

By Laws of the Sarasota Back Country Horsemen

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this organization shall be the **Sarasota Back Country Horsemen** hereinafter referred to as the **SBCH**, and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida. The Sarasota Back Country Horsemen is a chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Florida and as such is bound by the rules and policies of the Back Country Horsemen of Florida and the Back Country Horsemen of America.

ARTICLE II Purpose

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new backcountry horsemen's organizations.

ARTICLE III Membership

1. Eligibility

Application for membership shall be open to any individual interested in the promoting the purpose of the SBCH organization. Membership is granted after completion and receipt of a membership application and annual dues. All memberships shall be granted upon a majority vote of the board.

2. Membership Types

- (1) Individual membership.
- (2) Family membership consists of at least one adult and additional immediate family members, all living at the same address.

3. Dues

- (1) Applicable to the state and national requirements, the board of directors shall set the amount for SBCH membership dues. The membership year corresponds to the calendar year (January 1 through December 31).
- (2) SBCH shall submit dues to BCHFL no later than January 31 of the current calendar year and a report of SBCH membership as of 1 January of that year.

Article IV Voting

1. Voting Eligibility

All members in good standing are entitled to vote on all matters voted upon during membership meetings. Individuals have one vote, while Family members have two votes (one per adult).

2. Quorum

For a vote on any matter to be accepted, a quorum must be present at the meeting. At regular meetings, 10% of the voting membership, in good standing, that is present will constitute a quorum. At a board meeting, a simple majority shall constitute a quorum. Exceptions are noted in Article IX Section 1 and Article IX Section 3.

3. Proxy

If a member wishes to vote on a matter, but cannot attend the meeting, the member may still vote by providing a written notice. The notice should contain the member's name, member's signature, the subject of the vote and the member's decision. The written notice may be delivered by any means to the Board of Directors, before or during the voting process. The Board of Directors shall file the Proxy vote according to the member's stated will. A Proxy vote shall count toward the Quorum.

Article V Meetings

1. Membership Meetings

Regular membership meetings shall be held with a frequency and at a time and place decided upon by the board members. Notice of the regular meetings shall be announced to the members. The board may call special meetings. An annual membership meeting shall be held once a year for the purpose of election of officers and board members.

2. Board Meetings

Board meetings shall be held at a time and place decided upon by the board members. Regular members shall be welcome to attend board meetings but they shall have no vote. Anyone who wants to attend a board meeting should contact a board member for the time and place and indicate if they have a matter they wish to present to the board.

3. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the chair, the Executive Committee, or a simple majority of the board of directors.

4. Notice of Meetings

Notice of meetings shall be given to each voting member by email not less than 2 weeks prior to the meeting. It is the member's responsibility to keep their email current with the secretary.

Article VI Officers and Directors

1. Offices

The offices of this organization are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

2. Directors

In addition to the officers, the board shall be comprised of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 additional members. An out going president will automatically become a member of the board.

3. Vacancies

Any vacancy for any officer or director for the balance of such term shall be filled by appointment of the president, excepting the presidency, which will automatically be filled by the vice president.

Article VII Duties of Officers and Directors

1. Board of Directors (Officers and Board Members)

The supreme power and authority of this organization shall be lodged in its assembled meetings and the officers and directors shall conform to the wishes and instructions of the organization, but subject to such control and direction by the organization, the board of directors shall manage and execute the affairs of the organization. The board shall have the authority to make and execute decisions that are not in conflict with state law, the direction of the membership and policies set forth by the Back Country Horsemen of Florida.

2. President

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board, and to exercise general executive control over the affairs of the organization, and to call special meetings of the members and/or the board, and to perform all other duties pertaining to such office. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

3. Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President when called upon to do so, and in the president's absence, shall be vested with all the powers and duties of the president.

4. Secretary

The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular, special and board meetings; issue notices and perform such other duties as pertains to such office. The secretary shall be responsible for maintaining custody of the records and papers of the organization (such as charter, by-laws, etc.). Communication with the members through a regular newsletter shall be the responsibility of the secretary although the board may appoint another member to assist with this.

5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall collect dues, keep and disburse all the funds of the organization and shall keep a written account of same which shall be open for inspection by any member in good standing, and shall furnish a written report of the state of the finances monthly, and shall be one of the three check signers of record, any one of which may validate a check. All funds shall be kept in a bank account. The treasurer shall be responsible for the submission of any records and tax returns required by law and shall prepare an annual statement.

6. Director

The directors shall formulate policies, approve procedures and programs, establish dues, attend meetings, and generally assist and support the functions and programs of the organization.

Article VIII Elections

1. Election of Officers and Directors

All officers and directors shall be elected by a majority vote at the regularly scheduled annual meeting.

2. Terms

Officers shall serve a one-year term. An out-going president will automatically become a director.

3. Nominating Committee

Two months prior to the regular election of officers and directors, the president, with the approval of the board, shall appoint a nominating committee. The purpose of the nominating committee shall be to provide a list of suitable candidates for officers and directors to the membership. The list shall be made available to the members one month prior to the election. Any member shall be allowed to submit a nomination to the committee.

Article IX Removal of Officers and Directors

1. Removal Proposal

Any officer or director may be relieved of his duties by an action instituted by (1) a two-thirds vote of the board of directors or (2) a majority vote of voting members at a regular meeting.

2. Notification

Notification of action to remove an officer or director must be made at the regular meeting preceding the meeting that the action is to take place.

3. Removal Actions

Action to remove an officer or director requires a two-thirds majority vote of voting members at the regular meeting.

Article X Committees

1. Creation

Committees to aid the function of this organization shall be designated by the President with the approval of the board.

2. Composition

The committee chairperson shall be appointed by the President and will in turn appoint their committee members as necessary to accomplish their committee's functions. Committees must be comprised of members in good standing.

Article XI Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting or special meeting of the organization by two thirds vote of the membership, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall be given to the organization at a regular meeting preceding the submission of such proposed amendments.

Article XII Liquidation, Dissolution or Termination

1. Liquidation, Dissolution or Termination

In the event of liquidation, dissolution or termination of the SBCH, any assets remaining shall be transferred back to the Back Country Horsemen Education Foundation of America 501 (c) (3) or to another Back Country Horsemen organization as determined by the Board of Directors of the Sarasota Back Country Horseman.

These By Laws adopted by a vote of the membership of the Sarasota Back Country Horsemen on _____

Signed by Officers

President _____

Date _____

Vice President _____

Date _____

Secretary _____

Date _____

Treasurer _____

Date _____