



Constitution and By-Laws

The St Louis Whirlybirds

An official Chapter of

The Academy of Model Aeronautics

## Constitution

### Article 1 – Name

Section 1. The name of the club shall be “The St Louis Whirlybirds” The abbreviation shall be “Whirlybirds”. The Whirlybirds is a non-profit corporation organized under the Missouri Non-Profit Corporation Act.

### Article 2 – Purpose

Section 1. This club has been formed to promote radio controlled model helicopter flying for the enjoyment and recreation of its members. Monies received will be used to maintain a flying site and/or to promote club activities.

### Article 3 – General

Section 1. The club shall aid, insofar as possible, the National program of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and other AMA activities, looking toward the continual advancement of model aviation in all its phases in the United States.

Section 2. All special or local enterprises of the Whirlybirds shall conform to the policies of the AMA and to the regulations of that organization governing modeling activities

Section 3. All radio control equipment owned by individual members shall conform to appropriate sections covering operation and ownership of said unit as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission.



#### **Article 4 – Eligibility**

Section 1. All members will abide by the rules and policies of the Whirlybirds club and the AMA.

#### **Article 5 – Board of Directors**

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Board of directors shall consist of the following:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. And up to four (4) additional full members who may choose to serve on the Board provided they are approved by a simple majority vote of the general membership present at the regular meeting in the month of November.

#### **Article 6 – Officers**

Section 1. The elected officers of the Whirlybirds shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **Article 7 – Agent**

Section 1. The agent of the Corporation shall be appointed by the President and shall establish a permanent address for the Corporation.

## **By-Laws**

#### **Article 1 – Duties**

Section 1. Board of Directors:

The purpose and authority of the Board of Directors is to make policy decisions for club administration and operations so as to carry out the provisions of the club By-Laws. And where the By-Laws are specific, the Board is responsible for interpretation and implementation of the policies which are not in conflict with the purpose of the AMA as defined in their By-Laws.

Section 2. President



The President shall preside at all meeting of the club and shall act as the spokesman in all matters pertaining to it.

#### Section 3. Vice-President

The Vice President shall act for the President when he is unable to serve, and is to maintain an accurate record (including place of storage) of all club assets.

#### Section 4. Secretary

The Secretary of the club shall record minutes of each club meeting and handle all correspondence pertaining to club activities.

#### Section 5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall collect all monies due and shall keep a record of monies disbursed by the club.

### **Article 2 –Audit**

Section 1. A periodic audit of the treasure’s books will be made by the President or his appointee.

### **Article 3 – Term of Office**

Section 1. All elected officers of the Whirlybirds shall serve for one (1) year from date of election. Officers are to be elected by a vote of a simple majority of those present at the regular meeting in the month of November. New officers will take office immediately after the November meeting. Personnel will be appointed by the elected officers and confirmed by a simple majority vote of those present during a regular meeting; i.e. Newsletter Editor, Contest Directors, Representative to the Greater St. Louis Model Association (GLSMA) etc.

Section 2. Nomination of club officers shall be made at the general membership meeting in October. 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. All know nominations for office will be published in the newsletter prior to the November election.

Section 3. A secret ballot is required by elections, for removal of a club officer, member of the Board of Directors, for expulsion of a member from the club, and acceptance of new members.

### **Article 4 – Vacancies**

Section 1. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors; such appointee to serve until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected.



## **Article 5 – Committees**

Section 1. The committees of the club shall be appointed by the President and may be approved by a simple majority vote of the members present at a meeting (if a vote is requested), to serve throughout the term or less of his tenure of office.

## **Article 6 – Meetings**

Section 1. Regular meeting may be held at a time and place designated by the club officers and published in the club newsletter.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the club officers notifying all members by written notice, with no less than five (5) days prior notice of the meeting.

Section 3. At any club meeting a simple majority shall be over 50% of the members voting at that meeting.

## **Article 7 – Dues and Membership**

Section 1. The annual dues to this club shall be determined by the club officers with the approval of a simple majority vote. Dues are non-refundable except under extraordinary circumstances which will be determined by the Board of Directors. Dues are to be paid no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Section 2. No special assessment shall be levied upon the club membership unless it is approved by a vote of two thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at the regular monthly meeting, and the members have been given five (5) days prior notice along with an explanation of the assessment.

Section 3. New members joining after September and paying a full year dues will be paid through the following year.

Section 4. A member shall be in arrears and shall not be considered active if his dues have not been paid as provided in Article 7, Section 1. A \$5.00 (5) dollar penalty will be assessed by any member wishing to renew his club membership when he is in arrears. Any member who allows his membership to lapse beyond February 1<sup>st</sup> of any year shall be considered a new member when renewing his membership and will not be given preference over any other applicant, should a membership waiting list be in existence.

Section 5. Type of membership and limits on the total number of members shall be determined by the club officers and approved by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at the meeting.



## **Article 8 – Member Standing**

Section 1. All persons shall be eligible for membership in the Whirlybirds provided they meet the requirements prescribed by the club, in its By-Laws, and those of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Section 2. The membership shall be divided into classes as follows

1. Full member is sixteen (16) years old or older and has full privileges and voting rights. Pays full individual dues plus proof of AMA membership.
2. Junior member is younger than sixteen (16) years old, has full privileges but no voting rights. Pays one half (1/2) of the full member dues plus proof of AMA membership.

Section 3. All member will be required to hold and maintain a license issued by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), All first time member applicants, as well as present members seeking membership renewal, must show proof of membership in the AMA.

Section 4. New members shall be introduced to the club before joining; a vote of the members present at a meeting shall approve or disapprove an application for membership. Three (3) negative votes deny membership.

## **Article 9 – Expulsion**

Section 1. Any member may be expelled from the club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at a meeting. The vote is to be taken by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting.

## **Article 10 – Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments may be made to this Constitution and these By-Laws at any general meeting of the club membership, provided the members have been notified in writing at least five (5) days in advance that the amendments are to be considered. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be provided to all members as part of the notification. Amendments shall be approved by no less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present. Mail in ballots will be made available for those Full members who cannot attend the meeting. Those ballots returned will be counted as if those persons were present at the meeting.

## **Article 11 – Special Funds**

Section 1. The treasurer of the club is authorized to receive contributions or specially obtained funds from any individual or institution, to be applied to the operating expenses of the club.



**Article 12 – Duration**

Section 1. The duration of this club shall be perpetual.

**Article 13 – Dissolution**

Section 1. The Corporation may be dissolved with the approval of two thirds (2/3) majority of the total membership.

**Article 14 – Incorporation**

Section 1. The incorporation of this membership shall be a minimum of three (3) of the four (4) elected officers.

**Article 15 – Logo**

Section 1. The official club logo shall be:

