

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: President John Hawley called the March 19, 2026 meeting to order at 18:35 hours

Guests in attendance included: Douglas Dexter, Kathy Fraher, Mike Fraher, Thomas Jones, John Rice.

New member this evening was Patrick Young. Patrick fly's a Neo 2,

There were a total of 42 members and 5 guests in attendance.

Hawley welcomed the members and this evening's guests to the meeting.

Hawley then presented name tags to last month's new members and encouraged those members that had not yet picked up their name tags to contact Secretary Justus.

CLUB OFFICERS

President's Report: John Hawley

Lifestyle Expo: Second Friday each month. The April Expo will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026. We need to staff two shifts, the first shift being 08:45 – 11:45 and the second shift 11:45 – 15:00. We need 2 volunteers for each shift. Please contact Secretary Justus if you are interested and able to assist. This is a great opportunity that allows us to market the Club and attract new members.

FAA Video: Hawley presented a recent Pilot Institute video that highlighted several Significant fines, one up to \$36,700. These fines were issued for such issues as lack of FAA registration, flying as a FAA 107 pilot without the license, failure to register the drone the individual was flying, flying in Class B, C, D airspace w/o LANCE (FAA) approval, entering emergency air space, and other similar occurrences. In some cases, the FAA also issued license suspensions and in other instances the FAA license was revoked.

Outreach: Contact John if interested

- Video and pictures for the Woodworkers Club at both of their locations. This would include inside the building(s) flying with drones or FPVs. This could be difficult for less experienced pilots.
- Tunnel to Towers: This event will be held on May 7 at the Harbor Hills Country Club in Lady Lake. We need FAA 107 pilots (or pilots under supervision of a FAA 107 pilot) for the two shifts. The first round of golf will be from 06:30 until noon and the 18 round will be from 12:15 until 18:00 hours. Both events are shotgun starts. Golf cars will be provided to members assisting that day which will allow moving around the course for interesting photo/video opportunities. Great meal will be provided after each round of golf.

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- Frisbee Golf Clubs new course near Okahumpka. This would be photos and videos of each of the holes in their new course. They would like to use these for promoting their club and their new course. More information will be available soon.

Vice President Report: Jim Daunis

Daunis reported on our next Club Picnic which will be held on March 21st. The picnic will be similar to the fall picnic and will be held at the Everglades Recreation Center. Cost will be \$5.00 per person. Attendees should bring their drones at there will be time for flying as well as a “drone group photo” opportunity. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be prepared along with chips and desserts.

Secretary’s Report: Randy Justus

Membership: A final reminder was sent to those members that had not yet paid their 2026 dues. As of this evening, we have 110 members in the Club. Due to other issues, we anticipate additional previous members to renew when they are able and back in The Villages.

Minutes of the February 19, 2026 Meeting: Minutes of the February 19 meeting were emailed to our membership in late February. No requests for additions, corrections, or modifications were received. Justus did find a date in a motion that was entered incorrectly (Treasurers Report) and the date was updated. President Hawley asked for a motion to approve the February 19, 2026 minutes as distributed.

Motion and second to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2026 Drone Flyers Club meeting as distributed with the date change modification.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Drone Club clothing. See John, Jim or Randy to get . will still have items at the meeting.

Lifestyle Expo: This next monthly event for new (and current) residents will be held on April 10. We continue to need volunteers to assist in this monthly event. Staffing for two shifts; 08:30 – 11:45 and 11:45 – 15:00 hours. Members that participate in this Expo report having a great time meeting visitors and discussing drones in general. A light breakfast and lunch are provided for those assisting. Contact Justus or sign-up at our monthly meetings if you are able to assist.

