

BYLAWS FOR WHIDBEY ISLAND RADIO CONTROL SOCIETY “WIRCS”

As amended on June 8, 2024

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1

The name of this organization shall be the Whidbey Island Radio Control Society (WIRCS) and shall hereby be referred to as "the club".

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the club is to provide a safe and legal environment for the enjoyment of the hobby of radio control modeling, to teach and share model building techniques, ideas and modeling skills, and the development of good sportsmanship among its members.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1

Any person interested in the hobby of radio control modeling may join the club by taking the following action:

(a)

Attend a regular meeting and indicate his/her desire to join.

(b)

Present a valid AMA membership or proof of application thereof, and maintain said membership.

(c)

Obtain an application form from the club secretary to fill out and return.

(d)

Pay dues in accordance with club bylaws.

(e)

Agree to abide by all club rules and bylaws.

Section 2

A quorum shall constitute the members in attendance of a formal club meeting.

Section 3

Voting shall be limited to those members whose names appear on the club secretary's list, and whose dues have been currently paid.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBER TERMINATION, REINSTATEMENT

Section 1

Resignation: Any member in good standing may resign his or her membership by giving written notice to the club.

Section 2

Termination: If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his or her membership in the club shall thereby terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.

Section 3

Expulsion: This section provides for enforcement of the safety rules that are related to flying activities or any other unacceptable behavior by an individual member or members. Any individual may be expelled from membership from the club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total votes cast if in the officers' determination, such individual willfully commits any act or omission which is a violation of any of the terms of these bylaws, or the Rules of the AMA, or which is detrimental the club, the AMA, or to model aviation.

Section 4

Reinstatement: A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership is required for reinstatement to the club.

ARTICLE V: DUES

Section 1

Dues shall be paid in the following manner:

(a)

General Members: \$30.00 paid annually by March 1.

(b)

Senior Members: \$25.00 paid annually by March 1. Senior Members shall be defined as being 65 years of age or older.

(c)

Junior Members: \$15.00 paid annually by March 1. Junior Members shall be defined as being under 18 years of age.

(d)

Associate Members: \$1.00 paid annually by March 1. Associate Member shall be defined as non-flying members.

(e)

Family Membership: \$50.00 paid annually by March 1. Family Membership shall be defined as two adults, and children under 18 years of age.

(f)

Honorary Life Member: No Fee.

Section 2

The club treasurer shall provide a membership card as proof of membership, giving that member the permission to fly at club fields.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1

General meetings shall be held once a month at the time and place designated by the Club President. Special meetings may be designated by the Club President.

ARTICLE VII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1

Nomination of officers shall be by voice vote at the October meeting.

Section 2

Voting shall take place at the November meeting.

Section 3

Newly elected officers shall take office at the December meeting.

Section 4

Should an officer resign during the club year, the President shall appoint a willing member of the club to assume the office.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS

Section 1

Officers of the club shall be as follows:

(a)

Elected Officers (Board of Directors):

(1)

President.

(2)

Vice President.

(3)

Secretary.

(4)

Treasurer. NOTE: The position of treasurer may be filled by the same person elected to be club secretary.

(b)

Term Limits: Terms in any one office shall be limited to two consecutive years.

(c)

Officers appointed by the President:

(1)

Safety Officer.

(2)

Field Marshal

(3)

Newsletter Editor

(4)

Chief Flight Instructor

(5)

Webmaster

(6)

WIRCS Mail Administrator

Section 2

Officers and Their Duties:

(a)

President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at regular meetings and to act as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

(b)

Vice President: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to maintain the physical assets of the club, including any equipment and supplies. It shall also be the duty of the Vice President to develop programs for each meeting of the club. The Vice President will chair any meeting not attended by the President. If the President resigns, the Vice President will assume the presidency for the remaining term.

(c)

Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of all club meetings; to notify the club membership of upcoming, regular, and special meetings and events. The Secretary shall make club records available upon request. The Secretary will chair at any meeting not attended by either the President or Vice President.

