



## New Member Welcome Packet and Handbook

On behalf of the members we are excited to welcome you to the Las Vegas Soaring Club (LVSC), an AMA Chartered Gold Leader member Club #3308. The LVSC is one of several AMA clubs in the Vegas Valley and many members are also members of some of those clubs. The LVSC also has an AMA District X Associate Vice President (AVP) in the club and an additional one in the Vegas area. They represent the AMA in the field and are available for any questions concerning the AMA. More information is available on the club website about them.

The LVSC is an all electric club that includes fixed and rotary wing aircraft, UAV (drones) and almost anything else that can fly, provided it is also electric powered. A separate pad is provided for "drone" and rotary aircraft so as not to interfere with fixed wing operations and safety regulations.

The LVSC also provides an electrically operated winch line in certain days for non-powered sailplanes. The club has the only model aviation winch line in Southern Nevada. Members are available for instruction in how to use and fly the winch.

The club maintains a website at [www.lvsoaringclub.org](http://www.lvsoaringclub.org) and communicates through an online system called Groupworks. As a member you will receive an invite to log into this system and create your own profile. Among the many benefits of this system, you have the ability to post videos, pictures, list classified items for sale and communicate with other members. No personal information is viewable by anyone as allowed -or not allowed - in your profile setup. We encourage you to accept the invitation in the email you provided during the application process right away as this is the sole communication method for club notifications, etc.

The Las Vegas Soaring Club began in 1991 and has become one of the oldest and largest RC clubs in the Southwest. One of the reasons we have become so large is that our members are knowledgeable, creative, diversified, and above all...supportive and friendly towards new and existing members as well as visitors interested in the hobby of model flying.

Another reason is the naturally occurring beauty of the Red Rock Recreation Area adjacent to our field. This area is nationally known for its unusual rock formations of bright orange and pink colors. The park boasts a 23 mile driving experience through the park in addition to a visitors center and gift shop.

There is a noticeable camaraderie on the field as members work together to further enhance and promote the sport of RC flying and Soaring.

We encourage the younger guys and girls to participate and learn about RC flying and offer on-the-field training to those interested in flying. The Bob Pickens Junior Pilot Program is

available for those youngsters -18 and under - wishing to learn how to fly model aircraft at no charge.

Because of all this our club continues to evolve and grow into a very diversified RC electric flying club. Members may fly any free flight or electric operated aircraft within the guidelines of the club field rules, AMA guidelines or FAA regulations.

The LVSC maintains and operates a small field with a 300ft by 35ft runway facing East and West. The runway has two taxiways 14ft by 22 feet long for departure preparation and arrival positioning. Please keep these clear for this purpose. We do not allow flying off the taxiways or landing on them for any reason due to safety concerns.

Our mission is to provide a safe, educational facility and environment for model aviation pilots and enthusiasts of all ages.

Included in this packet are many documents, such as AMA Safety Codes, LVSC Rules and Regulations and others related to safely flying at the LVSC field. We encourage you to read them and be familiar with all AMA, FAA and LVSC operating and safety procedures.

Due to the large membership from not only La Vegas but other cities and states the LVSC has a brief introduction to equipment and flight program so that we may better understand your knowledge of model aviation, your aircraft and your flying experience. This part of the welcome program is modeled after an AMA designated program.

The LVSC has an excellent safety record and this part of the introduction program is designed to get to know you better and maintain that record. We appreciate your understanding of this process and welcome your participation and comments.

To accomplish this part of the program the LVSC has certified AMA IP (Introductory Pilot) designated members that will work with you directly. Any of these or a current Board member may directly waive any or all portions of the program at their discretion.

Once again, welcome to the LVSC!  
We're glad to have you aboard.



## A Brief History of the LVSC

The Las Vegas Soaring Club was born in 1991. With around eight members flying sailplanes it wasn't long before they were obliged to move to a better location. For the next few years flying was done in a detention basin before it was time to move to another location.

One of the members was also a member of the Desert Sportsman Rifle and Pistol Club (DSRCP) on the west side of the city. After considerable negotiations the DSRCP granted LVSC the free use of 21 acres directly across Highway 159. A small piece of carpet was laid down in the desert sands and soaring continued.

Before long improvements in electric powered aircraft prompted the club to relocate the runway and up size it to accommodate more complex and varied aircraft. With the cooperation of the DSRCP tractor the new field improvements were completed, adding a better driveway, a new locking gate and a winch/retriever system for the soaring planes.

The carpet lasted about four years, by which time the club had grown to about 65 members during 2010.

By 2013 it was decided to extend the runway to 250 feet. This required a better substrate and a smoother sub-grade. To help with costs an AMA Flying Site Development/Improvement Grant of \$452 was awarded to the club to help defray rising costs.

