

Valley Aero Modelers, Inc.
Bylaws

Article I – Name

1. The name of the corporation shall be Valley Aero Modelers, Inc. hereafter referred to as (VAM and/or Club).
2. This is a Wisconsin non-stock non-profit organization incorporated March 26, 1962.
3. The corporation is an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) charter club. Charter number 670.

Article II – Purpose

1. To promote the building, flying, instructional and competitive activities of model aircraft in the Fox Cities area.
2. To provide a safe site or sites suitable for flying radio controlled models by its members.
3. To provide technical assistance, meeting facilities and special equipment for use in Club activities.
4. To provide fellowship between club members, members of other model clubs and the surrounding community.
5. All activities of VAM shall conform to the policies and rules of the AMA and to the regulations of that organization governing model aircraft flight.

Article III – Membership

1. An AMA Membership in one of the following AMA membership categories is a prerequisite for VAM membership:
 - Open Adult Membership
 - Open Senior Membership
 - Extra Family Membership
 - Free Youth Membership
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 - Open Senior Membership
 - Extra Family Membership
 - Free Youth Membership

AMA Park Pilot Program Membership does NOT satisfy the AMA Membership prerequisite.
3. The membership shall be divided into the following categories:
 - Full Member: Is eighteen (18) years or older, and has full privileges and voting rights.
 - Junior Member: Is younger than eighteen (18) years old, has full privileges and voting rights.
 - Family Membership: Includes all flying members of the immediate family (spouse and children). Each family member must have a valid AMA membership, as defined in Article III part 2, to have full privileges and voting rights. Children maybe included in a Family Membership until their 25th birthday.
4. New members will be on probation for one (1) calendar year subsequent to their application for membership.
5. Members on probation maybe removed from membership by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting. The probationary period will end after one (1) calendar year.
6. 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.
7. Any member who allows their membership to lapse beyond March 15 shall be in arrears and shall be considered inactive if his/her dues have not been paid as provided in Article VII, Section 1. Any member in arrears shall be considered a new member when renewing their membership and will not be given preference over any other applicant should a membership waiting list be in existence.
8. 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 membership present at the meeting.

Article IV- Officers

The Officers of VAM shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

1. The Board of Directors: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Committee Chairperson and one Member at large.
2. Responsibilities: The officers are responsible for carrying out their duties as defined. Also, they are responsible to insure the Club operates in accordance with non-profit organizations per Wisconsin statutes. Additionally, Officers are responsible for insuring that all flying sites are operated in accordance with the agreements, written or oral, between VAM Inc. and the respective site owners. A copy of City of Appleton lease, of the landfill site in Mackville, can be obtained from the Club Secretary.
3. Term of Office: All officers of VAM shall serve for one year commencing January 1st. Officers can serve consecutive years. The election of officers shall be held annually at the December meeting. Nominations shall be made at the November meeting by the membership.
 - a. All elected officers of the Club shall serve for one (1) year date of election. Officers are elected by a vote of simple majority of those present at the regular meeting in the month of December. Mail-in ballots will be accepted from those members who have voting rights but cannot attend the meeting. Those ballots, returned by mail before the next meeting, will be counted as if those members were present at the meeting. New officers will take office immediately after the December meeting.
 - b. Nomination of Club officers shall be made at the general membership meeting during the month of November. Nominations for office may be made by any active Club member holding voting rights, either in person or by submitting a proxy nomination to an existing officer. All known nominations for office will be published on the club website prior to the election.
 - c. A secret ballot is required for elections, for removal of a Club officer, a member of the Board of Directors, and for expulsion of a member from the Club unless waved by a simple majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
 - d. No officer of the VAM shall concurrently hold office of another model flying club.
4. Duties:
 - a. Board of Directors: the management of the affairs of the Club shall be vested in the Board of Directors who shall have the authority to establish and administer its policies. Official decisions may be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority mail vote or by a quorum at a Board of Director meeting. A quorum shall consist of at least 50% of the current Board members.
 - b. President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall act as spokesperson in all matters pertaining to it. President is primary AMA contact person in case of questions, problems or situations.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Secretary: The Secretary shall record minutes of each Club meeting and handle all correspondence pertaining to Club activities.
 - c. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due and shall keep a record of moneys received and disbursed by the Club. Treasurer is primary AMA contact for reasons of normal official club business and for verifying AMA membership.
5. Appointed Officers/Vacancies: Vacancy in any office shall be filled by a willing member receiving nomination and a simple majority vote of the members at a meeting. Term of this officer shall continue until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected and shall not count as one term under Article IV Section 4.

Article V- Meetings

1. All regular business and enterprises conducted on behalf of the Club shall be directed by the President or a member designated by him.
2. Meetings shall be held on the second Monday of the month unless unforeseeable circumstances prevent doing so.
3. Expenditures in excess of \$50, not previously authorized, require a vote of the membership at a regular meeting with a simple majority required for approval. Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the Club officers and published on the Club web site.
4. Club officers may call special meetings with no less than seven days prior written notice of a special meeting. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the written notice.
5. At any Club meeting a simple majority shall be over 50 percent of the members voting at the meeting.
6. Any member or probationary 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 of Directors shall forward copies of the proposal to other members of the Board of Directors for their consideration. Either the President, or any other Board member, may have the matter placed upon the working agenda of the next Club meeting.

