



Article 1. CHARTER

- A. The **FIRST WEEDWACKER AERO SQUADRON** has been formed to promote, develop and encourage the art of model aircraft. It is a primary objective of the Club to foster interest in model aviation at the practical level among youth. The Club is a non-profit organization chartered under the auspices of the Academy of Model Aeronautics as AMA Chartered Club # 1651. All dues and other moneys received will be used to implement the activities of the Club.

Article 2. MEMBERSHIP

A. Types of Membership

- (1) Regular Membership shall consist of membership for an individual over 18 years of age.
 - (2) Junior Membership shall consist of membership for an individual 18 years of age or younger.
 - (3) A Family Membership shall consist of a special membership for the immediate members of the same family residing in a single household. At least one individual in the household must be a Regular Member. The remaining individuals within the Family Membership may be either Regular Members or Junior Members.
 - (1). Active-Duty Military shall consist of those serving in an active-duty status as of January 1st of the membership year, and their immediate family members (spouse, children).
- B. All persons not previously removed from the club shall be eligible for membership.
 - C. Members shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner during all Club activities and shall agree to abide by the Club's Bylaws, the Club's Field Rules, the Safety Code of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), and the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation Reservation and Maintenance Agreement.
 - D. All Club members must hold a current AMA license.
 - E. An applicant for Club membership shall attend a minimum of one meeting, present his current AMA license and be acceptable to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may waive the meeting attendance requirement.
 - F. Members shall pay dues/and or fees as approved by the membership and levied by the Board of Directors.
 - G. Membership shall run from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

Former members, out of the Club for less than one year, reapplying for membership may be reinstated by the Board of Directors upon presentation of their current AMA license and upon payment of unpaid dues and any special assessments for the year. Former members



who have been out of the Club for more than one year. For all renewing members, the full year's dues are required regardless of the month that dues are paid.

H. Guests:

- (1) Pending approval, an applicant for membership may fly as a guest of the Club provided he possesses a current AMA license and is supervised by a senior (21 or over) Club member. He must conform to the Club and AMA safety rules.
- (2) Other guests may fly at the Club field up to three times a year, or more if approved by the Board, provided they possess a current AMA license, comply with Club and AMA safety rules, and are monitored by a Regular Club member.
- (3) Non-AMA members may fly under the "Introductory Pilot Program" while directly supervised by an Introductory Pilot Instructor. However, the AMA's Park Pilot Program does not carry sufficient liability coverage to meet the club's financial liability responsibilities with the County.

Article 3. ORGANIZATION

A. Officers:

- (1) The President shall preside over all club meetings and conduct them in a reasonable parliamentary manner. It shall be his responsibility to check all financial and other Club records to assure their propriety. The President is authorized to appoint personnel to special tasks and committees such as Field Marshal, Newsletter Editor, entertainment, refreshments, etc., subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, and acceptable by the appointed personnel.
- (2) The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his absence. The Vice President shall guide and assist in all Club activities and report to the President and membership as requested.
- (3) The Treasurer shall collect all moneys and keep a record of income and expenditures. Club fees and dues may be collected by any club officer. Event related fees may be collected by any designated event coordinator. All such fees and dues will be transferred directly to the Treasurer by the close of the next regularly scheduled club meeting. He shall report at each Club meeting on moneys received, spent and the balance. He shall maintain a bank checking account in the Club's name, process bank signature cards for all Club officers and assure that two Club officers (one usually the Treasurer) sign all Club checks. He will arrange for the transfer of the account to the succeeding Treasure. An auditing committee will audit the books at least once a year. The Treasurer shall maintain the Club roster.
- (4) The Secretary shall record the minutes of the Club meetings and submit them to the membership for approval at subsequent meetings. He shall be the custodian for all Club records other than those of the Treasurer. He shall conduct normal correspondence for the Club and shall process the Club chartering paperwork with



the Academy of Model Aeronautics. The Secretary shall notify the membership in the event of special meetings.

