

BYLAWS OF THE MARIN COUNTY HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION
(Last update, April 29, 2004)

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

1. The name of the association is the Marin County Hang Gliding Association (MCHGA).
2. The primary purposes of MCHGA are:
 - A. To administer non-commercial hang gliding activities at the Mt. Tamalpais State Park and/or other sites as permitted.
 - B. To provide for a recreational hang gliding program that promotes safety and enjoyment for both participants and non-participants.
 - C. To maximize the harmony of hang gliding participation with the ecology of the launch and landing sites, as well as with the interests of the other users of the Park, beach areas or other areas affected by our activities.
 - D. To foster communication and fellowship among hang glider pilots.
 - E. To further the knowledge and enjoyment of hang gliding in Marin County for participants, spectators and the general public.
 - F. To acquire and preserve other flying sites in the Mt. Tamalpais area for the purpose of providing alternate hang gliding sites, and thus avoiding over-use of the Mt. Tam site, and also to expand opportunities for Mt. Tam pilots to increase their experience and safe flying skills.
 - G. To provide a conduit for communication between participants in non-commercial hang gliding in Marin County and the citizens of the County, as well as with Federal, State, County and other municipal authorities and other interested parties.
 - H. To provide for insurance coverage which protects non-participants from injury or damage resulting from our activities in Marin County and/or other Association sites.

ARTICLE II: AFFILIATION

MCHGA may be affiliated with other organizations of similar purposes in a manner determined by the Board of Directors. Such organizations include the United States Hang Gliding Association (USHGA) and other hang gliding organizations.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. All members are entitled to vote at Association meetings (see Article IV below for details).
2. Membership is voluntary and open to any hang gliding pilot. Those eligible to purchase a sticker or flight permit may do so and choose to join or not join MCHGA at no additional charge. Those not eligible to purchase a sticker may become a member at the cost of the sticker fee.
3. For purposes of site safety, and to ensure effective and rapid communication of site advisories and other information, all sticker-holders and other members will receive the MCHGA newsletter, Tam Airlines. However, at no time will a hang glider pilot be required to become a member of MCHGA as a condition for flying at the club's site(s).

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings are held for the purpose of conducting whatever business or activities that the Association needs to address.
2. The date, time, and place of each regular and annual meeting are decided by the officers and announced in Tam Airlines before each meeting, together with a preliminary agenda indicating any significant issues on which members are likely to be required to vote at the meeting. Members who intend to raise issues that may require a vote at the upcoming meeting should consult with the Secretary in advance, so that such issues can be included in the agenda.
3. The Annual Business Meeting of MCHGA is held during the month of November (note that the Association's Fiscal Year runs from November 1st through October 31st).
4. The agenda for the Annual Business Meeting will include:
 - A. Presentation of annual reports by the relevant officers and committees.
 - B. Presentation by the Treasurer of an annual financial summary, including a review of the past year's financial results, and a proposed budget for the new fiscal year, for approval by the members.
 - C. Election of Officers for the new fiscal year.
5. Quorum: Business at any meeting may be decided, except as otherwise specified herein, by a simple majority vote of the members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OFFICERS)

1. The Board of Directors (Officers) is the governing body and business administrator of MCHGA, and is responsible for carrying out the purposes of the Association. To this end, it may set the Association's fees (subject to ratification by the members), sign contracts in the name of MCHGA, and control the expenditures of the Association's funds, in line with the agreed budget. Any proposed major deviations from the budget must be approved in advance by a vote of the members.
2. The Board of Directors consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor.
3. Election of Officers: Candidates for the Board of Directors are nominated at the October meeting each year. Elections are held at the Annual Business Meeting in November. A list of nominees and volunteers is published in Tam Airlines before the November meeting. Last-minute nominations may be accepted at the November meeting, but only for non-controversial candidates, as determined by all attendees at the election meeting.
4. All candidates for office must be members of MCHGA.
5. Elections are decided by a simple majority vote of Association members present at the election meeting.
6. The term of office for all officers lasts until the next election (see V.3). However, officers may be nominated for re-election annually, and there is no limit on the number of times an officer may be consecutively re-elected. Vacancies that may occur in any office during the year can be filled by a simple majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting.
7. The President presides at all meetings and is responsible for overall leadership and management of the Association's affairs. He/she may appoint committees as needed, and signs contracts in the name of the Association, as authorized by the members.
8. The Vice-President assumes all the powers and responsibilities of the President in case of the absence or disability of the President.
9. The Secretary keeps the minutes of the Association's meetings, submits minutes and notices of upcoming Association meetings for publication in the newsletter, submits the agenda for upcoming meetings to the Editor for publication in the newsletter before the meeting, and prepares any contracts or other documents required by the Association. He/she also manages all Association correspondence, keeps a current list of Association members, and keeps historical records for the Association.

10. The Treasurer manages the receipt and disbursement of all Association funds. He/she maintains and, when required, presents up-to-date Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet reports and proposed budgets; alerts and briefs the Board on financial issues, and advises the Board on financial policy.

11. The Editor publishes and distributes Tam Airlines, the MCHGA newsletter, to all members and sticker holders, relevant local authorities and affiliated organizations.

12. In the event that any Board position is unfilled, the responsibilities of that position will be re-assigned among the other Directors, at the discretion of the President, until that position is filled.

ARTICLE VI: SPECIAL COMMITTEES

1. The President may at any time appoint special committees as necessary to undertake specific responsibilities. Any committee recommendations or proposals affecting the Association must be submitted to the members for approval at Association meetings.

2. For the purposes of safety and site preservation, there shall be a permanent committee comprised of MCHGA members, called the Tam Committee. The Tam Committee will normally consist of five members, including the Tam Administrator. However, temporary exceptions may be made to this rule, at the discretion of the President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors and existing Tam Committee members.

3. The Tam Committee's duties include:

- Administration and control of hang gliding operations at Association sites.
- Taking disciplinary action against site rule violators and unsafe activities.
- Making rule changes or restricting hang gliding at Mt. Tamalpais as required by changing circumstances.

4. Any individual Tam Committee member, or any MCHGA officer, has the authority to suspend a pilot's flying privileges for cause, subject to review by the Tam Committee.

5. Tam Committee members shall be consulted by the President, or a designee, prior to Association action regarding any site issues.

6. One member of the Tam Committee shall be appointed as the Mt. Tamalpais Site Administrator ("Tam Administrator").

7. The Tam Administrator is responsible for the administration of site permits, insurance, sticker distribution and fee collection, though he/she may delegate another club officer, officers or Tam Committee member to administer sticker administration and fee collection, subject to the approval of the Board.

8. Tam Committee members, including the Tam Administrator, are appointed by The President, subject to the approval of the other officers and existing Tam Committee members.

9. In the interests of continuity and effectiveness, it is expected that Tam Committee members, including the Tam Administrator, will normally remain in office continuously for a period of several years, subject to voluntary retirement or disability.

ARTICLE VII: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any officer or Tam Committee member may be removed from office, for cause, by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at an Association meeting, subject to prior notification of the general membership, and provided that the officer or committee member concerned has an opportunity to present a defense prior to the vote.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

1. These bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members present at an Association meeting. Notice of such proposed amendments must be published in the newsletter prior to the meeting.

2. Any such amendments must be consistent with the provisions of the Association's permit agreements and any other requirements, regulations or agreements with state and local governments, other relevant authorities and affiliated organizations.