

TAMPA RADIO CONTROL AIRCRAFT CLUB, INC.
7208 Taylor Road, Thonottosassa, Florida

CONSTITUTION - Revised 2003

Article 1 - Name

Section 1. The name of this club shall be: Tampa Radio Control Aircraft Club, Inc. The term TRAC shall be used as the club's acronym.

Article 2 - Purpose

Section 1. The objective of this club shall be to promote radio controlled model aircraft building and flying in general and to aid as much as possible the national program of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and other radio controlled aircraft activities toward the continued advancement of model aviation in the United States.

Section 2. The club will establish and maintain a flying site and plan for a new site, as required.

Section 3. All activities of the club shall conform to the policies and procedures of the AMA and the regulations of those Organization~~S~~¹ governing model aircraft events.

Article 3 - Membership, Dues and Fees

Section 1. In order to be qualified for membership in TRAC, a prospective member must have a genuine interest in model airplane building or flying, a willingness to help during contests, and /or work days for field improvement as called by the club and to abide by this corporation's Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, flying site rules and club rules.

a. Any person desiring to become a Member of TRAC shall submit a written application to the Secretary or any current board member together with the current initiation fee and club dues then in effect. The term of Membership shall commence upon acceptance of such application and dues and shall terminate upon expiration of the applicable dues period, unless renewed.

b. A prospective member must also provide either a current AMA card or an AMA "temporary receipt" issued by AMA. Flyers requiring an AMA waiver, *{such as a turbine engine waiver DELETE & SEE FOOTNOTE^{3a}}}*, shall also provide a copy of the waiver to the treasurer upon application for membership and renewal. Flyers operating on an FCC amateur radio band shall submit a copy of their FCC license to the treasurer upon application for membership or renewal.

b1 Should a member obtain an AMA waiver or FCC license, as described above, between acceptance and/or renewal(s), proof of such waiver or license must be provided to the Treasurer prior to conducting any flying activities under the

waiver/licence.3

c. Regular membership - afforded all club amenities and flying privileges of the club in accordance with current directives and must hold an individual flyer's license issued by AMA.

d. Associate membership - ***afforded all club amenities except active flying privileges. They are considered non-flying members and will be afforded all other amenities except voting and holding an office in the club. 4X***

e. ***Four classes of membership shall be available to all applicants.***

Dues Adult \$100 annually payable in semi-annual or an annual payment

Family 1.5 times the annual Adult membership.

Junior \$25 annually for members under 18 years of age

Fees Initiation \$50 one-time fee, waived on Junior memberships

Re-join \$25 if membership lapses more than 3 months 4

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Regular members will be assessed the current dues in effect at the time of entry
Associate members will be assessed one-half (1/2) the regular membership dues plus all other fees in effect at the time of entry. ***This membership affords all club amenities***

except active flying privileges, voting and holding an office in the club.4X

Youth members (members not attaining the age of 19 as of July 1)

Annual membership dues for Family Membership (members who reside in the same household)

Such dues will also be paid for periodic membership renewals in all of the above classes 6

A one-time initiation fee shall be \$ 50.00 and paid upon joining the club.

As an incentive for members to participate and in acknowledging their service to the club, only 15 the dues for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors (2), and Newsletter Editor (1) will be waived for the period of time served.

Section 2. All prospective members (***or their proxy***) 7 will be presented to the membership for voting into the club ***at its periodic meetings. 7***

Section 3. The number of club members is unlimited.

BY-LAWS

Article 1 - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Tampa Radio Control Aircraft Club, Inc. shall be:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Directors (2)

Article 2 - Duties

Section X. (AMA suggested) All records and notes of matters pertinent to the club and its activities shall be transferred/ passed on to their successor upon an officer vacating their position.

Section 1. President.

- a. Preside over *or appoint a presiding officer for 8* all meetings of the club.
- b. Act as spokesman for the club and as principal representative of the club in all club matters.
- c. Supervise all functions and activities of the club.
- d. Perform all other duties that usually fall under the office of president.

Section 2. Vice President.

- a. Assist the president in the performance of his duties
- b. Perform the duties of the president during his absence.
- c. Shall fulfill such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.
- d. Coordinate events pertaining to sport competition, fun *flies 9*, and other contests and activities, which are sponsored by the club.
- e. Perform duties as club safety director

Section 3. Secretary.

- a. Record the minutes of all meetings and be responsible for keeping the minutes and other written records of this corporation.
- b. Record attendance at all meetings and maintain records of each member's attendance and AMA status.

