

# **WESTERN MONTANA TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

This organization shall be known as the  
**WESTERN MONTANA TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION**  
hereafter referred to as WMTRA.

### **ARTICLE II-ADDRESS**

P.O. BOX 16312, Missoula, Montana 59808

### **ARTICLE III - MISSION STATEMENT**

The intent, purpose and desire of this organization is: to introduce families and individuals to OHV recreation, to promote good safety practices and proper trail etiquette at all times, to encourage individual involvement in our club, to keep club members up to date on OHV issues, laws, current events and upcoming activities, to advance the public's awareness and understanding of OHV recreation, to promote and defend our rights, as citizens, to access our-public lands.

### **ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1. APPLICATION FOR Membership**

Any individual, family or business may apply for membership by completing an application form available from WMTRA and returning it with the applicable dues.

#### **SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP TYPES**

- A.** Individual - one person.
- B.** Family- a couple, a couple with children under 18, an individual with children under 18.
- C.** Business - a commercial enterprise.
- D.** Honorary - a non-voting membership granted exclusively by the Executive Board.

### **SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP DEFINITIONS**

- A.** Regular Membership shall be open to those who have paid their annual dues and, in good conscience, agree with the mission statement of WMTRA. Regular memberships are classified as either Individual or Family.
- B.** Business Membership shall be open to commercial enterprises that have paid annual dues and, in good conscience, are in agreement with the mission statement of WMTRA.
- C.** An Honorary Membership may be awarded, at the discretion of the Executive Board, to certain individuals, families, businesses and non-profit organizations which support, promote or otherwise maintain a vested interest in OHV recreation. An honorary member shall receive the same benefits as a regular membership **except** they shall not have the right to vote. (See Article IV, Section 6, Paragraph D).

WMTRA shall retain the right to refuse or deny any regular or business membership by a majority vote of all members present at any regular club meeting. Should WMTRA vote to refuse or deny a membership, all dues paid shall be refunded to the applicant.

### **SECTION 4. TERM OF MEMBERSHIP**

The term of Membership shall be one (1) year, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st.

### **SECTION 5. Membership DUES**

Dues for each membership type shall be established by a majority vote of the members present at any regular club meeting. Dues may be changed independently of, and without modification to, the WMTRA by-laws. Current membership dues shall be listed on the WMTRA membership application form.

### **SECTION 6. MEMBERSHIP VOTING RIGHTS**

WMTRA members shall have the right to vote on various items and issues presented by the Executive Board during general club meetings as follows:

- A.** Individual memberships, with dues paid in full, shall have one vote.
- B.** Family memberships, with dues paid in full, shall have two votes, one vote each from two different adult family members.
- C.** Business memberships, with dues paid in full, shall have two votes, one vote each from two different adult members of the same business.
- D.** Honorary memberships shall have no voting rights.

### **SECTION 7. MEMBER RIGHTS, DUTIES AND LIMITATIONS**

- A.** Without prior authorization by the Executive Board, no member shall have the right, duty or obligation to represent the official position of WMTRA.
- B.** When authorized by the Executive Board, members may present statements or documentation representing the official position of WMTRA, providing that such statements or documentation are consistent with the official position of WMTRA.

- C. Members are allowed and encouraged to present their individual points of view on any OHV-related issues. Members shall not, however, presume that membership alone grants them authority to represent those views on behalf of WMTRA.

## **SECTION 8. MEMBER REMOVAL OR RESIGNATION**

- A. Any member of WMTRA may be removed or expelled from membership by a majority vote of the members present at a regular club meeting. No member shall be removed or expelled, however, until said member has been given a written statement explaining the reasons for the proposed expulsion. Such member must also be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing before the WMTRA Executive Board to rebut the reasons presented for the expulsion.

*Reasons for expulsion could include, but are not limited to: (1) unsafe or reckless OHV use; (2) excessive alcohol use contributing to unsafe OHV use, disorderly conduct and/or disruption of club meetings or events; (3) violating local, state and federal laws which regulate or restrict OHV use while operating an OHV during club rides and events.*

- B. A member may resign their membership at any time by filing a notice of resignation with the club Secretary. If a member resigns, their membership dues shall not be refunded, either in full or on a prorated basis.
- C. Membership in this Club shall be neither transferable nor assignable.

## **ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **SECTION 1. COMPOSITION**

The government of this organization shall be vested in the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Board Members. These 4 officers and 3 board members shall constitute the Executive Board.

