

GILMAN SPRINGS RC FLYERS

BYLAWS

(Amended March 29, 2014)

ARTICLE I

Name and Location

The Club's name is "Gilman Springs RC Flyers". The Club is located in Southern California.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of the Club is to provide a suitable site where members of the club may fly radio controlled model airplanes.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. **Charter Membership.** Charter membership is limited to the original 40 members who joined to start the club. Charter membership entitles each founding member and any of his family to use the flying field and facilities, and to participate in club activities. Any member of a charter member's family may be granted Associate Membership. A charter member's family member can become a voting member by paying the yearly dues.

Section 2. **Associate Membership.** Non-charter members' immediate (household) family members may be granted Associate Membership. Immediate (household) means that the family member is a "blood relative" or spouse, and he or she lives with the non-charter member. When a non-charter member's family member, who has been granted "Associate Membership", moves out of the member's home (i.e., no longer lives there), he/she shall then be considered a "Junior Member" or "Regular Member" (whichever applies based on their age), and be charged annual dues in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Membership,

Section 3, **Junior Membership.** These former "Associate Members" will not pay the Initiation Fee.

Associate Memberships can also be granted to people based on special circumstances. "Special Circumstances" include being a former Regular Member and having to curtail activity in the hobby due to health or other personal reasons, being an owner or senior manager of a Hobby Shop, or other special reasons deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

Associate Members do not have a vote, do not pay yearly dues, are welcome to fly at the club Flying Field and participate in club activities, and may receive Newsletters if deemed appropriate. Associate Members under the age of 16 must be accompanied by one of their parents, or a supervising adult, at all times when they are at the Field.

Section 3. **Junior Membership.** A person joining the Club before his/her 19th birthday, shall be charged \$15 annual dues, and shall not be charged the Initiation Fee. That member will be considered a "Junior Member" and be given a "Junior Membership Card".

When a Junior Member reaches the age of 19, he/she shall be charged \$75 annual dues, starting on July 1st following his/her 19th birthday. He/she shall then be considered a Regular Member, and will not be charged the Initiation Fee.

Anyone who joins the Club after they have reached the age of 19, shall be considered a Regular Member, and charged the \$50 Initiation Fee and \$75 annual dues.

All members, Junior and Regular, must have current membership in the AMA to fly at the Field.

Junior Members under the age of 16 must be accompanied by one of their parents, or a supervising adult, at all times when they are at the Field.

To become a "Junior Member" the applicant must go through essentially the same process as other applicants. Namely, he or she must complete a "Junior Membership Application", which includes a statement from his or her parent, and a statement from a sponsor (one of our members).

ARTICLE III, Membership (continued)

Section 4. **Short Term Membership.** A “Short Term Membership” may be granted to out-of-state visitors who are in the Southern California area for a short time, e.g., “SnowBirds”. A flat fee of \$40 shall be paid by such a member for that “season” or “short period”. Candidate “Short Term Members” shall be subject to the Application and Approval requirements stated in Article III Sections 10 & 11. Such members shall have the same privileges and restrictions as Associate Members, and shall not be counted towards the membership limit, if a limit is in effect.

Section 5. **Guests.** Any Regular Member, or Junior Member in good standing may bring guests to the flying field and allow them to fly if they are current AMA Members, but the member must always be present with them. Guests shall only be allowed to fly at the Field a maximum of three (3) times as non-members.

Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Board of Directors. Associate Members may not bring guests to fly at the flying field.

If a guest is not a current AMA member, and he/she wants to experience an introductory flight, AMA rules for a one-time Introduction Flight shall apply. If a Non-AMA member would like to receive some flight training, the 60 day AMA Introductory Pilot Program requirements must be followed.

Section 6. All members must have a current paid AMA membership to remain in good standing in the club and to fly at our Field. Each member’s AMA number, and their amateur radio license call sign if applicable, shall be kept on file in club membership records.

Section 7. A membership may not be sold. However, a charter member may designate a member of his family as beneficiary. At the demise of the charter member, his beneficiary will become a charter member to take his place.

