

DRONE FLYERS CLUB

The Villages, FL



Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: President Don Wiley called the January 16, 2025 meeting of the Drone Flyers Club of The Villages, FL to order at 18:30 hours.

Wiley welcomed all members and guests in attendance. Guests were Marisol Alcock, Thomas Alcock, Mark Ellis, Denis Fortin, Bob Greco, Tom Jackson, Kevin Maddy, Jim Riddle, Gary Rizzo, Sue Riddle, Bill Rogers, Dan Sotheim, and Dean Sparlin, New members are Charles Klink, David Splaine, and Kyle Williams.

There were a total of 36 members, 3 new members and 13 guests in attendance for a total attendance of 52.

CLUB OFFICERS

President's Report:

President Wiley congratulated Jim Daunis and Jay Semerad our newest FAA Part 107 members.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ken Aniess presented the Treasurers Report. The report, dated January 16, 2025 indicated the following:

Prior period (December 19, 2024) was \$3,604.42

Total funds as of January 16, 2025 was \$3,332.62

December 19, 2024 meeting:

Incoming: \$148.00

Membership dues: \$100.00

Hats: \$0.00

50/50: \$28.00

Part 107 Study Books: \$20.00

Outgoing: \$319.80

12 Hats: \$263.88

5 Name tags: \$35.00

Sales Tax: \$20.92

Motion and second to approve the January 16, 2025 treasurers report as presented.

Motion approved by voice vote.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Randy Justus reported the December 19, 2024 minutes had been sent to the membership via e-mail and also posted on the Club's Google Groups account. As no request(s) for changes were received, Justus requested a motion to approve the December 19, 2024 minutes as distributed.

Motion and second to approve the December 19, 2024 minutes as distributed.

Motion approved by voice vote.

DRONE FLYERS CLUB

The Villages, FL



Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025

Justus reported work continues on the updating of our membership roster. At this point, we have not been able to contact 9 members listed on the 2024 roster. Three attempts have been made with no response.

Justus discussed the monthly Lifestyle Expo. This Expo is open to all residents of The Villages. It is held the second Friday of each month at the Ezel Recreation center between 08:30 and 15:00 hours. This month Scott Long, Allen Wan, David Smith, John Hawley, and Randy Justus represented the Club. The next Expo will be held on February 14. Contact Justus if you would like to volunteer to assist.

The Villages is planning an "Outdoor Expo" at the Everglades Recreation Center on Friday (February 28, 2025) and Saturday (March 1, 2025). The expo will be held between 09:00 and 15:00 hours both days. We have requested an indoor and an outdoor space. This will enable us to demonstrate actually flying drones and allow for questions. The inside booth will allow us to showcase the Club. Justus will send an email to the membership requesting volunteers to help staff this event. This expo will be another excellent opportunity to attract new members and introduce our club to both existing and new residents. Once again, membership assistance is needed to help staff this event.

We continue to look for mentors to assist new members or help existing members transition to different drones. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please let Justus know and you will be added to our list.

Work continues on recreating and updating several documents. Fortunately we have now been able to recover our website and our email account.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Wiley opened the nominations for Club officers. Those elected will serve a two year term per our bylaws. The elections are for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and two directors.

The nominations for Club president were opened. John Hawley was nominated. No other nominations were made. As such, nominations were closed.

Motion and second was made to elect John Hawley to serve as Club President.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Wiley opened nominations for Club vice-president. Jim Daunis was nominated. No other nominations were made by the membership. As such, nominations were closed.

Motion and second was made to elect Jim Daunis to serve as Club vice-president.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Wiley opened nominations for Club treasurer. Ken Aniess was nominated. No other nominations were made by the membership. As such, nominations were closed.

Motion and second was made to elect Ken Aniess to serve as Club treasurer.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

DRONE FLYERS CLUB

The Villages, FL



Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025

Wiley opened nominations for Club secretary. Randy Justus was nominated. No other nominations were made by the membership. As such, nominations were closed.

Motion and second was made to elect Randy Justus as Club secretary.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Wiley opened nominations for the 2 Club director positions. Scott Long and Jay Semerad were nominated. No other nominations were made by the membership. As such, nominations were closed.

Motion and second was made to elect Jay Semerad and Scott Long to serve as Club Directors.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Wiley congratulated those elected to serve as Club officers and directors.

Several members thanked Wiley for his service to the Club over the past six years. This past six years included the formation of the Club and the rapid growth of the Club. There now more than 150 members as of today. Thank you, Don!

