

DRONE FLYERS CLUB

The Villages, FL



Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The April 18, 2024, monthly meeting of the Drone Flyers Club was called to order at 18:34 hours by President Wiley. There were 34 members and 3 guests in attendance this evening. Holly Moody, Ron Moody, John Davies, Mark Koelzer and Bill Jordon are our newest members. The Club now has a total of 127 members. Our guests this evening was John Saunders Ron Horn, and Ana Marie Acevedo. The meeting was held at the Rohan Recreation Center.

President Wiley welcomed all in attendance.

A Ken Heron drone crash video opened our meeting.

CLUB OFFICERS

President's Report:

President Wiley welcomed our new members and visitors and reminded the Club that next week (April 25 at 18:30 hours) will be the monthly training session. Members were reminded that they should submit topics they would like to be presented at the training sessions at their earliest convenience. The instructors will work toward preparing classes that will help our membership complete the FAA Part 107 training and advance training on editing and production skills. These sessions, like our Business meetings are conducted at the Rohan Recreation Center.

Test centers for members challenging the Part 107 exam were discussed. A recent experience by one of our members resulted in the member receiving a food service certification and experiencing having to start the exam over 3 times due to the center losing connectivity. After completing the exam, the member was called to return to the center to pick up the corrected score due to the computer glitches. The Club recommends that members desiring to take the Part 107 exam visit the following website: <https://faa.psiexams.com/faa/login>. You then fill in the four blanks at the top: "Zip code", "County", "Distance", and "Exam" (use "Unmanned Aircraft General-Small UAG") and then select "Search". You will then be provided with a list of testing centers that meet the items you entered. It is recommended that you select an "aviation affiliated" test center/flight school to avoid the potential issues our member experienced. Click on the link where you to take the exam and schedule your date and time.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Peggy Garvin presented the March 21, 2024, Treasurers Report:

Opening Balance:	\$3,959.65	
Revenue:	\$ 402.00	
Dues	\$ 280.00	
50/50 Drawing	\$ 62.00	
Sale of Books	\$ 30.00	
Hats	\$ 30.00	
Expenses:	\$415.53	
Name Badge(s)	\$ 112.35	

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Books	\$	57.60
Vests (Part 107)	\$	245.58
Balance:		\$3,946.12

Motion and second to accept the Treasurers report as presented. Motion approved by voice vote.

Secretaries Report: Secretary Randy Justus reported the March 21, 2024, meeting minutes had been posted on our website. No comments for changes were received.

Motion and second to approve the March 21, 2024, minutes. Motion approved by voice vote.

Justus gave a summary of the Club Board meeting that was held on April 15. Items of discussion were:

1. The Club's financial situation is solid.
2. The increase in Part 107 certified members is nearly 33%. The Board supports continuing to emphasize this certification as it relates to increased safety awareness and increases skill for our members.
3. The need for all members and guests to respect the safety zone at our venues. As of late there have been persons observed on the field, which becomes a significant safety issue for the person(s) and those flying drones. A watchful eye should be maintained by all members to prevent this dangerous incursion.
4. The issue of testing centers was discussed. The Board supports the use of aviation affiliated FAA test centers when challenging exams.
5. The Board supports Club participation at the monthly Villages "Lifestyle Expos". This is an opportunity to showcase our Club to members of the community, including new residents that may have an interest. This Expo is held on the second Friday of each month and runs from 09:00 until 15:00. This will require the use of multiple persons to ensure that the table is always staffed. Additionally, the Board approved an expenditure not to exceed \$200 for the purchase of a decorative tablecloth for this and similar functions we present at.
6. Training of members continues to occur and has greatly improved. A link to our "Safety" page is provided on our website and members are encouraged to review this site frequently.
7. Discussion was held regarding the recent *Fun N Sun* event at the Lakeland Airport. This large gathering included the Pilot Institute a new vendor. Attendees from our Club visited with the owner and were offered opportunities to receive a membership discount for the training they provide as well as incorporate Cres Wise as a training resource for Part 107, This could be a win/win opportunity for our Club members and will be discussed with membership.
8. The FAA "Drone Safety Day" was discussed. Unfortunately, this will occur in the next two weeks and we will not be able to prepare on such short notice. While our goal will be to participate in the future, we will keep an eye out for next year's event.

