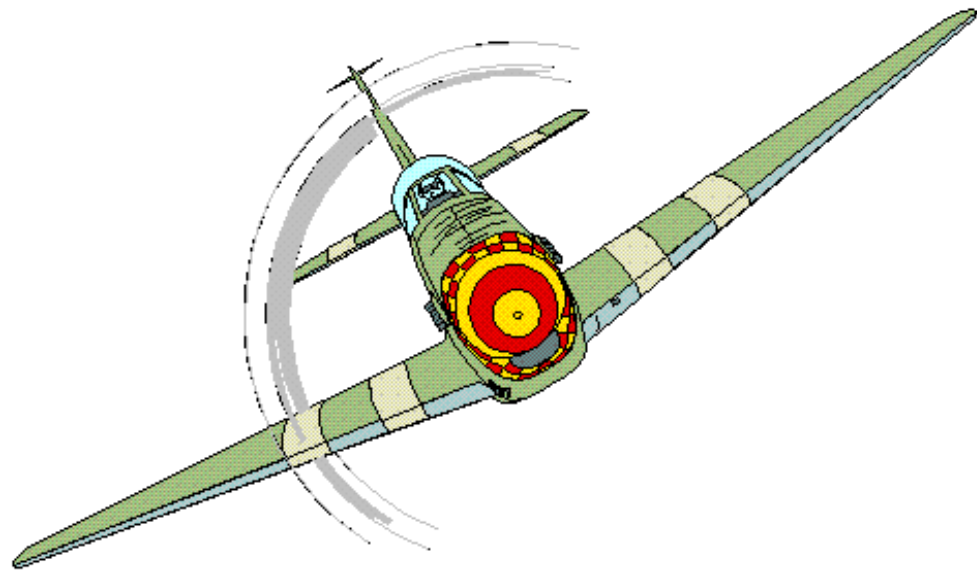




**Spirits'  
Handbook**

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## **Spirits' History**

Although the Club became an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered club #396 in 1965, there were a number of Spirits' activities that preceded this. When people with the same interests began to meet regularly and share interests and activities, an organization was born. At first, this group of modelers met with the McDonnell Aircraft Club, which had a field supplied by their employer. These future Spirits' members were allowed to fly with the McDonnell club members with a permit issued by that club. This didn't last long, as McDonnell informed them that their presence might void their insurance.

The Spirits' became a Missouri not-for-profit corporation on Oct. 24, 1968.

While searching for a field of our own, we flew at various other sites. The northern area of St. Louis County had many large fields, such as Keeven Sod Farm and Earth City which were suitable for flying R/C.

Some of our members participated in establishing Buder Park in South St. Louis County near the intersection of I-44 and Hwy 141 in Valley Park as an R/C flying site including paved runways in an X pattern for R/C flying. In fact it had many other capabilities: Control Line Circles; Free Flight; Whippet dog racing, steeplechase, and baseball diamonds at the East end of the park.

## **AMA Charter and Club Activities**

The Spirits soon decided to become an AMA Chartered Club. We acquired AMA charter #396 and have re-registered every year since with the AMA. As membership grew, we started to hold contests - racing with the little 'Top Dawgs' was one of the most popular. We expanded into pattern contests, scale contests, Quickie 500 pylon racing, Warbirds racing, and other activities that could bring the members together such as Fun Fly's.

It was about this time that the Spirits joined the GSLMA (Greater St. Louis Modeling Association). This organization meets monthly and plans activities that affect the entire area relative to all forms of modeling. Events can be scheduled so that they do not conflict. The Spirits also became a Missouri Not-For-Profit Corporation for the protection this offers, again on Oct. 24, 1968.

Activities soon expanded with Mall Shows, Demonstrations, and Air Shows. An Annual Swap Meet had been developed jointly with the McDonnell Douglas R/C Flying Club, now the Boeing Phantom Flyers RC Club. The Swap Meet was held early in the year (March), was very successful, and typically had attendance of over 600 modelers and interested spectators. Groups of Spirits members regularly become involved with various organizations such as the Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts and have presented an educational show, or put on flying demonstrations and other performances for them. Usually, several volunteers always step forward to participate in these types of activities. These events have helped establish the Spirits' reputation for service to the community.

The Spirits currently have monthly meetings at the Bridgeton Trails Branch County Library, located at 3455 McKelvey Road just south of St. Charles Rock Road.

## **Field History**

Before finding a field, the members met at each other's homes and in the summer months at whatever flying site we were allowed to use. Finally, in 1965, one of the members found a site on Creve Coeur Mill Road, adjacent to Creve Coeur Lake, and the rent for the five acres was within the club's means. The site was next to a well-traveled bend in the road and the north end of the field bordered Creve Coeur County Park. Exposure to the public proved very beneficial, as visitors to the park would stop and watch members flying. Many new members were recruited from these interested spectators.

In 1979, the Spirits were informed that the field we occupied was being sold for development as a golf driving range, putt-putt, softball and baseball pitching machines. The Club was given notice to leave. It was two years before the Spirits found another site. During that time we 'borrowed' two fields for our Warbirds Contests. The St. Peters Prop-Nuts and the East Side R/C Club graciously loaned their fields so the Spirits could keep this event going.

In 1980, one of the members learned that a site on Creve Coeur Mill road that had been used as a construction training school by the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of St. Louis was vacant. Friends of friends were contacted and finally permission was given to use the site with conditions. The major requirements were to clean off the brush and debris and keep it mowed. The site consisted of 40 acres of which 20 acres had to be brush-hogged and mowed several times before it began to look like models could take off. The purchase of a tractor with a mower and eventually our own brush hog almost wiped out the treasury, but the Spirits survived. The Club has owned three tractors, one Kubota purchased brand new (which we still own), and several riding and push mowers over the years.

