

MERLIN MARAUDERS COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING POSSE BY-LAWS

Ratified: December 11, 2012

ARTICLE I, NAME

The name of this organization shall be "MERLIN MARAUDERS COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING POSSE".

ARTICLE II, PURPOSE

The object of this organization shall be the encouragement of organized rifle, pistol, and shotgun action type competition, using firearms typical of those used in the taming of the Old West: single action revolvers, lever action rifles, and side by side double barreled, pre-1899 pump or lever action shotguns.

Further, while engaging in this sport, competitors are expected to "dress the part" in hats, boots, leather gear, and other costume accouterments as described in the SASS handbook.

It is our purpose to recreate and enjoy the days of the Old West, while still enjoying our marksmanship sport. Each participant is required to adopt a shooting alias appropriate to a character or profession of the late 19th Century or a Hollywood western star.

ARTICLE III, MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the JOSEPHINE COUNTY SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION (JCSA) is not required, with the exception that all Merlin Marauder Officers shall be members of JCSA. General Membership is not contingent upon membership in the NRA or the SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY (SASS); however, it is strongly recommended and will be encouraged. Participation of women and juniors will be encouraged. To participate in SASS sanctioned match or event, SASS membership is required.

ARTICLE IV, MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES, DUES AND FEES

(A) The Merlin Marauder Cowboy Action Shooting Posse is a private, non-profit SASS Affiliated Cowboy Action Shooting club and cannot be construed as being open to the public. The Executive Committee can deny application for membership, or renewal. There are two classes of membership: Individual and Family. A family is defined as a member and/or spouse and any juniors under 18 Years of age residing in the same abode." Annual membership dues in the Merlin Marauders shall be set by the Executive Committee. The membership period (or year) will be January 1st to December 31st. Renewals will be due on January 1st of each year. Members joining after January 1st will have dues prorated to the end of the year. Members may renew for any number of years at the current prevailing rate. Membership applications must be completed for both initial membership and renewal. All applications shall be completed in full, listing the member's proper name and address, telephone number (and e-mail address, if any). Any member of the club whose dues are in arrears for more than thirty (30) days, is ineligible to

vote or to enjoy the privileges or benefits offered by the Merlin Marauders club. Any member more than three (3) months delinquent in dues may be dropped as a member of the Merlin Marauders.

(B) Shooting fees at the monthly matches shall be set at any time by the Executive Committee. Annual matches and special events fees shall be set by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

(C) Suspension and Termination of Membership. Any member may be suspended or terminated from membership by a four-fifths (4/5th) vote of the members of the Executive Committee for any cause deemed sufficient: provided, that such member and all Officers shall have been served with written notices of the reasons against him (her) and of the time and place of the meeting at which such member shall be given an opportunity to produce his witnesses, if any, and to be heard. Such notice shall be served by two (2) Executive Board members at least five (5) days prior to the time of the meeting. In no case will this procedure extend beyond thirty (30) days from the initial date of the charges. Membership may be denied by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, **or** by not accepting a member's renewal dues.

(D) Inactive Membership Status. Any club member who is unable to participate in normal club activities due to his or her poor health, or has immediate family members who require constant medical care, shall be placed on "inactive membership status" until such time as they can resume participating in Merlin Marauder club functions. Renewal dues for a qualifying member will be suspended for the duration of their absence.

ARTICLE V, MEETINGS

(A) GENERAL MEETINGS. General meetings shall be held each month on a time and meeting place agreed to at the preceding month's meeting or by a vote of the Executive Committee.

(B) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held regularly at such time and place as the committee may determine. Special meetings may be held at any time on the request of the President; or on the demand in writing, to both the Secretary and the President by three members of the Executive Committee.

(C) QUORUM. Six (6) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is required to enact any official business.

(D) SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS. Special meetings may be called at anytime by the President or upon written demand to the Secretary by three (3) or more members stating the purpose of the meeting. The Secretary shall notify the Executive Committee of the request. Notice of special meetings must be submitted to all club members five (5) or less days prior to a special meeting. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held in open session. In the event that issues are considered sensitive, the president (or presiding officer) may hold the meeting in Executive session.

