



Revised 01/01/2025

From the President

On behalf of all the club members, we are excited to welcome your interest in our club and hobby. You'll soon get acquainted with many of us and we welcome your questions. We have many years of experience in our club, from the experienced kit builders to the novice pilot, we want to see you succeed in your endeavors in flight. Many of us have experience in fixed wing aircraft, electric, glow and gas-powered aircraft. Some also have experience with helicopters, gyrocopters, and quad copters as well. Some of our members share a deep interest in scale aircraft detailing it to a miniaturized scale replica.

We understand that this may be something new to you and we want you to understand that we too were in your shoes once, so any question is a good question. We want you to attain the knowledge and skills to be comfortable in building, repair work, flight controls and radio programming when the time arises. We want you to achieve the level of success that will only be limited by your own goals.

I hope that you find our events something that you would like to participate in, be involved with, and help us grow. Our events are one way we can show the community how to have fun, demonstrate responsibility with our equipment while sharing knowledge. The events that we host are a critical part in how we raise money to maintain our field, field equipment, flight training equipment, and facilities. Like all events it takes volunteers to make it work, so please we want you to be a part of everything we do. I look forward to you joining us at the field!

Sincerely,

Kevin Grapes

Interested Party

INITIAL CONTACT WITH A CLUB MEMBER

At the time a prospective club member contacts a club member the prospective member should be provided with:

- Valley R/C Flying Club Brochure > AMA Membership Application.

ALL Prospective club members should be advised to apply for membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) ASAP. Membership in the Valley R/C Flying club is dependent on PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP in AMA.

SINCERE INTEREST IS EXPRESSED

When a prospective club member shows a sincere interest in joining the club, by officially requesting membership in the Valley R/C Flying Club, it becomes necessary to educate that prospect as to the club's procedures. A packet of information is necessary to relay the pertinent information relative to club procedures and safety. At this time the following information should be provided to prospective club members.

- Valley R/C Flying Club Membership Application
- AMA Membership Application
- Basic Club Information/procedure flowchart

MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL

After the prospective club member has filled out a VRCFC Membership Application and has provided proof of AMA membership a 60-day probation period will begin. After 60-days has elapsed, the prospects membership will be voted upon by the Valley R/C Flying Club membership at the next club meeting. Upon an offer of full membership in the Valley R/C Flying Club the prospective club member will:

*Be required to pay club dues (within 30 days).

*Receive a VRCFC membership packet that includes:

- Welcome From President
- Information EVERY CLUB MEMBER SHOULD KNOW.
- VRCFC Flying Field Rules.
- Flying Field schedule - hours of operation.
- Dues schedule.
- Club membership list.
- Flight training Card.
- List of Club Flight Instructors

INFORMATION - EVERY CLUB MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

Welcome to the Valley R/C Club! The information contained herein has been compiled to inform you of the procedures and responsibilities that membership in the Valley R/C Flying Club carries. If after reading this, you still have questions please contact one of the officers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2025

President:	Kevin Grapes	Vice President:	Brett Haswell
Treasurer:	Ron Scott	Secretary:	Andrew Leckrone

Safety Officer: Dennis Hohenstein

Directors at large: Lynn Thacker and Chester Williams

AMA & VALLEY R/C FLYING CLUB WEBSITE The Official AMA web site is: www.modelaircraft.org The Valley Radio Control Flying Club is:

Pertinent club information can be viewed online www.VRCFC.Org or on Facebook at Valley Radio Control Flying Club.

MEETINGS

The club normally holds meetings the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Bridgewater United Methodist Church located at 219 N. Main St., Bridgewater, VA. During our summer months we meet at the field. Unless otherwise indicated, all club meetings start at 6:30pm. Club meetings are cancelled on days the Rockingham County School System is closed. If there is inclement weather, you should check with one of the club officers to see if the meeting is scheduled.

FLYING SITE

The primary function of the Valley R/C Flying Club is to provide a flying site for radio-controlled model aircraft. The club presently maintains one flying location. The field is located across from the Rockingham Co. Fair Grounds, in Harrisonburg, VA

All members using the field must be knowledgeable of the flying site rules and regulations. A routine preflight inspection should be carried out BEFORE the first flight of the day. If it is the models maiden flight, a preflight checkout in accordance with the maiden flight preflight procedures should be conducted.

