

MYSTIC ROD AND GUN CLUB

Constitution and By Laws



PREAMBLE

In 1919, a small group of local sportsmen founded The Mystic Rod and Gun Club. They were a mixed Group of both working and professional men who desired a more formal method of pursuing sporting activities. Hunting, Fishing and Trap Shooting were the major interests of the founding members, but their organization, through the years has attracted Riflemen, Archers, Pistol Shooters and Skeet Shooters. The members have worked hard over the years building and improving the facilities and developing a reputation in the community of which we are very proud.

The membership today is made up of people who have many varied interests. Some are Target Shooters, some are Hunters, some are Fishermen and others simply enjoy wildlife and the outdoors.

Years later, our members are still working hard improving on what a previous generation had begun and are looking for new ideas for the future. We are proud of our past, pleased with our present and looking forward to our future.

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF THE MYSTIC ROD AND GUN CLUB, INC.

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ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the **Mystic Rod and Gun Club Inc.**(Referred to herein as **the Club**), and operates under IRS Tax Code 501(c) (7).

ARTICLE 2: INTENT

The intent of these bylaws is to provide a means whereby the Mystic Rod and Gun Club, Inc. may harmoniously operate and conduct its business within the objectives of the organization in such a manner that the rules of good sportsmanship shall prevail at all times.

ARTICLE 3: OBJECTIVES

SECTION A

The objectives of this Club are to provide opportunities and facilities for its members to meet others with like interests and engage in activities associated with hunting, fishing and archery in a sportsman-like manner.

SECTION B

To aid and assist all worthy community efforts when they are associated with the best interests and the intent of the Club.

SECTION C

To foster education in the understanding of good sportsmanship, safety rules & regulations, and proper personal conduct connected with the use of sporting equipment commonly associated with rod, gun and archery activities.

SECTION D

To promote interest and to assist in the work of conservation and wildlife propagation and all associated activities, especially in the local community.

SECTION E

To conduct affairs open to the public as well as the Club Members, in order to generate revenue to be used to advance Club projects, providing that such projects concur with state and local laws and do not violate insurance protection.

SECTION F

To provide social and educational opportunities at the monthly meetings and, in season, to have these meetings take the form of dinners, cook-outs, shoots and exhibitions.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A

Membership in the Mystic Rod and Gun Club shall consist of the following categories:

Regular
Life
Junior
Absentee
Associate
Honorary

Regular and **Life** members over 18 years of age comprise the voting members of the Club. Said Members are to evidence a desire to actively participate in one or more activities of the Club, pledge themselves to support all the activities of the Club, and to serve on any committee to which they are appointed.

SECTION B

The Membership Chairperson shall announce the names of all applicants to membership at the regular monthly meeting. If the application(s) have been properly completed, the pro-rated dues and initiation fee collected, then the candidate's names will then be posted in the next two (2) consecutive monthly newsletters and be voted on at the regular monthly meeting following the second posting. The applicant shall attend the meeting but cannot be present during voting on his/her membership. Voting may be by secret ballot and the candidate must receive a majority vote of those present in order to attain membership. Rejected candidates may re-apply after a ninety (90) day waiting period, subject to the above conditions.

SECTION C

Regular Members are those who are at least eighteen (18) years old and subject to dues and assessments and shall be accorded all privileges of the Club.

SECTION D

Life Membership is automatically granted to Regular Members who are sixty-five (65) years of age by May first of the current fiscal year and who have been a full dues paying member of the Club for a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years.

Life Membership with all privileges may be voted to any Regular Member for outstanding service to the Club over a minimum of ten (10) years by the approval of the Board of Directors.

Life Members are not subject to dues or assessments and shall be accorded all privileges of the Club.

SECTION E

Junior Members are those who are twelve (12) years old until their eighteenth (18) birthday. The **Junior Member** must be accompanied at all functions and all visits to the Club property by their sponsor or another adult member of the Club unless granted partial or full privileges by the Board of Directors as recommended by a committee chairperson. Under no circumstances may unsupervised **Junior Members** bring guests to the Club

properties. The sponsor will remain responsible for the actions of the **Junior Member**, regardless of whether the **Junior Member** is accompanied by the sponsor or alone. If under the supervision of another adult member, that member is responsible. Upon their eighteenth (18) birthday said **Junior Member** shall automatically be eligible for Regular Membership even if the membership is closed. A **Junior Member** must be voted into **Regular Membership** by the same process as any new adult applicant. Dues paid as a **Junior Member** shall be used to offset the normal initiation fee with any excess being retained by the Club.

