

*Weak Signals R/C Club, Inc.*

*By-Laws*



2010

**BYLAWS OF THE WEAK SIGNALS R/C CLUB, INC**



## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of the organization shall be "WEAK SIGNALS R/C CLUB, INC."

## **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND POWERS**

To further by all proper means, the promotion, construction and operation of radio controlled model aircraft and other similar devices, and the giving and conducting of meetings for instruction, demonstration, competition and entertainment.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1.**

Any person interested in the purposes of the organization may become a member upon fulfilling the following:

- A.** To become a member of the Weak Signals R/C Club, the interested person must attend a club meeting and introduce themselves to the membership secretary. The interested person must show proof of current AMA membership (proof of AMA membership may be proven by AMA card, electronic receipt or email from the AMA) to the membership secretary. The membership secretary shall place the interested person's name on the Prospective list. (10/14/2010)
- B.** The Prospective member must attend three consecutive meetings. At the next meeting attended by the Prospective, the membership of the Prospective member is voted on. The voting process for accepting a Prospective member into the Weak Signal's R/C Club shall be by secret ballot. (4/14/1977). If a vote of acceptance is given by the club membership, the Prospective member's status will be changed to a Regular member, providing they have met the flying requirements of paragraph C, or an Associate member if they have not. If one-third (1/3) of the members attending the meeting vote "no" to a Prospective's acceptance into the Weak Signal's R/C Club, the Prospective member will not be accepted into the club and his or her name will be removed from the Prospective member list. Any fractional portion of the one-third (1/3) will be rounded off to the next lower number. (4/14/1977) Prospective members will be notified of the voting results by mail. (4/14/1977) Prospective members, dropped for any reason, may not re-apply until after a six month waiting period. (11/12/1992)
- C.** An Associate member may become a Regular member by demonstrating their ability to fly a

radio controlled aircraft in a safe manner for flight qualifications. (10/14/2010)

- D.** A Prospective or Associate member must arrange a meeting at the Weak Signal's flying field with any two Regular or Life Members and prove to their satisfaction that he or she is capable of unsupervised flying by operating a radio controlled model aircraft. The qualification flight test is: "take off", followed by a "procedure turn", another "procedure turn", and a "controlled landing" in the designated landing area. Crashes or uncontrolled landings are not to be accepted for qualification purposes. A Prospective or Associate member must demonstrate complete control to gain the privilege of unsupervised flying. (1/12/1989)(10/14/2010) It will be the obligation of the qualifiers to report the Prospective/Associate's name to the Club Membership Secretary along with the type of aircraft flown, and the qualification date. A Prospective/Associate who qualifies with a sailplane is not allowed to fly powered aircraft unsupervised until qualifying with the same. (4/14/1977)
- E.** Payment of a ten dollar initiation fee. (4/9/1970)
- F.** Comply with the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. (1/12/1989)
- G.** Prospective members are to be furnished a copy of the official field rules. (8/28/1975) Prospective and Associate members must be accompanied and monitored by a Regular or Life member while flying any aircraft.
- H.** A vote is not required to change status (from Associate to Regular). (10/14/2010)
- I.** Resignation, Termination, Disciplinary Action, Expulsion and Reinstatement of Membership. (1/9/2003)
  - 1. Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the Club.
  - 2. If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall thereby terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.
  - 3. Any unacceptable behavior by an individual member or members, as defined by the Board of Trustees, becomes the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Any individual may be expelled from membership of the club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Trustees if, in the Board of Trustees 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 to the Club, the AMA, or to model aviation.
  - 4. Any member who is expelled from membership may be reinstated to membership only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Trustees. (Exception: See number 6 below)
  - 5. The Board of Trustees shall have the discretionary authority to provide for and to impose disciplinary action for such acts or omissions, which do not justify expulsion from membership.
  - 6. Any person expelled from the club may appeal the Trustee's decision by requesting a vote

of the general membership. This appeal must be by letter containing the full reasons for the appeal vote and must be submitted to the Club President and the Board of Trustee's no later than 30 days from the expulsion date. A voting ballot will be mailed to all Regular and Life Members by the club Secretary. The ballot notice shall have a return date clearly specified which is not to exceed 60 days from the date the appeal was received by the Board of Trustee's. All ballot notices not returned by the specified date shall be counted as a vote supporting the Board of Trustee's action.

