



# Sonoran Desert Flyers, Inc.

## Club BYLAWS

### AMA Charter # 3249

Revised April 15, 2011

#### INTRODUCTION

Any parliamentary or procedural matter not explicitly covered by these BYLAWS shall be conducted in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order"

### **ARTICLE 1 – Name, Charter, and Membership Requirements**

#### *Section 1 Club Name*

The name of this organization shall be the "Sonoran Desert Flyers, Inc.", hereafter referred to as "the Club".

#### *Section 2 Club Charter*

The Club was established under a charter granted to it by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) for the purpose of promoting and enhancing the sport of model aircraft. The Club's designated flying field is available only for the flying of Electric Model aircraft.

This Club is not organized and shall not be operated for pecuniary gain or profit. No part of the property of the Club and no part of its net revenue shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. This Club shall never be authorized to engage in a regular business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit or in any other Club activity except in furtherance of the purposes stated above for which the Club is organized. The Club shall never participate in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, nor shall any part of its property or any part of the income therefrom be devoted to such purpose.

#### *Section 3 Club Membership*

Any person who is active in model-building and flying, or is genuinely interested in learning to do so, may apply for membership at any regular meeting or with a Club officer at the Club field. Upon meeting the requirements of the Club BYLAWS and payment of the dues required in these BYLAWS, the applicant will become a member in good



standing of the Club. Associate members are appointed by the Club officers and not eligible to vote or hold office.

Applicants for full membership must show current membership in the AMA before being granted Club membership (does not apply for Associate members). Applicants will not be permitted flight privileges at the Club flying site until proof of membership is shown to any Club officer. Beginning pilots and new members claiming flight proficiency must demonstrate that proficiency prior to being granted full solo-flight privileges.

Flying members are required to maintain membership in the AMA. Prospective and current Club members shall provide proof of AMA membership during first-time Club registration or membership renewal. Membership in the Club will be automatically terminated if the member ceases to be a member of the AMA. Their Club membership shall be reinstated upon restoration of their AMA membership. Associate (non-flying) members do not require AMA membership.

#### Section 4 *Membership Standing*

Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving notice to the Club.

#### Section 5 *Dues*

- Open Membership is .....\$20.00 / year
- Additional Family Membership is .....\$20.00 / year
  - \*\* Members age 18 and over who live at the same address as the primary member
- Junior Membership is .....\$1.00 / year
  - \*\*Members under age 18

Club dues are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. New members joining in October, November and December will be paid in full through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Members who are delinquent in payment of dues may be reinstated upon payment of all delinquent dues plus a penalty of one dollar (\$1.00) per month from the date of delinquency; members who are more than 90 days delinquent in payment of dues will have their Club membership terminated. Any changes in dues shall be decided in a General Membership meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

#### Section 6 *Termination of Club Membership*

The Board has the right to refuse to accept the membership dues of any applicant for membership, or to refuse to accept the renewal dues of any existing member who has demonstrated by his or her statement or behavior that he or she is not supportive of the goals and ideals of the Club.

Any member who purposely or repeatedly violates the AMA and/or Club safety rules may be expelled from the Club by a (4/7) majority vote of the Board of Directors if, in the



Board's determination, such violations are detrimental to the safety of the individual, other individuals, the Club, the AMA, or to model aviation. Any member who causes extreme discord in the Club, compromises the integrity of fellow members, brings disgrace upon the Club or injury to its reputation, or engages in accusatory, intimidating, or threatening speech either verbally (including voice mail) or written (including email) in regards to the Club or any of its members, or violates any of the established BYLAWS of the Club shall be subject to expulsion.

The Club exists to provide a safe and fun place for our members to enjoy flying model aircraft, any member that pursues any action that detracts from the overall membership's enjoyment of that activity will be subject to expulsion.

The Club Treasurer will refund the dues of any member who is expelled and mailed to the address of record. Any member who is expelled from Club membership may be reinstated to membership only by a (4/7) majority vote of the Board.

## **ARTICLE 2 - Officers and Duties**

### *Section 1 Officers and Duties*

*Board of Directors:* The management of the affairs of the Club shall be vested in the Board of Directors (the "Board") who shall have the authority to establish and administer its policies. There shall be seven (7) members of the Board consisting of the Club officers. Official decisions shall be may be made by a quorum at a Board of Directors meeting (simple plurality vote). A quorum shall consist of at least 50% of the current Board members.

