

BY-LAWS OF "SOUTH PINELLAS AERONAUTICAL RADIO KONTROL SOCIETY, INC"  
Revised 02/24/2010

ARTICLE I  
NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association is (South Pinellas Aeronautical Radio Kontrol Society, Inc.) It may be used or be referred to as "SPARKS" or "THE CLUB" a shortened name as a matter of convenience.

ARTICLE II  
PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Association shall be to provide leadership in the modeling community and to promote modeling as a hobby. The main objective of the Association will be to provide and maintain an adequate flying site for radio controlled model aircraft by its members and guests.

ARTICLE III  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

The number of members in the Association shall be limited to the number of members in good standing as of midnight December 31 of the current year. The number of memberships available shall be determined by the membership in good standing at the annual meeting to be held in January each year after recommendation by the board of directors. If a vacancy exists a person may become a member of the Association by paying current dues and initiation fees and upon completion of a sixty- (60) day probationary period. All members shall be expected to attend meeting whenever possible and to abide by all by-laws, as well as field and safety rules.

1. All members shall belong to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (A.M.A.) prior to acceptance into SPARKS, Inc.
2. Any member operating equipment of XI (6) meters at the flying site shall hold a valid FCC license to cover such operations. Such license number and expiration date shall be recorded by the club treasurer and/or secretary.
3. Fiscal year of the membership shall be January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
4. Dues for the coming year are due by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year, or as amended.
5. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, Field Marshall, Newsletter Editor, Chief Flight Instructor and Lifetime members shall be exempt from annual dues.
6. Should a vacancy arise, a prospective member not belonging to the A.M.A. shall make paid application to the A.M.A. along with Association dues and initiation fees.
7. Non members can make up to three (3) visits for flying, after the third visit membership will be required for further flying.
8. Temporary membership is available for thirty (30) days; Rates will be determined by the board.

ARTICLE IV  
OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The elected officers of the association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Safety Officer. Appointed officers of the Association shall be the Field Marshall, Newsletter Editor, and Website Coordinator.

ARTICLE V NOMINATION, ELECTION, APPOINTMENTS, TERM OF OFFICE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIIRECTORS

1. Nominations  
Nominating Committee is to be formed by the President no later than the October General Membership Meeting. Nominating Committee will consist of a chairperson and two (2) additional members in good standing at large.

The Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominees at the November meeting. At that time additional nominations will be taken from any individual member in good standing. At the conclusion of the November meeting nomination will be closed.

The slate of nominees shall be published in the December newsletter or website. Nominations for the four (4) memberships at large on the Board of Directors shall be made after election of Officers. All candidates must be members in good standing.

2. Elections.  
Take place at the regular membership meeting in December of each year. Voting is to be by secret ballot. In such case as only one (1) nominee may be running for office the secret ballot may be dispensed with and election of that office conducted by a show of hands. Term of office shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

3. Appointments.  
a) To be made by the Board of Directors.  
b) Appointees must be members in good standing.

4. Vacancies.  
a) If for any reason an office is vacated during the year the President may appoint a temporary replacement.  
b) Special nominations and elections will be held at the next regular membership meeting. Notifications of the election will be given in the monthly newsletter preceding the meeting.  
c) If a period of less than four (4) months remain in the term a presidential appointment will be good for the remainder of that term.

ARTICLE VI  
DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

1. Duties of the President.  
a) To preside over all meetings, both regular and special.  
b) To serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors.  
c) To act as Spokesperson for the Association.  
d) To appoint all committees and to serve as an ex-officio member of any and all committees when needed, except the nominating committee.

2. Duties of the Vice President.  
a) To aid the President in carrying out the duties of his office whenever possible and to fulfill the duties of the President in the event of his absence at any meeting.  
b) To organize Raffles, Fun-Flies and Contests.  
c) Act as Chairman of the program committee to insure that an appropriate program is presented at each monthly meeting.

3. Duties of the Secretary.  
a) To keep all records, files, corporate seal and documents of importance to the Association except those assigned to others.  
b) To send and receive correspondence for the Association, except as otherwise provided or required.  
c) To provide an up-to-date membership list to the members of the Association by the regular April meeting each year.  
d) To take the minutes of all meetings, both regular and special and read those minutes at the next regular meeting.

e) To keep a book with the by-laws, leaving every other page blank so that any amendment may be entered opposite where recorded.  
f) To provide a copy of the Association by-laws and Field rules to each new member.  
g) Prepare and present an annual budget at the October meeting.