B. Board of Directors:

- (1) Structure: The Board of Directors of the Club shall consist of the current officers and the officers from the immediate past year. The officers are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The club newsletter editor is a non-voting member of the Board of Directors and serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors. The President is the Chairman of the Board.
- (2) Duties: The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the overall direction and planning of the activities of the Club. The Board of Directors meets prior to the regular meeting or at special meetings to prepare routine and special matters for club meetings. Decisions by the Board of Directors require a positive vote by a quorum of the Board of Directors. A quorum shall consist of at least 50 percent of the current Board members.

C. Elections:

(1) Officer Qualifications

- a. All officers shall be a Regular Member
- b. A candidate for President must be a member in good standing for a least one year. Candidates for the other offices must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of six months prior to the election.
- c. An officer may serve more than one year consecutively in one office.
- d. A member may be nominated for only one office since a single secret ballot will be cast for all offices simultaneously.

(2) Procedures

- a. Officers shall be elected at the November meeting by a simple majority vote and shall be installed in office at the December meeting to serve one year.
- b. The Board of Directors shall present at least one nominee for each office to the membership at the October meeting. Club members may make nominations from



the floor subject to the criteria above and to the acceptance of nomination by the nominated member.

- c. Nominations will be published in the club newsletter (Hangar News) in the issue prior to the November meeting.
- d. A secret ballot is required for elections unless waived by a simple majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
- e. Should a secret ballot be required, the President shall appoint election judges who will distribute, collect and count ballots at the November general meeting, and who will advise the President of the results. The President will announce the newly elected officers to the membership (without providing a breakdown of the voting).
- f. When nominations have been closed, either by motion or by unanimous consent, if the list of nominees consists of no more than one nominee for any office to be elected, the presiding officer shall declare the nominee for that office elected by acclamation (no motion required).
- g. In the event that social distancing protocols require virtual meetings, election polls may be exercised as per F. F. (6) below, and the secret ballot requirement is void.

D. Vacancies:

- (1) Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment by the remaining officers, such appointee to serve until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected. Appointments will be ratified by vote of the membership at the next meeting.

E. Committees:

- (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.

F. Meetings:

- (1) Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the Club officers and published in the Club newsletter.
- (2) The Board of Directors may call special meetings with no less than ten days' prior written notice of a special meeting, mailed to all club members. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the written notice. Where applicable in this



document, correspondence calling out mail shall also include email where the member agrees to receive correspondence in that medium.

- (3) A simple majority shall be defined as over 50 percent of the members voting at the meeting.
- (4) At any Club meeting, any member can initiate a request for club action as part of the course of old or new business. Any request made as a formal motion shall be discussed and voted on by the club. Resolution of the motion shall be recorded in the minutes.
- (5) Any member of the Club may initiate a formal request for action by the Board of Directors by submitting a written proposal to the President. The proposal shall include a written description of the nature, type and extent of the Board action recommended. The President of the Board shall forward copies of the proposal to other members of the Board of Directors for their consideration. The President or any other Board member may have the matter placed upon the working agenda of the next Club meeting.
- (6) Voting tallies during virtual web-based meetings (as may be required during social distancing protocols) may be collected using tools or capabilities offered by the particular web-based method in use as long as each member's vote can be accurately counted. For example, while vocal votes may be challenging, each member may be polled by a roll call. Visual cues may be used such as a raised hand, or for those without video capability, some web-based meeting software provides a "raised hand" function. Some meeting sites provide polling features.

Article 4. REVISIONS TO THESE BYLAWS

- A. Additions to or revision of the Bylaws proposed by the Board of Directors to the membership are subject to unanimous approval of the Board prior to submission to the membership. However, a change to the Bylaws proposed in the form of a motion at a Club meeting by any member is not subject to unanimous approval of the Board of Directors. Any change will be presented in the club newsletter and voted on the next month.
- B. Any proposal or motion to amend the Bylaws will be subject to a vote by the membership. A minimum of 10 percent of the total Club membership must be present for a vote to amend the Bylaws. For the proposal to be accepted, the affirmative votes must be a minimum of 70 percent of the number of members present. (The 10 percent



and 70 percent criteria will be rounded to the nearest whole number, i.e., 70 percent of 36 (25.2) will be rounded to 25.)

