

# BYLAWS of the New Paltz Rod & Gun Club

<http://www.newpaltzrodandgun.org>

## 1. NAME

1. This organization shall be named and known as the NEW PALTZ ROD AND GUN CLUB, INC.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

1. The Club's objectives are to conserve and protect the fish and game of the country, to advocate the making, and to observe, and to insist upon the enforcement of reasonable laws and regulations therefore; to oppose the enactment and secure the real of measures antagonistic thereto; to publish and distribute among its members information relative to the matters embraced by its objectives that may be of common interest; generally to encourage the spirit of true sportsmanship and to secure for the sportsman and sportswomen the rights and privileges to which they should be entitled, as well as to insist upon the performance of duties imposed upon them, not only by law, but by the ethics of the sport; to cooperate with the farmer and landowner, help him in protecting his rights and property against the unscrupulous hunter, and to individually and collectively incorporate with any persons or organizations to accomplish these ends.

## 3. OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Club shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and six (6) Directors, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting (in September) for a term of one year, except the Directors, who shall be elected, two, each year for a term of three years.
2. All Officers and Directors should attend at least six (6) of the ten regular meetings per year, and all special meetings called by the President or the Board of Directors, or by members of the Club. Any Director who misses three(3) Board of Directors meetings in a year shall forfeit their position. Exceptions to the above article are sickness or emergency.
3. No member shall be eligible to hold office in the Club unless a probationary period has been fulfilled.
4. The President shall be the executive head of the Club. He (or she) shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered by vote of the Club, and appoint the Chairpersons of the various committees. The Chairpersons of the respective shall select their own members of such committees. The President shall be Ex-Officio member of all committees. The President, with the consent of the Board of Directors, shall be empowered to fill any vacancies which occur through the loss or resignation of an officer or director. In the event of a tied vote by the Board of Directors, the president shall cast the deciding vote.
5. The First Vice President and in turn, the Second Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence or at his/her request.
6. The Secretary shall keep the records of the meetings and conduct all correspondence of the Club, call all meetings and perform other duties at the request of the President.
7. The Financial Secretary shall keep the records of the accounts between the Club and its members, send out statements of arrears after the August and September meetings, pay all moneys to the Treasurer, receiving a receipt for the same and be ready to render a report at any time.
8. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys from dues, assessments and revenues collected from fund raising activities. The Treasurer shall pay all bills when approved by the Directors and by the membership at the regular monthly meeting, following the receipt of the bill and submit a report of same.
9. The Board of Directors shall consist of six (6) elected members who shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Club and perform the duties usually assigned such a body. The Directors shall have full charge of all Club property and shall grant permission for the use of such property so long as such use falls within the written guidelines contained in sections of Article Four.
10. The Auditing Committee shall consist of any three (3) duly appointed Directors or Officers, and shall conduct an annual audit of the records and accounts of the Club after the close of the calendar year and present a report to the membership following the completion of the audit at the March meeting
11. The Directors, Officers, or Committees of the Club who hold meetings shall disclose fully the text of said meetings. This report shall be read to the membership at the next regular meeting of the Club. Any changes to buildings, property, expenditures of moneys, or policy changes shall be in effect only after a confirming vote by the membership at the next general meeting. Exceptions will be made in the event of emergencies.
12. All check disbursements shall require two (2) signatures. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for naming and maintaining a list of authorized signatories, which will minimally consist of the President, First Vice President, and Treasurer.
13. The fiscal year for the club shall coincide with the calendar year.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership Committee shall prepare membership application forms, which will require a candidate for admission into the Club to furnish detailed information about him/herself and his/her reasons for wishing to join the Club.
  - a. Such applications are to be reviewed and investigated by the Membership Committee before being voted upon at an open meeting of the Club.
  - b. The Membership Committee shall make recommendations on individual applications at an open meeting of the Club not later than one month after the meeting at which the application is submitted.
  - c. Membership applications can be presented by the Committee to the Club during any open meeting, potential members paying full initiation and prorated dues based on the nearest half year.
  - d. Upon receiving a supporting majority vote of the members present at the meeting and paying full initiation and prorated dues, the Applicant becomes a Probationary Member.
2. The sponsor of an individual applying for sponsored membership shall meet the following criteria:
  - a. The sponsor shall be present at the meeting when the application is submitted.
  - b. A completed application must be signed by the sponsor and presented to the Club.
  - c. The initiation fee and annual dues must be paid at the time of application.
  - d. Should any of these conditions not be met, the application will be rejected and reconsidered at the next monthly meeting. All moneys will be returned to an applicant upon rejection.
  - e. A person seeking membership in the Club who cannot find the appropriate sponsors may apply for Non sponsored

# BYLAWS of the New Paltz Rod & Gun Club

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Probationary Membership. Upon submission of a completed Non sponsored Probationary Membership Application form and the payment of the annual dues and initiation fee, the applicant may be accepted at the Club's discretion.