Treasurer’s Report: Acting Treasurer Randy Justus presented the February 2026 Treasurer’s Report:

Opening Balance on February 1, 2026: \$5,679.42

Deposits:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Dues: | \$420.00 |
| 50/50 Drawing: | \$ 35.00 |

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| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hat Sales: | \$ 30.00 |
| Picnic: | \$ 15.00 |
| Books: | \$ 15.00 |
| Stickers: | \$ 14.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME: | \$529.00 |

Expenses:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Post Office Box Renewal | \$196.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES: | \$196.00 |

BALANCE ON February 28, 2026: \$6,012.42

Motion and second to approve the February 28, 2026 treasurers report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

FAA TRUST Certificates: Hawley discussed the importance of having the FAA TRUST certificate. TRUST certificates are an FAA requirement for all persons flying drones. TRUST is quick and easy to obtain. When taking the TRUST any questions that the test-taker misses are displayed and you can then go back and select the correct answer(s) until you successfully complete the test. Remember to copy/save your TRUST certificate. The TRUST is required to be carried whenever you are flying. Prior to this evenings meeting, several members brought in their TRUST to be added to the Club data base. The Club is asking all members to provide their TRUST certificate number to the Club Secretary, if they have not yet, to prevent any sanctions by the FAA should a reportable accident occur or should the FAA, on a random basis, visit one of our flying events.

ALLEN'S CORNER, Allen Wan:

IGOW pre-season is starting. If you follow along it will teach you the basics of FPV flying and fundamental tricks. If you want to do more you can register on their website here: <https://www.internationalgameofwhoop.com/> That information will be posted on the FB page, and the IGOW preseason will give you a way to push learning FPV freestyle, whether you are learning or already flying full manual FPV.

There is a new radio from RadioMaster called the AX12 which is available for pre-order. The big feature is that it supports USB-C video input or HDMI input, while also supporting HDMI output. The radio has a 5-inch android tablet which supports installing apps like USB Camera Video and DJI Fly. It is very useful if you are using DJI Goggles 3 or N3 and want to output video through the HDMI Out port built into the radio. The only controller that can do HDMI Out with DJI Goggles 3/N3 is the DJI RC Pro 2 especially if you are thinking about sharing while flying. However, this setup does not provide low latency due to the DJI Fly app.

If you are a FPV drone builder please check anything you buy before building it up. Recently there have

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been reports that FPV drone parts built and sold in the US are not working correctly with the parts that have been readily used for building FPV drones. This is causing concern because plugging in a battery can burn the components, which is very dangerous without a smoke-stopper.

AVATA 360 was discussed. It will come to the US since it passed FCC licensing prior to the US DJI new products ban of 2026. We discussed the differences between a single-camera drone and a 360-camera drone. The 360 drone will have lower-quality dual cameras but depending on your workflow, it is useful for reframing due to its 360-degree capture capabilities. However, it has been noted that this drone might weigh over 250 grams possibly without the Remote ID built in. Stressed the importance to learn more about 360 video editing if your considering the Avata 360 noting the workflow can make this a bad drone for you or the video you'll end up with post all the 360 video editing could've been achieved with your existing single camera drone.

DON'S CORNER:

Don is currently working on a new book that will discuss the features available on the various DJI drones using the DJI Go 4 Fly software. This book is being written to assist the drone community in understanding use and selection of drones that would be best for each individual's flying interests. Don is looking to borrow examples of drones that he does not have in his fleet. He is currently seeking the following DJI models: Flip, Mavic Air 3S, Mavic Air 2, Mini 5 Pro, Mini 4K, Mini 2SE, Mini 3 Pro, Mini 3, Mini SE, Mini 2, Avata, Avata 2, and DJI FPV's. Upon completion of this project, Wiley will be making the information available to Club members.

Wiley also announced he will be conducting new drone classes through The Villages Enrichment Academy. Check the catalog to find a class you are interested in.

CRASH OF THE MONTH AWARD(S):

Congratulations are in order for Vice President Daunis, While assisting in the capture of video footage for the Golf Car Drill Team, as he was landing, the drone came in contact with a small tree branch. Fortunately, minimal damage occurred and he was able to recover his drone, The Golf Car Drill Team thanked us the Club for assistance in videoing their event.