The field is for the use of CLUB MEMBERS and BONAFIDE GUESTS ONLY. A club member must always accompany guests. No VRCFC member is allowed to fly unsupervised before they have received their pilot proficiency certificate. Any club member sponsoring a guest flyer will require them to show proof of a current AMA license (except for sanctioned events).



AMA

ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONATICS



Field and Flying Rules

Revised, January 2025

THESE RULES WERE PREPARED PRIMARILY FOR FIXED WING AIRCRAFT. THE CLUB RECOGNIZES OTHER PURSUITS IN FLYING R/C AND IN AN EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE INTERESTS, THE VALLEY R/C BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL CONSIDER ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THESE RULES TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH INTERESTS. HOWEVER, ANY RULE MODIFICATION MUST MAINTAIN SAFETY AND MAY NOT INTERFERE WITH A MAJORITY OF THE CLUB MEMBERS.

1. Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs shall not be allowed at the fields or at any club sponsored AMA sanctioned events.
2. All model pilots shall be a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).
3. All members and non-members shall comply with all sections of the Official Safety Code as set forth by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, as well as all safety rules approved by the Board of Directors of the Valley R/C Flying Club, Inc.
4. All use of club flying fields shall be governed by the appropriate lease agreements as well as all rules approved by the Board of Directors of the Valley R/C Flying Club, Inc.
5. All (FM) transmitters shall be placed in the impound area with the antenna collapsed and the transmitter turned OFF.
6. A frequency pin shall be attached to all FM transmitters or be in the possession of the pilot, and used while out of the impound area, before any such transmitter can be turned ON. Limit your use of the frequency pin to 15-minute durations if others are on the same channel.
7. Always perform a pre-flight inspection of your aircraft before the first flight of each flying session. Make sure to test all transmitter, receiver, and accessory batteries and perform a transmitter-to-receiver range check. Other pre-flight inspection recommendations are provided under separate cover.
8. When engines/motors are started or run in the pit area, the aircraft must face directly toward the safety barrier and the nose of the aircraft must be within 4 feet away of the barrier. All bystanders must be kept behind the arc of the propeller.
9. A landing aircraft has the right of way over an aircraft taking off.
10. A dead stick aircraft (i.e., one that has lost engine/motor power) has the right of way over all others.
11. When an engine goes dead in flight, yell "DEAD STICK" loudly several times to warn others of the impending landing. If a flyer experiences a loss of control situation shout a loud warning as often as practical.

12. Before taxiing onto the runway, announce your intentions to all other flyers and be sure they acknowledge your intentions. Likewise, announce your intention to land to all other flyers on the flight line.
13. Any member or non-member who causes damage to another's aircraft or equipment shall be liable for all damages and/or repairs.
14. No person shall attempt to fly a model without being accompanied by an instructor unless they have received their Pilot Proficiency Certificate as established by the Board of Directors of the Valley R/C Flying Club, Inc.
15. An effective muffler or silencer is required on all model internal combustion engines that are factory-designed to accommodate an add-on exhaust system. Maintain noise levels at or below 90dB at 3 meters.
16. Pilots participating in "dogfights" and other such activities are responsible for safe flying and the ultimate fate of his/her own aircraft.
17. Extended running of engines for break in purposes in the pit area is not allowed.
18. The flying field and immediate surroundings shall be kept clean of all foreign matter. Trash receptacles are provided for this purpose.
19. There shall be an understanding between club members that Saturday mornings are designated primarily for flight training until 1 p.m. Those instructing with beginners shall have flying priority.
20. Any pilot preparing to fly a new or previously rebuilt aircraft shall have the right to request a CLEAR SKY for the first flight for the purpose of getting the aircraft in trim, and to allow others present to be vigilant in the event of a malfunction. During this check flight, there will be no other aircraft flown or engines started.
21. During periods when multiple aircraft (3 or more) are flying, it is recommended that pilots employ the aid of a spotter to reduce the possibility of a midair collision, and/or other hazards.
22. Intentionally flying over or behind the flight line and pit area is not permitted at any time. The flight line is an imaginary line located at the edge of the runway nearest to the pilot stations and pit area and extends to infinity in each direction. Anyone who repeatedly violates this policy may, at the discretion of the Safety Officer, be assessed a fine not to exceed five (\$5) dollars per incident and not limited to once per day.
23. Small children must be closely supervised by their parents and not be allowed to roam free. Pets must be always kept on a leash anywhere on the flying site.
24. When more than one aircraft is flying, the runway is for takeoff and landing only. Training touch & goes, and other maneuvers over the runway are permitted when such maneuvers are announced and acknowledged by the other flying pilots.