The Club lost this flying site when a Hale Irwin Golf Driving Range was built on the property just north of the site. It is now a lake and part of the nature preservation areas of Creve Coeur Park. Thanks to the dedication of several of our members, another site was quickly developed. The new flying site was located east of Creve Coeur Lake on Morning Glory Drive and looked like an extension of the park that abutted the west end of the field. Spectator benches, a large pavilion, gravel parking lot, fencing, trash barrels, 600' asphalt runway and 50' X 50' asphalt pad for launching pylon racers, sand point water well for watering the grass, and a picnic area added to the park-like atmosphere.

Once again, in 1999, we lost our flying site to the 18-hole expansion of "The Quarry at Crystal Springs" golf course and the addition of a driving range where our runway was previously located. A reward was offered to the member who found a new flying site. Many members searched for months, until one found a site. After months of acquiring permits and approvals, in 2000 we began the development of our current field, located off of Amrein Road and Greens Bottom Road in southern St. Charles County. This approximately twelve-acre flying site is our best yet, with a 600-foot asphalt runway, paved pits and taxiways, protected pilots' box, a 24' X

36' large pavilion with ceiling fans, spectator benches, electricity along the pit area, and a portable restroom. It has a large gravel parking lot and access road. It also has designated areas for helicopter hovering practice, engine break-in and a Control Line area.

### **Current Flying Activities**

The Spirits have never had a closed contest. Contests/events are open to all current AMA members. Lots of contest/event activity takes place. On a yearly basis, the Spirits host a number of contests/events, including Fun Flies and racing events. Our annual Open House has always been a success. In 2002, the Spirits put on a very successful Air Show for a retired Ozark airline employees' reunion at Smartt Field. We have been invited to do it again for upcoming reunions.

The Spirits originated the Warbirds Unlimited contest, a pylon race for W.W. II scale models in 1979. Several other Clubs in the country, with whom the Spirits have shared the original Warbirds rules, have copied and expanded the concept. The event now enjoys wide-spread popularity.

Our Club offers one of the best Flight Instruction programs in the country. Qualified Flight Instructors are available almost every day of the week. Additional information can be obtained by contacting our Chief Flight Instructor above. You can also contact an instructor by visiting our web site. Occasionally, we publish the list of instructors in the club newsletter. Aircraft are given a complete safety check along with construction tips for improving the aircraft. When the student completes the training, he/she receives a solo certificate. Many former students are now instructors in this program.

The Spirits flying field is usually in continuous use because the membership is so varied. Saturdays and Sundays bring out the weekend flyers, all day long. Throughout the week there are a variety of flyers - shift workers, retirees, and students. When the weather is acceptable, there is someone flying most weekday mornings, late afternoons, and into the evening. Since the field runs east/west, and pilots face almost north (off by 18 degrees) the sun is not an issue, except for an hour or so in the evening.

### **Other Facts**

The Club still boasts many of its original members. Many of our members have more than 30+ year's tenure. Some members compete internationally in the modeling world.

In 1989, the Club was asked to co-host the Scale Masters Finals with another Club, the McDonnell-Douglas RC Club. Members of both Clubs formed a steering committee and planning was done to make this one of the best events held in the country. The committee gained permission to use nearby Arrowhead Airport as the contest site. Both Clubs cooperated to get the field mowed and cleaned up - a big job. 178 members from both Clubs were actively involved in working to make it a success.

# Officials, Appointees, Newsletter & Web-site, & Corporation

## Elected Officials

President \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

## Appointed Officials

Safety Chairman \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Committee Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

## Volunteer Positions

Contest and Event Committee Chairman \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Chairman \_\_\_\_\_  
Newsletter Editor \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Board Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Web-Site Web-Master \_\_\_\_\_

## Newsletter & Web-site

The Spirits publish a monthly on-line newsletter called "FLIGHT LINES". Every issue is loaded with current and upcoming event information, keeping our members apprised of today's fast paced R/C world. Everyone is encouraged to contribute by submitting articles and photographs on events, products, or other items of interest. Our classified FOR SALE section is available to sell your used or unwanted equipment

The Spirits have a very informative website.  
The address is: <http://spiritsofstl.com>

## Corporation

Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club, Inc  
14243 Kinderhook Dr.  
Chesterfield, MO. 63017  
314-469-3209  
(Mr. Wayne Nenninger)  
Corporate Agent

An Official Chapter of the Academy of Model Aeronautics  
Charter Number: 396, since 1965

# CONSTITUTION

## **Article 1 Name**

- Section 1** The name of the Club shall be "SPIRITS OF ST. LOUIS R/C FLYING CLUB". The abbreviation shall be "SPIRITS". The SPIRITS' 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 (R/C) model airplane 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 SPIRITS' shall conform to the policies of the AMA and to the regulations of that organization governing modeling activities. A copy of the AMA Safety Code can be found at <https://www.modelaircraft.org/files/105.PDF>
- Section 3** All radio control equipment owned by individual members shall conform to appropriate provisions covering operation and ownership of said units as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission.

## **Article 4 Eligibility**

- Section 1** All members will abide by the rules and policies of the SPIRITS Club and the AMA. As a member of the AMA, the following applies:

### **Safety Code Compliance, Waiver, and Release of Liability Statement**

"I agree to comply with the AMA Safety Code for all applicable model operations. I understand that my failure to comply with the Safety Code will void any liability coverage for any damages or injuries so caused. I further understand that written notice must be provided within sixty days of the occurrence of any violation of the flight and ground safety rules set forth in Article 16 and/or in any incident giving rise to a claim for damages or injuries. I am aware that modeling may present hazards to participants and spectators. I exempt, waive, and release the AMA from all current or future liability for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death. This waiver shall be in force at all times when I am a member of the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club, and of the AMA, and the waiver does not require my re-signature when I renew my membership in either organization".

