

## **Article I**

The name of this organization is “Amarillo Prospectors and Treasure Hunters Association”. (APTHA)

## **Article II**

### **Objectives**

- A. To promote fellowship among all members.
- B. To encourage fellowship with other organizations with similar interests.
- C. To be of service to the community, including law enforcement agencies and historical societies.
- D. To preserve our national heritage.
- E. To preserve and protect our environment.
- F. To leave any property (public or private) in as good or better condition than it was when we arrived.
- G. To promote good will and understanding with all property owners, overseers, and caretakers.
- H. To lobby for or against any pending legislation that would affect our hobby.

## **Article III**

### **Membership Types**

- A. Family Membership – two adults and/or a single parent with any children under the age of eighteen (18) residing in the same house in a domestic situation, one vote per membership.
- B. Single Adult Membership – age of eighteen (18) or older, one vote per membership.
- C. Junior Membership – any individual under the age of eighteen (18) with voting rights for Find of the Month and Finds of the Year. (Must be sponsored by member in good standing with the club.)
- D. Newsletter Membership – No voting rights, no attendance rights, subscription to Club Newsletter only.

### **Membership Qualifications**

- A. Membership shall be open to any individual who will abide at all times by these Bylaws.
- B. Every member should attend and participate in as many Club functions as possible.
- C. All members are encouraged to serve on any committees.
- D. All members will conduct themselves in a responsible and respectable manner.
- E. Any member in violation of these Bylaws shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Executive Board, and also shall be subject to being placed on probation.
- F. To be in good standing, a member's dues must be paid for the current year and the member must not be on probation.
- G. After one year's membership, any adult member in good standing shall be eligible to run for any elected office.

### **Membership Dues**

- A. The Executive Board shall determine dues by January of every year.
- B. Dues are due by the January meeting. If a membership does not renew their membership, they shall be excluded from further Club activities until the dues are paid.
- C. For new memberships, dues are pro-rated per quarter to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the New Year. A new membership is defined as a person or family that has not had a paid membership for one (1) year or more. Any membership joining in the last quarter of the calendar year will pay the dues for the last quarter of the calendar year in addition to the next year's dues.
- D. No dues will be refunded.

### **Members Responsibility for Own Safety**

- A. All members must be responsible for the well-being and safety of their own persons and property.
- B. While Club officers shall attempt to point out any hazards at various outings, it shall be a foregone conclusion that all dangers cannot be foreseen and therefore each member shall assume the responsibility for known and unknown dangers for themselves, their family and their property.
- C. Members with children shall be fully responsible for their children(s) safety and well-being.
- D. All club members will be required to sign a Club release form.

### **Club Liability**

- A. Members covenant that they shall not initiate or maintain litigation of any kind against APTHA or any member or officer of APTHA acting on the Club's behalf, to recover damages or to seek any other kind of relief. If any member initiates or maintains litigation in violation of this covenant, that member agrees to pay APTHA for all damages, expenses, and attorney fees incurred.
- B. Any member who violates this covenant and initiates or maintains litigation immediately resigns their membership and forfeits any dues or fees that have been paid. That member additionally relinquishes any possibility of future membership in APTHA.

### **Visitors**

- A. A visitor may attend two Club meetings before deciding to join.
- B. A visitor may not attend a Club hunt or club outing without becoming a Club member.

### **Probation**

- A. Probation can be placed on any member who blatantly disregards the APTHA Bylaws or Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics.
- B. Any member of the Club in good standing may bring charges of misconduct against any other member of the Club. Those making the charges must report the incident as well as present evidence to an Executive Board member within a reasonable amount of time after the alleged incident.
- C. Any Executive Board member who receives a report of misconduct by a Club member shall report to the rest of the Executive Board, and the Executive Board shall determine the course of action to be taken.
- D. Evidence of misconduct may include, but is not limited to, physical evidence, or an eyewitness account.
- E. The Executive Board shall determine the duration and severity of any probation placed on a Club member and shall consider probation on a case-by-case basis. Probation may include one or more of the following, but is not necessarily limited to:
  - a. Member may not enter any finds in the Find of the Month competition.
  - b. Member may not vote for Find of the Month.
  - c. Member may not be eligible to hold office.
  - d. Member may be removed from office.
  - e. Member may not be allowed to participate in Club drawings.
  - f. Member may not be allowed to participate in Club hunts.

## **Article IV**

### **Executive Board**

- A. The Executive Board of the APTHA shall consist of nine (9) elected members comprised of five (5) officers and four (4) members of the Board of Directors.
- B. Officers
  - a. President
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
  - d. Secretary
  - e. Treasurer
- C. Board of Directors
  - a. Four (4) elected members.