25. Habitual offenders of any of these rules shall be subject to action taken by the Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP

- A) All Membership activation, resignation, and suspension are covered in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Valley R/C Flying Club. Club officers and Board of Directors can direct you to this information if needed.
- B) Paid Dues are an annual requirement for membership in the Valley R/C Flying Club. The bylaw revision on January 2009 addresses the requirements to join and maintain membership in Valley R/C Flying Club. Prospective members must formally apply for membership, either in person or via a representative, by providing the following items:
 - (1) Payment of club dues,
 - (2) Proof of AMA membership, and
 - (3) A completed applicant information form.

Formal acceptance at the end of a 60-day period is voted upon by the board of directors and/or the membership. Refer to the by-laws for further information.

- C) Mowing of the clubs' fields is the responsibility of the membership. For the past several years we have volunteers that have agreed to maintain the field and cut the grass. However, you may be asked to help from time to time as part of your club responsibilities.
- D) All-season Flyer patches will be purchased by the club if desired for accomplished members, providing that documentation can prove the member flew once each month for a full year.

Dues Schedule

(Revised September 28, 2012)

Jan.-Mar.	100%	60%	20%
	(\$50)	(\$30)	(\$10)
Apr.-Jun.	75%	45%	15%
	(\$38)	(\$23)	(\$8)
Jul.-Sep.	50%	30%	10%
	(\$25)	(\$15)	(\$5)
Oct.-Dec.	100%!	60%!	20%!
	(\$50)	(\$30)	(\$10)
	Standard	Associate	
	Adult	& Senior	Junior
	Members	Members	Members

Note: Any renewal that is made after the regular February meeting must include an additional Late Renewal Fee of \$10.

Conditions, Definitions, Explanations, etc.:

- All dues shown above are based on the full year Standard Adult Member rate.
- To establish new dues amounts, all the club needs to do is decide on the full year Standard Adult Member rate. The other rates are calculated from this rate.
- When new rates are calculated all amounts are rounded off to the nearest dollar. • Part year rates are for new members only. All renewals must use the appropriate January-March rate.
- Dues for new members will be based on the rate that's in effect on the day they complete their membership application paperwork and submit their dues payment. • Dues paid by new members joining during the October-December period will cover their dues obligations for the following year. (See the "!" notations in the chart above.) • Standard Adult Members are those who are 19 years old or over on July 1st of the membership year. AMA membership is required. Standard Adult Members may have flying privileges, may hold office, and may be a member of the Board of Directors. • Senior Members are those who are 65 years old or over on July 1st of the membership year. AMA membership is required. Senior Members may have flying privileges, may hold office, and may be a member of the Board of Directors.
- Associate Members are those who are 19 years old or over on July 1st of the membership year. AMA membership is not required. Associate Members do not have flying privileges, may not hold office, and may

not be a member of the Board of Directors. To obtain these privileges an Associate Member must become a Standard Adult Member or a Senior Member.

● Junior Members are those who are under 19 years old on July 1st of the membership year. AMA membership is required. Junior Members may have flying privileges, may hold office, and may be a member of the Board of Directors.

- Honorary Life Members are those who have been granted free lifetime membership in the club. Honorary Life Members may hold office and be a member of the Board of Directors. AMA membership is required only if the Honorary Life Member wishes to have flying privileges.

FLIGHT TRAINING

- A) Flight Training is available for those who need assistance or who are determined by the BOD to need additional training.
- B) The names of the Valley R/C Flying Club's Designated Flight Instructors are posted at the field so that students will know who to make arrangements with for flight training.
- C) Designated Club Flight Instructors: Kevin Grapes, Tim Blankenship, Dennis Hohenstein, Chester Williams and Lynn Thacker.