Section 8. Membership may be revoked for action contrary to the Bylaws or Field Safety Code, or actions considered detrimental to the well being of the Club. For violations of Flight and Ground Safety Rules, the Grievance Procedure of Article XII herein shall be followed. In the event an individual membership is revoked, dues paid in for the current year are not refundable. The initiation fee is not refundable.

Section 9. The Gilman Springs RC Flyers Club was founded on the premise of maintaining a limited membership. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to maintain this. The Board of Directors shall periodically review pertinent factors, such as membership participation and field use, to determine if there should be a membership limit and, if so, what that limit will be.

Section 10. In the case where there is no Club Membership Limit in effect, Candidate Members shall obtain a Sponsor, fill out all sections of the Club Membership Application, and turn the Application in to the President. The Club President shall sign and date the Application, then provide it to the Secretary. The Candidate and his/her Sponsor must then attend a Club meeting, where the Sponsor must personally introduce the Candidate. The members present at the meeting shall be given the opportunity to vote on the proposed candidate. An affirmative vote of a majority of those present at the meeting shall approve the Candidate for membership in the Club.

Section 11. In the case where a Club Membership Limit is in effect, and the membership is at that Limit, any member can recommend a person to be placed on the membership Waiting List. That person will be the Sponsor of the Candidate Member. The Candidate and Sponsor must fill out the Club Membership Application, and turn the Application in to the President. The Club President shall sign and date the Application, then provide it to the Secretary. When there is an opening to accept a new member, the Board of Directors, at their next Board Meeting, shall consider the Candidates who are on the waiting list. The Candidates shall be considered in the order that their Applications were received by the President. After a Candidate has been selected, the Candidate will be notified. The Candidate and his/her Sponsor must then attend a Club meeting, and the members present at the meeting shall be given the opportunity to vote on the proposed Candidate. An affirmative vote of a majority of those present at the meeting shall approve the Candidate for membership in the Club.

ARTICLE IV
Initiation fee and dues

Section 1. A \$50 initiation fee shall be charged to join the club, plus the annual dues currently in effect at the time the member joins. The \$50 initiation fee is a “one time fee”. A member who drops out of the Club for a period of time, and rejoins, does not have to pay the \$50 initiation fee again. However, no matter when he or she rejoins the club, the full annual dues amount shall be paid. The initiation fee or dues may be changed by the Board of Directors, subject to approval by a majority of the club members present at a general meeting in accordance with Article VII, Section 2.

Money collected as initiation fees or dues shall be used only for items relating to club business and the purpose of the Club as stated in Article II.

Section 2. The club membership year is from July 1st to June 30th. Annual dues are payable in June of each year.

Section 3. New members voted into the Club after December 31st shall pay dues prorated to cover the balance of the membership year.

ARTICLE V
Officers and their duties

Section 1. The Officers of the Club shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Field Safety Officer. The Club Board of Directors shall consist of these five officers, plus the Members filling the Club Positions named in Article V(a).

Section 2. The President shall preside at meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors and act as spokesperson for the Club.

Section 3. The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, preside at meetings and otherwise assume all duties of the President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a written record of all meetings in the form of minutes and handle any necessary correspondence of the club. The Secretary shall keep the membership roster current and provide updates to the members at least one time each year.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due, and shall keep a written record of all financial transactions of the Club.

Section 6. The Field Safety Officer shall be responsible for the Field Safety Code and its enforcement.

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall conduct the everyday business of the club in accordance with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V(a)
Other Club Positions

The following additional positions shall exist: Past Presidents, Field Director, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master. They, along with the Five Club Officers shall be voting members of the Club Board of Directors.

Section 1. Past Presidents shall be considered “Senior Advisors” of the Club

Section 2. The Field Director shall be in charge of improvements and maintenance of the Field and Field Facilities.

Section 3. The Newsletter Editor shall publish a monthly Newsletter which will include Minutes of the last meeting, Reports of notable Club activities, Flyers, Announcements, and anything else deemed appropriate.

Section 4. The Web Master shall design and maintain the Club Web Site.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. A general meeting of the membership shall be held periodically as directed by the Board of Directors. It shall be conducted according to "Robert's Rules of Order".