### **Terms of Office**

- A. The term of office for officers shall be one (1) year.
- B. The term of office for members of the Board of Directors shall be for two (2) years. Two members of the Board of Directors will be elected in alternating years.

### **Vacancies of Office**

- A. Should an elected position become vacant during the term of office, a special election shall be held at the next general membership meeting following the announcement of the vacant position in the APTHA newsletter, to elect and fill the vacant position. A quorum vote from the membership in attendance at the special election meeting shall fill the vacant position.

### **Duties of the Club Officers and members of the Board of Directors**

#### **President**

- A. The President shall chair all general Club meetings.
- B. The President shall chair all meetings of the Executive Board.
- C. The President shall have the power to call special Club and/or Executive Board meetings at any time with reasonable notice to the members involved.
- D. The President shall have the power to form committees and appoint chairpersons.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

- A. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall assist the President.
- B. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President or his inability to serve, preside at all meetings and perform all duties otherwise performed by the President.
- C. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall assist committees in the carrying out of their functions.
- D. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall be responsible for the coordination of all refreshments for all Club functions.
- E. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall be responsible for monthly programs.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

- A. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall assist the President and also the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.
- B. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall be in charge of new member/guest orientation.
- C. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall be responsible for facilitating Club events and hunts.

**Secretary**

- A. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all Club and Executive Board meetings.
- B. The Secretary shall have the power to organize and manage a telephone notifying committee.
- C. The Secretary shall review all Club correspondence and coordinate responses as needed.
- D. The Secretary shall maintain a file of Club correspondence.
- E. The Secretary shall be responsible for the transcription of the Bylaws.

**Treasurer**

- A. The Treasurer shall receive all monies and maintain records of all accounts.
- B. The Treasurer shall receive all membership dues and issue membership cards.
- C. The Treasurer shall maintain all Club checking accounts.
- D. The Treasurer shall pay for necessary supplies for the operation of the Club.
- E. The Treasurer shall maintain a petty cash fund at all Club meetings and functions with an adequate amount of money to meet anticipated needs.
- F. The Treasurer, President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, or Secretary may write and sign all checks. Checks over \$100 require two (2) officer signatures.

**Board of Directors**

- A. Board members, along with other officers of the Club, shall comprise an Executive Board which shall aid in Club policy-making decisions.
- B. The Board of Directors shall represent the Club when dealing with community agencies, other Clubs with mutual interests, or the public.
- C. The Board of Directors shall be called in on all special meetings called by the President.

**Newsletter Editor**

- A. The position of Newsletter Editor shall be appointed each year by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.
- B. The Newsletter Editor shall notify all members of election meetings, bylaw change meetings, and other special meetings that the President deems important to the membership.
- C. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for issuing, editing, and distribution of the monthly Club newsletter.

**Article V**

**Meetings**

- A. The APTHA shall hold a regular monthly meeting, the date and time of the meeting will be published in the Club newsletter and on the Club website.
- B. The APTHA shall hold a regular monthly Executive Board meeting preceding the regular monthly Club meeting, the date and time of the meeting to be published in the Club newsletter and on the Club website.

**Article VI**

**Amendments to APTHA Bylaws**

- A. The APTHA Bylaws may be changed only by a quorum vote of the membership, herein defined as a simple majority vote of the total Club membership in attendance to a regular Club meeting.
- B. Proposed amendments or changes to the Club Bylaws shall be introduced in writing at any Executive Board meeting by any member and must be approved by the Executive Board before being presented to the Club membership for discussion and voting. Copies of the proposed amendments or changes must be distributed to the total Club membership by hand, by mail or electronically, and be published in the Club newsletter a month prior to being voted on by the membership at a regular Club meeting.

## Article VII

### Hunt Sites

- A. Prior to club hunts, the membership shall be informed of the following:
  - a. Date, time, and convenient meeting place near the hunt site.
  - b. Driving time or mileage to the meeting place.
  - c. Terrain and environment to be encountered in route and at the hunt site, such as gravel road, 4-wheel drive necessary, two-mile hike, mountains, marsh, high elevation, bug repellent required, etc.
  - d. Finds expected such as, treasure cache, coin shooting, battle sites, ghost towns, etc.
  - e. Relics, artifacts, and individual coins discovered shall remain the property of the person finding them, unless otherwise announced by the hunt master prior to the beginning of the hunt.
- B. Only members in good standing may participate in Club hunts and Club activities.
  - a. (1) In order to participate in any club sponsored hunt attendance is required at 2 meetings per quarter. Either a regular meeting or a board meeting will count for attendance.

Date 9/19/2013