(d)

Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect, disburse and keep current a record of the club's monetary assets, and; to post or issue a monthly accounting of the club's funds for the preceding month. The Treasurer shall make club records available upon request. The Treasurer shall make incidental monetary outlays of amounts not to exceed \$50.00 per month, with the approval of the President or Vice President. Expenditures of over \$50.00 for any one item shall require approval of the membership by majority of those present at a general meeting. The Treasurer will chair at any meeting not attended by either the President, Vice President or Secretary.

(e)

Safety Officer: Duties include: Pre-flight inspection of new and repaired aircraft; analyze causes for any crash, pilot error included; preparation of club field rules; enforcement of AMA Safety Code; prevent individual fliers from flying if their conduct or aircraft is unsafe; supervision of spectator areas,

flight line and frequency control; know address and shortest route to a hospital, police, fire department; location of field fire extinguisher; know names of persons qualified in first aid and CPR; conduct safety classes as part of regular club meetings.

(f)

Field Marshal: Duties include: Supervision of field layout (parking, flight line, etc.); greet new faces at the field, explain the hobby, and how to become involved; knowledge of location of nearest hospital, police department and field fire extinguisher; knowledge of first aid and location of first aid kit; erection of temporary signs during flying sessions; clean up field of debris (FOD) after a crash, litter, etc.); presentations to club at open meetings on problems; ability to handle non-fliers who may disrupt operations; personal knowledge of public officials to contact if needed assist with any problems.

(g)

Newsletter Editor: Duties include preparation and distribution of the bi monthly club newsletter to all members and others on the mailing list.

(h)

Chief Flight Instructor: Duties include: Provide and/or arrange for instruction to new or inexperienced pilots on the operation of RC model aircraft; inspect and test fly newly built or re-built aircraft for those members requesting same; recommend to the club president those deserving of their AMA solo patch. To the extent practical but without expense to the club unless approved by the membership, arrange for trainer aircraft and buddy boxes for orientation flights for those who might be interesting the RC hobby, in accordance with AMA rules for such flying.

(i)

Webmaster: Construct and maintain a club website. The website will be kept current with material approved by the elected club officers. Webmaster will provide administrative information to the treasurer as needed to support requisite payment for hosting and site name.

(j)

WIRCS Mail Administrator: Maintain a private club email bulletin board for club communication. The administrator shall ensure that all of those with access to said email are current club members and that communication material is appropriate to the administration of the club and nothing else.

ARTICLE IX: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

(a)

Membership: The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers of the club, as set forth in ARTICLE VIII plus the immediate past president, two members appointed by the currently elected president and one additional member at large elected by club membership.

(b)

Meetings: The Board of Directors shall meet at the pleasure of the President not less than two times per year and shall act on any matter brought before it by the club president and make suitable recommendations for consideration by the club president and subsequently the club membership if appropriate.

(c)

Officer Status: Board members who are not already club officers are not considered to be club officers by virtue of board membership.

ARTICLE X: SAFETY

Section 1

All members shall abide by those rules governing the operation radio control models as stipulated in the AMA model aircraft regulation book and club bylaws.

Section 2

Noise Abatement Program: All members shall work toward the goal of minimizing noise complaints and an environment that is not hazardous to the hearing of members and spectators.

(a)

Mufflers: All aircraft with the exception of those specifically built for racing, shall have a sound level of no more than 100db at 10 feet over grass at full throttle. Aircraft owners not in compliance shall be advised to make corrections. If found not in compliance a second time without having made an attempt to correct, the offending aircraft shall be grounded until repairs are made. Aircraft specifically built for racing and configured in accordance with AMA rules for racing aircraft may be flown in racing configuration no later than 6:00 p.m. or dusk, whichever is earlier.

(b)

Monitoring: The club Safety Officer shall periodically monitor noise at the flying site and request corrective action be taken for any aircraft not meeting the 100 db/10 foot guideline. The club Safety Officer, at his discretion, shall cause any aircraft to be immediately grounded if its noise level is deemed hazardous to hearing or the wellbeing of the club.

Section 3

Flight Training Programs: Under the direction of the Chief Flight Instructor (CFI) the club will organize, supervise and support a program to train and certify new members and flight instructors to safely fly. The club will provide an R/C model trainer, videos and flight training manuals in support of the program. The club R/C trainer will be restricted to demonstration flights and dual flight instruction with a buddy box only.

(a)

Flight Instructors.

