

Drone Flyers Club of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51
Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: President Hawley called the May 21 meeting of the Drone Flyers Club of The Villages to order at 18:32 hours. Hawley welcomed all in attendance. There were 23 members in attendance and 1x guests.

INTRODUCTIONS:

New Member(s): Welcome to new members Michael Harvey and Robert (Bob) Olsen.

Guest Introduction(s): Nelson Natean.

Name Tag Presentation: Name tags were presented new members and those yet to pick up their name tags.

CLUB OFFICERS

President's Report:

- Hawley reported The Villages monthly Lifestyle Expo is taking a break for the summer. The Expo will return in September. He thanked the members that have supported the Expo this past year.
- Thanked the members that assisted with the recent "Tunnel 2 Towers" fund raising event. Special thanks to John Egan, Dave Smith, Randy Justus and John Hawley for assisting at the May Expo.
- Reminded members that if they have not yet submitted their TRUST certificate information (number) to the Club to forward it to Secretary Justus as soon as possible.
- Reported on the recent Executive Board Meeting held on May 16. Items discussed included:
 - Soaring Eagle Softball field was moved to a new day and time. Our new flying day will be Monday from 08:00 – 11:50 hours.
 - Club logo items process and colors. Club items with our logo will now be able to be purchased directly from our vendor. In order to purchase these items you will need to contact Hawley, Justus or Jim Daunis prior to going to either of the Custom Apparel stores. Your name will then be forwarded to Custom Apparel. You will then be able to go to the store and order the item. Custom Apparel will help you select the right size. Our embroidered shirts will be available in either Safety Green or Safety orange. Hats will still be available at Club meetings as they are a one-size-fits-all.
 - A Club dinner event is being planned for October 24. This will be similar to the summer picnic but will be a sit-down event with the main course provided by the BBQ Club. Cost will be \$5 per attendee. The dinner will also be an opportunity for a photo/video contest. This contest will be open to Club member pictures and videos only. Judging will

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- be conducted by non-club members. Scott Long is working on identifying the judges. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Club will be hosting a “Scavenger Hunt” in the near future. This will involve teams of 2 identifying and then photographing (with your drone) several sites in The Villages. This will be a one morning event and is open to all Club members.
 - We will be searching for “field trip” sites. We are looking for interesting sites in and out of The Villages for arranging a meeting and flying time. This will provide new and unique places for members to fly at a specific time and place.
 - The Club continues to look for guest speakers. We have recently been in contact with drone outlets that would be interested in speaking and providing information.
 - The four portable radios that were recently approved have been received. They were used to coordinate flying at the recent Tunnel 2 Towers fundraising event. The radios are multi-channel and easy to use.
 - John Egan has completed the Club “Accident Report” form. This is a simple form to use should you have an accident during a Club event (or flying on your own). Reporting is required by the FAA when the damage exceeds \$500 (not including damage to your own drone) or injuries occur.
 - The NIST Bucket Challenge continues to be worked on. We have now collected a sufficient number of “buckets” and are work to build the actual structure. A storage area near one of our flying fields has been identified. Additional materials to complete the course were approved at a not-to-exceed cost of \$300. If interested in assisting, please contact John Egan.
 - FAA LAANC training was discussed as a potential topic. LAANC allows drone pilots to receive permission to fly in restricted areas with restrictions determined by the FAA. Approval takes only a few minutes and can easily be obtained using a mobile device.
 - Club Audit was discussed by the Board and is presented in the Treasurer’s Report below.

Vice President’s Report:

Jim Daunis has no report this evening.

Secretary’s Report: Randy Justus reported the minutes of the April 2026 meeting had been sent to all members via email in late April, Other than two minor formatting items, no comments or requests for change were received. The formatting issue was resolved. Justus requested the April 16, 2026 minutes for the Drone Flyers Club of The Villages be approved as distributed.

Motion and second to approve the April 16, 2026 Secretaries Report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Justus reminded members that had not picked up their name tags and members that have earned the FAA 107 license to pick them up at the back table.

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Treasurer's Report:

Acting Treasurer Randy Justus presented the April 2026 Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance on April 31, 2026:		\$5,968.67
Deposits:		
Dues	\$100.00	
50/50 Drawing	\$ 23.00	
Hats	\$ 60.00	
Picnic	\$230.00	
Sticker Sales	\$ 6.00	
Pilot Institute	\$ 29.89	
Total Deposits:	\$ 218.88	
Expenses:		
Name Tags	\$ 59.92	
Other	\$ 179.78	(4 portable radios \$134.80, Coffee \$44.98)
Total Expenses:	\$239.70	
Ending Balance March 31, 2026:		\$5,947.86

Motion and second to approve the April 31, 2026 treasurers report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Club Audit: Justus thanked Jay Semerad and Charlie Carstens for their assistance in performing the Club audit. The audit, due to several changes in the Treasurer's position had not been completed since late 2023. While it took much effort to go back over nearly 3 years, the audit committee worked diligently to verify income and expenditures for this period of time.

