

FRAC Bylaws

Article 1. Name and Objectives

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Flint River Astronomy Club, and it shall operate under no other name.

Section 2. The objectives of the Flint River Astronomy Club are to share among its members in the common interest of astronomy and to provide educational outreach to schools and other interested organizations and groups.

Article 2. Membership

Section 1. Membership is open upon payment of appropriate dues to anyone without regard to age, race, sex, religion or nationality.

Article 3. Officers

Section 1. The elected officers of the Flint River Astronomy Club shall be: President; Vice President; Secretary/Treasurer (or Secretary and Treasurer separately); and three or four members of the Board of Directors. The President shall serve as Board Chair.

Section 2. The duties of these officers shall be to provide, with a joint effort of voluntary or appointed committees, the programs, observing sessions and other activities of the Flint River Astronomy Club, and to report to the club regarding any pertinent information related to club activities or concerns.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall serve in an advisory capacity to the President and, where necessary and feasible, shall meet monthly prior to club meetings to discuss club concerns. The Board shall be empowered to propose or review present and future directions for club activities.

Article 4. Meetings

Section 1. General club meetings (herein referred to as club meetings) shall be held monthly or bimonthly at the president's discretion, with dates, times, locations and sites to be communicated to the members in advance.

Section 2. Observing sessions shall be held at least once a month, weather permitting, with other activities to be scheduled and announced to the members as opportunities arise. In certain cases such as star parties, whether conducted by the Flint River Astronomy Club or other groups, observing dates may be cancelled for a given month or portion thereof.

Article 5. Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be set at a fixed rate per member or per immediate family unit, whichever is applicable. All membership renewals shall be due on February 1st of every year, and members shall have one calendar month from that date to submit their dues payment. (See Sections 3-5 for exceptions.) After March 1st, nonpaying members shall be considered inactive and dropped from the active membership roster until they renew their memberships.

New members' dues shall be prorated for their first year on a bimonthly basis.

Section 2. Changes in annual dues may be effected by majority vote at a club meeting, provided that the members have been notified 30 days or more in advance of any such action or intention. Any sudden or unexpected increases in Astronomical

League dues rates shall supersede all other considerations regarding dues changes.

Section 3. Complimentary memberships in the Flint River Astronomy Club shall be provided to the club's meeting and observing site hosts for as long as they shall grant the club free access to their sites.

Section 4. The President shall have the discretionary power to grant or approve other temporary complimentary full or reduced rate memberships to certain deserving individuals, such memberships to expire one year from issuance unless renewed.

Section 5. At no time shall the complimentary memberships exceed ¼ of the total number of individual and immediate family units.

Article 6. Officer Selection

Section 1. Prior to any general election of officers, a nominating committee consisting of no more than five club members shall be selected to prepare a full slate of officer candidates to present for nomination at the club meeting immediately preceding the election meeting, including deciding whether the Secretary and Treasurer positions shall be separate or combined for that term of office, and whether there shall be three or four Board positions as well. The committee shall, at some time prior to the nomination meeting, verify that their candidates are willing to serve if elected.

Section 2. Officers shall serve one-year terms of office, and they shall be eligible for immediate re-election or to hold any other elected office in any future general officer elections.

Section 3. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote at a club meeting among members present and absentee ballots.

Section 4. In the event that an officer moves away or is otherwise unable to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of his or her office, the next-highest ranking officer shall, if willing, fill that position for the remainder of the vacancy's unexpired term, with other officers who agree to do so advancing as follows: 1. President; 2. Vice President; 3. Secretary (or Secretary/Treasurer); 4. Treasurer (if applicable); and 5. Board members. If the Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer advances, a Board member shall be elected to fill that position and a replacement Board member shall be elected as well, both of them to be elected at a club meeting to fill the unexpired terms of office until the next general election of officers occurs.

Section 5. No officer shall be required to fill a higher unexpired vacancy unless he or she is able and willing to do so. If no officer in the hierarchy fills an unexpired vacancy in the manner described in Section 4, the position shall be filled via election from among other qualified candidates at a club meeting, or else the position shall be considered dissolved until the next general election of officers.

Article 7. Amendments

Section 1. Bylaws may be amended by vote at a club meeting, provided that members have been notified of the intended changes at least 30 days in advance of any such action or intention. Such notification may be accomplished by a formal reading of the proposed amendment(s) at a club meeting; by a separate mailing to all club members; and/or by presentation in written form in the club newsletter.

Section 2. Passing an amendment shall require a majority vote among members present and those voting by absentee ballot.

Article 8. Voting Procedures

Section 1. Memberships in the Flint River Astronomy Club may be either individual or in immediate family units (e.g., husband, wife, sons and/or daughters). Since in either case the annual dues are the same, fairness dictates that, in cases of officer

elections, amendments to the Bylaws or other instances where members are asked to vote at club meetings, family units be limited to one vote per family. *Officers shall vote as individuals in all votes taken in club meetings and board meetings.*

Section 2. Absentee ballots of any kind must be received and presented to the President prior to the time that a vote is taken, and they must appear in written or printed form. Oral votes (e.g., telephone calls) shall not be considered as valid absentee votes. (These amended bylaws were passed unanimously at the FRAC meeting of July 8, 2004.)