

GASTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC
CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in amateur radio, do hereby constitute ourselves to the Gaston County Amateur Radio Society, Inc. and do enact this Constitution as our governing law. It shall be our purpose to facilitate the exchange of information and general cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the general community.

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP: At least sixty percent (60%) of the entire membership of the Society shall be “FULL” members.

All persons interested in amateur radio shall be eligible for membership. (A person interested in amateur is defined as an individual interested in radio techniques, good fellowship, and civic activity solely without personal aim and without pecuniary interest. In addition, a FULL member is described as a member who holds a VALID FCC issued license. An Associate is a member who is not licensed by the FCC and holds no voting rights.) However, as stipulated in the corporate Articles of Incorporation, only FULL members eighteen (18) years of age or older shall have the right to hold office in the Society, or the right to vote at meetings of the Society on matters of business or policy.

Membership applications shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees and are to be read at a regular monthly meeting and held over until the next regular meeting to be voted on by a secret ballot by the Society. No vote for membership shall take place at a “Special Meeting.” The Secretary shall have sufficient pre-printed ballots on hand.

ARTICLE II

SECTION 1 – OFFICERS

This corporation shall have four (4) officers, which shall be named as follows:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Each Officer shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older and a FULL member of the Society.

Tenure of Office

A - The term of office for all officers shall be one (1) year.

B - Nomination and Election of Officers

Nomination for all offices in the Society shall be submitted to the membership at the first regu-

larly constituted business meeting in the month of November EACH year. All nominations will be noted in the official minutes of the Society by the Secretary. Elections by secret ballot shall be held at the first regularly constituted business meeting in the month of December following the nominations. The newly elected officers shall take their positions during the January meeting. A simple majority of the total **of a Quorum** in person **at an election** shall be necessary to constitute a valid election of officers.

C - Actions to remove officers

Any officer may be removed for just cause as determined by a majority of the officers and the Board of Directors upon an affirmative vote for removal by seventy-five percent (75%) of **a quorum at an announced meeting** in person. **No proxy votes will be allowed.**

The Secretary or an officer designated by the officers shall notify all FULL members of the Society by mail **(US or EMAIL)** of the actions to be taken ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

D Duties of Officers

President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and shall conduct the same according to the rules adopted. He shall enforce due observance of the corporate Articles of Incorporation and Constitution, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents that are adopted by the Society, and none other and perform all customary duties pertaining to the office of President. **He shall appoint committees for projects as needed by the Society.**

Vice President

The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the President and shall, when so requested, aid the President in the performance of his duties. It shall also be the duty of the Vice President to be Programs Chairman.

Secretary

The Secretary shall maintain a mail receptacle in the name of the Society. He shall maintain a neat and accurate written record of the proceedings (preferably type-written) at all meetings of the Society (minute book) which shall be available for inspection at MONTHLY MEETINGS. He shall sign the official minutes after each meeting. He shall file and be responsible for answering regular Society correspondence. He shall maintain the corporate stationery and seal. He shall maintain a separate and accurate record of the entire membership of the Society with addresses, telephone numbers, grade of license, class of membership in the Society and whether a member of the ARRL. **He shall collect all dues and record in a cash book each year when each member renews his/her current dues and issue the member a dues card as a receipt. He will pay these funds to the Treasurer and collect a receipt for them.** He shall bring pertinent correspondence to the attention of the Society at each meeting. He shall read the minutes of the preceding at each new meeting and notify the entire membership of any special actions to be taken by the Society. He shall generally perform all other appropriate duties, which pertain to the Secretary of the Society.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall maintain the corporate ledger in a neat and accurate fashion in accordance with accounting practices. It shall be open for inspection at Monthly Meetings. The treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the corporate bank accounts and shall be responsible for all corporate remunerations. He shall retain and file all cancelled checks of the corporation, along with all receipts of expenditures. He shall render his books to the Board of Directors for the purpose of auditing at least once each year at a special board meeting called for that purpose. He shall be responsible for answering any inquiries or questionnaires from Federal or State taxing authorities (this is imperative to avoid suspension of our corporate charter).

5) - General

Each officer shall be responsible at the end of his term of office for turning over all records and items belonging to the Society to his successor and to indoctrinate his successor as to the respective duties of his office.

E - Vacancy in Office

All vacancies will be filled by appointment by the majority vote of officers and Board of Directors.

F - Issuance of Checks – Savings Account

Disbursements of amounts greater than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be subject to approval by a majority of the FULL membership present at the meeting at which the vote is taken.