The beginning balance from the last audit conducted was \$3,793.16. The balance as of March 31, 2026 was \$5,968.67. No discrepancies in income, spending or fund balance were identified. The audit report is available to any member wishing to review it.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- Conduct an annual audit in the second quarter of each year.

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- Reconcile member dues income to membership numbers.
- Reconcile inventory to sales.

OUTREACH: Hawley reported on the recent Tunnel 2 Towers golf fund raising event. This event was held at the Harbor Hills Country Club. The morning Tee off had 146 golfers and afternoon had 144 golfers. This was an extraordinary event and raised considerable money for “T2T” foundation. T2T presented two specially equipped golf carts designed for physically impaired persons. Each cart was valued at approximately \$30,000 and were designed to allow the users to once again experience outdoor activities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hawley showed a video on the potential loss of funds to the U.S. government. Should the proposed ban on new drone technology be instituted it is likely to result in an economic loss of \$116.9 billion dollars. The ban would also lose \$12 billion in tax revenue and result in a 90% decrease in drones being used for crop dusting. The video requested drone users to politely respond in a non-threatening and professional manner to the committee that is considering this ban. Unfortunately, the time has passed to respond so it's now a wait and see issue. The good news is the proposed bill would extend the date for DJI drone software until 2029.

Allen's Corner: Allen Wan presented a discussion on 360 degree photography by FPV drones.

Crash of the Month: Two crashes were reported: Allen Wan reported 2 FPV crashes this past month and Randy Justus reported the loss of a small helicopter (NOT a drone) on its first flight due to a loss of communication between the helicopter and the controller.

Drones for Sale: Jack McGee reported he has a DJI Mavic Pro Platinum for sale. Allen Wan has a pair of FPV Goggles for sale. The goggles allow the user to actually see the drone while using the goggles.

New Drones Acquired: No new drones were reported by the members present.

Member Videos: Steve Kantor presented a pair of interesting videos. The first was part of the Appalachian Trail. The second video was of a river in Connecticut. Well done Steve!

SAFETY OFFICER:

In the absence of John Egan, John Hawley gave the Safety Officer briefing for April. The Club safety briefing is posted on our webpage (<https://droneflyersthevillagesfl.com/drone-safety/>). Please take time to review this information on a regular basis and before flying.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

No additional business was presented.

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COMMISARY (CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE):

As mentioned earlier, Custom Apparel has worked with the Club to provide our logo shirts directly to the member. To order a shirt, please contact Jim Daunis, John Hawley or Randy Justus. They will forward you name to Custom Apparel. You can then go directly to either of the Custom Apparel stores, select your fabric, size and color (safety green or safety orange). This will eliminate wrong sized shirts as members will be able to try on the shirt before purchase (sizing has been an issue). The shirt will then be produced and you will be able to pick it up in person. This procedure eliminates non-members from acquiring Club logo items as has happened recently. The Club will not profit from the sale of the shirts, you only pay for the shirt and the logo. Club hats will continue to be available for purchase at our meetings as will Part 107 study guides (reduced-price), stickers and other small items.

FLYING DAY REMINDERS:

- Mondays: Soaring Eagle Softball Field, 08:00 to 11:50 hours.
- Wednesdays: First Responders Recreation Center, 08:00 and 11:50 hours.
- Thursdays: Olympia Field at East Port Recreation Center, 08:00 and 11:50 hours
- Saturdays: Everglades Recreation Center, 08:00 and 11:50 hours.

50/50 RAFFLE: The lucky winner of \$12 was our Club President (John Hawley).. Congratulations.

NEXT MEETING(S):

Business Meeting: The next business meeting is scheduled for **June 18 at 18:30 hours** (3rd Thursday). Meeting held at the Rohan Recreation Center.

Training Session: The May training session will be on **May 28**. As usual it will be at **18:30 hours** at the Rohan Recreation Center.

The June training session will be held on **June 25** at the Rohan Recreation Center. The session will begin at **18:30 hours**.

ADJOURNMENT: With no additional business being brought forward, President Hawley closed the meeting at 20:10 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus
Randy Justus, Secretary

