

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: President Hawley called the May 15, 2025 meeting of the Drone Flyers Club to order at 18:34 hours. Hawley welcomed all in attendance.

New Members: New members this evening are Mike Farrell, Dom Gualtieri, John Holmes, Toby Holmes, Coleen McCotter and Bryan Yoss.

Guests: Dwight Johnson

Attendance: Twenty nine members and one guest

Hawley asked those that would like to attend the June 13, 2025 Lifestyle Expo to sign up.

CLUB OFFICERS

President's Report:

- New places to fly: Members reported flying at the Sharon Rose Wiechens Preserve. Hawley encouraged members to suggest new places to fly.
- The Lake Sumpter County Sheriffs Office will be making a presentation at our next meeting. The presentation will be on their drone program and their helicopter programs. They will also be discussing how the Drone Flyers Club could potentially provide support to their drone operations. This presentation will be at our June 19 meeting.
- Treasurers position is currently vacant. Members that may be interested in serving the remaining term should contact President John Hawley.

Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer Randy Justus presented the April 30, 2025 Drone Flyers Club Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report will now reflect the end of month balance rather than the date of the Club meeting. This will allow the Treasurer's report and the bank statement to coincide and will provide a clear picture of the Club's financial status.

Justus presented the April 24, 2025 through April 30, 2025 Treasurer's Report. The report indicates income of \$162.00 (\$140 in membership dues and \$22.00 from the last 50/50 drawing) and there were no expenses. The bank balance on April 30, 2025 was \$4,538.03 and a petty cash balance of \$100.00.

Motion and second to approve the April 30, 2025 treasurers report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Randy Justus reported the April meeting report had been sent via email to our members. No request(s) for substantial change had been received.

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

Motion approved by voice vote.

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025

Justus reported he had been contacted by member Jack McGee. McGee is looking for a member to assist him with an ongoing project in July and August. This would require the member to be certified (107) and photograph specific areas. The member would be paid for their assistance. If interested contact McGee directly.

The membership list has now been updated. This has been a work-in-progress since the loss of Peggy Garvin. This update, which began in October of last year, attempted to reach out and confirm/update member information. Due to a large amount of our membership information being lost when Peggy passed, the Board extended dues payment to our April meeting as we continued to verify member information. Our membership list is now current and indicates a membership of 102. Members that had not paid their dues or did not respond to the emails were removed from the membership listing.

Justus reported on the Board of Directors meeting held on April 27. Highlights of this meeting were:

- Treasurer's report is being adjusted to reflect the end of the month rather than the actual meeting date of the Club business meeting. This will provide an alignment between the bank statements and actual end-of-the-month finances. The Board thanked Susan Justus for her assistance in accomplishing this change. This realignment will make our financial condition transparent and easier to understand.
- Allen Wan was present to discuss our webpage. Allen discussed benefits of updating our website. Benefits include a significant reduction in cost, enhanced services at a reduced cost, and a more efficient means of updating and making changes to our webpage. The new vendor would allow our members to create their own website (for a small fee) from the Club. This could potentially provide a no-cost option as opposed to the annual fee we pay our current vendor.
- The potential need to establish a Paypal or Zelle account was discussed. This would provide a means of receiving payments from The Pilot Institute for purchases made by Club members.
- The Club picnic was discussed. We anticipate hosting this in October and a committee will be established to assist in planning.

NEW BUSINESS:

New webpage proposal discussed. The new page will be at a greatly reduced cost. Our current cost of \$900 for 2 years of service would reduce to \$192 for 2 years. Allen Wan will spearhead this project as we need to move quickly and make the change as soon as possible.

FPV Round-up: Allen Wan reported on FPV news:

- New Wi-fi based video system is being introduced.
- Caddx is working on a new FPV system.
- Open IPC has 2 new VRX releases.
- Several new FPV new drones have been released.

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025

- Potential FPV training sessions being offered include:
 - How to build an FPV
 - FPV simulator practice
 - Photo editing in Affinity Photo or Luminar Neo
 - DaVinci Resolve
 - How to get started in FPV
 - FPV shopping guides
 - Indoor flying practice with Neo and Tinywhoops

Allen reported he will be available on the fourth Thursday for FPV training.