- c. Announce special meetings when directed and other information pertaining to meetings, such as place and time.
- d. Execute all necessary club correspondence.
- e. Shall fulfill such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Treasurer.

- a. Act as custodian of all club funds.
- b. Account for all funds retained, owned by, paid out from, or paid to the club such as dues and initiation fees.
- c. Deposit all funds in an approved bank, subject to withdrawal for authorized purposes upon the signature of either the treasurer or the president.
- d. Maintain files and records on all receipts and expenditures of the club.
- e. Shall fulfill such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

f. **(AMA suggested)** The club fiscal year shall be from January 1 thru December 31. During the Month of November, an independent audit, conducted by XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX shall be conducted. The results of that audit shall be voted upon at the next monthly meeting
(We do this already, but the procedure should be included in the Constitution)

Section 5. Two (2) directors will be elected by the membership to serve with the Board of Officers of the club. The director's duties will be as follows:

- a. Act as direct representatives of the membership at board of directors meetings.
- b. Monitor the behavior of the officers in the best interests of the membership.
- c. Shall fulfill such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.
- d. Bring issues of safety and operation of the club to the attention of the club officers.
- e. Conduct at least an annual review of the club's funds and report their findings to the members.

Section 6 Succession: Should the president be unable to attend a meeting, the meeting will be presided over, in succession, by the vice president, Treasurer, Secretary, or Board member. Should none of the above be present, the meeting shall be canceled until a later date. 10

Article 3 - Term of Office

Section 1. All officers and directors of the club shall serve for one year from date of election.

Section 2. The election of officers and directors shall be conducted annually during the November business meeting. A nominations committee shall present a slate of officers and directors at this meeting; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Article 4 - Vacancies

Section 1. Vacancy in any office shall be filled by a special election. The member elected shall serve until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Article 5 - Meetings

Section 1. A regular meeting shall be held each month **(AMA suggested) at the club flying site on the second Saturday of each month. If temperatures are below XX degrees, or significantly stormy (tropical storm or hurricane) the meeting will be held the following Saturday.** Notice of a regular meeting shall be given in the form of an E newsletter **or, at the individual member's election, "hard copy" letter¹¹,** sent to each member every month by the secretary and/or newsletter editor.

Section 2. Special meetings of the club may be called by either the president plus three other board members or by ten club members. Any such call shall be issued at least three days in advance of the meeting date and shall specify both a convenient time and place of the meeting and the purpose of the meeting. The persons calling the special meeting shall notify club members of this special meeting by telephone, e-mail, or regular mail. A notice of this meeting shall be posted at the field.

Section 3. Board of Directors is authorized to take emergency actions to solve problems that cannot clearly be put off until the next scheduled meeting or cannot be done through a special meeting due to the nature of the emergency. Club members will be advised of this action in the newsletter, **by e-mail** or at the next scheduled club meeting.

Article 6 - Regular Business

Section 1. All regular business activities of the club shall be directed by the president or, in the absence of the president, by the vice president or he succession according to section 6 of Article two above.

Section 2. At any regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting, the members present shall constitute a Quorum.

Section 3. To avoid any irregularities and to involve the entire membership at any regularly scheduled meeting, any motion that affects any of the following:

- monetary items other than routine maintenance of the TRAC site,
- dues,
- policies

may be made and seconded, but then must be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting. This motion will be included in the newsletter**** prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting in order to advise all members. At the next regularly scheduled meeting, this item will be read again, discussed and voted on.

- Any member may put forth an upcoming motion in the newsletter to notify the membership prior to the next regularly scheduled club meeting. This member may then make the motion at the next regularly scheduled club meeting at which time it may be seconded, discussed and voted on.
- In general, meetings will be conducted under common sense rules of proper manners and social decorum. Significant procedural disputes shall be resolved according to Robert's Rules of order. 12***

Article 8 - Contests

Section 1. At any contest where the club acts as host, all club members will be expected to assist as required by the contest director.

Article 9 - Committees

Section 1. The president may appoint committees as required to pursue any club activity.

Article 10 - Special Funds

Section 1. The treasurer is authorized to receive contributions or specially obtained funds from any individual or organization to be applied to the operating expenses of the club. ***If such funds include stipulations, concessions or other requirements that the club must conform to, the entire Board of Directors must unanimously agree to accept those requirements before the funds are accepted. 16***

Article 11 - Amendments

Section 1. Amendments may be made to the constitution and by-laws at any regular business meeting of the club, provided that two months shall elapse before the amendment is voted upon. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required to adopt an amendment.

