



McHenry County Road Pirates, Inc. Articles of Agreement



ARTICLE 1 - MISSION STATEMENT:

The McHenry County Road Pirates, Inc. ("MCRP", "Pirates") riding group is a conglomeration of individuals who have banded together to ride & enjoy our motorcycles; have a good time as friends; and savor the open road and the many eating establishments along the way.

The Pirates' mission statement incorporates the above; along with our desire to reach out to the community, to support charity organizations in the area and to assist in making their events successful. This is accomplished thru volunteering our assistance and providing other support, as available. All members mutually support fellow Pirates and the charitable organizations thru respect for each other and the honorable causes for which assistance is given.

The Pirates are:

- Registered with the State of Illinois as a Not-For-Profit Corporation
- Registered with the IRS, for tax exempt purposes, as a 501(c)7 – Social Club
- Registered with the Patent and Trademark office with regard to the group logo
 - o To protect the trademark status of the McHenry County Road Pirates logo, the "Logo Depiction Requirements" document was adopted and incorporated herein by reference

ARTICLE 2 - GATHERINGS:

It is the intention to have a Gathering of the Pirates ("Gathering") once per calendar month. A Host for the next Gathering(s) will be determined at a prior Gathering by requesting a volunteer(s) to take the Host role. The date, time and location of the Gathering will be determined by the Host. The Host will be responsible, with the assistance of the Committee (see Article 3 below), for soliciting agenda items to be covered and publishing to the membership; prior to the Gathering, if possible; a list of the items ("Agenda"). The Agenda may be modified at the time of the meeting, as needed, based on circumstances, at the discretion of the Host.

ARTICLE 3 – STEERING COMMITTEE

In order to facilitate the communications and record keeping of the group, the membership eligible to vote shall elect (method of voting to be determined from time-to-time; the candidate(s) receiving the most votes wins) five (5) members to fill the Steering Committee ("Committee"). The election shall take place at the Gathering following a position being vacated, or as voted upon prior to the normal expiration of a Committee member's term; with nominations being presented at a prior Gathering, as necessary.

Any member wishing to be considered as a candidate must express their intention by giving a brief presentation either:

- a) Orally to the membership at a Gathering, prior to the election Gathering, or,
- b) In written form to a member of the Committee, or the Gathering Host; in a timely manner to allow the Committee member or Host to present the member's presentation to the membership at a Gathering, prior to the election Gathering.

Any candidate must be willing to answer any questions posed by the membership relating to the candidate's desire to hold a Committee position. Questions addressed outside a Gathering should be recapped at the election Gathering by either the candidate or the member asking the question, prior to the vote. Only members present, and eligible to vote, at the election Gathering will have a vote – no absentee voting.

Two (2) members of the Committee are to be designated (determined by the Committee members):

- Committee Chair – someone to run the Committee meetings (however, any Committee member may call a Committee meeting with appropriate notice); and be responsible for coordinating Committee communication.
- Keeper of the Cash & Roster – someone to handle the group roster and the cash for the group. A cash report shall be sent to all members to review after each Gathering if there was any cash activity (posting on the group email site shall fulfill this requirement). This person will also be responsible for causing any required annual state and federal filings to take place.

The Committee, as a group, shall be considered the Board; and the Committee Chair shall be considered the Board Chair; for purposes of the status as a not-for-profit organization registered with the State of Illinois.

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ARTICLE 3 – STEERING COMMITTEE (Con’t)

Term lengths are for the lesser of 2-years; or as long as the Committee member wishes to continue, and is properly fulfilling the duties. A position holder may be re-elected for an unlimited number of terms. A Committee member’s term will be considered voluntarily vacated if the Committee member has unexcused absences (as determined by the other Committee members) from three successive Committee meetings called.

All five of the members are charged with making themselves available to members to communicate with to: voice concerns; issues; or praise for the group and/or other members. All communications with the Committee that requires any action on the part of the group shall be presented to the group, by the Committee, at the earliest opportunity at a Gathering.

Any group member may issue a recall request, which would require a majority vote of members eligible to vote at a Gathering to be considered. Reasons must be stated for the request to the membership. The recall vote would take place at the Gathering following the request approval and would require a 2/3-majority vote of those present and, eligible to vote, to recall a position holder.

Neither the Committee, nor the individual Committee members, unilaterally makes any Rules or Regulations (see Article 4 below).