3. A Resident Member shall be defined as a person making his/her permanent, legal residence in Ulster County, with voting privileges in Ulster County. The provision applies to and is retroactive for all Ulster County residents taken into the Club after February 12, 1969.
  - a. Any resident member who is inducted or volunteers for service in any branch of the Armed Forces for a period greater than one year shall have his/her membership continued with full privileges without being required to pay annual dues, attend meetings, or perform work hours while in service. If Honorable Discharge or Medical Discharge is on or after July 1, dues shall be considered automatically paid for the remainder of the year. Membership will be automatically terminated if discharge is dishonorable.
4. A nonresident may apply for membership in the Club on a nonresident application form, which shall include the following provisions:
  - a. Nonresident applicants shall be 16 years of age or older.
  - b. A nonresident applicant must be known personally, recommended and unequivocally endorsed by regular member in good standing. Said regular member may endorse or sponsor one and only one nonresident applicant each 12 months. Both the nonresident member and his/her sponsor shall be liable together under Article Four, Section 7.
5. Junior Members shall be defined as those of New York State legal age to carry firearms (12 years of age).
  - a. They may not sponsor members or have the privilege of voting at meetings.
  - b. Junior members must be accompanied by a responsible adult member of the Club when on Club grounds.
  - c. Junior members shall become Senior Members on their 16th birthday.
6. All landowners with ten or more posted acres are entitled to free membership with full privileges. They may grant hunting and fishing privileges to their friends on their own land. Such guests shall carry a written permission permit signed by the property owner on whose land he/she is hunting or fishing. Any landowner whose lands are removed from the posted property of the Club voluntarily or because of insufficient acreage may have his membership continued by paying regular member dues from and for the year of discontinuance as a landowner without paying the initiation fee.
7. Any member violating the laws of this Club or the principles of good sportsmanship shall be brought before a meeting and if found guilty by a two-thirds vote of members present at that meeting, he/she may be expelled. Such person must be notified by mail of the complaint. If the person fails to appear without good reason, it is presumed he is guilty and may be expelled from the Club.
8. Each Senior member must attend a minimum of five (5) monthly meetings within the Club year. The Board of Directors may waive this requirement for exceptional personal circumstances upon receipt of a detailed written request. Membership will not be renewed if this requirement is not met.
9. If a member's dues are paid, that member's spouse will be accepted and allowed to participate in Club activities. Spouses may not exercise voting privileges.
10. A junior relative of a member in good standing will be automatically accepted as Junior Member upon submission of an application, initiation fee and annual dues. If that relative is not a child of the member, written permission from a parent or legal guardian is required.
11. The membership shall be limited to 200 members, not counting Junior Members. Junior Members who reach the age to become Senior Members shall be allowed to do so regardless of the membership count. The membership chair shall maintain a waitlist of prospective members to be admitted on a first come, first served basis as slots are available.
12. All new members shall be considered on a form of probation beginning with their date of acceptance.
  - a. Resident members shall have a one year probationary period. They may not vote, act as a sponsor, or hold office.
  - b. Non-resident members shall have a five year probationary period, or 1 year for a member who is 65 years or older. They may not vote, act as a sponsor, or hold office. They shall have no guest privileges, nor sponsor a guest in the field.
  - c. During the probationary period, the member must attend a minimum of five (5) monthly meetings each probationary year and must complete the work hours as outlined in article 16. Probationary members do not have the option of paying for unfulfilled work hours. This clause is effective for members joining after the September 2016 club meeting.
  - d. After satisfactory completion of the probationary period, and upon receiving a supporting majority vote of those members present at the meeting, the probationary member becomes a full member with all rights and privileges, and will have their membership automatically renewed upon timely payment of normal dues, fees and assessments. If the probationary requirements above are not satisfied, or the majority of Club members vote against the probationary member, that person's association with the Club is immediately terminated..
13. Spouses of members in good standing shall be accepted into the Club the same night their application is submitted and will not be required to pay the initiation fee.
14. Any member with 25 years membership in the Club, who reaches 60 years of age; or 15 years of membership who reaches 70 years of age; or 40 years of membership; can be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration to become a Life member. Life membership means the member has contributed significantly to the Club and will automatically have his or her membership renewed with no requirement for dues or work hours.
15. All members are required to be members of the National Rifle Association (NRA). Members will show their NRA ID card prior to payment of dues or assessments.
16. Unless otherwise stated in these By-laws, senior members are required to perform 20 work hours per year.
  - a. Attendance at each monthly meeting counts as 1 hour, up to a maximum of 10, towards that requirement.
  - b. This requirement is prorated when joining midyear.
  - c. The Board may waive this requirement on an individual basis.
  - d. All Club Officers and Directors shall have their work hour requirement waived while in office.
17. Unless otherwise stated in these By-laws, members may host not more than two guests, family members notwithstanding, at any one shooting event. Members may not host the same guest more than 3 times per year..