## **Section 2.**

Newsletters will be available through the club web site and will be mailed to members by request. (10/14/2010)

## **Section 3.**

- A.** All members must provide proof of current AMA membership to the club Membership Secretary by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Possession of a current AMA membership card, electronic receipt or email from the AMA will be the only acceptable proof of membership. (10/14/2010) Failure to comply with this rule will result in removal from the membership NOTE: Any member dropped for failing to comply with this rule may appeal to the Board of Trustees who has the authority to suspend the penalty if the circumstances are deemed reasonable. (1/12/1989)
- B.** With the exception of Life members, all members are required to attend the Expo work meeting and work the Expo each year. Requests for excuse must be submitted to the Trustees, in writing, prior to the Expo. The Trustees have full authority for approval or disapproval. The Trustees have authority to drop any person from the membership for not complying with this rule. (7/12/1990)
- C.** With the exception of Life Members, all members are required to fly in at least one club contest per year or pass a basic flight test at the Weak Signals field as witnessed by two Regular or Life members before the end of the last club contest of each year. Those failing to do so automatically become Associate members. (11/12/1998)
- D.** If it becomes necessary for a member to miss attending any six consecutive meetings, he or she must submit a letter requesting excuse for not attending said meetings along with the reasons. The letter must be received by the Membership Secretary before the six meeting period expires. The Board of Trustees has the authority to drop any person from the membership who does not comply with this rule. (11/08/1979)
- E.** A member may obtain an extended leave-of-absence from the organization and not lose their current membership status (long illness, military obligation) providing he or she submits a formal request, in writing, to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees are then obligated to submit a proposal to the general membership for acceptance or rejection by vote. If approved, the member will retain his or her membership on an inactive basis. When the member no longer requires the extended leave-of-absence, the member may return to their previous membership status by notifying the Membership Secretary by letter or email. (5/22/1975)(7-13-2000) (10/14/2010)
- F.** Any member who resigns from the organization by letter will be considered "in good standing".

If he or she wishes to rejoin the organization at a later date, they are not required to pay the initiation fee. (11/26/1975)

#### **Section 4.**

The privilege of holding office, introducing motions and voting, shall be limited to Regular and Life Members only.

#### **Section 5. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Definition: A Life member is a Regular member who through many years of membership, has contributed to the club above and beyond the considered normal member requirement. Life Membership is not to be considered a retirement program. To be chosen a Life member by your Trustees is to be considered the highest honor that can be bestowed upon you by the Weak Signals R/C Club, Inc.

Requirements: To become a Life member, the following criteria must be met:

- A. Must be a Regular member in good standing.
- B. Must maintain the AMA requirements of a Regular member.
- C. Must have been in the club for a minimum of ten (10) years.
- D. Any member in good standing may recommend a candidate to become a Life member to the Board of Trustees. This recommendation must be submitted in writing describing the candidate's qualifications. All recommendations must be submitted to the Board of Trustees no later than August 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year.
- E. There will be chosen by the Board of Trustees each year, from zero (0) to two (2) Life members. The selection of any Life members is not to be construed as mandatory. The Board of Trustees may choose at its discretion to reject a submitted Life member recommendation and/or at its discretion, may elect to choose their own candidate(s) for Life membership. This selection will be by vote of the Board of Trustees and a simple majority will elect the new Life member (s).
- F. The Board of Trustees have the responsibility to not disclose the name(s) of the chosen candidate (s) for Life membership to anyone other than the Banquet Chairman.
- G. The Life member receives the following privileges, benefits and awards:
  - (1) The chosen Life member(s) will receive an appropriately engraved plaque and club jacket. These items will be awarded at the annual club banquet or awards meeting. The candidate (s) qualifications will be presented at this time.
  - (2) He/She has all the privileges of a Regular member.
  - (3) He/She does not have any meeting attendance requirements.
  - (4) He/She does not have any Expo requirements.

