

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, INC.

JANUARY 7, 2025



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Article I. PURPOSE

The name of the organization is the Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County, Inc., will be a non-profit, charitable organization and will perform public service in Columbia County, Georgia and the surrounding area by:

Section 1.01 Education

Providing educational and training programs and activities which promote the hobby of amateur radio for licensed amateur radio operators and those interested in the hobby,

Section 1.02 Emergency Communications

Providing radio communications during times of emergency and for emergency preparedness training activities,

Section 1.03 Communications Assistance

Providing communication assistance for various public and charitable projects and activities,

Section 1.04 Cooperation

Cooperating with other similar organizations in promoting scientific and educational activities, and

Section 1.05 ARRL

Affiliation with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

Section 1.06 Specific Purpose

The specific purpose is to preserve, promote, proliferate, and educate on Amateur Radio, as well as to assist governmental and non-governmental agencies in times of emergencies/disasters.

At no time will the organization ask for compensation for services rendered.

Article II. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2.01 Board of Directors Organization

The Board of Directors of this organization will consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board Member at Large. The Board of Directors ("Board") will serve the organization and will be answerable to the members. The Board of Directors will not receive paid compensation for their duties in the organization.

Section 2.02 President

The President will be the Chief Executive Officer and run the affairs of the organization.

Section 2.03 Vice President

The Vice President will serve in the absence of the President or at the President's direction.

Section 2.04 Secretary

The Secretary will be responsible for keeping records of Board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all board, general and special called meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each Board member, and assuring that corporate records except for financial records are maintained.

Section 2.05 Treasurer

The Treasurer will be the Chief Financial Officer and will make a report at each General meeting. Treasurer will be a member of the finance committee, assist in the preparation of the budget, help develop fundraising plans, and make financial information of the organization available to members and the public. All financial records of the organization will be maintained by the treasurer.

Section 2.06 Board Member at Large

The Board Member at Large may be asked to serve in the capacity of a board member missing at a meeting. For example, when the treasurer is absent, this board member may be asked by another board member to assume the responsibilities of the treasurer for the duration of the meeting.

Section 2.07 Board of Directors Elections

The Board of Directors will be elected every two years at the November meeting of the organization and the new Board will assume their roles effective January 1 of the following year. Nominations will be offered at the September or other designated meeting by the Board and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Nominees must confirm that they are willing to accept if they are present or in writing if they are not present. Nominees will be listed and the list distributed to Full Members via e-mail at least two weeks prior to the November meeting. Only Full Members in good standing and at least 18 years old may hold office in the organization. A term for a Board Member is defined as two years. A Board Member can serve in the same position for no more than 5 consecutive years. The nomination process will be determined by the Bylaws Committee Director / Co-Directors.

Section 2.08 Board of Directors Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly.

Section 2.09 Board of Director Quorum

A quorum must be attended by at least 51% percent of the Board members before business can be transacted or motions made or passed.

Section 2.10 Succession

Normal succession rules apply in that the Vice-President takes over the remaining term of a President if necessary. In the case of board members other than the president, special elections may be held at any regularly scheduled or specially called meeting to replace any Board member who has resigned, has been disqualified from board service, or has become silent key. Notice of such an election will be sent via email to all Full Members in good standing at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. Nominations for the new Board member will be presented by the remaining members of the Board and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Vote on the replacement will be at the same meeting where the nominations are presented and carried by a majority vote of the members present. The term will be for the remainder of the unexpired term of office for the member they are replacing.

Article III. APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Section 3.01 License Trustee

The License Trustee for the club will be appointed by the Board.

Section 3.02 Public Information Officer

The Public Information Officer (PIO) may be appointed by the Board.

Section 3.03 Creation of Committees

The Board may create committees as needed.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 4.01 Full Membership

Full Members will be licensed amateurs qualified to operate on FCC allocated amateur frequencies who have been voted in by a 2/3 majority of the members present at the regularly scheduled meeting where their application for membership is presented. They will have the right to vote in person (no proxy votes) on all questions before the membership as long as they are members in good standing. They will remain members in good standing as long as their dues are kept current or until their membership is revoked.

