Free Masons Riding Club
BYLAWS Grand Chapter

ARTICLE - 1
Membership

1.1. Anyone seeking membership in the Free Masons RC (FMRC) must be a Master Mason in good standing with his Lodge and in possession, at the time of applying for membership, a valid dues card from his Lodge. (Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft may be accepted as "Provisional Members" subject to Article 1.5 below)

1.2. A persons standing in their Lodge must be verified by the Grand Chapter, either by communication with the Lodge, or by receipt of a copy of the person's valid dues card.
Until the persons standing in their Lodge can be verified by the Grand Chapter, their membership in the FMRC will be considered "provisional". While they are a provisional member, they will be ineligible for membership in a Local Chapter. Once their standing in the Lodge has been confirmed by the Grand Chapter, they will convert automatically to "full membership" with all of the rights thereto.

1.3. The FMRC Grand Chapter does not allow any provision for "Associate" membership of the FMRC. Local Chapters may not make any provision allowing "Associate" membership (or any other kind of membership) to a person who is not a MASTER MASON **and** a member in good standing of the Grand Chapter of the FMRC (FMRC Ladies Auxiliary members are exempt from this rule).
The Director of the Grand Chapter is the ONLY person with the authority to make someone an "Honorary Member" of the FMRC.
No Member or Chapter of the FMRC is permitted to make ANYONE an Honorary Member of the FMRC or of a Chapter.

1.4. ALL Chapters of the FMRC are created by the GRAND CHAPTER. A Local Chapter may not create or authorize to be created, any subordinate or associate Chapter(s) of the FMRC or of the local chapter.

1.5. Since an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft does not possess a valid dues card, they will be accepted into the FMRC as "Provisional Members" until they are Raised to Master Mason.

1.5.1 (Effective 08-31-11) An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall not be permitted to wear the SHIELD (Or Small Shield Patch) of the FMRC until such time as they are Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and completed such proficiency as is required by their respective Grand Lodge to allow them to wear the Master's Square and Compasses. They may "lease" the SHIELD but they may not wear it until they have completed the requirements of this section.

1.5.2 Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft are not permitted to join a Local Chapter until they achieve the Degree of Master Mason and become a Full Member of the FMRC. (they are permitted to participate in Local Chapter functions)

1.5.3 Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft are required to demonstrate progress in moving through the degrees toward Master Mason within six (6) months of joining the FMRC. They must be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason within one (1) year of joining the FMRC.

1.5.4 Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft who fail to achieve the Master Mason Degree within the one year time limit, may apply to the Grand Chapter for an extension to the time limit. After showing good cause, extensions may be granted in one (1) month increments (per request) for a maximum extension of six (6) months.

1.5.5 Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft who fail to achieve the Master Mason Degree within the one year time limit and after exhausting the 6 months of extensions, will be dropped from the rolls of the FMRC and will be required to surrender their Shield to the Grand Chapter. These Brothers will be re-instated (without prejudice) to the rolls of the FMRC (and their Shield returned) upon receipt of a copy of their valid dues card indicating their status as a Master Mason in good standing in their Lodge.

1.5.6 Brothers serving in the U.S. Military are exempt from the time limit rule and will be maintained on the rolls of the Grand Chapter for such a period of time as they are maintained on the rolls of their respective Lodge.

1.5.7 Once a Brother is "raised" and their standing in the Lodge has been confirmed by the Grand Chapter, they will convert automatically to "full membership" with all of the rights thereto.
Until they achieve "Full Membership" they may not join a Local Chapter.

1.6. Members of the FMRC may NOT obtain the Shield of the FMRC, then present possession of that Shield to a person whose standing with the Grand Chapter has not been verified by the Grand Chapter.

1.7. Only Members in good standing of the Grand Chapter of the FMRC, shall be permitted to purchase, obtain, possess or wear the Shield of the FMRC.

1.8. All Shields are the property of the Free Masons Riding Club and are leased from the Grand Chapter for the duration of membership. Upon separation from the Free Masons Riding Club, all shields must be returned to the Grand Chapter Director or his designee.
Upon a members death, a member will (a) be buried or cremated with his Vest and Shield, (b) Have their Shield returned to the Club (c) have their Shield returned to a Chapter officer to be placed in a shadow box and returned to the family

1.9. The President of the Local Chapter will present to the Grand Chapter Officers, an updated list of the Officers and Members of their Chapter on an Annual basis.

1.10 Yearly Chapter dues are to be paid each year by January 1st. A Chapter whose dues fall in arrears a full year will be considered an inactive and disbanded chapter.