(5) (removed 2/10/11)

## **Section 6. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Only Regular members can apply.
- B. Must attend the Expo work meeting and work at the Expo. This requirement can be waived only by written application to and approval of the Trustees.
- C. Must attend a minimum of two meetings per year, one being the EXPO work meeting.
- D. May be a member of any committee.
- E. May not introduce motions and does not have voting rights. An Associate Members may not possess any keys to club property. An Associate Member must be accompanied and monitored by a Regular or Life Member while flying any aircraft.
- F. May not hold elected office.
- G. May attend the Awards Banquet at his/her own expense.
- H. May work or fly at any contest, be compensated for working, but will not be awarded competition prizes at club contests. (02/10/11)
  - (1) Any Regular member may become an Associate member on request, by writing to the Membership Secretary. The Membership Secretary will acknowledge the request and change the member's status.
  - (2) Any Associate member, who has demonstrated their ability to fly unsupervised, may apply for Regular membership by:
    - (a) A request in writing to the Membership Secretary.
    - (b) A vote by the membership is not required to change status. (10/14/2010)

## **ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Section 1.**

There shall be a Board of Trustees, also know as the "Board", consisting of the officers of the organization and two Trustees-At-Large.

### **Section 2.**

The official title of the Board shall be, "The Trustees of the Weak Signals R/C Club, Inc."

### **Section 3.**

The Trustees shall have the following authorities and duties:

- A. Transact all business between meetings of the organization, and any other business referred to them by the organization.
- B. Create and approve the plan of work of all committees.
- C. Present reports at all meetings of the organization.
- D. Approve routine expenses.
- E. The Trustees will review on an annual basis, what portion of the Exposition assets will be used for capital improvements and other routine expenses, and will submit a budget proposal to the membership for approval. (4/14/1977)
- F. As long as the club realizes a yearly income from the Exposition, the Board of Trustees shall submit a proposed budget to the membership that includes money added to savings. This yearly savings shall be a minimum of 10 percent of the money received from the Exposition. This fund cannot be drawn on unless approved by two-thirds of the membership. The vote shall be by ballot notice mailed to all Regular and Life members by the club Secretary. This ballot notice shall have a return date clearly specified. All ballot notices not returned by the specified date shall be counted as a “Yes” vote. During years when a large debt, as determined by the Trustee’s and approved by the membership, is being paid off, this annual savings requirement shall be waived. (7/9/1992)(5/24/1998)
- G. After all monies are allocated to finance club activities, the Board of Trustee’s will submit an annual budget to the membership. After ratification, excess monies will be put into the “future investment fund” to be invested in bank certificates of deposit. This fund can not be drawn on, or canceled, unless approved by a vote of two-thirds of the membership after written notice containing the subject matter has been given to the members at least 30 days in advance. The voting method shall be by mail ballot to all Regular and Life Members by the club Secretary. The ballot shall have a date return specified and all ballots not received by the specified date shall be counted as affirmative votes. (8/10/1998)  
*(The purpose of this by-law is to start saving excess Expo profits for the purpose of possibly buying a new field or let it build to a level high enough so that the interest earned can support the club expenses in the event our present income sources cease to exist.)*

#### **Section 4.**

The trustees shall meet at the call of the President or three members of the Board.

#### **Section 5.**

Four members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present, a majority of the Trustees may decide any questions coming before a meeting of the Board.

### **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

## **Section 1.**

The officers of the organization shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and two Trustees-At-Large. (6/8/1978)

## **Section 2.**

Trustees-At-Large having served two consecutive terms, shall be eligible for re-election as Trustees-At-Large after an interval of one year.

## **Section 3.**

Trustees-at-Large shall hold office until their successors are elected and assume office.

## **Section 4.**

The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and perform such duties that usually pertain to that office. The President shall be a member "ex-officio" of all committees.

## **Section 5.**

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in case of his/her disability, and secede to the office of President in the event of vacancy in that office, holding office until a special election by the membership fills the vacancy. The Vice President shall be responsible for all club property during the term of his/her office. (10/10/1974)

## **Section 6.**

The Recording Secretary shall record all proceedings of the membership and Board, and perform other duties as from time to time may be required of him/her.

## **Section 7.**

The Membership Secretary shall maintain a ledger containing all pertinent membership information. (1/12/1989)

## **Section 8.**

The Treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate account of all monies belonging to the organization, pay them out when duly authorized, and present a written statement of receipts and disbursements to the organization at the first regular monthly meeting. (9/11/1975)(5/14/1987) (1/12/1989)

## **Section 9.**

Elections will be held during the second meeting in September, with the procedure being separate elections for each office, starting with President. Officers will be inducted at the regular fall banquet or the last November meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

### **Section 1.**

Regular meetings of the organization shall be held twice a month at such places and dates as established by the Board. (9/09/1976) The first meeting of the month shall be the meeting in which all business will be conducted, and the second meeting will be the activities meeting. (9/27/1973) Special meetings may be called as necessary by the Board.