- C. Issues other than amendments to the Bylaws will be decided by a simple majority vote of the membership at a regular Club meeting.

Article 5. FINANCES

A. Expenses

- (1) Club operating expenses shall be paid from the treasury by the Treasurer or President.
- (2) Upon majority vote of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors is authorized to spend up to \$200.00 in a single expenditure to expedite paying Club expenses. The total of such expenses approved only by the Board is limited to \$1,000.00 in any one



year. Additional expenditures may be authorized by a vote of the membership at Club meetings.

B. Initiation Fee

- (1) Each new Regular Member is assessed a one-time initiation fee in the amount of \$50.
- (2) The initiation fee is due and payable upon application for membership. If an application is rejected for cause by the Board of Directors, the initiation fee shall be returned to the applicant.
- (3) The initiation fee is waived for new Junior Members.
- (4) Only one initiation fee is required for each Family Membership accepted by the Board of Directors.

C. Dues

- (1) Regular Membership dues are \$80.00 per year.
- (2) A new Regular Member shall pay dues prorated at a monthly dues rate of one twelfth of the annual dues including the month he or she joins.
- (3) Annual dues for continuing members are due and payable on or before the February meeting each year.
 - a. Junior Members are assessed no club dues; however, Junior Members must possess membership in AMA.
 - b. For Family Memberships, one household member is assessed the Regular Member dues; the dues for each additional adult member of the immediate household shall be one-half the regular club dues.
 - c. Dues and initiation fees for Active-Duty Military members and their immediate families (spouse, children) are waived for the entire year for members serving during that calendar year. Refunds to current members who join the military in the middle of the year will be considered on a case-basis. Upon transition from active duty, regular and family member dues shall be collected beginning in the following year. No initiation fee shall be required.
- (4) Club officers are exempt from dues during the year of their term.
- (5) Awards of free club membership may be given to certain members in good standing in recognition of special service to the club. Normally the free membership will be for a one-year period. However exceptional and long-term service may be rewarded with a Life Membership in the club. Free membership requires the recipient maintain



current AMA membership. Awards of free membership requires unanimous vote of the Club Board.

D. Special Assessments

- (1) Special assessments may be levied only if a proposal for such assessment is first published to the membership in the club newsletter and the assessment is approved by the membership following the same procedure as required for a revision in these By Laws (Article 3, above).

Article 6. RESIGNATION, TERMINATION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION, EXPULSION AND REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

A. Resignation:

- (1) Any member in good standing may resign his membership by giving written notice to the Club. By approval of the Board of Directors, voluntary resignation may result in return of prorated dues already paid to the club.

B. Termination

- (1) If any member's AMA membership is terminated by the AMA, his membership in the Club shall thereby terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility. In this case, dues paid for that year will not be refunded to the member.

C. Disciplinary Action

- (1) This section describes the disciplinary action which may be brought against club members for violations of the club field rules or for any other unacceptable behaviors which are determined to be detrimental to the club, to the AMA, or to the hobby of model aviation.
- (2) All Club members shall be responsible for any personal injury or property damage caused by member's model aircraft and shall assume said responsibility before resumption of flying from the Club field. (i.e., a member is automatically grounded until the matter is adjudicated and the Board of Directors could cancel his membership if it is not corrected within 60 days.) Any member deliberately breaking Club rules or field rules or not acting in a sportsmanlike manner is subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion from club membership under Article 6.E. below.

(3) Field Rules:

- a. Field rules are established and maintained by the membership. The Board of Directors may make temporary changes to the field rules. Any such changes must be presented for membership approval at the next regular Club meeting.
- b. Members are authorized and encouraged to remind each other of Field Rules and provisions of the AMA Safety Code whenever violations are witnessed. Such



friendly reminders are to be conducted in a polite, respectful, and helpful manner and are to be considered the lowest level of “disciplinary action.”

