

WELCOME TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CICHLID ASSOCIATION!

A non-profit organization devoted to the furtherance of knowledge regarding cichlids and encouraging the keeping of cichlids as aquarium subjects.

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

Contained in this package you will find everything you need to know concerning the activities, benefits, and operations of our club. We are sure you will find your membership to be of great interest and value. We look forward to your input.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CICHLID ASSOCIATION – 2004

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

The name of the society shall be the Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association, hereinafter referred to as the RMCA.

ARTICLE TWO: OBJECTIVES

Section One:

The RMCA is devoted to furtherance of the knowledge concerning cichlids and encouraging the keeping of cichlids as aquarium subjects.

Section Two:

The RMCA shall be non-political, non-sectarian, and non-profit in all of its relationships.

ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP

Section One:

All persons interested in cichlids shall be eligible for membership.

Section Two:

All members must submit a RMCA application accompanied by membership dues. Dues will be for a twelve month period from month of payment. After the first year dues are prorated to 1 January. Then dues are due on 1 January

Section Three:

Membership dues are established at Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per year.

Section Four:

In the event any member drops out of, or is expelled from, the RMCA, there will be no refund of dues paid.

Section Five:

The privileges of membership are:

- a. Voting: Eligibility to vote is limited to active members in good standing. All voting of the general membership shall be by means specified by the executive board prior to voting.
- b. Library: Any member has the use of the library provided that they abide by the library rules.
- c. Participation: Members may participate in any of the club functions.

ARTICLE FOUR: OFFICERS

Section One:

There shall be the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and two members-at-large.

Section Two:

Elective officers shall be nominated and elected at the regular meeting in November. The officers shall be elected by majority ballot and installed at the regular January meeting. The officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section Three:

Any candidate for office must be a member in good standing and be of legal age.

Section Four:

The President shall preside at all general and executive board meetings at which he is present. He shall exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the RMCA. In addition, the President shall appoint all committee chairmen.

The standing committees chairmen shall be.

- Bowl Show
- Auction
- Program
- Growth Contest
- Breeders Award Program

The president may establish additional committees as may be required to sustain the functions of the RMCA

Section Five:

The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall assume the duties of the President. The Vice President shall assist the other elected officer in times of need.

Section Six:

The Treasurer shall receive all the RMCA funds and keep them in a bank or repository selected and approved by the executive board. Accurate records must be kept of all monetary transactions. The Treasurer shall require a bill or signed voucher for all disbursements. The only officers authorized to write checks drawing upon the funds of the society shall be the Treasurer and one other elected officer of legal age designated by the Executive Board. The Treasurer must present a monthly financial report at each executive board and general meeting. All records to be audited annually and be kept for a minimum of three years.

Section Seven:

The Secretary shall keep the original minutes of all executive board and general meetings of the RMCA, and one copy will be provided to the President which shall be the accurate and official record of all business transactions. The Secretary shall maintain a current membership list and all such other records as directed by the executive board. The Secretary is also responsible for keeping an accurate record of all attendance of members and visitors and accountability and inventory of all fixed assets. The Secretary will also handle correspondence with any other cichlid association

Section Eight:

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall see that all general meeting and other functions as directed by the Executive Board are conducted in an orderly manner and to render assistance in any capacity for which he is called upon.

Section Nine:

In the event of a vacancy of the office of the President, the Vice President shall ascend. Any office other than the President shall be filled by election, unless said vacancy occurs during the last months of the year, in which case the office shall be appointed by the President.

ARTICLE FIVE: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section One:

The Executive Board shall consist of the duly elected officers and the immediate past president.

Section Two:

The Executive Board shall establish and guide all functions of the RMCA through its various committees.

Section Three:

The Executive Board may expel any member of the RMCA for the following reasons:

1. Non-payment of dues
2. Malfeasance in office
3. Conduct unbecoming of a member of the RMCA

Section Four:

The Executive Board shall meet at least three times a year.

ARTICLE SIX: MEETINGS

Section One:

The RMCA shall hold regular meetings at a time and place designated by the Executive Board. The Executive Board will meet a time and place designated by the President.

Section Two:

The members present at a regular meeting shall constitute a quorum by definition. Approval of a majority of the members present will be required in order to conduct business at the regular meetings of the RMCA. Executive Board meetings require attendance of two thirds (2/3) of the boards members for a quorum.

Section Three:

The order of business at all regular meetings of the RMCA shall include the following:

- Call meeting to order
- Reading of previous meeting minutes
- Reading of the Treasurer's condensed report
- Old business
- New business
- Bowl show
- Program
- Adjournment

Section Four:

All business of the RMCA shall be transacted under the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE SEVEN: AMMENDMENTS

Section One:

Any proposed amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to any elected officer. They will be referred to the Executive Board for investigation and recommendation. Proposed amendments will then be published in an official RMCA publication as designated by the Executive Board. It will be read and voted upon at the next regular meeting after publication. They shall become part of this constitution only if approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present.