Periodic Constitutional reviews (This paragraph does not apply to single amendments. These requirements only apply to major modifications of multiple items within the Constitution) may be conducted with the approval of the membership. Any constitutional modifications shall be approved by the Board of Directors and membership in the same manner as any single Constitutional Amendment, except that it must be read at THREE successive meetings and voted upon at the FOURTH meeting. A "hard copy" of the Constitutional changes shall be mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the

*date of the vote to assure that all members are aware of the changes and the date of the vote. 17***

Article 12 - Rule Supplement

Section 1. Additional rules or regulations that do not conflict with the constitution and by-laws may be adopted or deleted at any regular business meeting by a majority vote.

No rule, past, present or future may violate:

1) The site agreement with Hillsborough County, In particular: ARTICLE III, MAINTENANCE, USE AND CARE OF THE SITE, Item 1, which stipulates that the flying site shall have a strict “No Smoking” policy.

2) A “Zero Tolerance policy” of: No illegal use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or controlled substances, firearms, or other reckless, dangerous or any illegal use of the site. 18

Section 2. Prior to adopting or deleting any rules or regulations, a copy of such rules or regulations shall be included in the newsletter **sent** 22 to all regular members prior to the next regular or special membership meeting.

Article 13 - Termination of Membership

Section 1 ***Resignation from the club may be given by written notice to the Club Treasurer.***

(Section 2. See Below) Members are subject to termination of membership for the following reasons:

- a. Member who becomes over 90 days delinquent in their financial obligations to the club.
- b. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of TRAC.
- c. Conduct of any individual that is seriously detrimental to the best interest of the club.

Section 2. Termination of membership shall be decided by two-thirds of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the club provided:

- a. The membership board certifies in writing to the members of the club that the conduct of the member in question falls under the provision of the article and,
- b. The member whose expulsion is in question is given three days notice of such action and an opportunity to be heard at the meeting at which the question is to be decided.

Section 3. Two-thirds of the board can suspend the membership of any member in violation of Article 13, Section 1, until the club resolves the violation ***at the next regularly scheduled meeting 19.*** The member in question shall be advised in writing of the termination process as stated in Article 13, Section 2. ***See Below, WAY below.***

Article 14 – Miscellaneous

Section 1. TRAC may be dissolved with the approval of a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership. In the event of dissolution of TRAC, its net assets *shall be distributed, in a manner approved by the members attending the final meetings of the club, To such other local AMA clubs as may be negotiated by the Board of Directors. Should no such local distribution of funds be agreeable or practical, such funds shall be donated to the AMA for general usage or as a specific endowment.* 20

Section 2. In the event the club is sued for any reason, TRAC shall have the authority to counter sue to recoup fees and expenses incurred.

(i) Certification

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were duly adopted as the official Constitution and By-Laws of the Tampa Radio Control Aircraft Club, Inc. at a regular membership meeting held on _____, 20XX.

Attest: Tampa Radio Control Aircraft Club, Inc.

By: _____
President

Secretary

FOOTNOTES

Modificatios

- 1- Spelling error
- 2- Belongs in subsection e, below....Delete
- 3- 3-Clarifies mid-membership waiver/ FCC license acquisition in the middle of a membership year
- 3a (located above footnote 2) could use a better type of waiver, since it implies that turbines may be acceptable at TRAC. Perhaps something relative to pylon racing, or anything else, would be better.--
- 4- Consolidates provisions scattered in various places in the original 4X transfewred down from above
- 5- (dues upon renewal- see last sentence of footnote 6)
- 6- Same as above
- 7- We frequently vote in members who do not attend meetings. The president can be the proxy mentioned. The second (incorrectly numbered) line clarifies when the vote takes place.
- 8- Delete meaningless phrase Replaced by Section 6, below.
- 9- Spelling correction
- 10- Eliminates question of who conducts meetings. This could be pared down to only the VP and

