

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Belvidere, Illinois

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB—CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the membership, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, do hereby constitute ourselves the BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (herein after referred to as “BTARC” or “the Club”) and do enact this constitution as our governing law.

Purpose

- (A) Facilitate the exchange of information and general cooperation between members
- (B) To promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and operating efficiency
- (C) To conduct Club programs and activities which will advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the general community
- (D) Perform public service that is within the rules and regulations governing amateur radio

NOT FOR PROFIT STATUS

This corporation is organized pursuant to the general not-for-profit corporation law of the state of Illinois. This corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof, and it is organized for not-for-profit.

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Belvidere, Illinois

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ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

- Sec. 1—All persons interested in amateur radio shall be eligible to apply for membership, however only licensed amateur radio persons shall have voting power.
- Sec. 2 – New membership of an individual shall be approved or rejected by a majority vote of the voting membership present at the first regular meeting following application.
- Sec. 3—BTARC membership can be rejected or revoked if, in the opinion of the general membership, a member fails to adhere to the Amateur's Code as published by the American Radio Relay League. Such action will be presented at a general membership meeting where upon a vote will be taken. Any action will require a two-thirds majority of the voting membership.
- Sec. 4—BTARC membership will be rejected or revoked if a member has previously been subject to FCC disciplinary action for violation of FCC rules.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS

- Sec. 1—The officers of this Club shall be as follows:
- (1) President
 - (2) Vice-President
 - (3) Secretary
 - (4) Treasurer
 - (5) Trustee

Only licensed amateur radio operators shall be eligible to hold office.

Note: The office of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

- Sec. 2—The officers of this Club shall be elected for a term of one year by a ballot vote of the members present provided there is a quorum, at the annual meeting in December. The officers voted in shall be installed at the first meeting in January of the following year.
- Sec. 3—Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by Presidential appointments at the first regular meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy. The withdrawal or resignation shall be announced prior to that meeting to all members.
- Sec. 4—Officers may be removed on a motion by a three-fourths vote of the total voting membership at any time during the year.

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Belvidere, Illinois

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB—CONSTITUTION

Sec. 5—The office of the Trustee shall be appointed by the President and approved by the body of the Club. The Trustee shall be selected from the roster of Club members. The technical qualifications should be the primary consideration for selection.

ARTICLE III

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1—The President shall preside at all meetings of this Club and conduct the same in such manner as is deemed appropriate and proper. This person shall enforce due observance of this constitution and by-laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents that are adopted by the Club, carry out the Club will, and perform all customary duties associated with the office of the President. In the event that matters of order cannot be otherwise settled, Roberts Rules of Order shall govern. At the expiration of term, the President shall turn all records of office over to the successor.

Sec. 2—The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter, have the duties of Public Relations with the community at large and shall be custodian of all Club owned equipment. At the expiration of term, the vice-President shall turn all records of office over to the successor.

Sec. 3—The Secretary shall keep the constitution and by-laws of the Club and the same in their possession at every meeting. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all official Club meetings, a roll of all members, carry on all correspondence and read communications at each meeting. At the expiration of term, the Secretary shall turn all records of the office over to the successor.

Sec. 4—The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the Club. This person shall keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended in the name of the Club. This person shall pay no bills without proper authorization from the Club. At each Club meeting the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. At the end of the year (and term of office) the Treasurer shall provide a detailed status of all Club funds, the prior year's income (and sources) and disbursements (in general categories). At the expiration of term, the Treasurer shall turn all records of office over to the successor.

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Belvidere, Illinois

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB—CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IV

CLUB DUTIES

- Sec. 1 - The Club, by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership 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 Club. Payment of dues shall be made at or before the January meeting for the following calendar year. Non-payment of such dues or assessments after a two month period shall be cause for termination of membership to the Club.
- Sec. 2 – Applicants who have participated in a license course sponsored by this club and obtained an amateur radio license shall have dues waived for the remainder of the calendar year in which their license is issued.
- Sec. 3 - Any expenditure not included in the annual budget shall be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership present at any regular meeting. Incidental expenditures (less that \$100.00) shall be the only expenditures authorized by the officers of the Club.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEE

- Sec. 1—The Trustee is responsible for the operation of transmitting equipment, which utilizes the Club call sign and license, in conformance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.
- Sec. 2—The Trustee is responsible for interfacing with any frequency coordination committees, councils, or other bodies as directed by the Club officers.
- Sec. 3—The Trustee shall insure that all necessary operating procedures are provided for any Club owned transmitting equipment installed at any location, either as a permanent or temporary installation.
- Sec. 4—The Trustee may appoint a committee to aid in the maintenance, operation, and control of any Club owned transmitting equipment. Such appointees must be approved by a simple majority of the Club officers.

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Belvidere, Illinois

BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB—CONSTITUTION

Sec. 5—The trustee may from time to time, but not less than annually, provide a detailed report on the status of the Club owned equipment, costs incurred for the upkeep, and recommendations for the improvement of said equipment.

ARTICLE VI

DEDICATION OF CLUB ASSETS

Sec. 1 - The assets of the Club upon disbanding shall be donated to a similar not-for-profit organization.

ARTICLE VII

BY-LAWS

Sec. 1—This constitution and/or By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Club members present at a meeting, provided that all members have been notified at least 24 hours prior of the intent to amend either the constitution and/or By-Laws at the specified meeting. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at either a regular meeting and/or electronically via e-mail to the general membership.

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BIG THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB—CONSTITUTION

APPENDIX I

AMATEUR'S CODE
Published by the American Radio Relay League

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE—never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others

LOYAL—offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally

PROGRESSIVE—with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach

FRIENDLY—slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED—radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC—station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

Document Change History

Revision A December 6, 2005

1. Added the title block to each page that describes the document
2. Added revision information and page numbers at the bottom of all pages
3. Ran spell check and corrected all spelling errors
4. Removed extra spaces not needed in the document due to conversion from WordStar to Microsoft Word
5. Added page breaks where needed for document clarity
6. Added Sections 2 and 3 to the membership portion of the document
7. Added the note that the office of Secretary and Treasurer can be combined
8. Deleted the incomplete sentence for the description of the Secretary's duties
9. Changed the value from \$50 to \$100 on the expenditures limit
10. Removed the requirement for posting of changes to this document in the Ham Rag to sending the changes electronically via e-mail to the general membership
11. Added Appendix I, which contains a copy of the Amateur's Code from the American Radio Relay League

Revision B October 5, 2012

(Adopted by unanimous vote of members present at the November 1st 2012 Meeting)

1. Preamble – Changed the phrase “We, the undersigned” to “We, the membership”
2. Article I, Section 1 – Added the word “to apply”
3. Article I, Section 2 – Inserted new section
4. Article II, Section 3 – Added the words “following the occurrence of the vacancy”
5. Article II, Section 3 – Clarified “voting” membership
6. Article IV, Section 1 – Specified due date for club dues.
7. Article IV, Section 2 – Inserted new section
8. Article VI, Section 1 – Replace the word disillusionment with disbanding.