



# SPARKS RC Club Member Handbook

## Model of the Month Rules

SMH – 019

SPARKS is one of many Radio Control clubs that run “Model of the Month” (MoM) programs to encourage craftsmanship, innovation, and community participation. Almost from its inception, SPARKS has included a segment of its monthly business meetings to allow members to share their modeling efforts with a Model of the Month presentation. Unfortunately, over the years, the focus of the program has been lost.

In 2025, a motion was approved to reinstate guidelines, structure, and rules into the program. The following should serve to formalize MoM and reward sharing, innovation, building skills, and the use of technology.

### Eligibility Rules

1. **Builder Must Be a Club Member:** Only current, dues-paid club members may enter a model.
2. **Builder Must Have Built or Significantly Modified the Model:** The model must be either:
  - o Scratch-built,
  - o Kit-built,
  - o Or significantly modified from an ARF (Almost Ready-to-Fly).*Note:* Minor assembly or stock ARFs without modification are generally not eligible.
3. **If Model Does Not Meet Eligibility Rules:** Any non-qualifying model will qualify for a **Show-and-Tell** program where anyone attending the meeting can present any RC hobby-related topic or activity.

### Model Criteria

1. **Model Must Be Airworthy:** It must be capable of flight. It must have been successfully flown at the SPARKS Field prior to being presented. Video of the flight or eye-witness accounts should be presented.
2. **New Entries Only:** The model must not have been entered in a previous Model of the Month contest at our club.
3. **One Entry Per Member Per Month:** To keep competition fair and manageable only one model per member can be entered.



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4. **Presentation Format:** Participants are asked to give a brief (2–5 minute) presentation about their model.

### Judging & Voting

1. **Voting by Club Members:** Each attending club member may vote by secret ballot or a show of hands.
2. **Judging Criteria (for reference):**
  - Craftsmanship
  - Innovation or uniqueness
  - Finish/paint/detailing
  - Engineering or complexity
  - Programming
  - Presentation
3. **Tie-Breaking:** In the event of a tie, the Club President (or contest coordinator) casts the deciding vote.

### Awards & Recognition

1. **Recognition:** The winner shall receive either a gift certificate, ribbon, small prize, or public acknowledgment (newsletter, website, etc.).
2. **Model of the Year:** Monthly winners may automatically qualify for a “Model of the Year” competition at the end of the year.

### Optional Rules

- **Categories:** If the club has enough participation, categories (e.g., scale, sport, electric, rotor-wing, vintage, etc.) shall be considered at the president’s or contest director’s discretion.