

# **SPRINGFIELD R/C CLUB "THE BLACK SHEEP SQUADRON"**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I**

Name **and** objectives of the club.

SECTION 1. The name of the club shall be the Springfield R/C Club, hereinafter referred to as "The Club". The official nickname of The Club shall be "The Black Sheep Squadron".

SECTION 2. The objectives of The Club shall be:

- (a) To encourage and promote the sport of R/C flying as a recreational activity, and as a competitive sport.
- (b) To urge members and flyers to accept the standards and rules of safety of the Academy of Model Aeronautics as the standard of excellence by which models and flyers shall be judged.
- (c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of R/C flying by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at all club events including air shows and fun fly events. Also by conducting business in a friendly cooperative way so as not to discredit anyone publicly.
- (d) To conduct sanctioned fun flies and other competitive events under the rules of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

SECTION 3. The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to The Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

SECTION 4. The members of The Club shall adopt bylaws and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

## **BYLAWS (revised August 2007)**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be one type of membership open to all persons, who are in good standing with the Academy of Model Aeronautics and who subscribe to the purposes of The Club. In the case of an application for a new membership, the prospective member may be accepted into The Club if he/she simultaneously tenders an application for membership to the Academy of Model Aeronautics. (Hereinafter referred to as the AMA) However, in no case shall a member be allowed to remain a member if for some reason the AMA does not accept his/her application for membership. In that case the member would be notified that he/she was being dropped as a member until such time that he/she could give evidence that he/she had been accepted as member of the AMA.

While membership is unrestricted as to residence, The Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the flyers and modelers in its immediate area.

## SECTION 2. Dues.

- (a) Membership dues and new membership initiation fee shall be proposed by the Board of Directors at the October meeting. Accompanying the proposal will be an itemized list of deposits and expenditures for the twelve previous month period provided by the Treasurer to each member at the meeting. At the November meeting the proposal will be brought to a vote.
- (b) Officers dues. Officers and other appointed positions approved by the board are entitled to reduced dues by approved majority vote of the club membership at the annual meeting in November.

## SECTION 3. Membership process.

- (a) New members. Each person electing to be come a member shall submit a completed and signed membership form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the person agrees to abide by this constitution and bylaws, club field rules and the rules of the AMA. The application shall state the name, address, and AMA number of the applicant. Accompanying the membership form, the prospective member shall submit dues for the subsequent/current year and initiation fee.
- (b) Renewing members. Each member renewing their membership shall submit a completed and signed membership form as in SECTION 3 (a) above. Membership dues renewal for the following year begins Dec 1 and continues through Dec 31 of the current year.

## SECTION 4. Termination of membership. Membership may be terminated:

- (a) By resignation. Any member may resign from The Club upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to The Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to The Club and they become incurred as in SECTION 3 (a) or (b) above.
- (b) By lapsing. A membership will be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid beyond Dec 31 of the previous year. Lapsed members shall be considered new members and fall under the requirements for new membership under SECTION 3 (a) above, unless waived by the Board of Directors.
- (c) By expulsion. A member may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.
- (d) No dues or initiation fees are refundable unless a special, unusual, or extenuating circumstance is petitioned to and approved by the board.

SECTION 5. Lifetime membership. For those members making significant contribution to the club or the sport of R/C flying, a lifetime membership can be issued by recommendation of the board and by majority vote of the club membership at a regular meeting. Lifetime members are entitled to all club and flying field privileges as long as current AMA membership is maintained.

## **ARTICLE II**

### MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION 1. Club meetings. Meetings of The Club shall be held in, or within 25 miles of, the City of Springfield on the first Thursday of each month, at such hour and place as may be determined by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be communicated by Newsletter at least 6 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members present. Rules governing conduct at meetings are covered in Article VI, section 5, and Article IX.

SECTION 2. Special club meetings. Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority

vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board, and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by 10 members of The Club. Such special meetings shall be held in accordance with the rules of conduct for any regular meeting including time and place for such meeting. Notice, mailed to the members of any special meeting, shall state the purpose of said meeting and no other business may be conducted at that meeting. The quorum for that meeting shall be 20% of the members in present.

SECTION 3. Board meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in or within 25 miles of the City of Springfield 30 minutes prior to the regular Thursday meeting, at such place and time as may be designated by the Board. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 4. Special Board meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a request by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in accord with the rules of a regular meeting.

SECTION 5. Voting. Each member shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of The Club at which he/she is present. In no case will any member be able to vote by proxy.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five other persons, all of whom shall be club members, and all of whom shall be elected for a one year term, at The Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are installed at the December meeting. General management of The Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Officers. The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities with regard to The Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings. The respective office shall be for one year terms and no officer shall hold the same office for more than 2 consecutive terms. The only exception to this requirement comes in the event that no other nominee can be found to run for the particular office.