SECTION F

Absentee Membership may be granted to any active **Regular** or **Junior** member whose circumstances require them to be absent from the area such as a job transfer, military orders, domicile relocation, or schooling, and therefore, cannot remain an active member of this Club. A request for absentee status must be submitted to the Board of Directors stating the reason for the request of absentee status. If approved by the Board of Directors, the member must pay the dues amount in effect for **Absentee Members**. Absentee Members will receive the Club newsletter and a member card marked "ABSENTEE". Said Member will remain a member in good standing with no voting or other privileges until they pay the full dues owed for the year they wish to resume **Regular Membership** or **Junior Membership** status. **Junior Members** who intend to continue their education beyond High School may also apply for absentee status; however, in addition to meeting eligibility requirements described above, they must first meet all requirements for full **Regular Membership**. Students granted absentee status will be permitted to use the Club facilities during vacation periods and will pay Absentee Member dues and receive the Club newsletter and a membership card marked "**Absentee Student**". **Absentee Student** status may be granted, through age 23, by submitting an annual request for the extension to the Board of Directors. Absentee Members will be carried in excess of any maximum number of Members permitted by the Club.

SECTION G

Associate Members are those over 18 who chose not to avail themselves of full Regular Membership but who wished to remain associated with the Club in a membership role. **Associate members** are subject to associate membership dues and have the privileges of the Club, but have no voting rights. No new **Associate Memberships** are to be granted after 1995.

SECTION H

Honorary Membership may be granted by the Board of Directors to a worthy adult individual. **Honorary Members** shall have the privileges of the Club, but no responsibilities, financial or otherwise. **Honorary Members** shall have no voting privileges in Club affairs. **Honorary Membership** must be renewed annually at the annual meeting by unanimous vote of the members present.

SECTION I

Any Member, not in arrears, may honorably withdraw from Membership from this Club by giving written notice to the secretary. Said Member may be reinstated by payment of current dues and any remaining outstanding assessments if the Membership has not been closed.

SECTION J

Membership may be opened or closed at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

SECTION K

Any Member guilty of conduct unbecoming a sportsman, safety regulations, or of any offense against the Club or its bylaws may be expelled by secret ballot. A two-thirds YES vote of the voting members present at the meeting is required for expulsion. Any Member subject to such expulsion shall be notified in writing not less than seven (7) days prior to said meeting. Any member expelled by the Club shall be notified in writing within seven (7) days after the vote.

ARTICLE 5: OFFICERS

SECTION A

The elected **Officers** of this Club shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Parliamentarian. These officers of the Club shall serve for one year. These officers may be appointed as a chairperson of any standing committee. All officers shall be elected at the regular annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Members present.

SECTION B

The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee composed of three (3) Members of the Club who hold no elected office in the Club. This nominating committee shall be instructed to bring in a slate of candidates at the monthly meeting prior to the annual meeting. The President at this monthly meeting prior to the annual meeting shall request any further nominations from the floor. In the event there are two (2) or more candidates for any office, Members will be notified of the challenge fifteen (15) days in advance of the annual meeting. Those Members wishing to do so may exercise a voting proxy in writing.

SECTION C

Any vacancy occurring in the stated offices shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term by a two-thirds vote of the Membership at the next regular meeting.

SECTION D

Any officer who fails to perform his duties may be dismissed from his/her post by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6: STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION A

The Standing Committees shall consist of the following:

1. Archery
2. Conservation
3. First Representative To The County League
4. Fire Arms Safety
5. Fishing
6. Griswold Club House and Grounds
7. Hunting & Game
8. Junior Rifle

9. Membership
10. Muzzle Loader
11. Newsletter
12. Pistol
13. Revenue Enhancement
14. Rifle
15. Skeet, Trap and Sporting Clays
16. Steward
17. Stonington Club House and Grounds

SECTION B

The President shall appoint a Chairperson for each of the standing committees and they shall serve for one year.

SECTION C

These Chairpersons shall appoint as many members to their committee as they deem necessary, any one of whom is eligible to act as proxy in the chairperson's absence.

