



**AMA Charter # 1572**

## **Club Bylaws**

***Established and Adopted:***

**July 11, 2015**

# CLUB BYLAWS

AMA Charter No.  
Adopted  
Revision Level

1572  
July 11, 2015  
B

*R/C Model Aircraft  
Club of Knoxville, TN*



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B	Updated Article IV, Section C to 3 year term limits	01/31/2016	D. Smith
A	New Adoption	07/11/2015	T. Cox
<b>REV.</b>	<b>Revision Record</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved</b>

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## **ARTICLE I: NAME AND LOCATION**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the "VOLUNTEER AEROMODELERS, INC." (hereafter called the 'VAM', or the 'Club').
- B. The territory in which the operations of the corporation are to be principally conducted is Knox County, Tennessee.

## **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

- A. To foster, cultivate, and encourage the interest of members in the various phases of mechanically operated radio controlled fixed wing and rotary model aircraft, and to improve their standards and efficiency of operation.
- B. To encourage among the members closer personal acquaintance and a friendly spirit of mutual co-operation.
- C. To gather, receive, and disseminate such information as may be helpful to the members, to interchange ideas in rendering mutual assistance and to provide helpful vocational guidance and advice.
- D. To forward and promote the general welfare and prosperity of the Club and to improve by any and all lawful and honorable means its status and condition.
- E. To own, improve, maintain, and conduct club and recreational facilities.
- F. To publish and circulate publications of any kind and description.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. Qualifications**

- 1. Membership in the VAM shall be open to all persons, upon application and payment of dues, acceptance of these Club by-laws and Club rules, and that show genuine interest in the hobby of radio controlled model aircraft.
- 2. Each flying member is responsible for maintaining a current AMA Association membership, which must be verified by the Club Secretary upon joining or renewing a Club membership.

### **B. Dues and Assessments**

- 1. The dues rate and initiation fee (if any) shall be set annually by the Club Officers after a thorough review of the Clubs financial standing. The officers shall establish dues rates for each class of membership. The membership year will be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.
- 2. Annual dues must be paid in full for the current year.
- 3. All dues must be paid by February 1 of the current year or the member shall be removed from the Club membership roster and shall therefore forfeit all rights and privileges associated with Club membership. Dues will not be prorated for current members. New members joining the Club will be charged based upon an agreed to yearly rate for the remainder of the current year as outlined on the Club application.
- 4. Upon joining or renewing one's membership, the individual must show proof of current AMA membership to the Treasurer if he intends to fly at the Club field.

### **C. Types of Memberships**

- 1. Open Membership: Open Members are entitled to all rights and privileges including voting and holding elected office.
- 2. Junior Membership: Junior Members are under 18 years of age. They shall enjoy all the same rights and privileges of an Open Membership except they may not hold elected office.
- 3. Family Membership - Family Members are members of the immediate family of an Open Member. They shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of an Open Membership except that they must be 18 years of age or older to hold elected office. The intent of having a Family

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Membership category is to allow the spouse and children (under age 18) of an Open Member to join the Club without undue financial burden.

## **D. Membership Duration**

Membership shall be on an annual basis valid from January 1 through December 31 of the current year. Members not renewing their membership by February 1 of the current year shall be removed from the Club membership roster and shall forfeit all rights and privileges associated with Club membership. There shall be no limit to the number of Club members.

## **E. Revoking of Membership Status**

Any member may be expelled from the Club with a majority vote of the officers whenever, in their judgment, the best interest of the Club will be served.

## **F. Resignation, Termination, Disciplinary Action, Expulsion and Reinstatement of Membership**

1. Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the Club.
2. If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her flying privileges in the Club will terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.
3. This section provides for enforcement of the Safety Rules that are related to flying activities. Any other unacceptable behaviors by an individual member or members, as defined by the Club officers, become the responsibility of the Club officers. Any individual may be expelled from the Club membership by a majority vote of the officers if such an individual willfully commits any act or omission which is a violation of any of the terms of these Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws or the Rules of the AMA, or which is detrimental to the AMA, or to model aviation.
4. Any member who is expelled from membership may be reinstated to membership only by a majority vote of the Club officers.
5. Officers shall have discretionary authority to provide for and to impose disciplinary action for such acts or omissions, which do not justify expulsion from the membership.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

### **A. Responsibilities**

The officers shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the club. They shall call meetings, arrange field maintenance, pay bills, plan events, and ensure the club runs smoothly.

### **B. Term of Office**

The term of the elected officers will be for a period of three (3) years, effective from January 1 of the elected year through December 31 of the third year.

### **C. Officer Duties**

1. President - The President shall be the executive officer of the Club and shall preside at all meetings. He shall be the spokesperson for the Club. He shall appoint standing and special committees and chairmen as required. He is an ex-officio member of all committees. In the case of a tie vote, he shall cast the deciding vote.
2. Vice President - The Vice President shall assist the President in all matters and shall assume the duties of the President if, for any reason, he is unable to perform his duties. He shall be responsible for all social events of the Club.
3. Secretary/Treasurer - The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep accurate minutes of the Club's proceedings. He shall record meeting attendance. He shall keep an up-to-date record of all members. He shall have charge of all funds of the Club. He shall keep an exact record of all moneys received and dispersed. He will present to the membership an annual report at the first meeting of each year. He shall maintain the records in such a manner so that they may be open for inspection at any time. He shall make a report of the financial condition of the Club at all meetings.

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4. Safety Officer - The Safety Officer shall provide a communications link between AMA and clubs in matters related to safety. He shall act as a safety advisor and resource manager for the club and its members. He shall assist AMA in the establishment of a national safety program to reduce accidents/incidents. He shall develop, promote and encourage a climate of safety awareness within AMA clubs.
5. Field Marshal - The Field Marshal shall oversee the installation and maintenance of the Club's facilities and equipment. He shall be responsible for the overall care and condition of the flying site, shelter, flying stations, signage, etc.

## **D. Board of Directors**

1. The Club officers listed in Article IV, Part C shall constitute the Board of Directors of the organization.
2. The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly to adopt Club policies and procedures and approve activities consistent with these by-laws.

## **E. Appointed Officers**

A Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Club Officers to publish and distribute a Club Newsletter to the membership. Newsletters will be published at the discretion of the Club Officers. The purpose of the newsletters shall be to appraise the membership of the events and news of the Club activities including meeting schedules, announcements, social event schedules and other news of interest to the membership.

## **F. Financial Arrangements**

1. Annual Budget - The Treasurer shall present an annual budget for the upcoming calendar year to the membership at or before the December meeting. A majority vote of all members present at the meeting is required to approve the budget.
2. Expenditure of Funds - The elected officers, acting in executive committee, are authorized to allocate Club funds as necessary to support club activities and operations. The Club President, acting alone, may authorize allocations up to \$500 per expenditure. The Club will not engage in deficit spending practices or accept any loan obligations.

## **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

- A. Regular Meeting: Regular Club meetings will be held quarterly. The location and time of the meeting is to be prearranged and announced in advance by the Club Secretary/Treasurer via email and/or the Club newsletter. Meetings must be conducted in a calm and orderly fashion following the Order of Business outlined in Article VII. Meetings will begin promptly at the designated time. The hospitality of the host must not be abused.
- B. Special Meeting: The President or Vice-President shall call a special meeting of the Club officers and/or members as necessary.
- C. Quorum: A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the members present at the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The suggested order of business for a regular business meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call meeting to order
2. Reading of last month's meeting minutes
3. Treasurer's report
4. Introduction of visitors
5. Introduction of new members
6. Announcements
7. Committee reports
8. Old business
9. New business

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10. Program
11. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE VII: RECORD KEEPING**

The Club Secretary/Treasurer will record the minutes of all meetings. The current Secretary/Treasurer shall forward all Club records to the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer during the first month of the fiscal year (January).

## **ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES**

The Club officers will appoint committees as necessary.

## **ARTICLE IX: NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND RECALL**

- A. All officers shall be nominated, elected, and installed at the January meeting. When a vacancy occurs, the Board of Directors by majority vote shall fill the vacant office until the next regular membership meeting.
- B. Except as provided in Part A of this Article, election of officers shall be by majority vote of the Club members attending the January meeting. In the event of a tie, successive votes shall be taken until one person receives a majority.
- C. Officers may succeed themselves.
- D. Any officer of the Club may be removed from office by the membership whenever, in their judgment, the best interest of the Club will be served thereby, providing the same requirements as are imposed for amending these bylaws are followed.

## **ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION**

The duration of the club shall be perpetual. Upon termination and liquidation of the 'Volunteer Aeromodelers Inc.' pursuant to the laws of the State of Tennessee, all assets of said corporation so liquidated shall, upon resolution of the Board of Directors, be devoted and paid to any community chest, fund or foundation organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals as shall be selected or designated by the Board of Directors of the 'Volunteer Aeromodelers, Inc.' upon determination to terminate and liquidate said organization. However, no part of said assets or liquidation shall be disposed of directly or indirectly in any manner or way which shall inure to the benefit of any individual, private person or member of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENT OF THESE BYLAWS**

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the member's at a regular Club meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership in its entirety at the immediately preceding regular meeting. A vote of one-half plus one of the members present is required to pass any motion or amendment to the bylaws.