**Section 2** All members agree not to sue the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club organization, its Board of Directors, individual officers, or individual members.

**Section 3** All members agree to hold harmless and indemnify the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club organization, its Board of Directors, including individual officers or individual members.

## **Article 5 Board of Directors**

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

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Field Committee Chairman
- Safety Committee Chairman
- Contest and Event Committee Chairman
- Membership Chairman
- Newsletter Editor
- Web-Site Web-Master
- And one (1) additional full member who may volunteer to serve on the Board provided he/she is approved by a simple majority vote (if a vote is requested) of the general membership present at the regular meeting in the month of November.
- The outgoing president will automatically serve as a board member the following year, to provide guidance and continuity to the next administration.

NOTE: Each board member will have only one vote regardless of the number of board positions held.

## **Article 6 Officers**

**Section 1** The elected officers of the SPIRITS' shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and a 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 Board of Directors shall provide guidance and management of the affairs of the SPIRITS' and shall have the authority to recommend and administer club policies. (Policy refers to the process of making important organizational decisions, including the identification of different alternatives such as programs or spending priorities, and choosing among them on the basis of the impact they will have.) Board decisions may be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors. During the course of a Board of Directors meeting voting may be in person, phone-in, or e-mail. Board decisions shall be consistent with the stated purposes and objectives of the AMA as set forth in its By-Laws and, where those By-Laws are not specific, vested in the sound discretion of the Board of Directors. Board meetings are open to any member that wants to attend. Member may provide input to the Board. Minutes of each Board meeting will be documented, and made available to the members if requested. All decisions of the Board shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the general membership at a regular club meeting in accordance with Article 6, Meetings & Voting, Section 3. The Board of Directors understands that total transparency is a requirement, and it is the members who make the final decisions.

**Section 2** President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and shall act as spokesperson in all matters pertaining to it.

**Section 3** Vice-President: The Vice-President shall act for the President when he/she 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 regular club meetings, Board of Directors meetings, Special Meetings, and handle all correspondence pertaining to club activities.

**Section 5** Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due and shall keep a record of moneys disbursed by the club. The Treasurer shall also maintain a running or continuous "budget tracker" or ledger showing every month's transactions for the fiscal year (November to October) that is to be provided at each regular club meeting for all the members to view.

NOTE: Any expenditure beyond the approved budgets established at the beginning of the fiscal year for doing normal business are to be approved by the members by a simple majority vote at a regular club meeting, in accordance Article 6, Meetings & Voting, Section 3. Estimates for expenditures beyond the budgets established at the beginning of the fiscal year are to be provided for membership review. (Currently normal business includes the following budgeted items; Presidents emergency fund, field lease, field maintenance, field improvements, field mowing, insurance, club business, bank charges, property taxes, newsletter, membership, postage, website, sanction fees, AMA, prizes or awards, porta-potty, flight instructor program, electricity, charity or donations, miscellaneous expenses, and club events.)

**Section 6** Field Committee Chairman: The Field Committee Chairman shall ensure that the field and equipment are properly maintained, and recommend improvements or changes.

**Section 7** Safety Committee Chairman: The Safety Committee Chairman shall be responsible for chairing the safety committee, and ensuring existing safety rules are enforced. This

includes processing the grievance forms, and following the existing grievance procedure documented in the By-Laws.

- Section 8**      Contest and Event Committee Chairman: The Contest and Event Committee Chairman shall be responsible for setting up a meeting, for coordinating and establishing, in conjunction with all the club's Contest and Event Directors, a schedule for the next contest and event season. The schedule will be proposed by the Contest and Event Directors, and approved by the members at the earliest possible meeting. The Contest and Event Committee Chairman is responsible for coordinating with other clubs in the area to preclude conflicts in contest/event scheduling. Weather rescheduling of any contest or event is at the discretion of the Contest or Event Director. Club will provide AMA sanctioning fee for all contests or events conducted by AMA licensed Contest Directors.
- Section 9**      Membership Chairman: The Membership Chairman shall be responsible for collecting all membership dues, verifying applicant has provided required proof of AMA membership, and maintain the official club roster (in accordance with Article 7, Section 6) which is to be made available, to any member requesting a complete copy in electronic or printed paper form.
- Section 10**     Newsletter Editor: The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for coordination, and publication of the Spirits' monthly newsletter "Flight Lines". Each new issue of the newsletter, in electronic form, shall be supplied to the web-master for inclusion on the Spirits' web site where it is accessible to the membership, and the public. It is recommended that an associate editor will act as assistant editor and will review the newsletter for accuracy, grammar, spelling and content before being published to the website. A monthly newsletter will be published on the web-site no later than one week before the next regular club meeting.
- Section 11**     Web-Site Web-Master: The Web-Site Web-Master shall be responsible for maintaining the Spirits' official web-site, and its entire contents. It is recommended that an associate web-master with edit capability of the web-site, act as assistant editor to review accuracy, grammar, spelling and content before changes are published to the web-site. Photographs may be promptly posted without review. Care must be taken to assure caption accuracy.
- Section 12**     Meeting Activity Coordinator: The Meeting Activity Coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating model-related activities immediately following the business portion of the meeting. If possible an e-mail, or notice in the club newsletter, will be sent alerting the members what topic will be presented at the next regular club meeting.

