

**SONORAN DESERT FLYERS**  
**BYLAWS 2003**

**GENERAL:** These BYLAWS are the definitive rules governing the SONORAN DESERT FLYERS, a non-profit organization, herein called "THE CLUB". All special or local enterprises of the club shall conform to the policies of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and the rules and regulations of the AMA covering such functions.

**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 BY-LAWS and payment of the fees 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:** Must show current membership in the AMA before applying for club membership. Applicants will not be permitted flight privileges at the club flying site until proof of membership is shown to any club officer, this includes all beginners after their first lesson.

**CLUB DUES:**

Open membership ..... \$45.00  
Additional family membership .....\$20.00

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.

If a dues change is necessary for the following year, the amount shall be decided at a general membership meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

**MEMBER CLASSIFICATION:** See AMA rules for classifications.

**CURRENT YEAR AMA MEMBERSHIP:** or proof of application for current year AMA membership must be presented to the club Treasurer by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Failure to do so will result in loss of flying field privileges.

**SAFETY:** Is the responsibility of every member of the club. All club members are expected to study the official current AMA safety rules along with the club by-laws and consciously practice those rules while operating model aircraft.

REMOVAL: Removal from membership rolls proceedings may be initiated against any member, who compromises his/her fellow members, brings disgrace upon the club, injury to its reputation or violates its established BY-LAWS. Such proceedings shall require a 75% majority vote of the club officers.

#### ORGANIZATION:

OFFICERS: The executive officers of the club shall consist of the following members; President, Vice-president, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, Maintenance Officer, Head Flight Instructor, and News Letter Editor. The Secretary and Treasurer positions may be combined or separate for any given year as dictated by the needs of the club.

#### ELECTIONS:

All Officers of the club shall serve a one-year term, from January 1<sup>st</sup>. December 31<sup>st</sup> . The annual nominations and elections of officers shall be held during the regular monthly meetings in November and December, respectively. A nominating committee of not less than three members, chosen from the general membership, shall be appointed by the president and ratified by a majority vote of the officers at least two weeks prior to the last general membership meeting of the year. The nominating committee shall present at least one name for each office. Membership to be sent a copy of the ballot together with a notice of the last meeting of the year at least ten days prior to the meeting.

ELIGIBILITY: Requirement for election to office is restricted to members in good standing of the SONORAN DESERT FLYERS. All members in good standing are eligible to vote in officer elections and on all regular club business, voting will be based on the one-man one vote rule. A majority vote of the members casting ballots will determine the winner of the office. Mail-in ballots must be post received by date of the election.

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: To recall a club officer, fill vacancies in club offices, etc., may be called by the club officers. Such special elections shall be announced in the club newsletter as priority agenda items and provisions of the elections paragraph shall prevail.

PRESIDENTIAL VACANCIES: Shall automatically be filled by the Vice President. A special election shall then be held to elect a new vice President, as per the elections paragraph, otherwise shall assist the president in his duties as requested.

#### OFFICER DUTIES:

**PRESIDENT:** shall preside at all meetings of the club and shall act for the club in all matters pertaining to the club. He shall also make all appointments to committees and shall have full examination authority over the club treasury.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** shall assume the duties and exercise all authority of the President in the event the President is absent or unable to fulfill those duties and otherwise shall assist the president in his duties as requested.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all monies of the club and keep accurate records of the club transactions. This person shall provide a financial report to the membership at regular meetings. The records of the club are subject to an examination at any time by the club officers.

**SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall attend all meetings and record proceedings, be responsible for issuing membership cards, issue notices and minutes, and carry out such additional duties as prescribed by the officers.

**NEWS LETTER EDITOR:** will prepare and distribute to each club member a club newsletter at least four times per year, and at least one week prior to the next monthly meeting. The newsletter shall contain a minimum of time, date, and place of the next club meeting.

**SAFETY OFFICER:** shall supervise all operations at the club-flying field with particular attention being placed on safety.

**FIELD MAINTENANCE OFFICER:** shall be responsible for maintenance of the field premises and inventory of field equipment.

**HEAD FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR:** shall set minimum standards for solo flight privileges. He will also test anyone wishing to become an instructor and upon approval of that person, submit his or her name to the club officers for acceptance.

