

MADHATTERS 4X4 CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BYLAWS



ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be MADHATTERS 4X4 CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

ARTICLE II – OFFICERS & DUTIES

1. The officers of this club shall be called the Executive Board. The officers are the President, Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Club Historian, Cal4 Delegate, and Madhatters Kids President.
 - A. The President shall be the executive officer and will preside at all meetings. He/she shall have the duty of carrying out the policies and decisions of the members. He/she shall appoint committees as necessary. He/she shall co-sign the checks with the Treasurer.
 - B. The office of Past President shall be filled automatically by the outgoing President. In the event there is no outgoing President this office shall remain vacant and the President shall appoint a member in good standing to fulfill the duties of the office. In absence of the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, it shall be the duty of the Past President to perform the duties and responsibilities of the President. The Past President shall have such duties and possess such authority as may be delegated by the President.
 - C. The Vice-President shall assist the President and act on his/her behalf in case of absence. He/she shall have the duty of trail boss or appoint trail boss for runs and will be responsible for coordinating club trips. He/she may co-sign the checks with the Treasurer.
 - D. The Secretary shall keep and preserve all records and minutes of the club meetings, shall publish the club newsletter, and shall receive and answer all general correspondence pertaining to the organization.
 - E. The Treasurer shall receive all monies, be responsible for the bank deposits; disperse funds as authorized; co-sign the checks with the President or Vice-President, and have the books available for inspection by authorized auditors, club officers, and members.
 - F. The Club Historian shall keep a full record of the activities of the Club, preserve press clippings and other articles pertaining to the Club and its members, and manage the Club's social media resources. The Club Historian

shall also be curator of the archives and memorabilia which has accrued and is accruing to the Club.

- G. The Cal4 Delegate shall attend all district meetings for Cal4Wheel and shall make a full report to membership.
 - H. The Madhatters Kids President shall endeavor to increase enjoyment for member children/grand children at Club Picnic, Christmas party and within other club functions when possible. Should no individual be elected as Madhatters Kids President the duties and responsibilities will fall on the club President.
2. ELECTIONS
- A. Officers will be elected to serve a two year term.
 - B. Elections for Officers will be held biennially at the December meeting

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

- 1. Membership meetings shall be held once a month. Date, time and place to the discretion of the membership. Special meetings may be called at any time for business pertaining to the club. All members will be notified of special meetings called. If members are unable to attend a meeting, a proxy may be assigned by that member for any votes to be held at any meetings.

ARTICLE IV – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

- 1. These bylaws may be amended by majority of members present at club meetings. The membership shall be notified at least 2 weeks prior to taking the vote for this purpose.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Must be 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, and have proof of PL and PD insurance.
- 2. Membership is open by invitation only
 - A. Local Applicants
 - a. Primarily available to individuals who live less than 60 miles away from the club's regular meeting location and can attend meetings.
 - b. Must participate in 2 overnight club runs and attend 3 club meetings. Overnight trips must be done on an off road trail, and in their own four wheel drive vehicle.
 - B. Remote Applicants
 - a. Primarily available to individuals who live 60 miles or further away from the club's regular meeting location and are unable to attend meetings.

- b. Must participate in 5 club runs and/or events of which 2 must be separate overnight trips. Overnight trips must be done on an off road trail, and in their own four wheel drive vehicle.
 - c. Must be sponsored by an active member in good standing at a regular club meeting.
 - C. Applicants must obtain a membership application from the Treasurer and submit their completed application to the Treasurer.
 - D. Must be voted in by majority of voting members present at the meeting. Voting is done by secret ballot.
 - E. Own a four wheel drive vehicle.
 - F. All members accepted into the Madhatters will agree to serve a one year probationary period at which time a secret ballot vote will be taken for final member acceptance.
 - G. All new members must be given a copy of the current bylaws.
 - H. All new members must agree to abide by and uphold club bylaws and standing rules.
- 3. All members must conduct themselves in a respectable and orderly manner when displaying club name and logos.
- 4. Any member not following club policy or bylaws may be asked to leave the club by majority vote.
- 5. Special/Honorary Membership

From time to time the Executive Board may decide to offer a special reduced dues membership to a current club member who has made an exemplary contribution to the club. Special memberships shall only apply to club dues and not any pass through dues such as Cal4Wheel or CORVA. No more than one special/honorary membership may be awarded per calendar year. Special/Honorary memberships remains effective until any of the following occur: special/honorary membership term expires, member leaves the club, member dies, or member fails to maintain the required affiliated organization membership.
- 6. Leave Of Absence (LOA)
 - A. Request/renew a LOA.
 - a. Dues must be current at time of notification.
 - b. Some hardship must be involved such as health, family, work, financial, or vehicle mechanical.
 - c. Club Treasurer must be notified in writing (dated and signed).
 - B. Dues are suspended while a member is on LOA.
 - C. Members on LOA have the same club privileges as guests.
 - D. Time while on LOA is excluded from new member probationary period.
 - E. LOA must be renewed during the annual dues cycle or membership will be cancelled.
 - F. LOA may only be granted for no more than 2 years in any 6 year period.
 - a. When LOA expires the member must return to active membership or membership will be cancelled.
 - G. Terminate a LOA and return to active membership.
 - a. Dues must be paid for the remaining annual term.
 - b. Club Treasurer must be notified in writing (dated and signed).