## **Article 2 Audits**

- Section 1**      The President or his appointee will make a periodic audit of the Treasurer's books. An audit may be requested by any club member.

## **Article 3 Terms of Office**

- Section 1**      All elected officers of the SPIRITS' shall serve for one (1) year from date of election. Officers are to be elected by a simple majority of votes cast by the members at the regular club meeting in the month of October. E-mail ballots will be made available to all members immediately after the September monthly meeting. Those ballots, returned by e-mail before the October meeting, will be counted as if those persons were present at the

meeting. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3. New officers will take office immediately after the adjournment of the October meeting. Personnel will be appointed by the elected officers and confirmed (if a vote is requested) by a simple majority of votes cast by those members present during the November monthly club meeting: i.e. Newsletter Editor, Web-Site Web-Master, Meeting Activity Coordinator, and Committee Chairmen. One (1) additional full member may volunteer to serve on the Board provided he or she is approved by a simple majority vote (if a vote is requested) of the general membership present at a regular club meeting.

**Section 2** Nomination of club officers shall be made at the general membership meeting in September. Nominations for office may be made by any active club member holding voting rights, either in person or by submitting a proxy nomination via e-mail to a current Board member. All known nominations for each office will be published in the newsletter at least one week prior to the October election.

**Section 3** Secret ballots are required for elections, for removal of a club officer, a member of the Board of Directors, and for suspension or termination of a member from the club unless waived by a simple majority of votes cast by the members at a regular club meeting.

## **Article 4 Vacancies**

**Section 1** In the event of the resignation, suspension, termination, or death of an elected officer, another officer (preferred), or Board member, may be appointed by the remaining Board members to fill the position in an acting capacity until a permanent replacement is appointed. A permanent replacement in any office shall be filled by appointment, in a timely manner, by the remaining officers, or remaining Board members. Such appointee will serve until the end of the term for which their predecessor was elected, or appointed. Appointees must be approved (if a vote is requested) by the general membership at a regular club meeting.

## **Article 5 Committees**

**Section 1** The committees of the club (Safety and Field) 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 of the tenure of the officers. Standing Committees are the Safety Committee and the Field Committee. By definition the Committees ideally will consist of more than just the Committee Chairperson. All other club positions to include Contest and Event Committee Chairman, Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Web-Site Web-Master, Meeting Activity Coordinator, and one (1) additional full member serving on the Board are voluntary positions.

## **Article 6 Meetings and Voting**

**Section 1** Regular club meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the club Board of Directors, published in the club newsletter, and on the web-site. President's Notes, Secretary's minutes of the regular club meeting, and any articles, are to be provided to the Newsletter Editor no later than 5 days following the meeting.

**Section 2** Board of Directors may call Special Meetings for all members with no less than five days prior written notice (for those members without an e-mail address), and an e-mail notice of a Special Meeting. The purpose of the Special Meeting shall be stated in the written and e-mail notice. Minutes of the Special Meeting will be recorded by the Secretary.

**Section 3** At any regular club meeting a simple majority shall be over 50% of the members votes cast at the meeting unless required otherwise, e.g. Article 7, Section 2, and 4, Article 9, Section 4, Article 10, Section 1, Article 13, Section 1, and Article 16, II, D, 3 and to include any mail-in or e-mail votes.

Amendments to the Constitution, By Laws, and Safety Rules require a 2/3 majority of the votes cast by the members voting. Voting may be done at the regular club meeting or by e-mail no later than the day before the meeting. E-mail ballots will be made available to all members with e-mail addresses on the current club membership roster. E-mail ballots will include the voting judges' return e-mail addresses. Submitted e-mail ballots must include the voter's name. Ballots without names will not be counted. If requested all ballots will be available for review for a period of two months.