**CLUB BUSINESS:** The direction and management of the club shall be the responsibility of the club officers. A majority of the officers shall constitute a quorum. Decisions for the club shall be carried out by the club officers except amendments to the BY-LAWS and dues assessments shall be decided by a majority vote of the membership present at advertised club meetings. Expenditure items over \$500 shall be approved by the membership.

**URGENT ACTIONS:** Any urgent actions, particularly changes in safety rules, review of safety officer decisions requested by club members, or any club business deemed too urgent to wait for the next club meeting, may be decided and acted upon for the club by a 75% majority vote of the club officers and all the members present.

**FINANCIAL EXAMINATION:** A committee appointed by the President shall examine the financial books and transactions of the club at the close of the calendar year. The financial report shall be read at the meeting of the members after review by the officers.

## SAFETY/FIELD RULES:

All AMA safety rules and regulations shall be in effect at all times.

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

Absence of the elected 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 enacted Safety officer arrives or until relieved by a club officer. Such temporary Safety Officers shall act with all authority designated to the elected 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 regulation will result in the instructor or senior pilot losing his/her flying privileges as the Club Flight Instructor. The only exception to this ruling consists of flight trimming maneuvers performed by a certified flight instructor: 1) Roll Rate check, 2) Pulling the aircraft to vertical for yaw trim and rudder response check, 3) Looping figure the check elevator response and side to side balance check, 4) Stall handling check. NOTE: These maneuvers are only to be performed 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 Pilots training program.

AIRCRAFT QUALIFICATIONS: Consist 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 a Flight Instructor, or Club Officer, before flight operation.

WORK PARTIES: May be called at any time at the discretion of the Field Maintenance Officer for such tasks of field maintenance as may be required. During such periods, the field shall be closed to all operations and all members using the field shall help accomplish the tasks directed by the Field Maintenance Officer.

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 removal from the club membership rolls.

CHILD AND ANIMAL RESPONSIBILITY: It is the responsibility of any member of the club who brings his child or pet to the flying field to see that his child or pet is staying within the spectator area where they will not be hurt or distract other flyers. The club cannot and will not be responsible for injuries suffered by children or pets running and playing in the pit area or on the runway.

## 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 own trash, props, broken aircraft parts, rubber bands, rags and other items. Mufflers are required on all engines in order to reduce the noise level emitted from our field. The Safety Officer has the authority to ban any aircraft that in his opinion is exceeding reasonable noise levels.

## FREQUENCY CONTROL:

Transmitters will not be operated unless you have your Club or AMA card in the proper slot of the club Frequency Board. You then control the frequency. If you turn on your transmitter and do not have control of the frequency and your action causes a pilot who has control of the frequency to crash his aircraft, YOU must offer to replace each and every damaged and broken part with a new part of comparable quality.

Pilots ready to fly have priority on the frequency board.

Range checks, engine test runs etc., are **NOT PERMITTED** unless you have frequency control. These operations should be kept to a minimum at the field since that ties up frequencies used for flying. **DO IT AT HOME.**

## FLYING:

When starting or adjusting the engine, do not place your head or body in line with the spinning prop. Pieces of rock, dirt or pieces of a broken prop can easily penetrate your eyes or skin and cause serious injury. All pit operations must be conducted behind the safety fence.

Prolonged engine runs / break-ins or extended engine runs to adjust throttle controls in the pit area is prohibited, such runs shall be conducted in a safe area regularly designated for this purpose, such as the run up pad on the S/E corner of the field parking lot, or such other location as designated by the safety officer or, if not available, another club officer.

When starting or running the engine on the ground, point the tail of your aircraft away from other aircraft, people and vehicles.

Unsafe and reckless flying is prohibited.

All flight operations will be conducted with the pilot standing behind the flight line safety fence.

On Take-off your initial turn must be directed away from the pit area. If your engine quits in the air or if you have a glider on final approach, call out "dead stick" loudly. All pilots must give right-of-way to this "Dead Stick" call until the aircraft is on the ground and clear of the flying area.

Call out ALL of your intentions: Landing, Taking Off, Touch & Go's, On the Field, or All clear.

President \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Webmaster's note: The original document has been signed by these officers.]*