The date, time & place of Committee meetings shall be announced to the group as soon as scheduled, but in no event less than 48 hours prior to the meeting time. Committee meetings shall be open to any interested member to attend as an observer; and to participate, if requested by a Committee member.

ARTICLE 4 - ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS:

In addition to this document; the ‘Voted Items List’, along with the results of the voting; and ‘Group Email Site Guidelines’ (see Article 7) will be maintained. These documents shall comprise the rules and regulations of the Pirates. If appropriate, these Articles of Agreement will be revised periodically with items on the ‘Voted Items List’ incorporated herein, as noted in the revision date notation in the page footer.

Any member can bring up any item from the Voted Items List for review and request a new vote to overturn the original vote result. The new vote to overturn shall not be taken, at the earliest, until the second Gathering following the Gathering when the original vote was taken. To successfully overturn a previous vote, the new vote must take place at the appropriate Gathering and a 2/3 majority of those in attendance, and eligible to vote, is required to make the change. Any new vote shall be by either a show of hands or closed ballot (at the discretion of any member in attendance).

Any member may propose a rule to the Committee at any time. Proposals will be discussed only at Gatherings. Proposals do not become binding until voted on at a Gathering; with passage determined by a simple majority of those present, and eligible to vote, at the Gathering; by either a show of hands or closed ballot (at the discretion of the maker of the proposal). Any proposal (other than exceptions noted below) must be presented to the Gathering Host at least two weeks prior to the Gathering at which the vote is to be requested (with a copy to the Steering Committee). The Host shall notify the group of the nature of the proposal as soon as possible after receipt, but not less than one week prior to the Gathering, by sending a group email.

Exceptions: Votes required for routine items do not require advance notice. For example, but not all inclusive – approval of Minutes; approval of expense reimbursements or requests for authorization to spend Ship Funds; and establishment of the annual dues amount.

A cease and desist statement may be made by the Committee during the interim between Gatherings, until such time of the next Gathering, at which time the issue will be presented on the agenda and discussed and voted upon by the membership present and eligible to vote.

The Committee may (upon the consensus of 4/5ths of the Committee members) make minor decisions they deem inconsequential and bothersome to bring before the membership or where time does not permit a prior presentation of the issue at a Gathering. Any such decision will be presented, discussed at the next Gathering and voted upon, if appropriate.

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ARTICLE 5 - RESPECT FOR PRIVACY:

Each member is charged with the responsibility of respecting the privacy of other members of the group, as well as the group itself. No member is authorized to disclose any personal information regarding another member (for example, but not limited to – name, phone number, email address, address, etc) without express consent from the member. No member is authorized to disclose privileged group communications to anyone outside the group without membership approval as voted upon at a Gathering. Information regarding publicized rides and events are not considered privileged. If any doubt exists, a member of the Committee should be asked if the determination cannot wait until the next Gathering.

ARTICLE 6 - RIDES & EVENTS:

Any member can suggest and/or lead a ride. It is to their discretion as to how much detail regarding the ride is shared prior to the ride. No formal ride brief is required, nor is it discouraged. Communication regarding an upcoming ride is up to the ride leader.

Events – the Pirates have committed to assisting with the events of two charitable organizations:

- *Little Angles Pledge Run*, sponsored and organized by the Elgin Area Organization of Harley Riders (EAO)
- *Bikers Take AAIM Against Drunk Driving*, sponsored and organized by The Alliance Against Intoxicated Drivers (AAIM)

All assistance to these organizations is strictly voluntary; no member is ever required to participate. The level of assistance is as needed by the sponsoring & organizing party(ies) and determined during the planning stages for the event. Everyone is encouraged to assist to benefit these honorable charities.

Other events may be added from time to time as voted by the membership.

ARTICLE 7 – INTERNET PRESENCE

Website:

The group owns the domain names mchenrycountyroadpirates.org & mchenrycountyroadpirates.com. An informational website is associated with these domains. The Keeper of the Cash is responsible for the domain registration renewals, and maintains the informational website as needed.

The website is to contain information regarding the MCRP for referral to potential members, and contain a contact form to allow anyone to contact the group. The Keeper of the Cash shall act as gatherer of these contacts, which shall be handled as determined by the nature of the contact; including, but not limited to, referring to the Committee or general membership as necessary.

Group email site:

Joining the group email site is by invitation only, to help protect the privacy of our members, and is strictly voluntary.