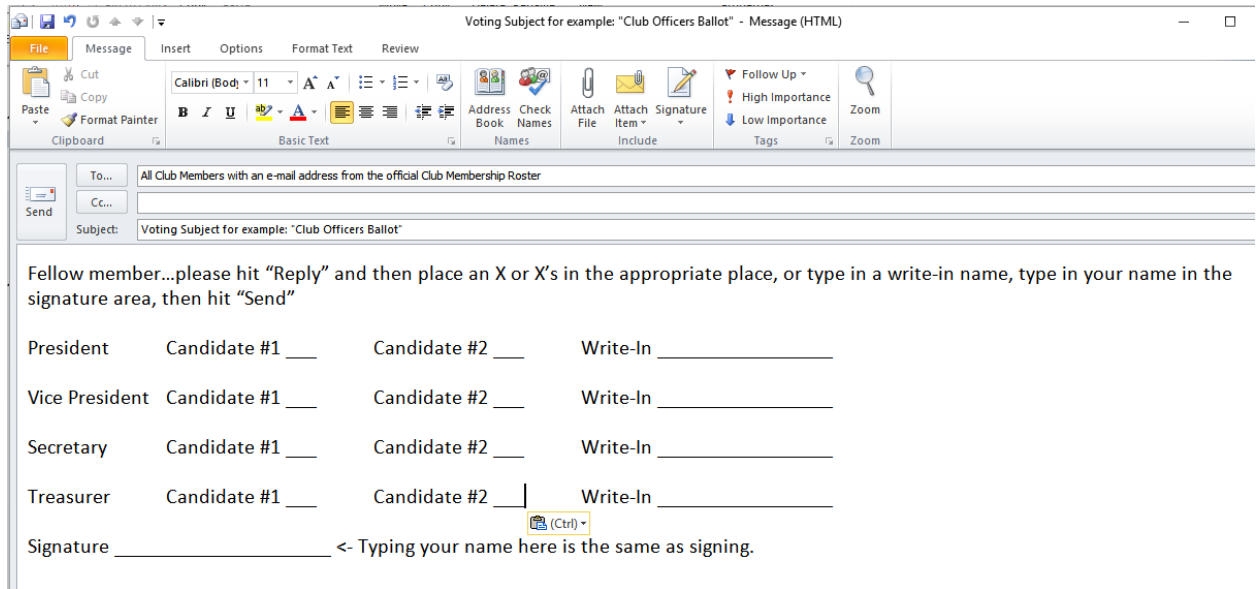
**Section 4 E-mail Voting**

E-mail voting only applies to changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, Dues Changes, Election of Officers, Expenditures beyond the Approved Budgets, Special Assessments, Types of Membership and Limits, or Dissolution of the Club

**E-mail Voting Process**

1. When e-mail voting is required the club secretary will prepare a ballot and e-mail it to all members on the current club membership roster.
2. The ballot will have two or more places for the member to vote on the proposed ballot subject. The ballot will also have a place for the member to type in their name which is the same as "signing" when using e-mail over the Internet. Ballot will not count if not signed.
3. When the member receives the e-mail they simply "Reply" to the club secretary.
4. Member places an X in the appropriate place(s), or adds a write-in name vote if applicable, types in their name in the space provided, and then hits "Send". Each family member has one vote and is indicated by placing an X in their choice. Example: A family of three could place 3 X's for one choice like Yes XXX, or Yes X and No XX, or any combination that equals 3 votes.
5. E-mail votes must be returned to the club secretary no later than the day before the next club meeting.
6. The secretary will tally the votes and bring the results to the next meeting so they can be added to votes made at the meeting by members who did not vote by e-mail.

A sample of how a voting e-mail may look, as received from the club secretary, is shown below.



**Section 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 of the Board. 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 all other members of the Board of Directors for their consideration. Either the President of the Board, or any other Board member, will have the matter placed upon the working agenda of the next regular club meeting.

## **Article 7 Dues and Membership**

**Section 1** The club membership dues are for one year, January 1 to December 31. The annual dues to be paid to the club shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Approval of dues changes are required by the general membership. If a change to the dues is requested by the Board of Directors the recommended amount and reason for the change in dues will be documented in the club newsletter, e-mailed, or mailed to all members. Approval of dues change is required by the general membership. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3. Dues are not refundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, which will be determined by the Board of Directors, and approved by the general membership at a regular club meeting.

**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 votes cast and the members have been given five (5) days prior notice along with an explanation of the assessment. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3.

**Section 3** A member shall not be considered active and have no flying or voting rights if his or her dues have not been paid for the following year by December 31. Any member who allows their membership to lapse beyond December 31 shall be considered in arrears after the adjournment of the March meeting and will be subject to an "In Arrears Fee" as noted on the Membership Application.

- Section 4** Types 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 votes cast by the members. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3.
- Section 5** Membership dues are in accordance with the rate structure documented on the Membership Application for the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club.
- Section 6** The club's Membership Roster with all current contact information, to include type membership, name, address, city, state, AMA number, e-mail address, and telephone number, and age is to be made available to any member who requests a copy, either electronically or printed.

## **Article 8 Member Standing**

**Section 1** All persons shall be eligible for membership in the SPIRITS', and shall agree to abide by its Constitution, By-Laws, Safety Rules, and those of the AMA.

**Section 2** The membership shall be divided into the following categories:

New Member: Anyone who was not a club member the previous year. This definition does not apply to a previously contiguous member who has been reinstated after disciplinary action, or suspension, as opposed to a previous member re-joining after several years of being a non-member.

Full Member: Is nineteen (19) years old or older and have full privileges and voting rights. Dues: Full Member rate plus AMA Membership.

Youth Member: Is younger than nineteen (19) years old, has full privileges and voting rights. Dues: Youth Member rate plus AMA Membership.

Family Membership: Includes all flying members of the immediate family (Spouse and Children). They have full privileges and voting rights. Dues: One (1) Full Membership plus One (1) Youth Membership, plus AMA membership for each flying member. Youth members must have AMA membership to vote. Children are included until their 19th birthday and from their 19th birthday until their 25th birthday, provided they remain continuously dependent upon their parents for their principal support, and live at the same address.

Associate Member: A Non-Flyer, who is interested in the activities of the club, and has voting rights. Dues: Associate Member rate. Associate Members (Non-Flying) do not require AMA membership.

**Section 3** Flying members will be required to hold and maintain a license issued by the AMA. All first-time flying members' applicants, as well as present flying members seeking membership renewal, must show proof of current membership in the AMA.

**Section 4** Before joining the club, new applicant(s) shall be introduced in person, or by their sponsor. The membership, by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting, shall approve any applicant for membership. The new applicant will be on probation for one (1) calendar year subsequent to the approval of his or her application for membership. After this probationary period has ended, his or her membership application may again become subject to the approval of the club members. Probationary members are ineligible to hold any elected office in the Club.

**Section 5** Any member receiving a Safety Grievance as stated in Article 16, who is involved in non-flying violations, or who has key information of a non-flying violation and withholds it from the Board of Directors, may at the Board of Directors' discretion, be placed on probation for one (1) year regardless of his or her tenure in the club, with approval by the general membership at a regular club meeting.

## **Article 9 Resignation, Termination, Disciplinary Action, Suspension, and Reinstatement of Membership**

**Section 1** Any member in good standing may resign his or her membership by giving written notice to the SPIRITS'.

**Section 2** If any member ceases to be a member of the AMA his or her membership in the SPIRITS' shall thereby be suspended and subject to reinstatement upon restoration of AMA membership.