1.11. Ladies must obtain a full membership in the FMRC Ladies Auxiliary to be considered "Associates" of the Grand Chapter or Local Chapter. Full Membership in the FMRC Ladies Auxiliary must be verified by the Grand Chapter prior to an association with a Local Chapter.

1.11.1. Membership in the FMRC Ladies Auxiliary is restricted to Ladies who are sponsored by a Master Mason in good standing in the FMRC Grand Chapter.

1.12. The Grand Chapter of the FMRC maintains complete preemption in all issues of discipline concerning Members of the FMRC. NO Member, Chapter, or Chapter Officer shall attempt to discipline in any way, a Member of the FMRC.

1.13. Local Chapters may, according to their Chapter Rules, dismiss a Member of the FMRC from the Local Chapter; this action WILL HAVE NO EFFECT on that Member's standing in the FMRC.
No Member, Chapter, or Chapter Officer shall make any attempt to take possession of the Shield of a Member of the FMRC unless specifically directed to do so, in writing, by the Grand Chapter. Any Shield thus taken, will be immediately turned in to the Director of the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE - 2
FMRC SHIELD

2.1. No other Club Patch of any kind may be worn on the back of a Member's vest on which is displayed the FMRC Shield. This applies (but not limited) to all Riding Clubs (RC) including Masonic Riding Clubs, Riding Associations (RA), Motorcycle Ministries (MM), or Motorcycle Clubs (MC) type Clubs. This does not apply to Masonic Appendant Bodies such as the Shrine, Scottish Rite...etc. It also does not apply to POW/MIA, or "Memorial" patches.

2.2. Only members in good standing of the Grand Chapter of the FMRC shall be permitted to wear the Shield of the FMRC. Members of the FMRC are to maintain personal possession of the FMRC Shield at all times while in the public.

2.3. The Freemasons RC Shield is a proprietary and copyrighted insignia and as such, may not be altered, modified, or changed in any way. **The Master Mason's Square and Compasses is represented on the SHIELD. The SHIELD may not be covered in any way or part so as to make it to appear to represent any other degree in Masonry.**
In addition, no part of the Shield (identifiable as such) may be used in the content or construction of any other patch or insignia. It may not be reproduced on any article, without express written permission. In no case, may the insignia be reproduced on clothing, except by the Grand Chapter.

2.4. The FMRC Shield is the only Patch that may be used to represent the FMRC. No other patch or graphic may be used to represent the FREE MASONS Riding Club.

2.5. All Shields are the property of the Free Masons Riding Club and are leased from the Grand Chapter for the duration of membership. Upon separation from the Free Masons Riding Club, all shields must be returned to the Grand Chapter Director, or his designee.

2.6. No "rocker patch", "bar patch" or any other patch may be added to the back of a Member's vest that would give the appearance of making the FMRC Shield look like a "two" or "three piece" patch. No patch indicating the State, City, County, area code, zip code or area of origin of a Member shall be worn on a Members Vest (this does not apply to the Flag of a Members country of origin - such Flag patches shall be worn on the FRONT of the Member's Vest).

2.7. No "Nomad" or similar descriptive patch may be worn anywhere on a member's vest on which is displayed the FMRC "SHIELD". In the "Biker World" the term Nomad has a very special reference, deeper than the typical dictionary definition, and anyone wearing the Nomad Patch who cannot prove they have earned it through their "Homeless, Nomadic" lifestyle will almost certainly garner unwelcomed attention from some Bikers on the road.

2.8. A Local Chapter may not make any rule which dictates to a Full Member of the FMRC, how or where the Member shall wear their Shield or any other FMRC patch or insignia. The Grand Chapter maintains full preemption concerning all matters having to do with the display of Grand Chapter Patches, insignia, and the FMRC Shield.

CHAPTER PATCHES

2.9. The name Free Masons Riding Club, Free Masons RC, Freemasons RC, FMRC or other variation may not be used in any way on a Local Chapter Patch.

2.10. Local Chapter Patches may NOT be worn on the **back** of a Member's vest. Local Chapter Patches should be constructed of a size appropriate to be worn on the **front** of a Member's vest.

2.11. Local Chapter Patches may not identify by word the state, city, area code, zip code or county of the Chapter's location. Graphic patches that identify by design or picture - but not word, are Ok.