SECTION 2 – Directors

This corporation shall have seven (7) Directors

The officers shall serve as directors. In addition, the immediate past president shall serve as a member of the Board of directors until replaced by his successor. **Two (2) Directors shall be elected each year, and shall serve a one year term.**

SECTION 3 – Removal of Members

Any member may be removed for just cause upon an affirmative vote for removal by fifty-one percent **(51%) a quorum at an announced meeting** (in person-no proxies). Petitions for removal shall be submitted at any regularly constituted business meeting, or special meeting, noted in the minutes, and a vote on removal taken at the next regularly constituted business meeting. The Secretary shall notify all FULL members of the Society by mail **(US or EMAIL)** of the action before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

SECTION 4 - Quorum to Conduct Business

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the FULL voting membership shall be present and considered a quorum.

SECTION 5 – Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution may be presented to the membership at any regularly constituted business meeting **and shall lay over till the next regular meeting. The Secretary shall send a notice by US Mail listing proposed change to each member.** The Secretary shall note the proposed amendment at the next regularly constituted business meeting **for voting upon by the membership.**

A vote of fifty-one percent **(51%) of a Quorum** in the affirmative shall be necessary to adopt the amendment (in person – no proxies).

SECTION 6 – DUES

The annual dues payable to the Society by Full members shall be TWENTY dollars (\$20.00). In the event that two (2) or more FULL members of the Society should be related by blood or marriage and reside in the same household, dues shall be charged at the following rate: Dues for the first member shall be TWENTY dollars (\$20.00) per annum; dues for each additional member (related by blood or marriage and residing in the same household) shall be TEN dollars (\$10.00) per annum.

The annual dues payable to the Society by an ASSOCIATE members shall be TEN dollars (\$10.00).

New members shall pay their dues in full upon admission to the Society. Dues for all classes of membership in the Society fall due on the first day in January each year. FULL members joining the Society at times other than January of any year shall pay dues at a rate of TWENTY dollars (\$20.00) per year or TWO dollars (\$2.00) per month for the remainder of the membership (i.e., until January of the following year), whichever is less. ASSOCIATE members joining the Society at times other than January of any year shall pay dues at the rate of TEN dollars (\$10.00) per year or ONE dollar (\$1.00) per month for the remainder of the membership period, whichever is less. New members, upon payment of dues, shall be issued a membership card by the **Secretary.**

ASSOCIATE members who become eligible for FULL membership in the Society shall be considered FULL MEMBERS UNTIL THE SUBSEQUENT January 1, without additional payment of dues.

All dues **are due upon the first day of January of each year and must be paid on or before the first Monday of March each year.** Failure to pay dues within **this** grace period shall cause automatic suspension of the membership of the non-paying member. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to waive these time limitations in cases of absence from the city or state; illnesses or other hardship if in their discretion such action is merited. It shall be the duty of the **Secretary** to bring to the attention of the membership that the due date has arrived.

SECTION 7 – Committees

All committees shall be formed by the President or with the consent of the PRESIDING OFFICER **as needed**, except the Repeater Committee.

SECTION 8 - Repeater Committee

The Repeater Committee will have full control for the operation of the repeater. **They shall be responsible for the maintenance of the repeater and making recommendations to the Society for the proper operation thereof. They may spend up to \$100.00 each month for maintenance without prior approval. Any amount above \$100.00 requires Board of Directors approval.** The Repeater Committee shall consist of five (5) FULL members who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

One member must be the license holder. **The repeater Trustee or license holder will be chairman of the committee. The Trustee will also appoint all “Control Operators” for the repeater. The Committee chairman or his representative on the committee will give monthly reports to the Society.**

SECTION 9 – ARRL Affiliation

Affiliation with the American Radio Relay League, Inc. will be commenced as soon as the Society can qualify. Affiliation with the League shall continue perpetually as long as the Society meets and upholds the qualifications; however, League membership is not a requirement for membership in the Society.

SECTION 10 – Society Participation in Political Activities Forbidden

The Society as an organized body shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign or behalf of any candidate for public office. No part of the assets or income of this corporation shall be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any member, director or officer of a corporation or any private individual. However, a reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation affecting one or more of its purposes.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS

The Constitution shall provide for regular and specials meetings. Regular monthly meeting shall be held.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSTITUTION:

All new members shall be given a copy of the constitution.

PROOF OF AMATEUR LICENSE STATUS:

All persons applying for membership or upgrading their license class while already a member shall make available for inspection by an officer of the Society, their original FCC Amateur Radio license and/or VEC Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination. The Secretary shall note in the Society membership database that the license status has been confirmed.

This document was last amended: ***Dec 7, 2009***

Presented to Board of Directors: April 1, 2010

Amendment Committee

George Poteat, K4GLP– Chairman

Tom Agerton, AJ4RP

Scott Weaver, KI4FAU

