

Constitution of the Wireless Society of Southern Maine

Preamble:

We, the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, constitute ourselves the Wireless Society of Southern Maine, and enact this constitution as our governing law. It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and 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 community.

Article I. Membership

All persons interested in Amateur Radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be by application and election upon such terms as the club shall provide in its By-Laws.

Members cannot be a criminal or fugitive from justice.

Membership may not be denied because of race, creed, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status or any other reason that would be biased or prejudicial.

Article II. Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The officers of the club shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Society.

Section 2. Election

The officers of this club shall be elected for a term of one year by ballot of the Full members present, provided there be a quorum present, at the annual meeting.

Section 3. Term Limits

An individual may not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms. Anyone elected to fill a vacancy shall be eligible to be re-elected for two additional terms. An individual may not hold more than one office during the same term.

Section 4. Vacancies

Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special elections at the first regular meeting following the withdrawal or resignation.

Section 5. Eligibility

In order to hold an office an individual must be a full member in good standing for at least one year and hold a valid Amateur Radio License. An exception to membership shall be made during the first year of club establishment.

Section 6. Resignation

Any officer may resign his/her position in writing at which time all records and assets belonging to the club will be turned over to the President or Vice President.

Section 7. Removal of Officers

Officers may be removed from office for cause, upon written petition of six (6) or more full members, presented to the President or Vice President.

After investigation the petition will be presented to the membership at the next regular meeting of the club and voted on by the membership.

Removal of an officer requires a three-fourths vote of the full membership.

Article III. Duties of Officers

Section 1. President

The President shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the club, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President.

Section 2. Vice President

The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall organize club activities, plan and recommend contests for operating benefits, and advance club interest and activity as approved by the club.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, keep a roll of members, submit membership applications, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and send meeting notices to each member. At the expiration of his/her term, he/she shall turn over all items belonging to the club to his/her successor.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the club, keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended, pay no bills without proper authorization (by the club or its officers constituting a business committee). At the end of each quarter he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over all items belonging to the club to his/her successor.

Article IV. Meetings

The By-Laws shall provide for regular and special meetings. At meetings, a minimum of one-fourth of the full membership, and no less than five, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall require at least 3 officers be present for a quorum.

Article V. Dues

The club, by majority vote of those present at the annual 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 or assessments shall be cause for expulsion from the club within discretion of the membership.

Article VI. Membership Assistance

Members are encouraged to welcome newly licensed Radio Amateurs, and to enable them to meet with each other for the purposes of asking and answering questions, exchanging information, and building friendships. Additionally the club shall promote better radio practices by offering technical advice concerning equipment design and operation, and to assist in frequency observance, clean signals, and the absence of spurious radiations from club member stations. The club shall also maintain a program to foster and guide public relations.

Article VII.
Call Sign Trustee

The club may elect to apply for a club call sign as provided by FCC rules Part 97. The President shall assign trusteeship of the club call sign.

The trustee shall:

- Be a full member of the club in good standing.
- Hold a valid Amateur Extra class license.
- Not had his/her Radio Amateur license revoked or sanctioned at any time.
- Not be a criminal or fugitive from justice.

Article VIII.
Dissolution of the Club

Section 1. Termination of Operations

In the event that the Board of Directors votes that the Club should be dissolved, the motion for dissolution must receive more than two-thirds vote of the full membership to pass.

Section 2. Disposition of Assets

- The Board of Directors shall handle the disbursement of all assets of the club.
- No member or group of members shall receive benefit from the assets.
- All equipment will be sold and net proceeds donated to a non-profit organization.
- All remaining cash will be donated to a non-profit organization.

Article IX.
Amendments

This constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total Full membership. Proposals for amendments may be made informally, and be submitted in writing at a regular meeting to be voted on at the next regular meeting, or a special meeting, provided all members have been notified of the intent to amend the constitution and/or By-Laws at said meeting, and, that such notification shall have been made at least 30 days prior to being voted on. The Board of Directors shall have the option to allow voting in absentia via mail or email for amendments.

By-Laws of the Wireless Society of Southern Maine

1. Secretary

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the constitution and By-Laws of the club and have the same with him/her at every meeting. He/she shall note all amendments, changes and additions to the constitution and shall permit it to be consulted by members upon request.