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## **ARTICLE XII: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

### **(Flight and Ground Safety Rules)**

#### **A. Purpose**

The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system when needed. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally the matter should be referred to the Safety Committee for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form to be filled out and turned into the Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

#### **B. Safety Committee**

1. The Safety Committee shall be comprised of the Club officers.
2. The Safety Officer shall act as the Safety Committee Chairman.
3. The Safety Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:
  - a. A grievance form will be filled out and turned into the Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required.
4. First Violation
  - a. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
  - b. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
  - c. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Safety Committee, and this will be recorded in the Safety Committee files.
5. Second Violation
  - a. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
  - b. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Safety Committee.
  - c. If the Safety Committee so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice of this occurrence shall be issued and a copy published in the Club newsletter.
6. Third Violation
  - a. The Safety Committee will notify the accused in writing and the Club members via the Club newsletter that the Club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next Club meeting.
  - b. Said expulsion will last for one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the officers).
  - c. A member may be expelled from the Club only upon a majority vote of the membership present at the Club meeting.
  - d. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular meeting.
  - e. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.
7. The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year time period.
8. Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation against the person filing the Grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the Club. This includes threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Officers.

## **ARTICLE XIII: SAFETY**

The following are Club safety rules, which must be complied with by all Club members at all times. All model operation must be done in accordance with the *Official Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Safety Code*, which all members should be familiar with. As stated in the *Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Safety Code*, violations will void the insurance. A copy of the *Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Safety Code* is posted and shall be maintained at the field shelter.

1. No person shall be allowed to fly without current AMA and Volunteer Aeromodelers Club memberships. Guest flying privileges are available to current AMA members when accompanied

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- by a Volunteer Aeromodelers Club member, and is limited to two (2) visits before membership must be applied for.
2. Current AMA membership cards with the current Volunteer Aeromodelers Club sticker attached shall be placed in the appropriate slot in the frequency box before the transmitter is turned on. When frequency sharing is required, pilots shall limit frequency use to 15 minutes.
  3. All engines over .09 cubic inch displacement are required to have an effective muffler.
  4. Fueling and engine runs are not permitted in the spectator areas.
  5. Arming of electric motors and electronic speed controllers are not permitted in the spectator areas.
  6. The pit area and flight line are restricted to pilots and crew only. No children shall be allowed in the pit area or on the flight line except as a pilot or student pilot under adult supervision.
  7. Spectators, including family members, should remain behind the fence at all times.
  8. It is each pilot's responsibility to properly maintain his or her aircraft and to ensure it is in good working order. Pre-flight checks must always be performed to avoid any obvious mechanical or electrical failures.
  9. Engine runs in the pit area shall be limited to starting and initial tuning. Fixed wing aircraft should use the engine start-up fixtures for extensive ground runs and/or engine break-in runs. Helicopters are limited to idle runs with no rotation while in the pit area. Aircraft too large for use in the engine start-up fixtures must be secured to the ground for extensive ground runs and/or engine break-in runs with the front of the aircraft facing towards the runway.
  10. Fixed wing aircraft may be taxied from the start pads to the runway for takeoff. Taxiing from the runway back to the pit area is not allowed. Takeoffs from the pit area are prohibited for all models, except for hand launch models (including, but not limited to, sailplanes, micros, 3D foamies, etc). Such hand launch models should be launched away from the spectator and pit areas from the location between the pits and the runway. Glide testing can and should be performed in the tall grass south of the runway, only if all pilots are aware of this activity and it does not interfere with any landing in progress.
  11. All flying shall be with the pilots positioned on the north side of the runway. The pilot stations shall be used when more than one pilot is flying.
  12. Pilots should stand on one of the concrete pilot station markers except when taxiing to and from the pits. This spacing will give adequate clearance between pilots and the runway and reduce the likelihood of radio interference.
  13. It is strongly recommended that no one fly alone. Each pilot should have a spotter when flying. This is critically important, particularly when more than one aircraft is in the air. The spotter should be cognizant of what is going on around the pilot at all times, and provide feedback to the pilot in order to avoid any mishaps in the active airspace or runway.
  14. The north edge of the runway establishes the flight line. Pilots shall notify other pilots of their intentions by calling out "TAKEOFF", "LANDING", "DEAD STICK", etc. Landing aircraft have the right-of-way at all times. Flying over the runway is restricted to takeoff, departure, approach and landing when others are flying. Under no circumstances shall a model be flown closer than 25 feet to any person.
  15. If more than one model is flying, a rectangular traffic pattern will be flown to avoid mid-air collisions. The pattern direction will be determined by the current wind direction and/or pilots verbal agreement.
  16. 3-D maneuvers such as torque rolls and hovering are prohibited over the runway and in the flight line pattern when any other models are flying. These maneuvers may be performed over the grass south of the flight line and inside the flight line pattern. Pilots must show consideration for the other flyers when performing these types of maneuvers.
  17. When the wind direction results in landings to the east, the trees at the west end of the field can make landing difficult. Pilots may elect to execute a procedure-turn landing to avoid the trees. Caution shall be used during this type of approach to assure that the landing aircraft maintains adequate separation from other models and does not fly into the "NO-FLY ZONE" between the runway and the pit area. This restriction includes not flying over the cemetery across Luttrell Road.
  18. During and/or after a crash, try to refrain from loud obscenities— they won't help your aircraft or the Club's image.