(E) ORDER OF BUSINESS. The order of business at all General Membership meetings of the members shall be as follows:

(a) Call the meeting to order

- (b) Pledge of Allegiance
- (c) Roll call and establish a quorum
- (d) Reading of minutes of last preceding meeting
- (e) Reports of officers
- (f) Reports of committees
- (g) Old business
- (h) New business
- (i) Stage setup for next monthly match
- (j) Adjournment

ARTICLE VI, OFFICERS

(A) The Officers of the Executive Committee of this club shall consist of the following: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, MATCH DIRECTOR/RANGE OFFICER, PAST PRESIDENT/SERGEANT AT ARMS, TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR, MEMBER-AT-LARGE and three (3) DIRECTORS. The duties of these officers shall be those described in Article VIII of these Bylaws.

(B) The Executive Committee shall have general oversight and control of all the activities of the club.

(C) The remaining members of the Executive Committee can attest to and can accept the resignation of any officer. Said resignation must be submitted in writing.

The President may appoint officers to fill vacant office positions. This appointment must be ratified by a majority vote of the Executive Committee within 30 days, and will be an interim appointment only until the next annual general election. If ratification by the Executive Committee fails, the president may select another choice for appointment. Nominations from the floor will not be allowed, however members may suggest another choice.

(D) At the next scheduled general election, the interim officer shall stand for re-election if he/she wishes to remain in office. Nominations for this position can also be made from the general meeting floor during the annual election processes and all ballot nominees will be voted upon by the general membership. If the vacant office has only one year remaining, this election will be only for the un-expired portion of the office. Should the office of the President become vacant, the Vice President shall fill the vacancy of the President, until such time that a special election can be called and voted upon for the election of a new president by the general membership. Voting, for a new president, shall be by secret ballot and/or absentee ballot. The rules of the election shall be obeyed as specified in these bylaws.

ARTICLE VII, ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICERS

(A) The election of new officers shall be held annually at the December meeting, with the term of office beginning in January at the first general meeting.

(B) All officers shall be elected to serve for a period of two years. Officers cannot hold two positions at the same time.

- (C) The election for the President, Secretary, Match Director/Range Officer, one (1) Director, and Sergeant at Arms if required shall be held in even numbered years.
- (D) The election for the Vice President, Treasurer, and two (2) Directors shall be held in odd-numbered years.
- (E) Officers shall be elected by a majority vote cast by the members in good standing with the Merlin Marauders. A general and/or family member must be 18 years or older to vote.
- (F) Any officer of this club must be a member of the Merlin Marauders, of JCSA, and be current with his/her dues.
- (G) Eligibility for office requires that the candidate has been present at a Merlin Marauder match, meetings and/or club events at least four (4) times during the last twelve (12) months, whether competing or not, at the time of nomination. A candidate for office must have been a member of Merlin Marauders for at least one year, at the time of nomination.
- (H) For offices that have two or more candidates, the candidate with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. For the offices of Director in the odd numbered years where two directors are voted upon, the two candidates with the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- (I) The appointed Elections Committee, at the October business meeting, shall present nominations, and additional nominations, if any, will be accepted from the floor at that time. The Sergeant at Arms shall preside over the Elections Committee. Nominations from the floor will be again opened at the November business meeting, and then officially closed
- (J) Official ballots and specially marked return envelopes shall be prepared under the direction of the Executive Committee for mailing to all members in good standing. The envelopes shall bear the inscription, "Ballot, Do Not Open," or some similar wording.
- (K) The ballots, ballot envelopes, and instructions will be mailed to all members in good standing by November 15th.
- (L) Ballots must be returned in the ballot envelopes, which will not be opened until election at the December business meeting. Sealed ballot envelopes with ballots will be accepted until that time. No ballots will be available for distribution at the business meeting. The appointed Elections Committee shall tally all ballot results and following verification by the Elections Committee, have the Sergeant at Arms report such results to the General Membership.
- (M) Election in Lieu of Secret Ballots – In elections where the entire list of club officers has only one candidate each running unopposed for election, the candidates can be elected by those present at the November general meeting in lieu of a secret mail ballot. There must be a quorum of the Executive Committee present at this meeting for these results to be binding.
- (N) The Merlin Marauder President will appoint one member to represent the Merlin Marauders on the JCSA Board of Directors. This Merlin Marauder member **MUST** also be a member of JCSA to be a valid voting member of the JCSA Board.
- (O) **TERM LIMITS.** President and Vice-President shall be limited to two consecutive elected terms.
- (P) **DECLARATION TO SERVE AS ELECTED.** The elected candidate must make a written declaration of intent to serve as elected within one week of the election final results. Failure to do so, will be due cause for the Executive Committee to void the winner and declare the runner-up as the winner. If the candidate was running un-opposed, the President shall appoint a replacement, in accordance with Article VI, Section C.
- (Q) In the event that a candidate dies, officially withdraws or resigns from the Merlin Marauders between when the ballots are mailed out to when the votes are tallied, the votes for

this candidate will not be counted. Withdrawing or resigning must be submitted to the president in writing.

