Sonora Desert Scouts

Club formed 4/1993

Club incorporated 7/95

By-Laws enacted 7/98

By Laws – Last Revision July 3, 1998

By Laws – Last Revision March 1, 2012

Article I – Name of Organization

* 1. This organization shall be known as Sonora Desert Scouts Inc.

Article II – Objectives

2.1 Sonora Desert Scouts Inc shall be a non-profit 4WD club for International Harvester enthusiasts.

2.2 Provide recreational 4-wheel drive activities for club members

2.3 Provide a forum for a social and technical interchange of ideas and information related to off-road vehicles.

2.4 Promote organized 4-wheeling.

2.5 Promote responsible off-road activities and sensible use of natural resources.

2.6 Minimize the impact of off-road activities on the environment and utilize existing trails.

2.7 Maintain off-road access to public lands with established trails and oppose restriction or closing of existing trails, roads or other 4WD areas.

Article III – Membership Quota

3.1 The total membership of the organization shall be maintained at a level such that it does not conflict with the stated objectives as listed in the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation. A maximum number of members may be set by the Board of Directors.

Article IV – Club Dues

4.1 Full membership: Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. A full membership includes newsletter, meetings, trail rides and other social events.

4.2 Out of State membership: Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. An Out of State membership includes the same benefits as a Full membership

4.3 Corporate Membership: Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. Same membership benefits as a full membership, and includes an ad for the business in the newsletter’s classified section.

4.4 Life Member: Annual dues shall be $0.00. After fifteen (15) years of continuous membership, a Life Membership shall be awarded. The Life Members must remain active and meet the membership requirements. Such members so designated and continuing to qualify each successive year shall be club dues free. Life Members shall be responsible for any additional assessments made to all active members.

4.5 Officers: Annual dues shall be $0.00 for the duration of an officer’s term in an office.

4.6 Dues shall be payable by January 31st of each calendar year. Newsletter delivery will be temporarily halted when dues are 1 month delinquent and will only be restated after dues are received.

4.7 Paragraph unintentionally omitted.

4.8 Membership rates may be pro-rated for new members, however the new member shall not be eligible to vote in any club matters if paying a pro-rated membership fee. New members may choose to pay a full membership fee to gain voting benefits.

4.9 Any current member responsible for recruiting a new member shall be eligible for a $5 discount on the following year’s dues, maximum of one discount per year.

Article V – Fiscal Year

5.1 The fiscal year of this organization shall be from January 1 to December 31.

5.2 A yearly accounting report of the club’s bank account shall be made available to the membership upon completion of each fiscal year.

Article VI – Officers

6.1 The officers of the organization shall be those listed below and shall be known as the Board of Directors and pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation of this organization shall consist of no less than three (3) and no more than five (5).

6.1.1 President

6.1.2 Vice President

6.1.3 Secretary/Treasurer

6.1.4 Newsletter Editor

6.1.5 Webmaster

6.2 The term of office for the Board of Directors shall be from January 1 to December 31.

6.3 In the event an elective office becomes vacant, a special election may be held at the next General Meeting. Elections shall be consistent with the applicable election procedures in Article VIII.

Article VII – Duties of Officers

7.1 President: Shall preside over all General Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings, and shall uphold these By-Laws including all other policies and regulations adopted with the membership approval.

7.1.1 The President may call a Board of Directors meeting as deemed necessary to resolve essential club business that cannot be postponed to the following General Meeting due to urgent circumstances. The call for a Board of Directors Meeting is mandatory when in accordance with Article XVII.

7.2 Vice President: Shall serve in the capacity of President in the event that the President is absent from any scheduled club activity. The Vice President shall serve as Parliamentarian, Committee Coordinator and Program Chairperson. The Vice President shall serve as a Co-Moderator of the club’s website, in addition to the Newsletter Editor.

7.3 Secretary/Treasurer: Shall record the minutes at all General Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings. Shall maintain a General Meeting Attendance Record. Shall be responsible for all monies from all sources and shall maintain records for all receipts and expenditures. Shall be responsible for filing the Corporate Annual Report and certificate of disclosure.