The group email site is to be used by MCRP members to easily communicate to the group any items that might be of interest, including upcoming rides and events, as well as information regarding motorcycling issues in general. Please refrain from posting messages that others might consider obscene, inappropriate or personally offensive. The Committee will also act as moderators of the site and reserve the right to restrict or refuse posting rights to anyone that abuses this privilege, until such event can be brought before the membership at the next Gathering for resolution.

Upon joining the site, it is strongly requested that everyone provide their first & last names so it is possible to determine who belongs to what email address. It is requested that a phone number also be provided to the Keeper of the Roster in case of the need to make immediate contact.

A document shall be maintained on the group email site that specifies the specific rules pertaining to the site in addition to those contained herein.

Facebook

In addition to the website, the group has a Facebook page that will be administered by at least 2 active MCRP members. This site will be used for public information to promote the events supported by the MCRP and as an additional resource for potential members to contact the group. Any pictures posted shall only be those taken at public events and shall not be 'tagged' with individual names without their express permission.

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ARTICLE 8 - MEMBERSHIP:

Dues are mandatory, with the amount determined annually. Expenditures from Pirate funds are only upon approval of the majority of members, present and eligible to vote, as voted upon at a Gathering. Annual dues are set by vote of the membership eligible to vote, subject to change from time to time. Dues are not pro-rated and are not refundable, except in the case of a new member who is not accepted for full membership after the probationary period (see below). Members paying dues in Nov or Dec shall be considered to have paid dues for the remainder of the current year, as well as for the next calendar year. Dues are due to be paid no later than the last day of February each year. Members not paying their dues timely will be removed from the membership roster and the yahoo group site until such time as dues are paid.

For a guest of a member attending Pirate events:

- No voting privileges in Pirate matters
- Will be charged an Event Fee to attend a Sponsored Event (i.e. an event paid for in whole, or in part, from Pirate funds) (e.g. dessert ride, picnic, and other events as approved by member vote). This Event Fee can aggregate to greater than the Dues amount and is not credited toward paying Dues later. Full Dues can be paid prior to attending first Sponsored Event to avoid the Event Fee. If there is an event with a charge for paid members, the Event Fee will be in addition to the paid member fee.

To help preserve the quality of riders within the membership – an existing qualified member (sponsoring member) must sponsor any new member candidate. The sponsoring member is responsible for making sure the member candidate is:

- Aware of this Articles of Agreement and the Voted Items List
- A safe rider
- Willing to be a Pirate, with all that it entails.

So that the Pirate membership has a chance to review the skill and safety of the member candidate's riding; and fit with the Pirate philosophy; a member candidate's continuation in the group shall be probationary until after the candidate has attended three riding events (defined as a day's riding, i.e. each day of a multi-day trip would count as a ride event). If during the probationary period any Pirate member has a concern about the member candidate, the Pirate should present the concern to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall investigate and, if appropriate, and if agreeable to the Pirate reporting the concern, mediate a discussion between the Pirate and the member candidate to first see if differences can be rectified in a private setting. If the Pirate reporting the concern prefers to remain anonymous, the Steering Committee, after investigation, will act as go between to attempt to rectify the differences by meeting with each party individually. If unable to settle the issue, the member termination process as outlined below will be followed.

If no concerns are brought forward, the member candidate becomes a full member after the completion of their third riding event and payment of dues. Should a member candidate fail to be accepted as a regular member; dues, if paid, will be refunded – less any Event Fees that would have been charged, for events they may have attended. i.e. - If a member candidate pays their Dues when they join, they would be entitled to a refund of only the Dues amount less the appropriate Event Fee(s).

Any member may have their membership terminated for conduct that is undesirable or for violation of any rule of the Pirates. The procedure includes –

- discussing the issue with the member, at a scheduled Gathering, in an attempt to rectify the situation
- if not rectified; or the member does not appear at the scheduled Gathering; a 2/3-majority vote of eligible members at the Gathering in favor of the member's removal.

Only members may purchase patches or flags with the group logo. Other uses of the logo must be approved by a majority of the membership prior to any such use (use in connection with the three charity events is hereby approved).

ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENTS:

The group may see fit to amend these Articles of Agreement at any time. Any amendment proposal shall be presented to the members at a Gathering for review and comments prior to being voted upon. Comments will be included in the discussion of the amendments prior to voting.

A 2/3 majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote is required for approval of the amendment.

See also ARTICLE 4.

ARTICLE 10 - DISTRIBUTION:

A current copy of these Articles of Agreement shall be provided to all group members. Posting on the group email site shall fulfill this requirement.