

Michigan Whirlybirds R/C Helicopter Club
Established September, 1973
AMA Charter #1109
Club Bylaws and Safety Rules

Purpose

The Purpose of the Michigan Whirlybirds (hereinafter referred to as club) is the promotion, advancement, safety and enjoyment of the sport of radio controlled model helicopter flying in accordance with the guidelines of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Membership

Membership shall consist of the following categories:

1. Junior Member - A club member that has not yet attained the age of eighteen (18).
2. Active Member - A club member in excess of the age of eighteen (18).
3. Senior Member - A club member who has been an active member for three (3) consecutive years prior to their attaining the age of sixtyfive (65).

Membership is available to anyone who meets the following criteria as established for a Prospective Member. The Prospective Member:

1. Has expressed the desire to join the club and
2. Any additional criteria as may be established by a majority vote of the membership at a regular business meeting and
3. Is deemed to have fulfilled the above requirements for membership and
4. Is accepted by the majority of the membership at a regular club business meeting as a club member.

Upon acceptance as a club member by the club membership the additional conditions apply:

1. The prospective member must possess the current AMA card (or proof of paid AMA current years dues) before club acceptance can be finalized and
2. The dues for the current year must be paid in full not later than the second regular club business meeting after the meeting at which club membership is tendered in order to be deemed a club member.
3. An initiation fee of \$10.00

Club Membership Dues

Club membership dues shall be paid annually for the current year not later than the February regular club business meeting.

The dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the membership at the December regular club business meeting for the following year.

Dues shall be apportioned to the club membership as follows:

Full Dues - Active Members

Half Dues - Junior Members

No Dues- Senior Members Newsletter editor and Elected Officers, as long as they remain in office

The “No Dues” extended to Senior Members may be revoked on an individual basis upon majority vote of the membership at a regular club business meeting.

Dues not paid by a member by the February regular club business meeting shall be deemed sufficient to terminate an individual as a club member. Reinstatement to the club shall be by majority vote of the membership at a regular club business meeting. There will be a \$10.00 penalty assessed on dues paid after they have become delinquent.

At times it may be necessary to raise funds for a special project and / or acquisition. A special assessment may be voted in by the majority of the general membership. This assessment may be a one time charge or it may be added to the annual dues until such time that it is deemed nonessential. This assessment must be published in the club newsletter one (1) month prior to being voted upon.

Member Responsibility

While it is not the intent of the club to burden any single member with a lot of work, it is required that everyone share the workload of operating the club. Realizing that not everyone can serve every time or in every capacity they could be called upon to do so.

Application for membership obligates the member to:

1. Serve on committees.
2. Hold office, if member accepts nomination and is elected.
3. Participate in work parties and / or club functions.
4. Obey club and AMA rules.

Member Privileges

1. Club members may use / borrow club owned items (example; tent, frequency scanner). Usage of club items are on an available basis and only for direct member usage. Request for said items will be heard and decided on by the executive board at a regularly scheduled business meeting.
2. Club members will have access to the club library. Library material is loaned with the understanding that the items are to be returned in the same condition as when borrowed. Library items are on an available basis and only for direct member usage. The current newsletter editor will store said material and is responsible for it's inventory.

Club Officers

Five club officers, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary will be elected every other year by ballot with the winners determined by plurality. President and Secretary will be elected on even years. Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be elected on odd years. Nominations for office will be taken at the last meeting in September. The election will be

held at the last meeting in October. The term of office will begin the following January 1st and continue for two calendar years.

The President shall preside over meetings. He will act as liaison with other associated organizations and as general spokesman for the club. He will uphold the club safety rules and bylaws. The President may appoint committees or recommend individuals to handle special events, contests, field trips, etc., subject to individual acceptance. He will give direction and guidance to the club with respect to our stated purpose.

The Vice President will assist the President and other officers in their stated responsibilities as well as presiding over meetings in the absence of the President. He will hold the position of Director of Protocol.

The Treasurer will collect and disburse club funds in conjunction with the Executive Board and / or by vote of the members. This will include but not be limited to postage, fines, dues, prizes, and charges for refreshments. He will keep records of all transactions and present regular verbal reports of same at club meetings.

The Secretary will be responsible for meeting minutes, He will publish the monthly newsletter (in the event a club newsletter editor is not available) and take care of general correspondence in conjunction with the other officers.