**Section 3** This section provides for enforcement of the Safety Rules that are related to flying activities. Any other unacceptable behavior by an individual member or members brought to the attention of the Board of Directors, or as defined by the Board of Directors, becomes the responsibility of the Board of Directors as stated in Article 1, Duties, Section 1 of these By-Laws, and board decisions must be approved by the general membership. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3.

**Section 4** Any individual may be subject to suspension (To bar for a period of time from a privilege, office, or position, usually as a punishment), or terminated, (Termination is permanent) from membership from the SPIRITS' if recommended to the entire membership by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors. 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 and By-Laws, or the By-Laws of the AMA, AMA Model Aircraft Safety Code, or which is detrimental to the SPIRITS', the AMA, or to model aviation.

1. Actions deemed detrimental to the SPIRITS', the AMA, or to model aviation must be defined in writing, and provided to the individual, stating why the individual is being recommended for suspension, or termination.

2. The accused must be given the opportunity to defend their case and be heard before the membership at a regular club meeting.

3. Basic procedural fairness requires adequate notice of the reasons for suspension, or termination and a reasonable opportunity to respond.

4. The suspension or termination shall be determined by a vote of the members at a regular club meeting.

**Section 5** Any member who resigns, or is suspended from membership, may be reinstated to membership only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, and approved or disapproved by the general membership at a regular club meeting. A resigned or suspended contiguous member, upon being reinstated, will be considered rejoining as opposed to being a new member, and not on probation. There will be no other fees imposed. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3.

**Section 6** The Board of Directors shall have the discretionary authority to provide for and to impose written disciplinary action of a member for such acts or omissions which do not justify suspension or termination from membership and the disciplinary action must be approved by the general membership at a regular club meeting. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3.

**Section 7** Any member who directs any witnessed retaliatory action against another member will be subject to suspension from the club. This is to include verbal or written threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage or, after review, any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Board of Directors. Such suspension must be approved by the members at a regular club meeting. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3.

## **Article 10 Amendments**

**Section 1** Amendments may be recommended by any member. Changes may be made to the Constitution and these By-Laws at any general meeting of the club membership provided the members shall have been notified by mail, e-mail, or posted on the web-site at least five (5) days in advance that the amendments are to be considered. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be posted in the club newsletter, or on the club web-site, as part of the notification. Amendments shall be approved by no less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total members who vote. Votes are cast according to Article 6, Meetings and Voting, Section 3.

## **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.

**Section 2** The President will have an emergency fund of up to a maximum of \$500.00 in any one year that doesn't require prior club membership approval for expenditures from the fund. The emergency fund is to be used only for an expenditure that exceeds the budgeted amount for an application that can't wait to the next regular club meeting for membership approval. It is not to be used for random purchases not included in the approved projected budget. Expenditures should benefit the entire club membership

**Section 3** The Treasurer will keep a running account of emergency fund spending by the President, as a separate line item in the budget tracker or ledger.

## **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 a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote 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:



## **Article 16 Grievance Procedure (Flight and Ground Safety Rules)**

### **I. Purpose**

The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system when needed. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if 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 to be filled out and turned into the Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

### **II. Safety Committee**

The Safety Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:

A. A grievance form (below) will be filled out and turned into the Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required.

#### **B. FIRST VIOLATION**

1. Viewpoints of both complainant and accused will be considered.
2. *Complainant's name will be disclosed.*
3. The accused will be given a verbal reprimand by the safety committee, and this will be recorded in the committee files.

#### **C. SECOND VIOLATION**

1. *Complainant's name will be disclosed.*
2. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the committee.
3. If the committee so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy published in the club newsletter "FLIGHT LINES".

**D. THIRD VIOLATION**

1. Committee will notify the accused in writing and the club members via the club newsletter "FLIGHT LINES" that the club will vote on the suspension of the accused at the next meeting.
2. Said suspension will last for a one-year minimum. (It may be longer if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors, and approved by the general membership at a regular club meeting.
3. A member may be suspended from the club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast by the membership present at a regular club meeting.
4. Voting will be by a signed secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting. If a member is suspended they may request voting results.
5. The suspended member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the documented suspension time period.

The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.

Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliatory action against the person, or persons, filing said Grievance, will be subject to suspension from the club. This is to include verbal or written threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Board of Directors. Suspension must be approved by the members at a regular club meeting.

<b>SPIRITS OF ST. LOUIS R/C FLYING CLUB GRIEVANCE FORM</b>	
<b>Date:</b> _____	<b>Time:</b> _____
<b>Nature of Violation:</b>	
_____	
_____	
_____	
<b><u>Add another sheet if additional space is required.</u></b>	
<b>Signature:</b> _____	
<b>Witness:</b> _____	<b>Additional Witnesses (if any):</b>
	_____
	_____
	_____

# Safety Rules

## Safety First

These rules are set forth to insure the safety of spectators, modelers and property. In the interest of safety for all, it is suggested that an observer assist you when several aircraft are in the air at one time. Safe flying is no accident and it takes two people, the flyer and the spotter, to fly safely.

