

Southern Maryland APRS Group

**P.O. Box 192
Hughesville, MD 20637**

12 Dec 2001

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 **Southern Maryland APRS Group** and enact this constitution as our governing law. For the purposes of this group Southern Maryland is loosely defined as southern Prince Georges County, Charles County, St. Mary's County and adjacent areas of Calvert County. This definition is only provided as a general guide and will not serve to exclude any potential member. Our purpose shall include providing support and education to Amateur Radio operators in the use and operation of the Automated Position Reporting System (APRS). We will provide recommendations on APRS station equipment and recommend optimum settings for effective use of APRS in the Southern Maryland area. We support the use of APRS as well as other modes of Amateur communication during Public Service events as well as in emergency response support activities. In addition, we will support radio interference tracking techniques via the use of APRS. We will further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct group 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 group shall provide in its By-Laws.

Article II

Officers:

Sec. 1. The officers of this group shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Sec. 2. The officers of this group shall be elected for a term of one year by ballot of the members present, provided there be a quorum, at the annual meeting.

Sec. 3. Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special elections at the first regular meeting following the withdrawal or resignation.

Sec. 4. Officers may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership.

Sec. 5. The above listed officers shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Article III

Duties of Officers:

Sec. 1. 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 group, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the group to his/her successor.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall organize group activities, plan and recommend contests for operating benefits, and advance group interest and activity as approved by the group. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator to further group participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the group to his/her successor.

Sec. 3. 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 written meeting notices to each member. At the expiration of his/her term he/she shall turn over all items belonging to the group to his/her successor.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the group; keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended; pay no bills without proper authorization (by the group 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 everything in his/her possession belonging to the group to his/her successor.

Article IV

Meetings:

The By-Laws shall provide for regular and special meetings. At meetings, a minimum of one-third of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article V

Dues:

The group, by majority vote of those 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 organization. Non-payment of such dues or assessments shall be cause for expulsion from the group within the discretion of the membership. For further guidance refer to Section 4 of the attached Bylaws.

Article VI

Membership Assistance:

The group, 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's from group member-stations. The group shall also maintain a program to foster and guide public relations.

Article VII

Amendments:

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

Robert's Rules shall govern proceedings.

By-Laws:

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

2. Membership. Full membership is open to licensed amateurs. Associate membership is open to those actively engaged in a class leading to an Amateur Radio license and all other interested persons. Full membership includes all group privileges as well as rights to hold a group office and to vote for group officers. Associate membership includes all group privileges except for the right to hold office and vote for group officers. Applications for membership shall be submitted at regular meetings. The Board of Directors shall review the application and vote on the acceptance; a majority vote is required. Members may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership.

3. Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held on an as needed basis, but at a minimum once each calendar month. Meetings shall be announced with enough notice as practical for maximum attendance. Special meetings may be called by the President upon the written request of any five group members. Notices shall be sent to 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 24 hours before the meeting.

4. Dues. A regular yearly assessment of \$10.00 per member is hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the constitution for the purpose of providing funds for expenses. Annual dues are to be paid at the regular in January of each year. Dues are considered delinquent on the last day of February. Members who become delinquent will be kept on the roster for a grace period of one month. Delinquent members will not have voting privileges. For members applying for membership after June 30 shall only be required to \$5.00.

5. Interference committee. This committee shall consist of members (appointed by the group President). The committee shall direct investigation, invite proper inquires, establish technical facts and testimony and report its results to the group.

Signed

Signed

Signed

Greg Dominguez N3MPR
President

Jack Van Gilder N3MPS
Vice-President

Gregory Jones K3GJ
Secretary