*President:* The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall act as the Club's spokesperson in all matters.

*Vice President:* The Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the Club when the President is unable to preside. The Vice President shall act for the President at any time the President is unable to act. The Vice President shall temporarily perform the duties of the President should that office become vacant during a term, until such time as a special election can be held to elect a successor to the office of President. The Vice President shall also maintain an accurate record (including place of storage) of all Club assets.

*Secretary:* The Secretary shall record minutes of each Club meeting and handle all correspondence pertaining to Club activities. The Secretary will also maintain the Club's charter, field insurance and membership list with the AMA and complete the appropriate IRS tax forms (Form 990-N) each year in keeping with federal laws governing profit/non-profit organizations, and also annually required state corporation forms.



*Treasurer:* The Treasurer shall collect all monies due, disburse all payments, and keep a record of all financial transactions of the Club in accordance with Article 5.

*Safety Officer:* The Safety Officer shall be responsible for ensuring existing safety rules are enforced.

## Section 2 *Terms of Office*

All elected officers shall serve for a term of one (1) calendar year. Officers are to be elected by a simple majority vote of those present at the designated General (all member) Meeting which will occur in January of each year, or by an internet vote in accordance with the rules of internet voting. Committee personnel and other special appointments will be made by the elected officers and confirmed by a simple majority vote of those members present during a General Meeting (or by internet vote in accordance with the rules of internet voting if a General Meeting can not be held).

Nomination of Club officers shall be made 30 days prior to any election and submitted to the board either at a General Meeting or by Internet nomination or by verbal nomination to any Club officer in person at the flying field. Nominations for office may be made by any active Club member holding voting rights, either in person or by submitting a proxy nomination to an existing officer prior during the nomination process.

Club officers are subject to recall by a (2/3) majority vote of the members present at any General Meeting. This vote shall be by secret ballot unless waived by a simple majority vote of the members present.

## Section 3 *Vacancies*

Vacancies in any office (other than the President, see Article 2, Vice President) shall be filled by appointment by the remaining officers, such appointee to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

## Section 4 *Committees and Appointments*

*The following Club positions may be made by appointment if the Board feels there is a need to activate one or more of the positions*

*Chief Flight Instructor:* A chief flight instructor (CFI) shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve for a term running concurrently with the elected officer's terms. The CFI shall establish and maintain the Club's flight training program and a list of approved flight instructors.

*Club Newsletter Editor:* The Board may solicit volunteers and appoint an individual to serve as the newsletter editor.

*Club Webmaster:* The Board may solicit volunteers and appoint an individual to serve as the Club's Webmaster.



*Special committees:* The President may appoint special committees. Such committees will be appointed to carry out the functions of the Club and will be disbanded when such work is accomplished.

Committee members shall be Club members in good standing. The President shall fill vacancies in unexpired special committees.

## **ARTICLE 3 - Meetings**

### *Section 1 General*

The Board may deem it necessary to call Special Meetings, Board Meetings, or General Meetings. These meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the Board. Notification of the general membership as to the time, date and location of all General Meetings is the responsibility of the Club Secretary.

*Special Meetings:* Special Meetings are Board Meetings that are called to discuss unusual or emergency action. Attendance is limited to Board members only, however, minutes of these meetings will be kept by the Club secretary and promulgated to the full Club membership. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the proposed meeting notice. Special Meetings and Board Meetings may be held with no advance notice to the full membership.

*Board Meetings:* Board Meetings are meetings of the officers to conduct regular Club business. Attendance is limited to Board members only, however, minutes of these meetings will be kept by the Club secretary and promulgated to the Club membership. Special Meetings and Board Meetings may be held with no advance notice to the full membership.

*General Meetings:* General Meetings are open to the entire Club membership and are called whenever deemed necessary by the President. Minutes of these meetings will be kept by the Club secretary and promulgated to the Club membership.

The Board is expected to meet as often as deemed necessary, in order to properly address the day-to-day activities of the Club. The President of the Club schedules these meetings and notifies the other members of the Board as to the time, date and location of each meeting. Any Board member may request the President to schedule Special, Board or General Meetings and any Club member can petition a board member to request a General Meeting. Specific action items may be requested by any member and submitted, in writing, to any Board member for placement on the agenda of the next scheduled General Meeting. The proposal shall include a written description of the nature, type, and extent of the Board action recommended. The President shall forward copies of the proposal to other members of the Board for their consideration. Either the President, or any other Board member, may have the matter placed upon the agenda of the Club's next General Meeting.



