Ocean State Jeepsters

By-Laws

Article 1: Name

1.1. The official name of this organization shall be Ocean State Jeepsters. The organization may also be referred to within these By-Laws as “OSJ” or the “Club.”

Article 2: Mission

2.1. Ocean State Jeepsters mission is to advance the sport of four-wheeling as a safe, enjoyable, and environmentally responsible form of outdoor recreation; to regularly host trail rides and other social events for its members; and to expand land access through education, private partnerships, acquisition, and the public process.

Article 3: Membership Requirements & Dues

3.1. Membership shall be open to all Jeep owners who support the Club’s Mission.

3.2. Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

3.3. Members shall abide by the Club’s Code-of-Conduct.

3.4. Provisional membership in the Club shall be granted upon submission of a completed application and registration for the Club’s Internet forum.

3.5. Provisional members shall become eligible for a membership vote upon attending at least three (3) events which must include a minimum of one (1) business meeting.

3.6. Provisional membership shall be limited to a period of eight (8) months from the date of application.

3.7. Provisional membership can be terminated by majority vote of the Board.

3.8. Former members who left the Club in good standing shall be eligible for a membership vote upon submitting a written request to the Board.

3.9. Dues shall be determined by the Board on an annual basis and cover the period from January 1st to December 31st.

3.10. Dues shall become payable on January 1st of each year and must be received by the Treasurer no later than January 31st. Late dues shall result in suspension of membership privileges unless prior arrangements have been approved by the Board.

3.11. Dues for new members shall become payable when the membership vote closes and must be received by the Treasurer within thirty (30) days. Dues shall be assessed at 100% for members who join between January 1st and September 15th and 50% for members who join after September 15th.

3.12. Dues shall not be refundable.

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3.13. By a two-thirds (2/3) vote the Board shall have the right to withdraw membership from any member who does not uphold the membership requirements. In the event of such expulsion, the Club shall be under no obligation to refund dues.

3.14. Club membership shall be capped at 100 members.

Article 4: Board of Directors

4.1. The Board of Directors (the "Board") shall manage the Club's day-to-day business and provide leadership over the Club's affairs.

4.2. The Board is comprised of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Events Director, Land Use Director, and Public Relations Director.

4.3. The President:

- 4.3.1. Presides over business meetings and online votes.
- 4.3.2. Serves as Chairman of the Board but does not vote on Board matters except to break a tie.
- 4.3.3. Enforces Club by-laws.
- 4.3.4. May sign legal documents of the Club.

4.4. The Vice President:

- 4.4.1. Temporarily assumes the duties of the President in the President's absence.

4.5. The Secretary:

- 4.5.1. Maintains Club documents including meeting minutes, by-laws, membership lists, and operating procedures.
- 4.5.2. Shall make club documents available to the membership.
- 4.5.3. May sign legal documents of the Club.

4.6. The Treasurer:

- 4.6.1. Maintains Club bank accounts and depositories.
- 4.6.2. Keeps accurate records of all income and expenses.
- 4.6.3. Ensures that Club expenses are paid in a timely manner.
- 4.6.4. Collects membership dues.
- 4.6.5. May sign legal documents of the Club.

4.7. The Events Director

- 4.7.1. Chairs the Event Committee.
- 4.7.2. Encourages member involvement in Club events.
- 4.7.3. Keeps the membership informed about Club events.

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4.8. The Land Use Director:

4.8.1. Chairs the Land Use Committee.

4.8.2. Encourages member participation in Club land use activities.

4.8.3. Keeps the membership informed about Club land use activities.

4.8.4. Serves as the Club's primary NEA delegate.

4.9. The Public Relations Director:

4.9.1. Chairs the Public Relations Committee.

4.9.2. Encourages member participation in Club public relations activities.

4.9.3. Keeps the membership informed about Club public relations activities.

4.10. Elections & Vacancy

4.10.1. Only Club members with at least one (1) year of membership shall be eligible for election to the Board.

4.10.2. Club members shall not serve more than one (1) Board position at the same time.

4.10.3. Nominations for all Board positions shall open on October 1st of each year and remain open for a period of at least thirty (30) days.

4.10.4. Voting for contested Board positions shall open during the November business meeting and remain open for at least five (5) days.

4.10.5. The candidate with the highest number of votes cast shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie then the winner shall be determined by coin toss.

4.10.6. If a Board member resigns before their term expires then the President shall appoint a member to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

4.10.7. If the President resigns before his/her term expires then the Board shall call a special election to fill the position.

Article 5: Voting

5.1. All motions brought before the membership for vote shall be seconded prior to discussion.

5.2. Only members shall be allowed to make or second a motion.

5.3. Except where otherwise specified in these By-Laws each dues-paying member shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

5.4. Except where otherwise specified in these By-Laws a membership vote shall be required for all Club business involving finances or entering legal agreements that fall outside the scope of day-to-day business.

5.5. All voting shall be conducted online and a quorum is always assumed to exist.

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5.6. Members shall be given notice when a motion is opened for discussion and shall have at least five (5) days to comment before the motion is moved to vote.

5.7. Members shall be given notice when voting begins and shall have at least five (5) days to cast their vote.

5.8. Except where otherwise specified in these By-Laws a simple majority of votes cast shall be required for a motion to pass.

Article 6: Finances

6.1. The Fiscal Year of the Club shall extend from January 1st to December 31st.

6.2. Each year immediately following elections the incoming Board shall prepare an operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The operating budget shall include line items for known recurring expenses and other predictable expenses that fall within the scope of day-to-day business.

6.3. The operating budget shall be presented to the membership for approval before December 15th.

6.4. All cash collected during the course of Club business shall be counted by at least two persons and then deposited into the proper Club account within five (5) business days.

6.5. Club financial records shall be made available to any Club member upon request.

Article 7: Events

7.1. Attendance at Club events shall be open to members, provisional members, and guests.

7.2. Members and provisional members who bring guests shall be responsible for the actions of their guests.

7.3. Vehicles owned by members shall be given priority on a first-come, first serve basis for openings at trail ride events.

7.4. Vehicles owned by guests shall be allowed at trail ride events when space is available.

7.5. Guest-owned vehicles may participate in at most one (1) trail ride event per twelve (12) month period with the exception that vehicles owned by guests who belong to NEA-affiliated clubs may participate in any number of trail ride events.

Article 8: Business Meetings

8.1. Quarterly business meetings shall be held in the months of February, May, August, and November at time and location determined by the Board.

8.2. Club members must be given at least five (5) notice days prior to each business meeting.

8.3. The Club's annual meeting shall coincide with the November business meeting.

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8.4. Attendance at business meetings shall be open to members, provisional members, and guests.

8.5. The order of business at business meetings shall be:

8.5.1. Reports from Treasurer, Events Director, Land Use Director, and Member Benefits Director.

8.5.2. Discussion of new or unfinished business.

8.5.3. Open forum.

Article 9: Revision and Amendment

9.1. These By-Laws may be revised or amended upon motion from either the Board or five (5) or more members. The membership shall be informed of the proposed changes and the discussion period shall remain open for ten (10) days prior to a vote which shall require approval from the membership by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

9.2. Amending or restating the Articles of Incorporation shall require approval from the membership by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

Article 10: Dissolution

10.1. Upon dissolution of Ocean State Jeepsters, the assets of the Club shall be distributed in accordance with the laws of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Revision History

May 1st, 2013	Adopted by vote of 22 yes and 0 no.
February 11th, 2014	Adopted by vote of 26 yes and 1 no.