHALL NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED.** Members who bring children to the site must control their whereabouts to avoid unsafe situations.
- e. Do not taxi into the pit area. Aircraft must be carried within the pit area.
- f. Pick up your trash, props, rubber bands, rags, paper towels, etc. Beware of loose debris that may cause an unsafe situation.
- g. All spectators must remain behind the safety-fence area, behind the designated pit area/flying line.
- h. Vehicles shall be parked in the designated parking area.
- i. When going out on the flight line, notify pilots that are engaged in flight operation.

7.3. **FREQUENCY CONTROL**

- a. Transmitters must be kept in the impound area until they are to be used. Only 2.4 MHz and “Narrow-Band” (1991) transmitters and receivers are allowed.
- b. Before operating your transmitter, you must have a frequency clip for your frequency.
- c. Use the Frequency Board and clips by attaching your AMA membership card to the slot where the frequency clip was.
- d. If you “turn on” your transmitter without a frequency clip, and this causes damage to the frequency clip holder’s aircraft, you are responsible for the reimbursement of any damage that may have been caused.
- e. Frequency Clips must be used in all transmitter use, including range checks, engine checks, and etcetera.
- f. Be courteous with the Frequency Clips. If another member is waiting for your clip, take turns and share the fun. Do not “hog” the clip.
- g. Pilots flying helicopters will use the two helicopter pads to the west of the parking lot and ramada area.

7.4. **PIT AREA**

- a. All pit area operations must be conducted behind the designated flight line.

- b. Prolonged engine runs SHALL NOT be conducted in the pit area. Such runs may be conducted in a safe area at least one hundred (100) feet downwind of the pit area.
- c. When starting, or running engines on the ground, point the prop-wash away from other people and aircraft.
- d. Do not taxi your aircraft in the Pit Area.
- e. When starting or adjusting your engine, do not put yourself in the line of the spinning prop. Beware of debris or breaking props that may cause an unsafe condition.

7.5. **FLYING**

- a. Unsafe or reckless flying, as defined by the Safety Officer, is prohibited.
- b. ALL FLYING OPERATIONS shall be conducted with the pilot behind the safety fence. Limited to six (6) fliers at a time.
- c. The initial take-off turn shall be away from the Pit Area.
- d. Pilots will avoid flying over the spectators, Pit Area, and vehicles. Intentional low passes over these areas are prohibited.
- e. The area over the Fairgrounds buildings and over the Go-Cart and racetracks East and West of the field are NO FLY ZONES. It is a safety violation to intentional fly over these areas.
- f. Intentional low passes must be performed out past the centerline of the runway.
- g. If your engine quits in the air, or if you have a glider setting up on a final approach, call out LOUDLY: “DEAD STICK!” All other flyers must give the powerless aircraft the right-of-way until it is safely on the ground and cleared off the field. In all cases, landings will have priority over take-offs.
- h. When on final approach, shout “LANDING!” so all other pilots will give way.
- i. The take-off and landing area shall be kept clear at all times. If it is necessary to go out on the field to recover a powerless or damaged aircraft, the pilot must call out LOUDLY: “ON THE FIELD!” All other pilots shall remain in the air, or remain stopped on the field until the field is clear. When the pilot on the field has cleared off, he/she must call out LOUDLY: “FIELD IS CLEAR!” To advise the other pilots that the field has been cleared.
- j. Pilots must inform the Safety Officer before flying a new or extensively rebuilt aircraft for an inspection, or a “maiden flight”. The Safety Officer may suspend flying operations by other pilots while a “maiden flight” is underway.
- k. Club Pilots or Club Instructors who agree to test-fly someone’s new or rebuilt aircraft shall not be held responsible for any damages incurred to such aircraft.

8. **PILOT RATING-TRAINING**

This section is currently being updated and will appear on the club’s website when complete.

9. **FLYING SITE MAP**

Follow Houghton Road south from I-10, approximately 1½ miles to Dawn Road. Look for our club sign at Dawn Road. Turn right and go west ½ mile, past the racetrack entrance. Look for our white gate on the north side of the road, with the **SAM** sign; enter here.