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NEW BUSINESS:

- President Wiley congratulated the new Part 107 Certified members. This month's members celebrating attainment of the Part 107 certificate included Kim Adams, Don Childers, Eric Hallgren, Janet King, Mike Flaherty, Kevin Luck, Paul Schwedfeger, and Rob Troller. Congratulations to our new FAA certified pilots.
- Study books for the Part 107 certification are available for members of the club at \$10. This is a greater than 50% savings over on-line pricing.
- **Pilot Institute:**
 - Safety Officer Wise discussed a meeting with the owner of the Pilot Institute at the recent Sun N Fun event in Lakeland. Cres reported that several free courses on various drones are available on the Pilot Institute website.
 - There is a potential for our Club to become an affiliate with Pilot Institute. This possibility was discussed at the recent Board Meeting. Affiliation would provide a discount on training for our members and allow our Safety Officer to provide compensated training to others under the Pilot Institute.

Motion and second for the Drone Flyers Club to affiliate with Pilot Institute and support Cres Wise as our Club representative to the Pilot Institutes. Motion and second approved by voice vote.

- A recent Pilot Institute drone update video was presented. This video focused on the "new" Anzu Robotics Raptor Drone. This is actually a DJI Mavic 3 Pro drone that has been manufactured in Malaysia.

MEMBER DISCUSSION:

- An antique drone was given to the club and is available for a member of the Club to purchase. See Peggy Garvin if you are interested.
- Several new drones have been acquired by members in the past month.
- Drones for sale: Members are able to list and sell drones by visiting our Club website: <https://www.droneflyersthevillagesfl.com/>
 - The potential for greater social outreach in The Villages was discussed. We have been successful in the endeavor and are looking for other opportunities to assist other clubs by providing drone footage of their activities. A possible opportunity would be to assist the Nomad Motorcycle Club by providing video footage they would be able to use for advertising their club. Another opportunity could be the Cars & Cigars Club. This Club supports the Warrior Wheels Foundation which supports a local female veteran by providing mobility through a donated vehicle
- Crash of the Month: Julian Drouin crashed his Mavic 2 Pro at the Soaring Eagle Complex. He thanked the members that helped him recover his drone (Hawley and Justus) and was rewarded with a "I Crashed My Drone" award.

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- **Videos:** Melanie Starkman presented a video of wildlife in the Villages using an Air 3 Pro.
- **Items for Purchase:** Please see Peggy Garvin should you need Study Books, Club Hats, Club Stickers, Name Tags, etc.
- **Lifestyle Expo 2nd Friday of the month:** Ezel Recreation Center. Recreation Department has given us a table at meetings. Member participation is encouraged to help promote the club. We have a sign-up sheet, see Don or Melanie.

SAFETY OFFICER:

Safety Officer Cres Wise presented a briefing on safe flying. Please take time to review the Safety Officer Tab on our Club website.

PRESENTATION: Indoor Flying

President Wiley presented information on flying a drone indoors. Indoor flying is challenging, and Don recommended adjusting the setting on your drone if you wish to fly indoors.

FLYING DAY REMINDERS:

- Club Flying Days:
 - Soaring Eagle: Tuesdays, 08:00 – 12:00
 - Edna's/Hog Eye Path: Thursdays, 08:00 – 12:00

50/50 DRAWING: The lucky winner of tonight's for the 50/50 drawing for \$62 was Ted Mitrou.

NEXT MEETING(S):

- **Business Meeting:** The next business meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2024, at 18:30 hours (3rd Thursday). Meeting will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center.
- **Training Session:** The next training session is scheduled for April 25, 2024, at 18:30 hours (4th Thursday) Meeting will be held at the Rohan Recreation Center.

ADJOURNMENT: President Wiley adjourned the April 18, 2024, Drone Club Meeting at 20:29 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Justus

Randy Justus, Secretary



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Drone Flyers Club stickers are available for only \$5.00

Perfect for a vehicle or your drone case!

Thanks to Melanie Starkman for donating the stickers. All proceeds go to the club treasury.