ARTICLE VIII, DUTIES OF OFFICERS

(A) **PRESIDENT** – The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Executive Committee. The President shall be a “de facto” member of all regular and special committees and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertaining to the office. The President may vote at regular, annual and special meetings only when the vote upon a motion otherwise would result in a tie.

(B) **VICE PRESIDENT** – The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of, or at the request of, the President.

(C) **SECRETARY** – The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence of the Club, and shall have custody of all papers and records of the Club save for those of a financial nature. The Secretary shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of both the President and the Vice President. The Secretary shall maintain accurate membership records in a form that can quickly identify members eligible to vote and who are eligible to run for office. Records shall be maintained of all Regular, Special, and Annual Meetings, procedures, and other club business. The Secretary shall be responsible to notify members when their annual membership dues are to be paid.

(D) **TREASURER** – The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Club and place the same in such bank, savings and loan association or credit union located within Josephine County as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check signed by the President, Vice President or by the Treasurer (or Deputy Treasurer) and for the payment of such bills as shall have been approved by the Executive Committee. Bank signature cards must be updated within 60 days of installation of officers. A Deputy Treasurer may be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve when the Treasurer is unavailable. This Deputy Treasurer may also be included on the bank signature card.

(E) **MATCH DIRECTOR/RANGE OFFICER** - The Match Director/Range Officer shall oversee all matters pertaining to safe conduct of Club sponsored shooting upon all ranges. The rules of the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) as stated in their Shooters Handbook and Range Officers I and II courses, the rules of the Josephine County Sportsman Association (JCSA), as well as any additional rules adopted by the Club shall be adhered to. The Match Director/Range Officer may raise, issue, and post any additional regulations, or range directives, for the safe conduct of Club sponsored shoots. These regulations, along with Range Directives, must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee within thirty (30) days to remain in force. The Match Director/Range Officer may appoint such Deputy Match Director/Range Officer, as he or she may deem necessary in order to facilitate club-sponsored matches.

(F) **PAST PRESIDENT/SERGEANT AT ARMS** –The immediate Past President shall remain a member of the Executive Committee. This office shall be automatically assumed by

the immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President (Sergeant at Arms) shall assist and advise the officers and Executive Committee. The Sergeant at Arms shall be responsible for enforcing the Roberts Rules of Order at all Executive Committee and General Club Meetings. The Sergeant at Arms is further responsible for maintaining order as is necessary at all meetings and events. In the event the Past President cannot fulfill the duties of his/her office, a new Sergeant at Arms pro-tem shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Committee, until the next annual general election. In the event that the office of Past President becomes vacant, the President shall appoint a new Past President from a list former presidents. If any other past presidents are unwilling or unable to serve, the President shall simply select a qualified appointee to fill the position subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

(G) TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR – The Territorial Governor shall perform his or her duties as designated stated by SASS rules. The Territorial Governor shall be appointed annually by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee at the time of elections. A Territorial Governor must be a SASS Life Member who is certified as an R.O. II.

(H) MEMBER-AT-LARGE – The Member-at-Large shall be appointed annually by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee at the time of elections. Duties of the Member at Large shall be to perform miscellaneous duties not assigned to other officers. The Member-at-Large is expected to be present at Executive Committee/Board Meetings and encouraged to attend all club meetings. He/She shall speak the voice of the body of the club and keep the club's best interest in mind. He/She shall handle complaints and concerns and generally serve as a liaison for the membership. He/She shall also play an active role in any internal club surveys.

(I) DIRECTORS – Directors shall perform miscellaneous duties as assigned.

(J) REMOVAL OF OFFICERS. Any member of the Executive Committee who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without having previously informed the Executive Committee of his/her impending absence (e.g. vacations, hospital stay, illness, etc.) may be asked to resign by the Executive Committee. A letter shall be sent to the officer by certified mail stating the reasons for removal and requesting a reply. Failure to respond within 15 days constitutes just cause for removal. Any officer may be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting provided notice of attempted removal shall have been mailed to the member fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting stating the reason(s) for the attempted removal.