Section 2. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called as needed by the President, but they shall be held at least every three months starting with January of each year. All members of the Board must be notified in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII

Voting

Section 1. Approval of items presented at a general meeting, including expenditures more than \$200 and less than \$500, require the affirmative vote of the majority of members present. Expenditures of \$200 or less only need to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Amending the Bylaws, electing officers, changing the initiation fee or annual dues, and authorizing expenditures of \$500 or more require an affirmative vote of the majority of club members present at a general meeting. For these actions, club members shall be notified of the proposal in advance of the meeting where the vote will be asked for.

Section 3. At least five (5) members of the Board of Directors must be present at a Board Meeting to conduct business. A majority vote of those present will pass a motion.

ARTICLE VIII

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations shall be held at the April meeting, with elections being held in May. The newly elected Officers shall assume their responsibilities on July 1st.

Section 2. All members shall be notified of the nominees in advance of the May general meeting. A majority of the votes cast by members present at the May general meeting shall elect.

Section 3. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment by the remaining officers. Such appointees shall serve until the end of the term for which the predecessor was elected.

ARTICLE IX

Board of Directors Functions and Authority

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to make decisions regarding the general operation of the club. It may authorize actions and expenditures needed to keep the club running smoothly, to conduct Club events, and to keep the field well maintained, provided that each expenditure is not more than \$200. Major proposed actions shall be presented to the membership for a vote in accordance with Article VII.

Section 2. For actions that the Board of Directors deems to be of interest to and/or will have significant impact on the general membership, it shall present the proposed action to the membership for a vote in accordance with Article VII. As a minimum, those actions outlined in Article VII Section 2 shall be presented to the membership for a vote.

ARTICLE X

Resignation, Termination, Disciplinary Action, Expulsion and Reinstatement of membership

Section 1. Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the club.

Section 2. If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall thereby terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.

Section 3. Any individual may be expelled from membership from the Club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors if, in the Board's determination, such individual willfully commits any act or omission which is a violation of any of the terms of these Bylaws, Rules of the AMA, the Club Safety Code, or which is detrimental to the Club, the AMA, or to model aviation. For violations of Flight or Ground Safety rules, the Grievance Procedure of Article XII herein shall be followed.

Section 4. Any member who is expelled from membership may be reinstated to membership by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall have the discretionary authority to provide for and to impose disciplinary action for such acts or omissions, which do not justify expulsion from membership.

ARTICLE XI

Dissolution

Section 1. The club may be dissolved with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total membership.

Section 2. Upon the dissolution of the Club, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Club, dispose of all the assets of the Club exclusively for the purposes of the Club in such manner, to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc., or to such other organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or to such other organization with purposes similar to the purposes of this Club as the Board shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas (or similar court) of the county in which the principal office of this club is then located, exclusively for such purposes and to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE XII

Grievance Procedure (Flight and Ground Safety Rules)

Section 1. *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 Board of Directors for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form to be filled out and turned into the President. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

ARTICLE XII Grievance Procedure (Flight and Ground Safety Rules) (continued)

Section 2. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:

- (a) A grievance form (see page 7) will be filled out and turned into the President. At least one witness is required.
- (b) **FIRST VIOLATION**
 1. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
 2. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
 3. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Board of Directors, and this will be recorded in the Board's files.
- (c) **SECOND VIOLATION**
 1. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
 2. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Board.
 3. If the Board so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy published in the Club newsletter.
- (d) **THIRD VIOLATION**
 1. The Board 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 meeting.
 2. Said expulsion will last for a one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors).
 3. A member may be expelled from the Club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting.
 4. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting.
 5. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.
- (e) The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.
- (f) Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation action against the person filing said Grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the Club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII

Flying/Modeling Assistance

Members often provide assistance to others at the Flying Field. This assistance may include checking out a model for proper operation, helping troubleshoot a malfunction with a model, test flying a model, or helping a modeler learn to fly. When a member is asked for such assistance, and provides it, in no case will that member be held responsible for, or assume any liability for any mishap that may occur while providing such assistance. Members accepting such assistance shall do so at their own risk.

GILMAN SPINGS RC FLYERS

Grievance Form

Date: _____

Time: _____

Nature of Violation:

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Additional Witnesses: (not required)
