

BYLAWS OF THE VAGABOND RAGCHEW NET

[Webmaster's note: This version, while believed to be true to the original, is not the official version of the bylaws. The official version is kept by the club Secretary. In the event of any discrepancy, the official version governs.]

The Vagabond Ragchew Net (the "Vagabonds"), a nonprofit association under North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 59B, adopts these Bylaws for its own governance.

Section 1. Purpose

1.1 Since July 15, 1991, the Vagabonds' purpose has been to promote the hobby of amateur radio; to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members; to promote radio knowledge, fellowship and individual operating efficiency; to conduct programs and activities to advance the general interest in, and welfare of, amateur radio in the community; and otherwise to act solely for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes and without pecuniary gain to any member.

1.2 The Vagabonds serve their purpose primarily by conducting a regularly scheduled over-the-air amateur radio net (the "Net") on local amateur radio frequencies within a service area generally centered at or near Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Section 2. Membership

2.1. Any natural person licensed to operate an amateur radio station can become a member of the Vagabonds (a "permanent Vagabond") by completing a series of five check-ins within 30 days on the Net and taking the prescribed pledge. On the first of these check-ins, a "temporary Vagabond number" will be issued. A temporary Vagabond number is only for tracking and does not bestow membership.

2.2 After the fifth check-in of the series, an eligible person may become a permanent Vagabond by reciting the following "Vagabond Pledge," to be administered by the responsible net controller, on the air during the Net:

"I, (name and amateur radio call sign), do pledge that, as a Vagabond, whether I travel hither and yon, or to and fro from place to place, either on the airways or on the by-ways, I will always be moving in the right direction."

Whereupon, the net controller shall state:

"I hereby declare (name and amateur radio call sign) a member in good standing with all the privileges and honors accorded permanent Vagabonds. Congratulations, and may you always keep moving in the right direction!"

2.3 Upon taking the Vagabond Pledge, an eligible person will be issued the next sequential permanent membership number ("Vagabond number") and become, in perpetuity, a permanent Vagabond, to be identified by that number, which will be entered in the official roster.

2.4 No person may become a permanent Vagabond except by the process described in this Section 2.

2.5 No permanent Vagabond may ever be removed from the official roster or assigned a different Vagabond number.

Section 3. Dues

3.1. No one will be required to pay dues to become, or remain, a permanent Vagabond.

Section 4. Meetings

4.1. The Vagabonds will hold at least one meeting per calendar year: the annual meeting, to be held in December or as near thereto as is feasible. Other meetings can be called by a majority of the persons serving as officers if desired.

4.2 All meetings will be held within 30 miles of downtown Winston-Salem, North Carolina or over-the-air on the same frequency as daily nets. The date, time, and place of any meeting will be chosen by majority vote of the persons then serving as officers.

4.3 At least two weeks' notice will be given before any meeting. The notice will state the date, time, and place of the meeting, along with a description of the business to be transacted. Such notice will be sufficient if it is timely posted on the Vagabonds' website, if any exists, or announced on the Net for five consecutive business days, the fifth day being at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

4.4 No quorum is required for the transaction of business at meetings.

4.5 A member who wishes to make a non-procedural motion at a meeting, on a matter outside the scope of the notice's description of the business to be transacted, may submit the motion in writing to an officer at least one week prior to the meeting. The motion will then be publicized on the Vagabonds' website, if any exists, and announced on the Net during the week prior to the meeting. A non-procedural motion on an out-of-scope matter made without such prior submission will be tabled until the next meeting unless two-thirds of the members voting desire it to be heard immediately. A motion to amend these Bylaws, however, must be handled under Section 7 rather than under this paragraph.

4.6 Each living member present at a meeting will be qualified to vote at that meeting, provided that the member is licensed and legally permitted, on that day, to transmit on amateur radio frequencies.

Section 5. Election of Officers

5.1. The Vagabonds will have, as officers, a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. A person may serve simultaneously as both Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer must be a permanent Vagabond, and qualified to vote at meetings, when nominated and elected and while serving.

