

Catastrophic Amateur Tactical Squad (CATS) Constitution

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 Catastrophic Amateur Tactical Squad (CATS) of Central Virginia, and enact this Constitution as our governing law. It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community. An important objective of the CATS is to practice and support using various digital and image operating modes, such as Packet (APRS & Winlink), Satellite, SSTV, and special projects such as the launching and tracking of high-altitude balloons.

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 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. Nevertheless, we reserve the right to decline membership to anyone the Board deems to not represent the goals and mission of this organization.

Article II Officers

Section 1. Offices

The officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Election

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

Section 3. Term Limits

An individual may hold the same office for consecutive terms and may not hold more than one office during the same term. At the expiration of his/her term he/she shall turn over all items belonging to the club to his/her successor.

Section 4. Vacancies

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

Section 5. Eligibility

In order to hold an office, an individual must be a member in good standing and hold a valid Amateur Radio license.

Section 6. Resignation

Any officer may resign his/her 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 by a majority of the full membership presented to the President or Vice-President.

After investigation, the petition will be presented to the membership at the next regular meeting of the club and voted on by the membership.

Removal of an officer requires a three-fourths vote of the full membership.

Article III 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 this Constitution and any adopted 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 duties of the President in his/her absence.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, keep a roll of members in good standing, submit membership applications, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and mail written notices to each member.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall ensure the club maintains no treasury.

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. Meetings may take place in person, over amateur radio, or through other electronic communication means.

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern proceedings.

Article V Dues

The club, 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.

Article VI Membership Assistance

The club will provide technical advice to members concerning equipment design and operation to assist in frequency observance, clean signals, uniform practice, absence of spurious radiation from club member-stations, and otherwise ensure member-stations operate with good amateur practices. The club shall also maintain a program to foster and guide public relations.

Article VII Club Call Sign

The club may elect to apply for a club call sign as provided by FCC rules Part 97.

The President shall assign trusteeship of the club call sign.

The trustee shall:

- Be a member of the club in good standing;
- Meet FCC requirements;
- Not had his/her Radio Amateur license revoked or sanctioned at any time.

Article VIII Dissolution of The Club

Section 1. Termination of Operations

In the event that the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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 sold and net proceeds donated to a non-profit organization.

All remaining cash will be donated to a non-profit organization.

Article XI Amendments

The 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 following regular meeting, provided all members have been notified by mail or other electronic means of the intent to amend the Constitution and/or By-Laws at said meeting.

Constitution adopted July 16, 2019

Catastrophic Amateur Tactical Squad (CATS)

By-Laws

1. Organization

The name of this organization is the Catastrophic Amateur Tactical Squad (CATS). It is organized as a non-profit amateur radio club within the meaning of section 501(c)(7) of The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(7)) and section 5 of part 97 of the FCC Regulations supporting The Communications Act of 1934 (47 C.F.R. 97.5(d)(2)). However, no filing before the Internal Revenue Service for non-profit status shall be necessary as long as the organization does not maintain a treasury of its own.

2. Secretary

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-Laws of the club 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.

3. Membership

Full membership is open to licensed amateurs in good standing as well as to those with an interest in Amateur Radio. Applications for membership shall be submitted at regular meetings, and voted on requiring approval of the majority of members present. A member in good standing has been voted in and paid dues, and may be voted out by the board.

4. Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held on the 5th Saturday of each applicable month. Special meetings of the board may be called by the President upon written request of any two club members. Notices shall be sent to board 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.

Informal meetings may occur after any regular meeting of another Amateur Radio club or event.

5. Dues Fees and Assessments

The Board of Directors may set any necessary membership dues, which may not be increased by more than 25% of its current level without consent of two-thirds of the full membership. The initial dues amount shall be zero, and any dues shall be collected in U.S. Dollars.

6. Elections

Officer elections will be held annually at the first regular meeting of the calendar year. Officers will assume their elected office at the second regular meeting of the calendar year.

Voting will be done using paper ballots. Immediately after voting, the ballots will be counted openly in front of the membership. Any candidate may request a recount of the ballots. In the

case of an unopposed slate, the President may entertain a motion for the Secretary to cast a single ballot on behalf of the membership.

7. Equipment and Property

Unless purchased with funds from the organization's treasury, all equipment used by the organization remains the property of the respective owner. No rights shall affix to the equipment by virtue of its use by the organization or its members nor shall the ownership rights of the owner be diminished. All equipment purchased by the organization itself, from its treasury, remain the property of the organization and likewise, no right of ownership attaches to such by the appointed trustee (or his/her successor).

7. Ratification

The By-Laws are hereby ratified on July 16, 2019, with the initial directors of the organization being:

David Elkins, KN4LQN, President, Elected Director, Call Sign Trustee

Bill Catogni, N4WLC, Vice-President, Elected Director

Judi LeHuquet, N4JDI, Treasurer, Elected Director

Raymond Robins, KN4OJB, Secretary, Elected Director

Doug Rumburg, KK4LSE, Elected Director

Reid Barden, N1VCU, Elected Director

James Dailey, KN4QGR, Elected Director