2.12. No patch may be worn on a Member's vest that identifies by word the state, city, area code, zip code or county of the Member's residence. Graphic patches that identify by design or picture - but not word, worn on the **front** of the vest are Ok. No such Graphic Patch may be worn on the BACK of a member's vest.

2.13. Only Full Members of the FMRC (in good standing) may wear a Chapter patch.

SUPPORT PATCHES

2.14. **While it is not recommended**, "Support" patches for other RC or RA may be worn on the **front** of a Member's vest, well below any FMRC Patch, so as not to confuse any affiliation between the Clubs.

2.15. No support patch or pin of any kind, for any MC, may be worn anywhere on a Members vest on which is displayed the FMRC "SHIELD".

2.16. No "Support Gear" (Shirts, Hats, etc) for ANY **MC** may be worn by any member of the Free Masons RC while said member is wearing the FMRC "SHIELD".

2.17. No 1%er patches may be worn anywhere on a Member's vest on which is displayed the FMRC "SHIELD".

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are presented to the Membership as suggestions for the presentation of patches on the front of a Members vest. It is the intention of the Grand Chapter to keep the Rules that we have to follow to an absolute minimum and it is not our intention to develop a "dress code" for the Membership. Therefore, the following "recommendations" are meant to assist a Member (who may desire assistance) in developing the presentation of their Vest. Please accept the following recommendations in the spirit in which they are given...as suggestions, only.

1. The Member's NAME patch should be worn on the "right" breast.

2. The "Founding Member", "Charter Member", "Member" patch should be worn below the FMRC "Small" patch and both worn on the "Left" breast.

3. The Local Chapter Patch should be worn on the "left" breast below the "Small" FMRC patch.

4. Patches that identify a Member as an Officer of the Grand Chapter should be worn on the left breast below the Small FMRC Patch.

5. Patches that identify a Member as an Officer of a Local Chapter should be worn on the left breast below the Local Chapter Patch.

5. If a Member desires to wear the "Small" FMRC patch, it should be worn above the Local Chapter Patch on the "left" breast.

6. While it is not recommended to do so, if a Member wishes to display "support" patches for other Riding Clubs (RC) or Riding Associations (RA)...These patches should be worn on either side of the front of the Member's vest, below the Name Patch or Local Chapter Patch. (As stated in the "BY-Laws" above...no support patches for any Motorcycle Club (MC) may be worn on a member's vest at any time.)

Free Masons Riding Club
BYLAWS Grand Chapter

ARTICLE - 3

ENGAGING IN CHARITABLE EVENTS OR SOLICITATIONS AT NATIONAL FMRC SPONSORED FAMILY REUNIONS, RALLY'S OR EVENTS

3.1 No Member of the FMRC or Associate thereof may sponsor any Charitable Event, Raffle, Collection, Solicitation or any similar activity which is designed to support any organization or charity external to the FMRC whereby the Members of the FMRC may be asked, induced, or required to contribute money, at or during any National FMRC Sponsored Rally or Event.

3.2 This does not prevent any Member of the FMRC from engaging in Charitable Events in their local area outside of the scope of the National FMRC Sponsored Rally's or Events, so long as they do so as individuals and do not sponsor, or co-sponsor, said events as representatives of the FMRC.

3.3 This does not apply to organizations who supply a service to the FMRC as a function of the National FMRC Rally or Event for which service they request contributions to offset their expenses.

3.4 This does not apply to National FMRC Sponsored patches, pins, or other materials or items directly associated with the National FMRC organization.

3.5 Applicable National FMRC Rally's or Events are (but not limited to):
ANNUAL FMRC NATIONAL Family Reunion (Rally)
ANNUAL (or Semi-Annual) FMRC REGIONAL Runs or RALLY'S

The FMRC is a Social Club where the Members come together to engage in Fun and Fellowship. The FMRC is not a vehicle to promote the charitable efforts of one or more individual Members of the Club or their Associates.
These Charitable efforts on the part of Members of the FMRC are laudable and serve as a valuable resource for the Charities served, however conducting such functions at or during a National FMRC Sponsored Rally or Event places emotional and financial pressure on the general Membership present. This is not appropriate to the purpose of the National FMRC Rally or Event.
Each Member of the FMRC is already obligated to their own Blue Lodge, Royal Arch, Commandry, Scottish Rite, Shrine and untold other charitable efforts to which they contribute as liberally as they can. Some of our Members already contribute thousands of dollars to charity on an annual basis to organizations outside the FMRC.
The National FMRC Family Reunion and Rally's are an opportunity for the Members to come together in fun and fellowship, while enjoying a break from the world and its employments. The experience of the Club Member at a National FMRC Family Reunion or Rally should be free of the pressures of everyday life, this includes the solicitation of funds for any external organization, regardless of how worthwhile that organization may be. These solicitation efforts must be kept separate from the National FMRC Family Reunion, Rally's and Events.

