

WASHINGTON AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

REVISION III, OCTOBER 19, 2017

PREAMBLE:

Wishing to secure for us, and the community, the benefits of an association of individuals commonly interested in Amateur Radio, we constitute ourselves as the Washington Area Amateur Radio Club and enact this constitution as our governing law.

PURPOSE: Article I

It shall be the exclusive purpose of this club, hereafter referred to as WAARC, to provide emergency communication and disaster relief when and where needed, in the area that we serve. To educate our members and the public through structured training classes. To promote amateur radio by educating the non-amateur, through demonstrations, public displays and classes to teach amateur radio. Newly licensed amateurs will be assisted with technical problems and learn proper procedures through ongoing club training, net activities and drills. Members will be encouraged to use their individual expertise to improve current technical formats and investigate and implement new formats for amateur radio use. We will use our skills, knowledge, time and equipment to serve the public to the best of our ability in time of need at no charge.

Although the club has members, the primary outreach is to the public. This public outreach manifests itself through the WAARC's community involvement with area law enforcement and emergency response organizations.

Other demonstrations of community involvement include participation in the Amateur Radio National Traffic System for emergency message handling. There is also a strong working involvement with the Amateur Radio Emergency System (ARES), which is dedicated to storm watch and tornado spotting activities for Southeast Iowa. A close working relationship is maintained with the city of Washington Police Department and the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

MEMBERSHIP: Article II

All persons interested in Amateur Radio shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be by application and subject to the terms of the club as provided in the bylaws.

OFFICERS: Article III

Sec. 1. The officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer Position may be held by one member.

Sec. 2. Nominations for officers shall be made known at the November club meeting or can be nominated by absentee ballot, if so requested by a club member. Said absentee ballot(s) must be received prior to the November club meeting.

Sec. 3. The officers of this club shall be elected for a term of one year by majority ballot vote of the members present, along with any absentee ballots, at the December club meeting. Said absentee ballot(s) must be received by mail, email or hand delivered to any officer by the day before the election. In the event of a tie vote, for an officer position, subsequent ballot voting and election of said officer position will be made by majority ballot vote of members present at said meeting.

Sec. 4. Elected officer terms shall start January 1st of the proceeding year and run till December 31st of said year.

Sec. 5. Vacancies occurring before elections must be filled by election at the next regular club meeting. Such elected officer's term shall run to December 31st of said year.

Sec. 6. Officers may be removed by a majority vote of the membership.

Duties of Officers: Article IV

Sec. 1. The President shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. The President shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and Bylaws. The President will decide all questions of order, sign all official documents of the club, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of the President. The President may assign or divide duties for the other officers, as necessary.

Sec. 2. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President. In addition the Vice-President shall suggest and organize club activities, plan and recommend contests for operating benefits, and advance club interest and membership proficiency. The Vice-President shall maintain close liaison with ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator to further club participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, take roll of members attending, submit membership applications, carry on all necessary correspondence and read communications at each meeting.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the club, keep an account of all monies received and expended, pay no bills without proper authorization (by the club or its officers). The Treasurer will be responsible for all banking transactions, including account set-up, deposits and withdrawals, etc. At the end of each quarter the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. At the end of the Treasurer's term everything in their possession belonging to the club shall be turned over to the successor.

Meetings: Article V

The Bylaws shall provide for regular and special meetings. At all meetings a majority vote of members present shall constitute a binding decision for the transaction of business. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern proceedings.

Dues: Article VI

The club, by majority vote of members present at any regular meeting, may levy upon the general membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization. Non-payment of such dues shall be cause for said member to lose their voting privileges as well as right to hold club office till such time payment is made.

Membership Participation: Article VII

The club shall designate interference, public relations, education and training, and other committees as deemed necessary to provide assistance to club members and promote the club and amateur radio to the general public.

Amendments: Article VIII

This Constitution or Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the membership present at the time of business along with absentee ballots. Said absentee ballot is recommended to be received by mail, email, or hand delivered to any officer by a week before the vote, but must be received by the day before the vote. The board recommends members verify that said absentee ballot has been received by one of the officers. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next regular meeting, provided that all members have been notified of the intent to amend the constitution and/or Bylaws at said meeting.

Board of Directors: Article IX

Sec. 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Officers of the club elected by membership. The number of Directors is established by the number of Officers elected by membership.

Sec. 2. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision and decision making of the affairs for the club between meetings.

BYLAWS

Section A

1. WAARC is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
2. No part of the net earnings of the WAARC shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the WAARC shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the WAARC shall be the carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the WAARC shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of a candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the WAARC shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
3. Upon the dissolution of the WAARC, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County in which the principal office of the WAARC is located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section B

1. Secretary and/or Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Secretary and/or Treasurer to keep the constitution and Bylaws of the club and have the same with them at every meeting. One or both shall note all amendments, changes, and additions to the constitution. They shall permit it to be reviewed by members upon request. The Secretary and/or Treasurer shall submit the annual club status report to the ARRL as required.
2. Membership: Membership is open to licensed amateurs and those individuals who have an interest in amateur radio. Membership includes all club privileges as well as right to hold club office and to vote.

3. Meetings: Regular meetings shall be held on the third Thursday of each calendar month. The Board of Directors reserves the right to change the date of the regular meeting. The President may call special meetings as deemed necessary. Only such business as designated shall be transacted. January's monthly club meeting will be replaced by the Annual Meeting and such business will be conducted.
4. Dues: Dues, per Article VI, are due by January 31st of the current year. Persons wishing to join the club after June 30th, of the current year, will be assessed ½ of the Dues amount.
5. Interference Committee: This committee shall direct investigations, invite proper inquiries, establish technical facts and testimony, and report its results to the club for member input.
6. Education/Training Committee: This committee shall organize and direct all club activities pertaining to the education and training of members and those interested in becoming a licensed amateur radio operator. Classes will be organized and be made available to the general public for the specific purpose of getting individuals interested in amateur radio educated and trained with sufficient skill and knowledge to take a licensing test as provided to them by the Federal Communications Commission and the Amateur Radio Relay League.

Revision (I) dated March 29, 2004:

APPROVED

Mark L. Lukins, President

Jerry L. Bartachek, Sr., Vice-President

Vance K. Davisson, Sec. /Treasurer