

BY-LAWS OF "SOUTH PINELLAS AERONAUTICAL RADIO KONTROL SOCIETY, INC"
Approved Revision dated 6 February 2020

ARTICLE I
NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association is South Pinellas Aeronautical Radio Kontrol Society, Inc. It may be used as is or referred to as "SPARKS" or "The Club", shortened names as a matter of convenience.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Association shall be to provide leadership in the aero modeling community and to promote aero modeling as a hobby. The main objective of the Association shall be to provide and maintain an adequate flying site for radio controlled model aircraft, for its members and guests.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

The total number of members in the Association shall be limited to a number approved by the membership in good standing, at the first annual meeting of each year, based on recommendation by the Association's Board. If within this limit, any person may become a new member of the Association by paying current dues and initiation fees and upon completion of a sixty (60) day probationary period. All members shall be expected to attend meetings whenever possible and to abide by all By-laws, as well as field and safety rules.

1. All new or renewing members shall belong to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) prior to acceptance into the Association.
2. Use of any specific type of radio control equipment shall be subject to approval by the Association's Board.
3. Fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1st through December 31st of the same year.
4. Dues for the coming year are due by December 31st of the current year.
5. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, Field Marshall, Newsletter Editor, Web Manager, Chief Flight Instructor, and Lifetime members shall be exempt from annual dues.
6. Guests (non-members) can make up to three (3) visits for flying, under the supervision of a member in good standing. After the third visit, membership will be required for further flying at the SPARKS field.
7. Temporary membership is available for thirty (30) days. Rates will be determined by the Board.
8. The Board may refuse applications for new membership and renewals with documented cause, based on a 2/3 vote by the Board.

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The elected Officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Safety Officer. There shall also be four elected Directors. Together with the five elected Officers, they will constitute the Association's Board. Non-elected officers of the Association shall be the Field Marshall, Newsletter Editor, and Web Manager. These non-elected officers shall be appointed by the Association's Board.

ARTICLE V
NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, VOTING

1. Nominations

The Nominating Committee shall be formed by the President no later than three months before the November general membership meeting. Nominating Committee will consist of a chairperson and, if deemed necessary by the President, up to two (2) additional members in good standing at large.

The Nominating Committee shall present its slate of nominees for the five Officers and four Directors at the November meeting. At that time, additional nominations will be taken from any individual member in good standing. At the conclusion of the November meeting, nominations will be closed. All candidates must be members in good standing.

The slate of nominees shall be promptly made available to all members, including publishing in the newsletter, posting on the Club's website and bulletin board at the field.

2. Elections

Elections shall take place at the general membership meeting in December of each year. Voting shall be by secret ballot, either in person at the meeting or by secret absentee ballot, with all ballots counted at the meeting. In such case as only one (1) nominee may be running for a position, the secret ballot may be dispensed with, and the nominee may be simply awarded the position, due to no opposition. Term of office shall be from January 1st until December 31st of each year.

3. Appointments

- a) All appointments shall be made by the Association's Board.

b) Appointees must be members in good standing.

4. Vacancies

- a) If, for any reason, an office is vacated during the year, the President shall appoint a temporary replacement.
- b) Special nominations and elections will be held at the next general membership meeting. Notifications of the election will be given in the newsletter preceding the meeting.
- c) If a period of less than four (4) months remains in the term, a presidential appointment will be valid for the remainder of that term.

5. Voting

Official Club voting shall be administered by the Club's Board or conducted at a general membership meeting.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1. Duties of the President.

- a) To preside over all meetings, both the general membership meetings and the Board meetings.
- b) To serve as Chairman of the Association's Board.
- c) To act as the spokesperson for the Association.
- d) To correspond with AMA headquarters and district directors on a regular basis.
- e) To appoint all committees and to serve as an ex-officio member of any and all committees when needed, except the nominating committee.

2. Duties of the Vice President.

- a) To aid the President in carrying out the duties of his office whenever possible and to fulfill the duties of the President in the event of his absence at any meeting.
- b) To organize Club's events, such as raffles, fun-flies and contests.

3. Duties of the Secretary.

- a) To take the minutes of all general and Board meetings, both regular and special meetings, and read those general meeting minutes at the next general meeting.
- b) To keep or ensure the keeping of all records, files, and official documents of importance to the Association, including the copy of meeting minutes in a Corporate Book or electronic Folder.
- c) To process and/or record the official correspondence for the Association.
- d) To provide an up-to-date membership list to the members of the Association, and update the AMA roster for the Club on a regular basis
- e) To keep a formal record of these By-laws, maintaining a history of the changes in successive revisions.

4. Duties of the Treasurer

- a) To set up and maintain checking and savings accounts and act as banker for the Association.
- b) To act as accountant for the Association, with guidance, if necessary, of a certified public accountant retained by the Association's Board.
- c) To give a report of the financial condition of the Association at each general meeting.
- d) To process applications for new membership and renewals, including issuing membership badges and providing a copy of the Club's By-laws and Field Safety Rules to each new member.
- e) To keep an up-to-date list of members in good standing and provide this list to the Secretary.
- f) The Treasurer shall be an authorized signer of the Club's bank account(s). Owners of the Club's bank account(s) shall be the President and either the Vice President or the Secretary, as decided by the President.

5. Duties of the Safety Officer.

- a) To ensure the field rules and safety regulations are posted and followed at the flying site.
- b) To make recommendations for changes and/or additions to field and safety rules.
- c) To appoint assistant safety officer(s), as necessary.
- d) To report on safety violations to the Club's Board within 3 days, via email or phone call.
- e) To exercise the authority to ground and/or temporarily suspend any individual from operating their aircraft at the Club's flying site, according to Article VIII.

Note: specific responsibilities may be re-assigned among Officers at the President's discretion.