FIELD USE

- A) If using the 72 MHz band radio system, we require that all applicable pilots use the frequency pins system for field safety. If more than one person is at the field and sharing the same frequency, please limit your flight time to 15 minutes.
- B) ALL pilots must have available upon request their AMA membership card while flying. Members that have not received "Pilot Proficiency Certificate" from the Valley R/C Flying Club should NOT fly without assistance (SOLO) until cleared to do so.
- C) The Valley R/C Flying Club's Safety Director can impose a five-dollar fine for flying over the pit area. Pilot box grass barrier is designated as our border for approved flight line. All areas west of this point are considered "NO FLY ZONE".
- D) The Valley R/C Flying Club considers 90db at 3 meters to be the acceptable sound level.
- E) Persons who have a current AMA license and are accompanied by a voting club member can fly three days at a club field without being a club member.

MAIDEN FLIGHT PREFLIGHTS

INTERNAL (Remove wing if attached)

1. Servo mounts, servos and servo arms secure?
2. Are push rods secure?
3. Receiver and battery padded and secure.
4. Check for loose items that could foul servo or push rod movement.
5. Check for fuel leaks - tank area fuel proofed.

WING

1. Check for breaks and warps.
2. Ensure center section is adequately reinforced.
3. Check aileron pushrods and ailerons clevises before securing the wing to aircraft.
4. Brief new pilots on adequacy of rubber bands. (If applicable to their aircraft.)
5. After wing is in place, check for proper incidence and alignment as best you can.

ENGINE AREA

1. Firewall area fuel proofed.
2. Check engine, mount, muffler and prop nut and/or spinner for security.
3. Check prop for nicks, cracks. - Instruct pilots on importance of checking this daily.
4. Check nose steering mechanism.
5. Check cowl security.
6. Check engine for obvious thrust misalignment.

TAIL SECTION

1. Check vertical fin, rudder and rudder clevis for security.
2. Check tail wheel security.
3. Check horizontal stabilizer, elevator and elevator clevis for security.

BALANCE

1. Balance aircraft with fuel tank empty (laterally and for CG).
2. Show new pilots proper balance point and balance technique.
3. Explain danger of a tail-heavy aircraft.
4. Tail-heavy situations should be corrected prior to flight.

RANGE CHECK / STARTING ENGINE

1. Ensure that radio batteries have been adequately charged.
2. For 72Mhz radios, use the impound area. When frequency pin is available, attach to antenna and range check aircraft with antenna collapsed (explain reasoning to new pilots).
3. Check to ensure that all flight and engine controls move in the proper direction.
4. Check that flight control surfaces are in proper trim.
5. Fuel aircraft.
6. Start engine (explain the how and why of proper procedures).
7. Tune engine away from flight line (explain the how and why).

ROUTINE PREFLIGHT INSPECTION

INTERNAL (before wing installation)

1. Check servo mounts, servos and servos arms secure?
2. Check push rods secure.
3. Check receiver and battery padded and secure.
4. Check for loose items that could foul servo or push rod movement.
5. Check for fuel leaks - tank area fuel proofed.

WING

1. Check wing for breaks, cracks and warps.
2. Check aileron pushrods and ailerons clevises before securing the wing to aircraft.
3. Check that wing is securely attached to the fuselage (adequate # rubber bands-wing bolts).
4. After wing is in place, check for proper incidence and alignment as best you can.

ENGINE AREA

- I. Check engine mount, engine, muffler, and prop nut and/or spinner for security.
2. Check prop for nicks, cracks.
3. Check nose steering mechanism
4. Check cowl security

TAIL SECTION

1. Check vertical fin, rudder and rudder clevis for security.
2. Check tail wheel security.
3. Check horizontal stabilizer, elevator and elevator clevis for security.

BALANCE

1. IF any changes have been made to the aircraft check balance with fuel tank empty (laterally and for CG).

RANGE CHECK / STARTING ENGINE

2. Ensure that radio batteries have been adequately charged.
3. When frequency pin is available, attach to antenna and range check aircraft with antenna collapsed.
4. Check to ensure that all flight controls and engine controls move in the proper direction.
5. Check that flight control surfaces are in proper trim.

THE VALLEY R/C FLYING CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Persons seeking membership in the Valley R/C Flying Club are encouraged to fill out this application completely. This application will be used to provide the club membership with information when voting on your membership.

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

72 Mhz Frequencies Used (if applicable): _____

AMA Membership number:

AMA MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE VALLEY R/C FLYING CLUB