### **SECTION 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- A. The election of officers and board members shall be at the November meeting of the general membership.
- B. Candidates may either be submitted by the Executive Board or solicited from the floor of the October meeting. Ballots will be sent to requesting members only who are in good standing, Ballots will be sent within a week of the October meeting, by the Secretary. Members will be able to either mail in their ballots to the WMTRA PO Box or bring them to the November General Meeting. Each ballot will be numbered to make sure there are no copies made.
- C. All candidates shall be existing members in good standing.
- D. Each candidate shall have the right to accept or decline his or her nomination at the October meeting the ballots will then be finalized and emailed.
- E. Newly elected officers and board members shall assume office immediately following the conclusion of the meeting in which they were elected.

### **SECTION 3. TERM OF OFFICE**

The term for each officer and Board Member shall be one year. There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms officers and Board Members may serve.

## **SECTION 4. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- A.** The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the club. He/she shall preside at all club meetings, enforce all club by-laws, and represent the organization with respect to all club activities.
- B.** The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of, or the incapacity of the President. The Vice-President shall automatically become President of the club upon resignation, removal or death of the President. Should the Vice-President become President under such circumstances, a new Vice-President shall be elected to fill the vacancy at the next regular club meeting.
- C.** The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies allocated to the club and shall supervise the disbursement of all funds subject to the direction and approval of the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of membership dues and for the distribution of membership cards to all paid members. Should WMTRA choose to dissolve, the Treasurer shall assume the following additional duties: **(1)** he/she shall be responsible for the liquidation of all club assets, **(2)** he/she shall be responsible for satisfying all outstanding club debt with club funds, and **(3)** he/she shall be responsible for the distribution and disposal of all club assets in accordance with Article VI, Section 1 below.
- D.** The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all activities of the club. By direction of the Executive Board, the Secretary shall issue notices of all club meetings, shall be responsible for all official club correspondence, shall prepare and keep a listing of all officers, committee chairs and members, and shall be responsible for all club records including documents of incorporation, by-laws and minutes.
- E.** Board Members shall attend all meetings and perform the duties of the Treasurer or Secretary in their absence. Board Members shall also perform essential club activities, including promotion of the club through communication with local ATV dealers, the local community, the local media and other OHV clubs in the area.
- F.** Executive vacancies which occur due to illness, death or other incapacity to perform leadership duties shall be filled through special election by members present at the next scheduled club meeting following the vacancy. One Exception: Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice-President shall become President as noted above in Article V, Section 4, Paragraph B. Replacement officers shall complete the remaining term of office until the next regular election is held.

## **ARTICLE VI- STANDING RULES**

### **SECTION 1. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

- A.** Upon dissolution of WMTRA, any remaining club assets, after payment of all club debt, shall be distributed to other non-profit organizations having a mission, purpose or goal similar to that of WMTRA.
- B.** Under no circumstances shall any club money or assets be distributed, dispersed or otherwise given to any officer, board member or other club member(s) when the club is dissolved.
- C.** Dissolution and distribution of club assets will be determined by a majority vote of all members present at the final meeting of WMTRA.

### **SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

- A.** A quorum must be established at the beginning of each regular club meeting to vote on any new items. These items would include, but are not limited to, election of officers, changes to club by-laws, member removal and major club purchases.

- B. Fifteen percent of the total eligible membership must be present at any club meeting to establish a quorum.
- C. Eligible membership means all members in good standing with dues paid in full.
- D. If a quorum cannot be established, the vote shall be postponed until a quorum can be established.

### **SECTION 3. VOTING OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

- A. WMTRA members may vote on general items during any scheduled meeting as long as a quorum has been established.
- B. Voting shall be accomplished by one of three methods as selected by the President:  
(1) a showing of hands, (2) a voice vote (those in favor/those opposed) or (3) a written ballot.
- C. Passage of items submitted to the voting body shall be determined by a simple majority vote.

### **SECTION 4. CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Club meetings shall be held monthly. They shall begin in March and run through November of each year. Meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month.

**The order of business for monthly meetings shall be as follows:**

- A. Calling of the meeting to order
- B. Determination and establishment of a quorum
- C. Reading of the minutes from the last meeting
- D. Reports of officers
- E. Reports of committees
- F. Unfinished business
- G. New business
- H. Announcements
- I. Adjournment

### **SECTION 5. AMENDING THE BY-LAWS**

The by-laws of WMTRA may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at either the March or April meetings only. Once voted upon, the amended item(s) shall not be amended or voted upon again until the following year.