

Ventura County Comet's By-Laws

A.M.A. Chartered Club #173

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

The Ventura County Comets is a non-profit association organized to support the participation of its members in the radio-control model aircraft hobby. The Club is chartered under the auspices of the Academy of Model Aeronautical (AMA) and shall abide by the by-laws and rules of that organization.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership is open to all model aircraft hobbyists.
- B. All members shall agree to abide by the Club by-laws and those of the AMA.
- C. The Club shall be limited to a total of 125 dues-paying members. (Revised June 2004)
- D. Types of membership
 1. LIFE – A member who has reached his/her 80th birthday and has been a member of the Club for 20 years. Life members are not required to pay dues, but do retain voting rights. (Revised 2005).
 2. Senior – Members 18 years of age or older.
 3. SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER – Living in the same household
 4. JUNIOR – Members less than 18 years of age.
 5. ASSOCIATE – Non-flying members. Associate members receive the Club newsletter, do not pay bills and do not have voting rights.
 6. GUESTS – Non-members are welcome to attend Club meetings as guests. Guests will be permitted to use the flying field only if they have a current AMA card or pending AMA membership. Members may assist non-members in learning how to control their aircraft for a period of thirty (30) days after which Club membership will be required to continue to use Club facilities.
- E. Membership Dues
 1. New members are required to pay yearly dues and a one-time runway fee of \$25.00 per membership application. Effective January 1, 2009, the runway fee will be \$100.00. (Rev. March 2008).
 2. Junior members will be required to pay the runway fee upon reaching 18 years of age.
 3. Yearly Dues (Revised March 2005)
 - a. Life member \$0
 - b. Senior member - \$50.00
 - c. Spouse - \$25.00
 - d. Junior - \$0 (Rev. November 2024)
 4. Members who fail to pay their Club annual dues by March 1st of the current year, shall have their membership in the Club terminated.
 5. New members joining the Club after November 1st will be considered paid for that year and the following year.

ARTICLE III – ADMINISTRATION

- A. BOARD of DIRECTORS – The Board of Directors shall be made up of the five (5) elected Club officers. 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 majority of the Board members. Official 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 specified, vested in the sound discretion of the Board of Directors.
- B. CLUB OFFICERS
1. PRESIDENT – The president shall preside at the Board of Directors meetings and at all general membership meetings. He/She shall act as the representative of the Club in all matters pertaining to it. He/She shall preside over all matters involving Club activities. He/She shall be responsible for the creation of committees as needed to carry out the activities of the Club and appointment of a Membership/Website Administrator. (Rev. Nov. 2024)
 2. VICE PRESIDENT – The Vice President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President when the President is not present or is unable to serve. The Vice President will maintain an up-to-date inventory of all Club assets and equipment, and where the assets and equipment are stored.
 3. FIELD MARSHAL/SAFETY OFFICER – The Field Marshal/Safety Officer shall be responsible for, and have the authority to supervise and coordinate maintenance at the Club field and special projects at the field, enforce flight rule and safety at the field, and initiate investigation of members who violate that Club’s Field Use Policy.
 4. TREASURER – The Treasurer shall be responsible for the management of the Club’s financial affairs. He/She shall keep an accurate record of all funds collected and/or spent. He/She shall maintain receipts for all funds spent. He/She shall prepare a monthly report for a presentation at general membership meetings. At the end of each year, he/she shall present all records and receipts for audit to the auditory committee. The Treasurer shall get approval of the Board of Directors for any expense exceeding \$500.00
 5. SECRETARY - The Secretary shall record the minutes of the Club’s general membership meeting. He/She shall forward a copy of the minutes to the Club Newsletter Editor for publication.
 6. MEMBERSHIP/WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR – The membership and website administrator shall maintain a website database roster of Club members, their profiles and AMA membership status. He/She shall prepare a membership report for presentation at club meetings. He/She shall assist new and existing members with access to the VC Comets website, maintain website administrative functions for club officers and general website maintenance. (Added. Nov. 2024)
 7. TERM LIMITS – Club officer positions shall be limited, in each position to two consecutive 1-year terms. An exception to the rule may be made when there are no volunteers for a position.
 8. OFFICER VACANCY – If any officer is unable to fulfill their position, thereby creating a vacancy the President shall be responsible for the nomination and election by Club members of a member to fill the vacancy.

9. AUDIT COMMITTEE – An audit committee of three (3) members shall be appointed by the President in the month of November. The results of the committee’s audit shall be reported in the January general membership meeting. Members of the Auditory Committee shall be non-officers.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall appoint a Nomination Committee of three (3) members at the September general membership meeting.
2. The Nomination Committee will present the candidate for the officer(s) positions at the November general membership meeting. Elections of officers by the attending membership will follow.
3. A simple majority of the attending membership is required to elect officer(s).
4. Newly elected officer(s) shall assume their duties at the January general membership meeting.

ARTICLE IV – AMENDING OF THE CLUB BY-LAWS

The following procedure shall be followed to add to or amend the Club By-laws:

- A. Motion to amend the By-laws will be made at a general membership meeting. Discussion of the proposed change will follow the motion. An initial vote will then be taken to print the proposed change in the Club newsletter.
- B. After printing of the proposed change in the newsletter, at the next regular membership meeting, attending member will vote to amend the change to the By-laws as oriented in the Club newsletter.
- C. A 2/3 majority vote of the attending members will be required to approve changes in the by-laws.

ARTICLE V – RESIGNATION, TERMINATION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. Any member may resign his/her membership.
- B. If any member ceases to have qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall be terminated.
- C. If a member violates the safety rules relating to flying activities and/or demonstrated unacceptable behavior that action shall be reported to the Field Marshal/Safety Officer. The Board shall investigate the allegations and shall have full authority to take appropriate disciplinary action, including expulsion from the Club. Expulsion shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI – CLUB MEETINGS

- A. Club general membership meetings shall be held bimonthly beginning January. The Christmas Party shall be held in the month of December. (Rev. Nov. 2024)
- B. In extenuation circumstances, the Board of Directors may require a special general membership meeting. Provided all members are notified of the special meeting.
- C. The President shall conduct general membership meetings in accordance with Robert Rules of Order:
 1. Call to order.
 2. Guest/new member introductions.
 3. Minutes of the last meeting.
 4. Treasurer's report.
 5. Field Marshall/Safety Officer's report
 6. Old Business.
 7. New Business.
 8. Adjournment of Meeting.