DON'S CORNER: Don Wiley presented an update on the current Florida Statutes regarding drone operations:

- A proposal to have drones added to the STEM area of study was withdrawn.
- Use of a drone for stalking as a criminal offense was withdrawn.
- Protection of Agricultural Lands was **signed**.
 - A person may not knowingly or willfully do any of the following on lands classified as agricultural lands:
 - Operate a drone
 - Allow a drone to make contact with any person or object on the premises of or within the boundaries of such lands.
 - Allow a drone to come within a distance close enough to such lands as to interfere with or cause a disturbance to agricultural production.
 - Does not include owner or contractor's operations.
- Senate Bill 1422 Unmanned Aircraft or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (**Tabled**). House Bill 1121 (**passed**).
- Updated 330.41: Critical infrastructure clarification and increased penalties.
- Updated 330.41: Includes disabling/tampering with RIC and added penalties.
- 934.50: A person has a reasonable expectation of privacy on his or her privately owned real property and may use **reasonable force** to prohibit a drone from conducting surveillance in violation of this paragraph, if such drone is operating under 500 feet over such property. (**Failed**)
- Criminal Penalties:
 - (a) An individual who knowingly or willfully violates paragraph (3)(b) commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in 775.082 or 775.083.
 - An individual who knowingly or willfully violates paragraph (3)(B) and intentionally distributes surveillance obtained in violation of that paragraph commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in 775.082, 775.083 or 775.084.
- A person, a state agency, or a political subdivision as defined in section 11.45 may not use a drone equipped with an imaging device to record an image of privately owned real property or of the

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025

owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of such property with the intent to conduct surveillance of the individual or property captured in the image in violation of such person's reasonable expectation of privacy without his or her written consent. For purposes of this section, a person is presumed to have a reasonable expectation of privacy on his or her privately owned real property if he or she is not observable by persons located at ground level in a place where they have a legal right to be, regardless of whether he or she is observable from the air with the use of a drone.

DRONES FOR SALE

See our webpage for member drones that are for sale.

NEW DRONES ACQUIRED:

None reported.

SOCIAL OUTREACH

None reported.

CRASH OF THE MONTH AWARD(S)

None reported.

MEMBER VIDEOS:

Mike Ferrell presented a video he took of the Villages "Golf Cart Stunt Cart Flyers" demonstration team.

Scott Long presented a video he took capturing footage for a Club Social Outreach event. The footage was from the Villages Frisbee Golf Club. Interestingly, Scott captured the moment he was stuck by a frisbee by one of the participants.

Ken Aniess presented a video of a recent trip to an Indonesian Island. He captured several scenic views of yachts in various harbors.

Safety Officer: Club Safety Officer Cres Wise made a safety presentation. Items included were:

- 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

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025

- Keep behind the safety line/cones
- 200 ft transit over 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
- 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>

Once on the website, click on "Safety Information" to review additional safety information before 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 members of the Club are flying.

Cres reminded the membership, 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.

COMMISARY (CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE):

Members in need of Club logo items can purchase these items at each Club business meeting.

FLYING DAY REMINDERS:

- Tuesdays: Soaring Eagle Softball Field, between 08:00 and 12:00.
- Thursdays at Edna's/Hog Eye Path between 08:00 and 12:00 hours

50/50 DRAWING: The lucky winner of tonight's 50/50 drawing for \$13.00 was John Isler. Congratulations John!

NEXT MEETING(S):

- **Business Meeting:** The next business meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2025 at 18:30 hours (3rd Thursday). Meeting will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center.
- **Training Session:** The next training session will be held on May 22 at 18:30 hours. This session will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center. The June training session will be June 26. Reminder, contact Cres Wise if you have a topic you would like additional training on. Members desiring training on FPV flying are encouraged to contact Allen Wan.

DRONE FLYERS CLUB of The Villages, FL

P.O. Box 51

Wildwood, FL, 34785-9998



Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025

ADJOURNMENT: With no additional business being brought forward, President Hawley closed the meeting at 20:18 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus

Randy Justus, Secretary