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ARTICLE - 4
FMRC FORUM

4.1 Postings on the Free Masons Riding Club (FMRC) Forum of a pornographic nature (neither soft nor hard core) will not be tolerated. The fact is, this Forum is/may be visible to minors and the spouses of our Brothers. Displaying material on this Forum is inappropriate and will not be allowed. This applies to nudity also referred to as "Art Shots".

4.2 Links in postings on this Forum to pornographic sites or web pages that display pornographic material will not be tolerated, and will be immediately removed by the Moderator.

4.3 It is the responsibility of the Brothers to monitor their language while posting on this Forum. Excessive use of vulgarities will be deleted by the Moderators.

4.4 As Masons we are expected to be civil to one another. Therefore, abusive conduct while posting on the Forum Board will not be tolerated.

4.5 Failure to abide by these rules of conduct will result in the offending Member being barred from posting on the FMRC Forum.

Brothers,
We have tried to keep the rules for this Club as minimal as possible. To achieve this end, we expect the members to conduct themselves with a certain amount of decorum. It is really quite simple...conduct yourselves accordingly with respect to each other and the club.

ARTICLE - 5
RIDES, RALLY'S EVENTS

5.1 The Grand Chapter of the Free Masons RC does not provide Liability Insurance Coverage for any Ride, Rally, or Event.

5.2 No individual Member or Chapter shall engage in sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, a Ride, Rally or Event for charity or any other cause without first obtaining an "Umbrella Insurance Policy" to provide liability coverage for the Ride, Rally or Event. Minimum coverage required is $2,000,000.

5.3 No Individual Member or Chapter shall engage in sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, a Ride, Rally or Event as a representative of the Free Masons RC.
Any individual Member or Chapter engaging in sponsoring or co-sponsoring an event makes EVERY member of the Free Masons RC a potential target for litigation.

5.4 Individual Members and/or Chapters may represent themselves as members or representatives of the Free Masons RC as long as they are **participants** in the event and are **NOT** sponsoring or co-sponsoring the event.

5.5 Individual Members or Chapters may at their discretion, support by volunteer work, a Ride, Rally or Event for which they receive no monetary gain or benefit, as long as they are **NOT** listed or recognized as a Sponsor or Co-Sponsor of the Ride, Rally or Event.

The reasoning for these By-Laws are as follows:
When sponsoring or co-sponsoring a Ride, Rally or Event, the sponsoring party assumes liability for any accident or injury that occurs at the Ride, Rally or Event. (You cannot simply tell people that you do not assume liability...it just doesn't work that way. it will not prevent someone from suing you.) The lack of liability insurance coverage leaves the sponsoring parties vulnerable to litigation in the event of an accident or incident.

LOOK AROUND YOUR HOME...DO YOU WANT TO KEEP IT? I WANT TO KEEP MINE!
No individual can "sign their rights under the law away"...therefore liability waivers, signed by the participants, are not - in reality - worth the paper they are written on.
Umbrella Liability Insurance Policies are very expensive and the Free Masons RC cannot afford the expense of such a policy when there is no monetary gain to be realized to offset the cost of the policy. Unfortunately, our legal system has made it necessary to protect ourselves in this manner

ARTICLE – 6
CONDUCT DURING RIDES RALLYS OR EVENTS

6.1 No Member of the FMRC shall engage in “Blocking” at intersections, unless a Parade Permit has been issued for the Ride and “Blocking” has been specifically authorized by the Legal Authority. Blocking is inherently dangerous and is illegal in every state of the United States and subjects the person doing it to specific citations (tickets) and considerable fines.

6.2 No Member of the FMRC shall violate Traffic Laws while on a Club Ride or Event. Speeding, Running Stop Signs and or Traffic Control Lights. Blocking traffic for any reason will not be conducted or tolerated. The fact we are on a Club Ride will not prevent any Member participating in these acts from receiving citations (tickets) and being subject to considerable fines. In addition to the illegal aspect of this conduct, any injury sustained by the Member or other individuals will more than likely result in the Members insurance company denying any claims resulting from what they will see as an illegal act.

Revised: 20210701
Dennis D Cude, Director, Grand Chapter, Free Masons Riding Club
Note: Grammatical corrections made