

CONSTITUTION
of the
Columbia County A.R.E.S.
Amateur Radio Club

Preamble

We, the undersigned, wishing to secure the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, do on April 20th, 2020, constitute ourselves as the

Columbia County A.R.E.S. Amateur Radio Club

We hereby enact this constitution as our governing law. Our precepts are to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, To promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, To conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community, To assist the Columbia County Emergency Management and other appropriate authorities in disaster or emergency efforts, and To provide disaster & emergency training as required for both our organization, and to appropriate community organizations when called upon.

Article I Control and Leadership

Control and leadership of the Columbia ARES will not fall under or be managed by any other organization. It **will** remain a separate entity. Furthermore, we desire to welcome and incorporate amateur radio operators from surrounding counties in support of our precepts.

Article II Membership

All persons interested in Amateur Radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be by application, initially utilizing the appended Membership Application Form, and election, initially by a majority vote of the Officers, and subsequently upon such terms as the club shall provide in its By-laws. 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. Membership shall last from one Annual Meeting to the next, at which point it may be renewed by written application and affirmative vote by a majority of the assembled membership. Applications for membership may be approved by simple assent of all the extant Officers of the club, as polled by the Secretary and duly recorded.

Article III Officers

Section 1, Offices

The officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Their terms shall extend from one Annual Meeting until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting. The committee of the Officers shall constitute the Board of Directors wherever such term is used.

Section 2, Election

The initial officers of the Club shall be as follows:

President: D. Bradley Swartz, N5CBP

Vice-President: Colen Boutwell, WA5RKR

Treasurer: Richard Heston, KE4BQI

Secretary: Mike Harding, KN4YGT

After the initial Officers, the officers of this club shall be elected by secret, written ballot of the members present, provided there be a quorum, at the annual meeting. The quorum is defined in the Article on Meetings.

Section 3, Terms limits

Until decided otherwise by the Membership, there are no term limits for the Officers.

Section 4, Vacancies

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

Section 5, Eligibility

After the first year of the existence of this club, in order to hold an office an individual must be a member in good standing for at least one year, hold a valid Amateur Radio License, be a resident of Columbia County, Florida, and within 6 months of holding office have completed at least level 2 of the current ARES Florida Task Book.

Section 6, Resignation

Any officer may resign their position in writing, at which time all records and assets of 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 four or more members presented to the President or Vice-President. After investigation, the petition will be presented to the membership at the next meeting of the club and then voted on by the membership. Removal of an officer requires a three-fourths vote of the full membership.

Article IV 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 the 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 operational benefits, and advance club interest and activity as approved by the club. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the ARRL's local ARES Emergency Coordinator to further club participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

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 mail (or email) written 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.

The Secretary shall endeavor to maintain a copy of this Constitution and other appropriate documents in order, and with public availability, such as in a notebook at the location of the Club's amateur radio station (if any) or on the World Wide Web.

Section 4, Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies paid to the club, keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended, and 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 to either a meeting of the club or to the other officers. At the end of his/her term, he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the club to his/her successor.

Article V Meetings

The By-Laws, if and after having been written, shall provide for regular and special meetings beyond the Annual Meeting, which shall take place during the Simulated Emergency Test every fall. At meetings, a minimum of one-quarter of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern proceedings if requested by any member in attendance. All members shall receive specific oral or written (mailed, emailed to last known address, or published on club web site) notice of any called meeting at least 14 days in advance of such meeting.

Article VI Dues

The club, by majority vote of those present at any regular meeting and constituting a quorum, 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, within 45 days, shall be cause for expulsion from the club within the discretion of the membership.

Article VII Membership Assistance

The club, through designated Interference, Public Relations and Operating Committees will provide technical advice to members concerning equipment design and operation to assist in frequency observance, clean signals, uniform practice, and absence of spurious radiation from club members stations. The club shall also maintain a program to foster and guide public relations.

Article VIII Club Call Sign & Equipment

Section 1, Trustee

The initial trustee (required by the FCC) shall be

D Bradley Swartz, N5CBP

148 SW Slash Lane

Lake City, FL, 32024-1236

At any time, the President may assign/reassign trusteeship of the club call sign. The trustee shall meet all the following requirements:

- Be a member of the club in good standing

- Meet FCC requirements related to becoming a trustee

- Not have had his/her Amateur Radio License revoked or sanctioned at any time

- Hold an Extra class license

Section 2, Equipment

All equipment involved with or utilized by this Club shall be labeled with its ownership, whether owned by this Club, another agency or an individual.

Article IX Dissolution

Section 1, Termination of Operations

If a majority of the extant Officers of the Club 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 committee of the extant Officers 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 either a) donated to an amateur radio club with similar goals and objectives, or b) sold with net proceeds donated to a non-profit organization. All remaining cash will be donated to a non-profit organization.

Article X, Amendments

This Constitution or By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the full membership. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and shall be voted on at the next regular meeting, provided all members have been notified in writing by mail or email of the intent to amend the constitution and/or By-Laws at said meeting.

Signatories:

President: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date Signed: _____

Vice-President: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date Signed: _____

Secretary: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date Signed: _____

Treasurer: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date Signed: _____