## Section 2 *Voting Procedures, Quorums and Majority*

At any Club Board Meeting or Special Meeting a quorum shall consist of at least four officers (the Board consists of seven members total), and all motions shall be passed by at least four votes of those present.

At any Club General Meeting a quorum shall consist of thirty (30) percent of the Club's members in good standing. (For example, if there are 50 members total Club membership then at least 15 members must be present for a quorum). A simple majority of those present is required to pass motions.

*Internet Voting:* Since getting a large number of people together at one place and time is difficult and expensive in terms of time commitment and money, Internet voting will be used when possible and specifically authorized by the Board for general Elections, and for issues presented to the full membership for voting. Quorum and voting rules will be the same as if the vote were to be taken in person. (For example, if there are 50 members total Club membership then at least 15 members must respond to an Internet vote to constitute a quorum). A simple majority of those voting will pass motions.

## **ARTICLE 4 – Chief Flight Instructor, Safety and Field Rules**

### Section 1 *Flight Instructor Certification*

The CFI shall be responsible for the certification of Flight Instructors and Trainers. Any candidate for Flight Instructor shall be judged by the CFI as ready and able to perform training flights with students. The CFI shall also be responsible for the testing of new members who claim to be proficient in their flying skills before they are authorized to fly solo; if the CFI is not available then any Flight Instructor or Officer may perform this function.

Candidates for Flight Instructor may be nominated by any Board member and certified by the CFI at any time. Any Flight Instructor may certify a student pilot's successful solo flight and authorize that member to fly solo.

### Section 2 *Safety Rules*

All AMA safety rules and regulations shall be in effect at all times. Due to the layout of our field not all AMA rules can be adhered to as strictly stated, but whenever and wherever possible the letter of the AMA rules will be followed.

No alcoholic beverages or drugs of any kind will be allowed at the Club flying field at any time.

Absence of the Safety Officer during flying sessions shall be filled by the first member arriving at the field, regardless of membership status, and shall continue until the Safety



Officer arrives or until relieved by a Club officer. Such temporary safety officers shall act with all the authority designated to the Safety Officer.

No instructor or other pilot may perform aerobatics or other high stress maneuvers without that student's permission while flying a student pilot's aircraft until that student has soloed. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the instructor or senior pilot losing his/her flying privileges as Club Flight Instructor. The only exception to this rule consists of flight trimming procedures performed by a certified Flight Instructor including 1) roll rate check, 2) pulling the aircraft to vertical for yaw trim and rudder response check, 3) looping to check the elevator response and side-to-side balance check, 4) stall handling check. These maneuvers are to be performed only after the aircraft has been determined airworthy on the ground and in the air.

*Pilot Qualifications:* A pilot certification after solo flight by Club members shall consist of a successful demonstration of the pilot's skills in performing the maneuvers of the Instructor Pilot's training program. Only the Chief Instructor Pilot or a certified Flight Instructor may certify a student's solo flight.

*Aircraft Qualifications:* Consists of a thorough airworthiness inspection including but not limited to, airframe structural strength, alignment, balance and proper operation of radio controls. All new or extensively rebuilt aircraft are subject to an airworthiness inspection by the Chief Flight Instructor, Flight Instructor or any Club officer before flight operation.

*Pit Area:* All flight operations will be conducted behind the flight line safety fence. No taxiing is allowed in the pits or the pit area behind the flight line safety fence.

*Take-Offs:* On take-off the initial turn should be away from the pit area.

*Spectators, Children and Pets:* It is the responsibility of any member of the Club who brings his child or pet to the field to ensure that his child or pet stays within the spectator area where they will not be hurt or distract pilots on the flight line. The Club is not responsible for injuries suffered by children or pets running and playing in the pit area or on the runway. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that all visitors and spectators stay in the spectator area and away from the flight line and all flight operations.

*Frequency Control:* No frequency control is required for radio systems operating in the 2.4 GHz band for reasons that are technically obvious. We do not employ a frequency board at our field due to the preponderance of this new technology. Members who are using the older 72 MHz radio systems must ensure that their operating frequency is clear prior to any flight.