SECTION D

Any Standing Committee Chairperson or other Club Member handling special accounts shall present their accounts to the Board of Directors for Audit and approval at the end of the fiscal year at or before the annual meeting, or at any time as requested by the Club membership or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 7: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION A

The **Board of Directors** shall consist of the elected officers of the Club and the Chairpersons of the standing committees of the Club.

SECTION B

The Chairperson of the **Board of Directors** shall be elected by majority vote of the board members present at the first board meeting following the regular annual meeting and shall serve for one year.

ARTICLE 8: DUTIES FOR OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION A

It shall be the duty of the **President** of the Club to preside at all regular monthly meetings and special meetings of the Club. The **president** shall keep a list of all committees and delegates and request reports from each committee chairperson at every regular monthly meeting. The **President** may appoint special committees as deemed necessary to address any issue(s) in the best interest of the Club not covered by the standing committees. These special committees shall exist for one year and are not part of the Board of Directors. The **President** shall do whatever forward planning is necessary for orderly Club operation, generally guide the overall operation of the Club, and assure that all Club officers perform their required duties.

SECTION B

It shall be the duty of the **Vice President** of the Club to preside in the absence or disability of the President and to accept and perform any Club related duties as requested by the President or the Board of Directors. The **Vice President** of the Club shall preside at the Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the board Chairperson.

SECTION C

The **Secretary** shall act as a Recording Secretary of the Club and keep a true and open record of all proceedings of the regular monthly meetings and any special meetings as well as the Board of Directors meetings. The **Secretary** shall keep all records, documents, and communications that may be of importance and shall perform all other duties of a clerk of a corporation. The **Secretary** shall submit a report of the Membership and Board of Directors meetings at every regular monthly meeting and Board meeting and provide a summary of the year's activity at the annual meeting of the Club. The **Secretary** shall preside in the absence or disability of the President and Vice President.

SECTION D

The **Treasurer** shall receive and have custody of all money and other funds or securities of the Club and keep an accurate and true record of said funds. The **Treasurer** shall deposit all money in the name of the Mystic Rod and Gun Club in such bank(s) as designated by the Board of Directors. The **Treasurer** shall pay all bills as directed by the Board of Directors and/or the membership. The **Treasurer** shall render all statements of the financial conditions of the Club at the regular monthly meeting and give an annual summary report of the expenses and income of the Club for the previous year at the annual meeting. The **Treasurer** shall present the accounts of the Club to the Board of Directors for Audit and approval at the end of the fiscal year at or before the annual meeting, or at any time as requested by the Club membership or the Board of Directors. The **Treasurer** shall assure that all State and Federal fiscal records are kept, submitted and accounted for as required by law. The **Treasurer** shall preside at any meetings of this Club in the absence of the President, Vice President, and Secretary.

SECTION E

The **Financial Secretary** shall maintain a complete list of all Members of this Club and keep an accurate accounting of all dues and assessments paid by each Member. The **Financial Secretary** shall provide a bill for every dues paying Member to be mailed prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for the Club. The **Financial Secretary** shall provide each Member of the Club a new key card and Membership card after their dues have been paid in full for the year and provide both of these cards to all Life and Honorary Members in a timely manner. The Financial Secretary shall present the accounts to the Board of Directors for Audit and approval at the end of the fiscal year at or before the annual meeting, or at any time as requested by the Club membership or the Board of Directors.

SECTION F

The duties of the **Parliamentarian** shall be to clarify the Rules of Order at all Club meetings.

SECTION G

It shall be the duty of the **Chairperson of the Board** to preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Chairperson the Vice President of the Club shall preside at the Board of Directors meetings.

SECTION H

Delegates officially representing the Club to any other organizations, leagues or affairs shall be fully conversant with any Club program or policy affecting the subject of interest and shall fully report to the Club, the Board of Directors and the Chairperson of the interested committee (if any) the transactions of these outside activities.

ARTICLE 9: MEETINGS

SECTION A

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held on the last Thursday of March.

SECTION B

The regular monthly meetings shall be held on the last Thursday of every month except when changed for cause by a vote at a regular meeting or the Board of Directors.

Five (5) percent of all regular voting Members shall constitute a quorum at any Club meeting. A count of the Members at any meeting shall be taken to ensure that there is a quorum present before the start of said meeting.

