

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: President Hawley called the October 16, 2025 meeting of the Drone Flyers Club to order at 18:30 hours. Hawley welcomed all those in attendance.

New Members: The Club welcomed Larry Clark and Bill Rice as new members.

Guests: Dwight Johnson and Scott Knapp were welcomed.

Attendance: A total of 28 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

CLUB OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report: John Hawley

Hawley reminded the members we will hold our Club picnic on Saturday..

The Villages monthly Lifestyle Expo will be held on November 14. We need 2 members to volunteer for each of the two shifts (08:45 – 11:45 and 11:45 – 15:00 hours), This is an opportunity to showcase our Club and for members to be involved.

Hawley awarded Bob Heinlein his Part 107 vest for earning this FAA Certificate. Congratulations Bob!

Name tags were discussed. We still have a few that have not been issued to members. Please see Randy Justus if you do not have your Club badge.

A video was shown that seeks to clarify the actual impact of the potential DJI drone "ban". Much false information has been circulated regarding this issue; The video, "Drones Are Everywhere. U.S. may still ban them" sought to present the actual impact the proposed ban could have. DJI drones and parts will still be available if they have been previously certified. These drones will still be legal to fly. It appears the disinformation is being used in an attempt to garner business for other drone manufacturers

Vice President Report: James Daunis

Daunis reported on the Club picnic preparations. The picnic will be held this Saturday (October 18) at Everglades Recreation Center. Preparations are underway. The Club will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, cookies, and soft drinks. Members were reminded to bring their drone(s) as we will have an opportunity to set a new Club record for "drones in the air". Picnic will begin at 14:30 hours.

Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Randy Justus

The September 2025 report began with a balance of \$3,973.17

Income consisted of \$226.00

Picnic \$185.00

Raffle income of \$41.00

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Cancelled Check #209 for \$52.43 was added back into the fund.

Expenses were:

No expenses for September 2025.

Ending Balance \$4,251.60

Motion and second to approve the September 30, 2025 treasurers report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Secretary's Report: Randy Justus

Secretary Justus presented the September 2025 meeting report. The report had previously been sent via email to our members in late September. One request was received to correct a misspelled name. No other requests for changes were received. Justus requested a motion and second to approve the September 2025 Secretary's Report.

Motion and second to approve the September 2025 Secretary's Report as distributed.

Motion approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- The recent Alzheimer's Walk was held October 4th at the Ski Beach Park in Leesburg. The Club provided photographs for the event. Three members participated and the Walk raised over \$190,000 for Alzheimer's research and support. Due to the closeness of Leesburg airport each pilot needed to get LLANCE approval prior to flying. Several pictures and videos of the event, taken by our members were shown.

NEW BUSINESS

- **September Crash(s) of the Month:** "I Crashed My Drone" stickers were awarded to two of our members this month!
- **FPV Discussion**
 - Allen Wan presented the FPV report. Topics included:
 - Setting up courses on Saturdays at Everglades. FPV pilots will be constructing simple course that will involve change of elevation and power loops. More advanced skills will be incorporated in the future. The goal is to improve skills and make the flying challenging.
 - Discussion was held regarding FPV goggles and differences of the various models/manufacturers.
- **Nomination of Additional Director for the Club**
 - Hawley discussed the need to add an additional member to the Board. It was explained that we need to have an odd number of members on the Board of Directors to prevent

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any tie votes. The Bylaws allow the selection of Board Members to be completed by either a vote by the membership at large or by the Club President. He would like the membership to be involved in the selection and opened the floor for nominations.

Motion and second to elect Allan Wan to the position of Director.

Motion approved by voice vote.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- **Question Regarding Club Webpage:**
 - It was questioned why our Club Webpage was found to be unavailable recently. Alan Wan explained that with our move to our new host provider we had encountered problems that are causing an outage. This move was done to save the Club several hundred dollars. Wan is working to rewrite the script to get the webpage back up and available. This should be completed shortly.
- **Drones for Sale:**
 - Members currently have no drones for sale.
- **Member New Drones:**
 - John Hawley reported he recently purchased a DJI Mini 5 Pro.
 - Bill Rice reported he recently put a DJI Mini 4 Pro into service.
- **Social Outreach:**
 - No social outreach projects to report at this time.
- **Member Videos:**
 - Mike Farell presented a video of the Lake Sumter area he compiled with his DJI Mavic 3. The video focused on the lake and surrounding area. Well done Mike!
- **Thanksgiving for The Villages fire stations**

Don Wiley announced he will be coordinating and hosting the annual Thanksgiving dinner at each of the Villages Fire Stations. Members are encouraged to donate money to help fund this event. Over the past several years of Wiley providing this program, over \$7,000 has been donated to this cause. Club members are also encouraged to volunteer to assist in the staffing and delivery of the meals. These meals are a great way to say “thank you” to the hard-working firefighters in our community for the service they provide. Don can be contacted at Goldwingnut.com

SAFETY OFFICER: Club Safety Officer Cres Wise presented the monthly safety briefing:

- BVLS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight): Wise discussed the issue of BVLS and the problems associated with BVLS flying.
- Monthly Safety Briefing:

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- Drone take off/landing area
 - Announce your intentions
 - Take off, landing, etc.
 - Minimize your time in the takeoff and landing area
 - Drone and pilot face the same direction
- Operator Area
 - Cross behind the pilot whenever possible
 - Keep behind the safety line/cones
- When Flying:
 - 200 ft transit over the adjacent Soaring Eagle ball field
 - 100 ft transit over air gun range
 - Don't fly over Edna's, starter shack, pool, or persons
 - Use caution over walking path and pitch & putt areas
- Before Flight:
 - Confirm software and firmware are up-to-date
 - Inspect your aircraft before flight
 - Batteries inspected and charged. If battery is deformed, dispose of it properly
 - Weather check: Personal minimums and predicted weather
 - Airspace. Be aware of where you are not allowed to fly

Additional information is available on the Club website: <https://www.droneflyersthevillagesfl.com>

On the website, select "Safety Information" to review helpful safety information prior to flying. You can also click on "Part 107 information" for links to information provided by The Pilot Institute (a partner of our Club) where you can find in-depth information on many of the drones flown by members of the Club.

Cres reminded the membership, if they have not already done so, to complete the FAA's Trust Exam. This is a short exam that is required for all persons flying drones.

Additional items to consider:

- Aircraft marking (registration). Make sure your drone is displaying its FAA number. Also realize that a non-107 person has one registration number while a 107 certificated person has a registration number for each drone.
- FAA recommends pilots have a minimum of 15 satellites visible when flying.
- Check your KP index (sun interference with satellites) prior to flying to determine whether conditions are favorable to flying.

COMMISARY (CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE):

Members in need of Club logo items can purchase these items at each Club business meeting.