ARTICLE VI – DUES POLICY

1. \$35.00 initiation fee.
 - A. 1 Banner
 - B. 2 decals
 - C. 1 membership plaque
2. Dues are per family paid annually
 - A. Madhatters club dues (required) are \$70.00 per family.
 - B. Cal4Wheel dues (required) are \$45.00 per family.
 - a. This amount will not be collected if Cal4Wheel dues have already been paid.
 - b. This amount will immediately change to reflect any Cal4Wheel dues changes.
 - C. CORVA dues (optional) are \$30.00 per family.
 - a. This amount will not be collected if CORVA dues have already been paid.
 - b. This amount will immediately change to reflect any CORVA dues changes.
3. Full payment of dues must be received by the February meeting.
4. Any member who has not paid by March 1st will be assessed a \$10.00 per month late fee.
5. Any member that has not paid by the April meeting will have their membership cancelled.
 - A. To be reinstated there will be a \$30.00 charge, plus back dues.
6. Special hardship cases will be made on a case-by-case basis, subject to approval by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII – VEHICLE REGULATIONS

1. Vehicle must conform to all Cal4Wheel safety requirements.
2. CB or ham radio (antennas must not exceed 4'6")
3. Roll bar or factory installed hard top
4. Seat belts for all vehicle occupants
5. Fire extinguisher with gauge indicating good/full, appropriately stored.
6. Spare tire within 3 inches diameter of other tires, or, for tires 37" or larger, run-flats or tools to repair/reinflate tire
7. Working (emergency) brake & brake system
8. All window glass must be in good condition
9. Lug nuts and tool capable of removing lug nuts
10. Lights in working order
11. Shovel & bucket
12. Tow strap or rope capable of towing 2 times vehicle weight
13. Battery hold downs (no bungee cords)
14. First aid kit
15. Jack capable of lifting vehicle
16. Adequate attachment points front and rear, i.e. tow hooks, receiver, etc. Tow balls are not permitted.

17. All vehicles will be required to be up to California State vehicle code and in good working condition on club activities.

ARTICLE VIII – RUN REGULATIONS

1. Do not litter
2. No 4 wheeling will be done on club runs without 2 or more vehicles while in motion
3. No standing in vehicle while in motion
4. Loose objects such as tool boxes, ice chests, spare tire, should be secure
5. Children should never be left alone in a vehicle. Be sure to remove keys while vehicle is parked or unoccupied
6. All vehicles should be operated in accordance with state laws
7. Don't drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
8. All members and guests will strictly adhere to Tread Lightly policies at all times.
9. Outdoor bathroom stops may be handled, men to the left, women to the right, when such stops are necessary.
10. All members shall be responsible for his or her guests on club functions
11. All persons shall be kept safely away from winching cables and tow straps
12. Dry your brakes immediately after passing through water by applying brakes while driving until they feel normal
13. No tail-gating
14. Always keep visual contact with vehicle to your rear.
15. The Madhatters 4x4 Club of Northern California shall not purchase or supply any alcoholic beverage for any club function.
16. Trail Boss - All Madhatter runs must have a trail boss. The trail boss will:
 - A. Designate time and place of meeting for scheduled run.
 - B. Coordinate all winching operations and safety issues during run.
 - C. Be responsible to bring club first aid kit.
 - D. Will give report of run and list of all members to submit for plaques.
 - E. Write a short trail report for archives and web site.
17. Disabled Vehicles on Club Runs
 - A. Individuals are ultimately responsible for repairs or extrication of their vehicle should it become disabled while on club runs. However, it is the responsibility of the trail boss to confirm that a plan of repair or extrication is implemented with the primary concern being for the safety of all club members and guests.
 - B. No club member or guest with a disabled vehicle is to be left alone on the trail.
 - C. If repair is possible, the trail boss will coordinate with the owner of the disabled vehicle and other club members that appropriate parts, tools and expertise are made available to make the necessary repairs.
 - D. The owner of the vehicle being repaired is responsible for the cost or replacement of any parts, broken tools or consumable items required to complete the vehicle repairs.
 - E. In the event vehicle extrication beyond club abilities is needed, the vehicle owner is responsible for all costs incurred.
 - F. Madhatters, as a club in attendance of other club/organization activities, must follow the direction and rules by the event trail team or sponsor providing adherence to the previous rules set forth.

ARTICLE IX – CAMPING

1. Speed limit of 5 mph must be obeyed arriving and leaving in all camping areas
2. Obey all state and federal campfire laws
3. All dogs must be kept on leash
4. No discharge of firearms within 100 yards of camping area (this includes pellet & BB guns). No unnecessary displaying or handling firearms in camping area.
5. Every member is responsible for keeping camp area clean. (Take out more than you brought in)
6. Use discretion of noise in camp site
7. No fireworks
8. Smokers are required to carry an ashtray