(1)

Chief Flight Instructor: The Chief Flight Instructor is appointed by the Club President. Desirable characteristics in the Chief Flight Instructor are proficiency as an RC pilot, the ability to instruct others, use of a buddy box, knowledge of AMA and club safety rules, and the ability to manage the club's Flight Training Program.

(2)

Flight Instructors: Other club Flight Instructors shall be recruited and trained as necessary by the Chief Flight Instructor. Desirable characteristics for Flight Instructors are proficiency as an RC pilot, the ability to instruct others, use of a buddy box and knowledge of AMA and club safety rules.

(b)

New Pilots: The objective of flight instruction is to give members sufficient hands on training to permit safe solo flight (flying without the direct support of a qualified flight instructor) with the member's aircraft. Safe solo flight shall be at the discretion of qualified flight instructors but shall include as a minimum, verbal verification of knowledge and understanding of flying site rules, taxi and take off from the center line of the designated runway, oval pattern flight, figure eights at constant altitude, power on and off landings on the designated runway. Demonstration of these skills will result in the designation Club Certified Pilot.

(c)

Experienced New Members: New members shall demonstrate flying proficiency for a club flight instructor and be designated a Club Certified Pilot before engaging in unsupervised solo flight at the club flying site. Standards are the same as those for a new pilot. If the member's flying skills need refreshment in the opinion of the examiner, a program of instruction shall be worked out between the examiner, member being examined and the Chief Flight Instructor.

(d)

Inspection: Inspection of new or rebuilt aircraft is recommended but not required unless it is the member's first RC model, in which case inspection is mandatory. Inspection shall include but not be limited to control surface deflection (direction and amount); CG location; radio range check; visible structural integrity; alignment of the engine and flying surfaces, and; servo to control surface connections.

(e)

Records: The club Chief Flight Instructor shall maintain a list of those members qualified to solo, date qualified and type of aircraft. A list will also be maintained and published in the club Newsletter with the names of qualified flight instructors with the type of buddy box available (JR, Futaba, etc.).

Article XI: Grievance Procedures

Section 1

Safety-related Complaints: 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 coordinator/committee for its consideration by means of a grievance form to be filled out and turned into the safety coordinator/committee chair. At least one witness is required to sign the grievance form.

The safety coordinator/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 coordinator/committee chair. At least one witness is required. The safety coordinator/committee chair will investigate and consider viewpoints of both, complainants and accused. If the grievance is validated, the following disciplinary actions will be implemented:

(b)

First Violation: Complainant's name will be disclosed. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the safety coordinator/committee chair, and this will be recorded in the club records.

(c)

Second Violation: Complainant's name will be disclosed. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the club safety coordinator/committee. If the committee 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: Safety coordinator/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 meeting. Club members eligible for voting who cannot attend the meeting may vote via virtual ballot. Said expulsion will last for a one-year minimum. A member may be expelled from the club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total votes cast. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting or through a secure online ballot. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time-period.

(e)

The three actions will not be enforced unless the three violations are accumulated within a period of two consecutive years.

(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 includes, but is not limited to threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the club officers.

Section 2

Non-safety Related Complaints: Complaints need to be presented to any club officer or grievance committee member.

(a)

Review/Investigation

(b)

Disciplinary Actions (not addressed in Article 3)

(1)

First Violation: as in Section 1 above.

(2)

Second Violation: as in Section 1 above.

(3)

Third Violation: as in Section 1 above.

(c)

Appeal Process

ARTICLE XII: GENERAL

Section 1

Amendments, additions, or deletions may be considered by the membership at any regular meeting. Agreement by a majority of members present is necessary for adoption of any amendments, additions, or deletions to the club bylaws.

Section 2

The club assumes no responsibility or liability resulting from acts of individual members.

ARTICLE XIII: DISSOLUTION OF CLUB

Section 1

The duration of the club shall be perpetual. The club may be dissolved with the approval of two-thirds vote of the membership. Any liquid remaining assets will be donated to the AMA Foundation.

APPENDIX: Grievance Form

Whidbey Island Radio Control Society Club Grievance Form

Date: _____

Time: _____

Nature of Violation:

Complainant's Signature:

Witness' Signature:

Additional Witnesses (not required):