The address of record is the address of the sitting secretary.

2. Membership

- Full membership is open to licensed Radio Amateurs.
- Associate membership is open to those actively engaged in a class leading to an Amateur Radio license and all other persons interested in Amateur Radio. Members living outside the immediate area, in which club meetings and activities are held, are enrolled as Associate Members and upon demonstrating regular attendance at meetings may appeal to the membership for promotion to Full Membership
- Full membership includes all club privileges as well as rights to hold club office and to vote for club officers.
- Associate membership includes all club privileges except for the right to hold office and vote for club officers or motions during business meetings
- Applications for Full membership shall be submitted in person at regular meetings, and membership approval shall require a majority vote of the quorum present.
- Applications for Associate membership may be submitted via mail or to a Society officer, and, membership approval shall be by a majority of the Board of Directors.
- Members cannot be a criminal or fugitive from justice.
- A complimentary membership may be presented for approval by members of a WSSM VE Team for any or all individuals who have successfully passed a Technician Class license exam. This membership will be valid from the date of membership approval until the end of the fiscal year. (Amendment 1 - passed 8 September 2011).
- A separate free membership is available to licensed hams who are interested in Emergency Communications, called the WSSM Emergency Communications Team (WSSM-ECT). This level of membership includes no WSSM club privileges unless it is accompanied by Full or Associate membership. WSSM-ECT members may vote only on matters concerning the WSSM-ECT. Applications for WSSM-ECT membership shall be made in person, by mail, or email, and membership approval shall require a majority vote of the quorum present at any WSSM business meeting. (Amendment 2 – passed 18 February 2016).

- A discounted Family Membership is available to 2 or more family members who are (1) eligible for WSSM membership, (2) currently a member in good standing, and (3) living in the same household and related by birth, marriage, or other legal relationship. Common household family members include parents, children, spouses, aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, in-laws and legal dependents. A discount of 50% off the regular combined price may be applied to any paid membership category. (Amendment 3 – passed 18 February 2016).

3. Meetings

a. Membership Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held on the Second Thursday of each calendar month. Special meetings may be called by the President, as long as notices are sent to all members concerning special meetings and the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted. Such notices shall be sent so that they arrive not less than 10 days before the meeting. An exception to this is a call for an amendment to the constitution or by-laws. The regular meeting in September shall be the “Annual Business Meeting.” Election of officers and voting for the conduct of club business is restricted to Full Members.

b. Board of Directors’ Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet as needed for proper management of the Society at a place and time of its choosing. Reports on all Board meetings shall be given at the next regular Membership Meeting.

4. Dues, Fees and Assessments

- Annual dues of \$12.00 per member (full or associate) are hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the constitution for the purpose of providing funds for expenses.
- Membership dues are payable in October of each year.
- A member who joins mid-year shall pay a prorated amount equal to the fraction of the number of months remaining in the fiscal year.
- Any member whose dues are not paid by January 1st will be considered inactive and identified accordingly on the membership roster. Inactive members have no voting privileges. Inactive members must pay all delinquent dues in order to be reinstated.
- Members who have been inactive for two years shall be terminated as members and may apply as new members by submitting a new membership application and the appropriate dues.
- Termination of membership either by resignation or expulsion will not constitute a refund of dues paid.

5. Elections

Officer elections will be held annually at the Annual Business Meeting.

Officers will assume their elected office immediately following the counting of ballots and/or votes.

Nomination of Candidates

- Candidates for officer positions will be nominated at the annual meeting verbally or in writing. Written nominations shall be read aloud to the members present.
- Any nominee for office must be willing to serve.
- All nominations must be seconded by at least one additional member. Voting
- All voting for officers done after August 1, 2010, shall be done using paper ballots.
- Immediately after voting the ballots will be counted openly in front of the membership.
- Any candidate may request a recount of the ballots.
- In the case of an unopposed slate, the President may entertain a motion for the Secretary to cast a single ballot.

Adopted 9 September 2010

This Constitution and Bylaws of the Wireless Society of Southern Maine were adopted unanimously at the first annual meeting of the Society on Thursday, September 9, 2010, by those founding members present whose names appear below:

Rory McEwen, KB1PLY

Charles Shepard, W1CPS

Thom Watson, W1WVG

Tim Watson, KB1HNZ