

Silent Order of Aeromodeling by Radio

BY-LAWS

(Enacted March 21, 2009)

PREAMBLE

WHEREFORE, the members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics residing in the greater Chicago metropolitan area who are enthusiasts of silent flight by radio control wish to come together for all purposes authorized by the Academy and be known as the Silent Order of Aeromodeling by Radio (S.O.A.R.).

WHEREFORE, it is acknowledged that membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics is an absolute requirement for admission into and continued membership in S.O.A.R.

WHEREFORE, each member of S.O.A.R. expressly acknowledges and accepts personal and sole responsibility for the safe operation of his or her models and equipment and agrees to become familiar with and abide by all rules, regulations, guidelines and practices promulgated by the Academy.

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.01: Club Purpose and Eligibility

- A. **Club Purpose:** The purpose of the Silent Order of Aeromodeling by Radio (S.O.A.R.) is to promote all aspects of silent radio controlled model aviation, including sport flying, competition flying, designing, experimenting, leadership, education, organization, writing, publishing, manufacturing and other related activities in accordance with the rules and guidelines established by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (A.M.A.) with an emphasis on radio controlled model sailplanes.
- B. **Eligibility:** Any person who has a valid membership in the A.M.A. and makes payment of dues and assessments for the year in full is eligible for membership in S.O.A.R.

Section 1.02: Classes of Membership

- A. **Regular Membership:** A Regular Member is nineteen (19) years of age or older
- B. **Junior Membership:** A Junior Member is eighteen (18) years of age or younger.
- C. **Senior Membership:** A Senior Member is sixty-five (65) years of age or older.
- D. **Family Membership:** Members of a family residing in the same household of an Open Member may become members of the club with full privileges provided that each such member complies with Section 1.01(B) of these By-Laws.

E. **Member's Age:** For the purposes of classification by age, a member's age shall be that age attained on January 1.

Section 1.03: Voting Eligibility

Any member in good standing is eligible to vote at club meetings on matters of club business and in the annual election for candidates seeking positions on the Board of Directors.

Section 1.04: Definition of a Member in Good Standing

- A. A member in good standing has (1) a valid membership in the A.M.A., (2) completed the *S.O.A.R. Membership Application* form, (3) paid the appropriate dues and (4) had his or her membership application approved by a simple majority of members present at a regular club meeting.
- B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1.04(A), membership in S.O.A.R. is predicated upon valid membership in the A.M.A. Should a person apply for membership under the false pretense of having such a membership or should a S.O.A.R. member's membership in the A.M.A. lapse, membership in S.O.A.R. shall be retroactively terminated from the last date the person had a valid A.M.A. membership, regardless of the payment of dues or whether the person's name continues to appear on any S.O.A.R. membership list. In the event this provision comes into effect, any previously paid dues are forfeited.

Section 1.05: Expiration and Renewal of Membership

- A. All memberships in S.O.A.R. expire on December 31st of each year and must be renewed annually.
- B. Any person who had membership in S.O.A.R. during the year immediately preceding renewal is entitled to automatic renewal of membership upon completion of the first three requirements of Section 1.04(A) unless an objection is raised to the renewal.
- C. Any member in good standing may object to the automatic renewal of another's membership. Objections may not be made anonymously, and must state a specific basis. Objection will invoke the fourth requirement of Section 1.04(A) as to the renewal of the objected person's membership.

ARTICLE II
DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 2.01: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year is January 1 through December 31.

Section 2.02: Annual Dues

- A. The amounts of all annual dues shall be established by vote of a simple majority at a regular club meeting.

- B. The dues for Regular, Junior, Senior and Family memberships shall be contained in the *S.O.A.R. Membership Application*.
- C. The *S.O.A.R. Membership Application* shall be available upon request from the Treasurer, by download from the club's web site and contained in the October edition of *Soaring Flight*.

ARTICLE III **MEETINGS**

Section 3.01: Monthly Meetings

Regular meetings of the general membership shall be held on a monthly basis at a time, date and location decided by a simple majority of members in attendance at the previous monthly meeting. The times, dates and locations of all S.O.A.R. meetings shall be published on the club's web site and in each edition of *Soaring Flight*. Unless otherwise stated, all club business shall be decided by the vote of a simple majority of those members present.

