

# **DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL**

**P.O. Box 51**

**Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998**



Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-President Daunis called the January 15, 2026 meeting of the Drone Flyers Club to order at 18:31 hours. Daunis welcomed all those in attendance.

Attendance: A total of 31 members and 11 guests were in attendance.

Guests: Daunis welcomed all guests in attendance. Guests this evening were David Boehm, Steve Chambers, Doug Dexter, Kevin Dresker, Mike Fitzgerald, Richard Forkun, John McConnell, Max Nieman, Dick Spratt, Ross Stryker, and Curt Wuellner

New Members: New members joining the Club this evening were David Boehm, Richard Forkun, Kevin Dresker, John McConnell, Max Neiman, John Santoro, Richard Spratt, and Ross Stryker.

Name Tag Presentations: Member name tags were issued to the December 2025 new members. Secretary Randy Justus encouraged members that have not yet picked up their name tags to do so at the next meeting.

## **CLUB OFFICER REPORTS**

**President Report:** In the absence of John Hawley (vacationing), Vice-President Jim Daunis reported.

- We are looking for members to assist with the Villages Lifestyle Expo. This monthly event is held at the Ezell Recreation Center and provides information to new and existing residents to become familiar with the various clubs in The Villages. The Expo is the second Friday of each month. We are in need of 2 members for the 08:30 – 11:45 shift and 2 members for the 11:45 – 15:00 hour shifts. The next Expo is February 13, 2026.
- We are also looking for members to assist at The Villages Outdoor Expo. This two day event will be held at the Everglades Recreation Center on February 27 and 28. This is an opportunity to fly our drones and highlight drone flying in general. We will be flying on the all-purpose field and would like to see several members demonstrating their flying abilities. We will be looking for several members to assist over the two days. Both days will be divided into an 09:45 -12:30 and 12:15 – 15:00 hour shifts. Please sign-up to assist.
- The Club has now added the Olympia soccer field (Eastport area) to our reserved locations. Olympia will be available on Thursdays between 09:00 and 11:50 hours. This site replaces the Edna's on the Green site. (The Edna's on the Green site is still available but, as in the past, not a reserved spot for the Club).
- James Daunis reported the Club will be hosting a Club picnic on March 21, 2026 at the Everglades Recreation Center. Members and their guests are invited to attend. Our own chefs will be doing the cooking. The Club will be requesting \$5 per person.
- Bylaws: Daunis asked Secretary Justus to discuss the Club Bylaws update. Justus reported the revised Bylaws had been distributed to the membership in November 2025. At the December 2025 meeting the changes were discussed and minor changes made. The Club then voted to accept the first reading of the Bylaws at that meeting. The Bylaws are now ready for further consideration. Daunis opened the floor for discussion.

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A question was asked regarding Article 5, Section 10 (requirement for the Board of Directors (Officers and Directors) to attend 75% of the Executive Board Meetings. The question related to the issue of a newly appointed officer attending their first two meetings and missing a third, then being dismissed as that person would not be meeting the 75% requirement and could be subject to removal. Justus and Daunis explained that the Bylaws had also been changed to allow attendance by virtual means and that this would not be used in a punitive nature.

No other comments were received.

**Motion and second** to waive the second reading of the proposed Bylaw changes.

**Motion approved** by voice vote.

**Motion and second** to adopt the proposed Bylaw changes.

**Motion approved** by voice vote.

## Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Randy Justus

The December 2025 report began with a balance of \$3,996.59

Income for December was \$679.85

Dues: \$620.00

50/50 Raffle: \$29.00

Pilot Institute: \$30.85

Expenses for December 2025: \$22.47

Name tags: \$22.47

Ending Balance on December 31, 2025 was \$4,653.97

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

**Motion approved** by voice vote.

## Secretary's Report: Randy Justus

Secretary Justus presented the December 2025 meeting report. The report had previously been sent via email to our membership in late October.

No questions regarding the report were asked by those present.

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

**Motion approved** by voice vote.

## OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forward.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **October Crash(s) of the Month:** Awards were presented to Don Wiley and Allen Wan. Both reported minor damage and both drones are back up and flying.

## OPEN DISCUSSION:

**Allen's Corner (Formerly FPV News):** Allen Wan will begin hosting a monthly competition for members flying FPV's drones. He envisions a course that will require skill and agility for the participants. Awards will be given to the winner of the competition.

- New FPV system options being released by BetaFPV and Caddx based upon Artosyn new transmission chip that are budget options but don't offer on drone camera recording so can only record the googles view.
- Antigravity A1 drone released and offers a 360 camera recording and are flown only with goggles and a joystick similar to dji motion controller.

**Don's Corner:** Don Wiley presented an interesting presentation on using the DJI controller to use the side cameras on drones. The main purpose of these cameras is collision avoidance. However, using the controller the pilot may open another window and actually view what the side cameras are viewing. Very interesting!

**Club Webpage:** Allen Wan reported the webpage continues to improve as additional information is added and made available for Club members. Our website is a valuable resource for members needing quick information regarding the Club.

**Drones for Sale:** A member reported he is selling a DJI Mavic Mini 4.

**Member New Drones:** No new drones were reported.

## Social Outreach:

- 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

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register early using The Villages Enrichment Academy's website:

<https://theenrichmentacademy.org/coursecatalog.html>

- Tunnel 2 Towers (T2) has contacted the Club and is asking for our assistance in providing video footage of their May 2026 golf outing. This event will be held at Harbor Hills Country Club in Leesburg. This year the event will feature a morning and afternoon session with an awesome meal following each of the sessions. Additional information will be available soon.

**Member Videos:** No member videos this month...probably too cold?

**SAFETY OFFICER:** John Egan, Safety Officer, discussed ways to improve your flying skills. Major points were awareness of other drones and communicating with other pilots near you. Always announce your takeoff and landing, but also be aware what others are doing at the same time. Also be aware of where other drones are flying, their altitude and direction. Also be aware of other flying objects such as birds and aircraft and share this information with the others flying.

Egan also discussed The Bucket Challenge initiative he introduced last month. He is currently seeking materials to build the props needed to make this happen for our Club. Our contact at Costco for the 2.5-gallon buckets needed for this project is no longer working for the company (Costco). We need 24 of the buckets and if anyone has connections, please contact John.

## COMMISARY (CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE):

Members in need of Club logo items (hats and stickers) or FAA 107 exam study books can purchase these items at each Club business meeting.

## FLYING DAY REMINDERS:

- **Tuesdays:** Soaring Eagle Softball Field, between 08:00 and 10:50. Note the new time.
- **Wednesdays:** First Responders Recreation Center, between 08:00 and 11:50 hours
- **Thursdays:** Olympia Recreation Center, between 09:00 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 \$46 was Kevin Dresker, a first-time visitor to the Club! Kevin generously donated the winnings back to the Club. Congratulations Kevin...and thank you.

## NEXT MEETING(S):

- **Business Meeting:** The February 2026 Business Meeting will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center on **February 19 at 18:30**.
- **January 22, 2026 Training:** January training will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center and will begin at 18:30 hours. **Topics: Moving Video Files and Video Editing Options.**

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- **February 28, 2026 Training:** February training will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center and will begin at 18:30 hours. Topic to be determined at the February business meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no additional business being brought forward, Vice-President Daunis adjourned the November 2025 meeting at 19:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Randy Justus*

Randy Justus, Secretary



The following is our routine reminders regarding safe flying procedures. Included for referral only and not discussed at our meeting. FYI only.

- 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>

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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.