7.4 Newsletter Editor: Shall compile, edit and assemble articles and news for publication in the club newsletter. The Newsletter Editor shall publish a current membership roster on a yearly basis, and make this roster available to the membership. The Newsletter Editor shall serve as a Co-Moderator of the club’s website, in addition to the Vice President.

7.5 Webmaster: Shall create, maintain and update the club’s website at the domain owned by the club which is known as www.sonoradesertscouts.com and/or any other electronic domain owned by the club. The Webmaster shall create, maintain and update any other future websites and/or social media that the club may acquire in the future. The Webmaster shall coordinate with the Newsletter Editor and Vice President to ensure that content of the website(s), social media site(s) and forum(s) are unbiased, presented in a timely manner and benefit the club.

Article VIII – Election of Officers

8.1 Nominations shall be opened at the October General Meeting.

8.1.1 Nominations shall be made by Members in Good Standing.

8.1.2 Nominees must be Members in Good Standing.

8.2 Elections shall be conducted at the November General Meeting.

8.2.2 Only Members in Good Standing are eligible to vote.

8.3 A Voting Committee shall be convened at the October General Meeting. The Voting Committee will consist of the last President in Good Standing and not currently serving on the Board of Directors, or in the absence of the last President any other previous Board member in Good Standing and not currently serving on the Board of Directors in order of hierarchy, and no less than two (2) other members in Good Standing. Nominees are not eligible to and will not serve on the Voting Committee.

8.3.1 The Voting Committee shall create ballots to reflect the nominations made and shall mail one ballot to each Member in Good Standing, with a self-address and stamped return envelope, no later than fifteen (15) days after the October General Meeting.

8.3.2 The Voting Committee shall be responsible for collecting all ballots returned by mail.

8.3.2.1 Ballots must be received by the Voting Committee no later than the day of the November General Meeting. Ballots received after this date will not be counted.

8.3.3 The Voting Committee shall be responsible for organizing the live voting at the November General Meeting.

8.4 Voting for each elective office shall be by secret written ballot and in separate successive sequence as listed in Article VII. Each member in good standing has equal rights and one vote per membership.

8.5 The count of the ballots shall be the duty of the Voting Committee.

8.6 In the event of three (3) or more candidates, and a majority vote not be attained, the two (2) candidates with the majority of the votes will be retained and a re-vote shall be conducted on these remaining nominees until a final singular majority vote is acquired. The re-vote will be done immediately at the November General Meeting.

8.7 Proxy voting, to be defined as a member casting a vote on behalf of another member, is prohibited and will not be accepted.

Article IX – General Meetings

9.1 General Meetings shall be scheduled each calendar month at such time and place as designated by the membership during the previous meeting.

9.2 The Membership shall be informed of the time and place at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting, if the meeting time or place is different from the previous month.

9.3 Meetings shall be conducted on an informal basis.

9.4 Unless otherwise specified herein, a deciding vote shall be a majority of votes cast by the attending membership at a General Meeting.

9.5 The voting power and the rights and interests of all members shall be equal. Each membership shall be entitled to one vote on any and all questions coming before the members.

Article X – Finance

10.1 All monetary transactions shall be via a checking account established at a local bank, approved by the Board of Directors, in the name of Sonora Desert Scouts Inc. The Treasurer’s signature shall validate all checks, except in the Treasurer’s absence, the President’s signature shall be valid.

10.2 An expenditure or check exceeding two hundred dollars ($200.00) shall require the approval of the membership. Only Committee Chairpersons and the Board of Directors shall be exempt from restrictions on expenditures of higher amounts with itemized bills.

10.3 Each check shall show the purpose of the expenditure in legible detail or shall have an itemized statement attached.

10.4 Regularly scheduled charges, for such administrative matters as domain registration, registration charges and annual fees, may be paid by direct debit to the checking account.

10.5 An Audit Committee, consisting of a chairperson and two members, shall be appointed by the President at the December General Meeting. The Committee, upon a satisfactory audit of the treasury records, shall appropriately endorse the records and present them to the newly elected Treasurer. The past Treasurer and the newly elected Treasurer shall attend the Audit Committee Meeting.

