

# Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Constitution

## Preamble:

We, the members, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, constitute ourselves the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, hereafter called the Club, and enact this exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, individual operating efficiency, and fraternity. The Club shall conduct programs and activities so as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio and provide voluntary emergency service to the community in general as needed.

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## Article I

### Membership:

All persons interested in amateur radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be by application and voted by a quorum of members present at a regular GSARC meeting. Membership shall be of three types:

1. **Regular Members:** to be only currently licensed amateur radio operators, and are to have full voting privileges.
2. **Family Members:** to be only currently licensed amateur radio operators residing in the same household and related to the regular member, and are to have full voting privileges.
3. **Associate / Visitors:** can be anyone interested in amateur radio, Associate members have no voting privileges.
4. **Non-Resident Members:** to be currently licensed amateur radio operators whose permanent residence is outside of South Carolina, and are to have no voting privileges.

## Article II

### Officers:

The officers of this Club shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information Officer and Trustee. These officers as a group shall constitute the Executive Committee.

## Article III

### Elections:

Sec.1 The officers of this Club shall be elected by ballot of the members present, provided there be a quorum, at the meeting on the first Monday night in December. The Membership shall install officers for a two year period on an alternating basis for the purpose of insuring leadership continuity. This does not apply to the Trustee position.

Sec.2 Officers may be removed on the motion by three-fourths [3/4] majority vote of those attending, provided there be a quorum.

Sec.3 Any Officer can announce his/her resignation by letter to the Secretary or Treasurer or in person. Said announcement shall be made public at the next regular meeting.

Sec.4 Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by a special election at the first regular meeting after the withdrawal or resignation is announced.

Sec.5 A majority of the attending members, provided there be a quorum, is necessary for the election of new officers.

Sec 6. All officers shall be current term, and become term year members of the GSARC.

Sec.7 The Trustee shall be nominated by the outgoing Trustee and must receive a majority vote of approval by a quorum of the general membership at any regular meeting. The Trustee's term of office shall continue for the term of the new club license, as indicated on the FCC Form 660, unless terminated either by the Trustee by a quorum vote by the general membership at any regular club meeting or if the current trustee and station license are renewed / re-appointed. Termination by the Trustee shall be the subject of 30 days prior written notice to the Executive Committee.

**Article IV**  
**Duties of Officers:**

Sec.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of this club and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of the Constitution and By-laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents that are adopted by the club, and none other; and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the Office of President.

Sec.2 The Vice President shall preside over all meetings in the absence of the President, and assure that accurate minutes are recorded and distributed in the absence of the Secretary. The Vice President, together with the Treasurer and Trustee, shall be a member of the Equipment Inventory Audit and Control Committee.

Sec.3 The Secretary shall preside over club meetings when the President and Vice President are absent, keep the club's constitution and By-laws and have them available at each meeting in the event they are needed by club officers or members, act as Club Parliamentarian and be in possession of a current copy of Robert's Rules of Order; shall record the club's minutes, publish the meeting minutes of the Executive Committee meetings; prepare and distribute meeting agendas; handle all club correspondence as well as establish and maintain files for all correspondence, meetings, membership roster, notify members of all meetings whether regular or special; be responsible for assembling and publishing the club 5 year plan, and edit and distribute the club's monthly newsletter no later than two weeks prior to the next meeting. The Secretary shall maintain an adequate liability insurance policy to protect the club's officers at all times, the club as a whole, and for the protection of the general membership when the club is engaged in all public and private activities sponsored by the club. The secretary shall also maintain an adequate, compliant insurance policy which covers the Mobile Communications Platform while in storage, it is being towed by an appropriate tow vehicle or operating at public or private event. The Secretary, together with the President and Trustee, shall formalize access, liability and operational agreements between the club and the landlords, owners and or operators of club repeater and equipment storage locations.

Sec.4 The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies received by the GSARC, including dues and other monies owed; establish and maintain a cash accounting system and keep current within 30 days; be responsible for all the club's banking and city, county, state and Federal tax reporting operations, including filing the required non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt forms with the IRS no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> of each fiscal year, being custodian of the club's checking account; be responsible for all club disbursements; shall submit written financial reports to the club membership every other month (6 times per year); responsible for the outside auditing of the club's financial records at the end of each year, and reporting the results to the membership; develop a proposed annual budget for submission for approval by the membership no later than the April meeting each year; coordinate with the various governments with respect to the club's 5 year plan with input from the Executive Committee. The Treasurer, together with the Vice President and Trustee, shall be a member of the Equipment Inventory Audit and Control Committee.