# BYLAWS of the New Paltz Rod & Gun Club

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## 5. DUES & ASSESSMENTS

1. Annual dues are due and payable at the regular August meeting. Dues not paid at the August meeting shall be considered in arrears.
  - a. Upon payment of dues to the Financial Secretary, the member shall be issued an annual, numbered button and membership card. Land posted by the Club may not be entered upon without a current annual button prominently displayed. Upon request, all members shall present their membership button or card when using any club facilities.
  - b. All members with dues in arrears after the regular August meeting shall have the privilege of membership with re-application until the regular October meeting. Penalty for arrears payments shall be as follows:
    - i. If paid in full by the September meeting, ten percent (10%) of the annual dues
    - ii. if paid in full by the October meeting twenty percent (20%) of the annual dues.
  - c. All persons with dues in arrears after the October meeting shall automatically be dismissed from membership. Reinstatement to membership can be accomplished only after satisfactory explanation to the membership of extenuating circumstances.
2. The annual dues for Senior Members shall be \$100.00 per year, effective August 1, 2005. Annual dues for Junior Members shall be \$5.00 per year, effective August 1, 2003. The dues are prorated when joining midyear.
3. The initiation fee shall equal the annual dues.
4. Any member who does not fulfill their work hour requirement will be billed \$10 per hour along with their dues statement.
5. Any prior member who left the Club in good standing may be resubmitted to membership without payment of the initiation fee.

## 6. MEETINGS

1. The Annual Meeting shall be the April meeting. Regular meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month. All regular meetings will start promptly at 7:30 PM.
2. Special meetings may be called by the President or by five (5) members by giving three-days notice of said meeting.
3. Meetings shall be conducted according to the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure as defined in Robert's Rules of Order.

## 7. COMMITTEES

1. The Committees shall consist of: Traps, Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Posting, Entertainment, Membership, House and Grounds, Fish and Game, Publicity, Game Preserve and such other committees as the Club may authorize.
2. The restocking Committee's duties shall be to secure fish and game, restock the streams and fields in the Club's vicinity and upon territory selected by them in cooperation with the Posting Committee.
3. The Posting Committee's duties shall be to cooperate with farmers and landowners to secure their permission to post the lands selected by them to the end that the farmer may be protected against unscrupulous hunters, and that Club members may enjoy the privileges of hunting and/or fishing in the territory so posted.
4. The Entertainment Committee's duties shall be to furnish entertainment and refreshments at such times as the Club may decide. This committee is to be appointed by the President at each meeting for the succeeding meeting.
5. The Membership Committee's duties shall be to pass on all applications for membership in the Club. All applications must be acted upon by this committee, which will report a favorable or an unfavorable assessment of each applicant. The Club membership may then vote on whether or not to accept an applicant.
6. The Board of Directors shall appoint a by-law chairperson or shall act as the by-law Committee itself.

## 8. RESIGNATION

1. A member may resign at any meeting if all dues and assessments are paid in full.

## 9. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The order of business shall be:
  - a. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting, including the minutes of any Board of Director's meetings that have been held since the last monthly meeting.
  - b. Treasurer's reports
  - c. Reports of committees
  - d. Amendments
  - e. Election of officers
  - f. Unfinished business
  - g. New Business
  - h. Good and welfare of the Club and sport.
  - i. Adjournment
2. Ten members shall constitute a quorum.

## 10. AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments to the by-laws shall be made to the by-law Committee by the membership in writing at or prior to the June meeting. The Committee will review, simplify and/or consolidate similar proposals with the approval of the person who made the proposal.
2. A draft of the proposed by-law changes will be presented to the Board at the July meeting and the membership at the August meeting, where suggestions and feedback will be collected. The by-law Committee will compile this feedback and work with the amendment authors to incorporate it into the proposals.
3. The final amendments will be voted upon at the September meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present is required for passage of any amendment to the by-laws.
4. The proposed amendments must be made available on the club website two weeks prior to the September meeting, and provided on request.
5. Emergency amendments may be made at any time with the approval of the Directors and must be made available on the club website immediately and announced at the next club meeting.

## 11. MEMORIALS

# BYLAWS of the New Paltz Rod & Gun Club

<http://www.newpaltzrodandgun.org>

1. Any member who deceases while on the active membership roll shall have his name mounted upon the Club's Memorial Plaque.