

**Constitution**  
**Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse**  
**P.O. Box 88**  
**Liverpool, New York 13088**

**PREAMBLE**

We, as Radio Amateurs licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, in order to provide for the furtherance of Amateur Radio purpose and achievement, to promote the interchange of knowledge within this area of interest, to effectively contribute as a service to the community and to the enhancement of international good will, do hereby establish this Constitution for the organization known as Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse, herein after referred to as the Club.

**ARTICLE I**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Section 1. All persons interested in Amateur Radio shall be eligible for membership in the Club.

Section 2. Membership shall be by application and as approved by no less than seventy-five percent of the Board of Directors as shown in Art. II.

Section 2A. Non-discrimination statement.

No individual shall be excluded from membership in this organization on the basis of race, sex, handicap, age, veteran status, religion, political affiliations, or sexual orientation.

Section 3. Total Club membership shall at all times be composed of not less than fifty-one percent who are licensed Radio Amateurs.

Section 4. A “member in good standing” is defined as one whose annual dues are not more than thirty days in arrears.

Section 5. Membership shall automatically cease at the time a person’s dues are sixty days in arrears or when, with the unanimous opinion of the Executive Board, a person is adjudged to be undesirable as a Club member. Written notice of this decision directed to the full membership to the affected individual is mandatory in the latter case.

Section 6. Each member in good standing, and in attendance at the time of voting, shall be limited to one vote on each issue which is referred to voting procedure.

Section 7. There shall be four classes of membership as follows:

Class	Eligibility
FULL MEMBERSHIP	Any person who shall meet the requirements of Article I, Section I, shall be eligible for membership.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	A member of a family who is in residence with that family is eligible for family membership, provided a relative having "Full" membership is in residence in that immediate household.
HONORARY	Any person whose nomination is approved by no less than 75% of the Executive Officers may be elected to honorary membership by no less than 75% of the eligible member voters present. Honorary members are not required to pay dues.
STUDENT	Any full time secondary school or college student shall be eligible for a Student Membership, at a reduced rate of dues.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **OFFICERS:**

Section 1. The Officers of the Club shall be President, not to exceed two Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Each Officer of the Club shall be no less than eighteen years of age, a full member in good standing, and shall be a licensed Radio Amateur with any license classification.

Section 3. The Officers of the Club as shown in Article II, Sect. 1 shall be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Each Officer of the Club, while in office, shall serve without monetary compensation.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the Club shall consist of the Club officers as shown in Article II, Sect. 1, and the immediate Past President.

Section 2. The President of the Club shall be the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Each Director, while serving in that capacity, shall so serve without monetary compensation.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **TERM OF OFFICE:**

Section 1. The term of office for each of the Officer shall be limited to one club year which is defined as that period beginning June 1 and ending May 31 of the next calendar year.

Section 2. Each Officer shall serve concurrently as a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The additional member of the Board of Directors, being the Past President, shall serve for a period of one Club year next following that in which the person served as president.

## ARTICLE V

### NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

Section 1. Nominations for Officers shall be accomplished by a nominating committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, in addition to a maximum of three other full members who, by request made prior to the meeting are to be considered member(s) of that Nominating Committee.

Section 2. Announcement of the meeting of the Nominating Committee as to date, time, and place shall be made by the Officers at the regular Club meeting held during March, or by another means which provides for that information reaching the full membership a least three days in advance of the committee meeting.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee shall convene each year between the regular Club meeting in March and the similar meeting in April and shall nominate one eligible and qualified member for each of the following offices: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Such nominations are to be made only with the concurrence of each nominee for that office.

Section 4. Nominations for Officers shall be announced to the membership during the regular Club meeting held during the month of April.

Section 5. Nominations for Officers, in addition to those nominated by the Nominating Committee, will be accepted from the floor during the regular Club meeting held during the month of April.

## ARTICLE VI

### ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

Section 1. The annual election of Officers shall be held at the regularly scheduled membership meeting of the Club during the month of May.

Section 2. Announcements of the election schedule shall be made to the full membership by direct mail such that receipt of same is accomplished no less than three days in advance of the schedule meeting and elections.

Section 3. Procedure for the election of Officers shall be by secret ballot, if there is more than one nominee for a particular office.

Section 4. Ballot counting and posting of the final results shall be conducted by a non-candidate group appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Wherein the initial ballot count for any one office indicates a differential of five percent or less of the total ballots cast for that office, it is the right and privilege of any full member to request and receive a ballot re-count by a group of three other full members of the Club whom he (that person)

shall designate.