Wiley congratulated the Club's newest FAA Part 107 license holders. Jay Semerad and Jim Daunis have earned their FAA Part 107 license. Part 107 vests were awarded to them for their achievement.

The issue of study materials for the FAA Part 107 was discussed. The Club currently offsets the cost to members working toward their FAA Part 107 license. The Club purchases the books and sells them at approximately fifty percent of the actual cost.

Safety Officer: Club Safety Officer Cres Wise discussed our fourth Thursday of the month training. Members are encouraged to submit topics they would like additional training on at our business meeting. Cres, in turn, will provide the requested training at our training session. Members are encouraged to request topics!

Wise presented a brief discussion on the importance of avoiding flying drones in the rain. Rain results in different lift ability and complicates control of the drone. In regard to this recommendation, Cres recommends pilots always check a flying weather app before flying.

Cres discussed a recent "interaction" between a Gulfstream aircraft flying at 27,000 feet and striking a "metallic object" in the sky near Jacksonville, FL. It is unknown what this object was, but the aircraft had to make an emergency landing as the object shut down one of the Gulfstreams engines.

New Drones: Jay Semerad and Allan Wan reported they had purchased new drones this past month. Jay put a Mini 4 Pro and a NEO into service. Allen is currently building another small drone to add to his fleet. Congratulations on your new acquisitions!

DRONE FLYERS CLUB

The Villages, FL



Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025

Crash/Crashes: Two crashes were reported this past month. Scott Long and Allen Wan both admitted to having mishaps with their drone. Fortunately, both reported only minor damage. Both members were awarded the Club's "I crashed my drone" sticker for their name badge.

SOCIAL OUTREACH: Members Hawley and Justus flew and photographed a gopher turtle area in the northern area of The Villages. This was in response to an environmental group request to survey the site and attempt to find a path that would allow the turtles to avoid traffic on a nearby road. This multi-acre area, fenced and not accessible to people, consists of many acres.

Member Videos: Members presented two new videos:

- Scott Long presented a very colorful video depicting Christmas in The Villages.
- John Hawley presented a Christmas themes video around one of The Village's squares. Well edited and included a great musical soundtrack.

Drones for Sale: President Wiley announced that we have received two of Peggy Garvin's drones to sell. One is a DJI Mini 2 and the other a DJI Mini 3 Pro. The asking price is \$300 and \$500 respectively. If you are interested, please contact Wiley. The money received will go directly to Peggy's spouse.

Spring Social Gathering: Jim Daunis recommended the Club host a membership gathering in early spring. This would include a light meal and drone flying, An early spring gathering will allow part-time and full-time resident members an opportunity to socialize and have a good time.

PROGRAM:

President Wiley presented a video on the recent accident in California. A firefighting aircraft struck a drone in an area under a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR). This crash resulted in the drone penetrating the aircraft's left wing. Fortunately the firefighting aircraft was able to return to the airport and land safely. The drone was found imbedded inside the wing. Wiley also showed videos of testing lab trials of drones entering the wing of a test aircraft. Potentially, such impacts could result in catastrophic damage to the aircraft. Bottom line: Follow FAA rules when flying your drone.

MEMBER DISCUSSION:

Don Wiley mentioned that DJI recently introduced the DJI Flip. This is a small drone, weighing less than 250 grams. This drone used a DJI RC2 controller and is quite aerobatic.

Wiley reported that DJI recently removed the geofencing ability of its drones. Pilots will need to refer to current charts and available information as there will no longer be areas the drones will not be geofenced from flying into. Geofencing had been a standard on DJI drones for the past 10 years.

Discussion was had on the State of Florida Statute, Part 330.41. This Statute clearly states that local jurisdictions cannot impose rules on drone flying.

DRONE FLYERS CLUB

The Villages, FL



Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025

COMMISARY (CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE):

- Please see Treasurer Ken Anies for Part 107 Study Books, Club Hats, Club Stickers, Name Tags.

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 \$40 was Julien Drouin.

NEXT MEETING(S):

- **Business Meeting:** The next business meeting is scheduled for **February 20, 2025**, at 18:30 hours (*3rd Thursday*). Meeting will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center.
- **Training Session:** There will be no training session this month due to lack of room availability. Training will resume on February 27 at 18:30 hours. Training will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center. Reminder, contact Cres Wise if you have topics you would like training on.

ADJOURNMENT: With no additional business being brought forward, President Wiley adjourned the January 16, 2025, Drone Club Meeting at 20:35 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus

Randy Justus, Secretary

