

# Editors Editorial on membership

How do we distinguish between Online members and a General members?

Good question and as of yet, there has been no answer – All post replies welcome!

This is the first time in the 30 years that Sierra RotorCraft Club has been in existence has been so large – 70 members and growing. In the past, the membership averaged around 30 members and 90% of them lived close enough to attend club meetings and activities, like fly-ins and adventure outings. 70% or more of these members were also helicopter builders and many others were flying there ships. Club dues were also \$24.00 per year.

But now the club has expanded in the last 18 months to Gyro's. Please note that Gyro's have always been welcome into the club. It's just that up until around 6, 7 years ago, there were many Gyro-copter clubs in the Bay Area (San Francisco & Northern California), so way belong to a club of 95% helicopter builders and fliers. – Good Point!

So why the growth? – Well it is mostly due to the clubs website [www.SierraRotorCraftClub.org](http://www.SierraRotorCraftClub.org) which began an opt-in mailing list to the club. Everybody receiving this newsletter filled out this form on the website otherwise you would not be receiving it. But what surprised me is the sure number of opt-in people that have their interest in Gryo-plans. And another thing that surprised me is the number of people that live in other states and countries have joined. This brings me to the next point – membership!

**Membership!** We now have two groups of memberships – Note although you may live faraway and just receive the newsletter, we still consider you a club member and so what do we do? How do we distinguish online members for general members?

Well in the last newsletter, there was an article on [Club Dues](#) and in the Reply area was a comment from Perry in which he states “I'm just an **online** member, but I think .....” and that got me thinking (I know, I know - I shouldn't be doing that - it always gets my into hot water) there probably is a lot of the people getting this newsletter that think of themselves as **online** members and don't what to be a **general** member because they live to far away to enjoy the club in its fullness. So is it far that these online members be asked for a small membership fee? – The vote is still out on this question?

However- just to point out, for the last 10 years our club, like so many other aviation clubs was facing extinction. Back then our club had no real recurring monthly or yearly expenditures and any that we did have, individual members would pay for them out of their own pocket – example: expenses to rebuild the clubs Helicopter Simulator and hosting for the clubs website and newsletter. But now the club is big enough that some fell that these individual should not have to pay these expenses out of their own pocket anymore. – Your thoughts on this are welcome!

So what is an online member and what is a general member?

Please note – this is just the editors optional and not necessarily of the overall membership. However, that said. I fell everyone (online or general) should now offer a small yearly membership fee to help keep the website and newsletter cost as a club expenditure and not the webmaster/editor out of pocket expense.

So (in my opinion) an **online membership** is one that not only gets the clubs newsletter and or updates, but is also a loud to participate in discussions, write and send articles to the editor (please, please do), can always attend club functions when in town, express there opinions, but don't have access to the club simulator or construction tools available through the club or ask for special help from experienced club builders. Nor do they get any voting rights.

**General member** – Get all rights of an **online** membership, but also gets access to the clubs simulator for training. They also get access to our CFI's, club members that can work with them in hovering practice and even prepare them for a check ride. As a builder you can check out all the special tools needed to build your helicopter (or at least make life easier) and of course full voting rights. – And to our dancing girls – see Across Editors Desk in this newsletter.

### In closing

So too sum things up, we are asking for “all” membership for a \$5.00 yearly membership fee/dues and please note to my acknowledgement this is not the final vote. It still needs to be run through the Board of Directors and then to the general membership for approval. This small fee will insure the growth of the club and bring it back to the glory of the days gone by.

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Editor – jim burrow