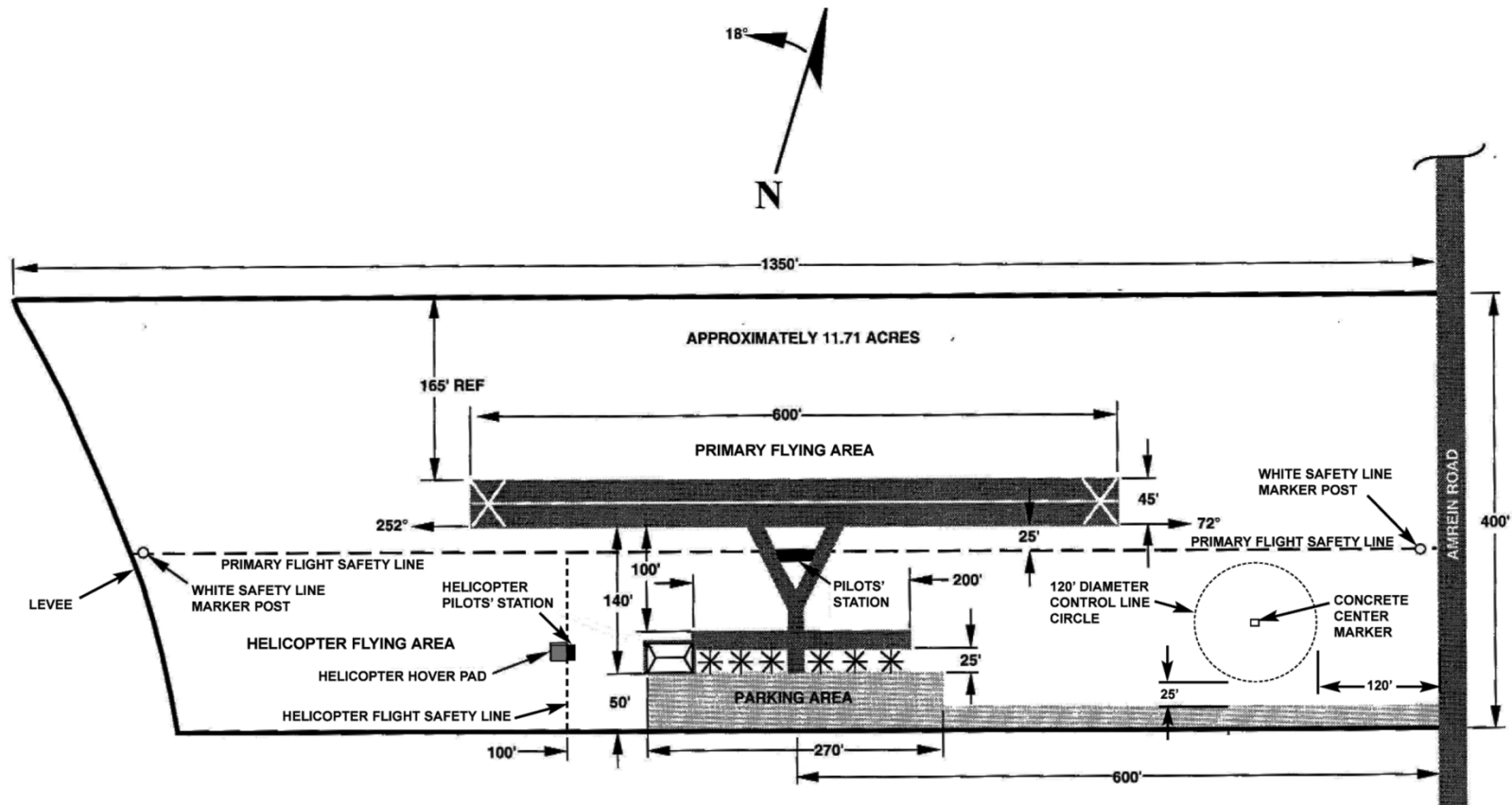
All club members shall have the authority to enforce the rules herein. In most cases a simple warning will remedy a situation. However, if a flyer deliberately refuses to comply with a specific safety rule, the club member should file a grievance per the club grievance procedure noted in the club handbook.

Model flying must be in accordance with the AMA Safety Code in the "Academy of Model Aeronautics Membership Manual" (See Safety Code, Insurance), and with these rules in order for AMA Liability Protection to apply.

1. A current AMA membership is required of all pilots. A current club membership card is required to fly at the Spirits club field and the card must be posted on the club frequency board at all times the pilot is flying.
2. Guest Flying: A total of two (2) visits is the limit for a guest pilot. After the two (2) guest visits, the pilot may either join the Spirits club or they cannot fly at the club field any longer. A Club member must be present when a guest is flying at the Spirits club field. All guest pilots must have a current AMA card and must be in good standing with the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club.
3. Frequency Sharing: For those pilots using 72 MHz transmitters, when others are flying on your frequency, observe the golden rule; one flight and then relinquish the frequency to another flyer (Maximum time limit approximately 20 minutes overall).
4. Frequency Identification: For those pilots using 72 MHz transmitters, an "Aircraft Only" red flag must be on your transmitter antenna and be visible at all times. Your club membership card must be posted on the Frequency Control board on your specific channel number prior to turning on your transmitter. Membership cards should be removed from the active channel area when you turn off your transmitter. NEVER remove anyone else's card. Locate the pilot and ask them to remove it.
5. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited on any property owned or leased by the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club.
6. A maximum of six (6) aircraft will be permitted in the air at any one time in the Primary Flying Area (see Attachment A).
7. All gas and glow engines must have a muffler or an effective silencer.
8. No flying of any kind (gas, glow, electric, free-flight, gliders, etc.) or engine operation before 9:00 a.m. or after 30 minutes following sunset.
9. During periods of grass mowing, and field maintenance when necessary, the field will be closed for all flying.
10. All children must be accompanied by an adult and must remain in the posted guest seating areas unless the child is piloting an aircraft or helicopter.