5.2. By October 1 of each year, the President will appoint a Nominating Committee. By November 1, the Nominating Committee will nominate one, and only one, qualified member for each office. These nominations will then be publicized immediately on the Vagabonds' website, if any exists, and on the Net.

5.3 By November 10, any member who is then qualified to vote at a meeting may nominate any other qualified member for any office by delivering written notice of the nomination to any officer. These additional nominations will then be publicized on the Vagabonds' website, if any exists, and on the Net.

5.4 If no nominations are made under sections 5.2 and 5.3, then nominations from the floor will be permitted as the first order of business at the annual meeting. If, after opening the floor to nominations under this subsection, any elected office lacks a valid nominee, the meeting may be recessed and continued from day to day until all offices have valid nominees; but the meeting shall not be adjourned, nor shall the Vagabonds conduct any other business of any kind other than the disposition of points of parliamentary order, until there is a valid nominee for each office.

5.5 Officers will be elected at the annual meeting by vote of the members present.

5.6 No officer may be elected except by a majority of votes cast. If no candidate for an office receives a majority, a run-off election will immediately be held to choose between or among the candidates receiving the two highest vote tallies in the initial election. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast in the run-off election, the outcome will be determined between the run-off candidates by drawing straws.

5.7 Each officer's term begins at the conclusion of the meeting at which the officer is elected and continues until the officer resigns, dies, or is succeeded by another duly elected officer.

5.8 A vacancy occurring between elections may be filled by an interim appointee chosen by unanimous agreement of the remaining officers.

Section 6. Duties of Officers

6.1. The President will preside at all meetings and conduct them according to the then-current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised; enforce due observance of these Bylaws; sign all official documents; and perform all other duties entrusted by the membership to the President. Between meetings, the President will act as the manager of the Net and will be responsible for all day-to-day decisions regarding the operations of the Net and of the Vagabonds, other than those specifically given by these Bylaws to the Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. The President may appoint such persons and committees as are deemed necessary or appropriate and may delegate powers to them. Such appointments and delegations may be revoked by the President at any time.

6.2. The Vice President will assume all the duties of the President in the President's absence or incapacity.

6.3. The Treasurer will receive, and provide receipts for, all monies received and expended on the Vagabonds' behalf; submit, at each annual meeting, an itemized statement of the past year's disbursements and receipts; and preside at meetings in the absence of both the President and Vice President. At the end of the Treasurer's term, the Treasurer shall remit to the next Treasurer everything in the outgoing Treasurer's possession that belongs to the Vagabonds.

6.4 The Secretary will keep an up-to-date roster of members, a copy of these Bylaws, and the then-current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, at each meeting; record the minutes of each meeting; keep all official club records; and preside at meetings in the absence of all other officers. At the end of the Secretary's term, the Secretary will remit all official Vagabond records to the next Secretary.

Section 7. Amendments to Bylaws

7.1 These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting. Proposals for amendments must be submitted in writing to an officer by the preceding October 1 and shall immediately be publicized on the Vagabonds' website, if any exists, and on the Net. Such proposals shall then be offered by motion after the election of officers at the annual meeting.

7.2 An amendment to these Bylaws becomes effective at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which it was adopted unless the amendment specifies a later effective date.

Section 8. Disposal of Assets Upon Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, all of the Vagabonds' residual assets will be assigned to one or more charitable, educational, or scientific organizations of the type described by Internal Revenue Code Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(1)-(4), or corresponding future provisions of U.S. tax law.

Section 9. Adoption by the Membership

These Bylaws were adopted by a vote of the membership at the Vagabonds' annual meeting on December 3, 2016.

/s/ Kathy Sparks, KF4EKZ
Secretary-Treasurer
Dec. 3, 2016

Amended December 10, 2022.

/s/ Cathy Melvin, KM4OCS
Secretary-Treasurer
November 25, 2023