

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: President Hawley called the November 20, 2025 meeting of the Drone Flyers Club to order at 18:30 hours. Hawley welcomed all those in attendance.

Attendance: A total of 29 members and 3 guests were in attendance.

Guests: Hawley welcomed guests in attendance. Guests were Bill Albert, John McConell, and Kenneth Peters

New Members: New members joining the Club were our three guests.

Name Tag Presentations: Hawley called out the names of members that had not yet picked up their name tags. The following name tags have yet to be distributed: "Bruce", "Dan", "Don", "Dom", "John", "Mario", "Matthew", "Nanette", and "Scott". FAA 107 tags are available for "Frank" and "Jesse". See the Secretary to pick up these tags at our next meeting.

CLUB OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report: John Hawley

Hawley presented a video on the recent Alzheimer's Walk the Club flew. The walk, held at Ski Beach in Leesburg, raised \$190,000 for the noble cause. The pictures and video will be used by the Alzheimer's Walk group as a promotional tool. And we have been asked to assist again next year. Hawley thanked the members that assisted in this effort.

The Villages Lifestyle Expo, a monthly information expo held at Ezell Recreation Center, was discussed. This event is held to provide residents, new residents, and visitors with information regarding The Villages and the various clubs and services offered. The informative event is held on the second Friday of each month at the Ezell Recreation Center and provides attendees the "how to" on services provided by The Villages and gives clubs the opportunity to showcase and generate interest. Hawley reported that the Club has added members from each of the expos we have participated in. This is an excellent way for us to increase membership and share our hobby with others. Hawley encouraged our members to assist in staffing our booth. Two shifts are available, one being 08:45 – 11:45 hours and 11:45 – 15:00 hours. A light breakfast and lunch are provided to those staffing the event. We continue to need assistance in staffing this event, 2 persons for each of the two shifts. A sign-up sheet is available at our monthly meetings. Members volunteering to staff our table will be contacted if they have volunteered and are selected to assist.

FAA Part 107 member recognition. No new FAA 107 licenses were reported this past month.

Vice President Report: James Daunis reported on the recent Club picnic. This event, held on October 18, was well attended. Several members were thanked for assisting with the picnic preparation, supplies, and cooking. A good time was had by the members and their guests. After lunch many of our members participated in a mass flying event. Photos from this will be posted on our website.

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Our goal is to host a member picnic twice each year. Daunis indicated our next picnic will be in March of 2026. Having the early spring and late fall picnic schedule will allow all members the opportunity to participate and enjoy a fun time.

Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Randy Justus

The October 2025 report began with a balance of \$4,251.60

Income for October was \$230.00

Picnic: \$190.00

Dues: \$40.00

Raffle income of \$0.00 (raffle not held at the October meeting)

Expenses for October 2025:

Picnic food and supplies: \$456.73

FAA Part 107 vests: \$106.95

Ending Balance on October 31, 2025 was \$3,917.92

Motion and second to approve the October 31, 2025 treasurers report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Justus reaffirmed that we have moved from business meeting date to month end date for our Treasurer's Report. This simplifies record keeping as this allows the Treasurer's Report to coincide with the bank statement and simplifies record keeping of our funds.

Secretary's Report: Randy Justus

Secretary Justus presented the October 2025 meeting report. The report had previously been sent via email to our membership in late October. Two requests were received to correct minor grammatical errors and these changes were made. No other requests for changes were received. Hawley requested a motion to approve the October 2025 Secretary's Report.

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

Motion approved by voice vote.

Justus discussed our "Mentoring Program". This program matches new flyers or those with new drones with seasoned flyers. The goal of the program is to share knowledge and increase safety for the member, the drone, and others. A listing of members volunteering to serve as mentors is available at the

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sign-in table each meeting. The Club is always looking for mentors to assist our members. If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Justus.