6. Duties of the Field Marshall.

- a) To police the flying field and ensure it is kept clean.
- b) To ensure that the field is mowed as required and that all runways and taxiways are in safe flyable conditions at all times.
- c) To see that equipment normally used is in proper state of repair and available at the flying site when needed.
- d) To maintain or coordinate maintenance of all structures at the flying site, as required to meet operational needs and safety and County codes.

7. Duties of the Newsletter Editor.

- a) To ensure the newsletter is written and sent to all members at least one week prior to the general meeting.
- b) To help promote the hobby of aero modeling and provide information concerning Club activities to the Club members and the

general public.

8. Duties of the Web Manager.

- a) To maintain the Club's website and update it with current information, under the general oversight of the Association's Board.
- b) To help promote the hobby of aero modeling with the general public, through social media.

9. Duties of the elected Directors.

- a) To serve as voting members of the Association's Board.
- b) To assist Officers and provide counsel regarding the general administration of the Club.

ARTICLE VII THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD

The Association's Board shall consist of the elected Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Safety Officer) and the four (4) Directors elected from the membership at large, specifically for the purpose of serving on the Association's Board. The Association's Board shall be responsible for the general management of the daily affairs of the Association. They will make recommendations to the membership and perform such duties as specified by the Association's By-Laws. Board meetings shall be called as necessary by the President, and held preferably shortly after the end of the general meetings. Special Board meetings may also be called by the President and held at a time and place, possibly by remote communications, convenient to the majority of Board members. All Board members shall be notified no later than three (3) days prior to any special Board meeting. A quorum of the Board members must be present to conduct a meeting. Six (6) Board members present shall constitute a quorum for a Board meeting.

Duties of the Association's Board shall include:

1. Establishing and communicating the time and the place for the general membership meetings, preferably to be held on a regular schedule (but not necessarily monthly).
 - a) General membership meetings shall be held at a time and place suitable and convenient for the majority of members.
 - b) The first meeting of the year shall be the official annual Association meeting.
 - c) Special general membership meetings may be called by the President, if deemed necessary.
 - d) A quorum must be present to conduct official business at general membership meetings. At least nine (9) members, including six (6) Board members must be present at a general meeting to constitute a quorum.
 - e) Voting on motions shall be made by voice or show of hands, unless otherwise decided by the membership and in situations such as elections or expulsions.
 - f) When voting by ballot, typically at elections, the President shall appoint two (2) counters who will be responsible for passing out and collecting all ballots to and from members in good standing, tabulating and announcing the results of each vote.
 - g) The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern the meetings in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Association's By-laws.
 - h) Any expenditure above \$600 shall be approved by the Board.
2. "Grounding" members until the next general meeting, for any action deemed to endanger the Association or cause loss of the Club flying field.
3. Considering the expulsion of members who consistently jeopardize the existence and/or well-being of the Association or its flying site and recommend for/against such expulsion to the general membership.
4. Determining annual dues, initiation fees and assessments, if any, sufficient to maintain the Association's treasury at a level equal to at least one (1) year of typical operating expenses and recommending any changes to the membership at a general meeting.
5. Preparing contingency plans to fund the Association's treasury, should funds fall below the minimum level defined above.
6. Appointing officers, from members in good standing, to serve as Field Marshall, Newsletter Editor, and Web Manager.
7. Appointing a Chief Flight Instructor and approving designated Flight Instructors and a Flight Instruction Program for new students.

ARTICLE VIII GROUNDING AND EXPULSION

1. Grounding.

- a) Grounding is the loss of flying privileges at the Club's flying site.
- b) A member may be grounded for a period of up to seven (7) days by the Club Safety Officer or Assistant Safety Officer(s).
- c) If a grounding period of more than seven (7) day is recommended by the Safety Officer, a special Board meeting shall be called.

2. Reasons for Grounding.

- a) Violating Club safety rules, as posted at the Club's flying site.
- b) Defacing County or Club property.
- c) Attempts by student pilots to fly without the assistance of a designated instructor.

- d) Operating or crashing an Aircraft out of bounds or conducting oneself in an unsafe manner.
- e) Behavior which is outside of community standards.
- f) Bad behavior which may be threatening, vulgar or distracting in any way, shape, or form to members and spectators.

Above violations may result in suspension of flying privileges. Third offense may result in 1-year membership termination.

3. Reasons for Expulsion.

- a) Flying or attempting to fly at the Club flying site after having been grounded.
- b) Two (2) groundings for safety violations.
- c) Providing non-members access to the Club flying site, including passing out the gate combination.
- d) Consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at the Club flying site.
- e) Night flying at the Club flying site.

4. Expulsion of a Member.

- a) Membership shall vote by secret ballot, with a majority vote of the members present, for or against the expulsion of a member with any of the reasons in point #3.
- b) Charges against any member may be decided at any meeting. However, that member must be notified before voting to expel, so he/she has a chance to defend himself/herself.
- c) Expelled members will forfeit all dues and initiation fees, which are non-refundable.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any general membership meeting, in either of two cases:

- a) Recommendations of the Board of Directors are presented at the general meeting and 2/3 majority vote of the members (present and in good standing) is achieved.
- b) By 2/3 majority vote of the members (present and in good standing), given the proposed Bylaws amendment has been discussed at the previous meeting and published in the Newsletter preceding the current meeting.

ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association may be dissolved upon the recommendation by the Association's Board and with the majority vote of the entire membership in good standing, by secret ballot at a special meeting called for that purpose. All members must be notified in writing thirty (30) days prior to such vote. Secret absentee votes must be received by the Secretary at least a week prior to the special meeting. In the event of dissolution of the Association, all assets of the Association will be donated to a charitable organization to be determined by a majority vote of the members present at the special meeting.