Section 6. Election to each of the offices designated in Art. V, Sect. 3, shall be accomplished by a majority vote of the eligible voters present.

Section 7. Only members in good standing are eligible to vote for nominees for office. Each such member shall be limited to one vote for each office and on each ballot during the election process.

## ARTICLE VII

### PROGRESSION OF OFFICERS:

Section 1. Upon the expiration of the elected term of office, the President shall automatically become a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Upon a vacancy existing in the office of President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall automatically become President.

## ARTICLE VIII

### RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Section 1. Any Officer of the Club may be re-elected to the same office.

## ARTICLE IX

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

#### Section 1. PRESIDENT:

A. The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors.

B. The President shall call special meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors, as required.

C. The President shall enforce observance of this Constitution and By-laws, adopted rules, and the standards governing Amateur Radio, in all activities of the Club and in its several parts.

D. The President shall sign all official documents of the Club.

E. The President shall direct the establishment of committees, designate the chairman, and convey to each the degree of delegation of responsibility; the limitations, conditions, area of activities, and results desired.

F. The President may, as deemed necessary or desirable, delegate to other officers the responsibility for following the activities of the Club.

G. The President shall maintain order in all meetings at which the president presides.

H. The President shall convey to the membership and to the other members of the Board of Directors, at intervals no greater than once a month, all pertinent information on Club activities, plans, and organization.

## Section 2. Vice-Presidents

A. The Vice-Presidents, in the absence of the President, shall assume all duties, responsibilities, and authority of the president.

B. The Vice-Presidents shall share responsibilities for Club activities as delegated among other officers by the President.

C. The Vice-Presidents shall maintain a current understanding and knowledge of all matters pertaining to Club planning, activities, and organization, and shall assist the President as required.

D. The Vice-Presidents shall serve as members of the Board of Directors concurrently with their tenure of office as Vice-President.

E. The Vice-Presidents shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors.

F. The Vice-Presidents shall coordinate among the committee structure as deemed necessary or desirable.

## Section 3. Secretary

A. The Secretary shall maintain the official files of the Club, record the proceedings of all meetings, conduct all official correspondence, and assure that written announcements of Club meetings reach the membership on a timely schedule.

B. The Secretary shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors, and shall be prepared to review, read, or otherwise inform on recent proceedings and official correspondence.

C. The Secretary shall retain copies of the adopted Constitution and By-laws of the Club and copies of the latest revision of the Club directory.

D. The Secretary shall record amendments, changes and/or additions to the Constitution and By-laws.

E. The Secretary shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors concurrently with his/her (the) tenure of office as Secretary.

F. The Secretary shall share responsibilities for Club activities as delegated among the officers by the President.

G. At the expiration of the Secretary's term of office, the Secretary shall relinquish all Club records, files, and Club property in the secretary's possession to the secretary's successor.

#### Section 4. Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer shall record all monetary transactions of the Club, maintaining an accurate and current account for all monies received and expended.
- B. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the Club.
- C. The Treasurer shall pay all billings and debts considered to be normal and regular expenses of the Club. In addition, the Treasurer shall pay other debts as directed by the Board of Directors.
- D. The Treasurer shall conduct all banking affairs of the Club as required.
- E. The Treasurer shall disclose a summary of receipts, expenditures, and balance at regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Club as required.
- F. The Treasurer shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors.
- G. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors concurrently with tenure as Treasurer.
- H. The Treasurer shall share responsibilities for Club activities as delegated among the officers by the President.
- I. The Treasurer shall at the expiration of their term of office, relinquish all files, records, and other Club property in their possession to the Treasurer's successor.
- J. The Treasurer shall prepare, approve, and submit to the proper office all financial statements of the Club as required by any government agency.

#### ARTICLE X

##### DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business and activities of the Club in accordance with the majority opinion of the membership, with financial provisions as outlined in Section J of these Articles.

Section 2. It shall be ever diligent in its obligation to report lucidly and frequently to the membership assembled or by mail, or email on all business matters, plans, and activities of the Club.

Section 3. It shall honor the desires of special interest groups and integrate those desires with other club activities as deemed reasonable and practicable.

Section 4. It shall direct all activities of the Club, being responsible for advance planning, execution of plans, and timely decision making.

Section 5. It shall, in the event of a vacancy in any executive office, and abiding by Article VII, Sect. 2, if applicable, fill any remaining vacancy by appointment brought about by a majority vote of the Club officers.