2016 and 2017 brought more changes and enhancement to the facility, including a larger parking lot, driveway improvements, better pit tables, pea stone in the pit areas and the installation of a new helicopter/quad and DLG pad separate from the runway. By this time the club membership had grown to around 135 members from all walks of life and locations. Additionally, the Bob Pickens Junior Pilot Program was created to bring younger members into the hobby. Community support was overwhelming and donations of money, aircraft and supplies continue to this day. One of the first Junior Pilots was recently featured in Model Aviation Magazine District X news and is now pursuing a career in aviation.

During the next years of 2019 and 2020 the club purchased and installed a commercial weather station on DSRCP property. DSRCP has been the largest club benefactor over the years and charges no rent for use of the 21 acres. The station has performed impeccably and is regularly used by both the LVSC and DSRCP members ([weatherlink.com](http://weatherlink.com)). It is just a small return for the superior support and relationship between the two clubs. LVSC pays a yearly fee for the cellular service that the station uses in transmitting data every few minutes.

Club membership continues to grow and is currently around 145, a fairly steady number in the last few years and making LVSC the largest club in Southern Nevada. Members proactively participate in community events and charitable organizations. Club events afford the club the opportunity to financially help other clubs, such as the Western Carolina Radio Club Sky Hawks. LVSC is also home to the Las Vegas Red Rock Search and Rescue Drone Unit as a training facility. Gold Leader Club status brought more community recognition in the form of Mayoral Proclamations.

Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic the club was active in co sponsoring events with other clubs,

offered regular Swap Meets, trained and conducted classes and flight training with the Civil Air Patrol, local schools, Boy Scout troops and other organizations. Many members are also stationed at Nellis Air Force Base and the club has held static displays at their air show and talked to several thousand members of the public about the hobby, AMA and the joys of RC building and flying.

The current Pandemic has posed many challenges for all the clubs and in every facet of “normal” life. We look forward to being ready to roll when restrictions are finally lifted and the LVSC can get back to the business of being a community namesake, a beacon that attracts new and younger members and a contributor and supporter of the AMA and the many charities of the past and future.

**Please read the Field Rules and Regulations that follow.  
They are the backbone of how day-to-day flying is done in a safe manner.**

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### **GENERAL “RULES” 1/01/22**

The aim of these “rules” is to provide a safe, easygoing, welcoming field for our members and visitors. These “rules” are more like our expectations— directed to courteous people. They are not intended to cover every eventuality. The idea is to provide a safe, cooperative flying experience that adjusts with the situation. We are not here to catch someone breaking a “rule”. We'll all be better off if we're considerate of our colleagues.

**GATE**—When you open the gate, chain it back and lock the chain and padlock. This provides for visitors. When last to leave, lock it. Don't give the gate code to anyone you don't know. Those who are uncomfortable flying alone at the field may lock the gate while they fly alone.

**PARKING**—Please park perpendicular to the flight line, leaving space to the tables. Please conserve parking spaces.

**ID CARDS** are for identifying members and learning names. Please wear your ID Card when you're at the field.

**TIDINESS**—Take all your own garbage home (incl butts). Put chairs away under the tables.

**TABLES & SMOKING**—Do not sit on the tables. If you smoke, please do it where the smoke won't bother others.

**VISITORS** are expected to park on the south side of the lot, keep their animals leashed, control their kids, and treat our field as the private place it is. Visitor parking is for visitors to the field only—not hikers. Visitors are to stay south of the tables and off the pad unless specifically invited by the pilot. Please be courteous and low key when explaining rules to a visitor.

### **FLYING SAFETY “RULES” 1/01/22**

**SAFETY COORDINATOR** is responsible for monitoring the flying to keep things safe. The safety coordinator may deputize other members to be a safety presence for the SC's absences. If you see an unsafe practice, please talk to the safety coordinator, one of the deputies, or a club officer. If this isn't possible, please politely, privately talk to the person about the unsafe situation.

- On both the runway and pad, call out “on the field”, “taking off”, “landing”, and “clear”. Make these call outs loudly so that you communicate with the rest of the pilots. Call out “heads up” if you're losing control of an aircraft that could come close to people.
- The runway is mainly for fixed wing planes, but may be used by helis and quads. Minimize the time you tie up the runway. Get behind the flight line and keep your aircraft flying north of the runway. Be aware of other aircraft.

- The pad is for aircraft (quads, helis, DLGs, 3D planes) flown close in. Aircraft flown from the pad ideally fly to the west. If you do fly across the runway at low altitude, call out "crossing runway". **All aircraft, regardless of altitude, shall not fly behind the red pilot's safety line.** The exception being drones under "RTH" (return to home) function may cross the pilots line temporarily until such time as the aircraft self-lands or pilot regains control.
- Flying over cars or behind the spools is reckless and must be avoided.
- Drone pilots are encouraged to remain a safe distance and altitude when near the Red Rock sign and people nearby.
- Sailplane landings take precedence over powered aircraft.
- Visitors who are AMA members may fly on two visits as a guest of an LVSC member. Those who are not AMA members must fly with an AMA certified Introductory Pilot Instructor. The Introductory Pilot Instructor is responsible for filling out the AMA paperwork before flying