
Big Country Off-Road By-Laws

Article I. Club Name

The name of this organization shall be Big Country Off-Road.

Article II. Purpose

Big Country Off-Road is hereby organized as a non-profit organization to:

- A. Promote, organize, and hold outings, meetings, excursions, hill-climbs, cross country trips, and similar events.
- B. Promote the sport and pastime of four-wheel drive in the eyes of the public and to give a good reputation to the club and to the sport of four-wheeling.

Article III. Membership and Dues

- A. Any person who owns a 4x4 or 4x2 truck or SUV is eligible for membership in Big Country Off-Road.
- B. Applicants for membership must hold a valid Texas drivers license and must show minimum insurance coverage on their vehicles for the state that it is registered in. All members' vehicles must be licensed. The exception to this would be a trail rig that is towed to an event or outing. All trail rigs will be inspected annually, and prior to organized trail runs by the Head of Safety.
- C. Applicants for membership must be of such character that the membership would consider them assets to the club.
- D. The cost to join Big Country Off-Road is \$25 a year. Each member that joins gets a membership card. Extra revenue will be obtained by voluntary donations and fund-raising activities. Any club officer may collect dues. Paid membership will also include a club decal that will be displayed on the vehicle that runs the trail. Additional stickers for tow rigs may be acquired from the board of directors on a case by case basis. Everyone that signs the membership application prior to 31 March 2004 will be known as CHARTER MEMBERS. You will receive a special CHARTER MEMBER decal, and replacements if worn must be obtained from the board of directors.
- E. Club decal must be removed from the vehicle when it is sold or when membership terminates.
- F. All personal expenses shall be borne by each individual and not be the responsibility of Big country Off-Road.
- G. Members shall notify the Secretary, and the Membership Coordinator of any changes to address, phone, or e-mail.
- H. Operating condition and safety of each vehicle are the responsibility of its owner. No illegal or dangerous act by anyone shall make this club liable.
- I. Members may bring guests to club events for the primary purpose of learning more about the club and consider if they want to join. Guest status is not to be considered as a way to attend many club events without becoming a club member.

Article IV. Meetings

- A. Meetings of Big Country Off-Road shall be held on a quarterly basis. They will take place during the months of January, April, July, and October on the first Saturday. Elections will be held at the October meeting. Subsequent meetings may be coordinated by contacting the President or Vice President if a reason arises that would require a meeting.
- B. At the beginning of a meeting the Secretary will announce the agenda and will call the meeting to order.
- C. The Board of Directors must be present at each meeting. If for some reason an officer cannot attend they must notify the other officers and let them know.

Article V. Administration and Officers

- A. There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, an Event/Membership Coordinator, a Web Master, and a Head of Safety. Many of these may be handled by the same person until the club gets up and running, or an event coordinator can be appointed on a case by case basis.
- B. The Board of Directors shall conduct the day-to-day business and take such action as might best fulfill the aims of the organization. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to report its decisions to the membership. Any decision of the Board of Directors may be overridden by two-thirds majority vote on the active membership.
- C. No person may hold the same office more than two consecutive terms.
- D. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors must be filled by a membership election within 90 days. The President may appoint a stand-in only on a temporary basis (Temporary means not to exceed 90 days.)
- E. Resignation of any officer shall be in writing and submitted to the Secretary or President.

Article VI. Duties

- A. The President shall preside over all membership and board meetings and be present at all events when possible and shall have the duty to carry out the policies and decisions of the Board of Directors. The President shall be able to sign checks as will the Treasurer. The President shall also be responsible for the club web page and any lines of communication used by the club which may be delegated. The President has the final authority over all club issues upon consultation with board of directors.
- B. The Vice President shall act on the President's behalf when situations arise that take the President away.
- C. The Secretary shall keep and preserve all records and minutes of the membership and board meetings; Shall assume responsibility of ledger roll call and determine the number of voting members present; Shall keep a file system of membership and manage any new members.
- D. The Treasurer shall keep accurate and complete records of the funds and accounts of this organization; Shall have access to the club bank account along with the President; Shall help the President with club events and other club business.
- E. The Event Coordinator shall be responsible for planning the logistics of his/her Club meetings and events.
- G. The Membership Coordinator shall promote club membership and keep current information on his/her club members. The membership coordinator shall also fill in for the event coordinator when the need arises.

H. The Web Master shall be the focal point for club web site updates and all pictures will be courtesy copied to the President and Vice President as a back up.

I. The Head of Safety shall be someone that has an understanding of vehicle mechanics and workings. This person shall be responsible for annual vehicle inspections that will be identified by a sticker stating the year the vehicle has been inspected for. This person will also be responsible for a visual inspection of all trail vehicles prior to organized trail runs. This person shall also provide specific safety guidelines for a specific off-road event if required, such as Katemcy Rocks requires a roll bar.

J. General Members shall at all times be diligent for safety problems, any two members regardless of position have the power to ask any person to leave the trail if there is any issue that arises which cause a bad image for our club or threatens anyone's safety.

Article VII. Expenditures and Finance

A. All monies received from all sources shall immediately be turned over to the Treasurer or President to be deposited in the account(s) of the organization.