OLD BUSINESS

Tunnel 2 Towers fundraising group in The Villages has requested assistance in providing pictures and videos at their next golf fundraiser. The upcoming event will be even larger than last year. We will need member volunteers to assist in this effort. The 2026 fundraiser will consist of two separate 18 hole rounds, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each round will have food provided in one of the dining rooms at the Harbor Hills County Club. The Club will be looking for assistance from our members to staff this event. Videos and photos provided by our members will be used in the following years' Tunnel 2 Towers advertising.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Lost Cat:** Hawley discussed the recent request we received to assist in searching for a lost cat. He and Justus used their drones to search an area near the village where the cat was lost. A thermal imaging and a 9 X lens were used. Unfortunately the cat was not located after conducting the 2 hour search.
- **Club Brochure Update:** We are close to finishing the update to our brochure. The brochure is designed to provide information to interested people regarding the Club. All four flying locations are listed, our meeting day and time listed, and maps are included for the various locations. Several hours have been invested in the update and it is nearly ready for printing. We will be printing the brochures using higher quality paper to reduce cost. Big thank you to Allen Wan, Justus and Hawley for their work on this project.
- **New website:** Is up and running.
- **October Crash(s) of the Month:** No "I Crashed My Drone" stickers were awarded this month. Good job members!
- **FPV News:** Allen Wan presented the FPV report. Topics included:
 - XREAL one/one pro glasses are on sale at a reduced "Black Friday" sale. Wan reported these are high quality and are excellent for FPV flying using the DJU RC2 controller. These glasses provide a greatly improved flight stability.
 - Caddx Protos System recently released a new controller for FPVs. Wan suggested you wait at this time as no separate goggles have been released that work well with video transmitter and you may be disappointed with performance at this time.
 - Many FPV, especially analog FPV's items are currently available at a discounted "Black Friday" price.

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OPEN DISCUSSION:

Club Webpage: Our new webpage is now available. It is the same internet address that has been used but it is being hosted by a new provider. This change was made to save the Club hundreds of dollars annually. Special thanks to Allen Wan for his time and effort to make this change for the Club.

- **Drones for Sale:**
 - Bill Delinger has a new DJI Mini 4K with R2 Controller and 3 batteries for sale
 - Don Wiley has a DJI Phantom 3 Pro drone to give away. It needs a new remote ID to be flown.
- **Member New Drones:**
 - John Hawley recently purchased a DJI Mini 5 Pro.
 - Don Wiley recently purchased a DJI Mavic 4 Pro,
- **Social Outreach:**
 - Don Wiley's foundation will be providing Thanksgiving dinner to all the Villages fire stations. Another Sumter County commissioner will be providing Thanksgiving dinner to all of the Sumter County fire stations. This is a combined total of 25 fire stations. Any members interested in donating food or providing other assistance for this project should contact Don. Currently all the turkeys are covered as well as a substantial amount of other food items. You can also assist by providing funding for this by visiting Don's website: goldwingnut.com/thanksgiving or donate to the program by going to: <https://gofund.me/ca24e0fc>
 - Don Wiley will be restarting his Enrichment Academy drone classes beginning April 2026. Classes are two weeks in length, and they are held on Wednesday and Friday each week. Please register early using The Villages Enrichment Academy's website: <https://theenrichmentacademy.org/coursecatalog.html>
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- **Member Videos:**
 - Bill Rice: Presented a video on his first flight. Well done Bill!
- **DJI Ban:** A question on status of DJI drones being banned was asked. No governmental action has been taken at this time in regard to banning all DJI drones. This continues to remain a concern.

SAFETY OFFICER: Safety Officer Cres Wise was unable to attend this evening's meeting. In his absence John Hawley presented the monthly safety briefing:

- Monthly Safety Briefing:
 - Drone take off/landing area
 - Announce your intentions
 - Take off, landing, etc.

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- 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.

Members were reminded, 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. Non-107 pilots have a single FAA registration for all their drones. FAA 107 pilots are required to have a registration number for each of their drone. Registration numbers must be displayed on the exterior of each drone.
- FAA recommends pilots have a minimum of 15 satellites visible when flying.
- Check the 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.

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FLYING DAY REMINDERS:

- **Tuesdays:** Soaring Eagle Softball Field, between 08:00 and 11:50. *This time will be change (beginning **January 1, 2026**) to 08:00-11:00 hours due to softball scheduling.*
- **Wednesdays:** First Responders Recreation Center, between 08:00 and 11:50
- **Thursdays:** Near Edna's on Hog Eye Path between 08:00 and 11:50.
- **Saturdays:** Everglades Recreation Center, All Purpose Field between 09:00 and 11:50 hours

50/50 DRAWING: The winner of our 50/50 drawing for \$35 was Ted Mitrou. Congratulations Ted!

NEXT MEETING(S):

- **Business Meeting:** The December 2025 Business Meeting will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center on December 18 at 18:30 hours.
- **November Training:** There will be no training in November due to Thanksgiving and the recreation center being closed.
- **December Training:** There will be no training in December due to Christmas day.

ADJOURNMENT: With no additional business being brought forward, President Hawley adjourned the November 2025 meeting at 19:41 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus

Randy Justus, Secretary