Article VI – Committees

1. Standing committees or individuals may 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 his tenure office. These appoints may be made with the concurrence of the appointee, and their duties shall be indicated by the name of the committee or titles as follows:
2. Safety Committee: The Safety Committee shall elect one member to serve as Chairperson. Chairperson shall be responsible for chairing the safety committee and ensuring existing rules are enforced. This includes processing the grievance forms and following the existing grievance procedure documented in the by-laws. Safety Committee shall include but is not limited to The Field Safety Officer for relevant wet power, sailplane, electric and indoor flying sites and appropriate Field Marshal(s). The assigned field safety officer shall be responsible for the site regardless of the aircraft type.
3. Field Marshall: The Field Marshall shall be responsible for establishing mowing crews and mowing equipment maintenance crews. He/she is to ensure that the field is properly maintained and recommend improvement/changes.
4. Contest/Event Committee: Contest/Event Committee Chairman: The Contest/Event Committee Chairman shall be responsible for coordinating and establishing, in conjunction with all the Club's Contest Directors, a schedule for the next contest/event season. The schedule will be decided by the Contest Directors, and approved by the members.
5. Meeting Activity Coordinator/s: The Meeting Activity Coordinator/s shall be responsible for coordinating model-related activities, immediately following the business portion of the meeting.
6. Webmaster: The Webmaster is responsible for keeping the web site functional. Webmaster will assist other members in registering at "members only", posting Club news and events and dispersing Club information to other similar clubs via Internet. Other duties include establishing links to other clubs and information of interest to the membership.
7. Training Committee: Assist members in obtaining flight instructors for type airplanes. Recommend and direct other training programs necessary for the safe participation in aeromodeling.
8. Winter Banquet Committee: Schedules the date and location for the Club's winter awards

- banquet. Also, obtains a speaker, selects the menu, determine who will receive each award presented annually and have the awardees name engraved on the award.
9. Show and Auction Committee: Finds location and confirms date for show and auction. Sends out flyers and other publicity as well as obtains prizes for raffle. Run all activities during event.
 10. Contest Director(s): Responsible for all phases of scheduled contest/fly in. Insures all Club and AMA regulations are followed including sanctions and follow up reports.
 11. There are two standing committees: The safety Committee and The Field Marshal.

Article VII – Dues and Fees

1. The Annual membership dues shall be established at a regular meeting of the Club and due March 15th.
 - a. Junior member: Fifty (50) percent of full member
 - b. Family member: One hundred and twenty five (125) percent of full member.
 - c. Part year member: Dues shall be prorated as follows:
 - i. January through July: Full dues.
 - ii. August: Fifty (50) percent full dues.
 - iii. September: Thirty (30) percent full dues.
 - iv. October: Fifteen (15) percent full dues.
 - v. November and December: Full dues for next year.
2. The annual dues to be paid to the Club shall be determined by the Club officers with the approval of a simple majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting. Dues are non-refundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, which will be determined by the Board of Directors on a case- by-case basis.
3. No special assessment shall be levied upon the Club membership, unless it is approved by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at theregular monthly meeting, and the members have been given seven (7) days prior notice along with an explanation of the assessment.

Article VIII – Audit

1. The President or his appointees will make a periodic audit of the Treasurer’s books.

Article IX – Resignation, Termination, Disciplinary Action, Expulsion and Reinstatement of Membership

1. Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the Club.
2. If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall thereby terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.
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, as defined by the Board of Directors, become the responsibility of the Board of Directors as stated in Article 1, Duties, Section 1 of these Bylaws. Any individual may be expelled from membership from the Club by 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 Bylaws, or the Rules or the AMA, or which is detrimental to the Club, the AMA, or to model aviation.
4. Any member who is expelled from membership may be reinstated to membership only by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors.
5. The Board of Directors shall have the discretionary authority to provide for and to impose disciplinary action for such acts or omissions, which do not justify expulsion from membership.

Article X – Amendments

1. Amendments may be made to the Constitution and these bylaws at any general meeting of the Club membership, provided the members shall have been notified in advance of the meeting that the amendments are to be considered. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be provided as part of the notification. Amendments shall be approved by no less than two-thirds majority vote of the members present, at the regular monthly meeting. Mail- in ballots will be accepted from those members who have voting rights but cannot attend the meeting. Those ballots, returned by mail before the next meeting, will be counted as if those members were present at the meeting.

Article XI – Special Funds

1. The Treasurer of the Club is authorized to receive contributions of specially offered funds or items from any individual(s) or institution(s) and funds raised through Club projects and events to be applied to the operating expenses of the Club.
2. The President will have discretionary spending up to \$50.00 without requiring Club approval.

Article XII – Duration

1. The duration of this Club shall be perpetual.

Article XIII – Dissolution

1. Should the Club become inactive for two (2) Consecutive Years, the Corporation may be dissolved with approval of two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total membership.
2. Upon 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 5019 (c) (3) of the International 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. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas (or similar court) of the county in which the principal office of this Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes and to such origination or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XIV – Incorporation

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

Article XV – Logo

1. The official Club logo shall be.



Article XVI – Grievance Procedure (Flight and Ground Safety Rules)

1. 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.
2. Safety Committee: The Safety Committee shall use its judgement in carrying out action on the following:
 - A. A grievance form (on the following page) will be filled out and turned into the Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required.
 - B. First Violation
 - a. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
 - b. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
 - c. If the violation is found to be valid, a verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Safety Committee. This will be recorded in the Committee files.
 - C. Second Violation
 - a. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
 - b. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Committee.
 - c. 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 on the Club website.
 - D. Third Violation
 - a. Committee will notify the accused in writing and the Club members via the Club website that the Club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next meeting.
 - b. Said expulsion will last for one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors).
 - c. A member may be expelled from the Club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting.
 - d. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting.
 - e. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.
 - E. The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.
 - F. Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation action against the person filing said Grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the Club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action to be retaliatory by the Board of Directors.

Article XVII – Safety

1. A meeting of pilots shall be mandatory at all contests and sanctioned events.
2. Safety rules as set forth by the AMA and the Introduction to VAM radio control model airplane flying document shall be adhered to at all Club activities, same as if contained herein.