*Spotters:* Spotters are highly recommended when there are multiple aircraft airborne, or when large and heavy aircraft are airborne, or when conducting training flights. The Safety Officer and Chief Flight Instructor will enforce this rule when present at the field.

*Verbal Announcements:* All pilots on the flight line must use verbal announcements to make clear their intentions. Pilots must call out (loudly and clearly) TAKING OFF, LANDING, TOUCH & GO, ON THE FIELD & OFF THE FIELD, and DEAD STICK.



*Violations:* Violations of the safety/field rules should be brought to the attention of the person committing the violation immediately by the observer of the violation. Repeated safety violations are due cause for loss of field flying privileges or expulsion from the Club.

## Section 2 *General Field Rules*

These rules are in addition to the official AMA Safety Code. Courtesy and common sense is expected from all members and users of the Club flying field. Do not unnecessarily distract pilots with aircraft in operation. Pick up your trash, props, broken aircraft parts, rubber bands and other items.

# **ARTICLE 5 - Financial Policy**

## Section 1 *General*

The treasurer shall receive and have custody of all monies of the Club, depositing same, in a suitable depository. The treasurer shall make disbursements for all expenses, except that, any expenditure over \$500.00 must be approved by the membership prior to commitment.

Any Club member or member of the Board may be compensated for the cost of goods or services expended on behalf of the Club, provided that such expenditures were requested prior to their expenditure.

The balance of Club monies shall be reported to the membership at each General Meeting. The Board shall make a periodic audit of the Treasurer's books as deemed necessary. The treasurer will submit an immediate account balance summary including beginning balance, ending balance, monies received and monies expended for any time period requested by the board.

No special assessment shall be levied upon Club members except by majority vote of those members present at a General Meeting, and that notice of such a vote must be given five (5) days prior to such meeting.





## **ARTICLE 6 - Bylaw Amendments**

### *Section 1 General*

The BYLAWS of this Club shall at all times conform to the purposes and programs of the Club and the AMA. In case of dispute, the rules and regulations of the AMA shall prevail.

Amendments may be made to the BYLAWS at any Special, Board or General Meeting of the Club membership. Standard quorum and voting rules apply whether in person or by Internet. If changes to the BYLAWS are made at a Special or Board Meeting then the amended BYLAWS must be promulgated to the full membership for approval.

## **ARTICLE 7 - Club Dissolution**

### *Section 1 General*

Club dissolution is initiated by a 3/4-majority vote by the Board of Directors and a majority vote of the general membership. Should the Board vote for Club dissolution, the proposal would be presented to the general membership for a vote during a special or regularly scheduled General Meeting. No less than two (2) weeks written notice will be provided to Club members notifying them of the forthcoming dissolution vote. At the Club meeting during which action of dissolution is to be decided, the Club membership shall be entitled to be heard. The Club may be dissolved with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a quorum of members at the specified meeting. The decision of the membership vote shall be final and conclusive.

### *Section 2 Dispersion of Assets*

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 in a manner determined by the Board and the majority of the Club membership and in accordance with the rules of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

## **ARTICLE 8 - Grievance Procedure**

### *Section 1 General*

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 Officer for his/her consideration by means of a



Grievance Form to be filled out and turned into the Board. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

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.

### Section 2 *First Violation*

- a. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
- b. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
- c. A verbal reprimand, will be given to the accused, by the Safety Officer, and this will be recorded in the Club membership files.

### Section 3 *Second Violation*

- a. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
- b. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
- c. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Board.
- d. 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 posted at the flying field and recorded in the Club membership files.

### Section 4 *Third Violation*

- a. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
- b. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
- c. The Board will notify the accused in writing and will notify the Club members that the Club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next General Meeting.
- d. Said expulsion will last for a minimum of one-year. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Board)
- e. A member may be temporarily expelled from the Club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at a General Meeting (NOTE: This procedure for expelling a member is different than the general rules for termination of membership, see Article 1, Section 6.)
- f. Voting will be by secret ballot.



g. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.

BYLAWS Revised and Amended  
On April 15, 2011

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Jim Corbin  
AMA 856499  
President, Sonoran Desert Flyers, Inc.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phil June  
AMA 648818  
Secretary, Sonoran Desert Flyers, Inc.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_