(4) Field Marshalls

- a. Field Marshals are appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- b. Field Marshals are responsible for ensuring the safe, sportsmanlike conduct of flying activities at the field.
- c. Field Marshals shall be responsible for ensuring that existing field rules are enforced. This includes processing grievance forms and following the existing Grievance Procedure documented in these Bylaws.
- d. Field marshals have authority to enforce compliance with field rules by suspending daily flying privileges of any member or member’s guest where, in the sole judgment of the Field Marshal, the individual is in violation of the field rules.
- e. Depending on weather conditions or other pertinent circumstances, Field Marshals may modify field rules or suspend all flying activity for any given flying session to ensure the safety of persons and property.
- f. A Field Marshal’s ruling may not be overruled by any member, individual Board member or other Field Marshal.
- g. A Field Marshal’s ruling remains in effect until rescinded by the issuing Field Marshal or until 8:00 a.m. the following day.

D. Grievance Procedure

- (1) Purpose. The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, when a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally, the matter should be referred to the Safety Committee for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form (Form 100-A).
- (2) Safety Committee. The Safety Committee shall consist of the Safety Officer and at least one additional member as appointed by the President. The Safety Committee



shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following through recommendations to the Board of Directors for action:

- a. Any member can submit a grievance form to the Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required.
 - (a) Viewpoints of both complainant and accused will be considered.
 - (b) Complainant's names will be disclosed to the accused.
 - (c) The accused has the right to a written rebuttal to be reviewed by the Board of Directors.
- b. First Violation
 - (a) If deemed necessary, a **verbal reprimand** will be given to the accused by the Board of Directors, and this will be recorded in the Clubs records and retained by the Secretary.
- c. Second Violation
 - (a) If the Committee so decides, the **flying privileges of the accused will be suspended** for 30 days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy published in the Club newsletter.
- d. Third Violation
 - (a) Three violations of the safety codes accumulated within a two-year will result in initiation of expulsion proceedings.
 - (b) Expulsion from the club will be initiated using the process described in Article 6.E. below.

E. Expulsion

- (1) Any individual may be expelled from membership from the Club by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors and a 2/3 majority vote of a quorum at a regular monthly meeting if, in the Board of Directors' determination, such individual willfully commits any act or omission which is a violation of any of the terms of these Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Club Field Rules, the Rules of the AMA, San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation Reservation and Maintenance Agreement, or which is detrimental to the Club, to the AMA, or to model aviation. The requirement for unanimous vote of the board shall not include any board members subject to expulsion.
- (2) Notification will be hand delivered by a board member to any person subject to expulsion listing the violations and complaints and outlining the time frame of



expulsion. The person may address the board with a written response or explanation for consideration before the board makes its final determination of expulsion.

- (3) A secret ballot is required for removal of a Club officer, a member of the Board of Directors or for expulsion of a member from the Club unless waived by a simple majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
- (4) Any member receiving a grievance who directs any retaliatory action against the person filing said grievance shall be subject to immediate expulsion from the Club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Board of Directors.
- (5) Said expulsion will last for a minimum of one year (longer, if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors). The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.
- (6) The Board of Directors shall have the discretionary authority to provide for and impose disciplinary action for such acts or omissions which do not justify expulsion from membership.

F. Reinstatement

- (1) Any member who is expelled from membership may be reinstated to membership only by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article 7. DISSOLUTION

- A. The Corporation may be dissolved with the approval of a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership.
- B. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc., or to such other organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as



amended, or to such other organization with purposes similar to the purposes of this Corporation, as the Board shall determine.

Article 8. INCORPORATION

- A. The Club will establish and maintain incorporation as a Non-Profit Corporation in the State of California.

Revision History

Date	Summary of changes
January 4, 1984	Initially recorded version
November 6, 1991	(unrecorded)
April 6, 1994	(unrecorded)
March 1, 2000	(unrecorded)
October 1, 2002	(unrecorded)
Revised August 3, 2004	(unrecorded)
April 2012	Complete revision.
June 6, 2015	Clarified how fees and dues are collected.
February 7, 2017	Added uncontested officer election by acclamation
October 2, 2018	Initiation fee to \$50, dues to \$75
October, 2021	Active-duty dues waived, updated fees structure for returning members, elections changed to simple majority, secret ballot made optional, virtual elections permitted.
October, 2023	Dues increase to \$80, deleted monthly drawing for free membership, corrected reference in Article 6.C.(4)d