

# **SMALL MODEL AIRCRAFT SOCIETY of HARLINGEN BY-LAWS as of DECEMBER 11, 2010**

## **ARTICLE I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. The organization shall be known as the SMALL MODEL AIRCRAFT SOCIETY of HARLINGEN, or S.M.A.S.H., and shall hereafter be referred to as the Club.
2. The purpose of the Club shall be to provide a forum for radio control model aircraft enthusiasts who are primarily interested in the recreational sport of model aircraft flying. The activities of the Club shall be, but not restricted to, informal gatherings of the members, fun flies, and informal club and/or inter-club competitions.
3. The Club will be affiliated with the ACADEMY of MODEL AERONAUTICS (A.M.A.), and operate under the sanctions and rules set forth by the A.M.A.

## **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership in the Club will be open to any person agreeing to abide by the rules and policies of the Club.
2. Any person applying for membership in the Club must complete and satisfy the following requirements before being accepted for full membership with flying privileges:
  - a. submit an application, including their annual dues, at any scheduled monthly meeting of the Club;
  - b. be voted on and approved by the Board of Directors for acceptance into the Club;
  - c. demonstrate satisfactory model handling skills to a Club officer, or take lessons from one or more of the members using the "buddy box" system of flight instruction;
  - d. maintain membership in the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics), and hold a current AMA license; and,
  - e. complete a two (2) month probationary period during which the applicant may be removed from membership for any reason deemed sufficient to warrant the action. Any applicant removed from the Club during the probationary period shall have their full dues refunded.

3. Membership annual dues and other fees shall be assessed as follows:

| Category | Annual Dues | Conditions   |
|----------|-------------|--|
| YOUTH    | \$5.00      | must be under the age of 19 as of July 1st of the current year |
| ADULT    | \$50.00     | ages 19 through 79   |
| SENIOR   | \$25.00     | must be 80 or over as of July 1st of the current year          |

a. New members joining after November 1st of the current year will be considered as having their dues paid thru the following year.

b. Annual dues are payable starting January 1st, and are considered in arrears if not paid by January 31st of the current year. If the current year's dues are not paid by January 31st, the offending member will be notified that their dues are in arrears.

c. Failure of a member to keep current their annual dues.

i. Once notified, an offending club member shall have until the next scheduled meeting to bring their dues up to date. The Club Secretary shall give notification to an offending Club member by any convenient method. Proof of notification will not be required beyond the Club Secretary's word on the matter. If the dues are not paid by the next scheduled meeting, the offending member is automatically terminated from the club. The terminated member's only recourse is outlined in Article II(3)(c)(ii) as follows.

ii. A member whose dues are in arrears may be automatically reinstated into the Club by paying full dues owed prior to and since termination. Any member terminated for failure to pay dues MAY NOT take advantage of the November bonus year option.

d. All members and guests must abide by the Bylaws and Flying Field Rules of the Club and the A.M.A.

e. Visitors are welcome at any of the airparks operated by S.M.A.S.H. Those non-members wishing to fly at the club facility for more than three weeks shall pay \$5.00 per week retroactive to their first week of flying, and shall attend club meetings during the visiting period. With the exception of membership in the Club, all visitors are expected to adhere to the bylaws and rules of conduct published by the Club. Visitors may have their guest privileges terminated immediately by any member of the Club for any reason deemed detrimental to the Club now or in the future. Such persons will be ordered to leave the flying field immediately!

### **ARTICLE III: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. Termination of membership in the Club may occur for any of the following reasons:

a. Failure to keep current the annual dues.

b. Lapse of A.M.A. membership.

c. Behavior not consistent with safe flying practices, or behavior contrary to the general welfare of the Club, EVEN IF SUCH BEHAVIOR IS LEGAL AND/OR IN THE PERSONAL INTERESTS OF THE OFFENDING CLUB MEMBER.

2. Termination of membership shall occur by the following procedure(s):
  - a. Provisional termination of membership in the Club can be initiated by any member(s) of the Board of Directors of the Club at their discretion either acting on their own, or by acting on the recommendation(s) of one or several members of the Club. Provisional termination is immediate and without recourse except as described in the following sub-paragraphs. Provisional termination has the effect of full termination, but is not final until voted on by the Board of Directors.
  - b. Final termination will be decided by the Board of Directors. The member under penalty of termination may present their case to the Board prior to the Board's vote on the matter. Persons terminated from the Club forfeit all current dues and dues in arrears.
  - c. Any terminated member may apply for reinstatement to the Club six months after start of their provisional termination. Reinstatement shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the Club.
  - d. The above procedure(s) will be carried out with all possible speed.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