ARTICLE IV **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 4.01: Board of Directors

There shall be seven members of the Board of Directors elected from the regular membership of the club. The functions of the Board are advisory and administrative in nature.

Section 4.02: Nomination and Election of Directors

- A. At the time of the November club meeting, the Treasurer shall present to the membership a list of all members in good standing at that time. Only those listed shall be eligible for nomination for office of Director and to vote in the Election of Directors.
- B. Nominations for the office of Director shall be made annually at the November regular meeting. Any number of members may be nominated for available offices.
- C. Votes for the office of Director shall be cast by secret ballot of the membership in any one of the following ways and tallied at the December regular meeting. Ballots shall be printed in the December issue of *Soaring Flight*. Votes cast shall be tallied by two club officers designated as election judges by the Chairman.
 - 1. Voting in person at the December regular meeting;
 - 2. Voting by proxy by delivery of a completed ballot to the December regular meeting by a member in good standing. The delivering member must indicate for whom the proxy ballot is being cast; or
 - 3. When available, electronic voting through any means approved by the membership in advance of the election, which provides safeguards to ensure the anonymity of the voter, that only members in good standing are eligible to vote and that an electronic voter cannot later cast a ballot in person or by proxy.

- D. A member is said to be elected to the office of Director when he receives a majority of the votes cast at the December regular meeting.

Section 4.03: Term of Office

- A. A board member's term is two calendar years.
- B. Four Board member seats shall expire in even numbered years and three seats shall expire in odd numbered years.

Section 4.04: Election of Club Officers

- A. The election of officers shall be made annually by the new Board of Directors at a directors' meeting following the December regular meeting, which shall be open to the general membership.
- B. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be five members. All officers shall be elected by a simple majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors.
- C. For the Purposes of electing the new Chairman, one Board Member shall be elected Chairman *pro tem*.
- D. The Chairman *pro tem* shall preside over the nomination and election of the office of Chairman. Thereafter, the newly elected Chairman shall preside over the nomination and election of the remaining officers in the following order: Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and Contest Coordinator.

Section 4.05: Duties of Officers

- A. **Chairman:** The Chairman of the Board shall be the principal officer. The Chairman shall prepare the agenda for and preside at all meetings. The Chairman shall appoint a newsletter editor and a webmaster, and may appoint other special committee members.
- B. **Vice Chairman:** The Vice Chairman of the Board shall assume the duties of the Chairman in the event of his or her absence. In the event of the Secretary's absence, the Vice Chairman shall prepare the minutes of any meeting.
- C. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall take custody of and manage the club's financial assets. The Treasurer shall prepare a monthly report of income and expenditures to be presented at each regular meeting and issue payment for all expenses approved by the membership. The Treasurer shall process all *S.O.A.R. Membership Application* forms. The Treasurer shall maintain the official list of members in good standing, which shall be provided as specified by these By-Laws, any club Program and upon the request of any member. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the club's standing with all governmental organizations and the A.M.A., including the processing of all necessary paperwork and the payment of any associated dues.

- D. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall take custody of and maintain all of the club's official documents. The Secretary shall prepare the minutes of all regular and directors' meetings and provide them to the newsletter editor for publication in *Soaring Flight*. The Secretary shall provide copies of all By-Laws and Program rules upon the request of any member.
- E. **Contest Coordinator:** The Contest Coordinator shall maintain the club's contest schedule and act as the club's liaison with the contest coordinators of other clubs and contest series. The Contest Coordinator shall maintain a list of contests and events of potential interest to the membership and provide that list to the newsletter editor and webmaster. The Contest Coordinator shall maintain the results from all monthly club contests and the annual S.O.A.R. Achievement Awards Program and provide them to the newsletter editor and webmaster. When necessary, the Contest Coordinator may appoint Contest Directors for club contests (A.M.A. qualification not required).

ARTICLE V **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Section 5.01: Rules and Practices

Each member acknowledges he or she is personally and solely responsible for the safe operation of his or her models and equipment, and agrees to become familiar with and obey all A.M.A. rules, regulations, guidelines and practices, including those governing frequency control and considerations dictated by specific field conditions. When appropriate, members operating models together may agree to additional precautions dictated by conditions appertaining at any given time. S.O.A.R. does not sanction any activity that falls outside of A.M.A. guidelines regardless of when, where or how the activity may have occurred.