B. No withdraw from the club funds shall be made without the approval of the Board of Directors. All expenditures shall be made by check, and the item for which each check is drawn shall be designated on the face or reverse side thereof with accompanying invoices or paid receipts. If funds for more than one purpose are included, they shall be itemized separately.

C. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer will have access to the bank accounts.

Article VIII. Committees

The President shall designate committees and appoint committee chairmen. The chairman of each committee shall be responsible to the membership for that particular committee function.

Article IX. Elections

A. The membership shall nominate, at the regular October meeting, all candidates for office.

B. Election will be by secret written ballot and shall be held at the regular meeting in October. New officers shall assume office at the adjournment of that October meeting.

C. Ballots must be counted and checked by three members other than nominees. A majority of votes cast is necessary to elect an officer.

Article X. Recall

Any officer of Big Country Off-Road may be recalled by a two-thirds majority of the entire membership.

Article XI. Events and Outings

A. All official events and outings shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Events and outings will be under the direction of a committee chairman or a member of the Board of Directors.

B. All attending members must have a signed waiver on file before attending an event or outing.

C. On all trail rides there will be a trail boss and tail gunner who shall bring up the rear. These vehicles must be equipped with CB radios. CB Radios are HIGHLY recommended for all vehicles

participating in trail runs, but are not mandatory.

D. The trail boss' main purpose is to lead the trail ride and to inform the members following them of any upcoming obstacles that they may need to watch out for. The tail gunner's main purpose is to make sure that no members are left behind. If a member has to stop or is stuck, the tail gunner must radio ahead to the trail boss so that the rest of the group doesn't leave them behind.

E. All participants in any outing shall be responsible for leaving the host's property at least as good and clean as it was found. At no time will littering or destruction of property be tolerated.

F. All competitive events shall be under the direct authority, supervision, and control of the event committee chairman. The event committee shall determine entrance classifications and regulations for various events and shall approve trophies and awards to be presented. Vehicles may be subject to technical inspection (varying according to the event) and shall be disqualified if found to be mechanically unsafe.

G. Any flagrant violation of the club rules at any event or outing, or any act of endangering the lives or the well-being of others, is sufficient cause for removal of membership privileges by the event committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at the next board meeting.

H. All events will be alcohol and drug free. Drinking and driving will not be tolerated. Being intoxicated or displaying any other dangerous behavior is sufficient cause for membership privilege revocation. Privileges will be revoked by the event committee, which is will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at the next board meeting. After the trail run, back at camp, adult beverages may be consumed in a manner that does not detract from the family atmosphere of our club. At no time will alcohol be consumed, prior to or during a trail run by a driver or passenger. Safety is our number one concern.

I. Any firearms that are brought to an event or outing must be pre-approved by the President and/or Vice President, and the bearer of the firearm must have a license to carry. Firearms, when carried should be properly secured. Rifles and other long guns are not permitted on trail runs, unless the trail run incorporates hunting or target shooting.

Article XII. Rules and Procedures

Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern parliamentary procedure.

Article XIII. Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds majority vote at a regular club meeting. Any amendment to the By-Laws must be presented to the membership at the regular club meeting preceding that in which the vote is taken. The only exception to this is when a majority of the entire voting membership votes in favor of an amendment; this may be done at any meeting without prior presentation.

Article XIV. Safety Regulations

A. Vehicles must be maintained to meet all Texas safety requirements. The exception to this would be a trail rig that is towed to an event or outing, as long as it is not a safety hazard to others, and must pass inspection by Head of Safety each year.

B. No one shall ride on the exterior of any vehicle to give it added weight or traction to negotiate

- difficult terrain. Any exception to this must be under the supervision and authority of the trail boss.
- C. No one without a valid state driver's license shall be allowed to operate a four-wheel drive or two-wheel drive vehicle without the approval of the trail boss.
- D. No one shall operate their vehicle in a manner that will endanger others. This is sufficient cause for immediate removal from the club.

Article XV. Termination or Dissolution

In the event of termination or dissolution of this organization, the assets, if any, shall be applied to paying all its current obligations and debts, and the balance shall be held until the officers are reasonably certain that all unliquidated obligations have been paid in full. Any surplus assets remaining will be disbursed or transferred to a worthwhile charity to be determined by the Board of Directors such as UFWDA or SWFWDA.

Article XVI. Order of Business

- A. Call the meeting to order.
- B. Welcome new members.
- C. Read the minutes.
- D. Board of Directors reports.
- E. Old business.
- F. New business.
- G. General conversation and comments from the membership.
- H. Adjournment.

Certification of Club Officers

We certify that we are the club officers of Big Country Off-Road and that the foregoing By-Laws are the By-Laws of Big Country Off-Road duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on March 13th, 2004

President – Michael Strickland

Vice President- Justin Mahana

Treasurer - Michael Strickland/ Justin Mahana

Secretary – Michael Strickland/ Justin Mahana

Web Master- Michael Strickland/ Justin Mahana

Event/Membership Coordinator-

Head of Safety-