Section 4.02 Associate Membership

Any person may be accepted as an associate who has been voted in by a 2/3 majority of the members present at the regularly scheduled meeting where their application for Associate membership is presented. Associates will have no voting privileges and have no voice in the meetings. Associates will remain in force as long as their dues are kept current or until their Associate membership is revoked.

Section 4.03 Honorary Membership

Any person may be accepted as an Honorary Member who has been voted in by a 2/3 majority of the members present at the regularly scheduled meeting where a nomination for Honorary membership is presented. Honorary members will have no voting privileges and have no voice in the meetings. Honorary members can be voted out by a 2/3 majority of the members present at the regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 4.04 Members in Good Standing

Any member will remain a member in good standing as long as their dues are paid on time until they withdraw their membership or their membership is revoked by vote.

(a) Membership Application

Anyone desiring a membership in the organization must submit a written application for desired membership type. This application will be presented to the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. The applicant will be excused from the meeting and the members will then vote on acceptance of the applicant. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at the meeting will be required for the applicant to be accepted as a member of the organization.

(b) Membership Withdrawal

Members may withdraw their membership by providing written notification (letter or e-mail) to any board member.

(c) Membership Behavior

Any member whose behavior is determined to be detrimental to the ARCCC, Inc. or to Amateur Radio may have their membership in the organization brought into question using the following steps.

(i) Mediation Request to Board of Directors

Any accusations are required to be presented with pertinent details in writing to the Board. The Board will then act as a mediator between the accused and accuser.

(ii) Mediation – First Attempt

The Board will facilitate a meeting between the accused and accuser within 10 days and attempt to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of all present. If no satisfactory resolution can be achieved by the board, the accuser and accused will be notified and the issue will be brought before the organization for a written vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

(iii) Mediation – Second Attempt

If membership of any individual in the organization is brought into question before the organization, a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present will be required to revoke the membership of the accused. All issues will be discussed by the organization before the vote. After the vote is taken, the presiding board member will announce the results.

(iv) Membership Application after Revocation

Any person who has had their membership revoked by vote of the organization must wait one (1) year before re-applying for membership in the organization.

Article V. FINANCES

Full Member annual dues will be established by the organization membership and recorded in the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting when the vote is taken. Such dues will then be recorded on the organization's website. Dues must be paid annually. There will be a grace period of 7 days following the due date, and during this time members can pay their annual dues without penalty. If a member has not paid their annual dues by the end of the grace period, their membership will be revoked and they must re-apply to become a member again. Individuals whose membership has been revoked for non-payment of dues may re-apply for membership in the organization at any time.

Section 5.01 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the organization and for membership will be from January 1 through December 31.

Section 5.02 Discount Qualifications

Qualifications for dues discounts: Only one per member

(a) Refunds

There will be no refund of dues, either full or pro-rated, to those who withdraw their membership or lose their membership in any other way.

(b) Family Membership

A family is comprised of at least 2 members, no more than 2 adults, and any of their children residing in the same home. Voting privileges for each member is determined in Article IV. A family will be afforded the special membership rate of 50% of the full member rate times the number of licensed family members.

(c) Youth

Licensed students 17 years of age and under will be afforded a special membership rate of 50% of the full membership rate. Voting privileges for each member is determined in Article IV.

(d) Life Membership

Life Members will have free membership for their lifetime as long as they are members in good standing. Life Membership may not be passed on to others. Voting privileges for each member is determined in Article IV. Members through the age of 64 can purchase a lifetime membership for \$750.00. Members 65 and older may purchase a lifetime membership for \$480.00.

(e) Active Military

Members on active duty in the military who are licensed amateur operators may apply for free Full Membership for as long as they are in the area. This free membership is maintained if the member attends 2 meetings or amateur radio related events per calendar year and presents a military ID when dues are due. Otherwise, free membership will be revoked. This requirement can be waived at the discretion of the Board, for example, in cases of extended TDY (temporary change of duty station). Membership type and voting privileges are determined in Article IV.

Section 5.03 Compensation

No member will receive compensation for activities or work performed on behalf of Amateur Radio other than reimbursement for approved out of pocket expenses.