- (a) The President shall preside at all meetings of The Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws.
- (b) The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the power of the President in case of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of The Club and of the Board and all matters of which a record shall be ordered by The Club, and shall have charge of the correspondence, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of The Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed by these bylaws.
- (d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to The Club. He/She shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of The Club. The books shall be open at all times to inspection by the Board, and the Treasurer shall report to them at every meeting the

condition of The Club's finances and every item of receipt of payment not before reported. At the October meeting, he/she shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous year. All checks dispersing club funds will carry the signature of either the President or the Treasurer to be valid.

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the Board. The exception to this is in the case of a vacancy in the office of President which shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President. The resulting vacancy of Vice-President shall be appointed by the Board.

SECTION 4. Acceptance of office. Each newly elected or appointed officer or Board member shall at the official installation to their respective office, publicly promise and affirm, that they will do their best to uphold the constitution and bylaws of The Club and will faithfully execute the duties of their office as outlined by these bylaws, a ceremonial installation for regularly elected officers and Board members shall be held at the beginning of the December club meeting and shall be the only official business conducted at that meeting the rest of that meeting given to an annual social event. In the case of an absent appointed officer or Board member, they shall publicly affirm the above at the next regularly scheduled or special club meeting. In any case, the affirmation shall take place for each elected official of The Club before they officially assume any responsibilities of their office. The swearing in ceremony shall be conducted by the immediate past President of The Club.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

##### **THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS**

SECTION 1. Club year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and shall end on the last day of December.

The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the installation of officers ceremony, which shall occur at the December meeting and shall continue through the ceremony at the next December meeting.

SECTION 2. Annual meeting. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of November at which time officers, and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from those nominated in accordance with SECTION 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the ceremony to install officers at the December meeting. Each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor in office all properties and records relating to the office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The five nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Nominations. No person shall be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated. All nominated candidates must have been a club member for at least the 12 past months. During the month of October, the membership will select a nominating committee consisting of three members and two alternates) not more than one of which may be a Board member. The nominating committee shall name a chairman for the committee, and it shall be his/her duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before October 20th.

- (a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office, and five candidates for the five remaining positions on the Board, and, after securing the consent of each person nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary.
- (b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report the Secretary shall before November 1st, notify each member of the candidates so nominated.
- (c) Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not withdraw when his/her name is proposed, and provided that if the proposed person is not in attendance at this meeting, his/her proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one office, and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members not accepting a nomination of the nominating committee.
- (d) Nominations cannot be made in any manner other than as provided in this section.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **COMMITTEES**

SECTION 1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of The Club in such matters as deemed necessary by the Board. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

SECTION 2. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full Board upon written notice to the appointee, and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **DISCIPLINE**

SECTION 1. Academy of Model Aeronautics suspension. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the AMA shall automatically be suspended from The Club for a like period.

SECTION 2. Charges. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of The Club or the sport. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of one hundred (\$100) dollars which shall be forfeited if such charges are not substantiated by the Board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of said charges to each Board member or present them at a Board meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charge or charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of The Club or the sport. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be defined as prejudicial, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a hearing date by the Board, not less than 3 weeks and not more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

SECTION 3. Board hearing. The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present, suspend the defendant from all privileges of The Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. If the charges being preferred are the result of a lost model plane, the defendant, if charges should be sustained, may avoid suspension by satisfactorily reimbursing complainant for his/her loss. However, if the Board deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such a case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/her fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which will consider the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary in turn shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

SECTION 4. Expulsion. Expulsion of a member from The Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of The Club following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in SECTION 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of The Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing on his/her own behalf; though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf if he/she wishes. The membership shall then vote by written secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. IF expulsion is not so voted the suspension of the Board shall stand.

SECTION 5. Club discipline at regular meetings. The President or presiding officer shall have the power to request any member or guest leave the meeting, if said member or guest should become unruly, or is repeatedly out of order. Should the member who has been requested to leave the room refuse to do so, said member is subject to action outlined SECTION 2 above of this ARTICLE without requirement of the filing fee.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board or by written petition addressed to the Secretary and signified by 20% of the membership present. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of receipt.

SECTION 2. The Constitution and bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided the proposed amendments have included in the notice of the meeting is sent to each member at least one week before the date of the meeting.

SECTION 3. Current documents. The Secretary shall maintain the current copy of this Constitution and Bylaws. The latest dated revision replaces and supersedes all previous versions and/or revisions.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **DISSOLUTION**

SECTION 1. Dissolution. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 3/4 of the members. In any event of the dissolution of The Club, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property or any proceeds of The Club nor any assets of The Club shall be distributed to any member or any person. But after dissolution and payment of any remaining debts of The Club if any assets remain, they shall be given to a charitable organization selected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

SECTION 1. The official order of business for conducting club meetings shall be determined by the official "Roberts Rules of Order." It shall be the responsibility of each member to familiarize himself /herself with the proper rules of order and to conduct club business with respect to proper execution of said rules. Should any member be technically out of order the chair will rule him/her "out of order" and explain to him/her the infraction. The member shall then have the option of reintroducing his/her proposed business in accordance with the proper rules.