### **Section 2.**

Meeting business may be conducted if there is a quorum of 34 voting members present. (1/10/2008)

## **ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1.**

The President shall appoint a nominating committee of not less than three members, subject to approval of the Board. The Chairman of said committee shall be named by the President. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the organization at the second August meeting, a slate of qualified persons for the following:

- A. Officers of the organization. There must be a minimum of two persons nominated for President. (1/12/1989)
- B. Two Trustees-at-Large of the Organization.

### **Section 2.**

Subject to approval of the Board, the President shall appoint any other committees deemed necessary from time to time to further the business of the organization.

### **Section 3.**

All committees of the organization shall meet at the call of their Chairmen.

## **ARTICLE VIII - BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws may be altered, or amended at any regular meeting of the organization, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, written notice containing the subject matter having been given to the members at least 30 days in advance. (4/14/1977)

After a new or existing By-Law is passed or changed within the above requirements, written notice must appear in the club news within 60 days of its acceptance and a yearly update of all By-Laws will be distributed at the Expo work party. (11/12/1998)

## **ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Parliamentary authority, "Roberts Rules of Order", shall govern all meetings of the organization.

## **ARTICLE X - ASSET DISBURSEMENT** (1/9/03)

1. The club may be dissolved with the approval of a three-quarters (3/4)-majority vote of the voting membership.
2. 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 exclusively for the purposes of the club in such manner, to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc., or to such other organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or to such other organization with purposes similar to the purposes of this club, as the Board shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas (or similar court) of the county in which the principal office of this club is then located, exclusively for such purposes and to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **ARTICLE XI - OFFICIAL FIELD RULES**

### **Section 1.**

The operation of radio controlled devices is limited to club members, their guests, and Prospectives, providing they possess a current AMA membership, and FCC license if operating on a ham band. All others must comply with current AMA guidelines. Until they have met the flying qualifications, Prospective members, and guests, must be observed and accompanied by another club member while flying any aircraft. (4/14/1977)(1/12/1989)(5/11/1995)(8/13/1998)

### **Section 2.**

No operator will fly a sound producing aircraft beyond the southern boundary of the LaSalle field. (1/22/1981) Sailplanes and Old Timer models are exempt providing the Old Timer engines are stopped before the model reaches the club field Southern boundary. (8/12/1999)

### **Section 3.**

No sound producing engine will be operated at the LaSalle field on Mondays except on Holidays as noted below. No sound producing engine will be operated at the LaSalle field before 9:00 a.m. or after 8:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Operating hours for Sunday and Holiday Mondays are 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Non-sound producing aircraft which includes sailplanes and electric powered models, are unrestricted. (8/12/1999) In the event that a contest would necessitate flying later than 6:30 p.m. on a Sunday or Holiday Monday, the decision to continue for a reasonable period of time may be made by agreement among three officers of the club. Holidays that apply to the above rule are: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Christmas Day. (6/10/1982)(1/12/1989)

#### **Section 4.**

Special flying precautions should be observed whenever the field is being mowed to ensure the safety of the mower operator. The mower operator has the authority to designate any area as "No Flying Permitted" until his operation is completed. (1/12/1989)(6/10/1982)

#### **Section 5.**

The field must be kept clean at all times by disposing of trash, broken airplanes and personal refuse in the containers provided. (1/10/1974)

#### **Section 6.**

Before turning on a transmitter, the proper frequency pin must be in the operator's possession. After removing the frequency pin from the frequency board, the operator must insert their current AMA card in the slot behind the frequency number being used so the next operator knows who has the frequency pin. Also, only one frequency pin at a time, per operator. (1/12/1989)(1/22/1981) (8/13/1998)(11/08/2001)

#### **Section 7.**

An observed transmitter impound is required at all contests. (1/12/1989)

#### **Section 8.**

Any member, Prospective member or guest, who shoots down another, is responsible for the replacement or repair of damaged equipment. (6/10/1982)

#### **Section 9.**

Absolutely no low flying over the flight line, pit area, spectator area, clubhouse or parking lot. This rule includes all aircraft types. (4/27/1972)(8/13/1998)

#### **Section 10.**

To access the runway, all pilots utilizing airspace (flying) must be informed of your intentions to:

- A. Retrieve an aircraft. .
- B. Launch an aircraft. (4/27/1972)(Note! No standing or loitering on the runway.)