Section 5.04 Fiscal Information

(a) Presidential Discretionary Expenditures

The President will have access to up to \$500 for discretionary purchases for the organization over the span of his/her term. Approval for such expenditures is not required but a full accounting must be provided to the membership at the regularly scheduled meeting following the expenditure. A 2/3 majority vote at a regular meeting approving the expenditure will remove that purchase from the discretionary purchases line item.

(b) Expenditures

All financial expenditures with the exception of discretionary expenditures and mandatory expenses for insurance, P. O. box fees, website domain hosting, and routine business expenses must be approved by a majority vote of the members present at the regularly scheduled meeting at which such expenditures are requested. All expenditures will be made by check signed by at least one Board member, or with the organization's debit card.

Article VI. MEETINGS

Meetings of the organization will be held monthly January through November at the specified location / virtual platform. Special meetings may be called by the President or at least three members of the Board, after notice is sent out to all members ten days prior to the meeting. A quorum of at least 10 members must be present before business can be transacted or motions made or passed. A vote of 2/3 majority is needed for a motion to pass.

Article VII. AMENDMENT

This document may be amended by the members. Any change must be proposed at a regularly scheduled meeting and voted on at a later meeting, either a regularly scheduled meeting or a specially called meeting. All changes must be approved by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at the meeting. This Constitution and By-Laws will become the rules of this organization when approved by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present at the meeting in which the vote is taken. Such vote and approval will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The results of the vote and Constitution and Bylaws as amended will be published on the organization's website.

Article VIII. 501(c)3 STATUS

The organization will maintain its 501(c)3 status. In the event of the dissolution of the organization, all assets and funds remaining will be distributed in their entirety to another organization which has (501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service and as set forth by the Articles of Incorporation.

It is the intention of this document to comply with all 501(c)3 requirements. If any portion of this document is found to be in conflict of the 501(c)3 provisions, 501(c)3 will take presidency for that instance only.

Questions about the interpretation of this document will be answered by the board of directors.

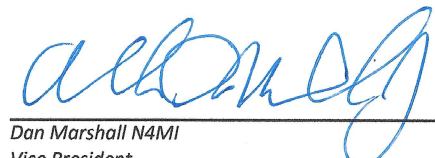
This version of the Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County, Inc. Constitution and Bylaws voted on and accepted on January 7, 2025.



Russell Welsh KG4HIR
President

01-07-2025

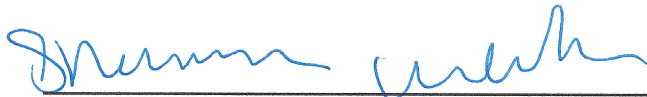
Date



Dan Marshall N4MI
Vice President

01-07-2025

Date



Shannon Welsh KK4MED
Secretary

01-07-2025

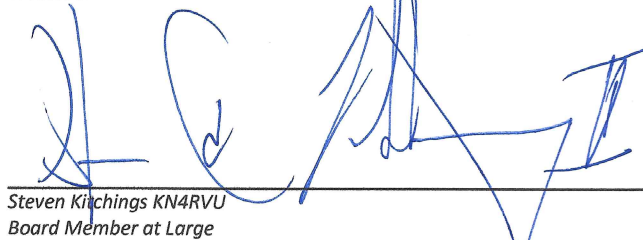
Date



Bill Clark WK4F
Treasurer

01/07/2025

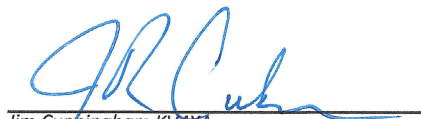
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Steven Kirchings KN4RVU
Board Member at Large

01/07/2025

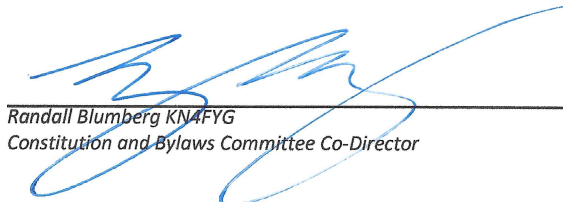
Date



Jim Cunningham KV4YA
Constitution and Bylaws Committee Co-Director

1/25/2025

Date



Randall Blumberg KN4FYG
Constitution and Bylaws Committee Co-Director

1-19-25

Date