The Membership Secretary will be responsible, the club roster, the AMA roster, membership cards, and all AMA correspondence including field insurance.

The positions of Field Marshal, Safety Officer, Newsletter Editor and Contest Director will be on a volunteer basis with the approval of the club membership. These positions shall only become vacant when said member elects to resign from the position. The Contest Director must hold the CD status with AMA. The club will reimburse the member for their license fee (if any).

The term Executive Board is defined as the current President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary

The current and newly elected Executive Boards will audit the records of the treasury prior to the January meeting. This audit will insure the accuracy has been maintained.

Club Meetings

Club meetings will be held once per month. A monthly meeting can be canceled by a membership vote. The cancellation must be voted on by the meeting prior to the cancellation. The Executive Board can cancel a meeting for safety issues (weather , etc.) , The location and time of the meeting is to be prearranged and announced in the club newsletter, Meetings must be conducted in a calm and orderly fashion using Roberts Rules of Order or similar publication as a guide. The President or Vice President, in addition to six (6) other club members (a quorum) must be present for any official business to be transacted

Helicopter Pilot Rating

All club members are to be rated by their ability. The levels of rating are as follows:

Student Pilot

Club member, new or current, not having attained the rating of pilot.

Pilot

Club member having satisfactorily demonstrated the Class I maneuvers listed in the current AMA competition rule book. If the attempt is made at the field (second Sunday of the month) it must be witnessed by a minimum of two (2) current club officers or instructors or combination of both. If the attempt is made by competing in a sanctioned contest the student pilot must place in the upper two-thirds (2/3) of the final standings. Upon completion (or verification) of the maneuvers the membership card of the student pilot will be signed and dated by the officer/ instructor and a set of R/C wings will be awarded to the individual in recognition of their achievement.

Instructor

This rating is achieved when a majority of the membership believes that a Pilot is skilled enough to instruct others. Instructors will be listed in the club newsletter.

Under no circumstances will a Student Pilot be allowed to operate any R/C helicopter equipment unless under the supervision of an instructor or a member with a pilot rating while at the club's facilities or functions. In the event supervision is not available AMA rules and common sense must be observed.

Activities

The club interest lies in radio controlled model helicopters, therefore, all club flight activities will be limited to radio controlled model helicopters.

No potential member or guest may participate in any flying activity without having first presented a current AMA card or proof of payment of an AMA membership.

All club members are required to make themselves available for any work parties needed for the maintenance of the club field, sanctioned club events or other vital interest of the club. Club members who work in sanctioned events shall be provided food & beverage at club's expense.

Safety Rules

The club's safety rules as well as the AMA General and Radio Control Safety Rules must be obeyed by all members. Failure to do so could result in fine or expulsion from the club as well as a threat to life or property.

It is every member's responsibility to report infractions to the club officers and to attempt to correct any unsafe situations.

Disciplinary Measures

As deemed necessary, a Disciplinary Board may be called to adjudicate any members actions in violation of the AMA Safety Code, Club Safety Rules, club regulations and / or bylaws. This board will be comprised of the President, a Club Contest Director and one additional appointee of the President. This board will meet in closed session; however, any testimony may be presented to the board for or against the club member in violation. The board may also request members that may have knowledge of the incident to appear. The board by unanimous vote will declare the penalty upon the club member. Such penalty may be as light as a private reprimand or as severe as to revoke membership.

The club member may appeal the boards decision to the general membership at the next regular business meeting. The decision of a majority of the members present is final.

Any member's equipment damaged by another's careless or irresponsible act must be repaired, replaced or otherwise compensated for by the member causing the damage. The member at fault shall be expelled from the club if no agreement is reached within a reasonable length of time as determined by the Executive Board.

Dissolution Clause

In the event of dissolution of the club, all assets of the club will be given to the Boy Scouts of America.

Bylaw Changes

The club Bylaws and Safety Rules may be changed by two-thirds (2/3) majority of thirty three percent of the membership if an incident should occur that prove them to be inadequate for the club's stated purpose or found to be outdated by current standards. Written notice must be given of proposed changes at least one meeting date prior to the voting date. Under no circumstances are they to be changed forsaking safety or common sense.

Approved: February, 1991
Revised: November, 1993
Approved: December, 1993
Revised: April, 1996
Approved: May, 1996
Revised: March, 1997
Approved: April, 1997
Revised May 2005
Approved June 2005