1. The officers of the Club shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Safety Officer. These officers shall comprise the Board of Directors, and shall be elected annually by the procedures outlined in Article IV, paragraph 2 below.
2. These elections will adhere to the following schedule of events:
  - a. Elections of officers will take place at the November Club meeting each year.
  - b. The general membership of the Club will be requested to submit names for nominations for each office at the October and November meetings of the Club.
  - c. New officers' terms will begin on January 1st following the elections.
3. Any appeals to the election proceedings may be referred to the Board of Directors who will inform the membership of such appeals and take steps to answer the appeal within 30 days.
4. Resignation will be granted in the event any officer feels they cannot continue to fulfill the rest of their term. The resigning officer shall give notice 30 days prior to the time their resignation shall take affect.
5. Removal of an officer shall take place under the following conditions:
  - a. excessive absenteeism;

- b. termination of membership; and/or,
  - c. malfeasance and/or criminal misconduct.
6. The procedure for removing an officer shall be:
- a. A removal complaint must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors. The removal complaint shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and presented for discussion at a Club meeting.
  - b. The vote to remove or reinstate shall take place at the next meeting, following a discussion of the matter by the general membership. The vote to remove shall occur by a vote of the general membership in accordance with Article VI and Article VII.
7. Replacement of an officer shall be made by presidential appointment. The appointed officer will serve the remainder of the term. In the event the president is the officer to be replaced, the remaining four members of the Board of Directors will make the appointment. All replacement decisions must be completed within 30 days of a vacancy.

## **ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Safety Officer.
2. The Board of Directors shall perform such duties as may be required of them by the Club by-laws.
3. The Board of Directors shall always act in the best interest of the Club, putting aside their own personal feelings. This is a sacred trust.
4. The Board of Directors shall act as election officials and prepare all election materials in a timely manner.

## **ARTICLE VI: VOTING**

1. Each member in good standing will be allowed to cast one vote in all voting matters open to the general membership.
2. In matters of removal of an officer, the President will abstain from voting and will only cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote. In the event the President is the officer up for vote to remove, the Vice President shall reserve their vote for tie breaking purposes. In the absence of the Vice President, the order of succession for reserving a tie breaking vote is Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer.

3. The full body of the Board of Directors shall vote in closed door executive session on matters concerning application for membership or for the termination of membership. In all such cases, a majority vote by the full Board of Directors will determine the disposition of the matter. Under no circumstances is the Board of Directors under any obligation to explain their actions on these matters.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS**

1. The business meeting of the Club will be conducted monthly at a time so designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors as circumstances dictate.
2. A quorum is necessary to conduct business at a given meeting. A quorum is defined as twenty percent (20%) of the eligible voting members of the Club.

## **ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** The president shall preside at all Club meetings and act as official representative for the Club where required. The President will determine an agenda for each meeting and generally perform those duties required to insure the Club operates in an orderly manner.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President will assist the President in all executive matters as required, and assume the duties of the President in the event the President is unable to carry out those duties.

**SECRETARY:** The Secretary will keep accurate records of all Club matters and be prepared to share this information with the Club membership and/or Board of Directors as matters demand. The Secretary will have an additional responsibility to keep the Club in good standing with the A.M.A. with respect to the Club Charter. The Secretary will maintain a list of Club members in good standing.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer will maintain accurate records of all Club money matters and be prepared to share this information with the Club membership and/or Board of Directors as matters demand. The Treasurer will also maintain the Club's bank accounts, and see that recurring bills and/or other obligations are paid.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** The Safety Officer will keep the membership informed about safety issues, accidents, and other safety matters related to the operation of the Club's fields. The Safety Officer is also responsible keeping current on safety information as distributed by the A.M.A., and passing this information on to the membership.

## **ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES**

1. Committee chairpersons will be assigned by the President from available volunteers.
2. Committee chairpersons will appoint as many committee members from a list of volunteers as they feel necessary to accomplish the task of the committee.
3. Ad Hoc committees will be formed as required.
4. All committees will report on their progress on a regular basis to the general membership.

## **ARTICLE X: AMMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS**

Amendments to these by-laws shall be made using the following procedure:

1. Proposed amendments to the by-laws may be submitted to the Board of Directors by any member of the Club.
2. The general membership will be notified of a pending meeting called to discuss and vote on the proposed change to the by-laws.
3. A vote in accordance with Article VI and Article VII will confirm or deny the proposed change to the by-laws.

**END OF CURRENT BY-LAWS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 11, 2010**