The friend of a member that was flying near a pond near a golf course had a water landing It was reported the pilot became fixated on capturing a video and became disoriented about his height above the water while photographing birds while using FPV goggles. This is an example of the importance of having a visual observer when flying with obscured vision.

MEMBER DISCUSSION

Drones for Sale: None reported.

New Drones Acquired: Congratulations to Patrick Young on his new DJI NEO 2.

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Member Videos:

Scott Long presented a video of a large alligator he had been tracking.

SAFETY OFFICER: John Egan

Accident Report form: John Egan presented the new Accident Report Form. Egan explained how and why the form was developed. Members need to use the form after being involved in an injury requiring medical assistance or one an incident resulting in damage to another person's property while flying at a Drone Flyers Club sponsored event. He stressed you do not need to complete this report if flying on your own, but you might need to complete a similar FAA accident report. Egan reviewed and explained completing the new form. Again, our report is not needed should you crash just your drone or loose your drone at a Club sponsored event, A copy of the form is attached at the end of this month's minutes. (See Accident Report Form below).

Egan also recommended use of the "SkyVector" program (SkyVector.com) when planning to fly. This program shows where flying restrictions are in place and also links the various events to a detailed FAA website that shows the various restrictions.

Monthly Safety Reminders:

- Drone take off/landing area
- Minimize time in the area
- Take off/landing – drone and pilot face same direction
- Operator area
 - Cross behind the pilot whenever possible
 - Keep behind the safety line/cones
- Sit near each other to communicate
- 200-foot transit over ball field
- 100 ft transit over air gun range
- Do not fly over Edna's, Starter Shack, Pool (if you are still flying at Edna's)
- Use caution when flying over walking paths and pitch & putt areas
- Situational awareness is important
- SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS
- Confirm software and firmware is up to date
- Aircraft: Inspected
- Batteries Inspect & Charged
- Weather Check
- Airspace

Bottom line: Fly safely!

FLYING DAY REMINDERS:

www.droneflyersthevillagesfl.com droneflyersclubtv@gmail.com villages-drone-club@googlegroups.com

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(413) 575-0800

This document is to be filled out by any Drone Flyers Club member involved in an accident at any location that is controlled & sponsored by the Drone Flyers Club when an accident involved serious injury or property damage over \$500.00 and submitted to the Club's Executive Board within 5 days. (This form does not take the place of the FAA Reporting documentation needed for accidents)

Were you the RPIC? Yes / No Are you the owner of the drone? Yes / No (circle your answers)

Pilot Info

Pilots Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Address: _____

Trust Certificate _____ Part 107 Certificate: _____ (if applicable)

Drone Involved Info:

Drone Manufacturer: _____ Drone Model: _____ Drone Registration _____
(include a copy of registration with form)

Accident Info:

Date of Accident: _____ Time of accident: _____ Location of Accident: _____

Type of Accident: Personal Injury ___ or Personal Property ___ (check the appropriate type) Est. Dollar Amount: _____

Description of Accident:

Injured Party Info:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Contact #: _____

Type of injury? _____

Damaged Property Info:

Type of Property: (vehicle, structure, plant based, animal). _____
Please provide as much detailed info as possible, like registration numbers, addresses, item description of damaged property)

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Witness Info:

#1 Name: _____ Address: _____ Contact _____

#2 Name: _____ Address: _____ Contact _____

#3 Name: _____ Address: _____ Contact _____

Diagram of accident

Signature: _____ Date Submitted: _____ Officer Initials: _____

§107.9 Accident reporting. No later than 10 calendar days after an operation that meets the criteria of either paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, a remote pilot in command must report to the FAA, in a manner acceptable to the Administrator, any operation of the small unmanned aircraft involving at least: (a) Serious injury to any person or any loss of consciousness; or (b) Damage to any property, other than the small unmanned aircraft, unless one of the following conditions is satisfied: (1) The cost of repair (including materials and labor) does not exceed \$500; or (2) The fair market value of the property does not exceed \$500 in the event of total loss. (ARF 3/5/2026)