

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



Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: President Hawley called the July 16, 2026 meeting of the Drone Club of the Villages Club to order at 18:30 hours. Hawley welcomed all in attendance. There were 25 members and 4 guests in attendance. All 4 guests became new members and a former member rejoined. Total number of members in attendance was 30.

INTRODUCTIONS:

New member(s): Welcome to our new members: Mark Brinkman, Howard Fannon, Roland Fischer and Paul Provost.

Guest Introductions: No guests were present this evening.

Name Tag Presentation: Name tags were presented to last month's new members: Ken Gilcrest, Carl Meeks, and Michael Reich.

CLUB OFFICERS

President's Report: John Hawley

- Hawley announced that The Villages Lifestyle Expo is scheduled to resume in September and volunteers will be needed to help staff our booth.
- The Photo/Video contest that will be held at our October 24th dinner is open to Club members only. Entries will be restricted to two categories: Nature and Architecture. Entries will need to be in a JPEG format for photos and MP4 format for videos. Videos can be no longer than 3 minutes and all entries must be submitted by October 1 for judging.
- Tunnel 2 Tower Remembrance Ride will be held on September 12, 2026 at Lucky U Cycles on Route 301. We are looking for volunteers to assist as needed. More information will be provided at our next meeting.
- A new Pilot Institute video was shown which discussed Unmanned Aircraft Flight Restrictions and how this related to flying over critical infrastructure.

Vice President's Report: Jim Daunis

- No Report this evening.

Secretary's Report: Randy Justus (President Hawley reported as Justus was out of town this evening). The draft minutes of the June 2026 meeting had been sent to all members via email in late June. With no requests for changes received, Hawley requested the June 18, 2026 minutes for the Drone Flyers Club of The Villages be approved as distributed.

Motion and second to approve the June 18, 2026 Secretary's Report as distributed to the membership.

Motion approved by voice vote.

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Hawley distributed name tags to last months new members and reminded other members that had yet to pick theirs up to pick theirs up from the table in the back of our meeting room. Congratulations to Ronn Moody for earning his FAA 107 and new name tag.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Justus, (Acting Treasurer). In Justus' absence President Hawley presented the June 2026 Treasurers Report:

Beginning Balance on June 1, 2026:	\$5,987.86
Deposits:	
Dues	\$ 80.00 (Gilcrest, Meeks, Silva, Reich)
50/50 Drawing	\$ 35.00
Books	\$ 24.00
Hats	\$ 150.00
Total Deposits:	\$ 289.00
Expenses:	
Name Tags	\$ 52.43
Books	\$ 91.00
Hats	\$ 282.35
Other	\$ 20.32 (File Box)
Total Expenses:	\$ 446.10
Ending Balance June 30, 2026:	\$5,830.76

Hawley requested the June 30, 2026 Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Motion and second to approve the June 30, 2026 treasurers report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

OUTREACH:

- Refer to the T2T discussion in the President's report above.

NEW BUSINESS: No New business presented

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Allen's Corner: Allen Wan discussed FPV news. Highlight was the new DJI 04 wide angle air unit which is replacing the regular 04 unit. He also discussed the BetaFPV 04Widemetor75 Pro Drone. Also discussed was the new Artlynk based system.

Don's Corner: Don Wiley made a presentation on the new Litchi waypoint system. Don highly recommends the system and demonstrated how it would work.

Crash of the Month: One crash was reported.

Drones for Sale: No drones for sale this month.

New Drones Acquired: A Mini 5 Pro has been added to the membership fleet.

Member Videos: None presented.

SAFETY OFFICER: John Egan

- Before Heading Out:
 - Aircraft: Inspected and ready to fly
 - Confirm software and firmware is up-to-date
 - Check that you have a SD card installed
 - Batteries: Inspect and charged up
 - Weather: Knowing the conditions are important
 - Airspace: Check for TFR or recent NOTAMS
- Field Safety
 - Drone takeoff and landing area procedures:
 - Complete preflight inspection of your drone and flying area
 - Announce your intentions when entering and exiting the launch area
 - Minimize your time in this area
 - Announce your takeoff and landing, communication is key!
 - Operator Area
 - Cross behind pilot whenever possible
 - Keep behind the safety line/cones
 - Sit within a reasonable distance to other pilots for communication
 - Airspace
 - Keep your head on a swivel
 - Keep your eyes on your drone but be aware of others flying around you and keep an eye on the field for people transitioning the flying field
 - Listen for other aircraft approaching
 - Safety Reminders
 - Do NOT fly over people
 - Avoid flying over pools, gun ranges and sport courses
 - Stay withing the designated flying field

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- Stay below 400 feet AGL
- REMEMBER TO SHARE THE AIRSPACE
- Share your knowledge or ask for help
- Be a DRONE AMBASSADOR and promote the drone world
- Post Flight
 - Perform post flight inspections
 - Complete flight and maintenance logbook entries
 - Transfer any SD card data
 - Secure and store drone and payload until your next flight
 - Share your experiences and pictures/videos with club members
- Accident Reporting
 - If you have an accident while flying at Club locations, you need to report the incident and fill out a club accident report. (The report form can be located on the Club website).
 - The accident report is to be filled out by any Drone Flyers Club member involved in an accident at any location that is controlled or sponsored by the Drone Flyers Club when an accident involves serious injury or property damage over \$500, and then 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).
- Take advantage of monthly training sessions every 4th Thursday
- Pilots and Wings Pilot Proficiency Program (<https://www.droneflyersthevillagesfl.com> Part 107-Drone Flyers Club
- Question of The Day: What is the rule for flying here?
 - Answer: 330.41 – Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act: Protection of Critical infrastructure facilities:
 - A person may not knowingly or willfully operate a drone over a critical infrastructure facility, including any person or object on the premises of or within the facility
 - Allow a drone to come within a distance of a critical infrastructure facility that is close enough to interfere with the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility.

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).

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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 Recreation Center in Eastport 08:00 and 11:50 hours
- Saturdays: Everglades Recreation Center, 08:00 and 11:50 hours.

50/50 RAFFLE: The lucky winner of \$30 in tonight's 50/50 drawing was Ronn Moody. Congratulations.

NEXT MEEING(S):

Business Meeting: The next business meeting is scheduled for **August 20 at 18:30 hours** (3rd Thursday). Meeting held at the Rohan Recreation Center.

Training Session: The **August** training session is scheduled for **August 27 at 18:30 hours** (4th Thursday), Training will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center. Subject to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT: With no additional business being brought forward, President Hawley closed the meeting at 20:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus

Randy Justus, Secretary

