

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025

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

Attendance: A total of 30 members and 6 guests were in attendance.

Guests: Hawley welcomed guests in attendance. Guests were Jay Biggs, Horst Boehm, David Fossler, Mari Peters, Michael Talone, Steve Taylor.

New Members: New members joining the Club this evening are Horst Boehm, David Fossler, Mari Peters, and Steve Taylor.

CLUB OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report: John Hawley

Hawley discussed The Villages Lifestyle Expo. This is held on the second Friday of each month and is a great way to attract new members. The Club continues to need help staffing this event. Members can sign up to assist with staffing between 08:30 and 11:45 or 11:45 and 15:00. A light breakfast or lunch is provided at the event. If interested contact Secretary Justus.

The possibility of moving our Thursday flying location from the Hogeye Path (Near Edna's on the Green) to the Olympia Recreation Center (Eastport area) was discussed. The Club would be looking for the time slot of 09:00- 11:50 hours. Members could continue to use the Hogeye location as we do not have this location reserved. Hogeye is also an area where it would be very difficult (impossible) to recover a drone should one go down.

Motion and second to approve investigating moving the Thursday flying site to Olympia recreation area.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Hawley announced that our Safety Officer, Cres Wise, will be stepping down from this position on January 1, 2026. Cres has been a great Safety Officer and worked to make flying safer for our entire membership. Hawley thanked Cres for his assistance to the Club. While Cres will continue to be a member of the Club as well as a resource for others, his increasingly busy schedule necessitates his stepping down from this position.

John Egan was appointed by Hawley to be the new Safety Officer beginning January 1, 2026.

Hawley reported there were no new FAA Part 107 pilot certifications this past month.

Vice President Report: James Daunis reported we are looking to host another Club picnic on March 21, 2026. This picnic will be held at the Everglades Recreation Center. As with the previous picnic, which was well attended, the cost will be \$5.00 per attendee, and the Club will absorb additional costs as well as

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providing beverages. More information will be available at our next meeting. Make sure and mark your calendars and lets set a new drone picture record!

Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Randy Justus

The October 31, 2025 opening balance was \$3,917.92

Income for November was \$145.00

Dues: \$20.00

50/50 Raffle: \$35.00

Sale of Books: \$30.00

Sale of Hats: \$60.00

Expenses for November 2025: \$66.33

Name tags: \$21.39

Other (Paper for Brochures): \$44.94

Ending Balance on November 30, 2025 was \$3,996. President Hawley requested a motion to approve the November 2025 Treasurer's Report.

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

Motion approved by voice vote.

Secretary's Report: Randy Justus

Justus presented the November 2025 meeting report. The report had previously been sent via email to our membership in late November. No requests for change/modification were received. The report, once approved will be posted to our website. President Hawley requested a motion to approve the November 2025 Secretary's Report

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

Motion approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

A question was asked about responsibility when flying drones at Club events. Hawley stated that the Club does not provide insurance for accidents or injuries for members flying their aircraft. Liability is the responsibility of the person flying the aircraft. Membership commented that insurance is available through the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) at a reasonable cost. This insurance is available to members of the AMA organization.

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P.O. Box 51

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Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025

NEW BUSINESS

- **Bylaw Update:** Secretary Justus reported that the Bylaw committee continues to meet and has submitted a copy of the proposed changes to membership via email. Only two requests for minor changes to the existing bylaws were submitted and those changes were made. Justus then presented a comparison of the bylaws, highlighting the existing (in red type) with the proposed change (in green type).

Justus further reported that should there be no issues with the updated copy a motion will be requested to waive the second reading and adopt the updated Bylaws at the January 2026 meeting.

Motion and second to distribute and send a copy of the comparison to membership and to approve the draft copy.

Motion approved by voice vote.

- **2026 Budget:** President Hawley reported the Executive Board has been working on preparing the budget for 2026. It is anticipated our expenses will remain similar to the 2025 budget and that no additional assessments or dues increase was anticipated. As a result, the membership dues for 2026 will remain at the current rate of \$20.00 per member.
- **2026 Dues:** As the budget anticipates no increase to dues, Secretary Justus will send out an invoice to the members. Dues will be due no later than the date of the February 2026 Club meeting. Persons not submitting their dues will be removed from membership at that time. As a reminder, dues can be paid in-person at our January or February 2026 business meetings or they may be sent to our post office address: Drone Flyers Club, P.O. Box 51, Wildwood, FL 34785-9998.
- **November Crash(s) of the Month:** No "I Crashed My Drone" stickers were awarded this month. Congratulations to all members!
- **FPV News:** Allen Wan presented the FPV report. Topics included:
 - The RadioMaster T8L ELRS radio. It's a great radio and low cost.
 - The BetaFPV HD RTF Kit is available for pre-order.
 - Artlynx has introduced a new safety system that will be available soon.
 - Steam Winter is currently having a sale on their FPV drone simulators.
 - DJI 04 Air units are available on Pyrodrone or GetPVP websites. Both are limited supply.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- **Bucket Challenge:** John Egan presented an informative presentation on the "Bucket Challenge". This is a excellent way for drone flyers to improve their flying skills and become more proficient. This is an actual flying event and involves five distinct levels, each building on the others. The is an FAA/FAST online program and endorsed by NIST (National Institute

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Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025

for Standards and Technology). The training involves flying a course that focuses on three 5-gallon buckets and photographing different angles. While low cost, the course provides challenging tasks. Students wishing to take the 4th and 5th level of this training would be flying indoors and in enclosed spaces. Egan showed a video of the various skill levels.

This is also the second part to the FAA Wings program in which small tokens are provided to those able to demonstrate the skills learned. The Club is now looking at acquiring the components needed. Egan has already been able to acquire most of the components at no cost from local business.

A link to this program will be posted to our webpage.

A positive discussion was held on this topic and the Club will begin looking for locations to conduct the program for those interested in participating.

- **Drones for Sale:**
 - John Hawley has a new, in the box, DJI RC2 controller for sale. Contact John if interested.
- **Member New Drones:**
 - No new drones were reported this month.
- **Member Videos:**
 - Don Stirling presented a video he took at the Olympia soccer field. The video gave a "first person" view of a FPV drone flying through a series of precise obstacles. Excellent video!

SAFETY OFFICER: Safety Officer Cres Wise was unable to attend this evening's meeting. I am reposting a recent briefing Cres gave to keep everyone focused on safe flying

- 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

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Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025

- 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.

FLYING DAY REMINDERS:

- **Tuesdays:** Soaring Eagle Softball Field, between 08:00 and 11:50. *This time will 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 \$28 was Dave Smith. Congratulations Dave!

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NEXT MEETING(S):

- **Business Meeting:** The January 15, 2026 Business Meeting will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center on at 18:30 hours.
- **December Training:** There will be no training in December due to Christmas and the recreation centers being closed.

ADJOURNMENT: With no additional business being brought forward, President Hawley adjourned the December 2025 meeting at 20:25 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus

Randy Justus, Secretary