ARTICLE IX, SAFETY AND PRACTICE SHOOTING

(A) Cowboy Action Shooter Safety Orientation shall be governed by the following: All new, first time, cowboy action shooters who are about to compete in a Merlin Marauder club match must undergo a special safety training session prior to shooting. This training will introduce new shooters to the specialized SASS safety rules pertaining to the sport of cowboy action shooting and also familiarize them with the range safety rules established by the Merlin Marauder Cowboy Action Posse. The Merlin Marauder Range Officer or a designated SASS Range Officer I or II will be responsible for providing this safety orientation. A designated safety

orientation manual is available from the Match Director. Temporary bright colored arm bands will be issued to all new CAS shooters and must be worn for their entire first match so experienced shooters can readily identify who might need special attention or assistance in competing safely.

(B) Access to the Merlin Marauder range house and use of the club's targets for practice by individual members shall be covered by the following: Only qualified club members may utilize the steel targets owned and maintained by the Merlin Marauders for the purpose of practicing cowboy action shooting or shooting in general at JCSA, when no Merlin Marauder sanctioned event is occurring or in progress. A "qualified member" for this purpose shall be defined as a Merlin Marauder club member in good standing whose dues are current and who is at least a certified SASS Range Officer (RO-1). The Merlin Marauder Range Master/Match Director or a SASS (RO-1) may supervise another member in utilizing the club's targets for shooting practice under these guide lines.

(B) Any qualified member who uses the club's targets for practice and causes damage to any of the targets shall be responsible for repairing the damage or paying for the cost of repair in a timely manner. Only cast lead bullets propelled by SASS approved powder loads and velocities can be shot at club targets. All targets must be returned to the target shed after use and stored in an organized fashion prior to leaving and locking the target shed.

(D) The Merlin Marauder Cowboy Action Shooting Posse is private non-profit SASS affiliated Cowboy Action Shooting discipline associated with the Josephine County Sportsman Association. As such, and in the interest of maintaining a safe environment for participants in Cowboy Action Shooting at the JCSA range, Merlin Marauders hereby declare the right to prohibit any person from attending or participating in Merlin Marauder club sanctioned events for reasons of known SASS rule violation(s), un-sportsmanlike conduct, confrontational behavior or any other reason related to the safety and well being of Cowboy Action Shooting participants. Only current paid members of the Merlin Marauder Cowboy Action Shooting Posse can appeal an Executive Committee decision that prohibits them from participating in Merlin Marauder Cowboy Action Shooting events. Any appeal in regards to said decision must be made by the sanctioned member within 30 days by way of formal written notice to the Merlin Marauder Executive Committee. Once the Executive Committee receives the proper written notice a hearing will be granted to the member involved whereupon the Executive Committee will render a final decision at the conclusion of said hearing.

ARTICLE X, DISSOLUTION

Should the Club be dissolved its net assets shall be transferred to other viable Cowboy Action Shooting nonprofit organization (s), after outstanding obligatory balances due to current members have been paid out. Remaining funds are to be dispersed to a viable Cowboy Action Shooting Organization in Oregon having purposes broadly similar to those of the Club, as may be selected by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI, AMENDMENT AND RATIFICATION OF BYLAWS

(A) The president shall appoint a committee of at least three, not more than six, to review and suggest changes to the bylaws. At least half the members shall be Merlin Marauders officers; the rest may be general members. The committee shall have a chairman, designated by the president, who shall preside in meetings that will review and suggest any changes or amendments presented. The president shall be a “de facto” member of this committee, and will vote only to break a tie. A quorum of the committee shall be 4 members.

(B) Newly proposed bylaws changes shall replace all previously ratified bylaws effective upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present at the general or special meeting held for that purpose. Copies of the proposed bylaws changes must be sent to each club member by U.S. Mail, or e-mail, at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. Absentee ballots will be allowed, proxy votes will not be allowed. Absentee ballots can be requested and must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the member’s signature on the outside of the envelope.

ARTICLE XII, PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Revised (Latest Edition) shall govern all cases not covered in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII, STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders may be proposed for situations or special cases not covered in these Bylaws. These orders will consist of motions and orders passed at previous meetings and have no expiration date. A set of Standing Orders will be established and maintained by the Secretary. Standing Orders may be incorporated into the Bylaws at the time of the next amending.