11. All animals must be restrained in the pit areas at all times. Pet owners are responsible for picking up and properly disposing of all pet waste.
12. Operators of gasoline-powered aircraft must have a fire extinguisher within 10 feet of the aircraft and in view of all flyers. An ABC type extinguisher is recommended.
13. When starting or running an engine or motor, make sure that you and anyone nearby is clear of the prop arc.
14. Direct the prop blast away from other aircraft and people.
15. Perform your initial turn after take-off away from the pit, spectators, and parking area. Thereafter, do not perform maneuvers, flights of any kind, or landing over the pit, spectators, or parking area. Absolutely no flying is permitted behind the white safety line marker posts as indicated on Attachment A.
16. Always stand in the pilot's box/station when flying.
17. In the event of a problem or dead stick, announce an emergency and attempt to fly away from the pits and spectators and land immediately. Landing priority must be given immediately by all other pilots.
18. Prior to walking out on the runway, give a loud verbal warning of your intention and make sure you are not running out in front of an aircraft in motion. Stay on the runway only as long as necessary and announce verbally when you are clear of the runway.
19. Do not start your taxi onto the runway until you have checked to make sure the runway is clear and no one is taking off or making a landing approach. Loudly and clearly announce your intentions of taking off and in which direction you are doing so.
20. No flying over Amrein Rd. In the Helicopter Area, all flying will be south of the Primary Flying Area Flight Safety Line and west of the helicopter Flight Safety Line as shown on Attachment A.
21. Careless, reckless, and/or dangerous flying, as determined by any two or more club members, shall not be permitted. Please do not hesitate to express your concerns to fellow pilots regarding their flying style if it bothers you or you believe it compromises the safety of other pilots or spectators.
22. Absolutely no taxiing of aircraft into or out of the pit area. The pilot or helper must carry or hold onto the aircraft until past the concrete section of the center taxiway when going toward the runway or pit area. This also pertains to large aircraft that are taxiing from the grass that is east of the pit area. Pilots of these aircraft must hold onto the aircraft until past the concrete section of the center taxiway.
23. Running engines or motors in the pavilion is strictly prohibited.
24. For gas and glow engines, fuel catch tanks are recommended when fueling. If a catch tank is not available, please fuel/defuel over the patio blocks located in the grass. Never fuel/defuel over asphalt.
25. Helicopter "hover practice" should be performed in the helicopter flying/hover area located 100' west of the pavilion (See Attachment A). Pilots must stand in the Helicopter Pilot's Station per Attachment A.
26. Helicopter flying in the Primary Flying Area is permitted and all safety rules apply. No takeoffs or landings on or from the taxiways are allowed except between the safety fence and edge of runway.
27. Hi-Start and winches for glider flying may be set up parallel to the runway or at an angle into the wind so long as the Hi-Start, or winch line, is not across the runway at launch.

28. Absolutely no hunting, or exhibiting or discharging of firearms on club property is permitted.
29. The safe charging of Lipo batteries on club property will be strictly enforced. All Lipo batteries with three (3) or fewer cells may be charged in the pavilion only with the use of a Lipo battery charging bag or similar safety device (i.e. Bat-Safe). All Lipo batteries with four (4) or more cells may be charged in the pavilion ONLY with the use of a Bat-Safe. Otherwise, Lipo batteries with four (4) or more cells may only be charged at the charging stations located near the north edge of the parking lot.
30. Hand launching of small, electric aircraft is permitted immediately to the right or left (east or west) of the pilot's station but never behind the safety line per Attachment A. When hand launching an aircraft, announce your intention to other pilots in the pilot's station.
31. The landing of small, electric aircraft is permitted on the grass to the east of the pilot's station and to the north of the pit area if the pilot deems the landing to be safe and away from all individuals.
32. The landing of all sailplanes and gliders will be on the runway or on the grass to the north of the runway.
33. The operation of RC cars and trucks is not permitted on the runway, in the pit areas or in the parking lot when pilots are present and flying.
34. Pilots of all fixed and rotary wing aircraft utilizing first person view (FPV) must adhere to all AMA guidelines as published on the AMA website under Documents/ Advanced Flight Systems. Please refer specifically to Document #540-E – FPV Club Sport Racing and Document #550 – First Person View (FPV) – Operations.
35. Pilots of all fixed and rotary wing aircraft utilizing a failsafe, stabilization, or autopilot systems (which include multi-rotor drones) must adhere to all AMA guidelines as published on the AMA website under Documents/Advanced Flight Systems. Please refer specifically to Document #560 – RC Operation Utilizing Failsafe, Stabilization and Autopilot Systems.



**Notes:**

1. Unpaved areas are grass.
2. Grass is mowed weekly or as required.
3. Flying over Amrein Road is prohibited.
4. All flying will be between 9:00 A.M. and dusk.
5. Pilots will stand in the Pilots' Stations when flying.
6. All flying in the Primary Flying Area will be north of the Primary Flight Safety Line.
7. All flying in the Helicopter Area will be south of the Primary Flight Safety Line and west of the Helicopter Flight Safety Line.
8. Flying over the pavilion or pits is strictly forbidden.
9. Helicopters flown in the normally Primary Flying Area will follow the same rules as Fixed-Wing aircraft.
10. Helicopters will practice hovering in the designated area only.

**SPIRITS FIELD**  
**SPIRITS OF ST. LOUIS R/C FLYING CLUB**  
**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI**  
 Rev. J, February 19, 2012  
 Drawn by: Walt Wilson  
 3000 Persimmon Drive  
 St. Charles, MO 63301-0131  
 Phone: 636-757-3427  
 e-mail: rallyx@charter.net

## Attachment "A"