Sec.5 The Public Information Officer shall promote the Club and its activities to the public and shall assist the Hamfest Manager with publicity, He/she will provide the club with a monthly report.

Sec.6 The Trustee shall possess a valid Amateur Extra Class Operator License to maintain the assignment of the Club's [W4GS] call sign. Should the FCC Rules governing the class of operator license for the Club's call sign be changed, the Trustee position shall be open to candidates whose license class is equal to or greater than the requirement. The Trustee shall have full responsibility for the licensing and operation of all Club stations [including repeater, auxiliary, packet, and all other], and assure all such operations are compliant with all applicable Federal, State, and Local Rules and Regulations. The Trustee shall oversee the operation of all such stations through a system of designated Control Operators whose definition and responsibilities are outlined in Part 97 of the FCC Rules. The Trustee shall maintain a current copy of the Club's FCC license at each Club station, and have in his/her possession the latest copy of the FCC Rules pertaining to Amateur Radio. The Technical Committee shall direct the maintenance of all Club stations, and develop new features and functions consistent with this Club's Preamble. The Technical Committee shall also develop and maintain use policies for the Club's repeaters, packet stations, autopatch facilities, and all other club stations and equipment in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and Local Rules and Regulations Said Policies, providing they are consistent and in compliance with all the aforementioned Rules and Regulations, are to be submitted to the membership for approval by a majority of the members present at a regular meeting. The Trustee, together with the Vice President and Secretary, shall be a member of the Equipment Inventory Audit and Control Committee. The Trustee shall chair the GSARC Technical Committee and shall appoint Technical Committee members based on technical skills and knowledge required as determined by the Trustee. The Trustee shall share banking responsibilities with the Treasurer.

Trustee Duty/Prerogative: Club Station operation can be terminated at any time by the Trustee or Control Operator without the benefit of notice or majority vote when the operation of the club station [repeater, auxiliary, packet, or other] is in violation of any Federal, State, or Local Rule or Regulation. Operation shall only be resumed when the Trustee or Control Operator considers the cause for prior termination to be resolved.

Club Call Sign: The Club Call Sign, W4GS, was obtained for, and by, the Club under the FCC Vanity Call Sign Program. It shall not be released for reassignment or transferred to any other person and/or organization without Executive Committee and membership approval.

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Revision 4.0 as Amended March 07, 2016

If the Trustee's membership is terminated for any reason, the Club's call sign shall remain assigned to the Club. The outgoing Trustee shall provide the original Club FCC license to the Vice President, and together with the Vice President, the newly appointed Trustee shall complete the necessary FCC paperwork to assume responsibility of the Club call sign and station & operator privileges.

**Article V  
Meetings:**

The By-laws shall provide for regular and special meetings. At meetings, a minimum of ten percent [10%] of regular members shall constitute a quorum and no official business can be transacted unless such a quorum is present.

**Article VI  
Dues:**

Sec.1 The Club, by majority vote of regular members at any regular meeting, may levy on the general membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization within its object as set forth in the Preamble.

Sec.2 Members three [3] months in arrears under normal circumstances would constitute suspension. One [1] year in arrears will cause delinquent members to be dropped from the Club rolls.

**Article VII  
Amendments:**

This Constitution or the By-laws may be amended by two thirds [2/3] vote of the members present at a regular meeting, provided there be a quorum. 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 of the intent to amend the Constitution or By-laws at the said following meeting.

**Article V11  
Rules:**

Robert's Rules of Order or Cushing's Manual shall govern proceedings.

This document has been approved by the GSARC Membership As witnessed by the GSARC Secretary (signature): /s/ <b>Matt McGuire</b>	(date): February 3, 2014 (date): February 3, 2014
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This modified document has been approved by the GSARC Membership (as amended Article IV, Duties of Officers, Sec. 4, new clause reference IRS 501 (c)(3) filing). As witnessed by the GSARC Secretary (signature): /s/ <b>David L. Smith</b>	(date): September 7, 2015 (date): September 7, 2015
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This modified document has been approved by the GSARC Membership (amended Preamble adding second paragraph) As witnessed by the GSARC Secretary (signature): /s/ <b>John McCann</b>	(date): March 7, 2016 (date): March 7, 2016
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