4. Duties of the Treasurer  
a) To set up and maintain checking and savings accounts and act as banker for the Association.  
b) To act as accountant for the Association, with guidance as necessary of a certified public accountant retained by the Board of Directors.  
c) To give a report of the financial condition of the Association at each regular meeting.  
d) To act as chairman of the financial committee.  
e) To provide a copy of the Association by-laws and Field Rules to each new member.\*  
f) To keep an up to date list of members in good standing and provide this list to the Secretary.

5. Duties of the Safety Officer.  
a) To assure the field rules and safety regulations are posted at the flying site.  
b) To make recommendations for changes and/or additions to field and safety rules.  
c) To act as safety monitor and appoint assistant safety officer.  
d) To report on safety violations to the board of director.  
e) To provide safety information at regular meetings.  
f) Authority to ground and/or temporarily suspend any individual from operating their aircraft at the corporate flying site. (Note: Article VIII #1b)

6. Duties of the Field Marshall.  
a) To police the flying field seeing that it is kept clean.  
b) To see that the field is mowed as required and that all runways and taxiways are in safe flyable conditions at all times.  
c) To see that equipment as would normally be used is in proper repair and at the flying site when needed.  
d) To maintain the frequency board and any other structures at the flying site as required to meet safety and county codes.

\* Responsibility is assigned to Secretary from Treasurer

7. Duties of the Newsletter Editor/Webmaster.  
a) To see that the newsletter is written and sent to all members at least one week prior to the regular meeting.  
b) To correspond with A.M.A. headquarters and district directors on a regular basis.  
c) To help promote the hobby of aeromodeling to the general public.  
d) To maintain the club website current.

8. Duties of the Elected Board Members.  
a) To serve as voting members of the Board of Directors.  
b) To attend Board meetings to represent the membership at large.

ARTICLE VII  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Safety Officer and four (4) members of the Association elected from the membership at large, specifically for the purpose of serving on the Board of Director. The Board of Directors shall have general management of the daily affairs of the Association. They will make recommendations to the membership and perform such duties as specified by

the Associations By-Laws. Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors shall be scheduled at a time and place convenient to the majority of board members. Special meetings may be held as needed by the Chairman of the Board. All members will be notified no later than three (3) days prior to any special meeting. A quorum of the Board of Directors must be present to conduct a meeting. Six (6) members present shall constitute a quorum for a Board of Directors meeting.

Duties of the Board of Directors shall include:

1. Setting the hour and the place of the regular monthly membership meeting.
  - a) Regular membership meetings to be held once a month at a time and place suitable and convenient for the majority of members.
  - b) The January meeting shall be the official annual Association meeting.
  - c) Special membership meetings may be called by the President if deemed necessary.
  - d) A quorum must be present to conduct a regular monthly membership meeting. At least fifteen (15) members including six (6) officers must be present at a meeting to constitute a quorum.
  - e) Voting shall be made by voice or show of hands. Unless otherwise provided, such as elections or expulsions.
  - f) When voting by ballot the President shall appoint two (2) counters who will be responsible for passing out and collecting all ballots to and from members in good standing, tabulating and announcing the results of each vote.
  - g) The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern the meetings in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws of the association.
2. "Ground" members until the next regular meeting for any action deemed to endanger the Association or cause loss to the club flying field.
3. Appoint select committees to consider expulsion of members who consistently jeopardize the existence and/or well being of the Association or its flying site and recommend for/against such expulsion to the general membership.
4. Determine annual dues, initiation fees and assessments if any, Sufficient to maintain the Association treasury at a level equal to one (1) year of operating expenses as defined in ARTICLE VI, 'Duties of the Treasurer' last paragraph and recommend any changes to the membership at the October meeting.
5. Prepare contingency plans to fund the Association Treasury should funds fall below the minimum level predetermined by ARTICLE VI "Duties of the Treasurer" last paragraph.
6. Appoint officers from members in good standing to serve as Field Marshall and Newsletter Editor/Webmaster.
7. Appoint a Chief Flight Instructor approve designated Flight Instructors and a Flight Instruction Program for new students.