ARTICLE VI **DAN PRUSS RC SOARING TEAM AWARD**

Section 6.01: Establishment and Purpose

The Dan Pruss RC Soaring Team Award was established by the membership in 1987 when they voted to present the A.M.A. with \$3,000.00 from the club treasury as an endowment to pay for the annual trophies. This award was created to honor member Dan Pruss by fostering the spirit of team competition at the A.M.A. Nats – a spirit that was the enduring legacy of Dan Pruss in the national soaring contests he created and his guidance of our national teams in international soaring events.

Section 6.02: Guidelines

Naming the team winning the Dan Pruss RC Soaring Team Award at the A.M.A. Nats will be the responsibility of the Nats Soaring Director based on the following guidelines.

- A. Each team will declare intent for the award by registering with the Soaring Director prior to the first official flight of the Soaring event.

- B. Each team will consist of not less than three members of the same A.M.A. chartered club, and there will be no limitation of three-person teams per A.M.A. chartered club.
- C. Each of the three members of the winning team will receive a distinctive trophy, and their names will also be inscribed on a plaque which will be kept on permanent display at the A.M.A. headquarters.

Section 6.03: Scoring

- A. Scoring results will be based on the official placings of the team members. The winning team will be determined by the lowest combined aggregate score from each of the participating events.
 - B. Scoring will be calculated by place. The best team has the lowest total score. That is, 1st place equals one point, 2nd place equals 2 points, etc.
 - C. In the event of a tie between teams, the official flight point scores used in the calculation of places will be used to determine the winning team.
- As soaring classes at future Nats change, S.O.A.R. reserves the right to alter the scoring criteria to include/exclude event(s) or combinations of events.

Section 6.04: Presentation of the trophies

- A. The trophies will be presented at the soaring banquet (if held) following the soaring event by a representative in the following order of priority.
 - 1. By a member of the Pruss family,
 - 2. By a designated member of S.O.A.R., or
 - 3. By the Soaring Event Director of the Nats.

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Section 7.01: Amendment of By-Laws

These S.O.A.R. By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special membership meeting by a majority of the votes cast by those present, provided notice of the proposed amendments has been mailed to the membership in advance of the meeting or published in *Soaring Flight* in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII
NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

Section 8.01: Publication of Newsletter

The newsletter editor shall publish a monthly newsletter for the purpose of communication with and among its membership. The newsletter shall contain the times, dates and locations of all club meetings, contests and events. The newsletter shall contain the minutes of all regular and

Board of Directors meetings. This publication shall be distributed electronically to all members at least five days prior to the regular monthly meeting. Subject to the provisions of Section 8.02, the newsletter editor has broad discretion regarding the layout and features of the newsletter and serves at the discretion of the Chairman.

Section 8.02: Newsletter Title and Masthead

- A. The title of the newsletter shall be *Soaring Flight*.
- B. The masthead shall be a copy of that appearing in *Aerial Age Weekly* magazine, published between 1915 and 1922, and heading the first known column dedicated solely to reporting on full-scale soaring activities in the United States and abroad.
- C. The January edition of *Soaring Flight* shall include copies of all special Programs listed in Article IX of these By-Laws. The October edition shall contain the *S.O.A.R. Membership Application* form. The November edition must contain a notice of nominations for the Board of Directors. The December edition must contain a voting ballot for the board election.

Section 8.03: Website

The webmaster shall maintain a current web site for the purpose of communication with and among the membership. The web site shall contain the times, dates and locations of all club meetings, contests and events. The webmaster has broad discretion regarding the layout and features of the website and serves at the discretion of the Chairman.

ARTICLE IX **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

9.01: S.O.A.R. Achievement Awards Program

The S.O.A.R. Achievement Awards Program was established to encourage members to challenge themselves and others in all aspects of radio control soaring. The guidelines for each category will be maintained by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall make the guidelines available to any member by request or upon joining SOAR as part of the new member packet.

9.02: S.O.A.R. Hall of Fame Program

The S.O.A.R. Hall of Fame Program was established to recognize those members whose contributions to S.O.A.R. and to model aviation have been outstanding, and have increased the prestige and stature of the club. The Secretary shall make the guidelines available to any member by request or upon joining SOAR as part of the new member packet.