SECTION C

Special meetings of the Club may be called at any time by two (2) members of the Board of Directors or by written petition of twenty (20) members of the Club. All Club Members must be notified of said meeting at least one-week in advance of the meeting. Business at these meetings shall be limited to that stated in the notice.

SECTION D

The **Board of Directors** shall meet on the first Tuesday of every month and shall conduct any emergency business of the Club in between monthly meetings when delays are not in the best interest of the Club.

Eight (8) Members of the **Board of Directors** shall constitute a Quorum for that body. A count of the Members at any meeting shall be taken to ensure that there is a quorum present before the start of said meeting.

SECTION E

Special meetings of the **Board of Directors** may be called at any time by two (2) members of the Board of Directors or by written petition of twenty (20) members of the Club. All Board of Directors must be notified of said meeting at least one-week in advance of the meeting. Business at these meetings shall be limited to that stated in the notice.

SECTION F

All meetings of the Club and Board of Directors shall be governed in procedure by the bylaws of the Club and the *Modern Edition of Roberts Rules of Order*.

ARTICLE 10: DUES, ASSESSMENTS, AND CLUB FUNDS

SECTION A

The annual dues of the Mystic Rod and Gun Club shall be due on **March 1** of each year. The annual dues amount may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Members present at the regular December meeting. New Member's dues shall be pro-rated as of March 1st.

SECTION B

Members whose dues and assessment are not paid by **May 1** will be automatically dropped from the Club. The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend the dues of any Member whose financial circumstances make it impossible to pay. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, late payment of dues may be accepted.

SECTION C

Any member who may have been dropped for non-payment of dues may reapply as a new Member if Membership is open.

SECTION D

The Board of Directors shall set the initiation fee for new Members.

SECTION E

By recommendation of the Board of Directors and vote of the Membership, an assessment on the membership may be levied. Any assessment levied will be paid by all present and future Regular Members on an equal basis. The Board of Directors may terminate imposition of any assessment.

SECTION F

The general funds of the Club shall consist of all moneys from all dues, assessments, initiation fees, surplus funds from all activities and any other resources procured through direct Club activities.

SECTION G

It shall be within the scope of the Board of Directors, with the approval of the Members, to set aside special funds for such activities as they may deem necessary.

SECTION H

Any Officer or Member of the Club incurring bills against the name of the Club without authorization of the Board of Directors or Membership or using any Club funds in their personal business shall be deemed guilty of an offense of the Club and shall be dealt with by the Board of Directors.

SECTION I

No financial benefit shall occur to any individual or group of individuals within the Club by reason of gain from any activities of the Club, except that the Club may regularly hire its Members to perform such services as performed by a Club Member in his normal line of work.

SECTION J

In the event of dissolution of the Club, funds derived from the sale of the Club property, after the payment of all just debts of the Club, shall be distributed as follows:

Each person who is a voting member at the time of dissolution, or has been a voting member within one year prior to the dissolution, shall be entitled to one (1) share for each year of membership. Life Members are entitled to one (1) share for each year they were voting members of the Club prior to becoming a life member. These shares revert to the Club upon death of the Member or loss of membership due to failure to pay dues or expulsion. No other Members are entitled to shares upon dissolution.

ARTICLE 11: GENERAL

SECTION A

The order of business at regular meetings shall, in general, be as follows:

- Call to Order
- Reading of Minutes from the Previous Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Board of Director's Report
- Reports from the Standing Committee Chairpersons
- Reports from Special Committee Chairpersons
- Communications and Bills
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Welfare and Interest of the Club
- Adjournment

SECTION B

Guest privileges shall only be extended three (3) times to any one person with the exception of money-raising or social events and only two (2) guests per visit are allowed per Member, excluding family members.

SECTION C

The fiscal year of the Club shall begin on March 1 and end on the last day of February of the following year.

SECTION D

Any person representing the Club in any fashion must be a Member of the Club.

ARTICLE 12: AMENDMENTS

SECTION A

The bylaws, as dated herein, supersede and void all previous bylaws and amendments thereof.

SECTION B

Prior to any change in the bylaws, all Members must be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to any meeting held for such purpose. A two-thirds vote of the members present is necessary to amend the bylaws.