

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



Meeting Minutes of June 18 2026

CALL TO ORDER: President Hawley called the June 18, 2026 meeting of the Drone Club of the Villages Club to order at 18:33 hours. Hawley welcomed all in attendance. There were 24 members and 6 guests in attendance. Of our 6 guests, 3 became members this evening, bringing the total number of members in attendance to 27.

INTRODUCTIONS:

New member(s): Welcome to our new members: Ken Gilcrest, Carl Meeks, and Michael Reich.

Guest Introductions: Welcome to guests Bill Hanlon, Preston Sappington, and Andrew Schalet.

Name Tag Presentation: Name tags for recent members Chris Hand, Mike Harvey, Bob Olsen, and Frank Silva are now available.

CLUB OFFICERS

President's Report: John Hawley

- Hawley reported The Villages "Lifestyle Expo" is currently on hiatus. The Expo will be starting again in September.
- The "25th Remembrance Ride" supporting the Tunnel 2 Towers foundation is scheduled for September 12. Two groups of motorcycles will end the ride at Lucky U's Motorcycle Sales on Route 301. This event, which begins at 10:00 hours, has requested our Club's assistance to provide aerial views of the event. More information and a sign-up sheet for our members will be available soon.
- A video on the DJI Drone issue was presented. The video indicated that DJI is beginning to push back on the FCC issue that has largely banned new model DJI drones introduced after the recent FCC decision. There has been no evidence or documented cases to show DJI drones were used to take classified /intelligence issues in the United States. DJI is arguing that the DOJ never conducted an actual investigation into the issue. The video further reported that no evidence or proof has been developed on the allegations that DJI Drones are spying on Americans or government properties. The video also questioned why there are no independent security documents included in the report and why DJI is the only company that was investigated.
- A second video documented that the FAA is making concessions and issuing approvals for several other drone companies outside the United States, with little to no investigation being done. An example was VEX Air drones recently being approved with no investigation. Additionally, there is no procedure for the FAA to follow when investigating other drone companies/systems. The question now becomes why are other drone companies not being investigated to the same standards.

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Vice President's Report: Jim Daunis

Daunis discussed the fall Club get together. The Villages BBQ Club will be assisting us. The BBQ Club will be purchasing the food (ribs and chicken), a pasta salad, beans and desserts for the event. Our members will be responsible for bringing their own drinks. As this is an evening event, there will be no drone flying. This is scheduled for October 24 and will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center. Dinner will begin at 17:00 hours. The cost is \$5 per attendee. Scott Long reported he has not yet determined the photo and video contest criteria. Long stated there will be multiple categories and judging will be done by non-Club guests. Additional information on this event will be provided as it becomes available.

Secretary's Report: Randy Justus reported the draft minutes of the May 2026 meeting had been sent to all members via email in late May. No requests for changes were received. Justus requested the May 21, 2026 minutes for the Drone Flyers Club of The Villages be approved as distributed.

Motion and second to approve the May 21, 2026 Secretary's Report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Justus reminded members that have not received their nametags and members that have earned the FAA 107 license to pick them up.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Justus, (Acting Treasurer)

Acting Treasurer Randy Justus presented the May 2026 Treasurer's Report. The report indicated:

Beginning Balance on April 30, 2026:	\$5,947.86
Deposits:	
Dues	\$ 40.00 (Olsen & Harvey)
50/50 Drawing	\$ 20.00
Total Deposits:	\$ 60.00
Expenses:	
Dues overpayment:	\$ 20.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 20.00
Ending Balance May 31, 2026:	\$5,987.86

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Justus requested the May 31, 2026 Treasurer's Report be accepted.

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

Motion approved by voice vote with one no vote from John Egan.

OUTREACH:

- Hawley reminded those present regarding the Tunnel 2 Towers event discussed earlier. We will be looking for members to assist in documenting this event.
- The Alzheimer's Walk will be held at the Polo Field this year. Last year the event was held at Ski Beach in Leesburg. Due to members of this group being largely from The Villages, it was decided to bring the event back to The Villages.
- Hawley discussed the potential for assisting at the Cancer Walk. No date has been determined at this point. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Allen's Corner: Allen Wan was unable to attend this evening.

Don's Corner: Don Wiley was unable to attend this evening.

Crash of the Month: Don Stirling reported a minor crash of his Avata 2 during a time trial on an obstacle course designed for skill building as he followed Stan Musick.

Drones for Sale: No drones were reported for sale by the members present.

New Drones Acquired: Randall Edgar recently put a DJI Air 3s into service.

Member Videos: Don Stirling presented a great video on flying FPV drones through a difficult obstacle course. This included a crash of his Avata 2 (minor damage) as he was videoing Stan Musick going through the course directly in front of him.

SAFETY OFFICER: John Egan

- Discussed flying days and flying procedures at our four weekly flying locations. Egan stressed the importance of each member using common sense and communicating with others present when flying.
- Egan reported the portable radios the Club purchased are now in service. We have now obtained a case to provide safe transport of the radios and charging systems. The radios are now ready for use by members for Club-sponsored events. The main purpose of the radios will be to coordinate flying events involving multiple members, especially other clubs events we have been asked to assist.

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- NIST Bucket Challenge: All the buckets and wood have been obtained. Targets and labels will be delivered soon. Testing the system will be completed as soon as possible. The goal is to increase member proficiency and capability.
- Members are encouraged to visit our website regularly and review our safety tips. Please visit: <https://droneflyersthevillagesfl.com/> Click on "Drone Safety" near the top of the page.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: No miscellaneous business was brought forward.

COMMISARY (CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE):

- Drone Flyers Club HATS: \$30.00
- FAA 107 STUDY GUIDE: \$12.00
- Drone Flyers Club STICKERS: \$2.00
- Drone Flyers Club POLO SHIRTS: Members can visit our supplier (Custom Apparel) to try on and select once their name has been submitted. See Secretary Justus if you would like to order one).

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 \$35 in tonight's 50/50 drawing was Walter Lamore. Congratulations.

NEXT MEEING(S):

Business Meeting: The next business meeting is scheduled for **July 16 at 18:30 hours (3rd Thursday)**. Meeting held at the Rohan Recreation Center.

-Training Session: The **June** training session has been cancelled (post-meeting) due to unavailability of instructors. The **July** training session is scheduled for July 23 at the Rohan Recreation Center. The session will begin at 18:30 hours. Subject to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT: With no additional business being brought forward, President Hawley closed the meeting at 20:02 hours.

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Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus

Randy Justus, Secretary