Article XI – Newsletter

11.1 The Club Newsletter shall be named: Sonora Desert Scouting News

11.2 The newsletter shall be published monthly.

11.3 Each member may elect to receive the newsletter via email or via regular mail.

Article XII – Website

12.1 The Club Website domain name shall be www.sonoradesertscouts.com.

12.2 The website shall be maintained by a collective consisting of the Vice President, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

12.3 Content of the website shall be the property of Sonora Desert Scouts Inc, with the exception that any rights to individuals’ contributions shall not be infringed.

12.4 Members’ privacy rights shall be observed within the website’s content.

12.5 No personal information, with the exception of a member’s name, shall be published on the website.

12.6 Any and all passwords required for the administration of the website shall be changed at least once a year and whenever a new Vice President, Newsletter Editor or Webmaster is appointed.

12.7 The passwords will be kept by the Vice President, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster only.

Article XIII – Committees

13.1 Standing committees shall be established as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. All committees shall consist at a minimum of a chairperson. The chairperson shall designate additional committee members as required. The following committee examples are suggested but not required.

13.1.1 ASA Committee: Shall represent Sonora Desert Scouts Inc at all ASA4WDC Meetings and report back to the general membership.

13.1.2 Conservation Committee: Shall be the liaison with Local, County, State and Federal authorities and groups associated with land use and/or land management.

13.1.3 Membership Committee: The Membership Chairman shall be responsible for maintaining and distributing “Prospective” or “New Member” packets. The Membership Committee shall be responsible for contacting delinquent members for the purpose of bringing dues up to date.

13.1.4 Program Committee: Shall be responsible, under the direction of the Vice President, for coordination and oversight of all activities endorsed by the club, with the exception of trail runs and Rendezvous.

13.1.5 Safety Committee: Shall be responsible for Safety Reports and Safety Tips at general meetings and periodic Vehicle Safety Checks during the year.

13.1.6 Rendezvous Committee: Shall be responsible for planning and executing the yearly Arizona IH Rendezvous event.

13.1.7 Audit Committee: Shall be responsible for auditing the checking account and reporting information on same to the membership.

13.2 The President at a General Meeting shall appoint Committee Chairpersons. Preference shall be given to volunteering members.

13.3 Committee Chairpersons may enlist any member(s) to serve on the committee.

13.4 Committee Chairpersons shall coordinate with the Vice-President to keep the Board of Directors current on their committee.

13.5 The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, and therefore shall be advised by the Committee Chairpersons of scheduled meetings.

Article XIV - Membership Responsibilities

14.1 Members shall conduct themselves in a safe, respectable and orderly manner when participating in club activities. Members shall comply with all State, Federal and local laws.

Article XV – Membership Prerequisites

15.1 An applicant for membership shall meet the following requirements prior to membership acceptance and shall maintain the requirements of the following Paragraphs for the duration of their membership:

15.2 Legally possess an International Harvester vehicle.

15.2.1 Exception to Paragraph 15.2 may be allowed if the current member no longer possesses an International Harvester vehicle due to age, disability, hardship and/or accident.

15.3 Possess a valid driver’s license, if applicable.

15.4 Possess the minimum vehicle insurance and registration as required by Arizona State Law, if applicable.

15.5 Possess all applicable licenses and/or permits required for off-road vehicles, if applicable.

15.6 Be a real person of at least eighteen (18) years of age.

15.7 In accepting membership into Sonora Desert Scouts Inc, the member and/or applicant agrees for himself/herself, his/her heirs, executors, administrators, relatives and guests to hold the club, as well as all members and officers, free and blameless for, or on account of, any damage to property or injuries to persons which may be claimed by any person or persons whomsoever, by reasons of participation in any club activity.

15.8 In accepting membership into Sonora Desert Scouts Inc, the member and/or applicant agrees to accept and abide by these By Laws in whole.

15.9 Sonora Desert Scouts Inc. reserves the right to refuse membership to any person(s), within compliance with any Federal laws concerning protected classes.

15.10 The Board of Directors shall revoke any membership found to be fraudulent or fictitious.

Article XVI – Activities

16.1 All club activities shall be approved by the Membership.

16.2 In the event that a proposed activity requires a decision of the membership prior to the following General Meeting, the Board of Directors may poll the membership on an individual basis via email, telephone or regular mail. A majority of the membership will be required to approve an activity in this manner.