ARTICLE XIV, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTIBILITY

(A) All expenditures over the amount of \$500 for Merlin Marauders matches and other events must be approved by the Executive Committee. Cash Advances and/or reimbursement for any expenses require written accounting of funds, within 30 days of completion of the project. This accounting will include a written statement detailing a list of materials and labor (or services) and/or include a receipt, or statement to the effect. Any payment for labor for members must be approved in advance by the Executive Committee. The Merlin Marauders Expenses Form may be used to satisfy this requirement. All items paid for by Merlin Marauders, or donated to Merlin Marauders, shall be the property of Merlin Marauders and stored in a location approved by Merlin Marauders.

(B) For purposes of checks and balances, two signatures are required on checks over \$500. On checks of \$500, or less, only one signature is required. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all transactions and render a detailed report at the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee and at any annual or special meeting. Audits will be conducted annually.

ARTICLE XV, ANNUAL and/or STATE MATCHES

(A) The club may host an Annual match at a date determined by the Annual Match Planning Committee.

(B) This Article defines the Duties of Match Director, Match Chairman and Operations Manager for a Merlin Marauder Annual Match. The Match Director/Range Officer and the President shall be actual members of the Match Planning Committee. The Match Chairman and Match Director will delegate members of the committee to be responsible for the various tasks required for a successful match.

(C) THE MATCH DIRECTOR is the “de facto” Chairman of the match. The Match Director/Range Officer shall oversee all matters pertaining to safe conduct of Club sponsored shooting upon all ranges. The Match Director is in charge of all range planning, designing, writing and/or overlooking the writing of all stages, co-ordination of needed targets and props for said stages, establishing and coordinating side matches of the match and assigning said individuals for such as needed. The Match Director assists in coordinating necessary work parties, the match set-up for the annual match, and the match schedule. The Match Director may appoint such Deputy/ Assistant Match Director, as he or she may deem necessary to facilitate a club sponsored annual match.

Should the current elected Merlin Marauder Match Director/Range Officer decline to serve as the Annual Match Director or is incapacitated and cannot serve in that capacity, the Executive Board shall appoint and approve by majority vote a qualified candidate to serve as the Annual Match Director. This appointed position shall expire at the conclusion of the designated annual match for the given year. Subsequent years for which there is no serving Annual Match Director shall be handled in the same manner.

(D) THE MATCH CHAIRMAN will coordinate the logistics of the match to ensure that the Merlin Marauder Annual Match runs smoothly. The Match Chairman will oversee all subcommittees to ensure that all necessary duties are being performed in a timely manner. He will also assist in establishing the Match Schedule of Events, planning the match agenda, awards assembly, and opening ceremonies, and assist in coordinating necessary work parties and Match set-up. The Match Chairman is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee. The Match Chairman may select an assistant if needed. The Match Chairman will not make any decisions regarding range operations.

(E) THE OPERATIONS MANAGER will coordinate all duties pertaining to any necessary paperwork needed or required to make the Annual Match run smoothly. The Operations Manager will handle set-up of the shooter application form, all registrations and confirmations, posse assignments, scoring, and assist with the planning and compilation of the match book and shooter packets. The Operations Manager shall provide information as needed to facilitate up-to-date reporting of data. The Operations Manger shall assist in establishing a match schedule of events, the awards assembly and agendas as needed. The Operations Manager is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee. The Operations Manager may select an Assistant if needed.

(F) In the event of a dispute, it will be resolved by the President, Match Director and Match Chairman. If the dispute cannot be resolved, it will be then decided by the Executive Committee.

(G) For Information only:

MATCH CHAIRMAN: Subcommittees may include advertising of match, Range Map, Match Book, Registration Booth, Shooters Packets, Badges, shooter prizes, awards sponsors and vendors, range hall, raffle prizes, parking, camping assignments and layout, PA system, water and coolers, shuttles, entertainment, and "outside organizations providing match assistance (i.e. Brass Pickup, setting up, tearing down, et al)

OPERATIONS MANAGER: Additional duties if necessary - will create vendor and sponsor forms, and coordinate planning and set-up of the shooting school. The Operations Manager will assist at the registration table; provide information pertaining to the web site, badges, financial reports, sponsors and vendors. The Operations Manager will submit any required ads to the SASS Chronicle.