- treasurer or wherever you chose to make the cut-off
- 11- Includes our latest newsletter delivery
 - 12- Clarifies procedures of meeting decorum without calling for a formal adherence to RroO, except in major items of contention
 - 13- If the treasurer sends out the written notification after three months, and the membership is canceled after three months, the member has no time to respond to the letter. I chose two months out of convenience. Six weeks, two weeks, or whatever you agree upon is fine. Just don't leave it as "Three months warning... three months cancellation".
 - 14- Picky, picky picky...line spacing error. Also clarifies that 150% dues is for the entire family group, not 150% for each member
 - 15- Delete Unnecessary word. The exempted persons are specifically designated
 - 16- There may be rare occasions where funds might be offered, but have strings attached. No strings, the Treasurer can accept the funds, Strings attached, the discretion of the BoA must be included in the decision.
 - 17- Provides for this "Constitutional Convention" and the requirements thereof. The additional month of reading and wail-out is to give extra time and access, to absolutely assure that the members are aware of a MAJOR change in the Constitution. Many people don't always thoroughly read the newsletter (myself included). No offence meant to our fearless editor, but frequently, his layout design does not properly highlight the truly important messages.
 - 18- No smoking and zero tolerance of illegal activities
 - 19- Clarifies when the offender will have his "chance in court" and potentially be voted out
 - 20- Provides for monetary distribution of funds upon club dissolution

**THE FOLLOWING IS PART OF THE AMA SUGGESTED
CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCIPLINARY
ACTION IN PLACE OF Article 13, Section 2 above:**

Article 13 - Termination of Membership and Disciplinary Procedures

Section 2. Members are subject to termination of membership for the following reasons:

- a. members who tender their resignation in writing.
- b. Member who becomes over 90 days delinquent in their financial obligations to the club.
- c. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of TRAC. See Section 2
- d. Conduct of any individual that is seriously detrimental to the best interest of the club.
See Section 2

Section 3. Grievance procedure

1.Grievance form

A grievance form shall be available for members to file complaints of violations of safety, site rule violations, or other activity detrimental to the Club's benefit. See attached. (to be created later)

A grievance complaint relative to non criminal, non-site security or non-safety conduct or

other personal complaints may be offered in writing or verbally to any officer of the club. It is left to the discretion of the Board of Directors as to how handle such minor matter.

Major Role violations:

Class I violations

Definition:

Class I Violations are those infractions defined by general club rules and the AMA Safety Code and other AMA rules.

a. A grievance form will be filled out and be turned in to any Member of the Board, preferably, the Safety Director. At least one witness to the offense is required.

b. **(AMA suggested)** First violation.....Yadda, Yadda, Yadda per AMA guidelines

Class II Violations

Definition

Class II Violations are violations that may result in the Club's eviction from the TRAC flying site. These violations fall into two primary categories:

a. Violations of the Site Agreement with Hillsborough County, State of Florida such as: Violation of TRAC Constitution Article 12 - Rule Supplement, above:

1) *The site agreement with Hillsborough County, In particular: **ARTICLE III, MAINTENANCE, USE AND CARE OF THE SITE, Item 1, which stipulates that the flying site shall have a strict "No Smoking" policy.***

2) *A "Zero Tolerance policy" of: No illegal use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or controlled substances, firearms, or other reckless, dangerous or othewiser illegal use of the site.*

3.. Violation of the site *property line fence* other than at one of the three gates provided for legal ingress and egress. **CROSSING THE FENCE INTO THE LANDFILL PROPERTY CAN RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF OUR LEASE, AND POSSIBLE CRIMILAL CHARGES AGAINST THE VIOLATOR.**

4.. Violation of the North property line into the neighbor's property may result in that neighbor filing a complaint with the County, which could result in cancellation of our lease. (The violator may also be subject to civil or criminal charges, *buckshot wounds and/or dog bites.*)

a. Any TRAC Member who witnesses a class II violation should immediately approach the offending individual and politely request that they cease and desist the activity, reminding / informing the person of the authority of the request (Club Rules & Club Constitution)

b. Should the violator refuse to comply or become beligerant, a member of the Board of directors, preferably the club President should be notified immediately, via best communication method (cell phone or land line). He/ she will decide upon further action, which may involve Law Enforcement, if necessary.

b2. if no Board member can be reached, the Solid waste Department should be notified, to alert them and signify our Club's disapproval of the event.

a. A grievance form will be filled out and be turned in to any Member of the Board immediately, with any supporting evidence (as listed below), preferably, the Club President.

Photographic evidence

Multiple witnesses . (At least one member or Landfill employee witness to the offense is required.)

Section 2. . (AMA suggested)

Termination of membership shall be decided by two-thirds of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the club provided:

- a. The Board of Directors certifies in writing to the members of the club that the conduct of the member in question falls under the provision of the article and,
- b. The member whose expulsion is in question is given three days notice of such action and an opportunity to be heard at the meeting at which the question is to be decided.

Section 3. Two-thirds of the board can suspend the membership of any member in violation of Article 13, Section 1, until the club resolves the violation **at the next regularly scheduled meeting 18**. The member in question shall be advised in writing of the termination process as stated in Article 13, Section 2.