Section Two:

Amendments to the by laws follow the same procedure as applicable to the constitution.

BY-LAW: ONE:

In the event of the dissolution of the Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association, all assets will be donated to the American Cichlid Association Guy Jordan Fund.

BY-LAW: TWO

If any portion of this constitution, in part of whole, shall be found null and void by law, the remainder of the constitution shall remain intact.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CICHLID ASSOCIATION

The Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association is an organization created for the expansion of knowledge of tropical fish of the family Cichlidae, and to promote their keeping as aquarium subjects.

The goals of this organization are and will be carried out exclusively.

- a. Through the exchange of ideas and experiences of it's members, among themselves and with similar organizations throughout the United States and abroad;
- b. by show and exhibits presented in the general Colorado area:
- c. through it's occasional publication *The Cichlidophile*, which is also exchanged for similar publications from other associations of this type.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings occur nine times a year, every month except for July, August, and December. We usually meet at 6:00 pm on the second Sunday of those nine months, unless the day falls on a holiday or a special day like, Mother's Day. We have been meeting at the Englewood Recreation Center, 1155 West Oxford, in Englewood. The meetings are two hours long and you don't have to be a member to attend. Detailed meeting information is contained in the monthly bulletin.

We have a bowl show at each meeting where members bring in fish from a predetermined class of Cichlids. We also have a program, which could be a video or a guest speaker, at each meeting. In the remaining time of the meeting we cover minutes of the last meeting, the financial statement of the club, upcoming events, and attempt to answer any of your questions.

ACTIVITIES OF THE RMCA

Auctions

The RMCA holds two auctions a year, one in the spring and one in the fall to raise operating revenue. You may bring cichlids (of any sort), scavengers, plants, and (any sort of) usable dry goods to be auctioned or sold at the Quick Sale table. As a club member you will receive 80% of the auction proceeds. Non-members receive 60%. Detailed auction rules are available if you plan to participate in an auction.

Cichlidophile

These are publications drawn from members of the club. Our members may write about their experiences collecting fish from Mexico or South America, etc. They may even write about how they raised a fish to a record size, or how they spawned a certain rare fish.

Bowl Show

We have a bowl show at each regular meeting. You are encouraged to bring your favorite specimens and an appropriate tank to compete in the bowl show. There are different categories each month as published in the monthly bulletin. Fish are judged on fins, demeanor, size, color, and other points. Auction dollars are awarded to the winners. Bowl show rules are available if you plan to participate in the bowl shows.

BAP (Breeder's Award Program)

This program was set up to promote the breeding of Cichlids especially the more rare ones. Points are given when you can spawn a given fish and be able to raise it to ¾" or 1" depending on the species. The more rare the fish, then more points you can get. The accumulation of points is kept on file by the BAP chairman. The total points will determine if you are a beginner or advanced breeder. Awards are also given in this program.

Growth Contest

Twice a year the club will obtain cichlid fry of high quality to be distributed to the membership for a growth contest. Each member pays only a fraction of the acquisition costs. In 6 months these fish are judged on size alone at a monthly meeting. Members must be present at the meeting at which fish are distributed and the meeting where the fish are judged. Auction dollars are awarded to the single winner.

Other activities may include a summer picnic and a Christmas party. These are scheduled in the months that we do not have a regular meeting. Picnics and parties are a good way to get together, talk about fish and fill our stomachs with delicious food at the same time. We also plan field trips and home bowl shows which are the easiest way to see entire fish rooms. Our club has several members with beautiful fish and tremendous fish rooms.

We urge you to join our club. Our membership fee is only \$15.00 a year. There is nowhere else that you can gain in knowledge and experience for so little money and time. We lose some members from time to time, but we really need new active members to keep this wonderful club going.

In an effort to better our club, we need your help by answering the following questions. As a new member, your participation to us. Our club cannot grow and improve without your help.

How did you find out about our club?

Have you ever belonged to a club for tropical fish?

What kind of fish do you now raise?

What do hope to get out of the club?

Example 1 – How to set up a community tank?

Example 2 – How to breed a certain kind of cichlid?

Example 3 – Information from video's or guest speakers?

How long have you been keeping cichlids?

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CICHLID ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DUES - \$15.00 FOR 12 MONTHS

DATE: _____
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER: () _____
FAX NUMBER: _____
EMAIL: _____

TYPES OF CICHLIDS KEPT: _____

WOULD YOU LIKE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? YES NO

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