Article XVII – Membership Termination

17.1 A member who elects to resign from Sonora Desert Scouts Inc shall submit a written Notice of Resignation to the President or Membership Committee. No refund of dues will be made.

17.2 Any member who has a membership terminated, under Article XVII or for any other reason, shall not receive a refund of dues.

17.3 A past member shall remove, or permanently obscure, any Sonora Desert Scouts Inc insignia on his or her vehicle.

Article XVIII – Grievances

18.1 A grievance shall be submitted, in writing, to a member of the Board of Directors.

18.2 A Board of Directors Meeting shall be called by the President to review the facts and determine the appropriate action.

18.3 The accused may speak in defense of the grievance.

18.4 If a grievance is considered irreconcilable by the Board of Directors, it shall be placed on the following General Meeting agenda. Such notification shall be published in the club newsletter prior to the General Meeting.

18.5 Any action to be taken regarding a grievance requires a majority vote of the attending membership at a General Meeting.

18.6 A majority vote, by secret ballot of the attending membership, shall decide membership status of the accused, who shall be advised of the impending action prior to the General Meeting.

Article XVIV – By-Law Amendments

19.1 Amendments to these By-Laws shall be proposed by a member at a General Meeting or to the Board of Directors via email or regular mail. If the proposal is received by a member of the Board of Directors via email or regular mail, it will be publically announced at the next General Meeting by that board member on behalf of the member submitting the proposal.

19.2 A member shall present a proposed Amendment in a manner to first define the need and purpose, then to specify the Articles (and Paragraphs) affected. The Amendment Proposal shall then, without debate, be submitted to membership vote. A majority vote of attending members shall be required to support further action on the Proposal. An affirmative vote on the Proposal does not instrument a By-Law Amendment. Instead, an affirmative vote will place the Proposal in committee for action stated below.

19.3 A By-Law Amendment Committee shall be established upon conclusion of the procedures in Paragraph 18.2. The Committee shall consist of the Vice President as Chairperson, the member submitting the Amendment Proposal and no less than two (2) other members.

19.4 The duties of the By-Laws Amendment Committee shall be to study, investigate and clarify details involved in the Proposal. They shall conclude their efforts with a precisely written proposed Amendment for presentation at the following General Meeting. The proposed Amendment shall appear in the Club Newsletter published prior to the General Meeting when the deciding vote will be scheduled.

19.5 The member submitting the proposed Amendment, or the board member standing in the submitting member’s place, shall be present to place the business “on the floor” via a “motion”. A “second” is required. Debate by the membership will be in order.

19.6 The By-Laws Amendment Committee shall create a ballot to approve or deny the Amendment Proposal. One ballot shall be mailed to each Member in Good Standing, with a self-addressed and stamped return envelope, no later than fifteen (15) days after the General Meeting in which the Amendment Proposal was presented. Each Member in Good Standing has equal rights and one vote per membership.

19.7. The By-Laws Amendment Committee shall be responsible for collecting all ballots returned by mail. Ballots must be received by the By-Laws Amendment Committee no later than the day of the next General Meeting. Ballots received after this date will not be counted.

19.8 The By-Laws Amendment Committee shall be responsible for organizing the voting at the next General Meeting. The count of the ballots shall be the responsibility of the By-Laws Amendment Committee.

19.9 A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership shall be required to approve the Amendment Proposal. The outcome of the voting will be announced by the By-Laws Amendment Committee at the meeting in which the vote and ballots are counted.

Article XX – Emergency Clause

20.1 Exceptions to these By-Laws may be enacted on a temporary basis in the event of an emergency situation or when deemed necessary to best serve the interests of the membership.

20.2 A motion to affect a By-Law shall also specify the exact dates for the period of exception.

20.2.1 An unanimous vote by the attending membership at a General Meeting shall be required to carry such a motion.

Article XXI – Insignia

21.1 The club insignia shall consist of the International Harvester IH symbol (red “I”, black “H”) on a white background. The insignia will contain the club name surrounding the IH, in white letters on a red, circular field.

END OF BY-LAWS