#### ARTICLE VIII GROUNDING AND EXPULSION

1. Grounding.
  - a) Grounding is the loss of flying privileges at the club-flying site.
  - b) A member may be grounded for a period of up to seven (7) days by the club Safety Officer or Assistant Safety Officer.
  - c) If a grounding period of more than seven (7) day is recommended by the Safety Officer, A special Board meeting will be called.
2. Reasons for Grounding.

Violations of club safety rules as posted at the club-flying site.

  - a) Defacing County or club property.
  - b) Attempts by student pilots to fly without the assistance of a designated instructor.
  - c) Operating an Aircraft out of bounds or conducting oneself in an unsafe manner.
  - d) Behavior which is outside of community standards.

e) Bad behavior which may be threatening, vulgar or distracting in any way, shape, or form to members and spectators will not be tolerated. Violations may result in suspension of field privileges. Third offense may result in 1-year membership termination.

#### 3. Grounds for expulsion.

- a) Flying or attempting to fly at the club flying site after having been grounded.
- b) Two (2) Groundings for safety violations.
- c) Providing non-members access to the club-flying site by passing out the gate combination.
- d) Consumption of Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at the club-flying site.
- e) Night flying at the club flying site.

#### 4. Expulsion of a Member.

- a) Membership to vote by ballot with a majority vote of the members present for or against the Expulsion of the said member.
- b) Charges against any member may be decided at any meeting. However that member must be notified before voting to expel so they have a chance to defend themselves.
- c) Expelled members will forfeit all dues and initiation fees, which are non-refundable.

#### ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting after:

- a) Recommendations of the Board of Directors; at that meeting as well as a 2/3 vote of the members (present in good standing).
- b) By majority vote of the members present in good standing when the proposed amendment has been discussed at the previous meeting and published in the monthly Newsletter.

#### ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association may be dissolved upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors and with the majority vote of the entire membership in good standing by written ballot at a special meeting called for that purpose. All members must be notified in writing thirty (30) days prior to such vote. Proxy votes must be received prior to or at the special meeting by the Secretary. In the event of Dissolution of the Association all assets of he Association will be donated to a charitable organization to be determined by a majority vote of the members present at the special meeting.

#### SPARKS SAFETY RULES

1. No night flying.
2. All transmitters will be placed in the impound area and not removed until a valid member/guest card is on frequency board or member/guest is leaving the flying site.
3. Engines will be started in the pit area only with propellers facing away from spectators. Limit engine run time in pit area. Extended engine runs and break-in will be done in designated areas only.
4. Flying time will be limited to 15 minutes per flight.
5. Taxiing out from the pit area is permitted but engines will be shut down at the "X" at the pilots' station on return.
6. All Pilots will stand at a Pilots Station while flying.
7. All take off and landings will be done in a safe manner; noting Pattern of the day.
8. Initial turnout after take off WILL be away from pit/spectator area.
9. Flying over/behind flight line is NOT PERMITTED.

10. Stock mufflers or adequate aftermarket mufflers (Snuffier, Tatone etc.) that tend to quiet rather than increase noise are required on engines above 0.10 CID.
11. Land and Take off into the wind, staying with the flow of traffic. Noting (P.O.D.)
12. Pilots are to call out their intentions "Landing", "Take-Off", "On the Field", "Clear", etc. All other Pilots should acknowledge a call out.
13. All new or rebuilt aircraft should have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party safety inspection.
14. Avoid prolonged flying above 400 feet altitude. If a full sized aircraft, rotary or fixed wing, approaches the area DESCEND IMMEDIATELY and STAY LOW until said aircraft leaves the area.
15. Maximum of three (3) persons at each pilot station at anyone time. "Pilot, Instructor and Observer."
16. SPARKS members only are permitted beyond the flight line and onto County property. NO VEHICLES.
17. Workbenches under the shelter are intended only for ASSEMBLY or DISASSEMBLY or REPAIRS. No fueling or de-fueling. Do not store aircraft on workbenches or run up benches.
18. All Pilots using gasoline for fuel Must have their OWN fire extinguisher on hand at all times.
19. Children must be personally and directly supervised by an adult and must be kept behind the pit area fence and off of the observation overhead area.
20. All students must fly under instructors' supervision using a "buddy box", as required, until signed off by the C.F.I
21. ALL TRANSMITTERS and AIRPLANES WILL CONTAIN THE OWNERS Name, Address, Phone Number, and AMA Number.
22. All Transmitters MUST have a frequency channel marker on them.
23. No high speed low passes are permitted anywhere within the confines of the runway