Section 6. It shall at all times, uphold and enforce full compliance with this Constitution and By-Laws of the Club.

Section 7. It shall be responsible for the establishment of Club policy, the conduct of corporate affairs, and the scope and character of activities concerned with community relationships.

Section 8. It shall, at all times, seek out and study potential opportunities on behalf of the Club, be those opportunities concerned with the enhancement of Club prestige, community relationships, or Amateur Radio. It shall make known to the membership the results of the findings and shall make recommendations on the course to be pursued.

Section 9. Business not involving over \$500 of the Club treasury may be authorized and carried out by the Board of Directors. All actions requiring a greater expenditure must be voted on at a regular Club meeting. Notice of the intent to vote must be given in writing or email, so that the information will reach the full membership at least three days in advance of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

## ARTICLE XI

### MEETINGS:

Section 1. The Club shall schedule regular meetings monthly throughout the calendar year with the exception of the months of July and August. Additional meetings or events may be scheduled at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The time and place for regular meetings shall be maintained as consistently as practicable.

Section 2. A minimum of four meetings in each Club year, at intervals of approximately three months, shall be held by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Any deviations from the requirements set forth under Sect. 1 of this Article shall be agree to by a majority vote of licensed members assembled in regular session at which the vote is scheduled be taken.

## ARTICLE XII

### DUES:

Section 1. Annual membership dues shall be assessed on a regular basis and the amount shall be commensurate with the program activities and all scheduled plans of the Club.

Section 2. Any deviation from a previously agreed to rate shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Full members present at a regular session at which the vote is scheduled to be taken.

Section 3. Dues are payable in advance and in the case of application for membership, must accompany that application. If, however, the applicant is rejected for membership, such dues shall be refunded within thirty days of the date of rejection.

## ARTICLE XIII

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Section 1. The RAGS Review shall be the official publication of the Club.

## ARTICLE XIV

### ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION:

Section 1. The Club may, upon a majority vote of the Full members present at a regular meeting at which the vote is scheduled to be taken, affiliate with other organizations provided:

A. Purpose or purposes of that organization are not in conflict with the ideals, objectives, or purposes of Amateur Radio.

B. Affiliation is not in conflict with this Constitution.

## ARTICLE XV

### LIABILITIES AND PROTECTION:

Section 1. The Club at all times shall assure minimum liability claim against the Club and its members which results from accident or damage to or by any Club member and which occurs at any scheduled Club event. This shall be in the form of financial protection such as an insurance policy or any other form which will accomplish the end result.

Section 2. The Club at all times shall carry financial coverage against fire and theft on any and all property owned by the Club, provided the value of such property is in excess of one hundred dollars. \_\_

## ARTICLE XVI

### AMENDMENTS:

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Full Club members present at a regular meeting at which the vote is scheduled to be taken.

Section 2. Proposals for amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing at a regular monthly meeting of the membership. A vote for adoption, however many not be taken until the next following monthly meeting at which time the proposal is subject to withdrawal or voting process.

Revised April 2016



## April 2016 Revisions

- Article I, Section 2A added
  - Section 2A. Non-discrimination statement.: No individual shall be excluded from membership in this organization on the basis of race, sex, handicap, age, veteran status, religion, political affiliations, or sexual orientation.
- Article II, Section 2
  - Officers' required minimum age changed to 18 from 21 years of age.
- Article IV, Section 3
  - "He or she" changed to "the person".
- Article V, Section 1
  - Nominating Committee "consisting of all of the Board of Directors" changed to "appointed by the Board of Directors" in addition to three other full members....
- Article V, Section 4
  - Nominations for Officers changed from "shall be visibly displayed" to "shall be announced" to the membership during a regular Club meeting...
- Article VI, Section 4
  - Ballot counting by the "Board of Directors" changed to "by a non-candidate group appointed" by the Board of Directors.
- Article IX, Section 3G
  - "Secretaries" changed to "Secretary's" and "her/his" changed to "the secretary's" in two places.
- Article IX, Section 4G
  - "her/his" eliminated
- Article IX, Section 4I
  - "his/her" eliminated in two places and "his/her" changed to "the Treasurer's"
- Article X, Section 2.
  - Added "or email" to "communication to members assembled or by mail"
- Article X, Section 9.
  - Changed the maximum Board expenditure without membership approval from "\$150" to "\$500".
  - Changed notice to members of intent to vote must be given "in writing" to "in writing or email".
- Article XIII title and Section 1
  - Official "organ" changed to "publication"