#### **Section 11.**

When the wind shifts causing the flyers to change their landing pattern, all flyers must make an immediate effort to move themselves, and their equipment to a safe area on the field, which is usually the windward side. If the wind is changing between two or more directions, choose the best location, but move to a safe area.

#### **Section 12.**

- A. There will be no running of fuel engines in the clubhouse or under the pilot shelter. (3/27/2008)
- B. The pilot station will be on the south edge of the flight line. (3/27/2008)
- C. The powered flight line should run from the southern edge of the runway and be angled then from the southwestern edge to the northern edge of the driveway and from the southeastern corner and parallel to the creek. This line will then run around the world to the other edge of the flight line. (3/27/2008)
- D. Breaking in of engines may be only run at the designated run up table which will be located at the eastern edge of the pilot shelter area. (3/27/2008)
- E. Engines must be completely shut down after returning from a flight and before entering the pit area. (3/27/2008)

### **Section 13.**

Club members are responsible to make sure their guests, and students (such as training prospective members) understand and abide by all field rules. Club members will be held responsible for the actions of their guests, pets and protégés. (3/27/2008)

### **Section 14.**

Except where prior permission has been granted, should it become necessary to recover a downed aircraft outside the field boundary, the operator will first proceed to the home of the property owner and ask permission to retrieve the aircraft. In addition, the person asking permission is required to give their name to the person being asked. (12/10/1999) At no time will the operator trespass on private property. In addition, to assure a minimum of crop damage, only one person is allowed to enter the property when permission is granted. The following penalty shall be imposed upon any member, or Prospective member, who violates the above rule (12/24/1978)

**FIRST OFFENSE:** Thirty days suspension of flying at the club field during the flying season. Suspension period to begin as determined by the Board of Trustees. (12/24/1978)

**SECOND OFFENSE:** Twelve calendar months suspension of flying at the club field to begin immediately following the Board of Trustee's action. (12/24/1978)

**THIRD OFFENSE:** Termination of club membership without reinstatement. Termination notification to be made by the Board of Trustees. (12/24/1978)

### **Section 15.**

All engines over .051 cubic inches displacement must be equipped with a closed-end muffler except for the following: Unmuffled Race and Scale models, not equipped with a closed-end muffler, may be flown Tuesday through Saturday, (note: the Saturday start time may be waived for designated contests) 12:00 noon to 7:30 p.m. with one exception, Formula I is not permitted on Saturday. Only one unmuffled aircraft is allowed in the air at a time. Engines run "on the ground" will be subjected to the same one-at-a-time rule with the exception of Quarter Midget type. No unmuffled Scale or

Race models are allowed on Sundays and Holiday Mondays except at designated contests. (6/10/1982)(1/12/1989) Old Timer engines with Spark Ignition may be flown without mufflers. (11/8/1990)

### **Section 16.**

The following penalties will apply to the above rules except for Section 14:

- A. First offense for any rule infraction is no more flying for that day. (4/27/1972)
- B. Second offense for any rule infraction is no flying at the club field for 30 days which is to include at least one contest. (4/27/1972)
- C. Third offense for any rule infraction is no flying at the club field for the rest of the season. Season ends at the banquet. (4/27/1972)
- D. Any violations of the above rules are to be reported to the Board of Trustees who will review the circumstances and report any action taken against the violator. (4/27/1972)

### **Section 17**

No outside contests shall be scheduled back-to-back, i.e. “two consecutive weekends in a row” under any circumstance. Weak Signals “club only” contests not restricted. (11/8/2001)

### **Section 18**

Official Field Rules Grievance Procedure (Flight and Ground) (1/9/2003)

#### **1. Purpose:**

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 Board of Trustees for their consideration by means of a Grievance Form to be filled out and turned into the club President. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

The Board of Trustees shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:

- (a) A grievance form will be filled out and turned into the club President. At least one witness is required.
- (b) FIRST VIOLATION
  - 1. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
  - 2. Complainants name will be disclosed.
  - 3. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Board of Trustees, and this will be recorded in the Committee files.

(c) SECOND VIOLATION

1. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
2. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees.
3. 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 published in the Club newsletter.

(d) THIRD VIOLATION

1. The Trustees 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.
2. Said expulsion will last for a one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees).
3. A member may be expelled from the Club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting.
4. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting.
5. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.

(e) The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.

(f) Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliative 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 of Trustees.